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So What Is Next For Kamala Harris?

By Julia Mueller

The Hill



Questions are swirling over Vice President Harris's next move as she readies to exit the White House in the wake of her loss to President-elect Trump.

Early polling suggests Democrats want to see Harris back in the running for the Oval Office in 2028, despite her defeat this cycle. But some in the party speculate the vice president could seek another office — for starters, the governor's mansion in California — or pursue avenues outside electoral politics to help bolster the resistance against a second Trump term.

"She still has a long career ahead of her," said Democratic strategist Kate Maeder. "She's young for politics in this country, and I think that folks are really excited to see what she does next, because she's built such a powerful following around her, and I think that that will carry through after the election."

Election Day was a bruising night for Democrats. Trump swept all of the swing states and made inroads in blue strongholds as most of the country shifted rightward, and the GOP secured both chambers of Congress to pave the way for a trifecta of power in Washington next year.

But in her speech conceding the 2024 race to her Republican rival, Harris stressed she will never give up on "the fight that fueled" her fast-tracked bid.

The outgoing vice president, 60, "still has a fight in her," Maeder said. "Whether it's around public policy or it's fighting the good fight in the private sector, I think it's left to be seen."

Harris is among a small handful of vice presidents in recent history who tried for the presidency and lost, and each took different paths in the aftermath, noted Joel Goldstein, a professor emeritus at Saint Louis University's law school and an ex-

pert on the vice presidency. Richard Nixon mounted an unsuccessful bid for California governor before his comeback White House win in 1968, and Hubert Humphrey returned to the Senate. Al Gore never ran for political office again, focusing on environmental activism and earning the Nobel Peace Prize.

"So there's a lot of different options available to her," Goldstein said. "I would think that if she wants to remain active in presidential politics, that that's certainly something that's open to her ... if that's the course she wanted."

"If she decided she wanted to run for president in 2028, she would start out as a favorite," said Jim Kessler, a co-founder of the left-center think tank Third Way. "I don't think a prohibitive favorite, but definitely

someone who would start out on top, would be able to raise money, is known by voters, and who acquitted herself very well in her short campaign against Trump."

But early lists of possible 2028 contenders are already crowded with Democratic rising stars, including California Gov. Gavin Newsom (D), Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer (D), Pennsylvania Gov. Josh Shapiro (D) and Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg. A stacked field might make it difficult for Harris to re seize the momentum she saw this year.

"I think she would struggle to win a primary in 2028 and that's just too long to go between now and then ... when you have so many of the people sitting out there who are going to run, likely to run," said Democratic strategist Fred Hicks.

Instead, there might be another opening for Harris in her home state of California, which is already seen as a bastion of blue-state resistance to the incoming Trump term.

Newsom is term limited and ineligible to seek reelection when his seat is up in 2026, leaving the governor's mansion up for grabs.

A poll from the University of California, Berkeley Institute of Governmental Studies and the Los Angeles Times this month found nearly half of California voters would be likely to support her if she were to enter the 2026 gubernatorial race.

Doing so could put her in "a prime position to fight against Trumpism for the latter part of his term," Hicks said. Newsom's office has said California officials are ready to "Trump-proof" state laws, and the state at-

torney general is similarly on alert to resist controversial Trump policies. But both the governorship and the attorney general seat will be on the ballot in 2026.

As she campaigned for the White House this year, Harris touted her experience as a prosecutor in California. She served as San Francisco district attorney and then state attorney general, making history as the first woman, first African American and first Asian American in both offices. She ascended in 2017 to the U.S. Senate, where she represented

the progressive stronghold until she joined the Biden administration.

Running for a four-year term as governor would likely take Harris out of 2028 contention, but it wouldn't necessarily mean she'd never try for the Oval Office again, Hicks said, pointing to 2032 and stressing Harris's young age relative to Trump and President Biden, both more than 20 years her senior.

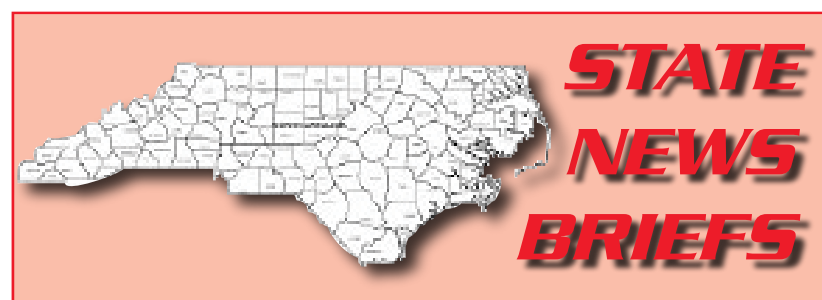
But regardless of which path Harris picks, "she can and should become the face of the Democratic resistance," Hicks contended.

Attorney and Democratic strategist Abou Amara said the California gubernatorial race, another presidential run or even a step into the advocacy world all look like they're on the table for Harris, but "Goal No. 1" is to "really preserve flexibility as she moves forward."

"Another part of this question is: What does she want her capstone to be on her political career?" Amara said.

And as the dust settles on 2024, experts also expect Harris may wade into the Democratic Party's soul-searching efforts and tell her own story of what happened in the race. After her 2016 loss to Trump, for example, Clinton chronicled her bid in a memoir aptly titled "What Happened."

"I think that will absolutely be part of the next eight to 12 months, to decompress what happened," Amara said. "I expect her, whether it be through speeches or writing a book, to really lay out her understanding of what happened. Because Democrats are going to squabble back and forth with different theories ... but I think it would be important to hear directly from her."



NC Senate Bill 382: An Overhaul of Government Structure

By: Jordan Meadows

Staff Writer

North Carolina Republicans recently passed Senate Bill 382, a sweeping 131-page piece of legislation that significantly alters the structure of state government while offering limited relief for recovery from Hurricane Helene.

The bill, introduced as part of a third round of aid for the western part of the state hit by the hurricane, has sparked intense debate. While Republican lawmakers argue that it addresses critical issues, Democratic opponents accuse them of leveraging the bill to consolidate power and limit the influence of newly elected Democrats, especially Governor-elect Josh Stein and Attorney General-elect Jeff Jackson.

The bill's quick passage and the timing of its release—only one hour before a House debate—have raised concerns. The prospects for a veto override are complicated by opposition from within the Republican Party, as three Republicans voted against the bill in the House.

One of the most contentious provisions of SB 382 is the shift of control over the State Board of Elections from the governor to the newly elected Republican State Auditor, Dave Boliek. The auditor will have the power to appoint members to the board, and appointments will be structured to favor Republicans. Starting in May 2025, three members will be appointed by the GOP and two by Democrats. This marks a significant departure from the current system, where the governor appoints board members.

The bill imposes a series of deadlines aimed at streamlining election processes, though critics argue that they may disenfranchise voters. For example, it reduces the time for voters to correct absentee ballots or provide identification from over a week to just two and a half days after Election Day. It also mandates that absentee ballots be counted on election night, and provisional ballots must be processed within three business days.

The bill also tightens deadlines for provisional and absentee ballots, requiring them to be corrected or verified much sooner than under current law. It's important to note that the NC Supreme Court election was decided in the weeks following election day as counties tallied provisional ballots, where liberal Justice Allison Riggs caught up and won by just over 600 votes.

Judicial vacancies on the state Supreme Court or Court of Appeals must be filled by someone from the same political party as the judge leaving office, according to the new bill.

The bill also imposes significant limits on the Attorney General's office. Among other things, it prohibits the AG from defending lawsuits challenging state laws passed by the General Assembly and restricts the office from opposing legislative leaders in court. The bill also reduces the AG's ability to influence legal matters related to state settlements and hiring private counsel for state agencies.

"Power would have been lifting up the people of western North Carolina so they can rebuild," state Sen. Lisa Grafstein of Wake County said. "This bill is a weak and sorry display. It shows an inability to manage not just this moment — it shows an inability to manage the emotional discipline to accept basic democratic balance."

Stripping powers from the Governor's office is a main aspect of the bill: it shortens the time the governor has to fill legislative vacancies, from 30 days to just 15 days, and removes the governor's ability to reject the General Assembly's appointee. It also imposes stricter requirements for consecutive appointments to various offices, effectively giving more power to the legislature in the appointment process.

SB 382 reduces the governor's power over the Utilities Commission, lowering the number of appointments the governor can make to the commission from three to two. The state treasurer, soon-to-be Republican Brad Briner, will be granted the authority to appoint one member. Additionally, the bill removes the governor's authority to designate the chairperson of the commission, which will now be elected by the commission members themselves.

While the bill includes provisions for Hurricane Helene relief, much of the funding is set aside for future appropriations rather than immediate use. It transfers \$277 million from the state's rainy day fund to the Helene Fund,

(See NC SENATE BILL 382, P. 2)

The Texas Education Board Approves Optional Bible-Infused Curriculum

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — Texas' education board voted Friday to allow Bible-infused teachings in elementary schools under optional new curriculum that could test boundaries between religion and public classrooms in the U.S.

The material adopted by the Texas State Board of Education, which is controlled by elected Republicans, passed in a 8-7 final vote over criticism that the lessons would proselytize to young learners and alienate students of faiths other than Christianity. Supporters argued the Bible is a core feature of American history and that teaching it will enrich lessons.

The vote allows schools in Texas, which has more than 5 million public school students, to begin using the material in kindergarten through fifth grade classrooms as early as next year.

Republican lawmakers celebrated the vote, including Texas' powerful lieutenant governor, Dan Patrick, who has pledged to pass legislation next year that would follow Louisiana in trying to require schools to display the Ten Commandments in classrooms.

In a statement, Gov. Greg Abbott called the vote "a critical step forward to bring students back to the basics of education and provide the best education in the nation."



Schools are not required to use the material, but those that do would receive extra funding from the state.

In the newly approved kindergarten materials, one lesson on helping one's neighbor instructs teachers to talk about the Golden Rule using lessons from the Bible. It also instructs the teachers to explain that the Bible is "a collection of ancient texts" and that its different parts are "the core books of the Jewish and Christian religions."

In a third-grade lesson about the first Thanksgiving, the material directs teachers to discuss how the governor of Plymouth said a prayer and gave a speech that included references to "several passages from

the Christian Bible in the book of Psalms." Teachers are then instructed to tell students the book of Psalms is a collection of songs, poems and hymns "that are used in both Jewish and Christian worship."

