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70 Yrs Ago, School Integration Was A Dream That Could Happen. It Hasn't

WASHINGTON (AP) — Seventy years ago this week, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled separating children in schools by race was unconstitutional. On paper, that decision — the fabled Brown v. Board of Education, taught in most every American classroom — still stands.

But for decades, American schools have been re-segregating. The country is more diverse than it ever has been, with students more exposed to classmates from different backgrounds. Still, around 4 out of 10 Black and Hispanic students attend schools where almost every one of their classmates is another student of color.

The intense segregation by race is linked to socioeconomic conditions: Schools where students of color compose more than 90% of the student body are five times more likely to be located in low-income areas. That in turn has resounding academic consequences: Students who attend high-poverty schools, regardless of their family's finances, have worse educational outcomes.

Efforts to slow or reverse the increasing separation of American schools have stalled. Court cases slowly have chipped away at the dream outlined in the case of Brown v. Board, leaving fewer and fewer tools in the hands of districts to integrate schools by the early 2000s.

The arc of the moral universe, in this case, does not seem to be bending toward justice.

"School integration exists as little more than an idea in America right now, a little more than a memory," said Derek Black, a law professor at the University of South Carolina. "It's actually an idea that a pretty good majority of Americans think is a good idea. But that's all."

The dream of Brown was never as simple as diversity. It was about equality, and the opportunity that came with it.

From the beginning, funding and integration have been inseparable.

"Whiter schools and districts have more resources, and that is wrong," said Ary Amerikaner, a former Obama administration official and the founder of Brown's Promise. "But it is a reality. And that undermines opportunity for students of color, and it undermines our future democracy."

We remember Brown v. Board as the end of segregated schools



in the United States. But stating values does not, alone, change reality. Though the case was decided in 1954, it was followed by more than a decade of delay and avoidance before school districts began to meaningfully allow Black students to enter white schools.

It took further court rulings, monitoring and enforcement to bring a short-lived era of integration to hundreds of school districts. For the students who took part in those desegregation programs, their life trajectory changed — the more years spent in integrated schools, the better Black children fared on measures like educational attainment, graduation rates, health, and earning potential, with no adverse effects on white children.

For a brief period, it seemed the country recognized the deeper remedies required. "All things being equal, with no history of discrimination, it might well be desirable to assign pupils to schools nearest their homes," Chief Justice Warren Burger wrote in Swann v. Mecklenburg, a 1971 decision that upheld the use of busing to integrate schools in North Carolina. "But all things are not equal in a system that has been

deliberately constructed and maintained to enforce racial segregation."

But not long after, another series of court decisions would unwind those outcomes. Fifty years ago, in Milliken v. Bradley, the court struck down a plan for integrating Detroit public schools across school district lines. The ruling undermined desegregation efforts in the north and Midwest, where small districts allowed white families to escape integration.

Other decisions followed. In Freeman v. Pitts, the court ruled re-segregation from private choice and demographic shifts could not be monitored by the court. More than 200 districts were released from court-monitored desegregation plans. By 2007, when the court ruled in Parents Involved v. Seattle Public Schools, even voluntary integration plans could no longer consider assigning students on the basis of race.

"If you have the tools taken away from you ... by the Supreme Court, then you really don't have a whole lot of tools," said Stephan Blanford, a former Seattle Public Schools board member.

The arc of history is clear in the city where the landmark Swann bus-

ing case originated.

At its peak, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools was considered such a success at integrating classrooms and closing the gap between Black and white students that educators around the country came to tour the district. Today, more than 20 years after a court ruling overturned busing students on the basis of race, CMS is the most segregated district in North Carolina.

While there are no laws that keep kids siloed by race and income, in so many schools that is the reality.

Charlotte's sprawling, complex busing plan brought Black and white students into the same schools — and by extension, made white children's resources available to Black students for the first time. The district's integration program ended when white families sued after their children did not get their top choice of school placement in a lottery that considered race.

Instead, the district created a school assignment process that said diversity "will be based on the family's decisions." It left the families of Mecklenburg County, some of whom

(See **SCHOOL INTEGRATION**, P. 2)



CIAA Suspends St. Aug Athletics

By Cash Michaels

Contributing writer

Yet another troubling episode in the continuing drama that is the survival of St. Augustine's University (SAU) in Raleigh has occurred.

The Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association (CIAA), of which SAU has been a member since 1933, has announced the suspension of the small, private HBCU for the rest of the 2024-25 academic year. That means none of SAU's athletics teams will be allowed to participate in CIAA sanctioned competition from now through next spring, effective immediately.

The ruling of the CIAA Board of Directors, which came last Friday, is yet another blow to SAU, which is trying to recover from mounting lawsuits and debts, a diminished undergraduate student enrollment, fighting to retain its accreditation and dealing with difficult headwinds going forward.

Reportedly, the CIAA suspension is due to SAU not meeting the conference's compliance requirements, in addition to the school's problems in meeting NCAA sports sponsorships, and scheduling requirements for the balance of the current academic year.

So if popular sports like basketball or football were going to continue at SAU, they would not count in CIAA standings, nor would they be eligible for championship competition.

"While it is disheartening to make a decision of this magnitude that impacts one of our member institutions, the decision was guided through a fair, deliberate, and thoughtful process in efforts to determine what was best for the conference, while also protecting the wellbeing and holistic experience of the student-athletes," said CIAA board chair Aminta Breaux in a statement.

As a member, SAU participated in NCAA Division II competition, a step down from Division I and I-A competition at larger institutions.

Being an historic CIAA Division II school gave SAU exposure and notoriety for all of its past championships won. That, in turn, helped to increase student enrollment and generate much needed revenues for the school.

According to the CIAA, there was concern that SAU would not be able to field at least ten sports teams this year as required by NCAA Division II

(See **CIAA SUSPENDS ST AUG**, P. 2)



WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA RECEIVES MORE THAN \$27M IN FEMA FUNDS

NC Newline - More than 104,000 North Carolinians have registered for assistance from FEMA as of Monday, according to Gov. Roy Cooper.

FEMA has paid more than \$27 million to disaster survivors who have applied for individual assistance funds as of Saturday. The federal government has provided temporary housing and hotel rooms for thousands of affected individuals.

Western North Carolina typically brings in around \$7.7 billion in visitor dollars each year. Its peak tourist season is in the fall, with travelers eager to see changing colors in the mountains. The destruction from Hurricane Helene is hampering the tourism industry and causing economic loss.

"We still don't want tourists coming to western North Carolina right now," Cooper said during a press conference on Monday. The priority remains on allowing recovery efforts and medical supplies to access the western portion of the state.

Hurricane Helene devastated communities in western North Carolina and destroyed several roads in the area. Although some parts of interstate 40 have reopened, it will take time to rebuild all of the roads in the mountains.

FEMA administrator Deanne Criswell encouraged people to apply for funding, which can be used for medicine, temporary housing, repairing their homes, and other purposes.

"We will be able to help them with any costs they incur," Criswell said.

Personnel from the National Guard and soldiers headquartered at Fort Liberty are partnering with the North Carolina Department of Transit to clear roads, distribute supplies, manage air traffic, and help with search and rescue. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is assisting with evaluating water quality and wastewater in the area.

The number of people who are unaccounted for is "rapidly dwindling," according to Cooper. This is due to more people gaining access to phones, internet, and cell service.

The governor was unable to provide an exact number of people who are still missing, but expects to have an update on Tuesday.

"We know a lot of reunifications have occurred that have not been reported back," Cooper said.

CIVIL RIGHTS GROUPS ASK TO EXTEND VOTER REGISTRATION DEADLINES IN HURRICANE-RAVAGED STATES

WASHINGTON (AP) — With registration deadlines looming, Democrats and civil rights groups are asking election officials in the states ravaged by Hurricane Helene to give voters more time.

A judge in South Carolina on Friday extended that state's deadline to Oct. 14, but prospects are uncertain in the other hard-hit states.

In North Carolina, one of the most fiercely contested presidential battlegrounds, election officials aren't planning to extend the Oct. 11 voter registration deadline, North Carolina State Board of Elections spokesperson Patrick Gannon said. That could change when the Legislature meets next week to consider adjustments to state election laws.

The storm and the floods unleashed by Helene devastated a wide area around the mountain town of Asheville, leaving dozens dead and wiping out roads and bridges.

Gannon said election offices will process voter registration forms mailed by the deadline and received by Oct. 16. Eligible voters also are allowed to register during North Carolina's in-person voting period that starts Oct. 17.

In Georgia, the other major presidential swing state in the storm's path, at least 40 advocacy groups wrote Gov. Brian Kemp and Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger, both Republicans, urging them to extend the registration deadline in the affected counties by at least a week beyond Monday's deadline.

The groups said the devastation severely limits Georgia voters' ability to register for the upcoming presidential election, whether online, in-person or by mail.

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

Uncle Sam May Want Your Baby Boy

REUTERS—The U.S. House of Representatives passed a bill seeking to automate the registration of men aged 18 - 26 for the Selective Service System, which has been required by federal law since 1980, contrary to social media posts suggesting the bill makes registration a new requirement or reinstates the draft.

The Republican-led House of Representatives passed H.R. 8070, opens new tab titled, "Servicemember Quality of Life Improvement and National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2025" on June 14. It includes a provision to automatically register those who are required to register for the Selective Service System.

The bill still needs to pass the Senate and be signed by President Joe Biden to become law.

An Instagram video says, "House passes defense bill automatically registering men 18 - 26 for draft. It's now mandatory for all male U.S. citizens to register for the selective service, also known as the military draft, when they turn 18.



Failure to register is classified as a felony."

The Selective Service System already requires almost all male U.S. citizens and immigrants between ages 18 and 26 to register with Selective Service. Presidential Proclamation 4771 by former U.S. President Jimmy Carter reinstated the registration requirement in 1980.

A spokesperson for the House Armed Services Committee said in an email that "a provision in the House-passed NDAA would automatically register all men, who are

U.S. citizens and between the ages of 18 - 25, for the selective service."

Failure to register is a felony violation of the Military Services Act and conviction can include imprisonment for up to five years and a fine of up to \$250,000. The national registration rate is at 84%, according to 2023 data.

"Failure to register for the selective service can impact employment and the ability to receive government assistance but sometimes young men are unaware they need to register for the selective service

until it's too late," the Committee spokesperson said. "This provision would eliminate those future headaches."

Registration does not mean automatic induction into the military or being drafted. There is currently no draft. The most recent draft was during the Vietnam War, which formally ended in 1975. The last man inducted during that draft entered the U.S. Army in June 1973.

According to the Selective Service System website, if the United States returned to a draft Congress would have to amend the Military Selective Service Act to authorize President Joe Biden to admit individuals to the Armed Forces, following a national emergency exceeding the available capability of the Department of Defense.

Then, the Selective Service would activate and order all to report for duty. Next, a public lottery would be held, after which induction notices would be sent and individuals who were selected can make requests for postponement, deferment or exemption.

Dockworkers Suspend Crippling Strike

SC Daily Gazette—Tens of thousands of striking dockworkers returned to work after they reached a tentative labor agreement Thursday, ending a stoppage that threatened to cripple commerce nationwide into the holidays.

The International Longshoremen's Association and the United States Maritime Alliance, Ltd., announced that they reached a tentative agreement on wages and agreed to extend their contract until Jan. 15.

The union and the alliance, which represents shipping companies and port authorities, plan to return to the bargaining table to negotiate all other outstanding issues.

"Effective immediately, all current job actions will cease and all work covered by the Master Contract will resume," the two sides said in a joint statement Thursday night. Dockworkers at ports from Texas

to Maine, including Charleston, walked off the job Tuesday in the first large-scale eastern dockworker strike since 1977, when dockworkers stayed off the job for several weeks.

The union sought a 77% hike in base pay over the six-year life of the contract and a ban on all automation at ports. The strike started after the union rejected shipping companies' offer of a 50% hike.

At a rally Tuesday in Elizabeth, the union's international president, Harold Daggett, vowed workers would remain on strike "until the end."

Political observers had expected a lengthy strike could impact the U.S. presidential election and further hinder emergency efforts to help victims of Hurricane Helene.

Lawmakers asking President Joe Biden to intervene in the strike by invoking the 1947 Taft-Hartley Act included South Carolina Gov. Henry

McMaster and U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham. But the president had declined.

"Very good news indeed for suffering people throughout the Southeast that the port strike is over. It was beginning to have a devastating effect, adding misery to pain," Graham wrote on X after the announcement. "I am glad this man-made disaster is behind us. Now we will have more resources to help the devastated."

Gates at South Carolina's ports opened at 6 a.m. Friday and cargo operations resumed at 7 a.m., according to the state Ports Authority.

"Now that the parties have agreed to resume their roles in our supply chain success, South Carolina's maritime community stands prepared to deliver for shippers, including manufacturers, farmers and retailers, who utilize our port facilities to access

global markets," a message on the Ports Authority website reads.

According to multiple news outlets, the tentative agreement suspending the strike provides dockworkers a 62% increase in hourly wages over six years. That would bring wages for top-scale employees — meaning they have at least six years' experience — from \$39 an hour under the contract that expired Monday to \$63 an hour in 2030.

The local union president in Charleston told the SC Daily Gazette that about 80% of dockworkers at South Carolina ports are top-scale employees. Charles Brave said Tuesday that South Carolina union members were more concerned about banning automation.

The tentative agreement does not address automation. Negotiations on that will continue while the strike is suspended.

"If there are any circumstances that would merit extending the deadline, these are those circumstances," said Amir Badat, a voting rights lawyer for the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, one of the groups requesting the extension.

The Georgia Secretary of State's office said it's evaluating what effects the hurricane had on elections offices around the state and is making sure polling places are fully functional for voters, spokesperson Mike Hassinger said. As of Friday, there was no move to alter the registration deadline.

The NAACP Legal Defense Fund sent a similar letter Friday to Florida officials, including Gov. Ron DeSantis and Secretary of State Cord Byrd.

DeSantis, a Republican, has issued an executive order making some storm-related election modifications for the 13 counties affected by the hurricane, including changes to early voting sites. But the order did not include an extension for voter registration.

Friday's decision in South Carolina came after a lawsuit filed by the state Democratic Party. The South Carolina Election Commission said it needed the judge's order because it didn't have the authority on its own to change the voter registration deadline.

CIAA SUSPENDS ST AUG

Continued from page 1

compliance requirements. Reportedly, SAU was not going to field a softball team for spring 2024, or football and volleyball for fall 2024, leaving the bare minimum of just 10 sports for the 2024-25 season.

And there was concern that of those ten, SAU's ability to complete men's and women's cross-country seasons, along with the compliance standards of other sports, was in serious doubt.

Originally known as the Colored Intercollegiate Athletic Association when first founded in 1912, the CIAA now has 12 member schools (not counting suspended SAU). Headquartered in Charlotte, all of its member institutions are HBCUs.

While the CIAA is a Division II conference of the NCAA, it sponsors 14 annual championships, the most famous being the CIAA Basketball Tournament, considered one of the largest in the nation.

It will be a blow for many alumni of SAU not to participate in the heralded annual basketball event next year.

"Saint Augustine's University has been a member of this conference for over 80 years," said CIAA commissioner McWilliams Parker said in a statement. "Their administrators, coaches, students, student-athletes, alumni, and the SAU community are important and valued as part of the CIAA legacy."

Commissioner Parker added, "The CIAA will continue to support and rally around the Falcon family and President [Marcus] Burgess as they prepare to return for the 2025-26 season."

At presstime, there was no comment from SAU.

SCHOOL INTEGRATION

Continued from page 1

have always had better choices than others, on their own. In the first year of the district's choice program, Black families were more likely to try to use the choice plan to pick an alternative school. They were also more likely to get none of the magnet schools they wanted.

In the decades that followed, the district re-segregated. Years of busing had unwound the segregated makeup of the schools, but the underlying disparities and residential segregation had been left untouched.

Charlotte is a place where the divide between affluence and poverty, and the clear racial lines that mirror it, are so stark that people who live there refer to the city in two parts — the well-off "wedge" and the poorer "crescent." How could anything other than an explicit consideration of those conditions ever hope to ameliorate them?

Solutions to segregated schools exist in this context, often relying on individual families to make choices that are limited by their circumstances. Magnet schools and inter-district transfers — two common policies that may create great individual opportunities — are limited and will always leave some students behind.

Wherever you look, families are divided in how they view integration. For white and affluent families, it can exist as a noble idea, one filled with self-reflection. But for families of color or poor families — those with less of a safety net — the point of integration often is to place their children somewhere better.

Efforts to integrate schools can take two paths, Stefan Lallinger, executive director of Next100, a public policy think tank, says. They either fight around the margins, creating slightly less segregated spaces, or they address the problem head on, which in many parts of the country would mean tackling boundaries deliberately drawn to separate rich from poor.

Amerikaner and Saba Biredda founded Brown's Promise on the idea of bridging the divide between funding and integration, leveraging state courts to obtain the tools the Supreme Court has taken away from districts.

Their strategy has some precedence. In Connecticut, a 1989 lawsuit in state court resulted in the creation of an inter-district transfer program, which allows students in Hartford to transfer into suburban schools and magnet programs, breaking up concentrations of poverty and racially isolated schools.

A Perspective Of Generational Drug And Alcohol Use. How It Has Changed

Jordan Meadows

Staff Writer



The landscape of substance use among high school students in the United States has shifted dramatically over the decades. From alcohol and cigarettes to marijuana and prescription medications, the trends have evolved in response to cultural, social, and legislative changes.

The 1970s marked a period of high substance use among adolescents. Data from 1975 indicated that nearly 50% of high school seniors reported alcohol use in the past month, while binge drinking rates were alarmingly high, with nearly 30% of seniors admitting to consuming five or more drinks in a row within the past two weeks. Additionally, cigarette smoking reached its peak during this time, with 28.8% of high school seniors smoking daily.

The 1980s continued this trend, particularly with cocaine and alcohol. The National Institute on Drug Abuse reported that about half of male high school seniors and 30% of females engaged in binge drinking by 1982. Cocaine usage peaked during this decade as well.

In the 1990s, however, a significant decline in substance use began. The prevalence of current drinking among high school students fell from 50.8% in 1991 to 44.7% in 2007. Similarly, cigarette smoking saw a substantial decrease, dropping from 28% in 1991 to 11% by 2015. This decline can be attributed to a combination of factors, including public health campaigns, increased awareness of the risks associated with drug use, and cultural changes.

The early 2000s witnessed the rise of marijuana as the most frequently used illicit drug among adolescents. While alcohol and tobacco use continued to decline, marijuana use reached its highest levels, especially among high school seniors.

By the late 2000s, about half of seniors reported using marijuana in the past year. The changing legal landscape around marijuana, with increasing numbers of states legalizing its medical and recreational use, contributed to its growing acceptance among young people.

The advent of electronic cigarettes introduced a new challenge for substance use among adolescents. Although traditional cigarette smoking rates fell significantly, e-cigarette use surged. From 2011 to 2019, e-cigarette use among North Carolina high school students skyrocketed by nearly 90%. However, recent data indicate a decline, with e-cigarette use dropping from 14.1% in 2022 to

10.0% in 2023, likely influenced by legal actions against vape companies for targeting minors.

Amidst the opioid epidemic, high school students also faced increased exposure to prescription drug misuse. In 2013, 15% of seniors reported using prescription medications non-medically in the past year. The prevalence of misusing stimulants, such as Adderall, has remained concerning, with 7.4% of seniors admitting to non-medical use. Fortunately, the abuse of opioid pain relievers like Vicodin has decreased significantly, falling from 10.5% in 2003 to 5.3% in 2023.

The impact of social media on adolescent substance use is significant and cannot be ignored. Platforms like TikTok have popularized trends such as inhaling nitrous oxide, commonly referred to as "whippets." The ease of access to these substances, coupled with a perception of safety and the viral nature of such trends,

makes them particularly attractive to young people.

Nitrous oxide is both legal and readily available. It can be found in small pressurized canisters designed for culinary use, larger tanks for medical or automotive purposes, and even in whipped cream dispensers when the cream is depleted. Recently, Galaxy Gas, a brand that markets nitrous oxide for cooking, has gained popularity on social media, with videos showing young adults inhaling the gas for its effects, which can include lightheadedness, dizziness, and weakness.

As of 2023, current data reveals an optimistic trend: the rate of fatal overdoses of all drugs has decreased nationally, with a notable 10% decline over the past year. In North Carolina, this figure is even more encouraging at 23%. While opioid-related deaths continue to pose a significant risk, particularly with the prevalence of fentanyl, community efforts—including the distribution of naloxone (Narcan) and expanding access to treatment programs—are making strides in addressing this crisis.

