



Dedicated to the Spirit and Service of God

Stein Defeats Robinson For Governor

By Cash Michaels

Contributor

It didn't take long on Election night for Democrat Josh Stein to claim victory after his unofficial win for governor. With 55% of statewide precincts reporting in, Stein, cur-

rently the NC attorney general, defeated controversial Trump-endorsed Republican Lt. Gov. Mark Robinson of Greensboro by 15 points.

"Thank you for believing in the promise of North Carolina," Stein told supporters at a watch party in Raleigh.

Lt. Gov. Robinson, who lost support from fellow Republicans after controversial comments denouncing women, Jews, Muslims, LBTGQ+ and Blacks, followed by an explosive CNN Report accusing him of calling himself a "Black Nazi" on a porn site, now finds himself a political

outsider once he leaves office in December.

"I'm not sad for me, I'm sad for you," a tearful Robinson, the first Black Lt. governor in North Carolina history, told supporters.

Sources say that once Stein takes office in December, the Republican-led North Carolina General Assembly is expected to pass legislation to further take power away from his office.

Meanwhile, Republican former Pres. Donald Trump outlasted Democrat presidential opponent, Vice President Kamala Harris, 51% to 47% with 100% of precincts reporting in to unofficially win North Carolina's 16 Electoral College votes. Both Harris and Trump made repeated trips to campaign in the state in recent days, hoping to secure North Carolina as an important battleground state on the road to 270.

Back to NC Council of State races, with 100% of precincts tallied, Democrat Jeff Jackson unofficially outpolled Republican NC Congressman Dan Bishop, 51.4% to 48.6% to become North Carolina's next attorney general.

Incumbent State Auditor Jessica Holmes lost a close race to Republican Dan Boliek 49.4% to 47.6%, while former Guilford County Schools Supt. Maurice "Mo" Green

(See **STEIN WINS**, P. 2)



Wilmington Journal Building Demolished

By Paul R. Jervay Jr.

NCBPA Media Services

130 years of history came crashing down on Monday, Nov. 4th, as the Wilmington Journal Building at 412 S. Seventh Street was torn down. Oddly enough, the demolition contractor was delayed from tearing the building down, because his construction trailer was vandalized.

The Journal Building had withstood a 1973 bombing, and the ravaging of 2-hurricanes before it bowed to the elements. Throughout its history the building was the headquarters for free speech, and community activism on behalf of Wilmington's African-American community.

T.C. Jervay Sr., late Editor/Publishers, penned a community focused column, "Once-A-Week with Tom Jervay," which voiced the ebb and flow of Wilmington's Black Community from the Journal Building. Mr. Jervay was also a stalwart in the Wilmington Ten's activism, which urged change in the town's public school system. That involvement ignited a series of dark chapters in Wilmington's history where The Journal building was bombed, and Dr. Ben Chavis, and the others involved with the Wilmington Ten got jail sentences for their activism.

In the ensuing years the Wilmington Ten was pardoned by Gov. Beverly Perdue thanks to the diligent efforts of Mr. Jervay's daughter, the late Mary Alice Jervay Thatch. Mrs. Thatch was able to mount a petition drive, and garner national attention to the Wilmington Ten's light, which ultimately resulted in their pardons.

A successful effort was made in 2021 to rescue The Journal building from being taken by the State of North Carolina. A community Telethon raised \$95,000, which saved the building at that point. However, conservative estimates placed the cost of restoring the building well above \$500,000, which continued to leave it in a state of continuing decay.

On July 29, 2024 The City of Wilmington called for the demolition of the building, because due to unsafe conditions. The current owners of The Journal building had no choice, but to comply with the city's directive. Various other costs beyond the demolition cost contributed to further delays. Finally the building owners got to a point where all parties were on board with the demolition.

Now with no building, what does the next chapter in the existence of the Wilmington Journal look like? Robin Thatch Johnson said, "We are interested in rebuilding, and are carrying the publication of The Wilmington Journal on." However, there are a number of questions that still loom after the building's demise. Why were there no hurricane damage funds forthcoming? What happened to the New Hanover Endowment Funds interest in saving the Journal Building?

These are only two questions that persist in the wake of the buildings demise. Also, why did a building designated as a Historic Site meet such an untimely end?

Now there are two empty lots on South 7th Street. One where Alex Manley's Dailey Record was burned to the ground, a casualty of the 1898 Massacre, and now the Wilmington Journal building, a victim of demolition. With its demise, what tangible evidence is there left of the institution committed to freedom of speech, freedom of press, and independent thought? Avenues which here-to-fore were routes to Wilmington's African-American community's progressive future.



'SCANDAL' CAST WILL REUNITE FOR ONLINE SCRIPT READING FOR HURRICANE RELIEF IN WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA

The cast of ABC's hit political drama "Scandal" may need to brush up on their snappy, speedy delivery known as "Scandal-pace," because they're reuniting for a good cause. Its stars including Kerry Washington, Tony Goldwyn and Bellamy Young will take part in a live virtual script reading on Nov. 17 to raise money for hurricane relief in western North Carolina.

Beginning Friday, fans can go online and donate to reserve a spot for the online reading. Proceeds will benefit United Way of North Carolina. Everyone who donates will be able to take part in a virtual pre-event with the cast and Shonda Rhimes will give an introduction.

Additional guest stars will also be announced. The online fundraising platform Prizeo is also holding a contest where one person who donates online via their site will be selected to read a role from the script with the actors. The winner should not worry about the "Scandal"-pace, assured Young over Zoom.

"Whomever the lucky reader is can read at whatever pace they want," she said.

Young, who played Mellie Young, the first lady and later Republican presidential nominee on "Scandal," was born and raised in Asheville, North Carolina. She came up with the idea for the effort with a friend and took it to her fellow "Scandal" actors, who all jumped on board. Young said this is the first script reading the cast has all done together since the show ended after seven seasons in 2018.

JANET COWELL ELECTED MAYOR OF RALEIGH

Democrat Janet Cowell will be the next mayor of Raleigh. The former North Carolina state treasurer, state senator and Raleigh City Council member defeated four challengers in the nonpartisan contest to lead North Carolina's capital city.

With all precincts reporting, Cowell had 59.77% of the vote to 18.39% for Paul Fitts, 11.34% for Terrance Ruth, 6.43% for Eugene Myrick, and 3.60% for James L. Shaughnessy IV, according to the State Board of Elections.

Cowell stepped away from politics in 2017 after eight years as treasurer to pursue a career in the private sector. In recent years, she has served as the President and CEO of the nonprofit Dix Park Conservancy, which is partnered with the City of Raleigh to create one of the nation's largest urban parks.

Election night results are unofficial and vote totals will likely change over the coming days as local boards of election consider provisional, military, and overseas civilian ballots. The state Board of Elections is scheduled to meet Nov. 26 to certify the results.

He's Back Folks!



Trump Wins In Political Comeback

WASHINGTON (AP) — Donald Trump was elected the 47th president of the United States on Wednesday, an extraordinary comeback for a former president who refused to accept defeat four years ago, sparked a violent insurrection at the U.S. Capitol, was convicted of felony charges and survived two assassination attempts.

With a win in Wisconsin, Trump cleared the 270 electoral votes needed to clinch the presidency.

The victory validates his bare-knuckle approach to politics. He attacked his Democratic rival, Kamala Harris, in deeply personal — often misogynistic and racist — terms as he pushed an apocalyptic picture of a country overrun by violent migrants. The coarse rhetoric, paired with an image of hypermasculinity, resonated with angry voters — particularly men — in a deeply polarized nation.

"I want to thank the American people for the extraordinary honor of being elected your 47th president and your 45th president," Trump

told throngs of cheering supporters in Florida even before his victory was confirmed.

In state after state, Trump outperformed what he did in the 2020 election while Harris failed to do as well as Joe Biden did in winning the presidency four years ago. Upon taking office again, Trump also will work with a Senate that will now be in Republican hands, while control of the House hadn't been determined.

"We've been through so much together, and today you showed up in record numbers to deliver a victory," Trump said. "This was something special and we're going to pay you back," he said.

In his second term, Trump has vowed to pursue an agenda centered on dramatically reshaping the federal government and pursuing retribution against his perceived enemies.

The results cap a historically tumultuous and competitive election season that included two assassination attempts targeting Trump and a shift to a new Democratic nominee

just a month before the party's convention. Trump will inherit a range of challenges when he assumes office on Jan. 20, including heightened political polarization and global crises that are testing America's influence abroad.

His win against Harris, the first woman of color to lead a major party ticket, marks the second time he has defeated a female rival in a general election. Harris, the current vice president, rose to the top of the ticket after Biden exited the race amid alarm about his advanced age. Despite an initial surge of energy around her campaign, she struggled during a compressed timeline to convince disillusioned voters that she represented a break from an unpopular administration.

The vice president has not publicly spoken since the race was called. Her campaign co-chair, Cedric Richmond, said she would speak Wednesday: "She will be back here tomorrow."

Trump is the first former presi-

dent to return to power since Grover Cleveland regained the White House in the 1892 election. He is the first person convicted of a felony to be elected president and, at 78, is the oldest person elected to the office. His vice president, 40-year-old Ohio Sen. JD Vance, will become the highest-ranking member of the millennial generation in the U.S. government.

Congratulations started pouring in from world leaders even before Trump's victory was announced.

There will be far fewer checks on Trump when he returns to the White House. He has plans to swiftly enact a sweeping agenda that would transform nearly every aspect of American government. His GOP critics in Congress have largely been defeated or retired. Federal courts are now filled with judges he appointed. The U.S. Supreme Court, which includes three Trump-appointed justices, issued a ruling earlier this year affording presidents broad immunity from prosecution.

Germany's Quarrelsome Gov Looking For Solutions For Its Ailing Economy

BERLIN (AP) — The leaders of Germany's quarrelsome governing coalition are meeting again on Wednesday in another last-minute effort to find a joint solution to fix the country's struggling economy.

German Chancellor Olaf Scholz of the center-left Social Democrats, Finance Minister Christian Lindner of the pro-business Free Democrats and Economy Minister Robert Ha-

beck of the environmentalist Greens want to boost the economy but are at odds over how to do it.

A meeting of the coalition committee later Wednesday will focus on how the billion-euro hole in the 2025 budget can be plugged and how the German economy can be put back on track.

However, they disagree fundamentally over how to kickstart the econ-

omy again, and after weeks of government infighting many Germans wonder if the current government will actually survive the coming 11 months before the next election is due.

Uncoordinated summit meetings and differing proposals by the leaders have fueled the conflict among the coalition partners.

If the leaders fail to reach an

agreement later on Wednesday, the government could be on the brink of collapse.

Scholz appealed to all coalition partners to find a solution and prioritize the country over different party convictions.

"As far as the situation of the government's further work is concerned,

(See **GERMANY**, P. 2)

GERMANY

Continued from page 1

it is about feeling committed to the country, not about ideology," he said Tuesday in Berlin. "And it is clear that we can. In this respect, the question is not whether it can be done at all, but whether it is possible, and everyone has to work on that now."

The Free Democrats have pushed for changes in the country's economic policy, some of which Lindner expressed in an 18-page paper last week that was leaked to the media.

The party categorically rejects tax increases or changes to Germany's strict self-imposed limits on running up debt, and say it's time to save money — for example, on benefits for the long-term unemployed.

Politicians on the left want to see massive state investment and reject talk of cutting welfare programs and many other ideas Lindner proposed in his paper last week.

STEIN WINS

Continued from page 1

defeated Republican opponent Michele Morrow for state superintendent for Public Instruction, 51% to 49%.

For the NC Supreme Court with 100% of precincts reporting in, conservative Republican Jefferson Griffin ousted incumbent Democrat Allison Riggs, 50.2% to 49.8% in unofficial returns. That means there will now be just one Democratic justice seated on the seven-member NC High Court.

On the NC Court of Appeals, Republican Tom Murry defeated Democrat incumbent Judge Carolyn Jennings Thompson, 50.9% to 49.1%.

For Congress, 12th District U.S. Rep. All Adams was re-elected, and Fourth District Democratic Congresswoman Valerie Foushee won a second term to Congress Tuesday.

Finally, North Carolinians passed an amendment to the state constitution that prohibited non-citizens from voting, which was already the law before the measure passed.

Classifieds

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BID REQUEST-BARNHILL CONTRACTING COMPANY

Attention MBEs & WBEs-Barnhill Contracting Company is requesting bids from any interested firms for the following project: NCDOT Contract: #DA00612 Camden & Pasquotank County - Resurfacing, Thin-Lift Resurfacing, Shoulder Restoration & Pavement Markings on Various Secondary Routes in Camden & Pasquotank Counties. Pre-Bid Meeting is on Wednesday, November 6th, 2024 at 10:00 AM. This meeting will be held virtually utilizing conference call and online meeting tools. Please contact Jimmy Spivey at the number below for meeting details. This project bids on November 20th, 2024 and includes opportunities on, but not limited to Hauling, Traffic Control, Erosion Control, Pavement Markings, Milling, Concrete Curb & Gutter, Ramps, Meter & Valve Box Adjustments, and Signal Loops. Bids are due to James Spivey no later than 12:00 P.M. on Tuesday November 19th, 2024.

Plans can be viewed in our office (please call to schedule) or on the NCDOT website: <https://connect.ncdot.gov/letting/pages/division1letting.aspx>

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USDA Bans Some School Lunch Fees

NEW YORK (AP) — The U.S. Department of Agriculture announced that students eligible for free or reduced price school meals cannot be charged processing fees beginning in 2027.

School districts currently work with processing companies to offer cashless payment systems for families. But the companies can charge "processing fees" for each transaction. By law, students who are eligible for reduced price meals cannot be charged more than 30 cents for breakfast and 40 cents for lunch. With processing fees, however, families can end up paying 10 times that amount. Processing companies charge as much as \$3.25 or 4% to 5% per transaction, according to a recent report from the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau.

For families with lower incomes who can't afford to load large sums in one go, processing fees can arrive weekly or even more frequently, increasing costs disproportionately. Families that qualify for free or reduced lunch pay as much as 60 cents per dollar in fees when paying for school lunches electronically, according to the report.

The new Agriculture Department's policy becomes effective starting in the 2027-2028 school year. With this rule, the USDA will lower costs for families with income under 185% of federal poverty guidelines, which equals \$57,720 for a family of four. "USDA and schools across America share the common goal of nourishing schoolchildren and giving them the fuel they need to learn, grow and

thrive," said Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack in a statement Friday. "While today's action to eliminate extra fees for lower-income households is a major step in the right direction, the most equitable path forward is to offer every child access to healthy school meals at no cost. We will continue to work with Congress to move toward that goal so all kids have the nutrition they need to reach their full potential."

The decision by the USDA follows a CFPB report that found online school meal payments predominantly affect low-income families. School lunch fees collectively cost families upwards of \$100 million each year, according to the report.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has mandated that school districts

inform families of their options since 2017, but even when parents are aware, having to pay by cash or check to avoid fees can be burdensome.

"It's just massively inconvenient," said Joanna Roa, 43, who works at Clemson University in South Carolina as a library specialist and has two school-aged children.

Roa said that when her son was in first grade and she saw the \$3.25-per-transaction fee for lunch account transactions, she and her husband decided to send him to school with packed lunches instead.

"A dollar here and there, I expected," she said. "But \$3.25 per transaction, especially here in rural South Carolina where the cost of living is a lot lower — as are the salaries — is a lot."

Advocates Push For Release Of Nearly 2,000 NC Inmates After Helene Damage

By: Jordan Meadows

Staff Writer

On Monday, a coalition of human and civil rights organizations held a press conference where they called on North Carolina prison officials to release nearly 2,000 incarcerated individuals following what they describe as "dangerous overcrowding" in state prisons, worsened by the damage caused by Hurricane Helene.

The coalition's letter, sent to the North Carolina Department of Adult Correction (DAC), highlights severe conditions in multiple prisons that have resulted from the evacuation of inmates from five facilities in Western North Carolina.