With the new curriculum, Texas would be the first state to introduce Bible lessons in schools in this manner, according to Matthew Patrick Shaw, an assistant professor of public policy and education at Vanderbilt University. Whether the lesson plans will be considered constitutional is up in the air, he said.

The Texas Education Agency, which oversees public education for more than 5 million students statewide, created its own instruction

materials after a law passed in 2023 by the GOP-controlled Legislature required the agency to do so. The lesson plans were publicly released this spring.

"This curriculum is not age-appropriate or subject matter appropriate in the way that it presents these Bible stories," said Amanda Tyler, executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee for Religious Liberty.

Children who would read the material, she said, "are simply too young to tell the difference between what is a faith claim and what is a matter of fact."

Mary Castle, director of government relations for Texas Values, a right-leaning advocacy group, said there are "close to 300 common-day phrases that actually come from the Bible" and that students "will benefit from being able to understand a lot of these references."

More than 100 people testified at a board meeting this week that rung with emotion from parents, teachers and advocates.

One Democrat on the board, Rebecca Bell-Metereau, said the inclusion of religions in addition to Christianity in the materials was not an "adequate attempt to change that bias."

"It seems to me like it is trying to place a Band-Aid on a gaping wound," she said.

Profits Of Incarceration: The Prison Industry's Unwavering Growth

By Ms Jheri Worldwide

Staff Writer

While debates rage about mass incarceration and the need for criminal justice reform, one thing remains clear: the prison industry continues to thrive. A recent analysis of prison stocks reveals a sector experiencing steady growth, fueled by government contracts, technological advancements, and, most disturbingly, the construction of new prisons across the country. Let's talk about stocks aligned with mass incarceration that are currently experiencing the most growth.

Leading the pack is Palantir Technologies Inc. (NYSE:PLTR), a company that builds software for U.S. intelligence agencies. Goldman Sachs recently raised its price target on

Palantir, signaling confidence in a continued growth trajectory.

Axon Enterprise, Inc. (NASDAQ:AXON), known for its tasers and body cameras, is another strong performer. Axon is experiencing growth internationally, it seems that law enforcement agencies worldwide are eager to equip themselves with the latest tools of control.

The prison industry's reach extends beyond technology, Olin Corporation (NYSE:OLN), a chemical products manufacturer, and CACI International Inc. (NYSE:CACI), a provider of technology solutions for government modernization and national security, are also seeing gains. CACI, in particular, recently secured a lucrative \$420 million contract with the U.S. Army, highlighting the gov-

ernment's ongoing investment in the defense and security sectors.

New prisons represent the same old problems, despite growing calls for decarceration. According to Yahoo!News, Alabama is currently building a \$1.08 billion super-prison, the most expensive incarceration facility in American history. Similar projects are underway in Nebraska and Georgia, with proponents citing overcrowding and poor conditions in existing facilities. Are new prisons a solution? "No experts have said that newer jails will solve our prison crisis," says Charlotte Morrison, a senior attorney at the Equal Justice Initiative. "If you have a football team that's losing year after year, a new stadium doesn't make it better. You need new leadership."

As the prison industry continues to expand, it's crucial to question the underlying issues driving mass incarceration. Are we truly addressing the root causes of crime, or are we simply investing in more cages? The construction of new prisons, while potentially alleviating overcrowding in the short term, does next to nothing to address the systemic problems that lead to incarceration.

It's time for a shift in focus. Instead of pouring billions into concrete and steel, we need to invest in education, job training, mental health services, and community programs to address the social and economic factors that contribute to crime. Only then can we hope to break the cycle of incarceration and create a truly just and equitable society.

NC SENATE BILL 382

Continued from page 1

but lawmakers will need to approve further appropriations before the money can be used.

The bill also allocates \$33.75 million for child care center grants in affected counties, as well as \$25 million for debris removal and \$2 million for soil and water conservation districts in hurricane-impacted areas.

"The purpose of these changes is to ensure a timelier resolution of election outcomes than we have continuing to drag on for two weeks like we've seen in the most recent election," said state Sen. Ralph Hise, a Republican who serves as Senate Deputy President Pro Tempore and represents a district in Western NC.

State Senator Julie Mayfield pointed out that the bill does not address the immediate needs of hurricane victims.

"Even if the Helene provisions were broken out, however, I would need to remind us all that they still do not meet the need of the moment," District 49 Democratic Sen. Mayfield said. "Any additional support is welcome, but of course, most of the \$277 million for Helene relief is not actually being appropriated."

SB 382 includes several provisions related to education too, such as allocating \$7.8 million to universities in western North Carolina to offset enrollment losses, providing \$5 million for the rehabilitation of Poe Hall at NC State University, where harmful PCBs have been discovered, and expanding the eligibility for the SparkNC pilot program and introduces an AI pilot program in schools for facial recognition and alert systems.

The move in the General Assembly is a far-reaching piece of legislation that touches on a wide array of issues from election laws to judicial appointments, public safety, and emergency relief. While it contains provisions for some aid related to Hurricane Helene, much of the bill focuses on restructuring state government and limiting the power of the governor, especially as it pertains to elections, judicial appointments, and legal matters.

Governor Roy Cooper has yet to make a decision on whether he will veto, but he has spoken out publicly against the bill.

"This is billed as a disaster relief bill when it actually was just a disaster. It really doesn't get money directly to Western North Carolina, that needs the help, but instead it was used as a front as another legislative power grab," said Cooper.

The bill's passing comes as members of the NC House Republican caucus voted to nominate Rep. Destin Hall out of Caldwell County to serve as the chamber's next Speaker. Republicans will enjoy a 71-49 majority in January, pending any recount flips.

What To Know About Scott Turner, Trump's Pick For Housing Secretary

Scott Turner, President-elect Donald Trump choice to lead the Department of Housing and Urban Development, is a former NFL player who ran the White House Opportunity and Revitalization Council during Trump's first term.

Turner, 52, is the first Black person selected to be a member of the Republican's Cabinet.

Here are some things to know about Turner:

FROM PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALL TO POLITICS

Turner grew up in a Dallas suburb, Richardson, and graduated from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. He was a defensive back and spent nine seasons in the NFL beginning in 1995, playing for the Washington Redskins, San Diego Chargers and Denver Broncos.

During offseasons, he worked as an intern then-Rep. Duncan Hunter, R-Calif. After Turner retired in 2004, he worked full time for the congressman. In 2006, Turner ran unsuccessfully as a Republican in California's 50th Congressional District.

Turner joined the Texas House in 2013 as part of a large crop of tea party-supported lawmakers. He tried unsuccessfully to become speaker before he finished his second term in 2016. He did not seek a third term.



MOTIVATIONAL SPEAKER AND PASTOR

Turner also worked for a software company in a position called "chief inspiration officer" and said he acted as a professional mentor, pastor, and counselor for the employees and executive team. He has also been a motivational speaker.

He and his wife, Robin Turner, founded a nonprofit promoting initiatives to improve childhood literacy. His church, Prestonwood Baptist Church, lists him as an associate pastor. He is also chair of the center for

education opportunity at America First Policy Institute, a think tank set up by former Trump administration staffers to lay the groundwork if he won a second term.

HEADED COUNCIL IN TRUMP'S FIRST TERM

Trump introduced Turner in April 2019 as the head of the new White House Opportunity and Revitalization Council. Trump credited Turner with "helping to lead an Unprecedented Effort that Transformed our Country's most distressed communities."

The mission of the council was to coordinate with various federal agencies to attract investment to so-called "Opportunity Zones," which were economically depressed areas eligible to be used for the federal tax incentives.

THE ROLE OF HUD

HUD is responsible for addressing the nation's housing needs. It also is charged with fair housing laws and oversees housing for the poorest Americans, sheltering more than 4.3 million low-income families through public housing, rental subsidy and voucher programs.

The agency, with a budget of tens of billions of dollars, runs a multitude of programs that do everything from reducing homelessness to promoting homeownership. It also funds the construction of affordable housing and provides vouchers that allow low income families pay for housing in the private market.

During the campaign, Trump focused mostly on the prices of housing, not public housing. He railed against the high cost of housing and said he could make it more affordable by cracking down on illegal immigration and reducing inflation. He also said he would work to reduce regulations on home construction and make some federal land available for residential construction.

Black Leaders In Wilmington Defend Black Police Chief

By Cash Michaels

Contributing writer

Black leadership in Wilmington, including the local NAACP chapter and the New Hanover County National Black Leadership Caucus, gathered last week to defend the port city's first African-American police chief, Donny Williams Nov. 19th, after two former command staff officers of the Wilmington Police Dept. (WPD) alleged harassment and mismanagement by Chief Williams and the department.

Reportedly, a damning third-party investigation confirms some of those allegations, but that report has not been made public as of press time.

Wilmington Black leadership isn't buying it though, stating that they see a pattern of moves being made to oust African-American officials, beginning with the firing of Dr. Charles Foust, the first black superintendent of New Hanover County Public

Schools several months ago.

"Wilmington has not socially (nor) politically healed from 1898," Sonya Patrick, chair of the NHC National Black Leadership Caucus said. "This is ... racially motivated at the expense of the taxpayers and it shouldn't even be tolerated."

"1898" is a reference to when white supremacists, in an effort to take back Wilmington from African-American economic and political leadership on Nov. 10th, 1898, violently attacked blacks, taking over the city in a coup that has lasted, many say, to present day.

Patrick also noted the resignation of William Buster, the former president of the NHC Endowment.

"We don't want history to repeat itself and we see a pattern here," she continued. "This is not coincidence. This is a national agenda that is definitely happening here in New Hanover [County] with an attack on our Black leaders."

LeRon Montgomery, president of the New Hanover County Chapter of the NAACP, echoed Sonya Patrick's warning.

"The NAACP calls for an end to these unwarranted claims about the integrity of Chief Donny Williams' leadership," Montgomery said, noting that he has spoken with Chief Williams, and the allegations are not true.

Both Montgomery and Ms. Patrick lauded Chief Williams, and the positive changes, they say, he's brought to the police department since being promoted to chief in 2020.

One of Chief Williams first actions was to dismiss three white officers who were heard speaking negatively about Black protesters on a recording.

Reportedly, one of the complaining officers about Williams, a retired

police captain, received a letter from Wilmington City Manager Tony Caudle, telling him, "the appropriate steps are being taken to address the substantiated claims you brought forward."

For his part, Chief Williams denied the charges against him, documented where he has been the target of racial slurs by some of his fellow officers, and white officers

who resist seeing African-Americans in leadership roles.