The CDC reports a decline in underage alcohol consumption in today's youth, with 22.7% of high school students acknowledging current use. This represents a continuation of a long-term trend towards lower drinking, cigarette, and cocaine usage rates among youth.

The recent declines in substance use among youth provide a glimmer of hope, signaling that concerted efforts can lead to positive change in the ongoing battle against adolescent substance misuse.

Western NC Tourism Industry Faces Economic Devastation After Helene

NC Newsline - While the immediate destruction from Hurricane Helene has subsided, the storm's economic aftershocks have only just begun.

At stake is western North Carolina's tourism industry, which brings in nearly \$7.7 billion in visitor dollars each year, according to 2023 estimates — about a fifth of the state's total.

For now, the massive infrastructure damage to the region through flooding, mudslides, and toppled trees has ground that spending to a halt. Workers are left without stable income while business owners wonder whether they can afford to reopen once it becomes safe to.

The existential question for local businesses and workers: How long until tourists can return?

Travel on hold
Each fall, western North Carolina receives millions of travelers eager to see the leaves change colors in the mountains. Many counties will be unable to welcome them back this year, meaning a major economic shortfall for a region already experi-



encing the shock of a natural disaster.

"That's a huge impact on jobs, on tax revenues to the state, on livelihoods, on small businesses in the mountain areas," Visit North Carolina executive director Wit Tuttle told NC Newsline Thursday. "It's a tragic situation."

Fall tourist traffic in North Carolina's mountain west generates about \$1.8 billion in revenue, Tuttle said. "That's the economic spending loss we're contemplating here."

With roads, the electric grid, and other basic infrastructure shredded by Hurricane Helene, it's not clear when tourism will be able to

resume. For now, nearly all major attractions in affected counties have shuttered.

Biltmore Estate, the picturesque Vanderbilt mansion in Asheville, has said it expects to remain closed to visitors until Oct. 15 at the earliest, though the estate has not yet determined a reopening date.

Buncombe County, home to Asheville and hit hard by Helene, ranks third in tourism spending across the state, bringing in an estimated \$2.96 billion in 2023.

In the North Carolina portion of the Great Smoky Mountains, Balsam Mountain, Cataloochee, and the Big Creek Area as well as surrounding campgrounds all remain closed due to the storm's impact.

The scenic Blue Ridge Parkway is likewise shut down, with about 100 National Park Service employees working to assess the damage and clear hazards. As of Thursday, no date for reopening has been announced.

Visit NC and the North Carolina Travel Industry Association (NCTIA) have paused all travel marketing for the state in the wake of the storm. While some ads for unaffected regions could resume next week, it may be much longer before residents see ads inviting them back to the Appalachian west.

For workers, the storm continues also in jeopardy are the livelihoods of the many tourism and hospitality employees in western North Carolina. The region is home to more than 47,000 tourism workers, with nearly 20,000 in Buncombe County alone. Now, thousands are cut off from their primary source of income. Jen Hampton, the co-chair of Asheville Food and Beverage United, encouraged workers to apply for disaster unemployment as well as FEMA disaster assistance funds.


"Workers in general have lost their livelihoods because all of the restaurants were either destroyed or are still without power and water," Hampton said.

She said the union is working to secure grants from organizations across the state to provide additional help so workers can afford rent payments and grocery bills. They're also in contact with other worker organizations across North Carolina to help find temporary jobs and housing for displaced workers.

In some cases, local business owners are doing what they can to help employees make ends meet. Hampton pointed to the example of her favorite coffee shop, which launched a GoFundMe to help pay workers while the store remains closed.

"Most of our businesses here are small business owners and there's not much that they can do," she said. "We're just trying to support them the best way that we can."

Already, nonprofits are providing relief to workers financially stranded by the storm. The Southern Smoke Foundation, a Houston nonprofit dedicated to aid for food and beverage workers, is offering funding for groceries, repairs, hospital bills, and lost wages in affected regions across the Southeast. The award process is anonymous, and the group has already provided roughly \$1 million to workers impacted by natural disasters in 2024.



NCDOT TO HOLD PUBLIC MEETING REGARDING FISHER ROAD WIDENING IN CUMBERLAND COUNTY

STIP Project U-6073

CUMBERLAND COUNTY - The N.C. Department of Transportation is holding a public meeting to discuss the proposed widening of Fisher Road in Cumberland County, from Strickland Bridge Road to Bingham Drive. The meeting aims to introduce the project to the community and gather feedback on the proposed design concepts.

The proposed project, State Transportation Improvement Program Project No. U-6073, would widen 2.1 miles of Fisher Road S.R. (1107) from Strickland Bridge Road (S.R. 1104) to Bingham Drive (N.C. 162).


Project details, including maps of the proposal(s), can be found on the NCDOT public meetings web page (www.ncdot.gov/news/public-meetings).

The meeting will be held **5-7 p.m. October 24th** at **John Griffin Middle School in Fayetteville**. Interested residents can drop in any time to learn more about the proposal, have questions answered and talk with NCDOT representatives. There will not be a formal presentation.

People may also submit comments by phone, email or mail by **11/8/2024**.


For more information, contact NCDOT Division 6 Project Engineer Sean Matuszewski at 910-364-0688: spmatuszewski@ncdot.gov.

NCDOT will provide auxiliary aids and services under the Americans with Disabilities Act for disabled people who wish to participate in this workshop. Anyone requiring special services should contact Ronald Coleman, Environmental Analysis Unit, at 1598 Mail Service Center in Raleigh; 919-707-7050; or rcoleman2@ncdot.gov as early as possible so that arrangements can be made.



Those who do not speak English, or have a limited ability to read, speak or understand English, may receive interpretive services upon request prior by calling 1-800-481-6494.

Aquellas personas no hablan inglés, o tienen limitaciones para leer, hablar o entender inglés, podrían recibir servicios de interpretación si los solicitan llamando al 1-800-481-6494.



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When Business Is Booming But Daily Living Is A Struggle

ROCKY MOUNT, N.C. — The signs on the empty historic buildings envision an urban utopia of sorts, complete with street cafes, bustling bike lanes and a grocery co-op.

"IMAGINE What Could Be Here," gushes one sign outside the empty, Neoclassical post office. "IMAGINE! A Vibrant Downtown," reads another mounted on the glass front of a long-ago closed drug store.

In a place like Rocky Mount, North Carolina, it's not such a stretch: Just across the street, white-collar workers peck away at laptops and sip lattes at a bright coffee bar lined with dozens of potted tropical plants. A few blocks away, a mammoth events center routinely brings in thousands of visitors from across the country. And alongside a quiet river nearby, a meticulously redeveloped cotton mill would be the envy of any American city, with its modern breweries, restaurants and loft living.

An industrial community long in decline, Rocky Mount is slowly building itself back. But in this city

of about 54,000, sharply divided by race and class, many residents struggle to cover the basic costs of groceries, housing and child care.

North Carolina reflects the duality of the American economy: Unemployment is low, jobs are increasing and businesses are opening new factories. But high housing and food costs have squeezed middle-class residents despite the gains of rising wages.

"The economy stinks," said Tameika Horne, who owns an ice cream and dessert shop in Rocky Mount.

Her ingredient prices have skyrocketed, she said, but she can't continuously raise prices on ice cream cones or funnel cakes. She said last month was her slowest ever, with only \$2,000 in sales.

It's not just the slow sales at her store: Only a few years ago, she paid \$700 a month to rent a three-bedroom apartment. Now, her similarly sized rental home costs her \$1,350 a month.

Aside from the ice cream shop, Horne also runs a cleaning business

with her family and just started a job delivering packages for FedEx.

"It's just hard right now," she said.

The economy, a top issue for voters during any election, is particularly important this presidential cycle: Prices of necessities such as groceries aren't rising as fast as they were, but years of post-pandemic inflation have soured voter attitudes.

And across the country, millions of families are struggling with rising housing costs. In four of the seven swing states — Arizona, Georgia, Michigan and Nevada — more than half of tenant families spend 30% or more of their income on rent and utilities, according to the 2023 American Community Survey.

In North Carolina, voter anxiety about the soaring rents and grocery bills could tip the scales.

"In terms of its political influence, it's not actually your personal financial situation that is important, it's your vision of the national economy," said Matt Grossmann, a political science professor at Michigan State University. "So if I get a raise,

I tend to credit myself. If I see higher prices, I tend to blame the government or the current situation."

Around the corner from Horne's ice cream store in downtown Rocky Mount, Kristie Hilliard greets a steady flow of customers to her new shop, Kristie Kandies. An armed cop, a nurse in scrubs and waist-high kids trickle in to grab a sweet treat.

After getting tired of her manufacturing job at the local Pfizer plant, Hilliard started making confections at home. As her following grew, she got a concession trailer and now has a storefront selling candied grapes, plums, kiwis and pickles.

Hilliard's treats have attracted attention on social media, causing some buyers to drive in from as far away as Pennsylvania, she said.

A Democrat, she said she still hadn't made up her mind on the presidential race. But she doesn't believe either a Harris or a Trump administration would drastically change much for her business.

"They ain't doing nothing for me now," she said. "So, what would

change?"

A community divided looks to the future.

About 60 miles northeast of the state capital, Rocky Mount lies between the prosperous Research Triangle area and North Carolina's scenic beach communities.

Railroad tracks and a county line slice through the middle of downtown. On the one side is the majority Black and lower-income Edgecombe County. On the other, the more prosperous and whiter Nash County.

While some officials say longstanding attitudes centered on division are fading, the county line has for decades provided a clear delineation of class, race and politics.

Edgecombe County is a Democratic stronghold, but the more populous Nash County is a bellwether of sorts. It was among the 10 closest of North Carolina's 100 counties in the last presidential election, and one being closely watched this cycle.

With 51,774 ballots cast, President

Joe Biden took Nash County by 120 votes.

Around Rocky Mount's downtown area, stately red brick churches and banks line the wide streets. But just a few blocks away, weeds overtake vacant lots, glass is smashed out of abandoned buildings, and razor wire tops the fencing of no-credit-needed car lots and used tire shops.

While the nearby Raleigh metro area has experienced explosive suburban growth, Rocky Mount Mayor Sandy Roberson said his community has seen an erosion of its middle class with the loss of corporate headquarters and factory jobs.

But he's optimistic.

Young business owners are investing in downtown. Industries with operations in the Raleigh area are moving east. And both Republicans and Democrats just celebrated the news that Natron Energy plans to build a \$1.4 billion electric vehicle

(See DAILY LIVING P. 5)

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Business & Finance

Daily Living Is A Struggle—CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

battery plant nearby that will employ more than 1,000 people.

"We've got a lot of great things that are happening," the mayor said. "But the key is, how do you build and retain a middle class? Because that's who does the living and the dying and the investing in a community."

The mayor's position is nonpartisan, but Roberson is a Republican who in 2022 ran in the Republican primary for a congressional seat here. This election, however, is a difficult one for him.

Roberson said the economy and his financial position were unquestionably better during former President Donald Trump's term, but the Jan. 6, 2021, insurrection and the chaos of the last Trump presidency make him hard to support. At the same time, Roberson worries about Democratic presidential nominee Vice President Kamala Harris' economic policies; he believes the current administration has accelerated inflation by pumping too much money into the economy.

"At some levels, it feels like I'm

voting for somebody who wants to either be a dictator or somebody who wants to create a socialist state," Roberson said. "And I'm not in either place."

In North Carolina and other swing states, Trump's television ads hammer the vice president over high prices and "Bidenomics."

Nash County Republican Party volunteer Yvonne McLeod said the economy, along with immigration, are the top concerns locally. Businesses still struggle to hire, rents have soared and food prices are still up, she said.

"Economically, we're hurting," she said.

Democrats must be honest about the financial pressures facing voters, said Cassandra Conover, a former Virginia prosecutor who now leads the Nash County Democratic Party. She noted that Harris ads running in North Carolina speak directly to middle-class concerns.

"Nobody is immune from what's going on," Conover said. "She's telling all of us who are hurting, 'I know,

and we're working for you.'"

Polling has shown voters are sour on the economy, with 63% saying the economy was on the wrong track in a Harvard-CAPS-Harris poll released this month. Republicans take a far dimmer view than Democrats.

"From past experience, we would expect Harris to inherit some of the blame or credit for the current economy, but so far in the polls, I would say there has been a surprising willingness of voters to not extend the blame for inflation that they had for Joe Biden onto Kamala Harris," said Grossmann, the Michigan State University professor.

Housing costs have outstripped income gains in the past two decades, but those challenges have intensified since the COVID-19 pandemic, when demand increased, construction costs soared and interest rates spiked.

"It doesn't matter if you're a buyer or a renter," said Molly Boesel, an economist at CoreLogic, a financial services information company. "You're seeing your housing costs

increase."

Affordability is "the No. 1 issue" among voters in Nevada this year, said Mario Arias, the Nevada director of the Forward Party, a centrist political party founded by former Democratic presidential hopeful Andrew Yang.

A resident of the Las Vegas area, 30-year-old Arias said housing is his biggest financial concern. Throngs of Californians have moved into Nevada to lower their housing costs, but it's driven up costs for everyone else, he said.

"If you want to get out of being a renter, you have to be in not just a good financial situation, but in a very stable financial situation," he said.

The Federal Reserve cut interest rates last week for the first time in four years, which could open the housing market to more homebuyers as mortgage rates ease in the coming months.

The Biden administration has proposed several housing-related policies, including incentives to loosen

zoning regulations and capping rent increases from corporate landlords. Harris has announced a proposal to provide up to \$25,000 in housing assistance for a down payment to some potential first-time homeowners and promised tax incentives that she says would lead to 3 million more housing units by the end of her first term, if she's elected.

Trump has not waded far into the details of how he would address the affordability issue in a second term. He has said he plans to bring down prices by barring immigrants in the country without legal authorization from getting mortgages. But his proposed immigration policies could further reduce the labor force for building homes. Previously, Trump's administration talked about trying to cut state and local housing regulations, and it suspended federal regu-

lations on fair housing.

In North Carolina, more than a quarter of the state's households are cost burdened, meaning they spend more than 30% of their income on housing costs. It's particularly challenging for renters, nearly half of which are cost burdened, according to the North Carolina Housing Coalition, a nonprofit affordable housing organization.

Stephanie Watkins-Cruz, housing policy director at the coalition, noted that the federal government's calculation of fair market rent in North Carolina has shot up 14% in just one year — and 38% over the past five years.

"So unless everybody and their mama's getting 14 to 20 to 38% raises, the math begins to not math," she said.

It's a familiar challenge in every swing state.

Why Data Matters

Ms Jheri Worldwide

Staff Writer

In our increasingly digital world, information inundates us from every direction. From the billboards lining our streets to the targeted ads on our phones, media, and advertising constantly compete for our attention. This bombardment is fueled by data, the raw information that informs strategic decision-making. Given the pivotal role data plays in shaping the world around us, it's natural to question how we can harness its power for our own benefit. If our data is driving decisions for others, why not leverage it to shape our own destiny?

This thought prompted me to research and contemplate ideas to improve how I leverage the data I'm sharing online. Here are the strategies I've discovered. First, take control of your privacy settings, read a few updates, or watch a TikTok and revise your preferences. Regularly review and adjust the privacy settings on your devices, apps, and social media platforms. Be mindful of what information you're sharing online and with whom. By limiting data sharing, you can maintain greater control over your personal information. Next, use data to your advantage! Leverage data to customize your online experiences, such as streaming services and product recommendations. Additionally, use data to your advantage when negotiating prices for products or services. When buying things on Facebook Marketplace my first search is the price online. Gathering and analyzing data can also help you make more informed choices in various areas of life, from finances to health. Finally, supporting data privacy initiatives with your whole chest. When the people make it happen it happens! Advocate for organizations and initiatives that promote data privacy and consumer rights. Stay updated on relevant legislation and regulations. By supporting data privacy initiatives, you can contribute to a more equitable and privacy-focused digital landscape.

By giving even one of these strategies a try, individuals can gain a better understanding of their data, take control of their privacy, and leverage data to their advantage in a responsible and informed manner. In the digital age, data empowerment is essential for navigating the complexities of online life and shaping our own destinies.

Governor Cooper Announces \$2B Wilson County Investment by Johnson & Johnson

Governor Roy Cooper announced Johnson & Johnson (J&J), a world-leading healthcare company, will create 420 jobs in Wilson County. The company says it will invest more than \$2 billion in a new pharmaceutical manufacturing campus for innovative biologics in the City of Wilson.

"We welcome this tremendous investment by Johnson & Johnson as they expand their global manufacturing footprint," said Governor Cooper. "Life sciences leaders continue to select North Carolina because our worldclass workforce will help the company successfully produce innovative medicines that will make a profound impact on our state and patients around the world."

With expertise in Innovative Medicine and MedTech, Johnson & Johnson is uniquely positioned to innovate across the full spectrum of healthcare solutions today to deliver the break-

throughs of tomorrow, and profoundly impact health for humanity.

"A strong, global supply chain is crucial, and we purposefully invest to ensure our transformational medicines reliably and efficiently reach patients around the world," said Dapo Ajayi, Vice President, Innovative Medicine Supply Chain, Johnson & Johnson. "We are investing in capacity and new technologies to enhance our industry leading capabilities and ensure a resilient supply chain for the future. North Carolina is an important hub for biopharmaceutical manufacturing and talent, and we are pleased to join this thriving life sciences ecosystem and become part of the Wilson community."

"North Carolina has one of the largest biologics manufacturing workforces in the nation," said N.C. Commerce Secretary Machel Baker Sanders. "Economic and workforce development collaboration is critical

to ensuring we have the foundation and business climate for innovators like Johnson & Johnson to succeed, and we are grateful for the partners that are helping us strengthen our life sciences reputation."

New positions for the project will include analysts, engineers, microbiologists, scientists, specialists, managers and senior leaders. Although salaries will vary by position, the average annual wage is \$108,823, which exceeds the Wilson County average of \$52,619. These new jobs could create a potential payroll impact of more than \$45.7 million for the region each year.

J&J's project in North Carolina will be facilitated, in part, by a Job Development Investment Grant (JDIG) awarded to Janssen Biotech, Inc. (a subsidiary of J&J), which was approved by the state's Economic Investment Committee earlier today. Over the course of the 12-year term

of this grant, the project is estimated to grow the state's economy by \$2.3 billion. Using a formula that takes into account \$1 billion of the company's investment as well as the new tax revenues generated by the new jobs, the JDIG agreement authorizes the potential reimbursement to the company of up to \$13,666,000, spread over 12 years. State payments only occur following performance verification by the departments of Commerce and Revenue that the company has met its incremental job creation and investment targets.

The project's projected return on investment of public dollars is 262 percent, meaning for every dollar of potential cost to the state, the state receives \$3.62 in state revenue. JDIG projects result in positive net tax revenue to the state treasury, even after taking into consideration the grant's reimbursement payments to a given company.

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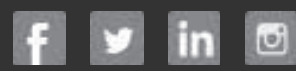
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Church

Black Pentecostal, Charismatic Christians Are Boosting Their Visibility In Politics – A Shift From The Past

The Conversation—Many Black leaders are swinging into action for the Harris-Walz campaign – and clergy are no exception.

On Aug. 5, 2024, The Black Church PAC hosted a “Win With the Black Church” webinar to register voters, sign up volunteers and raise funds for Vice President Kamala Harris. The kickoff event, which organizers said raised US\$500,000 and boasted 16,000 attendees, was hosted by the political action committee’s co-founder, Mike McBride – pastor of The Way Christian Center in California.

Apart from politics, McBride shares something else with many of the people on the webinar, including gospel singer Erica Campbell, pastor Jamal Bryant and co-founder the Rev. Leah Daughtry: All draw on Pentecostal faith.

As a scholar of American Pentecostalism and Black Studies, I see this event as but one example of Black Pentecostal and charismatic’s increasing visibility in American politics – a notable shift from the past.

Pentecostalism is a global Protestant Christian movement. As an evangelical Christian tradition, Pentecostalism emphasizes salvation through Jesus Christ and the centrality of scripture. It differs, however, in its understanding of the Holy Spirit: how God’s energy and essence work in the world.

Across most denominations and traditions, Christians believe in the Holy Spirit – part of the Holy Trinity, together with God the Father and Jesus Christ, the Son.

Pentecostalism is distinct, however, because its adherents claim that they directly experience the active presence of the Holy Spirit in their lives, through spiritual gifts such as healing, prophecy and speaking in tongues – a spiritual experience consisting of a series of unintelligible speech-like utterances and sounds. Pentecostals believe that speaking in tongues, or “glossolalia,” is a divine language and an essential means for communicating with God.