Craggy Correctional Institution in Asheville, as well as facilities in Spruce Pine and Swannanoa, were the main areas of damage. With repairs still underway, more than 2,190 incarcerated individuals were transferred to prisons in the central and eastern parts of the state, including Wake County. The rapid influx of inmates into already overcrowded facilities has exacerbated dire conditions, advocates say.

"The hurricane stretched every system and resource in the state. And while we've seen an inspiring outpouring of support and community organizing and mutual aid flowing into those western counties, prisons are some of the last places people think to check on," Luke Willard with Disability Rights NC said.

According to the letter sent by groups including the ACLU of North Carolina, Disability Rights NC, and Emancipate NC, some facilities have now surpassed 100 percent capacity, with certain prisons operating at over 130 percent capacity. Prison



staff, already understaffed and stretched thin before the storm, are now unable to manage the growing population.

"I think one of the biggest problems plaguing our prison systems across the state regardless of the hurricane is this staffing issue, and we know that leads to increased safety concerns for both people who are incarcerated and staff, so adding more people is still creating dangerous situations," staff attorney for the ACLU of NC Ivy Johnson said.

The coalition is advocating for the immediate release of 400 women and 1,500 low-risk men through compassionate release. This measure mirrors actions taken during the COVID-19 pandemic when nearly 4,500 individuals were released to alleviate overcrowding.

The groups argue that such a step is necessary to reduce tension and improve conditions, which have become particularly harmful for vulnerable populations, including individuals with disabilities who require

assistance with daily activities and specialized medical care.

Willard pointed out that people with disabilities make up about 40 percent of the incarcerated population in state prisons, many of whom are severely impacted by overcrowding and inadequate care. He also noted that 75 percent of the incarcerated population in North Carolina suffer from substance use disorders, further complicating the need for specialized care.

Prison conditions have reached a breaking point, according to the groups. Women prisoners at facilities like Anson Correctional Center for Women have reported a lack of access to clean clothes, reduced food rations, and a general lack of supplies to accommodate the surge in inmate population. Many incarcerated individuals are also facing challenges with limited communication with loved ones, and in some cases, forced to defecate in plastic bags due to lack of working plumbing in affected facilities.

"These conditions only increase tensions between the prison population and the staff and result in more incidents of violence. Since the emergency prison transfers due to Hurricane Helene, these conditions have become all the more dire," the advocates' letter stated.

Advocates are also concerned about the hurricane's long-term impact on the prison system. With no clear timeline for restoring utilities or reopening the affected facilities, they are urging prison officials to take a proactive approach to future climate-related disasters. The groups are looking to work with environmental justice organizations to develop strategies for mitigating the risks of prison overcrowding in an era of increasing climate emergencies.

"Why isn't the most obvious solution to let people out of cages? So we sent a letter, as a coalition, to the Department of Corrections to say just that. Clearly, they need us to state the obvious. What needs to happen to avoid unconstitutional conditions in our prisons in North Carolina is for people to be let out of cages," Executive Director of Emancipate NC Dawn Blagrove said.

The coalition has given prison officials three weeks to respond to the letter, threatening legal action if the state fails to act on the overcrowding crisis. According to Willard, nearly 20,000 North Carolinians are released from prisons each year.

The letter, which is also signed by organizations like North Carolina Prisoner Legal Services, Disability Law United, and the Coalition for Social Justice, calls for a humane response to a crisis that they argue is both a result of climate change and a deeper systemic failure in the state's prison infrastructure.

Overdose Deaths Are Rising Among Both Black & Indigenous Americans

Stateline—The recent decline in overdose deaths hides a tremendous disparity by race: Deaths have fallen only among white people while continuing to rise among people of color, according to a new Stateline analysis of federal data.

Health experts in nonwhite communities say they're finding strategies that work in their areas, but that they still struggle for recognition and funding to address the problems, especially among Black and Native people.

In all, nearly 5,000 more people of color died from overdoses in 2023 than in 2021, while deaths among white people dropped by more than 6,000, according to the analysis of provisional data from the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

As of early this year, based on partial counts, Black and Native people remain the hardest hit, having earlier in the pandemic surpassed white rates. Hispanic and Asian people are still experiencing more overdose deaths as well.

White people had the highest rate of overdose deaths in 2019, before the pandemic, at 25.4 deaths for every 100,000 people in the U.S. population. But rates for Black and Native people quickly surpassed white rates and continued to grow as white rates declined between 2021 and 2023. In 2023, the death rates were 49.5 and 39.8 per 100,000 for Black and Native people, respectively.

Tracie Gardner, co-director of the National Black Harm Reduction Network, said Black and Native people often have trouble navigating white-dominated institutions, including many harm reduction agencies. Such agencies need to have more people of color in leadership positions to gain the trust of Black, Native and other people who use drugs, she said.

"It is our contention that Black harm reduction isn't about drug use, it's about the harms of not being a white person in this country," Gardner said. "The only people doing worse or as poorly are Native Americans."



Different trends

Between 2021 and 2023, overdose deaths among white people dropped in all but a dozen states, most of them in the West. But few states saw any decline in deaths among Black or Native American populations. Deaths among Black people did decline, however, in Indiana (-75), the District of Columbia (-29) and Illinois (-22), while deaths among Native people declined in North Carolina (-34), Colorado (-11) and North Dakota (-9).

Connecticut was one of the few states to see a small rate drop among its Black residents. There was no change in the number of overdose deaths, but the Black population grew between 2021 and 2023.

The Connecticut Harm Reduction Alliance is working to bring more harm reduction tools to the Black community and others, with 100 mobile kits available at a moment's notice.

Most recently, staff started going to meet people leaving detox programs, also known as withdrawal management, when they choose to leave early and are at especially high risk of overdose.

"The message is, 'Even though this didn't work out, we care about your welfare, we care about your safety, we want to see you come back,'" said Mark Jenkins, the alliance's executive director.

Too few services are specifically designed for the Black community, Jenkins said, even though data shows that the overdose crisis is hitting that population the hardest.

"We know that this disproportionately affects people of color, and we're right out there where people need to see us," he said of his organization's approach. "A lot of our people don't access services if they're not right there in their path."

A lack of funding The overdose death numbers for American Indian and Native Alaskan people may be even higher than the Stateline analysis indicates, because Native people often are misidentified in death certificates, said Philomena Kebec, an attorney and member of the Wisconsin-based Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa.

"These numbers about the impact on tribal and Alaska Native individuals are really stark," Kebec told Stateline.

Many tribes struggle to provide overdose-halting naloxone and other medications because of chronic underfunding for health services, Kebec, who also is a fellow on addiction and overdose at Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, said on a Brookings Institution podcast last month.

But increasingly, tribes are turning to mobile programs not unlike Connecticut's. The Confederated Tribes

of Grand Ronde in Oregon is adapting buses to help people get methadone and buprenorphine that help curb opioid withdrawal symptoms. Kebec said in an interview that her own tribe in Wisconsin began a mail-order naloxone program using private donations, but added it could do more with state funding that has yet to be approved.

"We have programming that's really keyed into how things have to happen in rural communities. We have a lot of people who have transportation issues, so we have to come to them," she said.

Tribes and helpers need more funding for research to find root causes and more timely information from hospitals to find overdose outbreaks quickly and intervene, she said. It's a need everywhere, but means even more in Native communities, which are often spread out in rural areas.

In the Black community, men older than 55 are especially hard hit, said Gardner, of the National Black Harm Reduction Network. She noticed their deaths start to increase in the mid-2010s, when she served as New York state's assistant secretary of health, and later realized those deaths were "the canary in the coal mine" that signaled deadly fentanyl's infiltration into supplies of other drugs.

During the pandemic, "older [Black] men lost their communities, their family supports. There are some men who became homeless and there was no safety network," Gardner said. "Plus, men still associate going out and getting health care with a woman's thing. A lot of care is geared to women."

Dr. Edwin Chapman, a District of Columbia physician whose practice serves many older Black men who use drugs, said that like others trying to help Black and Native people, he's had trouble getting funding. His innovations include early use of buprenorphine to curb opioid cravings.

"There has been more pushback from local officials than help," Chapman said.

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Business & Finance

How To Protect Yourself From Scammers Offering Fake Jobs

NEW YORK (AP) — Between finding openings, sending out your resume and interviewing, looking for a job is tough. Now a growing trend of scammers impersonating recruiters is making it even harder.

In the last year, job scams have been on the rise, according to Eva Velasquez, president and CEO of the Identity Theft Resource Center, a nonprofit that helps consumers when their identities are compromised.

Because most job seekers turn to online platforms for employment, scammers impersonate companies and recruiters to trick people into giving them money or personal information.

“We’ve really seen tremendous growth in job scams,” Velasquez said. “I think that’s just due to the fact that we fundamentally changed the way we recruit and hire people.”

It happened to Tehseen Islam, a 28-year-old quality assurance analyst. She had been looking for a job for a few months when she finally got an offer from a well-known marketing technology company. Or at least she thought she did.

After a weeklong process that included an online form with interview screening questions, Islam was offered the job and received



a check. She was asked to deposit it and send the company \$1,000 to pay for shipment of equipment she’d need for the job.

A few days later, her bank notified her that the check had bounced and, because it looked like she was cooperating with scammers, it was ending all banking relationships with her. That’s when she learned the job was a scam.

“I’m a little traumatized,” said Islam, who lost the \$1,000 and unknowingly shared personal information with scammers.

If you’re a job seeker, here are some recommendations from ex-

perts on how to avoid job scammers:

Know how job scams work
Job scams are a type of impersonation scam.

Scammers tend to use the name of an employee from a large company and craft a job posting that matches similar positions. An initial red flag is that scammers usually try to make the job very appealing, Velasquez said.

“They’re going to have very high salaries for somewhat low-skilled work,” she said. “And they’re often saying it’s a 100% remote position because that’s so appealing to

people.”

Some scammers post fake jobs, but others reach out directly to job seekers through direct messages or texts. If the scammers are looking to steal your personal information, they may ask you to fill out several forms that include information like your Social Security number and driver’s license details.

The only information a legitimate employer should ask for at the beginning of the process is your skills, your work experience, and your contact information, Velasquez said.

Other details don’t generally need to be shared with an employer until after you’ve gotten an offer.

Do your research
Whether you’re replying to a job posting or a recruiter, you must research the company, especially if you didn’t initiate the conversation, Velasquez said.

Fake recruiters often contact job seekers through social media or text messages. If someone reaches out to you, verify their identity before responding to their message.

Here are a few recommendations while you research the recruiter or the company:

— Don’t respond to the message right away.

— Go online and research if the

company has current job openings on its official website.

— Research the name of the recruiter and check if the person has a verifiable social media presence.

— If the company has a job opening on its website, apply directly through the website.

Don’t reply or click on links

If you receive a message from a recruiter, it’s best to not respond unless you know that the source is reputable. Avoid clicking on any links sent to you, whether to apply for a position or to fill out a questionnaire.

In Islam’s case, the scammers sent her a form with interview screening questions where they asked for her personal information.

Don’t deposit checks
A common tactic is for scammers to send you a fake signing bonus and then ask you to send some money back, supposedly to cover expenses. This is a way for scammers to steal money from job seekers, said Alvaro Puig, consumer education specialist at the Federal Trade Commission.

“If you deposit a check and it’s fake, your account will show the money is there. But then days later, the bank will discover that it was a fake check,” Puig said.

So, if you take out money from your account and send it to the fake recruiter, the money will be coming

from your bank account and it will be impossible to get back.

Be selective with the job openings you trust

When job hunting through platforms like LinkedIn and Indeed, Velasquez recommends being very cautious with job openings and recruiters you trust. While these platforms are reputable and many of their job postings are real, the companies cannot verify every single employment opportunity posted. This creates an opportunity for scammers to post fake job listings and trick people.

“Don’t let platforms that you know are legitimate allow other people to borrow that trust,” Velasquez said.

After her experience with job scammers, Islam has been more careful with the job openings she trusts. Now, she has a list of steps she follows, including verifying a recruiter’s email through a free email address validator, such as Emailable or Clearout, and calling the company directly.

“This is adding a lot more time to my job search now but I can’t just blindly trust that this person is who they say they are,” Islam said.

Report the scam

If you or a family member is a victim of a scam, it’s good practice to report it on the FTC’s website.

America’s Charging Ahead: 23,000 Jobs From New Battery Plants

The Conversation - The United States is in the midst of the biggest boom in clean energy manufacturing investments in history, spurred by laws like the bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and the Inflation Reduction Act.

These laws have leveraged billions of dollars in government support to drive private sector investments in clean energy supply chains across the country.

For several years, one of us, Jay Turner, and his students at Wellesley College have been tracking clean

energy investments in the U.S. and sharing the data at The Big Green Machine website. That research shows that companies have announced 225 projects, totaling US\$127 billion in investment, and more than 131,000 new jobs since the Inflation Reduction Act became law in 2022.

You may have seen news stories that said these projects are at risk of failure or significant delays. In August 2024, the Financial Times reported that 40% of more than 100 projects it evaluated were delayed.

These included battery manufacturing, renewable energy projects and metals and hydrogen projects, as well as semiconductor manufacturing plants. More recently, The Information, which covers the technology industry, warned that 1 in 4 companies were walking away from government-supported grants for battery investments.

We checked up on all 23 battery cell factories announced or expanded since the Inflation Reduction Act was signed — almost all of them gigafactories, which are designed to produce over 1 gigawatt-hour of battery cell capacity. These factories have some of the largest employment potential of any project supported by the act.

We wanted to find out if the boom in U.S.-based clean energy manufacturing is about to go bust. What we have learned is mostly reassuring.

The biggest battery factories are on track

While the exact investment totals are challenging to pin down, our research shows that planned capital expenditures add up to \$52 billion, which would support 490 gigawatt-hours of battery manufacturing capacity per year — enough to put roughly 5 million new electric vehicles on the road.



While not all 23 companies have announced their hiring plans, these facilities are expected to support nearly 30,000 new jobs, with projects mostly in the U.S. Southeast, Midwest and Southwest.

We wanted to know if these projects are on track or experiencing delays or problems.

To do that, we first reached out to local and state economic development agencies. In many instances, local and state tax incentives are supporting these projects. Where possible, we sought to confirm the project’s status through public data

or formal announcements. In other instances, we looked for news stories to see if there is evidence of construction or hiring.

Of the 23 projects, our research shows that 13 appear to be on track, with total planned capital investments in excess of \$40 billion and nearly 352 gigawatt-hours per year of capacity. Importantly, these include most of the biggest projects with the largest investments and projected production.

By our count, 77% of the total planned capital investment, 79% of the proposed jobs and 72% of the

planned battery production are on track, which means that a project is likely to happen, roughly on time, and generally with their expected level of investment and employment.

Three projects are on the bubble. These have shown progress but experienced delays in construction or financing.

Five others show deeper signs of distress. We don’t yet have enough information to draw a conclusion on two projects.

An example of a project that is on track is Envision AESC’s battery factory in Florence, South Carolina. Its scale has been expanded twice since it was first announced in December 2022. It is now a \$3 billion investment intended to manufacture 30 gigawatt-hours of batteries annually to supply BMW’s factory in Woodruff, South Carolina.

In early October 2024, South Carolina Secretary of Commerce Harry Lightsey conducted a tour of the Envision site and posted a video. Construction on the plant started in February 2024, and 850 workers are working six days a week to finish the 1.4 million-square-foot facility by August 2025. Once it goes into full production, the project is expected to employ 2,700 people.

Social Media Oversharing

By: Ms Jheri Worldwide

When it comes to social media there has been very little training, advice, or regulation. The platforms have been building the plane as they’ve flown. Some have crashed out like Vine, or a more slow demise like what we are watching of Twitter now known as X. Other platforms continue to thrive like Instagram, Facebook, and TikTok. Because no training existed and minimal restrictions were imposed from the start platform users are at times subjected to content they might not want to see or might be not prepared for. This recently happened to me when I logged on to Instagram and witness the birth of a distant connection’s baby. It was entirely inappropriate for social media and should have been a private moment for the family. The baby was not able to get a deep breath in before it was existing across the internet. The mother now can quantify her most intimate family moment by likes, comments, and shares. I closed the Instagram application immediately and tried to go on about my day but I was frustrated. Later that morning I went back to Instagram for two reasons. Number one, I decided to unfollow that connection. If you’re sharing the birth of your child you’re probably sharing too much for me and that’s not what I’m on Instagram for. Second, I polled my followers, I asked them “Is childbirth appropriate social media content? Should some elements be kept for the family?” The results were reassuring, 93% said it’s too much, 0% said I’m fine with it, 7% had no opinion. We can be proud of our families and still have decorum when it comes to our most meaningful moments. Everything isn’t for everybody and we’ve got to draw the line somewhere. I have no problem helping folks define where the line is because we can all agree social media did not come with rules.