"Do we have pockets of racism? Yes. Absolutely. Any large organization is going to have people with different views. I said this back in 2022, and I'm going to say it again: judge our officers by the color of their hearts, not by the color of their skin," Williams told reporters in his office Nov. 20th.

CNN Wants Lt. Gov. Robinson's Lawsuit Of Defamation Against It Thrown Out

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP) — CNN wants a court to dismiss a defamation lawsuit filed by North Carolina Republican Lt. Gov. Mark Robinson that attacks its report that he made explicit posts on a pornography website's message board. The network says Robinson presented no evidence that the network believed its story was false or aired it recklessly.

The September report says Robinson, who ran unsuccessfully for governor this month, left statements over a decade ago on the message board in which, in part, he referred to himself as a "black NAZI" and said he enjoyed transgender pornography. The report also says he preferred Adolf Hitler to then-President Barack Obama and slammed the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. as "worse than a maggot."

Robinson, who was seeking to become the state's first Black governor, said he didn't write those posts and sued in October, just before early in-person voting was to begin.

While filing a dismissal motion Thursday in Raleigh federal court, attorneys for CNN said Robinson's arguments suggesting he was the likely victim of a computer hacking operation that created fake messages would require a series of events that is not just "implausible, it is ridiculous."

Generally speaking, a public official claiming defamation must show a defendant knew a statement it made was false or did so with reckless disregard for the truth.

"Robinson did not and cannot plausibly allege facts that show that



CNN published the Article with actual malice," attorney Mark Nebrig wrote in a memo backing the dismissal motion, adding that the lawsuit "does not include a single allegation demonstrating that CNN doubted the veracity of its reporting."

"For Robinson, who already had a history of inflammatory comments about topics like abortion and LG-BTQ+ rights, the CNN story nearly led to the collapse of his campaign. After the report's airing, most of his top campaign staff quit, advertising from the Republican Governors Association stopped and fellow Republicans distanced themselves from him, including President-elect Donald Trump.

Robinson lost to Democratic Attorney General Josh Stein by nearly 15 points and will leave office at year-

end. Robinson's lawsuit was initially filed in state court. It says, in part, that CNN chose to run its report based on data from the website NudeAfrica, which had been hacked several years ago and ran on vulnerable, outdated software. His suit claims the network did nothing to verify the posts. He's seeking monetary damages.

Thursday's memo highlights the network's story, including a section where the CNN journalists showed how they connected Robinson to a username on the NudeAfrica site.

As the CNN story said previously, the memo says the network matched details of the account on the message board to other online accounts held by Robinson by

comparing usernames, an email address and his full name. The details discussed by the account holder matched Robinson's length of marriage, where he lived at the time, and that both Robinson and the account holder had mothers who worked at a historically Black university, the memo says. CNN also said it found matches of figures of speech used by both the NudeAfrica account holder and in Robinson's social media posts.

"This is hardly a case where, as Robinson alleges, CNN 'disregarded or deliberately avoided the truth' rather than investigate," Nebrig said, adding later that the network "had no reason to seriously doubt that Robinson was the author" of the posts.

Robinson's attorneys didn't immediately respond to an email Friday seeking comment. The lawsuit says anyone could have used Robinson's breached data to create accounts on the internet.

His state lawsuit also sued Louis Love Money, a former porn shop worker who alleged in a music video and a media interview that for several years starting in the 1990s, Robinson frequented a porn shop where Money was working and that Robinson purchased porn videos from him. Robinson said that was untrue.

Money filed his own dismissal motion in the state lawsuit. But since then, CNN moved the lawsuit to federal court, saying that it's the proper venue for a North Carolina resident like Robinson and a Georgia-based company like CNN and that the claims against Money are unrelated.

Malcolm X Estate Alleges Assassination

The Hill — The estate of Malcolm X is suing the federal government, accusing it of playing a role in the 1965 assassination of the civil rights leader.

In a lawsuit filed against the Department of Justice (DOJ), FBI, CIA and New York Police Department (NYPD), the estate alleges the agencies all played a significant role in the events leading to Malcolm X's slaying and then engaged in a decades-long cover-up of their involvement.

The complaint says the quartet of agencies were aware of credible threats against Malcolm X's life but failed to intervene.

"As a direct result of the Defendants' intentional, bad faith, willful, wanton, reckless, unreasonable and/or deliberately indifferent acts and omissions, Malcolm X was deprived of his federal constitutional rights, was robbed of his life and freedom, and sustained severe physical, emotional, and monetary damages, including conscious physical pain and suffering," the lawsuit states.

Malcolm X, born Malcolm Little, was gunned down at age 39 by three men Feb. 21, 1965, at the Audubon



Ballroom in Manhattan, where he was set to deliver a speech. His pregnant wife, Betty Shabazz, and four daughters were in the front row.

He was shot 21 times in the attack. The suit, brought by Ilyasah Shabazz, Malcolm X's daughter, alongside other family members, calls for \$100 million in restitution. It also demands answers to questions still surrounding the assassination.

Though three men were initially convicted for the killing, two were exonerated in 2021.

That same year, a letter written by a former NYPD officer alleged the

NYPD and FBI covered up details of the assassination.

The officer, Raymond Wood, wrote that he was ordered to coerce members of Malcolm X's security team to commit felonious federal crimes "so that they could be arrested by the FBI and kept away from managing Malcolm X's door security on Feb. 21, 1965."

The lawsuit alleges that under the direction of J. Edgar Hoover, then-head of the FBI, the entities "went beyond mere allegedly illegal surveillance of Malcolm X, actively conspiring to reduce his

protection and leaving him vulnerable to an attack they knew was imminent."

"For decades, these agencies viewed Black activism as a threat to national security, resulting in the unchecked targeting of prominent leaders, including Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Marcus Garvey," the family said in a press release.

"This lawsuit seeks accountability for the systemic negligence and intentional actions that deprived Malcolm X's family and the world of his life and legacy."

In total, the lawsuit lists nine causes of action, including excessive use of force against Malcolm X, deliberate creation of danger, failure to protect, and the denial of access to the courts for his family.

The suit also charges the defendants with conspiracy, fraudulent concealment and wrongful death.

"This cover-up spanned decades, blocking the Shabazz family's access to the truth and their right to pursue justice," said civil rights attorney Ben Crump, who is representing the family in the suit. "We are making history by standing here to confront those wrongs and seeking accountability in the courts."

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Business & Finance

Walmart Becomes Latest - And Biggest Company To Roll Back Its DEI Policies

NEW YORK (AP) — Walmart, the world's largest retailer, is rolling back its diversity, equity and inclusion policies, joining a growing list of major corporations that have done the same after coming under attack by conservative activists.

The changes, confirmed by Walmart on Monday, are sweeping and include everything from not renewing a five-year commitment for an equity racial center set up in 2020 after the police killing of George Floyd, to pulling out of a prominent gay rights index. And when it comes to race or gender, Walmart won't be giving priority treatment to suppliers.

Walmart's moves underscore the increasing pressure faced by corporate America as it continues to navigate the fallout from the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling in June 2023 ending affirmative action in college admissions. Emboldened by that decision, conservative groups have filed lawsuits making similar arguments about corporations, targeting workplace initiatives such as diversity programs and hiring practices that prioritize historically marginalized groups.

Separately, conservative political commentator and activist Robby Starbuck has been going after corporate DEI policies, calling out individual companies on the social media platform X. Several of those companies have subsequently announced that they are pulling back their initiatives, including Ford, Harley-Davidson, Lowe's and Tractor Supply.

But Walmart, which employs 1.6 million workers in the U.S., is the largest one to do so.

"This is the biggest win yet for our movement to end wokeness in corporate America," Starbuck wrote on X, adding that he had been in conversation with Walmart.

Walmart confirmed to The Associated Press that it will better monitor its third-party marketplace items to make sure they don't feature sexual and transgender products aimed at



minors. That would include chest binders intended for youth who are going through a gender change, the company said.

The Bentonville, Arkansas-based retailer will also be reviewing grants to Pride events to make sure it is not financially supporting sexualized content that may be unsuitable for kids. For example, the company wants to make sure a family pavilion is not next to a drag show at a Pride event, the company said.

Additionally, Walmart will no longer consider race and gender as a litmus test to improve diversity when it offers supplier contracts. The company said it didn't have quotas and will not do so going forward. It won't be gathering demographic data when determining financing eligibility for those grants.

Walmart also said it wouldn't re-

new a racial equity center that was established through a five-year, \$100 million philanthropic commitment from the company with a mandate to, according to its website, "address the root causes of gaps in outcomes experienced by Black and African American people in education, health, finance and criminal justice systems."

And it would stop participating in the Human Rights Campaign's annual benchmark index that measures workplace inclusion for LGBTQ+ employees.

"We've been on a journey and know we aren't perfect, but every decision comes from a place of wanting to foster a sense of belonging, to open doors to opportunities for all our associates, customers and suppliers and to be a Walmart for everyone," the company said in a statement.

The changes come soon after an election win by former President Donald Trump, who has criticized DEI initiatives and surrounded himself with conservatives who hold similar views, including his former adviser Stephen Miller, who leads a group called America First Legal that has challenged corporate DEI policies. Trump named Miller to be the deputy chief of policy in his new administration.

A Walmart spokesperson said some of its policy changes have been in progress for a while. For example, it has been moving away from using the word DEI in job titles and communications and started to use the word "belonging." It also started making changes to its supplier program in the aftermath of the Supreme Court affirmative action ruling.

As Amazon Expands Use Of Warehouse Robots, What Will It Mean For Workers?

Amazon has introduced a handful of robots in its warehouses that the e-commerce giant says will improve efficiency and reduce employee injuries.

Two robotic arms named Robin and Cardinal can lift packages that weigh up to 50 pounds. A third, called Sparrow, picks up items from bins and puts them in other containers.

Proteus, an autonomous mobile robot that operates on the floor, can move carts around a warehouse. The bipedal, humanoid robot Digit is being tested to help move empty totes with its hands. And there's also Sequoia, a containerized storage system that can present totes to employees in a way that allows them to avoid stretching or squatting to grab inventory.

Amazon says Robin is currently being used in dozens of warehouses. The others are in a testing stage or haven't been rolled out widely. But the company says it's already seeing benefits, such as reducing the time it takes to fulfill orders and helping employees avoid repetitive tasks. However, automation also carries drawbacks for workers, who would have to be retrained for new positions if the robots made their roles obsolete.



In October, Amazon held an event at a Nashville, Tennessee, warehouse where the company had integrated some of the robots. The Associated Press spoke with Julie Mitchell, the director of Amazon's robotic sortation technologies, about where the company hopes to go from here. The conversation has been edited for length and clarity.