Pentecostals draw inspiration from the Book of Acts, part of the Bible that describes the founding of the early church after Jesus’ death. Chapter 2 depicts an event called the Pentecost, when disciples of Jesus were gathered together. Scripture describes them suddenly “filled with the Holy Spirit and (beginning) to speak in other tongues,” yet onlookers heard their own language spoken. In this moment, Pentecostals believe that the power of the Holy Spirit was poured out on Christ’s followers – and that it has been accessible ever since.

Because Pentecostals maintain that this type of spiritual activity continues today, they also emphasize speaking in tongues as evidence



that someone experienced the baptism of the Holy Spirit. Glossolalia is seen as a critical entryway to the faith and to personally experiencing the Holy Spirit in your life.

Apart from Pentecostal churches, Christians called “charismatics” have similar beliefs about the dynamic activity of the Holy Spirit in their lives. Charismatic Christians, however, are affiliated with other denominations, from Catholicism to mainline Protestant churches.

Within the global Pentecostal and charismatic landscape, Black American churches form a distinct tradi-

tion. In June 2024, with support from the Public Religion Research Institute, PRRI fellows Youssef Chouhoud, Flavio Rigerio Hickel and Leah Payne and I conducted a survey of 2,418 adults in the United States. Half of the 734 Black respondents identified as Pentecostal or charismatic. Similarly, in 2021, Pew Research Center reported that “half of all Black churchgoers say services include speaking in tongues.”

Scholars of American Pentecostalism maintain that from its inception, the movement was indebted to the religious practices of enslaved Black Christians. Black Pentecostal churches and organizations formed in the early 20th century as a result of racism. In 1914, for example, the white founders of the Assemblies of

God, USA decided to disaffiliate from the predominantly Black Church of God in Christ.

Black Pentecostalism teaches that Christians have an obligation to do good in the world. Social engagement has been essential to many Black Pentecostal identities and congregational life since their beginnings, especially material works of mercy – feeding the hungry, clothing the naked and educating the ignorant.

Such commitments were a stark contrast to Black Pentecostals’ civic life and political involvement.

Although there have been Pentecostals associated with politics and community activism, the tradition does “not possess an explicit political theology,” as Pentecostal theologian Steven M. Studebaker observes.

Black Pentecostal traditions especially have often oriented themselves away from this world’s sociopolitical affairs, toward concerns about personal and social morality and hope of heaven.

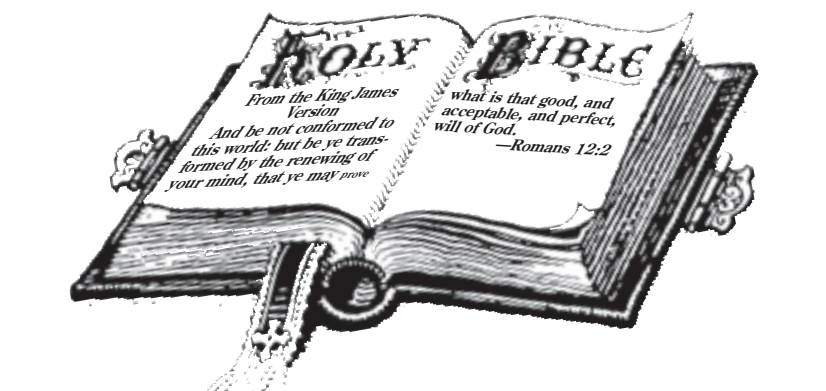
In fact, for generations, American Pentecostals broadly prided themselves on being intentionally apolitical. Black churches and leaders were key to mobilizing the Civil Rights Movement, for example, but Pentecostals believed that their most important contribution was through prayer, as historian Jonathan Chism notes.

Moreover, Black Pentecostals’ absence from politics reflects a history of discrimination and condescension from other Black Americans, including Black mainline Christians. During the early to mid-20th century, Black Pentecostals were often seen as lower class, unlike other Protestant groups such as Black Baptists and Methodists.

Critics feared the emotionality of their religious expression and their tendency toward gender inclusivity, which they worried would make Pentecostals a liability in the push for Black Americans’ rights. Black Pentecostals were not trusted with representing Black social and political interests in the public square.

Since becoming the Democratic nominee, Harris has garnered a well-spring of support from Black faith leaders, including influential Black preachers who either remain in or came up in the Pentecostal or charismatic congregations. Among them are Traci Blackmon, Chrissette Ellis and Gabby Cudjoe Wilkes.

SERMON of the WEEK



BLESS YOUR HEART

By: Pastor William Eli Ratcliff

“Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.” Psalms 1:1-3 KJV

The first verse of this Sermonic text is the word blessed, which reminds me of when I was a little boy. My favorite Bible verse was: “Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.” Matthew 5:8 KJV.

Despite mistakes and sometimes bad choices along life’s journey, I have always wanted to see God, and I hope you are on that same path, which is your desire.

I had to learn how to purify my heart. Thankfully, one advantage I had from an early age was growing up in the church, where I gained a strong foundation through Sunday School.

Notice, I didn’t say in a Wake County public school, but I was fortunate to say that my strong foundation was built right here in Lincoln Park Holiness Church’s Sunday School. Sometimes, I may have been a little ashamed about it when I was young, but I’m very proud of it now that I’m older. [As they say with age is supposed to come Wisdom.]

So, over time, in the church, I learned that having a pure heart starts with confession and repentance and, if nurtured properly, extends to an ongoing devotion to God.

I say unto you today, young and old, “Guard your heart above all else, for it determines the course of your life.” It is essential at some

point in our life that we learn, through God’s Word, how to “Think about the things of heaven and not the things of earth.”

Let me pause now and thank you for reading this Sermon of the Week. You could be reading something else. For that, I say, “Bless Your Heart.”

This Sermon, coming from Psalms Chapter 1, is written by a man who was said to be after God’s own Heart. That man was David, and I believe he garnered that reputation because he demonstrated his faith and was committed to following the Lord. [How about you?]

Psalms 1 emphasizes the importance of following God’s Word, choosing the right path in life, and avoiding the wrong kinds of relationships. This chapter clearly emphasizes the differences between the godly and the wicked and how each group’s life will end.

This chapter of Psalms can be divided into two parts: the path of life (verses 1–3) and the path of death (verses 4–6).

Do you know about the grieving woman whose brother had been in a Tomb of DEATH for 4 days? And Jesus said unto her, “I am the RESURRECTION and the LIFE, he that believes in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live?”

Well, I want you to know as a Believer that no matter what comes your way or even your family’s way, be it disappointment, sickness, or even death, we must always remember that JESUS is THE WAY, the truth, and the life! So, yes, even after we die, as believers, we can still live to see God!

If you know God as a HEALER, I say, “Bless your Heart!”

If you know Him as a WAY-MAKER, I say, “Bless your Heart!!” If you believe that God can still give SIGHT to the BLIND and still RAISE PEOPLE from the DEAD, I

say, “BLESS YOUR HEART!!!”

Have you ever wondered why people say, “Bless your heart,” when you sneeze? History tells us that it was during the plague, and people thought the sickness started with a sneeze. Also, they believed in a myth that a person’s Heart stopped when they sneezed. So, at the sign of that grave sickness and one’s Heart stopping and skipping a beat, people would say, “Bless your heart,” as to say, “God bless you.”

Even today, when a person sneezes, you can be in line at the grocery store, and nine times out of ten, somebody will say, “Bless you.” Furthermore, I’m reminded of how one songwriter said, “Lord, we need your blessing. Oh, Lord, just one blessing, just one blessing will do. Lord, we can’t go on our way; we can’t make it through the day unless we have a blessing, a blessing from you.”

“Blessed” means having inner peace, happiness, and joy not affected by circumstances. Blessed means to be favored by God, who is the source of all blessings. Blessings are believed to come from God, and expressing a blessing is like bestowing a wish on someone to experience God’s favor.

Oh, the joys of those who do not follow the advice of the wicked, but they delight in the law of the LORD, meditating on it day and night. They are like trees planted along the riverbank, bearing fruit each season.

Their leaves never wither, and they prosper in all they do. And remember, never stop praising God because when the praises go up, the Blessings come down! Thanks for finishing reading this Sermon; bless your Heart!

Please visit: lincolnparkchurch.com to view complete sermons by Pastor William Eli Ratcliff and Associate Ministers, Thank you.

Practical Biblical Principles

IT HAPPENED AT THE POTTER’S HOUSE

Read: Jeremiah 18:1-17

By John L. Caldwell, Pastor

New Jerusalem Baptist Cathedral God defined this particular message to Jeremiah in an allegorical way to show case His Sovereignty over His people and the required accountability required of His creation.

Like many today, the children of God in Jeremiah’s day did all to turn their backs on God and His Commandments. Jeremiah, the prophet, had preached forgiveness and God love for His back-slidden people for years and yet they did not want to hear the prophet. They wanted to kill him instead of listening to him preach about God’s love for them while they yet disobeyed Him.

The nation of Israel enjoyed the worldly pleasures after King Solomon passed. After the passing of King Solomon, God endured three hundred and fifty years of His people’s disobedience during the period of Judges. After which the twelve tribes of Israel split up. Ten tribes to the north and two tribes to the south. At times, the ten northern tribes fought against the two southern tribes. Eventually as punish-

ment, God used the Assyrian army to overrun the northern tribes and dispersed them among other nations. Only the two southern tribes (Jerusalem) were left wherein, Jeremiah preached for years God’s mercy and yet Jerusalem slowly turned their backs on God and was eventually taken into seventy-year captivity. Disobedient Israel had long assumed they would always remain in God’s graces because they were the seed of Abraham. This led to the promiscuity because they knew God would always love them; however, they were not aware of God’s pending judgement being that they were of the seed of Abraham.

It was prior to the invasion of Babylon and as a last warning to disobedient Israel that God called Jeremiah to go down to the potter’s house and hear My words (Jeremiah 18:1-2).

Jeremiah went down to the potter’s house and saw the potter at work at his potter’s wheel, wherein he had placed a hump of clay on the wheel, molding it and mashing it while it had no form (Jeremiah 18:4). And the clay which he had in his hands, the potter mashed it down many times making it again and again into

another vessel, as it seemed good for the potter to make.

Then the words of the Lord came to Jeremiah saying, “O house of Israel, can I not do with you as this potter,” says the Lord? As the clay is in the hands of the potter’s so are you in my hands.

So, it is today we all are in God’s hands to mold and make us after His will, or mold and make us until we respond to His love. The trial we sometimes go through is often God’s unseen hands molding and making us after His will.

The kneading and pressing down on the ball of clay over and over again, is God’s way of making those whom He knows loves Him into the image of his Son. And the child of God must know while in the midst of trials must be careful not to send God a message of “Hands off.” And those who have decided to disobey God and ignore His Commandments of Love, will soon discover the consequences of being disobedient. The child of God must constantly request of God to mold them and make them after His will.

Join Pastor John’s Weekly Podcast on Spotify – “When God Reads Your Mail”



Faith Missionary Baptist Church in Raleigh invites you to the **24th Pastoral Anniversary, honoring our Pastor (Rev. Dr. George A. Jones, Jr. and Lady Ida Jones).** Pastoral Anniversary will be held on **Sunday, October 20, 2024 at 11:00am** with Rev. Timothy E. Green, Associate Minister at FMBC **and at 2:30pm** with Guest Pastor Rev. Dr. Matthew Rouse, 111-Fourth Vice President (GBSC of NC, Inc & Pastor of Piney Grove EMBC-Marshville).

If there are questions, you may direct those to: **Chairperson—Mrs. Doris Green at 919.601.8614.**

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Health and Wellness

Don't Fall For Fake, Unlicensed Dentists On Social Media

WASHINGTON (AP) — If you have stained or chipped teeth, you might be considering veneers, customized teeth coverings that can restore a photogenic smile without more extensive dental work.

But dentists warn that these pricey cosmetic enhancements are at the center of a worrisome online trend: unlicensed practitioners without proper training or supervision offering low-cost veneers.

These self-described “veneer techs” often promote themselves on Instagram and TikTok, promising a full set of veneers for less than half of what

dentists typically charge. Some also market their own training courses and certifications for people looking to get into the business.

It's misleading, health professionals warn — and illegal. All states require dental work, including veneers, to be performed under the supervision of a licensed dentist.

On Thursday, Georgia law enforcement officials arrested Brandon Diller, who promoted himself to 158,000 Instagram followers as “Atlanta’s top veneer specialist and trainer.” Diller practiced dentistry without a license and sold “training and certificates,

which were worthless” and “provided no legitimate or legal credentials,” according to an arrest warrant from Fulton County’s District Attorney’s office. Here’s what to know about veneers and how to avoid bogus providers and services:

What are dental veneers? Veneers are thin, custom-made dental coverings used to hide minor imperfections or to fill in gaps between teeth. Unlike crowns or more invasive dental implants, veneers are almost always considered cosmetic dentistry and generally aren’t covered by insurance.

Dentists usually charge between \$1,000 and \$2,000 per tooth for veneers, with higher prices for those made from porcelain compared with lower-grade materials.

Placing veneers involves stripping some of the natural enamel from the tooth and bonding the new covering into place. Because of that process, getting veneers is considered an irreversible procedure, according to the American Dental Association. They are not permanent, and can be expected to last between 5 to 15 years before they degrade and need to be replaced.



In recent months the ADA has been stepping up warnings about the risks of veneer procedures done by unlicensed individuals.

“Quality control is lost without the involvement of a licensed dentist,” said Dr. Ada Cooper, a New York-based dentist and ADA spokesperson. “We undergo years of education and training and need to be licensed by various regulatory bodies before we can practice.”

What are the risks of getting veneers from someone who isn’t licensed? Improper veneer procedures can cause a range of health problems, including severe pain, nerve damage and tooth loss.

Patients need to be anesthetized before the enamel is removed from their teeth.

“It could be incredibly painful if they’re not anesthetized correctly,” said Dr. Zach Truman, who runs an orthodontics practice in Las Vegas. “You can also go too deep into the tooth and penetrate what’s called the pulp chamber, which contains blood vessels and nerves.”

One of the biggest problems Truman sees with unregulated veneer work is that customers aren’t getting screened for existing dental problems, such as gum disease and cavities.

“If you put a veneer on a tooth that has an active cavity, you’re just going

to seal it in there and eventually it’s going to progress to tooth loss,” Truman said.

Dental veneers aren’t the only option for improving the appearance of teeth. Over-the-counter whitening kits can help with minor stains and discoloration. And dentists can sometimes use composite materials to reshape chipped or uneven teeth. But Truman says those fillings are prone to crack and won’t last as long as veneers.

How can I spot bogus veneer providers online?

One clue: Many individuals performing unlicensed dental work promote themselves on social media as “veneer technicians.”

Instead of working out of a dental office they often perform treatments at beauty salons, hotel rooms or private homes. Some advertise multi-city tours and encourage clients to message them to book an appointment in advance.

Much of the appeal of the services is in their pricing, with some offering a full set of veneers for a flat fee of \$4,000 or \$5,000. That’s less than half of what patients can generally expect to pay at a dental office.

Community-Based Org. Urge Health Sys. Action

NC Newswire - The executive directors of nearly two dozen community-based organizations across North Carolina are urging health care providers to follow the lead of Advocate Health and cancel liens for thousands of homeowners with outstanding medical debt.

The organizations, which include the N.C. Justice Center, NC NAACP; Action NC and others, sent letters to CEOs of Community Health Systems; Lake Norman Regional Medical Center and Davis Regional Medical Center; CaroMont Health Shawn Howerton, Sampson Regional Medical Center and HCA Healthcare urging them to lift the liens.

“By cancelling liens for homeowners across the state, you can demonstrate your commitment to our shared goals of ensuring better health outcomes, centering wholeness health, and creating stronger communities,” community-based organizations said in the letter. “The home is a vital cornerstone of the American dream, upward economic mobility, and intergenerational wealth for families. Getting sick or into an accident is already stressful enough, but to lose equity in the family home because of an accident or illness is nothing short of devastating.”

The organizations noted that many of the homeowners who lost substantial equity in their homes due to medical debt are older adults, people of color and people with lower incomes.

“To lose equity in a home from medical debt after decades of dutifully paying a mortgage and preparing for retirement is an indignity that no one should have to experience,” the organizations said. “We are urging you to live up to your mission of taking care of patients, restoring their health, and maintaining dignity for all who seek your care.”

Advocate Health, the nation’s third-largest non-profit health system, announced earlier this month that it will begin to cancel all judgment liens previously placed on homes and real estate as part of its efforts to collect unpaid medical bills. The health care system will also forgive outstanding debts associated with those liens. In all, Advocate Health plans to cancel more than 11,500 liens across six state, some dating back more than 20 years.

“When we expanded our charity care policy, we immediately began assessing all previous outstanding liens and determined that most of those patients would qualify under our new policy,” Brad Clark, chief financial officer of Advocate Health, said in a statement. “As the next step in our roadmap to make care more affordable, we are accelerating this process and removing judgment liens that were placed on homes and property to cover unpaid medical bills.”



THE MORE THINGS CHANGE...

When I look back on my life, there have been certain moments that stand out as turning points—times when everything I knew seemed to shift, leaving me in unfamiliar territory. But nothing quite prepared me for the changes that came with growing older. As African American Baby Boomers, many of us know that life is full of ups and downs, but as we step into our senior years, those changes can feel particularly overwhelming. Whether it’s the sudden loss of employment, deciding to move, or even beginning a new career, these major life shifts can stir up a lot of emotions, questions, and, sometimes, even fear.

Life doesn’t stop just because we’ve reached a certain age. In fact, these changes, no matter how daunting, can open up new opportunities for growth, learning, and resilience.

For many of us, work is not just about a paycheck although most of need that paycheck. It’s about purpose, routine, and being part of something bigger. When I suddenly lost my job (Friday was my last day), I was rattled. I thought I would be at this job until I was ready to retire.

Standing in my kitchen, staring into space, I wondered what was next. The uncertainty, not to mention the loss of my good state health insurance, was hard to swallow. I’m sure many of you can relate. It’s a common experience, especially in a world where ageism is still very real, and for us sometimes the road feels even steeper.

I struggled with those feelings, rebuking Satan in the name of Jesus, fighting with myself to be okay. Suddenly, the cloud cleared, and I began to understand that this had been in the works for a while. This Spring, I was offered an opportunity to share my passions for cooking, baking, and talking as an innkeeper. I had to reevaluate. I had to do the math. Better doesn’t always equal more. Reducing my overhead reduces the amount required to live. I loved the thought, but at my age it felt irresponsible to take the chance. Well, now I am looking at this as just what the doctor ordered. Look at God!

Losing that job didn’t mean the end; it just meant a new chapter was starting. And if you’re going through something similar, remember that it’s never too late to try something new, to pivot, and to find a different kind of fulfillment.

Moving is another big change that many of us face as we get older. The process of packing up your life can feel like leaving behind a part of yourself. I went through that in 2013 when I moved from Mississippi to North Carolina. Turns out I was so busy with the now challenges I had very little time to miss anything.

This time, I made my exit short and snappy. I arrived early, did what I had to do, and got out of the building. I saw three people and one of them cried, two of them hugged me and I don’t even remember who the third was. I felt God pushing me into my future; new experiences, new people, and real enthusiasm and passion for going back to school. I am excited!

Perhaps one of the most exciting—and scary—changes we can face as seniors is the idea of starting a new career or learning new skills. After losing my job, I decided to start a baking business and I will enroll in the Culinary Arts and Hospitality Management program at Nash Community College in January. At 71, I finally figured out what I want to be when I grow up.

It’s never too late to learn. Whether it’s something as simple as mastering email or as complex as starting a new business, the key is to take it one step at a time and ask for help.

The one constant in life is change. Whether it’s employment, moving, or trying something new, these shifts can feel unsettling, but they also offer opportunities for growth. I’ve learned that we’re more adaptable than we think. It’s not about pretending everything is easy, but about acknowledging the challenges while still believing in our ability to rise above them.

So, if you’re facing a major change in your life right now, take a deep breath and trust that you have the strength to navigate it. This is just another step in the journey, and with faith, resilience, and an open heart, we can continue to move forward, no matter our age.

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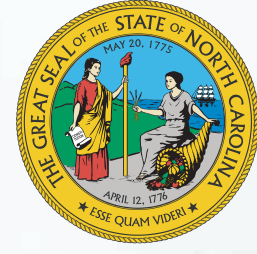
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Community

A Citizen Spotlight: Fayetteville's Mayor Mitch Colvin

Ms Jheri Worldwide
Staff Writer



Fayetteville's Mayor Mitch Colvin is in his fourth term, and as our conversation began, I asked him about his tenure in the role. "Well, you never say never, right? Definitely won't be mayor forever," he replied. "I don't believe that's useful for me or the city. Over these last four terms, I've had goals for Fayetteville, and I'm seeing a lot of that vision come to life now. There's always work to do, and I make decisions toward the end of my term to focus on the present, not on future political outcomes. I don't have the answer to that question just yet."