Here are a few more tips for best practices on social media. Remember social media is a highlight reel. People show what they want you to see, sometimes it can be too much. Don’t be an oversharer. Next, a lot of what you see on social truly is not real or highly misleading! It could be artificial intelligence, it could be staged and posed. Think about the recent revelations concerning MTV Cribs, Redman was the few keeping it real about his home (if you don’t know what I’m referencing do yourself a favor and search YouTube for: Redman’s Staten Island ‘De La Casa’ 2001 MTV Cribs)! Many of the homes we watched on Cribs were rented but the Redman episode is so important because he was keeping it real!

My last and most important tip is to protect the children in your life from social media for as long as possible. We know it’s not good for their mental health. Think about all the things you see on social media that disturb or irritate you. Now think about someone with little point of reference and how the things they’re seeing can impact them or allow them to normalize certain behaviors that are not okay. An alternative is to scroll social media together as a family and encourage them to ask questions. Another path would be to try putting your phone down! Read, work on puzzles, go outside, find other ways to participate in stimulating activities that don’t involve bringing in the wild world of the internet. What we see online was all placed there whether the intent was malicious or to educate someone’s thoughts populate our searches and it is not always healthy. We see more images in a week than someone 100 years ago saw in their lifetime, stay socially responsible when sharing on social media.

The Impact Google Ad Has On Small Business

NEW YORK (AP) — Google is changing the way its Google Local Services ads work, which could affect millions of small businesses.

Google Local Services ads run locally and are a big way that small businesses market their goods and services. Ads appear on the top of Google search results.

Starting Nov. 21, only businesses with a verified Google Business Profile will be able to run the ads.

The change affects businesses in Europe, the Middle East and Africa and “select” businesses in the U.S. and Canada, Google said in an online post. The company didn’t immediately respond to a request for comment.

The change is an effort to crack down on fraud. But legitimate small businesses could be hurt if they’re

unaware of the change. If a small business’ Google Business Profile’s name and address doesn’t match the information with the ad, advertising will be paused.

Getting verified on Google isn’t difficult, but it does take some time. Business owners must add or claim their business address on Google. Then owners will need to verify the address through phone, text, email, or video.

The process varies by business category and location and may include giving information about background, business registration, insurance, and license checks.

Google’s verifications can take up to seven business days. Once a business is verified, its owner gets notified.

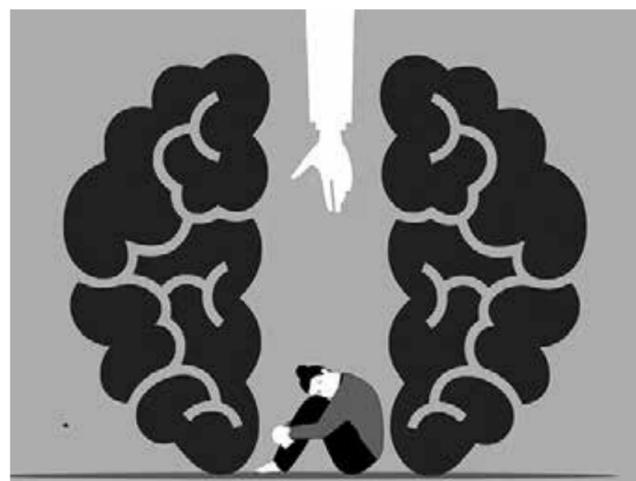
RALEIGH—The North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services announces \$5 million to help providers build capacity and implement the Collaborative Care Model in primary care offices across the state. Through the Collaborative Care Model, primary care providers work with an integrated behavioral health case manager and a psychiatric consultant to monitor and treat patients for mild to moderate behavioral health conditions. The need for integrated medical and behavioral health care is greater than ever as rates of anxiety and depression have substantially increased following the COVID-19 pandemic.

“Too many individuals with mental health and substance use disorders delay the care they need because they struggle finding a provider,” said NC Health and Human Services Secretary Kody H. Kinsley. “Collaborative Care can serve more people earlier by supporting primary care providers in reaching people at the onset of behavioral health symptoms.”

Collaborative Care is covered by NC Medicaid, Medicare and most commercial insurance plans in North Carolina, helping to break down barriers that separate how physical and behavioral health services are delivered and paid for. Patients are able to receive services through a provider, and in a setting, they already know and trust, which gives them easier access to the care they need. Collaborative Care improves patient outcomes, reduces health care costs and reduces stigma related to mental health and substance use disorders.

NCDHHS’ investment is designed to help with the startup costs of implementing Collaborative Care, particularly for primary care providers in rural or high-need areas that have limited access to behavioral health services. The department is partnering with Community Care of North Carolina (CCNC) to select eligible provider applications and distribute funding to approximately 100 providers across the state.

\$5 Million Investment To Expand Access To Behavioral Health Care In Primary Care



As of Oct. 10, providers can apply for up to \$50,000 per site to help with hiring and start up costs. Primary care practices are encouraged to apply and can find more information through CCNC’s dedicated Collaborative Care website. Efforts will be made to ensure primary care practices in western North Carolina impacted by Hurricane Helene will have an opportunity to apply for inclusion in the program, even if they are unable to apply for funds at this time.

“The need is greater than ever before,” said Dr. Carrie Brown, Chief Psychiatrist for NCDHHS. “From 2019 to 2021, the percentage of Americans reporting symptoms of anxiety and depression nearly quadrupled, from 11% to 41%. The Collaborative Care partnership between primary care and psychiatrists is one example of the department’s efforts to increase access to behavioral health care for those who need it as we focus on whole-person health.”

Nationally, the Collaborative Care Model is a strategic response to the shortage of mental health care professionals across the country. Recent data show more than 123 million peo-

ple in the U.S. live in a Federally Designated Mental Health Professional shortage area, including one in four North Carolina counties. In North Carolina, a recent study finds there are 28 counties without a practicing psychiatrist, and it can take weeks or even months to get an appointment with a mental health provider.

With the Collaborative Care Model, a behavioral health care manager is embedded within a primary care office and, through consultation with a psychiatrist, helps the primary care physician implement evidence-based interventions for patients who screen positive for targeted behavioral health conditions. In this model, one psychiatrist can reach far more North Carolinians with mild to moderate behavioral health needs than they could directly provide care for through traditional behavioral health services.

“Through this partnership with primary care professionals, we are working to create a more accessible mental healthcare system,” said Kelly Crosbie, MSW, LCSW, Director of the NCDHHS Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Substance Use Services. “This ensures

our community receives the mental health care they need and deserve, in a setting where they are most comfortable.”

The \$5 million investment in capacity building is made possible by the NC General Assembly through the signing bonus North Carolina received from the federal government when it approved Medicaid Expansion. The investment builds on the department’s strategic work to enhance access to the Collaborative Care Model, which has already resulted in a nearly 100% increase in utilization among NC Medicaid primary care providers between April 2023 and May 2024.

NC Medicaid, in coordination with key stakeholders, has led a statewide effort over the past two years to align requirements and reimbursement for Collaborative Care across payors, increase NC Medicaid reimbursement for behavioral health services to 120% of Medicare rates and remove copays for Medicaid beneficiaries. Additionally, NC Medicaid has provided training and technical assistance to support model implementation through Area Health Education Centers, connected interested primary care practices with psychiatric consultants, and created a customized Collaborative Care registry for providers through CCNC. These efforts are outlined in detail in a white paper published by NC Medicaid in December 2023.

NCDHHS’ investment in the Collaborative Care Model is part of a broader commitment to build an integrated behavioral health system in North Carolina. The NC General Assembly last year allocated a historic \$835 million to strengthen the behavioral health system, and millions of North Carolinians are already benefiting from the sweeping, systemic improvements these funds are making for their health, well-being and day-to-day lives. More information is available in the NCDHHS Transforming North Carolina’s Behavioral Health System white paper.

Imposter Syndrome's Effect On Self-Employed Business Success

American Business Association— Is the fear of failure and self-doubt holding you back from taking bold steps in your business? Imagine the possibilities and success if fear of inadequacy would not there as an obstacle, and you would embrace every opportunity that comes your way.

Imposter syndrome is a very common feeling, especially among business newbies and self-employed individuals. In a study, it has been found that most entrepreneurs and business owners have imposter syndrome.

This phenomenon can be pretty impactful and challenging for business owners as they are managing multiple responsibilities at a time. Therefore, it is necessary to understand its impact and how it can act as an obstacle to self-employed success.

Let's discuss the impact and strategies to overcome it.

Impact of Imposter Syndrome on Self-Employed

1. Fear of Failure: It is a very

powerful fear that significantly impacts the lives of self-employed individuals. It leads to self-doubt and constant fear of being exposed as a fraud. Fear of failure becomes a constant companion of such individuals, preventing them from taking any big step. They stay in doubt and have a lot of insecurities, making them hesitant to take risks.

This fear can be paralyzing, which may lead to turning down potential clients, avoiding challenging tasks, and procrastinating. It also creates a constant state of anxiety and stress.

2. Difficulty in Decision Making: Since there is no proper hierarchy in self-employment, individuals have to make many decisions themselves. When a person is suffering from imposter syndrome, he/she is constantly led by second-guessing choices, missed opportunities, and inefficiency in running a business.

The hesitancy in making choices acts as a major obstacle in preventing self-employed individuals from embracing available opportunities. It is necessary to take help in such

a case to overcome decision-making challenges.

3. Lack of Support: An entrepreneur or a self-employed individual feels isolated because he has to rely on himself for all kinds of tasks. These feelings of isolation are further exacerbated by imposter syndrome, which makes it even more challenging to seek help and take advice from others.

In a survey, about 84% of small business owners felt like an imposter at some level. It hinders personal and professional growth, which affects the newly opened business in many ways. Combating imposter syndrome with the right strategies is necessary to avoid its impact.

4. Affects Professional Relationships: The worst imposter syndrome does to a person is affecting their professional relationships. This includes relations with bosses, mentors, coworkers, and other employees. With this condition, it becomes difficult to trust people, which would lead you to resent those people.

Due to a lack of confidence in

their abilities, the person struggles to share ideas and collaborate with like-minded people. This prevents a person from embracing opportunities that involve collaboration, networking, and mentorship.

Strategies to Overcome Imposter Syndrome

1. Seek Professional Help

This can be a transformative step towards achieving your business goal. Imposter syndrome is quite a complex psychological phenomenon that affects beliefs and self-perception. You need to seek professional therapies to overcome this challenge, as combating imposter syndrome alone can be very challenging.

A professional will help you find the underlying cause of this syndrome, find the negative thought pattern, and come up with strategies to cope with it. Such personalized interventions can help reframe perceptions.

2. Build a Network: This is another powerful strategy that helps in combating imposter syndrome. You need to get in touch with like-minded

entrepreneurs and business owners who would provide validation for your achievements, decisions, and skills.

It is equally necessary to connect with experienced mentors with similar struggles as yours to get guidance and insights into the business world.

Networking also gives you collaboration opportunities, which helps boost confidence and again validate your skills. You learn about trends as you get exposed to diverse perspectives through networking.

This significantly helps reduce imposter syndrome's impact on your new business.

3. Set Realistic Goals: To maintain focus and direction, it is necessary to set realistic goals. It is also a very crucial strategy in dealing with imposter syndrome. For that, you need to break down your long-term goals into smaller tasks and set milestones. Ensure that all this is achievable and realistic.

As you track your progress, you should celebrate the smallest of achievements. This helps boost confidence and reduce feelings of inadequacy.

You should also see challenges as opportunities that would help you learn and grow. It fosters a positive mindset and leads you to self-improvement. It is also important to avoid comparing yourself with other entrepreneurs in the industry.

You should also engage in open communication with clients and mentors to get constructive feedback. This will definitely help you grow.

4. Keep Track of Your Achievements

Lastly, it is necessary to keep track of your achievements by documenting them or updating your list of achievements regularly. No matter how small or big your achievements are, they should be celebrated for building your self-esteem and developing a positive self-image.

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Health and Wellness

A Few Tips To Follow When Shopping For Medicare Plans

The shopping season for Medicare coverage is about to begin, bringing with it an annual barrage of TV ads and a multitude of choices. Those eligible for the federal government's Medicare program will have from Oct. 15 to Dec. 7 to sign up for 2025 Medicare Advantage plans, which are privately run versions of the program. During this period, they can also add a prescription drug plan to their traditional Medicare coverage. Due to major

insurers reducing costs and pulling back from markets, many people on Medicare Advantage plans will likely need to find new coverage. Industry experts are also predicting some price increases for Medicare prescription drug plans.

Shoppers are often faced with dozens of options during this enrollment period, making it crucial to know what to look out for. Start early and stay informed. Don't wait until the last minute to shop for

Medicare coverage. Begin thinking about next year's coverage well before the annual enrollment window opens. Insurers typically preview their offerings or inform customers about significant changes, making it important to thoroughly read any mail from your insurer. Waiting until after Thanksgiving to decide on coverage plans for the new year could be a mistake. With Thanksgiving falling on Nov. 28, this year there will be just over one week left before the enrollment window closes.

Many Medicare Advantage plans promote a \$0 premium, which may sound attractive. However, monthly premiums are only one aspect of a plan. It is crucial to consider other factors that will affect your overall healthcare costs and quality of care. Verify whether your current doctors, specialists, and hospitals are included in the plan's network. Switch to a different plan only if you are comfortable with the participating healthcare providers. Make sure that the plan covers your medications, checking for any restrictions



be complex, but you don't have to do it alone. Several resources are available to help you make the best decision. The federal government operates an online tool that lets you compare different Medicare plans based on various criteria. The State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) offers free, local, and unbiased counseling to Medicare beneficiaries. Professional brokers and agents can provide tailored advice and guide you through different plan options. Many local communities offer free Medicare counseling sessions through senior centers or community organizations. If your current plan's coverage doesn't meet your needs, remember that there is another enrollment window during the first three months of each year, allowing some shoppers to make changes.

By starting early, staying informed, and leveraging available resources, you can more effectively navigate the complex landscape of Medicare options and find a plan that suits your needs for the upcoming year.

United Health Hack Affects 100M Clients

Oct 24 (Reuters) - The February hack at UnitedHealth's (UNH.N), opens new tab tech unit Change affected the personal information of 100 million people, the U.S. health department's website showed, making it the largest healthcare data breach in the country.

UnitedHealth has previously said that hackers potentially stole a third of Americans' data in one of the worst hacks to hit the U.S. healthcare sector. The company began notifying affected patients in June.

The number of impacted people was posted on a list of data breaches maintained by the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services' office for civil rights. A breach at the health insurer Anthem — now known as Elevance Health (ELV.N), opens new tab — in 2015 impacted nearly 79 million people in the U.S.

UnitedHealth said in a statement that the investigation is still in its final stages and it continues to notify potentially impacted individuals as quickly as possible.

The Change unit was breached by a hacking group called ALPHV, also known as "BlackCat." UnitedHealth first reported the breach on Feb. 21. The breach caused widespread disruptions in claims processing, impacting patients and providers across the country.

In June, UnitedHealth issued a public notice about the ransomware hack as part of its requirements to notify the estimated one-third of the country whose private data may have been exposed in the attack.

At the time, the company said that while it cannot confirm the nature of data, opens new tab affected by the breach, it could include health insurance member IDs, patient diagnoses, treatment information and social security numbers, as well as billing codes used by providers.

Earlier this month, the company forecast a business disruption impact of \$705 million, opens new tab this year from the hack that caused massive payment and other disruptions across the U.S. UnitedHealth issued billions of dollars in loans to providers affected by the hack and incurred costs related to notifying customers of the breach.