Q: When you're working on robotics, how long does it typically take to roll out new technology?

A: This journey that we've been on has taken a couple of years. Luckily

for us, we've been at this for over a decade. So we have a lot of core technology that we can build on top of. We started these particular robots - Cardinal and Proteus - in this building in November 2022. We came in and began playing around with what it would look like to pack and move a production order. Less than two years later, we are at scale and shipping 70% of the items in this building through that robotics system.

Q: So, two years?

A: We talk about "build, test and scale" and that's about a two-year

cycle for us right now.

Q: It's challenging to build robots that can physically grab products. How does Amazon work through that?

A: As you can probably imagine, we have so many items, so it's an exceptional challenge. We rely on data and putting our first prototype in a real building, where we expose it to all the things we need it to do. Then we drive down all the reasons that it fails. We give it a lot of sample sizes in a very short period of time. For example, a couple of years ago, we launched our Robin robotics arm - a package manipulation robot - and we're at 3 billion picks. So the ability to launch into our network, rapidly collect data, scale and iterate has enabled us to go fast.

The challenge itself can be boiled down to three simple things: you need to perceive the scene, plan your motion and then execute. Today, those are three different parts of our system. Artificial intelligence is going to help us change all of that, and it's going to be more outcome-driven, like asking it to pick up a bottle of water. We're on the verge, so that's why I'm personally excited to be here at the onset of generative AI and use it to dramatically improve the performance of our robotics.

\$285M Award For CHIPS Manufacturing

On Tuesday, the Biden-Harris Administration announced that the U.S. Department of Commerce and the Semiconductor Research Corporation Manufacturing Consortium Corporation (SRC) are entering negotiations for the Department to provide SRC \$285 million to establish and operate a Manufacturing USA institute headquartered in Durham, North Carolina. With combined funding totaling \$1 billion, this investment will support the launch of the first-of-its-kind CHIPS Manufacturing USA Institute. The new institute, known as SMART USA (Semiconductor Manufacturing and Advanced Research with Twins USA) will focus on efforts to develop, validate, and use digital twins to improve domestic semiconductor design, manufacturing, advanced packaging, assembly, and test processes. SMART USA will join an existing network of seventeen institutes designed to increase U.S. manufacturing competitiveness and promote a robust R&D infrastructure. SRC is an important part of North Carolina's research ecosystem, including decades-long relationships with North Carolina's universities.

"America's technological leadership on the world stage depends on its ability to collaborate with the best and brightest around the globe," said U.S. Secretary of Commerce Gina Raimondo. "Thanks to the leadership of President Biden and Vice President Harris, we're opening new avenues to better safeguard U.S. national security and further technological innovation with the establishment of the SMART USA Institute. With new Digital Twin capabilities, America is fostering unparalleled opportunities to collaborate with experts and researchers anywhere in the world to develop the next frontier of technological advancements in the semiconductor industry."

Digital twins are virtual models that replicate physical objects, like chips or complex machinery. Engineers and researchers can use these virtual models to design, develop, and test processes digitally before applying them in real life. Digital twin-based research can also leverage emerging technology like artificial intelligence to optimize chip design, improve production efficiency, and lower costs by streamlining operations and reducing the need for costly adjustments. Additionally, these

technologies will expand workforce opportunities by providing real-time feedback, place-based learning, and exposure to systems previously inaccessible. Through digital twins, researchers and technicians can develop new technical skills, tools, mechanical systems, and chemicals, while protecting workplace safety.

"Today's announcement is another step forward under President Biden's leadership to bring semiconductor manufacturing back to the United States—and invest in the research and development needed to win the future," said Assistant to the President for Science and Technology and Director of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy Arati Prabhakar. "With the CHIPS and Science Act, we're catalyzing private sector investments that are advancing a supply chain that feeds so many other industries. And we're creating good-paying jobs that support families and change people's lives."

SMART USA will convene companies, startups, researchers and academia and provide access to physical assets and novel digital capabilities, to:

- Speed up the development and

adoption of advanced semiconductor technologies. By streamlining this process and reducing time-to-market, SMART USA will help accelerate innovation in U.S. chips design and manufacturing.

- Shorten the time and cost of chip production. The institute will implement efficient design and validation methods using digital twins, significantly cutting expenses and improving productivity.

- Provide training opportunities for the next generation of semiconductor workers: this includes creating programs aimed at skill development and workforce readiness.

"Digital Twin technology can unleash a new frontier for innovation in America's semiconductor R&D ecosystem," said Under Secretary of Commerce for Standards and Technology and National Institute of Standards and Technology Director Laurie E. Locascio. "With the new SMART USA Institute, America is both expanding its semiconductor manufacturing and R&D capabilities and bolstering the domestic semiconductor R&D ecosystem that will be a key innovation engine for years to come."

10 TIPS FOR DISPUTING A MEDICAL BILL

NC Health News - Disputing an unexpected or incorrect charge on a medical bill can be frustrating and time-consuming, but it can pay off.

A 2024 survey of North Carolina residents found that more than three-quarters (78 percent) of people who disputed an incorrect medical bill were able to resolve the issue in their favor.

Caitlin Donovan, senior director of the National Patient Advocate Foundation, shared these tips on how to successfully dispute a bill:

1. **Get the itemized bill and scrutinize it:** Often, the first bill you receive from a health care provider has just one big number showing what you owe. Ask for an itemized bill that shows which services were provided and how they were coded. Then look for duplicate fees, charges for services you didn't receive or other errors. Does the provider's statement match up with the "explanation of benefits" from your insurance company? Was any of your care billed as "out-of-network" even though you went to an in-network provider?
2. **Delay before you pay:** Sometimes, health care providers send you a bill before they've filed with your insurer, and it's very difficult to get your money back once it's in the hands of a hospital or debt collector. If you have debt already in collections, send a letter to the debt collector disputing the validity of the debt and asking for documentation verifying it. Federal law requires them to provide proof that the debt is yours, and you get 30 days to investigate and build your case before they can resume collection efforts.
3. **Build your case:** Read the fine print of your health insurance policy to make sure you understand what's covered and what's not. If you're fighting an insurance denial, ask why it was denied and how the service would need to be coded for it to be covered. (The Patient Advocate Foundation has tips for fighting insurance denials.)
4. **Check to see if you qualify for financial assistance:** Don't assume you don't qualify; many hospitals offer aid even for those with higher incomes. Atrium Health, for example, offers discounts to uninsured patients whose annual income is at or below 400 percent of the federal poverty level — that's \$124,800 for a family of four. You may also qualify if what you owe is a large percentage of your income.
5. **Keep good records:** Keep a record of when you have tests, scans and exams, and save copies of bills, letters and communication from your health care provider and your insurer. Get the name and confirmation number (or other identifying information) of people you talk to. Take screenshots of message exchanges in the portal. If your health insurer's website shows your provider is in network, take a screenshot of that too. You'll need documentation to make your case.
6. **Be persistent:** If you've reached a dead end with the customer service agent you're working with, call back and talk to someone different, or ask for a supervisor. If that person isn't helpful, ask for the head of the department.
7. **Set up a three-way call:** When Donovan was disputing one of her own medical bills, the provider and her health insurer gave her conflicting information, so she set up a three-way call to get everyone on the same page.
8. **Ask for a discount:** If you ask, many hospitals will offer a discount if you offer to pay your whole bill immediately. You can also ask about an interest-free payment plan.
9. **Consider posting a public complaint:** Some patients report that sharing a complaint on social media or on a public review site like Yelp or Google Reviews can be the nudge a hospital system needs to take concerns seriously.
10. **Get help:** If you don't have the time or energy to fight a big or complicated bill, consider getting help from a patient advocate. Some employers offer patient advocacy services as a staff benefit. The Patient Advocate Foundation provides free help to U.S. patients who have a diagnosed debilitating or critical condition, except for bills related to mental illness, accidents or maternity care. Or hire a professional patient advocate; they typically take a percentage of what they save you.

NC Colleges Partner With Google Training

RALEIGH, N.C. -- The North Carolina Community College System (NCCCS) announced a partnership with Google to offer tech training programs to all 58 community colleges statewide at no-cost to the colleges. The programming includes the Google Career Certificates and the company's AI Essentials and Prompting Essentials courses. No experience is required to enroll. In addition to offering stand-alone certificates, NCCCS will offer for-credit courses for select Google Career Certificates fields, and will embed Google AI Essentials into an AI Survey course.

The Google Career Certificates prepare learners for the in-demand fields of cybersecurity, data analytics, digital marketing & e-commerce, IT support, project management, and user experience (UX) design. Students who complete a certificate will be connected to on-demand career resources and a network of over 150 companies in the Google Employer Consortium that will consider them for relevant roles. Companies in the Consortium with a presence in North Carolina include Google, Lowe's, and Wells Fargo.

Designed and taught by Google experts, the Certificates include 150+ practice and graded assessments, quizzes, or writing assignments to ensure rigor and mastery. Each Google Career Certificate includes practical AI tips specific to each certificate field, and NCCCS learners can learn additional foundational AI skills and best practices through the company's AI and Prompting Essentials courses. Google's AI courses are under ten hours and teach techniques that can be applied across industries and generative AI tools.

"This partnership with Google underscores the North Carolina Community College System's commitment to providing students with cutting-edge skills that align with the evolving needs of today's workforce," said Dr. Jeff Cox, President of the North Carolina Community College System. "By offering these career certificates and AI training statewide, we're ensuring that North Carolinians have access to high-demand tech credentials that can open doors to new career opportunities and help grow our state's economy."

"Every student deserves the opportunity to enter the workforce with the skills needed to thrive," said Lisa Gevelber, Founder, Grow with Google. "We're proud to work with the North Carolina Community College System to provide the Google Career Certificates program to every community college in the state. This will ensure that students and workers can access the certificates in their local communities and qualify for well-paying jobs in North Carolina."

Since launching in 2018 on Coursera, more than 250,000 people have graduated from the program in the U.S. Seventy-five percent of graduates report a positive career impact within six months, such as a new job, higher pay, or a promotion. Fifty-five percent of graduates identify as Asian, Black, or Latino.

"The North Carolina Community College System continues to build upon strategic partnerships that provide students with credentials in high demand careers," said Senior Vice President and Chief Academic Officer at the System, Dr. Brian S. Merritt. "This partnership with Google is yet another great example of the high-caliber credentials being earned by community college students."