We then delved into the community benefits of being a multi-term leader. "You want continuity," he said. "With these two-year terms, the entire board is up for election every two years, leading to a 40% to 50% turnover. Each new council member brings their own vision and perspective. You need some institutional consistency to make sure that as a city, we're continuing to move forward, whether it's with different perspectives or not. We put an incredible amount of time and resources and budget into putting things in place. And then you may have a new group that pivots and goes in a completely different direction, but

that's just the nature of it. It is good to have historical perspective."

I shifted the conversation to the representation of Fayetteville in the media. "We're working on that, I'll start with this. I think we are one of the best kept secrets when people come here. What they've heard or thought before they got here is completely different. We've worked hard to make it that way. We've added a lot of amenities for quality of life improvement. We've done a lot on the economic side to kind of lift people's situation out of the situation that it's

in. We struggle to get our message out. Raleigh and the Durham area gets most of the concentration from the media outlets unless it's bad, thankfully, now with social media and platforms like you have, we're trying to get the word out that we have one of the fastest growing metros, including the Harnett county area. We're a bedroom community to Raleigh, we're not a competitor, but we are a great alternative for people who want a more affordable way of life that still has quality retail outlets and great food choices. We've got the baseball stadium and amenities. We'll continue to build on that with the Black History Museum and now the performing arts that will be built downtown. We are investing in the future to make sure that we are a great destination place for people who want an alternative or an option. They don't have to always go to Raleigh. But we're trying to get that word out right."

I shared, "I'm looking forward to the new developments. There's a lot to love about Fayetteville. Let's talk about affordable housing. The numbers are so skewed. So what's affordable to one person doesn't actually reflect the community equitably."

"Absolutely," Mayor Colvin agreed, "I always break it down because affordable housing has got this kind of a catch all phrase. I think it

is housing that's affordable for you. If you're paying more than 30% of whatever it is you make to live somewhere, you're going to struggle at some point. So we've got to have options to hit all spectrums, and I think we're doing that. One thing that we have here is our rental prices are higher than the income level because of various things. We think sometimes the allocation that the military gives the military families is high, so landlords raise their price to align with that, and which creates a struggle for people who are not military and don't get a housing allowance. So the way we fix that is we bring more available rental units on the market, which we're doing that working with builders and developers to bring more more options, which will bring the price down. I asked the council to look at creating 300 new homeowners this two year term and we've increased our down payment assistance program. We're working with some of the local, other local governmental bodies. So we've not only expanded that for city employees, but we've done it for county hospital and school board members. Government employs almost 55% of the people here in the city for one governmental unit or another. We want to make sure that all of them can be homeowners, whether you're a cafeteria worker, a bus driver or

whoever, that you can own a home, which is, you know, the way you build wealth. So \$30,000 is the down payment assistance if you buy within the city limits. We're hoping that that will catch on. And now with the interest rates dropping, we think that money will go further."

I reflected on his comments about pandemic assistance, curious about the flow of funds. "How does that work?" I asked. "Is it a direct allocation, or does it come from various levels?"

"When the pandemic first hit it was under the previous administration, and it was just a little chaotic. People just didn't know what they were dealing with. Some rescue funds came in, if you were a city, over maybe 200,000 people, then the allocations came straight to you. But it was just a small amount," he explained, "Then we got that money out to help people who didn't qualify for PPP. So beauticians, barbers, people with just one employee, or they were the only employee. We were able to help them pay their booth rent and pay things to keep going. But then as the new administration came in, it was a lot more clarification to it. Some of the money came to the state, it trickled down, which is a lot slower process. Then there were some direct allocations, like the ARPA dollars, \$44 million came to the city directly from the federal government, which we were able to put on the street immediately. Rental assistance came directly in. We helped almost 2,500 families stay in their houses during that time with more than \$16 million coming straight from an allocation from HUD. It varies depending on the program, anytime you involve federal, state, and then us, the money and the rules make it more complicated."

As our conversation neared its end, I asked a challenging question: "How did it feel to be accused of discrimination?"

"That was hurtful," he admitted. "I'm a father of three daughters. I'm African American, I've dealt with the prejudices that exist every day. I fight to make sure everybody's treated right, regardless of what you are. I understand that sometimes the position brings certain things with it. I have to put aside my personal preference, which will be, let me fight and dispute. I have to look at what's in the best benefit of the taxpayer. To defend that and to take that to court to get an end that that clears me may cost the taxpayers three or four times as much as it was to end situation. It was a tough dichotomy between those two outcomes. But, people that know me know who I am and what I stand for. The people that I get up and look at every day, from my mother, 84 years old, to my three daughters, from 29 to 20, and my wife, all African American females, they know where I'm at."

I posed my final question: "Do you have greater political ambitions?"

"I never started out to say, I want to be a mayor. I want to be a governor. That's kind of secondary. I didn't go in the military, so my contribution to my community has been this. If that leads to something else, then, you know, I'm all for that, because I still have the passion to be at the table for policy. I heard Governor Moore say this at an event I went to in Raleigh, 'policies are in everything from the water we drink to the air we breathe, to the job you work, to the streets, anything you can think of, where your kids go to school.' So you gotta have people with the right passion making that policy. As long as I'm passionate about it, I'm all for the public service piece."

Mayor Colvin's dedication to Fayetteville's growth and community well-being was evident throughout our discussion, revealing a leader focused not just on the present, but on laying the groundwork for a brighter future.

35 Years Later, There's Still No Sidewalk

DURHAM — It's been 35 years since John Parker died after a pickup collided with the bike he was riding on Cheek Road in east Durham before school. He was 6.

His mother, Deborah Melvin-Muse, doesn't display photos of him, the second youngest of six children. His brother's birthday was the day after the crash — and he hasn't celebrated it since. An older brother carries a deep sense of guilt because he was looking after John that morning.

And Cheek Road, in a predominantly Black neighborhood, still lacks sidewalks for children to safely make their way to the local elementary school.

This, despite the years community activists and academic researchers have spent pleading with city leaders for safety improvements along the busy thoroughfare with sloping shoulders where John died. Drivers zoom along Cheek Road in the Merrick-Moore neighborhood, which connects downtown Durham to industrial sites and newer suburban developments.

Melvin-Muse moved her family out of the neighborhood after John's death. "Now when I go down there, I look and see, you know, nothing really changed," she said. "It still looks the same."

Cheek Road has been "identified as needing improvements" by a local metropolitan planning board, said Erin Convery, Durham's transportation planning manager, in an email.

"The infrastructure that exists is not well implemented," concluded a May preliminary report produced by University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill students who collected data on speeding, noise, and air quality along Cheek Road. "Poorly marked crosswalks and inadequately positioned bus stops show a need for safety and accessibility improvements," the report said.

Data was difficult to collect because "there were areas we didn't want to get out of our cars because of the dangerous conditions," said Ari Schwartz, one of the research-



ers. In the 1940s, Black military veterans returning from World War II helped establish the Merrick-Moore neighborhood. Since then, residents say they have endured everything from noisy industrial trucks and speeding cars to illegal tire dumping and air pollution that threaten their health and safety.

Pedestrian deaths are highest in formerly redlined areas, neighborhoods where Black people lived because of discriminatory federal mortgage lending practices, research shows. The lack of sidewalks, damaged walkways, and roads with high speed limits are concentrated in these neighborhoods, studies show, creating a little-recognized public health crisis.

Governments invest in roads for people driving through such neighborhoods, but not in safety measures — like sidewalks, crosswalks, traffic circles, and speed bumps — that protect people living in them, researchers and advocates say.

"People will talk about vulnerable communities as if there is a problem

with these communities, when in fact it is our systems and policies that have created these failings," said Darya Minovi, a senior analyst at the Union of Concerned Scientists who studies environmental health and justice.

While the share of Black residents in Merrick-Moore has dropped in recent decades, data shows the neighborhood remains more than 80% Black or Hispanic and households there are typically less well-off than in other parts of the city. "Local government takes money from the neighborhood but does not invest in it," said Bonita Green, head of the Merrick-Moore Community Development Corporation and a former City Council candidate.

Green said the community group had documented more than 100 auto crashes along Cheek Road during a recent four-year span and at least three pedestrian deaths before 2020. In this fast-growing city of roughly 300,000, students at Merrick-Moore Elementary and others at a nearby high school sometimes walk along the road — where traffic

is heavy, drivers are known to disregard the 25-mph speed limit, and the shoulders slope steeply.

When longtime residents like Ponsella Brown see kids walking there or hear about another accident, they remember the death of John Parker, who was in first grade.

"I just cringe," said Brown, who worked as an administrative assistant at Merrick-Moore Elementary when John died. "Every time it comes up, it's like really vivid in my mind."

On the day John died, someone rushed into the office and said a child had been hit by a car on Cheek Road, recalled Brown, who said she ran to the scene.

"I remember the way his head was turned. I remember the spot of blood on his face. Like one speck of blood," said Brown, who also works for the Merrick-Moore Community Development Corporation and is now a counselor at another school.

Traffic on Cheek Road is expected to increase as the population grows in Durham and surrounding areas, according to a separate April 2024 report from UNC graduate students. It noted that during the morning school drop-off time, many cars driving on Cheek Road don't observe the posted speed limits.

The Omegas of Raleigh Hosts Mayoral Forum



By: Eric Curry, Contributor (Garner, N.C.) With just weeks before voters head to the polls for early voting, ahead of the November 5 General Election, candidates vying for the seat of Raleigh mayor took time to share views on a number of issues during a forum sponsored by the Raleigh and Cary chapters of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc.

The event, which took place recently at the Omega Multipurpose Center in Garner, was sponsored by the Omegas of Raleigh Inc., in partnership with the Iota Iota and Xi Mu Mu chapters of the fraternity.

Citizens heard from candidates Janet Cowell, Eugene Myrick, Paul Fitts, James Shaughnessy IV and Terrance Ruth. Several topics were discussed including the lack of affordable housing, improving police relations and how to handle the city's explosive population growth.

The candidates were also asked to share their views on how city leaders could best improve their support for Raleigh's historic HBCU's - Shaw University and Saint Augustine's University.

The event was moderated by Patrick Curry, Basileus for the Xi Mu Mu Chapter and the fraternity's Sixth District Political Action Chair, representing North Carolina. The Sixth District consists of North and South Carolina.

"Omega Psi Phi has a long history of being on the forefront of the political process," said Curry. "With the current political environment, we look to be very active in every community in this state to educate and inform, while engaging our political leaders as we grow influence in this area."

Buck Leonard Classic Charity Event

The Buck Leonard foundation hosted a charity golf event last Friday in Leonard's hometown of Rocky Mount, NC at Belmont Lake Golf Club. The annual event named the Buck Leonard Classic aims to use the proceeds to fund little league baseball within the community. The money raised is used to

cover the cost of travel to other cities, uniforms and equipment. During the previous little league season they were able to compete as far away as Pennsylvania and Alabama.

Mr. Patterson, who works with the Buck Leonard foundation said "No donation is too small". When asked what other things are need-

ed to support the youth he said, "things like Gatorade and food. Many of the kids come from low income homes, so meals would be a great help".

In addition to spreading awareness of Buck Leonard's Hall of Fame career, "we want to provide constructive outlets for children and keep baseball alive," Debbie Fox said. Mrs. Fox is the granddaughter of Buck Leonard. She continued by explaining that the aim of the foundation is to give children ages 6 to 15 an alternative to spending time idly that can lead them towards destructive habits and behavior. In a safe space, sports and their STEM camp provides character building lessons as well as fundamental skills that they can carry with them throughout life. The foundation also has ongoing projects that acquire, rehabilitate and transition homes to historical landmark status. "In doing so, they are doing their part within the community, as well as keeping her grandfather's legacy alive," Mrs. Fox concludes.

Anyone interested in donating to The Buck Leonard Foundation can do so via cashapp at \$Patfoxson. For more information you can contact Mr. Patterson at brianpatterson@buckleonard.org



Debbie Fox, the granddaughter of baseball legend Walter "Buck" Leonard poses with her cousin Brian Patterson during the Buck Leonard Classic golf tournament hosted at Belmont Lake Golf Club in Rocky Mount NC Oct 4, 2024.



Delicados, Inc. Welcome Fall Inductees

On Saturday, September 14, 2024, the Raleigh Chapter of Delicados, Inc. inducted two new members. Seated from the left- Founding member Louise Johnson, Treasurer Wiladean Thomas, President Anne Bailey, Vice President Alfredia Collins, Executive Advisor. Eula Rush, Recording Secretary LaVerne Lane, Emeritus Enid Patterson, Registered Agent Lillar Barnes, Standing-Archivist Wilma Keith-Jackson, Chaplain Carolyn Penny, Sergeant-at-Arms Nastasha Earle-Young, Elizabeth Chance, New Members - Karen King and Celia Dicken; Cassandra Davis, Cardella Mathes, Audrey Morgan, Corresponding Secretary Shirley Foye and Joyce Fray. Not pictured are Financial Secretary Brenda Jeffreys, Mona Parks, Tara Barber and Sarah Atkins.

Arts & Culture

Durham's Transformation: From Film To Stage, It A Classic!

The Hill—“When someone leaves Durham, they don't come back,” wails a character in the new musical restaging of the 1988 movie “Bull Durham.” Once they work their way out of the gritty North Carolina town, she says plaintively, there is little reason to return.

Cities in decline are often desperate for comebacks. Surprisingly, a movie — and architectural preservation — helped accelerate Durham's 40-year civic revival.

“Bull Durham,” starring Kevin Costner, Susan Sarandon and Tim Robbins, became 1988's breakout summer hit. The film, now a cult classic, portrays a down-and-out minor league baseball team in a down-and-out North Carolina town. Writer-director Ron Shelton had a brief minor league career. In “The Church of Baseball,” his recent book about making the movie, he wrote that he chose the location because of the city's “desperate look and feel.”

When the movie was released, the city was still struggling with a decades-long, seemingly irreversible decline. Parts of downtown were boarded up; a landmark high-rise hotel had been razed; a freeway had steamrolled a formerly prosperous historic African American community. The town's longtime economic base had eroded, its textile mills and cigarette factories closed or closing.

Drying tobacco smell from Durham's last tobacco warehouse still wafted over the movie's vintage downtown ballpark. Early film advertising — discarded after local protests — featured the subtitle, “A major league romance in a minor league town.”

Still, Mayor Wib Gulley sounded optimistic, telling the Los Angeles Times that the movie “not only put Durham on the map for folks around the country, it was an even bigger boost for the people who live here. It says we're a big-time community with a major-league motion picture.”

The city was gradually shifting its economic base from industrial manufacturing toward education, medicine and culture. Durham's comeback effort was underway: a city-supported downtown parking garage, office tower and a new civic center and hotel, plus a human capital explosion as 1960s and '70s Duke graduates created their own institu-



tions.

By 1982, during pre-production, Durham's architectural bones were rattling. Instead of leveling vacant structures, the city underwent a “red brick renaissance.” It repurposed vintage, vacant tobacco and textile buildings, transforming them into unique, upscale condos, apartments, restaurants and retail outlets, mostly serving Duke University and Medical Center students and employees. The film's release inadvertently revealed the town's latent charm.

In 1998, Duke University's Center for Documentary Studies founded a film festival. Each spring, filmmakers and fans worldwide flock to the Carolina Theater, a beloved, restored downtown movie palace that had hosted the “Bull Durham” world premiere.

Fueled in part by the movie's popularity, Durham built a new, larger municipal downtown Bulls ballpark in 1995, similar to Baltimore's red-brick Camden Yards. Thanks to a cadre of diverse and forward-looking office holders, the town embraced the now-AAA team, simultaneously preserving the old ball field for recreational sports. In 2008, next to the new stadium, it built a successful performing arts venue.

Across the street, the American Tobacco Co. campus, formerly an office complex and railroad load-

ing bay, became an entertainment venue, with bars, restaurants, a public radio studio, a documentary film theater and a high-tech entrepreneurial incubator.

Major tech companies Google, Microsoft and Oracle have located offices nearby. The city has become a destination for creative millennials and Gen Zers, many lacking a Duke connection and with no interest in living in a college town like nearby Chapel Hill. Downtown has been transformed and includes a thriving weekly farmers' market.

“Durham is a model for how to keep a city center alive,” said Boston-based urban planner and Duke grad Ed Shoucair. But it's not just the restored buildings drawing newcomers. “Its growth is largely due to its critical mass of new residents. The only missing piece is affordable housing.”

Unquestionably, urban revival included a troubling cost, with gentrification pricing longtime Black residents out of their homes.

In September, Ron Shelton premiered a musical version of his movie at Duke's Reynolds Industries Theater. The production is a sweet, bouncy showcase with Broadway-Off-Broadway ambitions.

At the musical's closing night curtain call on Sept. 22, Shelton spoke to the audience about his

story's screen-to-stage journey and dramatic changes in Durham they bracketed. Any civic revival's urban alchemy is difficult to analyze, but, Shelton joked facetiously, “I take full credit” for the city's booming return. Audience members who knew better laughed at the hyperbole.

Some irony existed in staging the musical's showcase run in Duke's student union, given the sometimes contradictory and contentious town-and-gown relationship. The school's founder, robber baron James B. Duke, built his fortune on the American Tobacco Co.'s monopoly of a deadly product whose effects Duke Medical Center researchers have devoted careers to mitigating.

For the most part, Durham and Duke maintain symbiosis, as the university's exponential growth in stature has paralleled Durham's economic recovery.

“Duke has helped catalyze the economic renaissance of downtown,” says local developer Bob Chapman. “The city and county collect higher ad valorem taxes based on Duke's above-market rent payments.”

There are caveats. Thousands of Duke students annually seek Durham housing, noted former Mayor Gulley. “This sharply limits the supply of affordable housing available to Durham's residents and drives up the cost of whatever is left. Duke is

not unique in this respect, but it also is not doing a lot to mitigate this impact.”

And in 2019, Duke helped kill a regional light rail plan that had been percolating for years. University administrators objected — selfishly, many felt — because the line would have located a medical center stop on the edge of the campus.

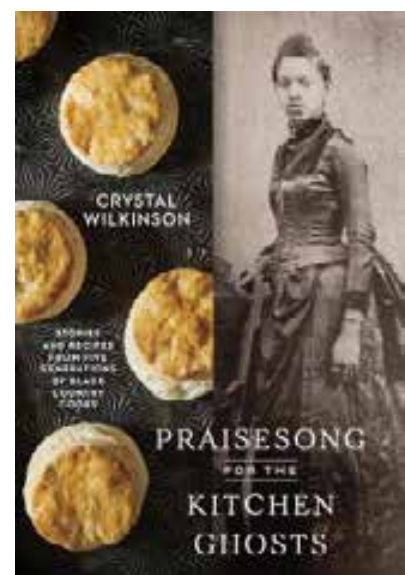
Today, Durham is a growing city of 300,000 in a metro area of 1.5 million. It offers urban life on a livable scale, with most destinations within walking distance or no more than a 15-minute drive. Despite the “Bull Durham” musical character's complaint, after a 40-year hiatus since my Duke undergraduate days, I moved back in 2021.

Book Review: Praisesong For The Kitchen Ghosts

By Nadra Hashim

The subtitle — *Stories and Recipes from Five Generations of Black Country Cooks* — summons and pays homage to her ancestors. Praisesong is a collection of nearly forty recipes passed down through generations of women, but it is also a critical treatise on Kentucky's racial, economic and political development. It offers a thoughtful chronicle of a frequently overlooked part of the region's history: Black Appalachia. Wilkinson challenges the myth of the region's homogeneity in her introduction and first chapter, discussing difficult topics of American race relations and Black land-inheritance, as well her own family's experience of adversity and anguish (2-3; 239). Her voice is both bright and bracing, matter of fact and often amusing. Wilkinson's main subject is the daily life of generations of Appalachians who embrace rural isolation, and as a result, endure chronic food insecurity, but face it with resolute cheer.

The mountains of Appalachia are between 250 -500 million years old and its trails, valleys and creeks are named for the tribe of Apalachee people, indigenous to Florida for thousands of years, now disappeared or removed. Thus, the very name of the region speaks to disorientation. Current and residing tribal communities include the often hidden and migratory Cherokee, Choctaw, Seneca and Iroquois tribes, among others. European settlers, mainly Scottish and Irish, but also many Germans, began arriving in the early eighteenth century, shortly before the beginning of the coal mining industry in that area. By the 1880s, Kentucky produced one million tons of coal



annually, and the Eastern Appalachian Basin coal field was the largest. The risks and adverse health effects miners faced were stark: the spectre of early death preceded by penury, black lung, and the threat of mine collapse.