THE GOLDEN YEARS
By Judykay Jefferson

IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN

We are in the Medicare Gap, or "Medigap," Open Enrollment season. To make an informed decision I need to understand its implications and how it can affect my healthcare coverage. Unfortunately, it can seem impossible to get information addressing specific concerns, desires, and fears surrounding Medigap insurance that can help ensure comprehensive and stress-free healthcare planning.

Medicare Supplement Insurance helps cover some of the healthcare costs that Original Medicare doesn't, such as copayments, coinsurance, and deductibles. Open Enrollment for Medicare Advantage plans is a critical period, lasting six months, which begins the first month you have Medicare Part B and are 65 or older. During this period, seniors can purchase any Advantage policy available in their state without any medical underwriting. This means that the insurance company cannot use medical history to refuse coverage or charge higher premiums. For those of us who have been receiving Medicare benefits, Open Enrollment is going on now. To receive coverage starting on January 1, 2025, you need to choose a plan and enroll by December 7, 2024. Here's where it become tricky. From the first day of Open Enrollment until the last, you will be bombarded with unsolicited advice, and tons of junk mail. I'm here to tell you that the confusion and frustration you may experience is more the rule than the exception. This list of frustrations, desires, and fears speaks to the challenges and implications of making wise and informed choices.

Common Frustrations:
Complexity of Plans: The multitude of Medigap plans available can be overwhelming. Understanding the differences between Plan A through Plan N requires sifting through extensive information, leading many to feel frustrated or confused.

Conflicting Information: Seniors often receive contradicting advice from various sources. Navigating diverse and sometimes conflicting information from Medicare, insurance providers, and independent advisors can complicate decision-making.

Common Desires:
Comprehensive Coverage: We all want an assurance that we have sufficient coverage for medical expenses. The goal is to minimize out-of-pocket costs and ensure peace of mind regarding healthcare security.

Affordability: Most seniors need cost-effective solutions. Affordable premiums or preferably no monthly premiums are sought to maintain manageable healthcare expenses post-retirement.

Common Fears:
Fear of Coverage Denials: Concerns about being denied coverage can loom large. Pre-existing conditions may not affect Medigap applications during the open enrollment, but many have fears from earlier insurance experiences.

Unanticipated Healthcare Expenses: Worry about uncovered medical bills remains significant. The financial burden of unexpected hospitalizations or treatments is a major concern, even with supplemental insurance.

Addressing these senior-focused concerns involves accurate information, tailored guidance, and emphasizing the importance of making informed decisions. I am sure you received Medicare & You 2025, the official U.S. government Medicare handbook. Honestly, this is the first time I actually looked at it. I was pleasantly surprised with the comprehensive information provided. Check it out.

Last year, I was forced to change plans because my health system was no longer working with my provider. This year I sought professional advice from Burtasha Savage. A source of much confusion is distinguishing between Medigap and Medicare Advantage plans. Ms. Savage explained, "Medigap and Advantage plans are completely different. Advantage plans can have zero premiums. The Supplement Medigap plans come with large premiums, no network, and do not include prescription coverage. Also, you will have to answer health questions if you're not in the Open Enrollment period." After providing a list of my health care providers and prescription medications we got together, and she provided a side-by-side comparison of several plans and my current provider. She insured my doctors were in-network and provided the costs of my medications at four different pharmacies, including Harris Teeter and Walmart. We completed the enrollment forms, and I truly believe I have made the best choices available for insurance coverage.

Ultimately, Open Enrollment should be a period of opportunity to tailor your healthcare coverage in a way that supports your health and financial needs. The biggest challenge is understanding the available plan options, seeking advice, and making informed decisions that suit your lifestyle. The goal is alleviating worries about future medical expenses and continuing being proactive participants in your health management.

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Arts & Culture

NC Museum Of History Undergoes \$180 Million Makeover

By: Jordan Meadows

Staff Writer

The North Carolina Museum of History, a cherished institution affiliated with the Smithsonian, is set to undergo a transformative renovation that will redefine how visitors engage with the state's history.

The extensive project is expected to take two to three years and will include significant upgrades to the museum's exhibits and facilities.

Established in 1902 as the Hall of History, the museum began its phased closure on June 3 when the third-floor exhibits shut down. The entire museum building closed its doors to the public on October 7. However, the Museum Shop will remain open until December 29, allowing visitors to purchase mementos and gifts during the transition period.

"We're embarking on an incredible journey, and what awaits us on the other side is nothing short of extraordinary—reimagined exhibits that will bring North Carolina history to life,"

said Brad Wilson, interim director of the N.C. Museum of History.

The renovation will be the first major update since the museum opened in its current location on 5 East Edenton Street in 1994.

Planned improvements include the replacement of the building's HVAC system, the installation of a new freight elevator, and essential repairs to address leaks throughout the facility. Additionally, the museum will safely relocate its collection of 150,000 artifacts to ensure their preservation during the renovation.

While the physical museum undergoes this significant transformation, the museum remains committed to education and public engagement. Students and educators across North Carolina will have access to digital resources, and a variety of virtual programs and live events will be available to the public throughout the renovation period. Plans for immersive digital exhibit tours are also in development.

In the lead-up to the closure, the

museum encouraged the community to visit and experience its current exhibitions, which culminated in a special celebration. The Longleaf Film Festival on May 10 and 11, 2024, was the museum's final major event before the transformation began, featuring films that highlight North Carolina's deep cultural heritage.

Funding for the \$180 million project, authorized by the North Carolina General Assembly and Governor Roy Cooper, comes from the state budget. The museum received \$39.2 million in the last budget. The museum gets 465,000 visitors a year, including over 83,000 schoolchildren, according to its website.

Its square footage won't change, but the renovations will make the museum "feel energetic and alive," with "more information, more opportunity for interactive, colorful displays," Wilson said.

The North Carolina Museum of History hosted its largest exhibit, The Story of North Carolina, from 2011 to 2024. This expansive display show-

cased over 14,000 years of the state's history, highlighting everything from its earliest inhabitants to the 20th century. Visitors could explore a variety of artifacts, multimedia presentations, dioramas, and interactive elements.

Another significant event is the African American Cultural Celebration, which marks the beginning of Black History Month in North Carolina. This vibrant celebration includes presentations, demonstrations, and performances that honor the contributions of African Americans to the state's history and culture.

The upcoming renovation project is expected to take two to three years to complete.

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Event Spotlight: All Girls Matter EmpowHERment Conference

By: Jheri Worldwide

Staff Writer

The All Girls Matter EmpowHERment Conference can only be described with one word, energy. We began the day dancing and continued to celebrate as we learned and built together throughout the day. America's Big Sisters Foundation seeks to empower, encourage, educate, and enlighten young women to become independent, self-sufficient, goal-oriented, positive, individuals who can excel in society by breaking cycles of lack through empowerment programs. As of 2024, The All Girls Matter EmpowHERment Conference program has been facilitated in 15 states!

The Montgomery, Alabama conference leaders included founder and visionary Dr. Tragil Wade-Johnson,

mistress of ceremonies Erica Sidney a proud graduate of Alabama State University, and City Lead Lenora Price. This exceptional group of inspiring women truly delivered and elevated everyone in the room.

America's Big Sisters hosted the conference on the campus of Alabama State University. We began with a presentation from Melissa Stallworth from ASU admissions discussing the academic programs and career development opportunities. The Dancing Beats of Montgomery were next with an explosive performance raising the energy even higher.

Our keynote came from Dr. Wade-Johnson coach, philanthropist, author, speaker, consultant, and community leader. Dr. Tragil delivered a powerful message about growing up unhoused in Chicago, Illinois after her mother's incarceration.

She shared her story in a powerful way through the young ladies in the crowd. She asked a 12-year-old to raise her hand and shared that at 12 her mother went to prison and she became responsible for her brother Dwayne Wade. She asked for a 16-year-old to raise their hand, Dr. Tragil shared that at 16 she dealt with sex trafficking. "Life is going life but I developed a belief system," Dr. Wade-Johnson emphasized how she leveraged her belief in a higher power to build confidence, resilience, adaptability, and the ability to be empathetic toward others.

After a few breakout sessions for parents and several small groups for the participants, we all came back together for more dancing, prizes, and a career panel discussion. Important topics were addressed and candid conversations took place as the young

girls asked questions and sought a better understanding of what work-life balance really looks like.

Event sponsors included Introverts Heart and Alabama State University. Community vendors were C&C Ice Box Jewelry, All Things Positive, Sereniti Jewels, Mella Creations LLC and many others.

My biggest takeaway was the reminder of the transformative power of community. The girls, the parents, and the facilitators were all able to gain insights and reminders that when we serve our community the impact is bigger than us. We are stronger together and we are not alone. The leadership hopes to bring the conference to North Carolina in the fall of 2025. If you're interested in participating please reach out to Jheri@Caro.news.



Pictured Celena McBryde, Celina, and Dr Tragil Wade-Johnson



(L-R) Asia Fields, Kyra Gustus, Lizbeth Luna-Lopez

Wake Students Excel In Project SEED

Congratulations to Wake County Public Schools students Asia Fields and Kyra Gustus who attend Wake Young Women's Leadership Academy and Durham Public Schools student Lizbeth Luna-Lopez for their research with the NC American Chemical Society (ACS) Project SEED program. Asia's research completed at North Carolina State University was "Development of an Optimized Ink Formulation for Inkjet Printing Using Alizarin on Polyester". Kyra's research completed at Campbell University was "Engineering the E1 subunit of alpha-ketoglutarate dehydrogenase complex (SucA) for benzoin synthesis". Lizbeth's research completed at North Carolina State University was "Adapting Green Solid-Phase Peptide Synthesis Procedures Using HBTU as the Coupling Reagent". Their research was presented at the Southeastern Regional Meeting of the American Chemical Society (SERMACS) at the AmericasMart Atlanta Convention Center in Atlanta, GA on Saturday, October 26, 2024. Asia Fields, Kyra Gustus and Lizbeth Luna-Lopez were three of 25 high school students who presented research along with hundreds of undergraduate students.

NC Project SEED is an elite summer research program funded by the National and NC American Chemical Society. Each NC Project SEED high school student is mentored by a university professor at either North Carolina State University, North Carolina

Central University, UNC Chapel Hill or Campbell University.

Students interested in applying for the 2025-26 NC ACS Project SEED send an email to fmeneal3@gmail.com. Include your name, name of your high school, and cell phone number in your email.

Black Women Notch Historic Senate Wins

WASHINGTON (AP) — Voters for the first time elected two Black women to serve simultaneously in the Senate and sent an openly transgender lawmaker to Congress on Tuesday. They're among historic choices in nearly a dozen races showing Americans opting for more diverse representation even with issues such as affirmative action and LGBTQ inclusion driving deeper divisions.

Delaware's Lisa Blunt Rochester and Maryland's Angela Alsobrooks prevailed in their races, doubling the number of Black women ever elected to the Senate — from two to four. And Delaware voters elected Sarah McBride in an at-large House race, making her the first openly transgender person elevated to Congress.

The victories come in an election year defined in part by historic firsts.

"Marking these milestones does two things: One, it celebrates the increasing diversity that we are seeing in women's political representation, whether it be in a state or nationally," said Kelly Dittmar, director of research at Rutgers University's Center for American Women and Politics.

"But at the same time, it reminds us that we have more work to do," said Dittmar, noting that U.S. women overall aren't represented equitably in elected offices and that Black, Hispanic and Asian Americans, as well as Native Americans, lag behind their share of the population.

Other historic firsts in the Senate on Tuesday include New Jersey's Andy Kim, who became the first Asian American elected to represent the Garden State in the Senate and also the first Korean-American elected in the Senate. Republican Bernie Moreno of Ohio became the



first Latino to represent the state.

Never in the Senate have two Black women served at the same time. Kamala Harris was only the second Black woman and first South Asian woman to serve in the Senate, before she was elected vice president. From 2021 to 2023, the chamber was without Black female representation until California Gov. Gavin Newsom appointed Laphonza Butler to a vacancy created by the death of Sen. Dianne Feinstein.

Blunt Rochester, a Democrat who currently represents the at-large congressional district of Delaware, becomes the first woman and first Black person to represent Delaware in the Senate. Alsobrooks, a Democrat and former executive of Prince George's County, Maryland, is also the first Black woman to represent her state in the Senate.

"It's remarkable to think that in two years, America will celebrate its 250th birthday," Alsobrooks said during a victory speech Tuesday evening. "And in all those years, there have been more than 2,000 people who have served in the United States Senate. Only three have looked like me."

"And so I want to salute all those who came before me, who made it possible for me to stand on this stage tonight, whose sacrifices and stories I will continue to carry with me," she added to cheers from supporters.

Their victories raise the number of Black members of the Senate to five, the most to serve together in history. Still, the Senate's 100 members have historically been, and continue to be, mostly white men.

"We increased our representation of Black women in the Senate by

100%," said Aimee Allison, founder and president of She the People, a national organizing hub for recruiting and electing women of color in politics.

"I've been in electoral politics for 30 years and, for the vast majority of that time, Black women have played an outsized role as voters and organizers, but had been defeated, often by fellow Democrats in primaries, because we were dismissed as being unelectable," Allison said.

"It's a testament to the evolution of Black women as political players in this country," Allison added. "Some of the things that stumped us are kind of baked into a system that have kept Black women out of the Senate. We have figured out additional paths to be successful."

McBride, a Democratic state senator in Delaware, already made history in 2020 when she was elected the only openly transgender state senator in the country. That followed a rise in national recognition for McBride, who became the first transgender speaker to address a major party convention during the 2016 Democratic National Convention.

Her elevation to Congress comes as transgender issues have proven divisive in American politics. From bans on biological males playing in women's and girls' sports and bans on books with LGBTQ themes, to debates over gender-affirming pronouns and gender-neutral bathrooms, visibility of transgender people in politics could keep those issues at the forefront of debates about acceptance and tolerance.

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Community

Pillars of Progress: African American Icons Uplifting Us

For generations, African American icons in Wake County and across North Carolina have been pillars of strength, courage, and vision, leading us forward and creating opportunities once thought unreachable. Leaders like Senator Vernon Malone, Speaker Dan Blue, Mayor Clarence Lightner, Judge Cressie Thigpen, Harold Webb, Coach Williams, and Councilman James West have paved the way through relentless dedication to justice, education, economic empowerment, and civil rights.

These pioneers have built a legacy of progress, lifted our community and ensured that the dreams and voices of African Americans are not only heard but celebrated. Because of their contributions, we've come farther than ever before—from electing the first Black officials to breaking barriers in education, business, and public service. Today, their impact extends beyond Wake County, inspiring future generations to lead with the same passion and purpose. As we honor their achievements, we look to the future with renewed commitment, striving to continue the journey they so boldly began.

Speaker Dan Blue, a distinguished figure in the North Carolina Senate, has made an indelible mark on state politics. As the first African American to serve as Speaker of the North Carolina House of Representatives, Blue championed significant legislative reforms aimed at improving education, healthcare, and social justice.

His steadfast commitment to equality and representation has opened doors for countless individuals, fostering a more inclusive environment within the state government. Blue's leadership as the first African American to serve as the NC

Senate Minority Leader continues to inspire future leaders to engage in public service and advocacy, shaping policies that uplift the entire community and State of North Carolina.

Mayor Clarence Lightner made history as Raleigh's first Black mayor and the first African American mayor of a major Southern city. His tenure was marked by initiatives that promoted economic development and community engagement, laying the groundwork for future leaders to build upon his vision of inclusivity and civic pride.

Senator Vernon Malone led with a mission for educational equity, ensuring all children in Wake County had access to quality schools. His dedication to inclusive education remains a cornerstone of our community's values. served not only as a dedicated advocate for educational equity but also as a State Senator, where he championed policies that improved public schools for all children in Wake County and beyond. His legacy is one of accessibility and inclusion, inspiring future leaders to fight for the rights of students regardless of their backgrounds.