6 Holiday Sales Strategies For Small Businesses To Win

Forbes — Holiday sales are stressful. The season presents both a significant opportunity and a challenge for small businesses and entrepreneurs. The year's final months often determine annual success, with the holiday rush playing a pivotal role in revenue generation.

Two out of three small businesses — and 89% of the retail businesses — emphasize the holiday season's importance to their bottom line, according to a 2023 American Express survey. However, economic uncertainties and mixed forecasts—ranging from predictions of the “worst Black Friday ever” to modest sales increases of 2.5% to 3.5%—add to the uncertainty and stress for the 2024 season.

A new trend is emerging: slow shopping. Newsweek reports that 73% of consumers are taking a slow shopping approach this year. This means they are starting their shopping early but not rushing to purchase everything immediately — that way they spend money more deliber-

ately. **Share Your Authentic Story** Every small business has an origin story. This story makes you unlike anyone else or any other business. This narrative is one of the most important things about your company. Think about your business’ “why” and find ways to share it through social media or other platforms. Communicating this narrative effectively can forge a strong connection with your community and differentiate your brand from competitors.

We are all drawn to authentic storytelling and communities. Sharpen this part of your business. Revisit your company’s founding story, ensure it’s clear and concise, and integrate it into your marketing to engage customers. Also, remember to celebrate your sales. When you make a sale, connect with the purchaser, highlight them, and share their story and why they shopped with you. The value of social acceptance by others is a key way to attract future sales.

Lean Into Local Advantages

Your local community is one of your most significant distinct advantages. Your business can offer unique, handcrafted, locally sourced products that help you stand out from mass-produced items in big box stores. Highlighting these offerings and the stories behind them can appeal to consumers seeking meaningful and distinctive gifts. Be sure to showcase them alongside your brand story, as this can effectively reinforce your position in the local marketplace.

Use Location-Based Marketing Platforms

In today’s digital age, marketing dollars can be spent efficiently through hyper-targeted campaigns. Social media platforms play a pivotal role in influencing holiday purchasing decisions, with 89% of consumers saying social media influences their holiday shopping. According to a static 2024 survey, Facebook influenced U.S. consumers the most when it came to holiday gifts. In turn, YouTube was the second most

influential social network for holiday gift shopping in the United States. These factors, coupled with your founder’s story, engaging your audience effectively by showcasing your story and products on these platforms is critical.

One option to explore is proximity-based marketing, which allows your company to send ads only to individuals within the same geographic location.

Social media campaigns don’t need to be fancy or expensive. Look into your network, even your own kids, and ask for help as to what trends they’re seeing. You’ll be surprised by what you learn.

Engage With Community Events Are you aware of all the local events, such as holiday gatherings, tree lightings or school functions? If not, look into them now. These provide opportunities to showcase your brand and connect with the community. One place to start is with your local chamber of commerce to access event calendars. Find ways to en-

gage with as many as you can. These engagements increase visibility and demonstrate your commitment to the community.

Host Your Own Holiday Events and Promotions

Hosting in-store or virtual holiday events can create excitement and draw customers. Events like holiday workshops, exclusive shopping nights or virtual product demonstrations offer unique experiences that differentiate your business. Such events serve a dual purpose: They provide content for your marketing efforts and attract patrons to your location or online store. Additionally, promotions such as limited-time offers, flash sales or bundled deals can create a sense of urgency and encourage purchases.

One Final Tip for Small Business Holiday Sales

The fluid economy is undoubtedly a factor, depending on your

city and location. Offering flexible payment options, such as buy now and pay later (BNPL) services, can make purchasing more accessible for budget-conscious shoppers. Additionally, offering various shipping options, including expedited and free shipping thresholds, can enhance the customer experience and reduce cart abandonment.

Implementing these strategies can help small businesses and entrepreneurs attract holiday shoppers, enhance customer satisfaction, and drive sales during the holiday season. Staying attuned to consumer trends and being adaptable in your marketing approach will position your business for success in the competitive holiday market.

As a small business holiday sales are an opportunity to connect with your community, showcase your unique offerings, and build lasting customer relationships.

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Health and Wellness

Ideas For Keeping Thanksgiving Healthy – And Happy

By Michael Merschel
American Heart Association

The turkey is roasting in the oven. The pies are cooling on the counter. And you may be telling yourself, “Thanksgiving Day is no time to be overly rigid about what I’m eating.”

Health experts say – you might have a point.

“I don’t want people overthinking their relationship with food during Thanksgiving, when the holiday should be about friends, families, being thankful and counting our blessings,” said Dr. Colleen Spees, an associate professor of medical dietetics at Ohio State University College of Medicine in Columbus.

Holidays tend to bring out all-or-nothing attitudes about eating, said Krystal Dunham, a registered dietitian nutritionist in Tulsa, Oklahoma. People are either “YOLO! It’s the holidays! I’m going to let all the rules go!” or “It’s the holidays, and I’m not touching anything unless it’s celery.”

“And I think there’s a way to exist in the middle,” Dunham said.

That middle ground allows for enjoyment, peace of mind and health, she and Spees said. And while some people, including those with diet-related medical conditions such as diabetes, might require more thoughtful planning, everyone can make simple, healthy last-minute choices that enhance the day.

Among their suggestions:

Don’t skip breakfast
Eating to prevent overeating might seem counterintuitive, but starving yourself in the morning can lead to trouble later.

“A lot of people get into a habit on holidays of saving room for a big meal,” Dunham said. “But a lot of times when we’re doing that, we’re showing up to a meal over-hungry. So, then we end up eating past the point of comfort, and we’re miser-

able for the rest of the evening.”

A simple breakfast – a bowl of cereal or oatmeal with some fruit, or granola and low-fat or nonfat yogurt high in protein – “helps us make more intentional decisions throughout the day,” she said.

Think ahead about how you’ll eat ...

Most of us know what to expect from our family’s traditional meals, Spees said. So have a plan for the hurdles. Visualize filling your plate with whole grains and colorful fruits and vegetables, she suggested, as recommended by the American Heart Association and in the federal Dietary Guidelines for Americans.

The basics of healthy eating are the same regardless of the day, Dunham said. Fruits, vegetables and whole grains are full of fiber, which helps regulate blood sugar and has other heart-healthy qualities. “And fiber usually helps us feel fuller a little bit longer,” she added.

... and drink

Alcohol can be one of the biggest holiday challenges for adults, Spees said. Once people start drinking, “their inhibitions go out the door, often along with health behaviors.”

If drinking is typically part of your holiday celebration, pace yourself by diluting spirits or making wine spritzers, Spees suggested. Instead of downing consecutive cocktails, alternate by drinking water with a little lime in between. You can also try a mocktail, she said, or just fill your glass with unsweetened sparkling water or iced tea. (The federal dietary guidelines say that people who don’t drink shouldn’t start and that drinking less is better for health than drinking more.)

Don’t trick yourself

When it’s time to carve the turkey, many prefer white meat because it has less fat.

“People think, ‘Oh, I’m choosing a



healthy option,’ and then they throw gravy all over it,” adding saturated fat and sodium, Spees said.

So, keep your focus on the whole plate, Spees emphasized, and keep portions reasonable. You can leave room for a taste of traditional Thanksgiving foods that are salty

and fatty, especially if that’s outside your usual routine.

“It’s OK to have a few bites,” Spees said. “You don’t need a huge serving.”

Room for dessert?

The same thinking applies to dessert, Spees said. If you’re going to

have pie, make it a small piece, and go easy on the whipped cream. Or opt for fresh fruit instead.

Dunham said it’s possible to enjoy desserts without going overboard. But holiday meals highlight another aspect of healthy eating, she said, that goes beyond physical nourishment.

“Cultural foods and traditions are really important,” she said. “And I think sometimes cultural foods nourish our bodies and souls just as much as foods do physically.”

So, when the sweet potato pie comes around, she’ll be having a slice. “It’s a Thanksgiving thing for me,” she said.

It’s one day out of the year, Dunham said. “It’s not going to make or break any of the progress that I’ve made in my health thus far.”

Make movement part of the plan

Physical activity, even a little bit, is a good idea any day. It can lower cholesterol and blood pressure, help maintain a healthy weight and lower your risk of having a heart attack or stroke.

A little group exercise can shift the

day’s focus in a fun and healthy way, Spees said. “It really prioritizes what Thanksgiving is about, versus the food.”

So, take a walk around the block with grandma, or go play with the kids in the backyard, Spees suggested.

Or try dancing, Dunham said. “Our family had a ‘Soul Train’ line last year.”

Remember what you’re there for

Little choices do matter to health over time, Dunham said. And understanding carbohydrates, proteins and fats are all important for daily meals.

But holiday meals are more, she said. “I think joy is a great component to a plate, especially when it comes to Thanksgiving,” Dunham said. And meals that serve up a side of joy “are going to be meals that are going to be filling and satisfying, regardless.”

Spees also will be thinking beyond the kitchen.

“Enjoy the day,” she said. “Focus on your relationships with people. Life is short. Enjoy the day.”



MASS CONSUMPTION SEASON HAS BEGUN!

“The older you get, the faster time flies.”

Me

It’s hard for me to believe Thanksgiving is this week! What happened to this year? Remember how slowly time seemed to pass as a child? Between the first day of school and Thanksgiving felt like forever. Right through here, days become nights, become weeks, become months in the blink of an eye. So, here we are, racing toward Christmas and the end of the year.

I think this time collapse is exacerbated by the fact that each year retailers begin putting out Christmas decorations earlier and earlier. This year, I was stopped in my tracks in Home Depot when they pushed aside Halloween with Christmas trees and lights. Before the end of October! And folks were filling their carts with tall, fluffy, expensive artificial trees, hundreds of lights, and ornaments of every color and shape. Dollar Tree jammed the pumpkin everything from plates to wreaths on one isle to make room for Christmas tinsel, miniatures, and those winter themed cookie tins I love. Again, before Halloween. Too much, too soon.