Wilkinson's book intervenes into stereotypes through the legacy of first-hand recollection. She provides a detailed regional history and reflects on its culture through the recipes, describing how she gathered each one, usually learning to cook a particular dish at the knee of a family member — like the Hot Milk and Caramel Cakes and Indian Creek Cornbread she made with her Aunt Edith (37, 84, 159) — then studying and adapting it as an adult. As well as baking, foraging is knowledge passed down from her grandmother, who in turn learned it from her grandmother, and so on over generations.

Sports

Coco Gauff Wins China Open Final

BEIJING (AP) — Coco Gauff won her second title this season with a lopsided 6-1, 6-3 victory over Karolina Muchova in the final of the China Open on Sunday.

Aged 20, the sixth-ranked U.S. player became the youngest China Open champion in 14 years. She is also the second American champion in Beijing, following Serena Williams' title runs in 2004 and 2013.

“Honestly, it means a lot when I saw that the last American woman to win this was Serena Williams,” Gauff said. “Anytime my name is mentioned in whatever sentence hers is, it's a huge honor.”

It was Gauff's eighth career title. She improved her record in tour finals to 8-1 and has now a 7-0 record in hard-court finals, a feat never achieved before in the Open Era.

“That's pretty cool,” Gauff said. “I hope somebody else breaks it. I think records are meant to be broken, honestly.”

Gauff, who defended her Auckland title earlier this season, wasted no time and took the opening set in just 31 minutes. She dropped just five points on her first serve, hit 24 winners and broke Muchova five times.

Gauff's win in Beijing improved her chances of qualifying for the WTA Finals featuring the eight top players for the third consecutive year. With her title, she will overtake Jessica Pegula to take the No. 5 spot ahead of the final WTA 1000 tournament of the season, the Wuhan Open.



Shaw University Defeats Bluefield State

On October 5, 2024, Shaw University found victory over Bluefield State in a CIAA conference game held in Durham, N.C., with an impressive 35-17 win. This match showcased multiple key plays and strategic maneuvers that contributed to the triumph.

Early in the first half, wide receiver Ah'shaan Belcher (0) made a significant impact by racing ahead of Bluefield State defensive back Anthony Fisher for a touchdown. Belcher's prowess brought the crowd to life and set the tone for Shaw's offensive dominance.

Defensively, Jalen Banks (46),

Shaw's defensive end, was relentless. Banks grappled and nearly sacked Bluefield State quarterback Christian Solino (14), disrupting their offensive flow and asserting Shaw's defensive strength.

Running back Traquan Johnson (2) was pivotal in Shaw's offensive strategy, delivering long yardage runs that kept Bluefield State's defense on their heels. Johnson also secured essential first downs against defensive back Justin Campbell (2), highlighting his agility and determination.

Celebrations were in order when Shaw offensive lineman Camaar Epps

(54) celebrated Ah'shaan Belcher's touchdown during a dynamic first half. This camaraderie showcased Shaw's team spirit and collective effort.

The defensive efforts continued with defensive back Virgil Davis (28), who brilliantly swatted away a potential touchdown pass to Bluefield State's running back RJ Hairston (19). Davis's critical play maintained

Shaw's lead and fortified their defensive stance.

The game concluded with Shaw securing a commanding 35-17 win over Bluefield State, a testament to the team's preparation, skill, and execution on both sides of the ball. This victory solidifies Shaw's standing in the CIAA conference and sets the pace for their upcoming matches.

Steve Worthy Photos



Woody Johnson sensed his struggling New York Jets needed a change — and now. So the owner made the stunning decision Tuesday to fire coach Robert Saleh just five games into his fourth season after the team's 2-3 start following a 23-17 loss to Minnesota in London on Sunday.



USC's JuJu Watkins Agrees To Extend Nike Endorsement

LOS ANGELES (AP) — JuJu Watkins has agreed to a multiyear contract extension with Nike that will give the Southern California star one of women's basketball's biggest sneaker endorsement deals.

A first-team All-American after a record-setting freshman season, the guard from Los Angeles is one of the biggest stars in the sport and last month was unanimously voted the preseason player of the year in the Big Ten by the league's coaches.

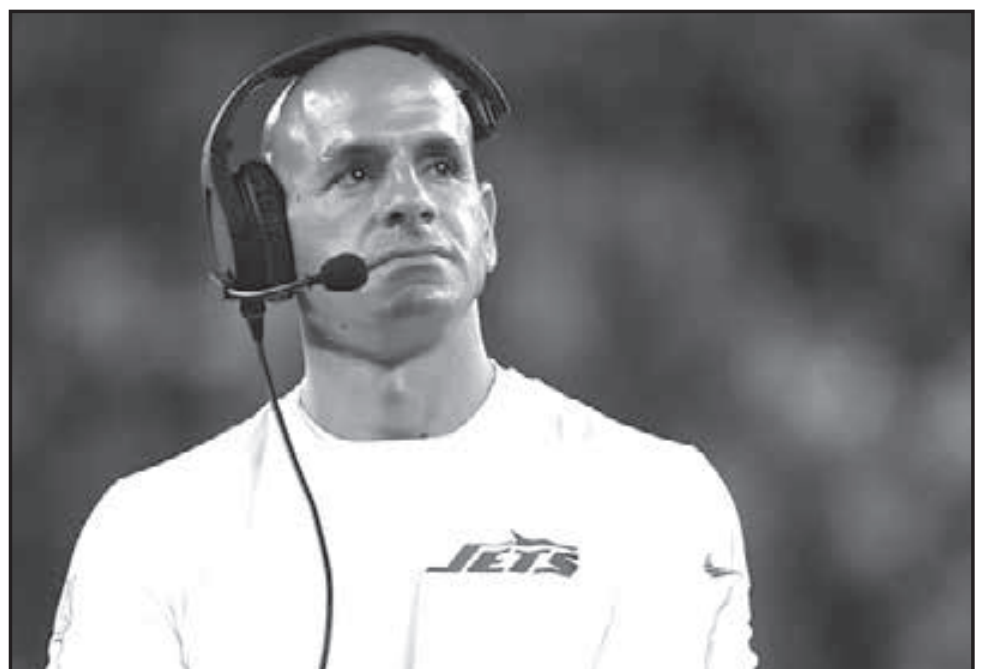
Agent Rich Paul confirmed the deal, an extension of the one she originally signed with Nike in 2022 while in high school. It was first reported by ESPN.

Watkins scored 920 points last season, a national freshman record, and she was second in the nation to Caitlin Clark in scoring average at 27.1 points per game.

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



Robert Saleh's Controversial Decision To Wear Lebanon Flag 'Could Have Played A Part' In Jets Firing

By Isabel Baldwin, MailOnline

Radio personality Joe Benigno has claimed that Robert Saleh's choice to wear the flag of Lebanon pushed him closer to the exit at the New York Jets.

The head coach was fired by the Jets Tuesday - five games into his fourth season at the helm - amid a miserable 2-3 start to the 2024 season.

The decision came two days after the flailing franchise's latest defeat at the hands of the Minnesota Vikings in London, where Saleh sparked controversy.

The 45-year-old was spotted on the sidelines at Tottenham Hotspur Stadium wearing a Lebanese flag below the Nike logo on the sleeve of his team hoodie after Israeli bombing on Beirut had continued overnight into the early hours of Sunday morning.

Saleh, who is of Lebanese heritage, previously wore a similar patch last October but his decision to bear the flag a day before the anniversary of the beginning of the war in Gaza raised eyebrows.

Now, Benigno, a longtime host at WFAN and a die-hard Jets fan, believes that Saleh's wardrobe choice played a role in owner Woody Johnson axing him.

'I gotta say something else and I hate to get political but I have to in this case,' Benigno said during an appearance on 'The Jake Asman Show' Tuesday.

'Saleh had the flag of Lebanon on his shirt the other day in London. Now we all know what's going on in the Middle East. There is no sugarcoating of what's going on in the Middle East. We all know about Hezbollah firing all these rockets out of Lebanon, and all what's going on there, into Israel.

'... We know he is Muslim. I think he is representing the people of Lebanon because I don't believe the people of Lebanon really are happy with Hezbollah. I don't think that's the case at all. And I wonder if that has played into this in a way as well because I did see this on the regular news that this was actually brought up.'

Saleh wore the patch in participation with the NFL Heritage Program, which encourages players and coaches to honor their cultural origins by wearing international flag patches and decals on their helmets.

But the decision amid the Israel-Hezbollah war left NFL fans divided on social media with many furious and some even predicting a potential impact on his job security.

'Robert Saleh p***ing off a lot of the Jew York community with the Lebanon flag on his top no doubt,' one social media user shared to X, formerly known as Twitter.

'Bigger issue is the Lebanese flag on Saleh's sleeve,' one fan said, replying to another post criticizing the Jets' performance.

'I am not sure that Robert Saleh wearing the Lebanese Flag, which he obviously added on his own, is going to help him with his ownership as his team gets embarrassed again,' another added.

However, others defended Saleh, highlighting his Lebanese-American background.

One posted: 'He's Lebanese American. Everyone else is allowed to be proud of their heritage why should he?'

'Robert Saleh sporting the Lebanese flag is cool,' a post from another account read. 'Would hope he talks or posts about what's happening to his people in Lebanon.'

The night before Sunday's game - the first of the NFL's three fixtures in the British capital this season - Israeli bombing continued on Beirut, the Lebanese capital.

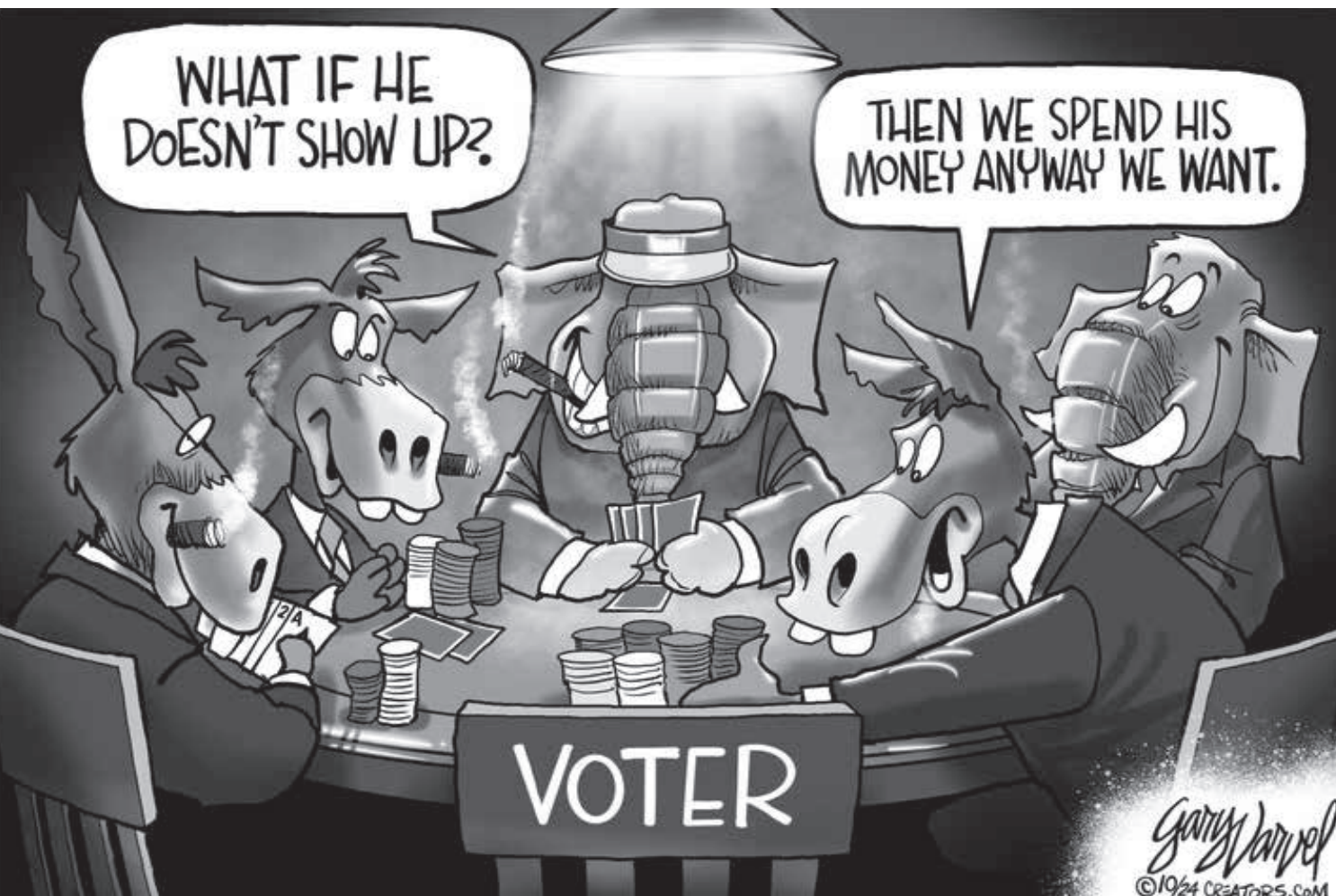
The Hezbollah stronghold in south Beirut was hit by more than 30 strikes overnight, which were heard across the city, with smoke still seen billowing from the site after dawn, according to reports.

Iranian-backed Hezbollah, the strongest armed force in Lebanon, began firing rockets into Israel almost immediately after Hamas' October 7 attack, calling it a show of support for the Palestinians. Hezbollah and Israel's military have traded fire almost daily.

Last month, Israel launched what it said was a limited ground operation into southern Lebanon after a series of attacks killed longtime Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah and most of his top commanders. The fighting is the worst since Israel and Hezbollah fought a month-long war in 2006. Nine Israeli soldiers have been killed in ground clashes that Israel says have killed 440 Hezbollah fighters.

Born in Dearborn, Michigan, Saleh is an American citizen but his roots trace back to Lebanon. His parents, Sam and Fatin, emigrated from the Middle East to the United States before he was born.

Upon his hiring as the Jets' head coach in 2021, Saleh became the first Muslim head coach in the history of the NFL.



A Different Voice
By Dorothy Shaw Thompson



UNAWARE & NOT TRUSTING

If we turn on our own television, computers, or smartphones, we see a lot of confusion, disagreement, and fear. We also can see goodness: cute little babies, unusually smart and spiritual kids, teenagers helping the elderly, and people who are choosing peace and love over fear and hatred. Can we recognize when our struggles are fueled by a lack of awareness and a lack of trust, or do we just spend our days being miserable?

Let's talk a bit about how easy it is to choose happiness. For me, it's a simple three-letter word that I think most of us have heard before: GOD. Do you really believe that there is a God? I am not going to try to convince you that there is. I will tell you that believing sure does make my life easier, and trusting certainly helps me deal with the so-called challenges that have shown up in my life.

I'll give you an example of this idea from one of the commercials I keep seeing on television. It's about the lady who is running for Superintendent of Public Instruction. I think her name is Michelle Morrow. She attended the insurrection on January 6 and she seems to be running for the purpose of ridding our school systems of "demonic instruction." Yet she is proposing that former President Barack Obama be killed by a firing squad and that the event can be a fundraiser. My awareness tells me that she believes in violence and that anyone who votes for her believes in violence. Probably, she doesn't like black presidents that don't agree with her. Of course, so far there's only

been one. Since she's often seen with Mark Robinson, who is black and I guess agrees with her, it's not about being black; it's about the belief. Now, I'm also aware that he is the anti-abortion candidate who believes that babies are conceived because women can't keep their skirts down, which of course absolves him from any responsibility when he and his wife aborted one of her pregnancies. This guy doesn't know simple biology so much so that he runs a close-up ad of himself saying this, not being aware of what he's announcing to the world. I'm aware that both of these people are running from their own mirror images. In reality, the demon she is fighting is in herself; the abortionist he wants to legislate against is the one he sees in the mirror.

I trust God. He will either teach our state its contradictions by allowing them to be elected, or they will be denied the positions they seek and our state will have passed an IQ test on November 5th. Either way, I will continue my journey with my focus on believing in God and His promises. I am aware that too many people only believe the things that they can get other people to agree with. There are people who get angry with other people simply because they don't agree with them. Why? Could it be that they are not really sure of what they believe? Is it because they only believe what a lot of others believe, and if they are standing alone, then they do not feel right?

If they don't really believe something, then they can't live with it. I am aware and believe that God makes us differently— not just in our looks, not just our abilities to learn things, our gifts, but our perceptions. If we really trust God and the insights He gives us, we can work out our purpose and peace, knowing with confidence that we are seeing as He would have us see and can live as He would have us live. My belief is that every person and situation we encounter is for us, no matter how difficult it appears to be. It's a lesson, and a good question for me is, "What am I supposed to learn, and how?"

Sometimes I have to say, "Show me, God; help me see." Though I will continue to share what I see about the current affairs going on now, I am at peace no matter how this stuff turns out, all for two reasons—I enjoy being aware, and trusting is even better.

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 24-E-473

The Undersigned, having qualified as ADMINISTRATOR of the Estate of JOSEPHINE BLACKWELL, 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 10th day of January 2025, 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 10th day of October 2024.

Thomas Blackwell, Administrator
3 Azzi Ct
Durham, NC 27703
10/10, 10/17, 10/24, & 10/31/2024
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File Number 24E002231-310

The Undersigned, having qualified as EXECUTOR of the Estate of BETTYE LOU SNIPES, 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 10th day of January 2025, 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 10th day of October 2024.

Gloria S. Green, Executor
4722 Knights Arm Drive
Durham, NC 27707
10/10, 10/17, 10/24, & 10/31/2024
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ALL PERSONS, firms and corporations having claims against LILLIAN VIRGINIA BYRD, deceased, of Durham County, NC, file number 24E002234-310, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before January 8, 2025, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 10th day of October, 2024.

Tonyelle King, Executor
c/o Whitaker & Hamer, PLLC
216 US-70 West
Garner, NC 27529
10/10, 10/17, 10/24, & 10/31/2024
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File Number 24E002279-310

The Undersigned, having qualified as EXECUTOR of the Estate of NORMAN BRYANT WALKER, JR., late of Durham County, North Carolina, hereby wishes to notify all persons having claims against the Estate of said deceased to exhibit them to the undersigned at the below listed address on or before the 8th day of January 2025, 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 10th day of October 2024.

Frances Walker Stuart, Executor
3329 Broughton Drive
Durham, NC 27704
10/10, 10/17, 10/24, & 10/31/2024
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File Number 24E002264-310

The Undersigned, having qualified as EXECUTOR of the Estate of JOHN R. BAGWELL, III, 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 January 2025, 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 10th day of October 2024.

John R. Bagwell IV, Executor
2645 Kirk Rd.
Durham, NC 27705
10/10, 10/17, 10/24, & 10/31/2024
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
File Number 24E2100

ALL PERSONS, firms, and corporations having claims against Yvette Marion Myers, deceased, of Durham County, N.C., are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before January 11th, 2024 or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This 10th day of October 2024, Floyd B. McKissick, III, McKissick & McKissick, 835 N Mangum Street, Durham, NC 27701; The Carolinian 10/10, 10/17, 10/24, and 10/31/2024

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File Number 24E002115-310

The Undersigned, having qualified as ADMINISTRATOR of the Estate of LINWOOD L. MITCHINER, 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 January 2025, 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 10th day of October 2024.

Nettir Mitchiner Alston
Administrator
11700 Arnold Palmer Drive, Apt. 105
Raleigh, NC 27617
10/10, 10/17, 10/24, & 10/31/2024
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION
In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
File No. 24CVS001144-310

JOHNETTA M. BRITTON,
PLAINTIFF
VS.

JOSHUA J. LINK and
ZEDALE M. ROPER,
DEFENDANTS

TO: ZEDALE M. ROPER

Take notice that a pleading seeking relief against you has been filed in the above entitled action. The nature of the relief sought is as follows: Complaint for Personal Injuries as a result of a Motor Vehicle Accident on July 22, 2021 on NC 55 in Durham, NC.

You are required to make defense to such pleading not later than November 19, 2024 and upon your failure to do so the party seeking service against you will apply to the Court for the relief sought.

This the 10th day of October, 2024.

Alexander S. Perry
N.C. State Bar #20065
PERRY, PERRY & PERRY, P.A.
Attorneys for Plaintiff
601 Fayetteville Street, Suite 300
Post Office Drawer 2051
Durham, North Carolina 27702
Telephone: (919) 683-8685
10/10, 10/17, and 10/24/2024
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

COMPLAINT TO ENFORCE POSSESSORY LIEN ON MOTOR VEHICLE

CLEAN OUT AUTOMOTIVE, Plaintiff vs.