Judge Cressie Thigpen made history as one of the first African American judges in our community, serving as a Special Superior Court Judge from May 2008 until his 2010 appointment to the Court of Appeals. Previously, he was a partner in the law firm now known as Blue, Stephens & Fellers. In 1999, he was elected president of the North Carolina State Bar, becoming the first African American to hold that post. His dedication to fairness and equality has established a benchmark for future judges, inspiring young lawyers and public servants to pursue careers in law with

integrity and purpose. Judge Thigpen's influence extends beyond the courtroom; he has been a mentor to many, advocating for community engagement and the importance of representation in the legal system. His legacy of service and commitment to justice continues to inspire future generations to uphold the principles of equity and accountability in their pursuit of justice.

Harold Webb championed civil

rights, education, and community advancement in Raleigh. As a devoted public servant, he worked tirelessly to create opportunities, expand equality, and strengthen the city's economic and social foundations, leaving a legacy.

Councilman James West devoted his career to advocating for Raleigh's diverse communities, pushing for economic development, affordable housing, and equal opportunities.

His leadership on the Raleigh City Council has helped ensure that every resident's voice is valued, strengthening the bonds within our community.

Coach George Williams has left a lasting legacy at St. Augustine's University, where he not only cultivated athletic excellence but also nurtured character development among his players. His commitment to mentorship and academic achievement has transformed the lives of many young

men and women, emphasizing the importance of integrity, discipline, and teamwork. Under his guidance, athletes have excelled both on the field and in their academic pursuits, becoming role models in the community. Coach Williams' dedication to empowering youth reflects the larger mission of St. Augustine's University to develop leaders who contribute positively to society.

As we celebrate the milestones achieved by these icons, it's crucial to recognize that the journey toward equity and representation is ongoing. One of the most powerful tools at our disposal is the act of voting. Through participation in elections, we empower ourselves and our communities to influence the policies that affect our lives.

The legacy of leaders like Senator Vernon Malone and Speaker Dan Blue serves as a reminder of the importance of representation in government. They fought for access and inclusion, but their efforts must be complemented by our active participation in the democratic process.

Voting is not just a right; it is a responsibility. It is our opportunity to voice our needs, advocate for justice, and support candidates who share our vision for a better community. When we vote, we honor the sacrifices made by those who paved the way for us and continue the legacy of progress they established.

As we look to the future, let us commit to making our voices heard at the ballot box. Together, we can create lasting change, ensuring that the dreams and aspirations of our community are realized and that the pillars of progress continue to stand strong for generations to come.



From left to right: Speaker Dan Blue, Mayor Clarence Lightner, and Senator Vernon Malone.



From left to right: Judge Cressie Thigpen, Harold Webb, Councilman James West, and Coach George Williams.



On Sunday, October 20, 2024, The White Rock Baptist Church in Durham, N.C. celebrated its 158 Church Anniversary. As part of this celebration, the Brothers of the Beta Phi Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc were honored along with other Divine 9 Organizations with a plaque for their continued contributions and community service to Durham Community. Pictured L-R are brothers Stoney Brown, Basileus-Kumani Simmons, Former Basileus Samuel Harrison & Victor Vaughan.

Business Spotlight: Juiced! on Rock Quarry

By: Jheri Worldwide

Staff Writer

Have you started your juice journey? With innumerable food recalls, over-processed fast foods, and skyrocketing restaurant prices it is time to be conscious consumers of fresh and filling foods that pour into us and our community. A great start would be to visit one of the two locations of Juiced! Juiced describes themselves as, "Raleigh's #1 holistic herb and natural Smoothie and Juice Shop. We make our community healthier by serving raw, fresh and whole alternative ingredients every day!" From juice to sea moss, to other herbs and delicious treats, Juiced is a must-stop shop with two convenient locations on Rock Quarry Road past Southeast Raleigh High School on the left and Hill Street next to St Augustine's University opposite White's barber-shop. My go-to smoothie is the Rise n Grind, but I also enjoy building my own.

Juiced is more than just fresh and refreshing food and drink, they are about a healthy lifestyle mentally

and physically. You can participate in yoga, run club, and open mic nights on Thursday evenings. They even accommodate private events! The open mic nights are transformative experiences. On a Thursday night you'll find established and up-and-coming DJs, local singers, rappers, poets, entrepreneurs, and everything in between sharing with the community in positive and uplifting ways. This vibe is what Raleigh needed and has been waiting for. A safe and healthy space to connect and build.

An important element to highlight about Juiced is the welcoming vibe. This family-owned and operated local business has truly cultivated a safe, fun, and encouraging space for everyone. From the soft and comfortable chairs to the wall of fame honoring frequent customers you can feel that the owners care for the community in all the ways that truly matter the most.

The last detail to emphasize is the quality. Juiced shared, "Our focus is to take our customers on a 'Juiced Journey', a lifestyle change powered by our devotion to healthy and nutri-

tional products. At Juiced, our driving force is to remain at the center of our community's health! For the customer, Juiced will become synonymous with a healthy lifestyle. We use raw fruit and vegetables always blended to order. We don't mask our super-smoothies with sherbets, syrups & frozen yogurts, instead, we let the natural nutrient-dense ingredients blend into an invigorating

drink. We will passionately serve the needs of our customers, continuously exceeding our customer's expectations and courageously guiding our customers into a brave new world of better health. On each step of the way, Juiced will be a reminder that you are not on this journey alone."

Drop by a Juiced location today! Tell them you read about them in *The Carolinian*.



Wake County Stars Of Education Honored At WakeEd Gala Event

RALEIGH, N.C. — WakeEd Partnership honored Wake County's Stars of Education on last Wednesday, October 30th, at its annual gala event at the Raleigh Convention Center.

WakeEd Partnership is honored Representative Rosa Gill with this year's Vernon Malone Friend of Education Award presented by the YMCA of the Triangle. Gill, who is not seeking reelection this year after 7 terms in the North Carolina House, is being honored for decades of leadership and public service for the children of Wake County including 20 years in the classroom, 10 years on the Wake County Board of Education and 15 years in the General Assembly. Since 1990, this award has been presented to an individual who has made significant contributions to public education and shares the qualities of the late Senator Vernon Malone, who advocated tirelessly for every child to have equitable opportunities.

"Rosa Gill has been a positive force for our public schools for decades, first as a classroom teacher, then serving in leadership on the Wake County Board of Education, and the last 15 years fighting for public education and children's issues at the North Carolina General Assembly," said Keith Poston, President, WakeEd Partnership. "Rosa

Gill has literally seen it all and given her all for the children of Wake County and we've been so blessed as a state to have visionary leaders like Rosa Gill who understand the transformative and foundational power of public schools."

Six honorees joined the Wake County Public School System Hall of Fame. Since 2013, the WCPSS Hall of Fame has recognized individuals who have made an impact locally in the categories of Arts, Athletics, Business, Community Service, Education, and Entrepreneurship.

The Class of 2024 inductees are:

- Arts | Sara Maria Blanton, Founder & Executive Director, Raleigh Music Collective
- Athletics | Mark Indermaur, Founder, Indermaur Chess Foundation
- Business | Brad Wilson, Former President and CEO, Blue Cross Blue Shield of NC
- Community Service | Barb Walsh, Founder & Executive Director, Fentanyl Victims Network of North Carolina
- Education | Dr. Valencia Hicks-Harris, Founder & Executive Director, Empower All, Inc.
- Entrepreneurship | Community Workforce Solutions



Rep. Rosa Gill

Last year WakeEd Partnership announced the creation of a new teacher award for one Wake County Public School System (WCPSS) teacher – the "Star Among Us" Award; and the creation of a new student award for one WCPSS senior high school student – the "Emerging Star" Award. Both awards include a \$5,000 prize for each recipient and were presented at the Stars of Education Gala.

The "Emerging Star" Award was presented this year by Wolfspeed to Nabihah Rahman. Nabihah is a rising senior at Green Hope High School in Cary, NC. Students were nominated by their administrative staff,

with input from teachers and other staff members across WCPSS's high schools. There were 37 nominations in total, with 12 finalists including Ms. Rahman.

The "Star Among Us" Award was presented this year by Equitable to Bugg Magnet Elementary's Aneesa McKenzie-Thompson. Teachers were nominated through an open-community nomination process. During this time, over 200 nominations from across the district were submitted. Teachers nominated self-selected to participate further in the process. In the end, 9 finalists were selected including Ms. McKenzie-Thompson.



WakeEd Partnership's Stars of Education Over 500 people attended WakeEd Partnership's Stars of Education at Raleigh's convention center on last Wednesday night. The group celebrated leaders in the arts, athletics, business, community service, education and entrepreneurship. The group also recognized Emerging Star, Nabihah Rahman. She is a senior at Green Hope High School. Teacher, Aneesa McKenzie-Thompson, received the Star Among Us award and Representative Rosa Gill received the Vernon Malone: Friend of Education award. *Mathias Bishop Photos*



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

Editorials

How Can Social Security be Saved?

My wife and I have been receiving monthly Social Security payments for several years. We also receive monthly payments from other retirement programs, so we are lucky not to depend only on Social Security for financial support. Still, Social Security is an important part of our monthly income.

This means that like the other 68 million people who receive regular Social Security checks, we are worried. Why? Because on its current path, everyone's Social Security check will be cut by almost 20% in 10 years. Stated another way, by the mid-2030s Social Security won't have enough incoming revenue to pay what the system promised to recipients.

The reason is demographics. For decades we have been moving toward a larger-age-heavy population. The big "baby boomer" generation — of which my wife and I are members — has been increasing the number of Social Security recipients. Also, older people are living longer. And to add to the problem, with all-time low birth rates, at some point we could see an actual decline in workers who contribute to Social Security. This is important because Social Security payments to retirees depend both on what the retirees contributed as well as what current workers are paying.

We've been down this path before. Social Security faced shortfalls in the 1980s, also due to the same types of demographic changes. A commission was appointed to find a solution. They did, and Social Security has been running on that solution for over 40 years. Among the elements of the solution were an increase in Social Security tax rates and an increase in the age for receiving full Social Security benefits.

I predict we will follow the same process for dealing with today's Social Security problem. I expect a broad-based commission will be formed in the early 2030s, and it will agree on a fix for keeping Social Security financially solvent.

So what might the solution be? In my viewpoint, there are only four options: increase Social Security revenues, decrease Social Security benefits, both increase Social Security revenues and decrease benefits, or scrap the current Social Security system and install a totally new system.

Let me give some details on each of these possibilities. To increase revenues, there are two major options. One is to increase the Social Security tax rate on earnings, which is currently 6.2% paid both by the employee and employer on the first \$168,000 of earnings. Why is there an income limit for the tax? It's because Social Security benefits to recipients stop rising at the limit. If taxes were paid on earnings above that limit, then the worker would be paying more but without receiving higher benefits. The framers of Social Security in the 1930s wanted to avoid Social Security being viewed as a welfare program. Incidentally, the payment limit (now \$168,000) is raised each year by the previous year's inflation rate.

The second option is to scrap the earnings limit and apply the Social Security tax to all earnings, even while continuing to use the limit to stop increases in benefits for people with earnings above the limit. Of course, this would turn Social Security into a partial welfare program, meaning recipients with earnings above the limit would pay more but with no additional benefits.

Social Security can easily change payments by adjusting the formula used to calculate those payments. Currently, Social Security breaks a worker's lifetime income into segments, applies a factor to each of those segments, and then does a calculation to determine the worker's monthly payment from Social Security. Payments can easily be altered higher or lower by adjusting the segments and the factors for each segment. Also, Social Security can make different changes for different income groups. So, for example, if it wanted to, the Social Security system could reduce payments to recipients with higher earnings and raise payments to recipients with lower earnings. Indeed, under the current system, lower income earnings receive a higher percentage of their earnings in Social Security benefits than higher income earners.

Social Security uses past inflation rates in many of its calculations to make earnings in past years comparable to the purchasing power of earnings in more recent years. But since there are numerous measures of price inflation, Social Security can lower payments by choosing a less generous inflation measure. This is also a possibility.

Many would consider the changes discussed above as minor adjustments. These critics argue Social Security should go bold in its next set of changes. One long-discussed option is the idea of investing some of Social Security's revenues in the stock market. Currently Social Security is legally limited to investing funds in U.S. Treasury securities. Although safe, these investments pay a relatively low rate of return.

While over the long run investors will earn a much better rate of return in the stock market, there's always the possibility they won't over a specific time period. The framers of Social Security also worried about the influence Social Security could have on the stock market with its large investments, and they wanted to avoid this.

My guess is the next commission on Social Security will choose the option of increasing some revenues while reducing some payments, mainly for higher income earners. This is the approach used by the 1980s commission.

With a few exceptions, virtually everyone in the country is already receiving Social Security benefits now or will when they retire. This means dealing with the looming shortfall in Social Security is very, very important. In a few years, there will be a commission to save Social Security. My advice is to listen to what is proposed, and then decide what is best.

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

Talk To Us

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

Late Tuesday evening Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu dismissed his defense minister, Yoav Gallant. This is also around the time Donald Trump was racing to victory. Could it be that Netanyahu, on the heels of the forthcoming Trump presidency, knew that his war on Gaza must come to an end?



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A Different Voice

By Dorothy Shaw Thompson



PSALMS 23

Yesterday, our Sunday school lesson was on Psalm 23, a scripture most of us know by heart. I learned it as a kid, along with memorizing the books of the Bible and the Christian flag. I believe I learned these during vacation Bible school, and I still use these memorized scriptures at 78 years old.

Considering that by the time you read this, all the votes for President and other offices should have been cast and hopefully counted, I will say that I believe Kamala Harris is going to be the 47th President. Of course, I don't know this for sure; it's just a feeling I have. I mentioned the 23rd Psalm because I thought yesterday about what great words they are for us if our candidate does not win. What great words they are for everyday life, everyday mentality, and healthy living.

A news report suggested that some members of the KKK are saying that they are going to start targeting Black women for elimination if Donald Trump does not win the election. This article suggests that Black women should be careful and start going out with someone for safety. I have two questions about this. First, am I asking if I am quaking in my boots? No. The other question is, how is going out in groups going to protect us from rifles and automatic weapons? It seems to me it gives them more people to

shoot at one time. Actually, I think a better solution would be to take them at their word and arrest and prosecute them for the decision to deny a group their freedom.

If Black women start being afraid of misguided white men at this point, we are coming too late to the game. Whites of this ilk have always had an issue with Black women, as rape is a desire borne of both sex and power. Those with these thoughts have always wanted to both destroy and possess us. Where do you think our mulatto children came from? Slave women certainly did not find their masters attractive, and slave narratives report they couldn't even pretend to in order to save their lives.

I believe I am going to be on this journey until the day or night stated in my life plan comes up, and then I will head back home to the banquet, just as Jesus stated in the parables of the prodigal son. So, I take Psalm 23 literally, guys. I don't fear evil as I walk through the valley of the shadow of death that Earth presents, for I know who is with me. He can allow a bullet to hit me as my ticket home, or He could step in the way of it, just as He did with the boys in the fiery furnace, or change the lion's taste for flesh in the case of Daniel in the lions' den.

Some of you so-called Christian soldiers of the KKK might want to pick up a Bible and read it before you start making threats. While you are scared that Trump, your great white hope, might not make it, I'm thinking of Shirley Chisholm, Geraldine Ferraro, Hillary Clinton who won the popular vote, and Kamala Harris, who will forever be the first woman and Black person to be Vice President of the United States. They have already made it, so you are wasting your time and energy trying to destroy God's creation. We have and will continue to overcome. One of these old days, you will see a table prepared for us in the presence of our enemies, and I will even offer you a plate if allowed, for I am truly sorry for your foolish rhetoric and ignorance.

One of our brothers said it best: the new KKK stands for Kamala, Ketanji, and CK)rockett.

Church

Obituaries

Quincy Jones Dies At Age 91

(AP) Quincy Jones, the multitalented music titan whose vast legacy ranged from producing Michael Jackson's historic "Thriller" album to writing prize-winning film and television scores and collaborating with Frank Sinatra, Ray Charles and hundreds of other recording artists, has died at 91.

Jones' publicist, Arnold Robinson, says he died Sunday night at his home in the Bel Air section of Los Angeles, surrounded by his family. Jones was to have received an honorary Academy Award later this month.