Don’t get me wrong, I love looking at the rows of pre-lit Christmas trees and shiny, colorful ornaments, but I’m not ready for Christmas anything until at least the second week of November. I’m already cringing at the thought of a month of Christmas music. My tolerance for the promotional marketing aspects of an extended holiday season is shrinking like my height. I miss the days when the big malls worked around the clock on the Wednesday before Thanksgiving to prepare for what we now call “Black Friday.” Confession, I asked ChatGPT the origin of the name, Black Friday. In this politically incorrect time when many are uncomfortable, either hypersensitive or numbed out to anything mention of race, it seems like an odd choice for what retailers hope to be the biggest shopping day of the year. Black Friday got its name from the hope throughout the manufacturing, shipping, retail and wholesale industries to move the revenue needle from loss to profit (being in the black vs. in the red) the day after Thanksgiving. It is hoped that the shopping fever will engulf the masses and create a wave of spending that lasts until at least the middle of January. I get it but I wonder just how effective this hyped-up strategy will be in this age of “fast” shopping, available 24/7 without leaving home, for unbelievably low, low prices. There is very little motivation to get up at dawn’s crack, to get in line to fight over one of the four Black Friday priced electronics actually in the stores. Why would I do that to myself? Simple answer, I wouldn’t.

I do remember leaving home in the dark to meet family and friends at Steinmart in Jackson, Mississippi to grab a great bargain. Standing in line at the door, shifting from one foot to the other, watching the sun rise heightened the experience. For me, a self-confessed shopaholic, it was just too good. I just loved being there, chatting and laughing with strangers corraling kids, sipping convenience store coffee, making plans for breakfast at IHOP or Cracker Barrel. I was there for the fellowship. People seemed happier, more gracious, more “Hallmarky,” in those shared moments.

I also remember as a child, going downtown with my mother the day after Thanksgiving to see the Christmas window displays that drew native Chicagoans and tourists from around the world. Downtown Chicago took on a fantasy appearance for the holidays. Carsons, Marshall Fields, Stevens drew crowds of adults with death-grips on children trying to press their noses against the windows. We shopped all day and it was entirely possible that at some point, big, beautiful snowflakes would begin to fall, right on cue.

Those were the days. Now, I just sit in my bed with my phone, ordering from Amazon, Etsy, and Temu. This year, instead of decorating, I plan to bake all day. What I won’t be doing is leaving home on Black Friday. You can have my place in line.

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By: Maya Whitaker

Freelance Writer

As technology has advanced, our knowledge and capabilities have grown. However, essential family farming techniques within nuclear families—particularly those tied to self-sufficiency and sustainability—have been lost during societal transitions. The convenience of readily available fresh food and resources in stores has caused fundamental agricultural skills to fade. With rising food prices, access to affordable organic food has decreased, leaving many reliant on grocery stores to sustain their needs. This raises the question of how to protect and preserve the environment for future generations while educating and preserving the knowledge and practices of agriculture and horticulture.

Most of these challenges lie in educating our communities on the importance of understanding and sustaining the base of natural resources in our environment. Mr. Charles Whitaker, a trained soil and water conservationist with a degree in Agricultural Science and Technology from North Carolina Agricultural & Technical State University, was employed by the United States Department of Agriculture for 38

years and has long recognized this trend. Specifically, his life's work has been dedicated to supporting the efforts of small, limited resources, and veteran farmers in rural communities, equipping them with the ability to gain knowledge of alternative uses of their land and exposing them to opportunities to acquire multiple revenue streams, among other things. Mr. Whitaker's efforts have focused on helping communities better understand and implement good environmental practices that educate, preserve, and sustain measures, such as regenerative agriculture.

In 2006, Mr. Whitaker founded Whitaker Small Farm Group, Inc. Since then, the group has undertaken various community projects, providing classroom training, field training, and technical assistance to educate thousands of people in eastern North Carolina. The group's most recent initiatives have significantly impacted veterans in Fayetteville, and surrounding counties, particularly Cumberland and Bladen Counties. In September 2021, Whitaker Small Farm Group, Inc. received a grant from the United States Department of Agriculture, which was used to train veterans in the local community to develop and understand agricultural concepts, production, and mar-

keting practices.

The first year of the three-year program was a learning experience for everyone. The focus was on educating veterans about the vast possibilities within horticulture and agriculture, integrating both the science and art of growing plants for consumption and aesthetics. Veterans of all ages and backgrounds participated, and classes were split into three sectors over 18 weeks: lectures, hands-on learning in the garden, and value-added classes, such as canning and drying berries.

Whitaker Small Farm Group, Inc. held classes six (6) times a month, with Mondays dedicated to hands-on learning in the garden and Wednesdays and Thursdays focused on lectures and skill-building sessions. In the garden, participants practiced essential techniques like safely applying pesticides and fertilizers to protect crops. They grew watermelon, squash, tomatoes, and cucumbers while learning cultivation methods to maintain a healthy garden. The classroom instruction complemented the garden work, deepening participants' understanding of sustainable agriculture. The first year had its obstacles and the classes were initially held at Bladen Burrow High School. The

garden was leased to the Whitaker Small Farm Group, Inc. by a local farmer, and served as the site for practical instruction. By the second year, the program began to hit its stride. Classes were moved to the instructor's, Ms. Nancy Olsen's, personal farm in Fayetteville, NC. This new site provided more accessibility for the veterans in a more intimate setting, better facilitating learning. This shift gave way to more creative freedom for Ms. Olsen to share her passion for horticulture, allowing the program to flourish.

Throughout the 18-week program, participants dove into hands-on gardening, agriculture, and sustainability skills. Lessons covered everything from mastering insect control and disease prevention to the art of fertilizing, weed-taming, and garden upkeep. Participants also explored soil care, tips for houseplants and fruit growing, weed management, garden maintenance, irrigation, micro-irrigation, soil care, house plant and fruit cultivation, plus eco-friendly practices like recycling and reusing.

Hands-on sessions brought the class instruction to life, allowing participants to actively engage with the various topics discussed. Veterans would get the opportunity to

enact the newly learned knowledge and techniques in the garden. Where they were able to experience growing tomatoes, watermelons, squash, cucumbers, mushrooms, rosemary, strawberries, and more, including edible and non-edible plants. Participants even had the chance to use a greenhouse for year-round planting. Fun activities involved repotting houseplants, experimenting with fertilizers, and learning creative ways to repurpose materials. Participants were taught how to properly maintain the equipment needed to grow and successfully maintain the garden. The program's impact was reflected in the participants' stories. The program's commitment to sustainable practices and fostering a hands-on learning environment helped participants gain valuable skills while promoting community and environmental stewardship.

The "Value Added" component of the Whitaker Small Farm Group, Inc. program has provided veterans with a comprehensive approach to gardening and food preparation that goes well beyond basic cultivation. Participants learned essential skills in canning and preserving, enabling them to turn their harvested produce into meals that could be enjoyed year-round. This included drying and canning strawberries, blueberries, and various garden crops, as well as learning methods for preserving meats. Value-added classes featured a "Food of the Month" focusing on seasonal crops grown in the garden. This allowed participants to engage with the produce they harvested, honing their cooking skills while developing a deeper understanding of nutrition and food preparation.

In addition to practical gardening skills, the program offered critical resources for veterans, particularly those with disabilities. This included support systems to help them access necessary assistance, making the program not only about agriculture but also about overall well-being. Importantly, the program fostered a strong sense of community among participants, many of whom had faced physical and mental challenges. The classes created a collegial atmosphere of mutual respect, collaboration, and teamwork. Veterans built

friendships and discovered new ways to engage with their environment, emphasizing the value of working together and recognizing each individual's contributions. This holistic approach ensured that participants not only gained practical skills but also found a supportive network, enhancing their overall quality of life. The program awarded certificates to veterans for their accomplishments, motivating them to attend classes consistently and engage actively with their peers. As they completed milestones and advanced through each level, participants received specific awards, reinforcing their commitment to learning. Many veterans continued to connect with the instructor outside of class, sharing their progress in canning and cooking. This focused recognition and support helped build a tight-knit community among participants, making the program a valuable experience for those involved.

By the third year, the program was running smoothly, and Whitaker Small Farm Group, Inc. saw the potential for further growth. With food prices continuing to rise, Whitaker Small Farm Group, Inc. hopes to teach more veterans how to grow their food, emphasizing the financial and environmental benefits of cultivating crops, while expanding the value-added classes and adding more hands-on activities.

Looking ahead, Whitaker Small Farm Group, Inc. aims to expand the program to help veterans and the community reconnect with the land while promoting education and resources for environmental protection and preservation. Although the Farm Forward: Agriculture & Community Skills initiative has concluded after its three-year run, Whitaker Small Farm Group, Inc. is grateful for the positive impact it had on individuals and communities. They hope to continue fostering change within their small but mighty communities, believing that with the right care, small efforts can grow into limitless possibilities. [Contact Information for WSFG: Mr. Charles L. Whitaker, President and CEO. Email: c.l.w.whitaker@comcast.net. Telephone Number: 919-412-1432]

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Arts & Culture

Selma Burke: Activism Through Artistry

By: Jordan Meadows

Staff Writer

Selma Burke was an African American sculptor whose extraordinary life, spanning nearly a century, forged a lasting impact on both the art world and the wider cultural landscape.

Born on December 31, 1900, in Mooresville, North Carolina, Burke grew up in a segregated South where opportunities for African Americans, particularly women, were severely limited. As a child, Burke found solace in the clay by the riverbed near her home, a material that would become central to her life's work. "It was there in 1907 that I discovered me," she later reflected.

Her early interest in art was nurtured by her maternal grandmother, a painter, although her mother initially discouraged her from pursuing an artistic career, urging her to consider a more stable profession.

After attending Winston-Salem State University, Burke graduated from the St. Agnes Training School for Nurses in Raleigh in 1924. She moved to New York City in 1925, where she worked as a private nurse to a wealthy heiress. This patronage would provide Burke with the financial stability she needed to pursue her true calling in the arts during the Great Depression.

In the mid-1930s, Burke enrolled in art classes at Sarah Lawrence College while working as a model to support herself. It was during this period that she became involved with the Harlem Renaissance, the vibrant cultural movement that celebrated African American art, literature, and music. In particular, Burke found a mentor in the sculptor Augusta Savage, and together they worked at the Harlem Community Arts Center, a hub for creative expression in the African American community.

Burke also worked with the Federal Art Project (FAP) as part of the New Deal, producing public works of art for various institutions. One of her most notable early works was a bust of Booker T. Washington, created for Frederick Douglass High School in Manhattan in 1936.

In 1933, with the support of a Rosendal Fellowship, Burke traveled to Vienna to study sculpture. She returned to Europe in 1936, studying in



Paris.

With the onset of World War II, Burke returned to the United States and worked at the Brooklyn Navy Yard as a truck driver, believing that artists should contribute to the war effort. After the war, Burke pursued a Master of Fine Arts degree at Columbia University, further solidifying her artistic credentials.