UNKNOWN OWNER,
VIN: F10ANC42312, Defendant
TO UNKNOWN OWNER:

TAKE NOTICE the petitioner has filed with the clerk a petition in proper form indicating that the petitioner has a valid lien against a Ford/1968, ID No. F10ANC42312 and that the petitioner shall have the right to sell to the highest bidder the motor vehicle listed on November 18, 2024 at 510 S. Dillard St., Third Floor Magistrates Ct. Room, at 2:30 p.m. You are required to make a defense to such pleading before such date and time.

This the 10th day of October, 2024.

Clean Out Automotive, Plaintiff

928 Plum Street
Durham, NC 27701
919-427-2755
c/o PO Box 46882
Raleigh, NC 27620
10/10, 10/17, and 10/24/2024
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
File Number: 24E002236-310

The undersigned having qualified as Executor of the Estate of HELEN D. WOODALL a/k/a HELEN DEANS WOODALL, 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 6th day of January, 2025, or this Notice will be in bar of their recovery.

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

This is the 3rd day of October, 2024.

Marie W. Baker, Executor
Estate of Helen D. Woodall, a/k/a Helen Deans Woodall, Deceased
Robert A. Idol, Esquire
IDOL LAW, PLLC
Attorney at Law
PO Box 51759
Durham, NC 27717
(919)401.5151
10/3, 10/10, 10/17, and 10/24/2024
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
File Number: 24E002244-310

Having qualified as Executor of the Estate of CATHERINE FOX SEVERNS AKA Catherine Mary Severns, late of Durham County, North Carolina, the undersigned does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the estate of said decedent to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before 1-6-2025, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms and corporations indebted to the said estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned.
This 10-3-2024.

Jennifer S. Fox, Executor of the Estate of Catherine Fox Severns AKA Catherine Mary Severns
c/o Lori M. Bernstein, Attorney at Law
2726 Croasdaile Dr. Suite 202
Durham, North Carolina 27705
10/3, 10/10, 10/17, and 10/24/2024
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
File Number: 24E002205-310

THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 15th day of August 2024, as Executor of the ESTATE OF ELIZABETH O'DONOHUE FLETCHER, 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 January, 2025 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 3th day of October, 2024.

Lewis Fletcher III
EXECUTOR
ESTATE OF Elizabeth O'Donohue Fletcher
3430 Van Hessen Drive
Raleigh, NC 27614
10/3, 10/10, 10/17, and 10/24/2024
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
File Number: 24E002208-310

Having qualified as Executor of the Estate of ROBERT NORMAN BRISTOW, deceased, late of Durham 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 2nd day of January 2025 or this notice will be plead in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said Estate will please make immediate payment.
This the 3rd day of October 2024.

Kelly Madeline Fox, Executor of the Estate of Robert Norman Bristow Wyrick Robbins Yates & Ponton, LLP
4101 Lake Boone Trail, Suite 300
Raleigh, NC 27607
10/3, 10/10, 10/17, and 10/24/2024
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
File Number: 24E002161-310

The undersigned, John Hicks, Jr., having duly qualified as Administrator of the Estate of Carolyn Marie Lyons, 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 3rd day of October, 2024.

John Hicks, Jr., Administrator
C/O Ronald G. Coulter, Attorney
3400 Croasdaile Drive Ste 205
Durham, NC 27705
1-919-246-5775
10/3, 10/10, 10/17, and 10/24/2024
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File Number 24E000247-310

The Undersigned, having qualified as ADMINISTRATOR of the Estate of JERRY DANIEL MONROE, 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 January 2025, 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 3rd day of October 2024.

Cynthia Wilkerson-Monroe
Administrator
702 Chandler Rd.
Durham, NC 27703
10/3, 10/10, 10/17, and 10/24/2024
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
File Number: 24E002107-310

THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 29th day of August 2024, as Co-Executors of the ESTATE OF DELMA THOMAS BERRY AKA DELMA T. BERRY, 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 January, 2025 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 3rd day of October, 2024.

Gregory D. Berry
Deborah B. Corr
CO-EXECUTORS
ESTATE OF Delma Thomas Berry aka Delma T. Berry
c/o Jennifer Dalman, Attorney
Walker Lambe, PLLC
Post Office Box 51549
Durham, North Carolina 27717
10/3, 10/10, 10/17, and 10/24/2024
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File Number 24E002227

The Undersigned, having qualified as ADMINISTRATOR of the Estate of GIBSON GORDON SMITH, 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 January 2025, 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 3rd day of October 2024.

Mark Anthony Smith, Administrator
9325 Farm Meadow Rd.
Raleigh, NC 27603
10/3, 10/10, 10/17, and 10/24/2024
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
File Number 24E002202-310

The Undersigned, having qualified as EXECUTOR of the Estate of BETH S. BRIZEL, late of Durham County, North Carolina, hereby notifies 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 January 2025, 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 3rd day of October 2024.
Executor, David Manfield Brizel
c/o E. Jack Walker
Walker Lambe, PLLC
PO Box 51549
Durham, NC 27717
10/3, 10/10, 10/17, and 10/24/2024
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File Number 24E002147-310

The Undersigned, having qualified as ADMINISTRATOR of the Estate of BOBBY L. ELLIS, late of Durham County, North Carolina, hereby wishes to notify all persons having claims against the Estate of said deceased to exhibit them to the undersigned at the below listed address on or before the 27th day of 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 26th day of September 2024.

Kristina Y. Jordan, Administrator
Law Office of Janet Wales Brown,
Attorney at Law
Post Office Box 62622
Durham, NC 27715
919-493-6866
9/26, 10/3, 10/10, and 10/17/2024
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Having qualified as the personal representative of the Estate of Purita Maquiso, late of Durham County, NC, Christopher Hill, the undersigned, does hereby notify all persons, firms, and corporations having claims against the estate of decedent to exhibit them to the undersigned at 311 E. Main St., Durham, NC 27701, on or before December 27, 2024, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms and corporations indebted to the estate will please make prompt payment to the undersigned.

This, the 18th day of September, 2024.

Christopher Hill
Administrator of the Estate
311 E. Main St.
Durham, NC 27707
(919) 688-1941
9/26, 10/3, 10/10, and 10/17/2024
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File Number 24E001949-310

The Undersigned, having qualified as ADMINISTRATOR of the Estate of JEAN MARIE BURTON, late of Durham County, North Carolina, hereby wishes to notify all persons having claims against the Estate of said deceased to exhibit them to the undersigned at the below listed address on or before the 27th day of 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 26th day of September 2024.

James Phillips Burton
Administrator
6403 Forest Ridge Dr.
Durham, NC 27713
9/26, 10/3, 10/10, and 10/17/2024
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
File Number 24E002119-310

Having qualified as the personal representative of the Estate of Nick Galifianakis, late of Durham County, NC, Louise Galifianakis, does hereby notify all persons, firms, and corporations having claims against the estate of the decedent to send them to the undersigned at 311 E. Main St., Durham, NC 27701, on or before December 27, 2024, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms and corporations indebted to the estate will please make prompt payment to the undersigned.
This, the 26th day of September 2024.

Lisa Michelle Taylor, Executor
7428 Riley Hill Road
Zebulon, NC 27597
9/26, 10/3, 10/10, and 10/17/2024
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
File Number 24E002108-310

Having qualified as Administrator of the Estate of Samuel A. Carr, deceased, this is to notify all persons, firms, and corporations having claims against the Estate of Samuel A. Carr to present them to the undersigned within three months from the date of the first date of publication of this Notice or same will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms, and corporations indebted to said Estate, please make immediate payment.
This 26th the day of September, 2024.

James G. Carr, Administrator
c/o John W. Perry, Attorney for the Estate
Post Office Drawer 2051
Durham, North Carolina 27702
Telephone: (919) 683-8685
9/26, 10/3, 10/10, and 10/17/2024
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
FILE NO. 24E002108-310

ALL PERSONS, firms and corporations having claims against Delores H. Jeffers, of Durham County, N.C., are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before December 19, 2024 or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 19th day of

Before the Clerk
File Number 24E002204-310

The Undersigned, having qualified as CO-EXECUTORS of the Estate of JOHN EDWARD RHODES, JR., late of Durham County, North Carolina, hereby wishes to notify all persons having claims against the Estate of said deceased to exhibit them to the undersigned at the below listed address on or before the 27th 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 26th day of September 2024.

Shirley Dixon-Archibald
Co-Executor
215 William Penn Plz #708
Durham, NC 27704
Shaliga Rhodes
Co-Executor
240 Panorama Dr.
Oxon Hill, MD 20245
9/26, 10/3, 10/10, and 10/17/2024
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File Number 24E002139-310

The Undersigned, having qualified as EXECUTOR of the Estate of DOROTHY MAE BRITT, late of Durham County, North Carolina, hereby wishes to notify all persons having claims against the Estate of said deceased to exhibit them to the undersigned at the below listed address on or before the 27th day of 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 26th day of September 2024.

Donald Ray Britt, Executor
218 South Woodcrest Street
Durham, NC 27703
9/26, 10/3, 10/10, and 10/17/2024
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File Number 24E001949-310

The Undersigned, having qualified as ADMINISTRATOR of the Estate of JEAN MARIE BURTON, late of Durham County, North Carolina, hereby wishes to notify all persons having claims against the Estate of said deceased to exhibit them to the undersigned at the below listed address on or before the 27th day of 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 26th day of September 2024.

James Phillips Burton
Administrator
6403 Forest Ridge Dr.
Durham, NC 27713
9/26, 10/3, 10/10, and 10/17/2024
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
File Number 24E001949-310

The Undersigned, having qualified as ADMINISTRATOR of the Estate of JEAN MARIE BURTON, late of Durham County, North Carolina, hereby wishes to notify all persons having claims against the Estate of said deceased to exhibit them to the undersigned at the below listed address on or before the 27th day of 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 26th day of September 2024.

James Phillips Burton
Administrator
6403 Forest Ridge Dr.
Durham, NC 27713
9/26, 10/3, 10/10, and 10/17/2024
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
File Number 24E002008-310

Having qualified as Administrator of the Estate of Samuel A. Carr, deceased, this is to notify all persons, firms, and corporations having claims against the Estate of Samuel A. Carr to present them to the undersigned within three months from the date of the first date of publication of this Notice or same will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms, and corporations indebted to said Estate, please make immediate payment.
This 26th the day of September, 2024.

James G. Carr, Administrator
c/o John W. Perry, Attorney for the Estate
Post Office Drawer 2051
Durham, North Carolina 27702
Telephone: (919) 683-8685
9/26, 10/3, 10/10, and 10/17/2024
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
FILE NO. 24E002108-310

ALL PERSONS, firms and corporations having claims against Delores H. Jeffers, of Durham County, N.C., are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before December 19, 2024 or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 19th day of

Classifieds

DURHAM COUNTY

September, 2024.
Monika L. Jeffers
3 Lake Village Drive
Durham, NC 27713
9/19, 9/26, 10/3, and 10/10/2024
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS FILE NO. 24E002000-310

ALL PERSONS, firms and corporations having claims against VERONIA ELLIS, of Durham County, N.C., are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before December 17, 2024 or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 19th day of September, 2024.

Keenan Christopher Ellis
11868 Via Hacienda
El Cajon, CA 92019
9/19, 9/26, 10/3, and 10/10/2024
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS FILE NO. 24E002145-310

The undersigned, Sherry Pope Pickett, having duly qualified as Executrix of the Estate of RICHARD C. PICKETT, 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 19th day of September, 2024.

Sherry Pope Pickett, Executrix
C/O Ronald G. Coulter, Attorney
3400 Croasdaile Drive Ste 205
Durham, NC 27705
1-919-246-5775

9/19, 9/26, 10/3, and 10/10/2024
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS In the General Court of Justice, Superior Court Division Before the Clerk

File Number 24E001826

The Undersigned, having qualified as EXECUTOR of the Estate of DORIS PAYNE SMITH, 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 20th 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 19th day of September 2024.

Susan Ingle, Executor
2000 Truman Road
Charlotte, NC 28205
9/19, 9/26, 10/3, and 10/10/2024
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS In the General Court of Justice, Superior Court Division Before the Clerk

File Number 24E002179-310

The Undersigned, having qualified as EXECUTOR of the Estate of DARRELL A. JONES, 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 20th 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 19th day of September 2024.

Michael J. Jones, Executor
718 Shay Dr.
Durham, NC 27704
9/19, 9/26, 10/3, and 10/10/2024
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS In the General Court of Justice, Superior Court Division Before the Clerk

File Number 24E002181-310

The Undersigned, having qualified as ADMINISTRATOR of the Estate of WILLIE I. ANDERSON JR. A/K/A WILLIE ISAAC ANDERSON JR., late of Durham County, North Carolina, hereby wishes to notify all persons having claims against the Estate of said deceased to exhibit them to the

undersigned at the below listed address on or before the 20th 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 19th day of September 2024.

Mariathea Anderson a/k/a Mariathea Mallari Anderson
Administrator
1044 Lippincott Road
Durham, NC 27703
9/19, 9/26, 10/3, and 10/10/2024
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS In the General Court of Justice, Superior Court Division Before the Clerk

File Number 24E002052-310

The undersigned, having qualified as Executor of the Estate of PATTI ETHYLENE BOWEN, 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 19th 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 19th day of September 2024.

Anna S. Bowen, Executor of the Estate of Patti Ethylene Bowen
c/o The Law Office of Anne Page Watson, PLLC, 3400 Croasdaile Drive, Suite 205, Durham, NC 27705.

9/19, 9/26, 10/3, and 10/10/2024
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS In the General Court of Justice, Superior Court Division Before the Clerk

File Number 24E002174-310

The Undersigned, having qualified as EXECUTOR of the Estate of KATHLEEN TUCKER NOERR, 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 20th 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 19th day of September 2024.

Kristina T Bivins, Executor
c/o David A. Burns, Esq., Wyrick Robbins Yates & Ponton, LLP,
4101 Lake Boone Trail, Suite 300,
Raleigh, NC 27607

9/19, 9/26, 10/3, and 10/10/2024
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS In the General Court of Justice, Superior Court Division Before the Clerk

File Number 24E002098-310

The Undersigned, having qualified as ADMINISTRATRIX of the Estate of ANDREW THOMAS, 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 20th 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 19th day of September 2024.

Mia Thomas, Administratrix
73 S. Prospect Terrace
Teaneck, NJ 07666
9/19, 9/26, 10/3, and 10/10/2024

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 24E003193-910

The Undersigned, having qualified as EXECUTOR of the Estate of ALAN WILLIAM STIRLING A/K/A ALAN W. STIRLING, 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 13th day of January 2025, 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 10th day of October 2024.

David Alan Stirling, Executor
5308 Environ Way
Chapel Hill, NC 27517
10/10, 10/17, 10/24, & 10/31/2024
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
WAKE COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS In the General Court of Justice, Superior Court Division Before the Clerk

File Number 24E003806-910

The Undersigned, having qualified as EXECUTOR of the Estate of JUDITH ANNE PETERSON A/K/A JUDITH ANNE LAMBERT PETERSON, 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 13th day of January 2025, 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 10th day of October 2024.

Curry Lyle Peterson, Executor
901 Tupelo Glen Ct.
Fuquay-Varina, NC 27526
10/10, 10/17, 10/24, & 10/31/2024
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
WAKE COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS In the General Court of Justice, Superior Court Division Before the Clerk

File Number 24E003723-910

The Undersigned, having qualified as LIMITED PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE of the Estate of MUNAWAR SBAITI MUSTAFA A/K/A MUNAWAR HASAN MUSTAFA, 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 13th day of January 2025, 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 10th day of October 2024.

Khalid Urabi Mustafa
Limited Personal Representative
4400 Keswick Drive
Raleigh, NC 27609
10/10, 10/17, 10/24, & 10/31/2024
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
WAKE COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS File Number 24E003807-910

The undersigned, Renee Squires Ford, having duly qualified as Administratrix of the Estate of Linda Jackson Squires, deceased, late of Wake 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 10th day of October, 2024.

Renee Squires Ford, Administratrix
C/O Ronald G. Coulter, Attorney
3400 Croasdaile Drive Ste 205
Durham, NC 27705
1-919-246-5775

10/10, 10/17, 10/24, & 10/31/2024
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
WAKE COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS In the General Court of Justice, Superior Court Division Before the Clerk

File Number 24E003770-910

The Undersigned, having qualified as EXECUTOR of the Estate of JAMES LONNIE HOLT, 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 13th day of January 2025, 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 10th day of October 2024.

Kim Boyce Holt, Executor
3612 Colewood Drive
Raleigh, NC 27604
10/10, 10/17, 10/24, & 10/31/2024

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
WAKE COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS In the General Court of Justice, Superior Court Division Before the Clerk

File Number 24E001693-910

The Undersigned, having qualified as ADMINISTRATOR of the Estate of FRANCES ANN WILLIAMS, 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 6th day of January 2025, 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 3rd day of October 2024.

Jason Janane Cooper
Administrator
3122 Hines Dr.
Raleigh, NC 27609
10/3, 10/10, 10/17, and 10/24/2024
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
WAKE COUNTY

NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION In The General Court Of Justice District Court Division

File Number 24 CVD 8415-910

GREGORY BENNETT,
V.

VENESSA BENNETT
NOTICE OF PROCEEDING
AND SERVICE OF PROCESS
BY PUBLICATION REGARDING
PLAINTIFF'S

COMPLAINT FOR ABSOLUTE
DIVORCE AND EQUITABLE
DISTRIBUTION

TO VANESSA BENNETT: TAKE NOTICE A COMPLAINT seeking relief against you has been filed in the above entitled action. The nature of the relief being sought is Absolute Divorce and Equitable Distribution, and said Complaint for Equitable Distribution and Absolute Divorce being hereby incorporated by reference as if fully set out herein. You are required to make defense to such pleading not later than November 18, 2024, and upon your failure to do so the party seeking service against you will apply to the court for the relief sought.

This the 1st day of October, 2024.

Matt Jackson, Attorney for Plaintiff
211 East Six Forks Road, Suite 106
Raleigh, NC 27609
919 424 8319
10/3, 10/10, and 10/17/2024
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
WAKE COUNTY

NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION In the General Court of Justice, District Court Division

File No. 23CV004686-910

Shawn Smithwick, Plaintiff v.

Michelle D. Smithwick, Defendant
TO MICHELLE D. SMITHWICK:

TAKE NOTICE that a pleading seeking relief against you has been filed in the above-entitled action, by the Plaintiff herein, the nature which is as follows: ABSOLUTE DIVORCE. You are required by law to appear and make defense to such pleading no later than 30 days after the first publication of this notice. If you fail to do so the Plaintiff will seek the relief sought herein, and a Judgment for Absolute Divorce may be entered.

This, the 3rd day of October, 2024.

Shawn Smithwick, Plaintiff
5202 Little Sandy Drive
Raleigh, NC 27616
10/3, 10/10, and 10/17/2024
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
WAKE COUNTY

NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION In the General Court of Justice, District Court Division

File No. 24CV017725-910

Carl Hawkins, Plaintiff v.

Latoya Ricks Hawkins, Defendant
TO Latoya Ricks Hawkins:

TAKE NOTICE that a pleading seeking relief against you has been filed in the above-entitled action, by the Plaintiff herein, the nature which is as follows: ABSOLUTE DIVORCE. You are required by law to appear and make defense to such pleading no later than 30 days after the first publication of this notice. If you fail to do so, Plaintiff will seek the relief sought herein, and a Judgment for Absolute Divorce may be entered.

This, the 3rd day of October, 2024.

Carl Hawkins, Plaintiff
3804 Blue Blossom Drive
Raleigh, NC 27616
10/3, 10/10, and 10/17/2024
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
WAKE COUNTY

Having qualified before the Clerk of Superior Court of Wake County as Executor of the Estate of Benjamin R. Kittner, this is to notify all persons, firms, and corporations having claims against the Estate to send them, duly itemized and verified, to P.O. Box 51429, Durham, NC 27717, on or before the 26th of December, 2024 (three months after the date of this Notice) or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery.

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

This the 26th day of September, 2024.

Noah Kittner, Executor of the Estate of Benjamin R. Kittner, Deceased
c/o Robert E. Levin,
Attorney for Noah Kittner
Executor of the Estate of Benjamin R. Kittner, Deceased
P.O. Box 51429
Durham, NC 27717

9/26, 10/3, 10/10, and 10/17/2024
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
WAKE COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS In the General Court of Justice, Superior Court Division Before the Clerk

File Number 23E005677-910

The Undersigned, having qualified as EXECUTOR of the Estate of MADELINE N. FOWLER A/K/A MADELINE FOWLER, late of Wake County, North Carolina, hereby wishes to notify all persons having claims against the Estate of said deceased to exhibit them to the undersigned at the below listed address on or before the 27th day of 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 26th day of September 2024.