"Tonight, with full but broken hearts, we must share the news of our father and brother Quincy Jones' passing," the family said in a statement. "And although this is an incredible loss for our family, we celebrate the great life that he lived and know there will never be another like him."

Jones rose from running with gangs on the South Side of Chicago to the very heights of show business, becoming one of the first Black executives to thrive in Hollywood and amassing an extraordinary musical catalog that includes some of the richest moments of American rhythm and song. For years, it was unlikely to find a music lover who did not own at least one record with his name on it, or a leader in the entertainment industry and beyond who did not have some connection to him.

Jones kept company with presidents and foreign leaders, movie stars and musicians, philanthropists and business leaders. He toured with Count Basie and Lionel Hampton, arranged records for Sinatra and Ella Fitzgerald, composed the soundtracks for "Roots" and "In the Heat of the Night," organized President Bill Clinton's first inaugural celebration and oversaw the all-star recording of "We Are the World," the 1985 charity record for famine relief in Africa.

Lionel Richie, who co-wrote "We Are the World" and was among the featured singers, would call Jones



"the master orchestrator."

In a career which began when records were still played on platters turning at 78 rpm, top honors likely go to his productions with Jackson: "Off the Wall," "Thriller" and "Bad" were albums near-universal in their style and appeal. Jones' versatility and imagination helped set off the explosive talents of Jackson as he transformed from child star to the "King of Pop." On such classic tracks as "Billie Jean" and "Don't Stop 'Til You Get Enough," Jones and Jackson fashioned a global soundscape out of disco, funk, rock, pop, R&B and jazz and African chants. For "Thriller," some of the most memorable touches originated with Jones, who recruited Eddie Van Halen for a guitar solo on the genre-fusing "Beat It" and brought in Vincent Price for a ghoulish voiceover on the title track. "Thriller" sold more than 20 million copies in 1983 alone and has contended with the Eagles' "Greatest Hits 1971-1975" among others as the best-selling album of all time.

"If an album doesn't do well, everyone says 'it was the producers fault'; so if it does well, it should be your 'fault,' too," Jones said in an interview with the Library of Congress in 2016. "The tracks don't just all of a sudden appear. The producer has to have the skill, experience and ability to guide the vision to comple-

tion."

The list of his honors and awards fills 18 pages in his 2001 autobiography "Q," including 27 Grammys at the time (now 28), an honorary Academy Award (now two) and an Emmy for "Roots." He also received France's Legion d'Honneur, the Rudolph Valentino Award from the Republic of Italy and a Kennedy Center tribute for his contributions to American culture. He was the subject of a 1990 documentary, "Listen Up: The Lives of Quincy Jones," and a 2018 film by daughter Rashida Jones. His memoir made him a best-selling author.

Born in Chicago in 1933, Jones would cite the hymns his mother sang around the house as the first music he could remember. But he looked back sadly on his childhood, once telling Oprah Winfrey that "There are two kinds of people: those who have nurturing parents or caretakers, and those who don't. Nothing's in between." Jones' mother suffered from emotional problems and was eventually institutionalized, a loss that made the world seem "senseless" for Quincy. He spent much of his time in Chicago on the streets, with gangs, stealing and fighting.

"They nailed my hand to a fence with a switchblade, man," he told the AP in 2018, showing a scar from his childhood.

Music saved him. As a boy, he learned that a Chicago neighbor owned a piano and he soon played it constantly himself. His father moved to Washington state when Quincy was 10 and his world changed at a neighborhood recreation center. Jones and some friends had broken into the kitchen and helped themselves to lemon meringue pie when Jones noticed a small room nearby with a stage. On the stage was a piano.

"I went up there, paused, stared, and then tinkled on it for a moment," he wrote in his autobiography. "That's where I began to find peace. I was 11. I knew this was it for me. Forever."

SERMON of the WEEK



JUST TRUST GOD

By Evangelist Veronica Johnson

"The Lord also will be a refuge for the oppressed, a refuge in times of trouble. And they that know thy name will put their trust in thee: for thou, Lord, hast not forsaken them that seek thee." Psalms 9:9-10 KJV

Our scripture reminds us that God will never leave us amid oppression or attack. God is our stronghold. The scripture teaches that we can and should turn to God in the midst of our struggles. David tells us that the Lord will be a refuge for the oppressed, a refuge in times of trouble.

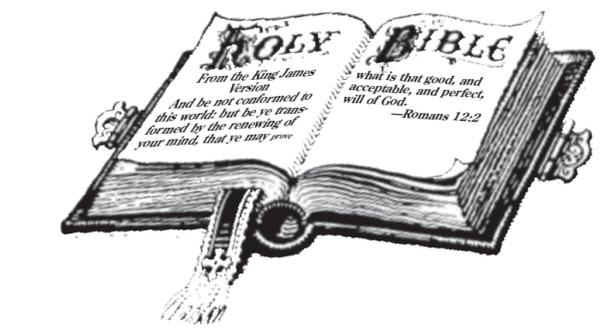
What does it mean to trust God & how does it work?

It's not always easy to Just Trust God in the midst of situations and circumstances, especially when devastation and destruction surround us. It's not always easy to "Just Trust God" when you've been diagnosed with an illness and the doctors say you have only a few months to live. It's not easy when you've cried and prayed, and nothing seems to change.

Let's reference our key text in Psalms 9:10, "and they that know thy name will put their trust in thee: for thou, Lord, hast not forsaken them that seek thee."

There is tension all over the world. There is racial and political tension, climate control tensions, inflation and economic tensions, financial tensions, healthcare tensions, marital tensions, single-ness tensions, work tensions, and friendship tensions.

We want to trust God, but some-



times it's difficult! But there is good news to share. There is a way to Just Trust God. We must know who God is and what his heart and intentions are for us.

The book of Psalms reminds us that God is faithful and just. When we trust in God, he quiets our hearts. The Bible shows us that God is, has been, and will always be faithful in times of trouble. I suppose that's why David declares in our scripture text, "And they that know thy name will put their trust in thee."

Scholars say that David probably wrote this particular psalm after claiming victory over the Philistines. Do you remember the Philistine army in 1 Chronicles 18:1? It tells us that "David smote the Philistines and subdued them." In other words, David took control of the Philistine army by force.

When we examine David's life, we can begin to see why he trusted God. The Bible tells us that David was considered "a man after God's own heart" (1 Samuel 13:14).

We know that in 1 Samuel Chapter 17, David defeats a 9-foot-tall giant named Goliath. We also know that in 2 Samuel Chapter 11, he became a fugitive on the run and yet escaped death from the hands of the jealous King Saul.

It's one thing to read about God's faithfulness and all the things God brought David through, but it's another to know Him for yourself. To take inventory of your own life and see just what God has done for you personally. To look back on how God has worked in your own life and trust that if He did it before,

He will do it again. You must remember what God has brought you through and trust that if he has done it before, he will do it again.

Trusting God also requires us to surrender. Surrender our will and control and depend totally on God. It requires us to recognize that we need God in our lives. Proverbs 3:5-6 "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; And lean not to thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths."

Surrender over your plans, disappointments, hurt, and pain to allow things to happen God's way! Surrender everything over to the one and only God!

Trusting God requires us to 1) know who God is; 2) surrender our ways to his ways; and 3) know His promises! We must know that He promised, in Hebrews 13:5, "He will never leave us nor forsake us."

He promised in Psalm 110:1 that "...He would make our enemies our footstool."

We must know His promise that "whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved" in Romans 10:13. "And whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be delivered in Joel 2:32.

God sent His only begotten son just for you and me. Jesus suffered, bled, and died for us all. JUST TRUST GOD.

Please visit our website at <https://www.lincolnparkchurch.com/> for sermons and other information regarding our ministry and community service.

Obituaries



DR. WILLIAM CULLEN GRANT

Dr. William Cullen Grant was born on Dec. 13, 1943, in Mullins, S.C. to Paul and Blanche Grant. He passed away peacefully on Oct. 13, 2024 in the comfort of his home in Cary, N.C. Dr. Grant was preceded in death by his two brothers Paul grant "Junior of Columbia, S.C. and Aubrey "Lil Buddy" Grant of Mullins, S.C.

Dr. Grant's intellect was extraordinary. At the age of 16, he graduated Valedictorian from Palmetto High School in 1961. Four years later, he repeated the academic feat of excellence at his beloved Livingstone College in Salisbury, N.C. where his studious nature earned him the nickname "Research." While studying at Livingstone, he met the love of his life, Harriett Wilks in 1966, they were married in Chester, S.C. Their union, which spanned 58 years, produced three sons, William, Paul, and

Robert, and a lifetime of memories complete with love and laughter.

Dr. Grant earned his Master of Science in 1969 and his Ph.D. in 1972 from North Carolina State University. In 1974, he became a professor at NC State University, where he was instrumental in fostering an environment where people could study and work without regard to race, religion, or gender.

In 2017, Dr. Grant retired after 43 years of teaching, research, and service at NCSU. In 2019, the NC State Biological Sciences stated that during his tenure, Dr. Grant "taught countless students, collaborated with colleagues across the university, and was a revered figure in the College of Sciences. Decades later, many students still consider Dr. Grant a friend and mentor who has inspired their lives and broadened their career pathways. In honor and celebration of his tenure, the William C. Grant Scholarship in the Dept. of Biological Sciences was created to assist undergraduate students, especially those who are first-generation college students."

Dr. Grant never met a stranger, because he was blessed with the rare ability of being genuine. His kindness and sincerity allowed him to be an effective mentor, who could relate and connect to people of all walks of life. Bill Grant was a man of God and a lifelong learner. He was a renaissance man and multi-tasker with eclectic taste. He could recite and

write poems, quote timely impactful scriptures, perform Mathematical equations at the highest levels, give detailed lectures on Biology, Zoology, and Comparative Anatomy, write dissertations, speak French, German, Ebonics, play chess, beat anyone on the TV game show Jeopardy, and make you laugh all while making you believe you are the most important person in the world.

Dr. Grant's family and his church family at Rush Metropolitan A.M.E. Zion Church were two of his biggest passions. For nearly half a century, Dr. Grant wore several hats at Rush, where he served as Sunday School Teacher, Sunday School Superintendent, Steward, Trustee, and in the early eighties a Boy Scout Master. Whenever any of his family members had to depart from his home, Dr. Grant would say these words: "Lord, go with them and guide them as you always do. Amen. It's the Daddy Prayer. It works!"

Dr. Grant was survived by his loving wife and best friend, Mrs. Harriett Grant of Cary, N.C., his sons William Cullen Grant II (Cheryl) Raleigh, N.C., Paul Marcus Grant (Shawnda) Louisburg, N.C., Robert Gill Wilkes Grant, Cary, N.C.; grandchildren, Brittany White, Meghan Alston, Malik Sidibeh, Matthew Sidibeh, Marissa Grant, Ashlyn McIntyre, and Robert Grant Junior, six great-grandchildren, many nieces, nephews, and cousins.



HARRIETT GWENDOLYN WILKS GRANT

Harriett Gwendolyn Wilks Grant was born on Nov. 26, 1944, in Chester, S.C. to Parla Wilks and Robbie Gill. She passed away peacefully on Oct. 20, 2024 in the comfort of her home in Cary, N.C.

Mrs. Grant was preceded in death by her brother Robert Gill Wilks of Chester, S.C. and devoted husband Dr. William C. Grant of Cary, N.C.

Mrs. Grant was an educator and historian who believed in God's promise and the premise that love conquers all. As a teacher, Mrs. Grant stressed excellence, and encouraged other to

maximize their potential in order to become the best versions of themselves. For over 30 years, she taught Social Studies in the N.C. Public School System. The majority of those years were at Apex Middle School, where she inspired many with instruction that often referenced the scriptures in life lessons she called "Teachable Moments."

A native of Chester, S.C., Mrs. Grant graduated from Finley High School in 1961. Her love for history led her to pursue her bachelors degree at Livingstone College in Salisbury, N.C., where she met the love of her life, William C. Grant. A love story for the ages, Harriett and William or "Dug" as she affectionately called him, were married in Chester, S.C. in 1966. Their union, which spanned 58 years, produced three sons, William, Paul, and Robert, and a lifetime of memories filed with love and "Teachable Moments."

Mrs. Grant believed that God gives everyone a job to fulfill in order to advance His kingdom on earth. She believed that God's love was all powerful, encompassing, and supernatural, even more than the Sci-Fi and Fantasy movies and TV shows that she enjoyed

watching. Harriett adored her children Billy, Paul, Bobby, and she loved teaching the students at Apex Middle School. The love she shared with her husband was extraordinary. They were two South Carolina kinds, Livingstone Blue Bears, and excellent educators, who left a positive impact on those they taught.

For over 40 years, Mrs. Grant was a devoted member of Rush Metropolitan A.M.E. Zion Church. At Rush, she sang in the choir and worked on the Treasury Board. Mrs. Grant's "Teachable Moments" will remain relevant beyond her passing, because the words of wisdom were rooted in love and scriptures designed to edify the individuals soul.

Harriett Grant is survived by her three sons: William Cullen Grant II (Cheryl) Raleigh, N.C., Paul Marcus Grant (Shawnda) Louisburg, N.C., and Robert Gill Wilks Grant, Cary, N.C.; grandchildren: Brittany White, Meghan Alston, Malik Sidibeh, Matthew Sidibeh, Marissa Grant, Ashlyn McIntyre, and Robert Grant Junior, six great-grandchildren; brother; Marion Wilks, Brooklyn, NY; many nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Practical Biblical Principles

What Are You Building On? Matthew: 7:21-28

By John L. Caldwell, Pastor New Jerusalem Baptist Cathedral

King Solomon and Jesus had one thing in common. They were both great teachers of godly thought. Their teachings included everyday things as object lessons so that the people would be able to understand the wise teaching being taught. Solomon taught with deep understanding which rendered him wise, but our Lord also taught with wisdom but also with great authority. Jesus teaching with great authority meant He taught in a way which made the scribes and Pharisee's teachings appear empty, dry, and impotent, and which carried little or no motivation. This is why those hearing the teaching of our Lord seemed shocked and astonished because of the dept, clarity and interest of his teachings, not having to quote any other Jewish teacher. In a sense, the people went away believing they had just heard from God, Himself. This is what the scriptures implies when it states Jesus spoke with authority.

Jesus's "Sermon on the Mount" appears to have been spoken somewhere in the hills of Galilee. This was the longest sermon Jesus ever preached (Matthew 5-7). He covered more than twenty dif-

ferent subjects in this discourse. These seemingly short, but powerful subjects covered much of the Christian principals of Kingdom living. Jesus took the advantage of this moment and preached this sermon because to the large gospel-ignorant crowd which followed Him. Many who followed Jesus expected to gain prosperity and riches. But when Jesus started preaching, "Blessed are those who are poor in spirit, blessed are those who mourned, blessed are those who are meek, blessed are those who are persecuted for living right," this was like pouring ice-cold water on someone's back who is already cold.

Jesus ended His sermon with a short, allegorical teaching about where are you building your future? And on what are you building your future? This last part of Jesus's sermon was directed at those who were following Him to get gain.

Jesus was not only teaching the large crowd, He mainly directed His remarks at His disciples, who were sitting at His feet. Jesus was always teaching His disciples in preparations of His coming departure. He wanted them to carefully hear His words, and to work to understand His words the best they can, and finally He wanted them to faithfully act on those words they have come to understand.

These teachings lead to God's Kingdom and not for the world consumption.

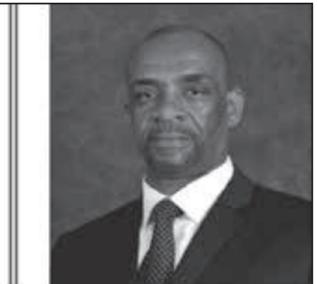
Jesus's final words in His sermon to the people were, "Whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock; and the rain descended, the flood came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, for it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock. This word "rock" implies allegorically that Jesus' teachings is that "Rock," if not Jesus, Himself.