Burke's sculptural work was rooted in humanistic values, focusing on the dignity and strength of individuals, particularly African Americans. She created portraits of prominent figures like Duke Ellington, Mary McLeod Bethune, and Dr. Charles Drew, as well as lesser-known subjects who represented the everyday heroism of Black life. Her sculptures spanned a variety of materials, including wood, brass, alabaster, and limestone.

In 1940, Burke founded the Selma Burke School of Sculpture in New York City, which later expanded to the Selma Burke Art Center in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The art center became an important institution in

the Pittsburgh arts community, offering workshops and classes to children and adults of all races.

One of Burke's most significant and best-known works is the bas-relief portrait of President Franklin D. Roosevelt, created in 1943 as part of a national contest. The sculpture was based on a 45-minute sitting with Roosevelt at the White House after Burke wrote a letter requesting a personal meeting with the president. This iconic work was unveiled in 1945 at the Recorder of Deeds Building in Washington, D.C., and is said by some to have been the inspiration for Roosevelt's image on the U.S. dime.

His wife Eleanor Roosevelt objected to how young Burke chose to present him, but she responded by saying, "This profile is not for today, but for tomorrow and all time."

The 3.5-by-2.5-foot plaque was completed in 1944 and unveiled by President Harry S. Truman in September 1945 at the Recorder of Deeds Building in Washington, D.C., where it still hangs today.

Throughout her life, Burke's contributions to art and culture were widely recognized. In 1979, she received the Women's Caucus for Art Lifetime Achievement Award, and she was honored with multiple honorary doctorate degrees, including one from Spelman College in 1988. Her work was exhibited at prestigious institutions such as the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Whitney Museum of American Art, and the Smithsonian American Art Museum.

Burke's public sculptures remain displayed in prominent locations including the Hill House Center in Pittsburgh, the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture in New York, and Spelman College in Atlanta. In 1980, at the age of 80, Burke completed her last monumental work, a bronze statue of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. which can be found in Charlotte, North Carolina.

In addition to her artistic achievements, Burke was a passionate advocate for racial equality. She used her influence to address issues like segregation, famously donating a bust of a local doctor to her hometown of Mooresville, North Carolina, on the condition that the town's ban on Black children using the public library be lifted. They accepted.

"I really live and move in the atmosphere in which I am creating," Burke once said, reflecting her deep connection to the world around her.

In 1979, Burke was honored as part of the first group of women—including Louise Nevelson, Alice Neel, Georgia O'Keeffe, and Isabel Bishop—to receive a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Women's Caucus for Art. She was presented with the award by President Jimmy Carter in a private ceremony at the White House. She also received recognition by receiving the Candace Award from the National Coalition of 100 Black Women in 1983, the Pearl S. Buck Foundation Women's Award in 1988, and the Essence Magazine Award in 1989.

Burke passed away on August 29, 1995, at the age of 94, but her impact continues to resonate. From her powerful sculptures to her dedication to teaching and her advocacy for racial equality, Burke's legacy as a pioneer of art and social change endures, inspiring future generations of artists and activists alike.



Viola Davis To Receive Golden Globes' Honor

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Viola Davis became one of Hollywood's most revered actors through an array of powerful roles, from "Fences" to "The Woman King," and now her decorated career has earned her one of the Golden Globes' highest honors.

Davis will receive the Cecil B. DeMille Award at the 82nd annual awards ceremony on Jan 5, the Golden Globes announced Wednesday morning. The actor has won praise for a string of compelling characters in films such as "The Help," "Ma Rainey's Black Bottom" and "Doubt," while captivating TV audiences through the legal thriller drama "How to Get Away with Murder."

Golden Globes president Helen Hoehne called Davis a "luminary," and expressed admiration for the actor's dedication to her craft and impact on the industry.

"Viola's courage in portraying complex, powerful characters has broken barriers and paved new paths, making her an emblem of excellence and an ideal recipient of this prestigious award," Hoehne said.

The DeMille Award has been bestowed to 69 of Hollywood's greatest talents. Past recipients include Tom Hanks, Jeff Bridges, Oprah Winfrey, Morgan Freeman, Meryl Streep, Barbra Streisand and Sidney Poitier.

Nominations for the upcoming Globes show are scheduled to be announced Dec. 9.

Davis, 59, has two Tonys, most recently for "Fences" in 2010, she won an Emmy in 2015 for "How to Get Away with Murder," and an Oscar and Golden Globe in 2016 for the film version of "Fences." She achieved EGOT status after winning a Grammy last year for best audio book, narration, and storytelling recording for her memoir "Finding Me."

In 2022, Davis was honored with the Public Counsel's William O Douglas Award for her commitment to social justice causes. She has partnered with multiple programs to eradicate childhood hunger in the United States.

Davis and her husband, Julius Tennon, founded a production company, JuVee Productions, which develops and produces independent films, theater, television and digital content. Earlier this year, the company filmed an action thriller for Amazon Studios in Cape Town and reportedly plans to return to South Africa to film the true story of a young African refugee's journey to the U.S.

Davis and the 2025 Carol Burnett Award winner, honoring television achievements, will be praised at a gala dinner Jan. 3 at the Beverly Hilton Hotel. For the first time, the Globes will host a separate event dedicated to both awards.

Community

Consistent Elevation: 19Keys Was The Jewel At The Crown

By Ms Jheri Worldwide

Staff Writer

The inaugural Consistent Elevation featuring 19Keys sponsored by The Carolinina News and Old Hillside Bourbon company was a technology powered interactive conversation with conscious members of the community. One event goer shared, "Peace, I just wanted to reach out and say thank you for having Keys come through. I'm sure this is just the beginning of something major that's to come for you. You have great energy and if this was your first time, I couldn't tell. Please keep working for the community and continue to educate and put the light on what's not being addressed. Again thank you and I will continue to support and share your upcoming

events."

The conversations were entertaining and challenging. There were fun questions about spending habits, what kind of drinks the adults prefer, and serious questions like do you feel comfortable calling the police. Participants ranged in age from 10 years old to mid-60s, indicating a diverse age group and perspective. We surveyed the crowd about their goals, many responses highlighted creative pursuits like writing books and inspirational speaking, as well as physical or wellness goals such as opening a gym or practicing yoga. Survey responses revealed a shared passion for personal growth. Opinions on soul food consumption reflected a mix of cultural appreciation and health-conscious critique, sparking conver-

sation about evolving cultural traditions. The audience, also emphasized the importance of empathy and community respect, offering actionable suggestions like active listening and introspection. The event's interactive format left participants inspired and eager for more opportunities to engage, grow, and elevate together.

We are grateful to our partners JeLee Productions, DJ Young Mammal, Kimberly Michelle Music, Farfar Security Group, Nazar Fragrances, Mended Crowd, Kulture Design Co, Harlem Brew South, Live Alkaline Water, and the Black Farmers' Market for their energy and efforts to put together this truly innovative event. Hope to see you in session two in February! Continue to read The Carolinian for more details on upcoming Consistent Elevation events.



The Celebration Of Preservation: NC Rosenwald Schools

By: Jordan Meadows

Staff Writer

Last Thursday and Friday, North Carolina celebrated its history of Rosenwald Schools with an event that highlighted their enduring legacy in shaping the education of Black children in the Jim Crow South. The two-day "Celebrating & Connecting: NC Rosenwald Schools" event brought together stewards, stakeholders, and community members to reflect on the profound impact these schools had in transforming education in the state and across the South.

The Rosenwald Schools were the result of an unlikely partnership between Booker T. Washington, a prominent African American educator, and Julius Rosenwald, the Jewish-American philanthropist who led Sears, Roebuck & Company. Between 1917 and 1932, they built over 5,000 schoolhouses across the South, with North Carolina leading the nation by hosting more than 800 of these institutions.

Rosenwald Schools helped bridge the stark educational divide between Black and white children. At the time, North Carolina spent just \$2.30 per Black student, compared to nearly \$7.40 for white students. Yet, the Rosenwald Schools defied these odds by providing not just academic instruction, but a sense of dignity and empowerment. They taught practical skills, including agriculture and industry, but they also challenged the pervasive negative stereotypes of Black inferiority.

One of the voices and characters covered at the event was Ms. Sharon Davis. Davis, who grew up in Salisbury, NC, attended a Rosenwald School from first to fifth grade without realizing it, nor was she aware of the significance of the institution at the time.

"All the teachers were part of our

community," she recalled. "They attended the same churches, we always saw them out at different events... and of course, the school."

Davis vividly remembered the day when her teachers came to class in tears to announce the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. The emotional moment encapsulated the profound bond between the educators and their students.

As an adult, Davis became a vocal advocate for the preservation of the state's Rosenwald Schools and a key participant in the "Celebrating & Connecting" event. She emphasized the role these schools played not just in providing an education, but in fostering a collective spirit of resilience and solidarity in the face of systemic racism and segregation.

Davis's reflections were part of a broader conversation about the importance of preserving these schoolhouses, which served as more than just academic institutions—they were community centers, sanctuaries of learning, and symbols of Black empowerment.

The convening also marked a major milestone in the effort to preserve Rosenwald Schools for future generations. In partnership with the North Carolina African American Heritage Commission, the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, and the North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office, the event provided opportunities for attendees to discuss preservation strategies and share best practices for maintaining these historical landmarks. Some Rosenwald Schools, like the Walnut Cove Colored School in Stokes County, have already been successfully restored and are now serving as senior citizen community centers.

Dr. Valinda Littlefield, an Assistant Professor of African American History at the University of South Carolina, spoke about the significance of these

buildings.

"When you look at access to education, buildings are important; they say something. And Rosenwald schools said something. It revolutionized the way we think about schools being built," she said. "If you're willing to give up your land, money, and labor, what does that say about the sense of community—what does that say about the collective?"

The celebration also brought attention to the groundbreaking efforts to digitize the Julius Rosenwald Fund's archives, thanks to a \$1.6 million grant from the Mellon Foundation. The project will provide unprecedented public access to over 650,000 items from the Rosenwald Fund Collection, offering a deeper look into the history and legacy of these transformative schools.