Michelle Fowler, Executor
6414 Stag Trail
Wendell, NC 27591
9/26, 10/3, 10/10, and 10/17/2024
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
WAKE COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS In the General Court of Justice, Superior Court Division Before the Clerk

File Number 24E000561-910

The Undersigned, having qualified as ADMINISTRATOR of the Estate of EDNA FOGG A/K/A EDNA THORPE FOGG, late of Wake County, North Carolina, hereby wishes to notify all persons having claims against the Estate of said deceased to exhibit them to the undersigned at the below listed address on or before the 27th day of 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 26th day of September 2024.

Ronnie Bertell Harris, Administrator
2301 Lyndhurst Dr.
Raleigh, NC 27610

9/26, 10/3, 10/10, and 10/17/2024
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
WAKE COUNTY

COMPLAINT TO ENFORCE POSSESSORY LIEN ON MOTOR VEHICLE

In The General Court Of Justice
District Court Division
Small Claims

File No. 24CV024425-910

TRIANGLE INVESTMENT REALTY
(on behalf of "tenant" Nicco
Christante, Plaintiff VS. LEILANI
HARDESTY, Defendant

TO: LEILANI HARDESTY

TAKE NOTICE the petitioner has filed with the clerk a petition in proper form indicating that the petitioner has a valid lien against a 2013 Ford CMAX, ID No. 1FADP5AUDL531507 and that the petitioner shall have the right to sell to the highest bidder the motor vehicle listed on November 7, 2024 at WCCH, 316 Fayetteville Street, Third Floor, at 9:30 a.m. You are required to make a defense to such pleading before such date and time.

This the 26th day of September 2024.

Nicco Christante, Plaintiff
c/o TRIANGLE INVESTMENT
REALTY
121 Low Country Court
Morrisville, NC 27560
9/26, 10/3, and 10/10/2024
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
WAKE COUNTY

NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION In the General Court of Justice, District Court Division

File No. 24CV020984-910

Dania Gomez, Plaintiff v.
Jose De Los Santos, Sevilla-Cruz
TO JOSE DE LOS SANTOS,
SEVILLA-CRUZ:

TAKE NOTICE that a pleading seeking relief against you has been filed in the above-entitled action, by the Plaintiff herein, the nature which is as follows: ABSOLUTE DIVORCE. You are required by law to appear and make defense to such pleading no later than 30 days after the first publication of this notice. If you fail to do so, Plaintiff will seek the relief sought herein, and a Judgment for Absolute Divorce may be entered.

This, the 26th day of September, 2024.

Dania Gomez, Plaintiff
1000 Green Pace Rd.
Zebulon, NC 27597
9/26, 10/3, and 10/10/2024

CHATHAM COUNTY

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
CHATHAM COUNTY

NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION In the General Court of Justice, District Court Division

File No. 24CV001541-180

To: JORGE ORTIZ SALAZAR,
Defendant.

Take notice that a pleading seeking relief against you has been filed in the above-entitled action. The nature of the relief being sought is for child custody. You are required to make defense to such pleading no later than November 19, 2024 said date being at least forty (40) days from the first publication of this Notice, and upon your failure to do so, the Plaintiff, EVELIN JANETH ROQUE FERNANDO, will apply to the court located at 40 E Chatham St, Pittsboro, NC 27312 for the relief sought.

This, the 10th day of October, 2024

Aneta Paval
Paval Law Offices, PLLC
7404 Chapel Hill Rd
Suite M
Raleigh NC 27607

Telephone: (919) 410-6690
10/10, 10/17, and 10/24/2024
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
CHATHAM COUNTY

NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION In the General Court of Justice District Court Division

File Number 24CV001769-180

To: MARIO ALVAREZ PALOMINO,
Defendant.

Take notice that a pleading seeking relief against you has been filed in the above-entitled action. The nature of the relief being sought is for child custody. You are required to make defense to such pleading no later than November 12, 2024 said date being at least forty (40) days from the first publication of this Notice, and upon your failure to do so, the Plaintiff, MARGARITA ARANZAZU PENA, will apply to the court located at 40 E Chatham St, Pittsboro, NC 27312 for the relief sought.

This, the 3rd day of October, 2024

Aneta Paval
Paval Law Offices, PLLC
7404 Chapel Hill Rd
Suite M
Raleigh NC 27607

Telephone: (919) 410-6690
10/3, 10/10, and 10/17/2024
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
CHATHAM COUNTY

NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION In the General Court of Justice District Court Division

File Number 24CV001768-180

To: MARBIN CENTENO BUEZO,
Defendant.

Take notice that a pleading seeking relief against you has been filed in the above-entitled action. The nature of the relief being sought is for child custody. You are required to make defense to such pleading no later than October 30, 2024 said date being at least forty (40) days from the first publication of this Notice, and upon your failure to do so, the Plaintiff, TANIA JULISSA ENAMORADO VILLANUEVA, will apply to the court on October 31, 2024 located at 40 E Chatham St, Pittsboro, NC 27312 for the relief sought.

This, the 26th day of September, 2024

Aneta Paval
Paval Law Offices, PLLC
7404 Chapel Hill Rd
Suite M
Raleigh NC 27607

Telephone: (919) 410-6690
(919) 732-2196
9/26, 10/3, and 10/10/2024

Emergency Voting Changes Approved To Help Western NC

By Lynn Bonner

NC Newsline

It will be easier for residents of 13 counties hardest hit by Hurricane Helene to cast absentee ballots this fall, as the state Board of Elections adopted a host of changes meant to help voters recovering from the disaster.

The emergency resolution the state Board adopted unanimously on Monday included provisions meant to increase voter outreach, make it easier to request and return absentee ballots, and to allow for county elections officials to establish alternative voting locations to replace damaged or inaccessible polling places.

All county elections offices are now open, state Elections Director Karen Brinson Bell told board members.

After suggesting last week that hurricane disruptions could delay the start of early voting in some counties, Brinson Bell said Monday the intention for early voting to begin statewide as planned on Oct. 17.

"We have every intention of starting early voting as scheduled on Thursday, Oct. 17 in all 100 counties," Brinson Bell told reporters Monday afternoon. "It will go on."

The emergency resolution applies to 13 counties: Ashe, Avery, Buncombe, Haywood, Henderson, Madison, McDowell, Mitchell, Polk, Rutherford, Transylvania, Watauga, and Yancey.

Paul Cox, one of the Board's lawyers, said the infrastructure for conducting elections, accessibility of voting sites, postal service, and transportation remain "severely disrupted" in these counties.

"These measures will help eligible voters in the affected areas cast their ballot either in person or by mail," Brinson Bell said. "They will help county boards of election in western North Carolina administer this election under extraordinarily difficult conditions."

Voters from these counties will be able to request absentee ballots in person at their county board of elections office up until the day before the election. They will be able to return absentee ballots at polling places in their counties on Election Day, something that is usually not allowed. Voters, as usual, are able to hand in their ballots at county elections offices. The deadline is 7:30 pm on Election Day.

To accommodate displaced voters who have moved temporarily from their home counties, the Board voted to allow residents of those 13 counties to return their absentee ballots to any North Carolina county elections office by the 7:30 pm Election Day deadline.

To increase voter outreach, the "multiparty assistance teams" appointed by county boards to assist voters in nursing homes and hospitals will be able to work in shelters and other places where disaster relief is being provided to the general public, with the approval of bipartisan majorities of the county boards.

Under the resolution, local boards of election in the 13 counties will be able to change early voting sites and hours as long as a bipartisan majority approves. The local boards will also be able to move Election Day polling places with bipartisan majority support. Out-of-precinct polling places can be established in neighboring counties adjacent to the precinct, with Brinson Bell's approval. Out-of-precinct locations are to be considered as a last resort.

The plan was developed in consultation with the counties. The North Carolina Division of Emergency Management is ready to deliver supplies, Brinson Bell said.

Information on changes to voting locations will be sent to local media, posted on websites, in disaster relief locations and other places where people gather, Brinson Bell said.

Elections officials won't ask the legislature for any changes to election law to address voting hampered by Helene, but they will ask for about \$2 million to help local elections offices.

North Carolina is a battleground state where the presidential election could be decided by the thinnest of margins. Most of the counties hit hardest by Helene are solidly Republican.

At the news conference, Brinson Bell pushed back at suggestions that the Board's response to the disaster has been partisan or that she is partisan.

"I hope that it is very clear to everyone today that that state Board acted in a nonpartisan manner," she said. "I, as Executive Director, act in a nonpartisan manner. Our commitment at this state Board and at those county boards of election is to ensure that every eligible voter is able to cast their ballot in this election no matter what county they're in."

A Brief History Of US Political Parties

Jordan Meadows

Staff Writer

As the 19th century progressed, internal conflicts within the Democratic-Republican party led to the formation of the Democratic Party under Andrew Jackson and the Whig Party among his opponents. The 1850s saw new parties like the Free-Soil Party arise amid sectional tensions over slavery, with the Republican Party emerging from discontented Whigs and anti-slavery factions, achieving its first presidential victory in 1860.

After the Civil War, the Republican Party increasingly focused on economic growth, industry, and big business in the Northern states. Many wealthy politicians of the time saw little value in supporting the rights of Black Americans in a predominantly White nation. By the 1870s, a significant faction within the Republican Party believed they had done enough for Black citizens and ceased efforts to reform the Southern states.

New southern state legislatures enacted restrictive "Black Codes" to regulate the labor and behavior of formerly enslaved people and other Blacks. This sparked outrage in the North, diminishing support for Reconstruction and paving the way for the more radical faction of the Republican Party to gain influence. Newly enfranchised Black individuals gained a political voice for the first time in American history, securing seats in southern state legislatures and even in the U.S. Congress.

During this period, the Republican Party in the South was largely a coalition of Black voters. In early 1866, Congress passed Civil Rights Bills, which established that all persons born in the United States were national citizens entitled to legal equality. Despite Republican President Andrew Johnson's veto of these bills, the Civil Rights Act became the first significant legislation to pass over a presidential veto.

Despite these gains, racism remained a powerful force in both the South and the North, and as the decade progressed, the Republican Party became more conservative and less committed to egalitarian ideals. By 1874, following an economic depression that left much of the South in poverty, the Democratic Party regained control of the House of Representatives for the first time since the Civil War.

The widespread suffering in cities starting in 1893 exposed the breakdown of social services and highlighted the inefficiency of municipal governments to an increasing number of urban middle-class Americans. This began the Progressive movement; a turn-of-the-century political initiative focused on promoting social and political reform, combating political corruption from machines, and reducing the influence of large corporations.

Initially, the movement centered on domestic issues. Progressives aimed to create a more transparent and accountable government that would work to enhance American society. Progressive Republican Teddy Roosevelt and Democrat Woodrow Wilson sought to improve American society and make big businesses more accountable through various regulations.

With Congress firmly in the hands of conservative Republicans by 1906, Teddy Roosevelt had become the leading voice of national progressivism and its most effective promoter. National progressivism was at its peak, with a faction of Republican progressives, known as "insurgents," sitting in both houses of Congress. These insurgents, reflecting the views of many Americans, pushed for reforms like tariff reductions, an income tax, the direct election of senators, and stricter regulations on railroads and corporations.

A few years earlier, Booker T. Washington published his autobiography "Up From Slavery," while Rep. George H. White (R-N.C.) left office, resulting in nearly three decades without a Black member in the House of Representatives; of about 2,000 Black officeholders during this time, only fifteen were Democrats.

(See *HISTORY OF POLITICAL PARTIES*, P. 16)

Classifieds

ORANGE COUNTY

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
ORANGE COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
File Number 24E001566-670

The undersigned having qualified as Executor of the Estate of ANITA R. ROBINSON, a/k/a ANITA ROBINSON ROBINSON, a/k/a MYRTLE ANITA ROBINSON, a/k/a MYRTLE A. ROBINSON, Deceased, late of Orange 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 6th day of January, 2025, or this Notice will be in bar of their recovery.

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

This is the 3rd day of October, 2024.

Amy Robinson Slowin, Executor
Estate of Anita R. Robinson, a/k/a Anita Robinson Robinson, a/k/a Myrtle Anita Robinson, a/k/a Myrtle A. Robinson, Deceased
Robert A. Idol, Esquire
IDOL LAW, PLLC
Attorney at Law
PO Box 51759
Durham, NC 27717
(919)401.5151

10/3, 10/10, 10/17, and 10/24/2024

JOHNSTON COUNTY

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
JOHNSTON COUNTY
In The General Court Of Justice
District Court Division
Small Claims

File No. 24CV004918-500
COMPLAINT TO ENFORCE
POSSESSORY LIEN ON MOTOR
VEHICLE

ROMERO AUTO COLLISON, Plaintiff vs. UNKNOWN OWNER, VIN: NCS104185, Defendant TO UNKNOWN OWNER:

TAKE NOTICE the petitioner has filed with the clerk a petition in proper form indicating that the petitioner has a valid lien against a Jeep/1998, ID No. NCS104185 and that the petitioner shall have the right to sell to the highest bidder the motor vehicle listed on November 19, 2024 at Smithfield Civil Magistrate's Office, 207 E Johnston St, Smithfield, NC 27577, at 12:45 p.m. You are required to make a defense to such pleading before such date and time.

This the 10th day of October, 2024.

Romero Auto Collison, Plaintiff
5101 Widespan Drive
Clayton, NC 27520
919-427-2755
c/o PO Box 46882
Raleigh, NC 27620

10/10, 10/17, and 10/24/2024

FORECLOSURE

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY
NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE
In The General Court Of Justice
Superior Court Division
Before The Clerk

FILE NO. 24SP001795-310

In the Matter of the Foreclosure of a Commercial Deed of Trust, Security Agreement, and Fixture Filing from CGS GROUP LLC, a North Carolina limited liability company executed September 1, 2023, and recorded September 5, 2023, in Book 9980, Page 405, DURHAM COUNTY REGISTRY

Pursuant to an order entered September 26, 2024, in the Superior Court for Durham County, and the power of sale contained in the captioned Deed of Trust (the "Deed of Trust"), the Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at auction (the "Sale"), to the highest bidder for cash on:

OCTOBER 30, 2024, AT 10:00 A.M. DURHAM COUNTY COURTHOUSE 510 SOUTH DILLARD STREET, DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA

the real estate and the improvements thereon secured by the Deed of Trust, less and except any of such property released from the lien of the Deed of Trust prior to the date of said sale, lying and being in Durham County, North Carolina, and being more particularly described as follows (the "Property"):

(A) All right, title and interest in and to those premises more commonly known as 3017 Forrester St, Durham, NC 27704 which is more particularly described as follows (the "Premises"):

BEGINNING at a stake in the property line on the West side of Forrester Street, which said stake is the southeast corner of Lot #10, as shown on the plat hereinafter referred to, and running thence along and with the property line of the West side of Forrester Street South 14 degrees 40' West 50 feet to a stake, the northeast corner of Lot #8, thence along and with the North line of Lot #8 in a westerly direction of 128.2 feet to a stake, the northwest corner of Lot #8; thence along the right-of-way line of the Norfolk and Western Railroad North 18 degrees 43' East 50.15 feet to a stake, the southwest corner of Lot #10; thence along and with the South line of Lot #10 in a easterly direction of 125.4 feet to the stake, the place and point of BEGINNING, and being Lot #9, as shown on the plat of the property of REBEKAH BOWDEN by S.M. Credle, C.E., of June, 1953, which said plat is recorded in the office of the Register of Deeds of Durham County in Plat Book 24, at page 90, to which reference is hereby made for a more particular description of the same.

Property commonly known as: 3017 Forrester St, Durham, NC 27704

Parcel ID: 160018

(B) TOGETHER WITH (1) all buildings, structures and improvements of every nature whatsoever now or hereafter situated on the Premises, and (2) all building materials, supplies and other property stored at or delivered to the Premises or any other location for incorporation into the improvements located or to be located on the Premises, and all fixtures, machinery, appliances, equipment, furniture and personal property of every nature whatsoever now or hereafter owned by the Trustor and located in or on, or attached to, and used or intended to be used in connection with, or with the operation of, or the occupancy of, the Premises, buildings, structures or other improvements, or in connection with any construction being conducted or which may be conducted thereon, and owned by the Trustor, and all extensions, additions, improvements, betterments, renewals, substitutions and replacements to any of the foregoing, and all of the right, title and interest of the Trustor in and to such personal property which, to the fullest extent permitted by law, shall be conclusively deemed

fixtures and a part of the real property encumbered hereby (the "Improvements");

(C) TOGETHER WITH (1) all estate, right, title and interest of the Trustor, of whatever character, whether now owned or hereafter acquired, in and to (a) all streets, roads and public places, open or proposed, in front of or adjoining the Premises, and the land lying in the bed of such streets, roads and public places, and (b) all other sidewalks, alleys, ways, passages, strips and gores of land adjoining or used or intended to be used in connection with any of the property described in paragraphs (A) and (B) hereof; or any part thereof; and (2) all water courses, water rights, easements, rights-of-way and rights of use or passage, public or private, and all estates, interest, benefits, powers, rights (including, without limitation, any and all lateral support, drainage, slope, sewer, water, air, mineral, oil, gas and subsurface rights), privileges, licenses, profits, rents, royalties, tenements, hereditaments, reversions and subreversions, remainders and subremainders and appurtenances whatsoever in any way belonging, relating or appertaining to any of the property described in paragraphs (A) and (B) hereof; or any part thereof, or which hereafter shall in any way belong, relate or be appurtenant thereto, whether now owned or hereafter acquired by the Trustor.

The record owner(s) of the Property not more than ten (10) days prior to the date hereof is CGS Group, LLC.

In the Trustee's sole discretion, the sale may be delayed for up to one (1) hour as provided in Section 45-21.23 of the North Carolina General Statutes.

A five percent cash deposit, or a cash deposit of \$750.00, whichever is greater, will be required of the last and highest bidder. The balance of the bid purchase price shall be due in full in cash or certified funds at a closing to take place within thirty (30) days of the date of sale. The Substitute Trustee shall convey title to the property by nonwarranty deed.

This sale will be made subject to all prior liens of record, if any, and to all unpaid (ad valorem) taxes and special assessments, if any, which became a lien subsequent to the recordation of the Deed of Trust. This sale will be further subject to the right, if any, of the United States of America to redeem the above-described property for a period of 120 days following the date when the final upset bid period has run.

The purchaser of the property described above shall pay the Clerk's Commissions in the amount of \$.45 per \$100.00 of the purchase price (up to a maximum amount of \$500.00), required by Section 7A-308(a)(1) of the North Carolina General Statutes. If the purchaser of the above-described property is someone other than the Beneficiary under the Deed of Trust, the purchaser shall also pay, to the extent applicable, the land transfer tax in the amount of one percent (1%) of the purchase price.

To the extent this sale involves residential property with less than fifteen (15) rental units, you are hereby notified of the following:

(a) An order for possession of the property may be issued pursuant to Section 45-21.29 of the North Carolina General Statutes 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; and

(b) Any person who occupies the property pursuant to a rental agreement entered into or renewed on or after October 1, 2007, may, after receiving the notice of sale, terminate the rental agreement upon 10 days' written notice to the landlord. 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.

The 26th day of September 2024. John W. Fletcher III, Substitute Trustee

North Carolina State Bar Number 15503

100 Queens Road, Suite 250, Charlotte, North Carolina 28204

704-334-3400

jfletcher@fletcherdydings.com

10/10 & 10/17/2024

D/M/WBE

SUBCONTRACTORS/SUPPLIERS WANTED

Pipeline Utilities, Inc. (NC General Contractor License No. 325) is seeking certified DBE, MBE, and WBE subcontractors and suppliers for the **Big Branch 1 Force Main and Water Line project for the Town of Apex** which bids on **October 22, 2024, at 2:00 PM**. Plans and specifications for this project are available at the following locations: Pipeline Utilities, Inc.; 2204-F Associate Drive; Raleigh, NC 27603 * Town of Apex Water Resources Department; 105-B Upchurch Street; Apex, NC 27502 * LKC Engineering, PLLC; 140 Aqua Shed Court; Aberdeen, NC 28315 * Carolinas AGC Website * Dodge Data and Analytics website * Hispanic Contractors Association of the Carolinas website.

Potential subcontracting opportunities include but are not limited to surveying, clearing and grubbing, hauling, traffic control, erosion control, seeding, linework, and jack & bore. Please contact **Dustin Downie** (ddownie@taloving.com) if you are interested in submitting a proposal on any portion(s) of this project. Contact via phone 919-772-4310; fax: 919-772-3261; or email. All quotations will be accepted up to the bid closing time of the bid date. Pipeline Utilities, Inc. is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer.