Our Lord continues, "But anyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand; and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on the house; and it fell. And great was it fall." Sand allegorically implies ignorance.

And so it was, when Jesus had ended these sayings, that the people were astonished at His teachings, for He taught them as one having authority and not as the scribes. What a short but powerful lesson questioning our life's wisdom and expectations given what knowledge and wisdom we have accumulated in this life.

Join Pastor John's Weekly Podcast on Spotify - "When God Reads Your Mail"





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Classifieds

DURHAM COUNTY

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND DEBTORS OF NINA GRIFFITH MITCHELL (A.K.A. NINA JEAN MITCHELL)

File No. 24E001769-310
All persons, firms and corporations having claims against NINA GRIFFITH MITCHELL (A.K.A. NINA JEAN MITCHELL), late of Durham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit them to Warren D. Mitchell as Executor of the decedent's estate on or before February 7, 2025, c/o Brittany N. Porter, Attorney at Law, 1414 Raleigh Rd., Ste. 203, Chapel Hill, NC 27517, or be barred from their recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment to the above-named Executor.

This the 7th day of November, 2024.
Warren D. Mitchell
c/o Brittany N. Porter, Atty. TrustCounsel
1414 Raleigh Rd., Ste. 203
Chapel Hill, NC 27517
Durham, North Carolina 27717
11/7, 11/14, 11/21, and 11/28/2024
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

File No. 23E001281-310
THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 4th day of October 2023, as Executor of the ESTATE OF JOYCE L. BETTS, 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 8th day of February, 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 7th day of November 2024.
Ricky S. Betts, Executor
Estate of Joyce L. Betts
c/o Richard G. Long III, Attorney
Walker Lambe, PLLC
Post Office Box 51549
Durham, North Carolina 27717
11/7, 11/14, 11/21, and 11/28/2024
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

File No. 24E002289-310
THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 11th day of October 2024, as Executor of the Estate of MARY ANN MARPLES, 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 8th day of February, 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 7th day of November 2024.
Janis Reynolds f/k/a Janis Marples Sommers, Executor
Estate of Mary Ann Marples
c/o Shirley M. Diefenbach, Attorney
Walker Lambe, PLLC
Post Office Box 51549
Durham, North Carolina 27717
11/7, 11/14, 11/21, and 11/28/2024
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

File No. 24E000449-310
The undersigned, Jacob Kutchma, having duly qualified as Administrator of the Estate of TRAVIS KUTCHMA, 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 7th day of November 2024.
Jacob Kutchma, Administrator
C/O Ronald G. Coulter, Attorney
3400 Croasdaile Drive Ste 205
Durham, NC 27705
1-919-246-5775
11/7, 11/14, 11/21, and 11/28/2024
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

File No. 24E002207-310
Having qualified as Co-

Executors of the Estate of JUANITA JONES JORDAN, deceased, this is to notify all persons, firms, and corporations having claims against the Estate of Juanita Jones Jordan to present them to the undersigned within three months from the date of the first 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 the 7th day of November, 2024.
Brailsford Banks Jordan, Co-Executor
Christine Spruill, Co-Executor
Attorney for the Estate of Juanita Jones Jordan
c/o John W. Perry
Post Office Drawer 2051
Durham, North Carolina 27702
Telephone: (919) 683-8685
11/7, 11/14, 11/21, and 11/28/2024
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

File No. 24E001924-310
Having qualified as Executrix of the Estate of CHARLES E. MELLO, 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 at the offices of Davis Humbert Law, Attorneys for the Estate, 200 West Center Street, Mebane, NC 27302, on or before the 7th day February, 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 is the 7th day of November, 2024.
Patricia L. Mello
Executrix of the Estate
of Charles E. Mello
200 West Center Street
Mebane, NC 27302
11/7, 11/14, 11/21, and 11/28/2024
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File Number 24E002379-310
The Undersigned, having qualified as ADMINISTRATOR of the Estate of EVA CATES PETTIFORD, 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 7th day of February 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 7th day of November 2024.
Doris P. Bennett, Administrator
3818 Valleydale Dr.
Durham, NC 27703
11/7, 11/14, 11/21, and 11/28/2024
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION

In the General Court of Justice,
District Court Division
File No. 24CV009082-310
To: JOSE DANIEL ESCOBAR RODRIGUEZ, 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 December 17, 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, PAULA ISABEL LEON BENITEZ, will apply to the court located at 510 S Dillard St, Durham, NC 27701 for the relief sought.

This, the 7th day of November, 2024
Aneta Paval
Paval Law Offices, PLLC
7404 Chapel Hill Rd
Suite M
Raleigh NC 27607
Telephone: (919) 410-6690
11/7, 11/14, and 11/21/2024
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

File Number: 24E002387-310
The undersigned having qualified as Administrator of the Estate of NAOMI THOMPSON JACKSON, 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 4th day of February, 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 31st day of October, 2024.
Elva Ann Utley, Administrator
Estate of Naomi Thompson Jackson, Deceased
Robert A. Idol, Esquire
IDOL LAW, PLLC
Attorney at Law
PO Box 51759
Durham, NC 27717
(919)401.5151
10/31, 11/7, 11/14, and 11/21/2024
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File Number 24E002143-310
The Undersigned, having qualified as ADMINISTRATOR of the Estate of KIMBERLY JAYE ALLEN, 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 1st day of February 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 31st day of October 2024.

Tracey A Bowen, Administrator
3534 Rawdon Drive
Durham NC 27713
10/31, 11/7, 11/14, and 11/21/2024
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File Number 24E002164-310
The Undersigned, having qualified as EXECUTOR of the Estate of DAVID ALLEN PAGE, 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 1st day of February 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 31st day of October 2024.
Zachary David Page, Executor
11712 Kilpatrick Lane
Charlotte, NC 28277
10/31, 11/7, 11/14, and 11/21/2024
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File Number 24E002384-310
The Undersigned, having qualified as EXECUTOR of the Estate of KAREN STINEHELPER, 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 1st day of February 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 31st day of October 2024.
Dennis Stinehelfer, Executor
484 Beech Drive
Leasburg, NC 27291
10/31, 11/7, 11/14, and 11/21/2024
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Having qualified as Co-Executors of the Estate of CLAYBORNE LEE EVANS, JR. 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 the 1st day of February, 2025, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms, corporations indebted to the said estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned.
This is the 31st day of October, 2024.

Andrea Kay Kubachko & Aysha J. Evans Ault, Co-Executors, c/o Milestones Law, 4 Consultant Place, Durham, NC 27707
H-S: 10-31, 11-07, 11-14 & 11-21, 2024

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

File Number 23-E-1273
The decedent, RICARDO AGUILAR ALEMAN, who lived at 1101 Fairview St, Durham, North Carolina 27707 died July 18, 2023. Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Ofelia Aguilar Baldwin, named personal representative or proposed personal representative, at 1101 Fairview St, Durham, North Carolina 27707, 9192246700 or to both the probate court and the named/proposed personal representative within 01/28/2025 after the date of publication of this notice.

This, the 31st day of October 2024.
Ofelia Aguilar Baldwin, Personal Representative for the Estate
1101 Fairview St.
Durham, North Carolina 27707
9192246700
10/31, 11/7, 11/14, and 11/21/2024
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File Number 24E001884-310
The Undersigned, having qualified as ADMINISTRATRIX of the Estate of HERBERT LEWIS BRODIE 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 24th 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 24th day of October 2024.
Jacqueline Holland Brodie
Administratrix
5403 McCormick Rd.
Durham, NC 27713
10/24, 10/31, 11/7, and 11/14/2024
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

File Number 24E002255-310
THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 30th day of September 2024, as Executor of the ESTATE OF HAROLD ROSS BAILES, Deceased, of Durham County, North Carolina, does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said Estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 27th day of 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 24th day of October, 2024.
Judith Brewer Bailes, Executor
Estate of Harold Ross Bailes
c/o Shirley Diefenbach, Attorney
Walker Lambe, PLLC
Post Office Box 51549
Durham, North Carolina 27717
10/24, 10/31, 11/7, and 11/14/2024
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

File Number 24E002307-310
ALL PERSONS, firms and corporations having claims against Edward Gordon, of Durham County, N.C., are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before January 24, 2025 or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 24th day of October, 2024.

Okoye Edward Gordon
2715 Ashe Street
Durham, NC 27703
10/24, 10/31, 11/7, and 11/14/2024
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

File Number 24E001732-310
ALL PERSONS, firms and corporations having claims against Bertha Mae Hart, of Durham County, N.C., are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before January 24, 2025 or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 24th day of

October, 2024.
Willis Reginald Hart
5319 Stanley Road
Durham, NC 27704
10/24, 10/31, 11/7, and 11/14/2024
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS

BY PUBLICATION
In The General Court Of Justice
District Court Division
FILE NO. 24CV008005-310
DUKE UNIVERSITY FEDERAL CREDIT UNION, Plaintiff, vs. LINDA D. MARSH, Defendant.
TO: Linda D. Marsh
4307 Emerald Forest Dr.
Durham, NC 27713

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

- Judgment for the sum of \$6,938.01 plus interest at the rate of 7.5% per annum from July 26, 2024 until the date of judgment herein, and interest thereafter at the legal rate of 8% per annum until paid in full.
- Judgment for Plaintiff's reasonable attorney fees of \$1,040.70.
- For Plaintiff's costs.
- All other relief to which Plaintiff is entitled.

You are required to make defense to such pleading no later than December 16, 2024 and upon your failure to do so, the party seeking service against you will apply to the Court for the relief sought.

This 16th day of October, 2024.
By: John M. Sperati
SMITH DEBNAM NARRON DRAKE SAINTSING & MYERS, L.L.P.
Attorneys for Plaintiff
P. O. Box 176010
Raleigh, NC 27619
10/31, 11/7, and 11/14/2024
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File Number 24E002304-310
The Undersigned, having qualified as ADMINISTRATOR of the Estate of SANDRA LOUISE EDWARDS, 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 17th 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 17th day of October 2024.
Michelle West, Administrator
5342 Parksie Ct. SW
Concord, NC 28027
10/17, 10/24, 10/31, and 11/7/2024
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

File Number 24E002273-310
The Undersigned, having qualified as EXECUTOR of the Estate of NEIL WILLIAM BECKER, 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 21st 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 17th day of October 2024.
Margaret M. Becker, Executor
c/o Jennifer Dalman, Esq.,
PO Box 51549
Durham, NC 27717-1549
10/17, 10/24, 10/31, and 11/7/2024
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

The Undersigned, having qualified on the 1st day of September, 2024, as the Executor of the ESTATE of Maria A. Mitch, deceased, of DURHAM County, North Carolina, File No. 24-E-003962-310, does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said Estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 17th day of January, 2025, or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery of such claims. All persons indebted to said Estate are requested to make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This 17th day of October, 2024.
Anthony F. Mitch, Administrator
ESTATE of Maria A. Mitch, deceased
c/o Ethan C. Timmins, Attorney
NC Bar No. 53086
Patrick Law, PLLC
3805 University Drive, Suite A
Durham, North Carolina 27707
10/17, 10/24, 10/31, and 11/7/2024
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

File Number 24E002274-310
The Undersigned, having qualified as EXECUTOR of the Estate of WAYNE DEWITT BRECKMAN, 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 21st 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 17th day of October 2024.
Susanna Elizabeth Slattberg,
Executor
c/o Richard G. Long III, Attorney
Walker Lambe, PLLC
PO Box 51549
Durham, NC 27717
10/17, 10/24, 10/31, and 11/7/2024
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File Number 2023 E 001272
The Undersigned, having qualified as ADMINISTRATOR of the Estate of BERTHA LOUISE BERRY NEWTON, late of Durham County, North Carolina, hereby wishes to notify all persons having claims against the Estate of said deceased to exhibit them to the undersigned at the below listed address on or before the 17th 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 17th day of October 2024.
William Newton Jr., Administrator
5323 Flamingo Court
Coconut Creek, Florida 33073
10/17, 10/24, 10/31, and 11/7/2024
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

File Number 24E002306-310
The undersigned, Stephen L. Stroeh, having duly qualified as Administrator of the Estate of Mark Robert Stroeh, 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 17th day of October, 2024.
Stephen L. Stroeh, Administrator
C/O Ronald G. Coulter, Attorney
3400 Croasdaile Drive Ste 205
Durham, NC 27705
1-919-246-5775
10/17, 10/24, 10/31, and 11/7/2024
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File Number 24E002296-310
The Undersigned, having qualified as EXECUTOR of the Estate of MAE QUINN SCOTT, 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 17th day of January 2025, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery.

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. 24CV001772-180
To: BRANDON ADONIAS CHAVEZ PEREZ, 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 December 17, 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, BRELIN SUCELY PUAC OROZCO, will apply to the court located at 40 E Chatham St, Pittsboro, NC 27312 for the relief sought.

This the 7th day of November, 2024.

Aneta Paval
Paval Law Offices, PLLC
7404 Chapel Hill Rd
Suite M
Raleigh NC 27607
Telephone: (919) 410-6690
11/7, 11/14, and 11/21/2024

WAKE COUNTY

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
WAKE COUNTY
NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION
In the General Court of Justice,
District Court Division
File No. 24CV017498-910
ALICIA MARTEL, Plaintiff v.
ROWLAND MARTEL, Defendant
TO ROWLAND MARTEL:

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 31st day of October, 2024.

Alicia Martel, Plaintiff
4509 Pleasant Grove Church Rd.
Raleigh, NC 27613
10/31, 11/7, and 11/14/2024

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
WAKE COUNTY
NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION
In the General Court of Justice,
District Court Division
File No. 24CV001653-910
RAHAB W. KIMANI, Plaintiff v.
EDWARD M. NGANGA, Defendant
TO EDWARD M. NGANGA:

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 31st day of October, 2024.

Rahab W. Kimani, Plaintiff
3406 Sosa Road
Raleigh, NC 27610
10/31, 11/7, and 11/14/2024

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
WAKE COUNTY
NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION
In the General Court of Justice,
District Court Division
File No. 24CV020721-910
BLANCA TOBAR SERRANO, Plaintiff v.
NARCISO DE LA O ACOSTA, Defendant

TO NARCISO DE LA O ACOSTA: 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 31st day of October, 2024.

Blanca Tobar Serrano, Plaintiff
1313 Broken Branch Ct.
Raleigh, NC 27510
10/31, 11/7, and 11/14/2024

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
WAKE COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice,

Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File Number 24E002724-910
The Undersigned, having qualified as ADMINISTRATRIX of the Estate of MARY S. WHITE A/K/A MARY SMITH WHITE A/K/A MARY SMITH CADE, 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 24th 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 24th day of October 2024.

Gregory Fitzgerald Cade
Executor
1509 Cross Street
Raleigh, NC 27610
10/24, 10/31, 11/7, and 11/14/2024
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
WAKE COUNTY

SUMMONS
Serving From State of South Carolina, County of Horry In The Family Court For The Fifteenth Judicial Circuit
Docket No.: 2024-DR-26-01381
Abigail Lawes Petitioner, v.
Jose Luis Guaman Dutan, Respondent. ON BEHALF OF XJD (DOB: 2018)

TO: THE ABOVE-NAMED RESPONDENT, JOSE LUIS GUAMAN DUTAN:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified that an action has been filed against you in this court. Thirty (30) days after the day you receive this Summons, you must respond in writing to the Complaint by filing an Answer with this court. You must also serve a copy of your Answer to the Plaintiff or the Plaintiff's Attorney at the address shown below you fail to answer the Complaint, judgment by default could be rendered against you for the relief requested in the Complaint.

This is the 24th day of October, 2024.

Trenton H. Chambers
SC Bar #: 13775
Tyler F. Silvestro SC Bar #: 104495
Attorneys for Petitioner
Mailing Address: P. O. Box 40700
Myrtle Beach, SC 29572
Myrtle Beach Office:
7829 N. Kings Hwy,
Myrtle Beach, South Carolina
Conway Office:
314 Laurel Street, Ste B
Conway, South Carolina
Main Telephone: (843) 449-0420
Civil Matters Direct: (843) 692-7953
Facsimile: (843) 692-2363
Trent@MyrtleBeachCriminalDefenseLawyer.com
Tyler@BetterCallTrent.com
Angel@BetterCallTrent.com
10/24, 10/31, and 11/7/2024
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
WAKE COUNTY

NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION
In the General Court of Justice,
District Court Division
File No. 24CV010504-910
Laura Denise Jones, Plaintiff v.
Cluster Garrett Jr., Defendant
TO CLUSTER GARRETT JR.:

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 24th day of October, 2024.

Laura Denise Jones, Plaintiff
3947 Green Rd.
Raleigh, NC 27604
10/24, 10/31, and 11/7/2024
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
WAKE COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File Number 24E002949-910

The Undersigned, having qualified as EXECUTOR of the Estate of GLORIA WATFORD, 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 17th 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 17th day of October 2024.

Yvonne Watford-Mckinney
Administrator
10910 Flower Bed Court
Raleigh, NC 27614
10/17, 10/24, 10/31, and 11/7/2024

ONONDAGA COUNTY

Onondaga County Family Court of the State of New York -
Family File Number 61025,
Docket Number - V-02889-24,
V-02890-24

In the Matter of an Article 6 Custody/Visitation Proceeding Donnie Ballard (Petitioner) v. Tamica Schultz (Respondent). Family File Number 61025. A Motion for Alternate Service has been granted by the Honorable Diane E. Plumley for service via publication upon respondent Tamica Schultz. You are hereby SUMMONED to appear in front of the Honorable Diane E. Plumley on the 21st day of November 2024 at 10:30am at the Onondaga County Courthouse Part 2. In case of your failure to appear, judgment will be taken against you by default.
10/17, 10/24, 10/31, and 11/7/2024

UNION COUNTY

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
UNION COUNTY
NOTICE OF SERVICE OF

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

Barnhill Contracting Company will be bidding on the following project on August 20th, 2024. We are most interested in receiving quotes from your company on these projects:

Raleigh Paving Division Contract ID: C204995
Contact: Brian Alexander, balexander@barnhillcontracting.com, at 919-787-2442 or fax 919-783-5616 in our Raleigh Office, located at 4325 Pleasant Valley Rd., Raleigh, NC 27612.

Pre-Bid Meeting: Friday November 8th, 2024 at 9:00 AM in the Raleigh Office.

Southeast Division Contract ID: C205002
Contact: Lance Bullard, lbullard@barnhillcontracting.com, at 910-488-1319 or fax 910-488-5673 in our Fayetteville Office, located at 1100 Robeson Street, Fayetteville, NC 28305.

Pre-Bid Meeting: Friday November 8th, 2024 at 8:00 AM in the Fayetteville Office.

Heavy Highway Division Contract ID: C204949
Contact: Michael Taylor, mtaylor@barnhillcontracting.com, at 252-823-1021 or fax 252-977-7512 in our Rocky Mount Office, located at 800 Tiffany Blvd, Suite 200, Rocky Mount, NC 27804.

Pre-Bid Meeting: Friday November 8th, 2024 at 10:00 AM in the Rocky Mount Office.

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

- For hauling operations, we will need to know how many of your own hauling units will be available for this project. We will need this on your written quote prior to bid time and this will be made a part of any subcontract.
- Plans and specifications are available at:
 - NC DOT <https://connect.ncdot.gov/letting/Pages/Central.aspx>
 - Plans may also be viewed in our offices. Please call for an appointment.
- These projects include opportunities on, but not limited to hauling, asphalt milling, asphalt patching, asphalt surface treatment, utility adjustments, stationary work zone signage, traffic control, shoulder reconstruction, seed and mulch, inductive loop sawcutting, and pavement markings. All firms or persons interested in bidding on any applicable portions of these projects or supplying materials for any applicable portion of this project are invited to contact us direct or by phone (we accept collect calls). By submitting a quote, it is understood that you have read and understand the specifications.

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

NC General Contractors Lic. # 3194
Attn: Tom Shannon

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

PROCESS BY PUBLICATION
In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
File No. 2024-CVS-2955

JOSHUA DANIEL OXENDINE, Plaintiff, v. FIDEL VELASQUEZ RUIZ and MARCELINO VELASQUEZ CERVANTES, Defendants.

TO: Fidel Velasquez Ruiz
Take notice that a pleading seeking relief against you has been filed in the above-entitled action. The nature of the relief being sought is as follows: damages for personal injury to the Plaintiff that were incurred in an automobile collision involving you on 11/02/2021 in Union County, North Carolina.

You are required to make a defense to such pleading no later than December 17, 2024 (forty days after the first publication of this notice). Upon your failure to do so, the parties seeking service against you will apply to the Court for the relief sought.

This the 7th day of November, 2024.

William K. Goldfarb, Esq.
NC State Bar # 18194
Post Office Box 3200
Monroe, NC 28111
Phone: (704) 296-0055
Fax: (704) 296-0053
Attorney for the Plaintiffs
11/7, 11/14, and 11/21/2024



ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

The North Carolina Department of Adult Correction has the following contract in Buncombe County out for bid: C- C11754 Tiantian Ma . The bid opening is scheduled for: Thursday, 12/19/2024 . To obtain the Notice to Bidders, any Pre-Bid Requirements, and any Addenda visit: <https://evp.nc.gov/solicitations/details/?id=59feb147-6585-ef11-ac20-001dd806f97d>

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

CDBG PROJECTS

Town of Saratoga
P.O. Box 206
Saratoga, NC 27873
Separate sealed BIDS for the construction of Speight School Road Sewer Hookup Contract No. 1 - Sewer Service Improvements Installation of sixteen (16) sewer services to include plumbing connections and abandonment of septic tanks. will be received by the ENGINEER at Saratoga Building 2, 6903 Church Street, Saratoga, NC 27873 until 2:00 PM, December 10, 2024, and then at said office publicly opened and read aloud.

The CONTRACT DOCUMENTS may be examined at the following locations:
Saratoga Town Hall, 6904 Main Street, Saratoga, NC 27873

McDavid Associates, Inc., 3714 North Main Street, Farmville, NC 27828-049

Dodge Data and Analytics, 2860 South State Highway 161, Suite 160, #501, Grand Prairie, TX 750527361
(View online at www.construction.com)

ConstructConnect, Attn: DPC, 30 Technology Parkway South, Suite 100, Norcross, GA 30092
(View online at www.constructconnect.com)

Construction Journal, 400 SW 7th Street, Stuart, FL 34994
(View online at www.ConstructionJournal.com)

Builders & Contractors Exchange, Inc., 1118 Azalea Garden Road, Norfolk, VA 235025612
(View online at www.bceva.com)

Copies of the CONTRACT DOCUMENTS may be obtained at the office of McDavid Associates, Inc. located at 3714 North Main Street, Farmville, NC 27828-0049 upon a nonrefundable payment of \$103.00 for each set.

This project is being funded in whole or in part by the Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG). All Federal CDBG requirements will apply to the contract: BIDDERS on this work will be required to comply with Section 109 and E.O. 11246 which prohibits discrimination in employment regarding race, creed, color, sex, or national origin. BIDDERS must comply with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Davis Bacon Act, Anti-Kickback Act, and Contract Work Hours and Safety Standards Act. The Town of Saratoga is committed to and supportive of efforts to effectively maintain and/or increase the use of Small and Minority/Women-Owned Business and Historically Underutilized Businesses (HUB) contract participation for Construction Projects, services (including professional and consulting services) and commodities purchases, AND increase contract participation to offer employment, training and contracting opportunities in accordance with Section 3 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968 (24 C.F.R. Part 135).

The total CDBG program is funded with \$305,609 in CDBG funds which represent 160% of the total CDBG program costs. The total CDBG funding amount of \$305,609 is a governmental disclosure required by the CDBG program and not the proposed construction cost for contracts referenced by this advertisement.

The OWNER reserves the right to reject any and all BIDS. BIDDER shall be properly licensed under Chapter 87, General Statutes of North Carolina. Small, minority, women, Historically Underutilized Business (HUB), and Section 3 (low income) businesses and labor surplus area firms are encouraged to submit BIDS.

This PROJECT is subject to the good faith efforts and goals for participation by minority businesses required by G.S. 143-128.2. The OWNER has adopted a verifiable ten percent (10%) goal for participation by minority businesses in the total value of the WORK.

BIDDERS shall, within the time frames specified in the BID documents, submit all required affidavits and documentation demonstrating that the BIDDER made the required good faith effort in compliance with G.S. 143-128.2. Failure to file all required affidavits and documentation within the required time frames is grounds for rejection of the BID.

Prospective BIDDERS who have been found guilty of discrimination within the last two (2) years are debarred from bidding.

A pre-Bid conference will be held at 10:00 AM on December 3, 2024 in Saratoga Building 2, 6903 Church Street, Saratoga, NC 27873. Prospective BIDDERS are encouraged to attend this pre-bid conference as part of their good faith efforts.

This information is available in Spanish or any other language upon request. Please contact Brenda Wilson at (252) 238-3487 or at 6904 Main Street, Saratoga, NC 27873 for accommodations for this request.

Esta información está disponible en español o en cualquier otro idioma bajo petición. Por favor, póngase en contacto con Brenda Wilson al (252) 238-3487 o en 6904 Main Street, Saratoga, NC 27873 de alojamiento para esta solicitud.

The Fair Housing Act prohibits discrimination in housing based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, family status, and disability.

The OWNER is an EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER.



November 12, 2024

Charles T. Hawkins

Mayor

Town of Saratoga

Sports

Mack Robinson: The Unsung Hero of the 1936 Olympics

By: Jordan Meadows

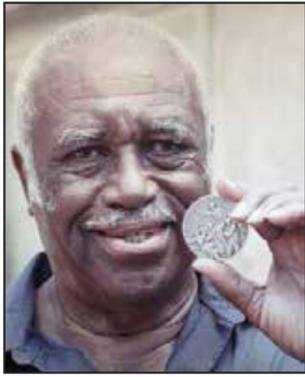
Staff Writer

Matthew "Mack" Robinson, an influential figure in American athletics and the older brother of baseball legend Jackie Robinson is remembered for his remarkable achievements in track and field, particularly his historic performance at the 1936 Summer Olympics in Berlin.

Born on July 18, 1914, in Cairo, Georgia, Robinson faced significant challenges from an early age. After the loss of their father, he and his siblings were raised by their mother who worked tirelessly to support the family. In pursuit of better opportunities, the family relocated to Pasadena, California, where Robinson's athletic talents began to shine.

Despite being diagnosed with a heart murmur that limited his participation in contact sports, Robinson excelled in track and field during his time at Pasadena Junior College, setting national junior college records in the 100 meters, 200 meters, and long jump.

Robinson faced significant hurdles just to compete in the Olympics; lacking funds for travel, local businessmen in Pasadena raised \$150 to cover



his train fare to the Olympic Trials in New York City. Competing without a coach and in worn-out spikes, he nevertheless secured his place on the Olympic team.

The 1936 Olympics, held in Nazi Germany, were fraught with political tension and racial undercurrents. The event became a platform for the Nazi regime to promote its ideology of Aryan superiority, but it also provided a stage for African American athletes to showcase their talents.

At the Berlin Games, Robinson

made his mark. Competing in the 200-meter dash, he won all three of his heats, with a stunning third heat time of 21.1 seconds, tying the World Record. In the final, he raced against the legendary Jesse Owens, who had already earned the title of "the world's fastest man." Robinson finished with a silver medal, just four-tenths of a second behind Owens.

His performance, alongside that of 17 other African American athletes, contributed significantly to the U.S. medal tally, with these athletes winning 14 of the 57 medals earned by the American team.

For Hitler and the Nazi Party, the success of Black athletes at the Olympics was a significant embarrassment. While Germany topped the medal table, losing to Black competitors undermined their white supremacist ideology. Hitler expressed his outrage, stating that "the Americans should have been ashamed of themselves for allowing their medals to be won by Negroes," and he called for a ban on Black athletes from future competitions.

At the end of the Olympics, Robinson simply gathered his Team USA gear and silver medal and made the long journey back to a country where

he faced systemic discrimination—unable to drink from the same water fountains or swim in the same pools as his white teammates.

The welcome back for the Black Olympians was equally disheartening. None of the eighteen athletes received an invitation to the White House; President Franklin Roosevelt only honored the white competitors. Jesse Owens, who did get to participate in a ticker-tape parade in New York City and a dinner at the Waldorf Astoria, faced the indignity of being forced to ride the freight elevator to his own celebration.

In 1936, the year of Robinson's second-place victory in Berlin, Rosa Parks was just a 23-year-old newlywed, with the Montgomery Bus Boycott still 19 years away. Martin Luther King Jr. was a seven-year-old boy in Atlanta, decades from leading the March on Washington. Emmett Till's parents were still teenagers, years away from even meeting. At that time, the very notion of a Civil Rights Act seemed unimaginable.

After the Olympic games, and spending another year at Pasadena Junior College, Robinson transferred to the University of Oregon to study physical education and compete for

the Oregon Webfoots. In 1938, he won the NCAA and AAU titles in the 220-yard dash and was also crowned the Pacific Coast Champion in the long jump.

His younger brother, Jackie Robinson, edged him out by an inch in the long jump, catching the attention of UCLA. Had it not been for that narrow margin, Jackie—who would go on to break the color barrier in Major League Baseball, earning six All-Star honors, and win the 1955 World Series with the Brooklyn Dodgers—might have been an Oregon alum as well.

Mack left Oregon in 1941 without finishing his degree and returned to Pasadena to take care of his family. However, Robinson lost his job as a street sweeper when Pasadena fired all of its Black employees out of spite after a judge ordered the city to desegregate its public pools.

Undeterred, Robinson remained committed to improving his community. As a youth advocate, he focused on creating opportunities to steer young people away from trouble, helping to establish playgrounds, YMCAs, and swimming pools. He also lobbied for better resources in local libraries and became a familiar



face among lawmakers. Additionally, he consistently called out the city for its neglect in honoring his brother Jackie's accomplishments.

Mack continued to engage with the US Olympic Committee and, in 1984, was honored to carry the Olympic flag into the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum during the opening ceremony of the Olympic Games. His enthusiasm for the Olympic spirit extended to his support for the Special Olympics, where he volunteered his time, cheered for athletes, and captured their achievements in photographs, often with his children by his side.

It wasn't until 1997, just three years before Mack Robinson's death, that Pasadena finally unveiled a memorial to both brothers across from City Hall.

Mack Robinson passed away from complications related to diabetes in 2000. Later that year, Pasadena City College—formerly PJC—honored him by dedicating its stadium in his name, and the United States Postal Service named its new post office in Pasadena the "Matthew 'Mack' Robinson Post Office Building."

Robinson's legacy also lives on through the film "Olympic Pride, American Prejudice", released in 2016, which showcases the challenges and triumphs of Black American athletes during a time of racial discrimination.



Bears Rally From 14-Point Deficit

DURHAM, North Carolina -- Shaw powered back from down 14 points to secure a 24-17 comeback homecoming victory over Livingstone Saturday afternoon at home at Durham County Memorial Stadium.

The Bears improved to 6-4 on the year and 4-3 in Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association play, while the Blue Bears fell to 5-4 and 3-3.

Christian Peters led Shaw's passing attack with 178 yards through the air, tossing two touchdowns and two interceptions.

Travon Tensley paced the Bears rushing attack by accumulating 38 yards over the course of the game. Traquan Johnson also added 32 yards on the ground.

Peters' most prolific target in the ballgame was Ah'shaan Belcher, who caught five passes for 62 yards and one score.

Saevion Gibbs showed out for the Shaw defense, collecting four tackles and one interception. Noah Gibson added four tackles and one interception and Amon Tinsley had one interception in the win.

The Bears forced three turnovers in Saturday's contest, with Shaw turning those takeaways into 14 points. The Shaw offense did a good job keeping drives alive, converting on 47.1 percent of third-down attempts.

Defensively, Shaw held up fairly well against the Livingstone offensive attack, holding the Blue Bears to 278 total yards. The Bears defense disrupted the Livingstone passing game on the way to grabbing three interceptions and breaking up two Blue Bears passes.

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