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

NORTH CAROLINA

HOW TO VOTE IN THE 2024 ELECTION

KEY DATES

Voter registration deadline
Friday, Oct. 11, 5 p.m. (unless you do same-day registration during early in-person voting)

Deadline to request an absentee ballot
Tuesday, Oct. 29, 5 p.m.

Early in-person voting
Thursday, Oct. 17, to Saturday, Nov. 2, 3 p.m.

Deadline for absentee ballot to be received
Tuesday, Nov. 5, 7:30 p.m.

Election Day
Tuesday, Nov. 5, with polls open 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.

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THE AWARD-WINNING PRINT & ONLINE FAMILY FEATURE

Kid Scoop.com

This Week: Hurricanes

© 2022 by Vicki Whiting, Editor Jeff Schinkel, Graphics Special Edition



The sun disappears behind a giant wall of clouds. Powerful winds bend trees and batter homes. Waves pound the shoreline and flood the streets. They're the most powerful weather force on earth. They're ...

HURRICANE QUIZ

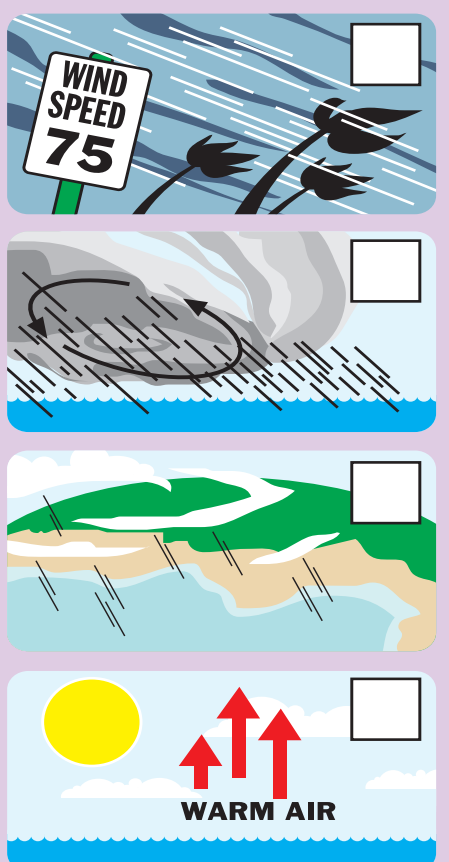
Test your hurricane brain power! See if you can answer each of these questions. Use this week's *Kid Scoop* to help you. Then quiz a member of your family.

- The calm center of a hurricane is called the: _____
- TRUE or FALSE: Bands of thunderstorms and swirling winds form a system called a tropical depression. _____
- The names given to hurricanes are selected by this organization: _____
- When a hurricane is unusually destructive, its name is: _____
- TRUE or FALSE: Around the world, these types of storms are always called hurricanes. _____
- TRUE or FALSE: Hurricane Katrina hit the Gulf Coast in the fall of 2004. _____
- Hurricanes form when the ocean waters rise to a temperature above: _____

How Hurricanes Form

Read each step. Then, number the pictures in order.

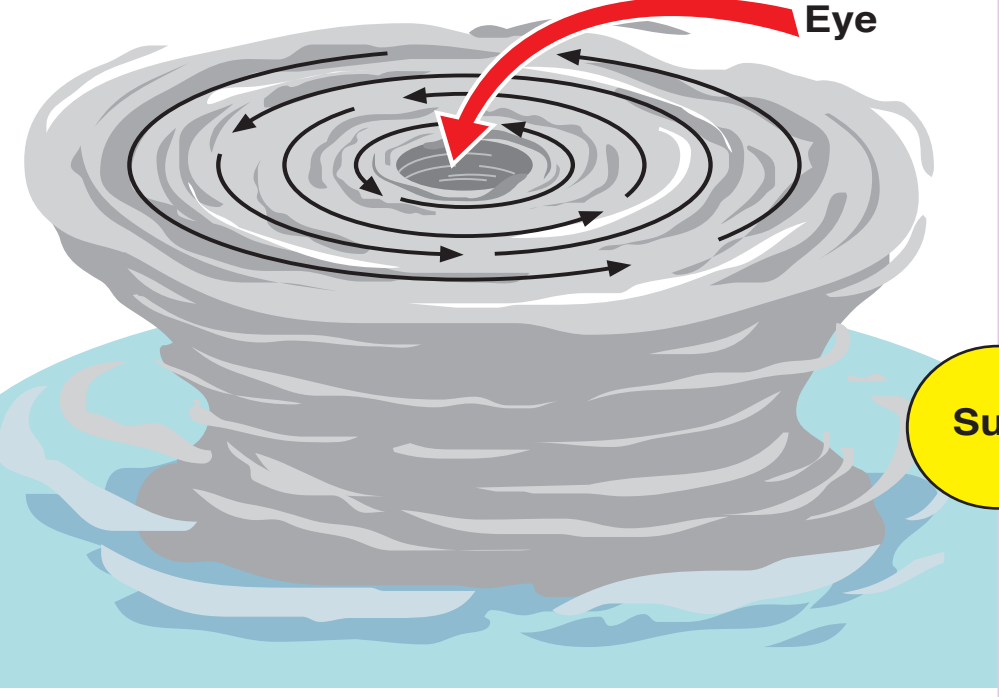
- In the summer and early fall, the air over the oceans heats up and then rises.
- Then it cools, and the moisture in the air forms storms over the ocean. When bands of these thunderstorms begin to swirl in a circular fashion, the system is called a tropical depression.
- If the swirling winds reach 40 miles per hour, the system is called a tropical storm. If the winds reach 74 miles per hour, its name is changed to a hurricane.
- Hurricane Sandy became a massive super-storm when it merged with other storm systems moving in from the north and west.



Standards Link: Earth Science: Students know how weather can be observed and described and how it changes from day to day.

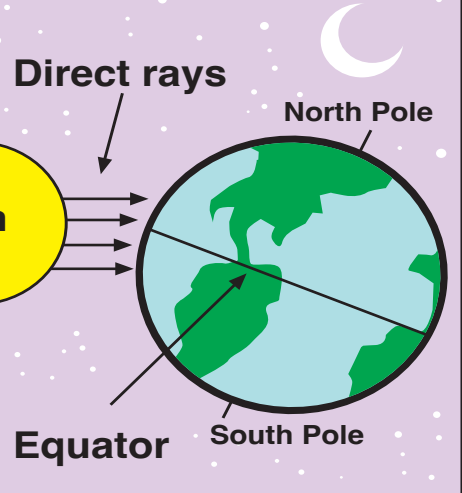
The Eye

A strange thing about hurricanes is that in the center of the fast moving, dangerous winds is a calm area called the eye. Hurricane Sandy's angry eye and vast body, estimated at 900 miles wide, could be seen from space.



Tropical Tempest

Hurricanes form where the water of the seas is above 80° F (27° C). The earth's seas are the warmest near the equator because of the way the earth is tilted. The equator is always getting direct sunlight, keeping the waters warm.



Hurricane Names

Hurricane names are chosen from lists compiled by the World Meteorological Organization. The Atlantic is assigned six lists of names, with one list used each year. Every seventh year, the first list begins again. Each name on the list starts with a different letter. For example, the name of the very first hurricane of the season starts with the letter

A, the next starts with the letter B, and so on. The letters Q, U, X, Y and Z, however, are not used.

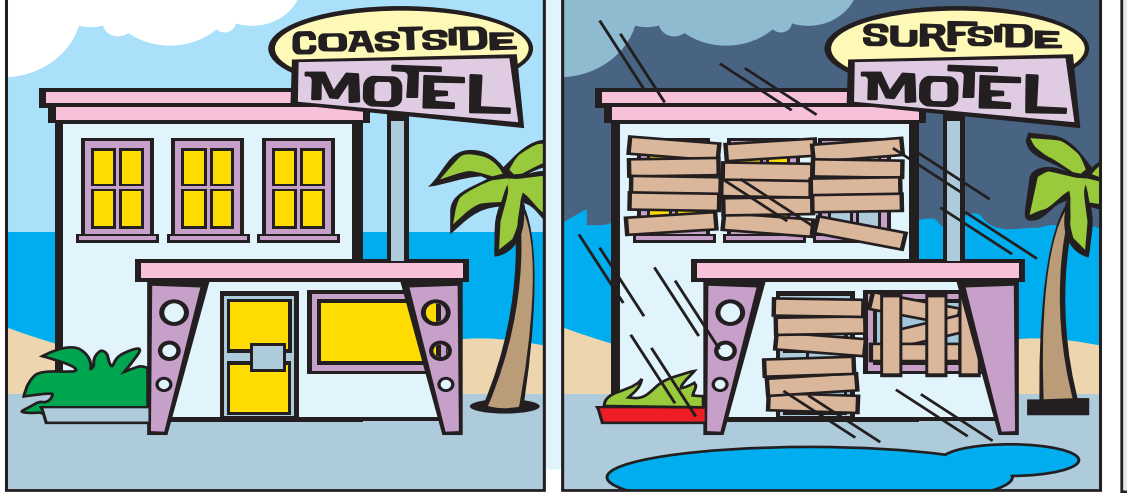
Often when an unusually destructive hurricane hits, that hurricane's name is retired and never used again. Since 1954, eighty-nine names have been retired.

Here is a list of names used for Atlantic storms in 2022. Number them from 1 to 21 in alphabetical order.

- | | | | | | | |
|--------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|------------|-----------|------------|
| ___ Bonnie | ___ Virginie | ___ Tobias | ___ Martin | ___ Ian | ___ Julia | ___ Walter |
| ___ Danielle | ___ Gaston | ___ Lisa | ___ Karl | ___ Colin | ___ Owen | ___ Fiona |
| ___ Shary | ___ Alex | ___ Hermine | ___ Richard | ___ Nicole | ___ Earl | ___ Paula |

High Alert

A hurricane is on the way! How many differences can you find in these two pictures?



Extra! Extra! Hurricane Spell Down

Find the letters that spell the words hurricane, typhoon and cyclone on one page of today's newspaper. Connect the letters to spell each word. Repeat this activity with this week's spelling words!

Standards Link: Spelling: Spell grade-appropriate words correctly.

What a Character!™ Being prepared is ...



... knowing what to do before danger strikes.

Hurricane Code

In North America, we call a storm that results from these conditions a hurricane. In other parts of the world, a hurricane is known by other names. Do the math to find out what hurricanes are called in other parts of the world.

Western North Pacific:	17 - 6 = A
<input type="text"/>	5 + 13 = C
<input type="text"/>	7 + 5 = E
<input type="text"/>	23 - 14 = H
<input type="text"/>	9 + 7 = I
<input type="text"/>	13 - 6 = L
<input type="text"/>	4 + 18 = N
<input type="text"/>	8 + 6 = O
<input type="text"/>	32 - 19 = P
<input type="text"/>	6 + 9 = R
<input type="text"/>	10 + 7 = T
<input type="text"/>	17 - 11 = Y

Standards Link: Math/Number Sense: Compute sums and differences.

Double Double Word Search

HURRICANE	Find the words by looking up, down, backwards, forwards, sideways and diagonally.
EQUATOR	
TROPICAL	
CIRCULAR	
KAREN	
POLE	
ALERT	
STORM	
FORCE	
TREES	
OCEANS	
CALM	
WARM	
SYSTEM	
NAME	

T S F R P O P I C H

A Y O L O T E T U M

P S R A L U C R I C

N T C E E M R O T S

S E E R T I T P S N

M M R C C T R I R A

R O T A U Q E C A E

A I N L K O L A N C

W E E M A N A L S O

Standards Link: Letter sequencing. Recognized identical words. Skim and scan reading. Recall spelling patterns.

Kid Scoop VOCABULARY BUILDERS

This week's word: **CYCLONE**

The noun **cyclone** means a storm with very strong winds that turn around a center of low pressure in the atmosphere.

A hurricane can also be called a **cyclone**.

Try to use the word **cyclone** in a sentence today when talking with your friends and family members.

FROM THE Kid Scoop LESSON LIBRARY

Picture the Weather

Select a photograph from today's newspaper. What can you tell about the weather in the picture? Write a weather report using the weather clues you observe in the photo.

Standards Link: Writing Applications: Write simple descriptions.



Write On!

My Biggest Storm

Have you ever been in a big storm? Write a short story about what you experienced. Be sure to include details about what you were feeling during the storm and what you saw.

Politics

How Hurricane Helene is Effecting North Carolina Voters

Jordan Meadows

Staff Writer

Hurricane Helene has cast a long shadow over the electoral landscape in North Carolina, particularly affecting voting efforts in the western part of the state. With at least 14 county election offices closed for several days, the storm has severely disrupted plans for both early and mail voting. As election officials scramble to manage the fallout, the implications for voter participation and election integrity are growing increasingly complex.

The closures of election offices have hindered essential activities such as processing new registrations and sending out or receiving mail ballots. The situation is further complicated by Robert F. Kennedy Jr.'s lawsuit against the

North Carolina State Board of Elections (NC SBE) in September, which delayed the distribution of mail ballots by over two weeks. The cumulative effect of these events has effectively ground the election process to a halt in many areas.

While approximately 250,000 mail ballots have been dispatched statewide, the exact number sent to western North Carolina remains unclear. Gerry Cohen, a member of the Wake County Board of Elections, highlighted that even ballots from unaffected counties could be jeopardized as they travel through regions impacted by the storm. Some may have been damaged or lost in transit, exacerbating an already precarious situation.

In addition to delays in mail ballot distribution, the timeline for returning ballots has been tightened. The Republican-led

General Assembly has eliminated the three-day grace period for mail ballots to arrive after Election Day and banned ballot drop boxes.

With reports of widespread disruptions in postal services—many USPS retail and delivery operations are temporarily suspended—the logistics of voting by mail have become increasingly complicated. Voters in the region may find it difficult to ensure that their ballots arrive on time, heightening concerns about disenfranchisement.

Despite these challenges, North Carolina officials have confirmed that early voting will begin as scheduled on October 17, even in counties severely affected by flooding, power outages, and crumbling infrastructure.

Furthermore, the NC SBE has taken steps to allow counties the flexibility to reschedule meetings

for reviewing absentee ballot applications. However, this comes on the heels of a significant voter roll purge, with over 747,000 names removed since 2023. This action raises additional concerns, as many affected individuals may be unaware of their registration status.

Hurricane Helene has undeniably complicated the electoral landscape in western North Carolina. As communities work to recover from the storm's devastation, the intersection of natural disaster and electoral processes stresses the need for adaptability.

Democratic Gov. Roy Cooper has made several stops in western North Carolina, including Watauga County and surrounding areas, as President Biden conducted an aerial tour of the extensive damage caused by Hurricane Helene last

week.

On Saturday, Vice President Harris visited North Carolina, where she met with local officials to discuss recovery efforts, spoke with families affected by the storm, and assisted at a donation center.

Former President Donald Trump also made an appearance in North Carolina on Friday evening, engaging with supporters at Fayetteville's Crown Center Arena during his first visit since Hurricane Helene wreaked havoc in the region.

HISTORY OF POLITICAL PARTIES

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The Niagara Movement, a civil rights organization of mostly African American lawyers, was founded in 1905, with W.E.B. Du Bois delivering a powerful critique of the Republican Party in their "Address to the Country," accusing it of misleading Black voters. Tensions between African Americans and the GOP grew as groups like the Ku Klux Klan suppressed Black political engagement. Events such as the East St. Louis massacre of 1917 and the Red Summer of 1919 intensified these frustrations. By the 1920 presidential election, Du Bois penned an op-ed in the Nation, predicting that Black voters would increasingly abandon the Republican Party.

Many Republicans thrived during the prosperous 1920s until the stock market crash of 1929 triggered the Great Depression. In the aftermath of the economic crisis, many Americans blamed Republican President Herbert Hoover for the downturn, which contributed to the election of Democrat Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1932.

To revitalize the economy, Roosevelt launched the New Deal, a series of progressive government-funded social programs designed to provide social security, enhance infrastructure, and establish a minimum wage. Over the following decades, Roosevelt's Democrats adopted many principles of modern American liberalism, while the Republican Party leaned more toward conservatism.

This shift alienated many conservative Southern Democrats, who had opposed Roosevelt's liberal policies, leading them to align with the Republican Party. Roosevelt's initiatives profoundly transformed the Democratic Party's platform, bringing it closer to modern liberal ideals.

In 1948, the Democratic National Convention debated changes to its platform regarding civil rights. The initial draft was pro-civil rights but lacked specific details. Some Southern delegates pushed to remove even this vague support and reaffirm the party's commitment to "states' rights." These proposals were quickly rejected.

Liberals advocated for stronger civil rights language, and after an impassioned speech from Minneapolis Mayor Hubert Humphrey, the platform was ultimately strengthened, resulting in a walkout by several Southern White delegates. President Truman's efforts attracted support from many Black voters who had historically supported the Republican Party due to its anti-slavery legacy in the 19th century.

In the 1950s and 1960s, race and equality moved back to the forefront of American politics, though it was largely viewed as a regional issue rather than strictly partisan. Both conservative Southern Democrats and Republicans resisted the early Civil Rights Movement, while liberal Northern Democrats began to support civil rights legislation as the movement gained momentum.

The civil rights movement led Republican politicians to develop strategies that attracted many White conservative voters who had historically supported the Democratic Party. This approach became known as the Southern Strategy. Many anti-civil rights Democrats left the party, including Senator Strom Thurmond, the Dixiecrats' presidential candidate in 1948, who switched to the Republican Party.

In 1964, Democratic President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the Civil Rights Act into law. In contrast, Republican candidate Barry Goldwater publicly opposed the legislation during the 1964 election, arguing that it unnecessarily expanded federal power. This opposition marked a significant turning point in party makeup.

A NC Appeals Court Has Blocked Use Of University's Digital ID For Voting

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP) — A North Carolina appeals court on September 27th blocked students and employees at the state's flagship public university from providing a digital identification produced by the school when voting to comply with a new photo ID mandate.

The decision by a three-judge panel of the intermediate-level Court of Appeals reverses at least temporarily last month's decision by the State Board of Elections that the mobile ID generated by the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill met security and photo requirements in the law and could be used.

The Republican National Committee and state Republican Party sued to overturn the decision by the Democratic-majority board earlier this month, saying the law only allows physical ID cards to be approved. Superior Court Judge Keith Gregory last week denied a temporary restraining order to halt its use. The Republicans appealed.

The order didn't include the names of three judges who considered the Republicans' requests and who unanimously ordered the elec-

tions board not to accept the mobile UNC One Card for casting a ballot this fall. The court releases the judges' names later. Eleven of the court's 15 judges are registered Republicans.

The order also didn't give the legal reasoning to grant the GOP's requests, although it mentioned a board memo that otherwise prohibits other images of physical IDs — like those copied or photographed — from qualifying.

In court briefs, lawyers for the RNC and the North Carolina GOP said refusing to block the IDs use temporarily would upend the status quo for the November election — in which otherwise only physical cards are accepted — and could result in ineligible voters casting ballots through manipulating the electronic card.

North Carolina GOP spokesperson Matt Mercer said the decision "will ensure election integrity and adherence to state law."

The Democratic National Committee and a UNC student group who joined the case said the board the board rightly determined that the digital ID met the requirements

set in state law. The DNC attorneys wrote that preventing its use could confuse or even disenfranchise up to 40,000 people who work or attend the school so close to the election.

North Carolina is considered a presidential battleground state where statewide races are often close affairs.

The ruling could be appealed to the state Supreme Court. A spokesperson for the state board, which was sued by the Republicans, didn't immediately respond to a request for comment.

Voters can still show photo IDs from several broad categories, including their driver's license, passport and military IDs. The board also has approved over 130 types of traditional student and employee IDs.

The mobile UNC One Card marked the first such ID posted from someone's smartphone that the board has OK'd. Only the mobile ID credentials on Apple phones qualified.

The mobile UNC One Card is now the default ID card issued on campus, although students and permanent employees can still obtain

a physical card instead for a small fee. The school said recently it would create physical cards at no charge for those who received a digital ID but want the physical card for voting.

Charles Lutvak, a spokesperson for Democratic presidential nominee Kamala Harris' campaign, said the campaign would help students obtain those free physical IDs.

Republicans supporting GOP nominee Donald Trump "are trying to stop eligible voters from making their voices heard in this election, but we will not let them succeed," Lutvak said late Friday.

The Republican-dominated North Carolina legislature enacted a voter ID law in late 2018, but legal challenges prevented the mandate's implementation until municipal elections in 2023. Infrequent voters will meet the qualifications for the first time this fall. Voters who lack an ID can fill out an exception form.

Early in-person voting begins Oct. 17, and absentee ballots are now being distributed to those requesting them. Absentee voters also must provide a copy of an ID or fill out the exception form.



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