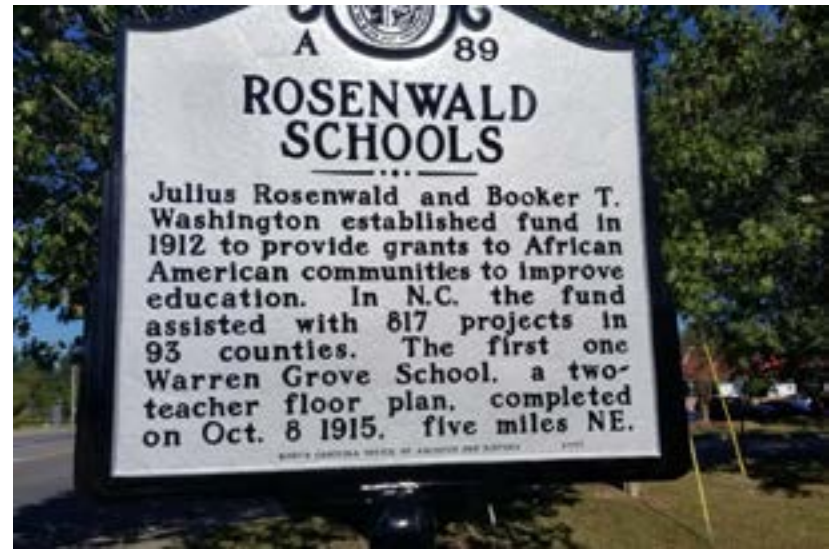
Rev. Dr. Deloris L. Jerman, who began her eighth-grade year at North Warren High School (formerly Warren County Training School), a Rosenwald School in Wise, North Carolina, was a member of the school's last graduating class in 1969. The county provided bus transportation, so she didn't have to walk. Despite spending half of her public school years attending Rosenwald Schools, Dr. Jerman, like Sharon Davis, and likely many

more Alumni, did not learn about their significance until many years later.

"We move forward to keep the spirit of Rosenwald Schools alive through the preservation of the architectural and cultural achievements of their leaders and the dedication and determination of those who worked tirelessly with them. It is because of these stories, and others like them, that I am a proud former Rosenwald Schools student," Jerman said.

Unfortunately, only about 10-12% of the original Rosenwald Schools remain today, many in advanced stages of disrepair or repurposed for new uses. In 2002, the National Trust for Historic Preservation placed Rosenwald Schools on its 11 Most Endangered Historic Places list, paving the way for these schools to be identified, restored, and again become a part of community life.

Efforts like the "Celebrating & Connecting" convening ensure that the history and impact of these institutions will not be forgotten. As Davis poignantly noted, the legacy of the Rosenwald Schools continues to shape not just the landscape of Black education, but the very fabric of the communities they served.



NC Rosenwald Schools The Race To Save NC Rosenwald Schools

By Ms Jheri Worldwide

Staff Writer

Did you know that North Carolina once had a staggering 818 Rosenwald structures? These schools, built between 1917 and 1932, were the result of a remarkable partnership between Julius Rosenwald, the president of Sears, Roebuck and Co., Booker T. Washington, the renowned educator, and Margaret Murray-Washington Educator and Suffragist.

All about "uplit" the Rosenwald Schools were beacons of education and community that once illuminated the landscape of African American learning throughout the South. Right here in North Carolina, a dedicated group of historians and preservationists are racing against time to document and preserve these fading landmarks. Last week, I attended the "Celebrating & Connecting: NC Rosenwald Schools Convening," it was an eye-opener and a masterclass in North Carolina state history and resources. However, here's the sobering reality: only 140 of these schools still stand today. Six are in ruins. Some have been repurposed. The rest? Gone, lost to time, neglect, and the changing tides of history. "Rosenwald schools are a special interest of the North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office (HPO) because they are tremendously important yet quickly disappearing from the landscape. Since the 1980s, the HPO has been documenting Rosenwald schools through comprehensive historic architectural surveys of municipalities and counties conducted in collaboration with local governments. A more concerted effort by the HPO to record the schools began after the North Carolina Rosenwald Schools Community Project (RSCP) asked the HPO to provide material for an exhibit that was to be displayed during the nation's first regional conference on Rosenwald schools, sponsored by the RSCP," shared by North Carolina's Historic Preservation website.

Thankfully, there's a movement afoot to reclaim this history. The Fisk University John Hope and Aurelia E. Franklin Library has received \$1.6 million from the Mellon Foundation to support the implementation of a new digital platform for the Julius Rosenwald Fund Collection. This four-year project will provide unprecedented public access to a collection of over 650,000 items and more than 1.4 terabytes of data online powered by Amazon Web Services. The Rosenwald Mapping Project is working tirelessly to identify and document these schools, but they need our help. They're calling on local communities to share their memories, their stories, and any information they have about Rosenwald schools. Why is this so urgent? Because these schools hold the key to understanding the roots and legacy of African American education in our state. They represent a time when Black communities, despite facing immense challenges, came together to build a brighter future for their children.

Calling all grandparents and storytellers, this is where you come in, dear readers. Do you have elders who attended Rosenwald Schools? Sit down with them, listen to their stories, and record their memories. These firsthand accounts are invaluable treasures that can help paint a vivid picture of what life was like in these schools. What was it like to learn in a Rosenwald School? Who were the teachers? What lessons were taught? What were the challenges and triumphs? Every detail, no matter how small, is a piece of the puzzle. If someone in your life attended a Rosenwald school and has a story to tell please reach out to us so we can make the connections to share their story at Jheri@Caro.News.

The Rosenwald Mapping Project is not just about mapping buildings; it's about mapping memories, mapping lives. It's about ensuring that the legacy of these schools, and the generations who walked their halls, is not forgotten. Let's dig into our family histories, our community archives, and our collective memories. Let's help the Rosenwald Mapping Project bring these stories to light and preserve this vital chapter in North Carolina's history. As we continue to tell our stories we build resilience in our culture and motivate the next generation to value how far we have collectively come. Together, we can ensure that the legacy of these schools lives on. Let's not let this history fade away.

Sallie B. Howard Dedicates Playground

Wilson, N.C. — November 25, 2024 - Sallie B. Howard School marked a significant milestone last Thursday with the dedication of its recently installed courtyard and playground.

The ceremony, hosted by the SBH Board of Directors, featured a ribbon-cutting for a 10-foot arch sculpture, the presentation of a "Friendship Bench" in memory of beloved SBH staff member Vanessa Daughtridge, and a surprise unveiling of a bronze plaque honoring Dr. JoAnne Woodard, SBHS founder and executive director.

Various community leaders, parents and stakeholders came together on a sunny November afternoon to reflect on the school's past and celebrate the realization of a vision that began almost three decades ago.

The program began with a brief reception in the high school band room. SBH Board member Rev. Maurice Barnes welcomed the guests with reflections and prayer. The middle school chorus, directed by vocal instructor Jeremy Herring, performed the classic song "I Want to Know What Love Is."

Then high school students Tegan El Jaouhari and Marisol Marquez Cazarin shared personal testimonies of how the arts and science at Sallie B. Howard have impacted their lives.

Marisol shared that the kind of education she's receiving as a biotechnology major was not accessible to her mom who sacrificed so that Marisol could have better opportunities. Tegan, a theatre major, explained that acting is his "safe space" and has boosted his confidence and made him a better student.

Following the students, SBH Board member Bob Worthington recognized several key individuals who made the courtyard possible: architect Russ Woods; general contractor Bill Farrior and superintendent Pete Vick; playground equipment supplier Hudson Veal and



Ingrid Kanies; landscape contractor Michael Peaden; arch designer and sculptor Jonathan Burger; garden designer Vision Design Collaborative; and plaque designer Capital Sign Solutions.

After these acknowledgements,

guests were invited to move outside to the courtyard for the remainder of the program. As the family of Vanessa Daughtridge looked on, Dr. Woodard explained the meaning behind the "Friendship Bench," which was inspired by a study abroad

trip to South Africa in 2019. During a visit to a local school there, Dr. Woodard discovered that there was a special bench you could sit on if you felt sad and needed a friend. Someone would sit next to you and comfort you if they saw you on that bench. The "Friendship Bench" in the SBH courtyard has the same meaning and is attributed to the kindness and love that Ms. Daughtridge gave to all who crossed her path.

Also unique to the playground is a metal arch that bears the word "Inspire" in English, Swahili and Spanish. Assistant director Sandeep Aggarwal prefaced the ribbon-cutting for the arch with heartfelt words about the profound impact that Sallie B. Howard School has had on his life and how he is proud to have been a part of the vision. He also noted that the ashes of the late Sallie Baldwin Howard are resting in the playground, underscoring the notion that Mrs. Howard is always with us.



The Beta Phi Chapter in Durham, N.C. pays tribute to Veterans Day .

Church

SERMON of the WEEK



YOU AIN'T SEEN NOTHING YET

Sermon by Pastor William Eli Ratcliff

A Holy Convocation is a sacred gathering for worship, first mentioned in Exodus 12:16. During seven days at True Way Holiness Church Ministry's Holy Convocation 2024, God had something to teach His people, and His desire was for us to gather together to hear it. This Sermon of the Week is a recap from my presentation on November 15 at their 62nd Holy Convocation held in Raleigh.

It was a celebration of our salvation through Jesus Christ, a time to share stories of deliverance, listen to preaching, and sing praises. Without the shedding of blood, there is no remission of our sins. We celebrated because the blood will never lose its power!

Paul said, "I did not come with eloquence or wisdom. For I determined not to know anything among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified." His preaching was not with persuasive words but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power.

Furthermore, no matter who the Pharaoh, king, or president is, JESUS IS KING! We have a High Priest in heaven, JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD! Paul



spoke of the hidden wisdom of God, which He destined for our glory before time began.

As written in 1 Corinthians 2:9 KJV, "Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, Neither have entered into the heart of man, The things which God hath prepared for them that love him."

Let's explore the Convocation theme. The phrase "You Ain't Seen Nothing Yet" was written by Canadian Guitarist and singer Randy Bachman of the band Guess Who. According to Bachman, the song was performed as a joke for his brother, Gary, who had a stutter.

Paul's letter to the Corinthians echoes the sentiment of the theme, reminding us that often, we assume our present will be better tomorrow. However, sometimes, we focus so much on the destination that we forget about the journey. The Bible tells us we will face trials and tribulations, but we are to be steadfast and unmovable.

Consider the stories of Esther, Ruth, and Rahab—each faced challenges but turned to God in faith. David went from the shepherd boy to king, and Joseph rose to power despite being sold by his brothers.

God's wisdom must be revealed and then believed; oth-

erwise, it remains hidden. Our old saints used to sing, "It is no secret what God can do."

If you love God, no matter what you face, you can declare, "You ain't seen nothing yet!"

I may be down, but I'm not out. Adversity can break some, while others break records. True Way let's break some records!

The Holy Convocation reminds us of the power of the blood shed on the New Testament cross. I know it was the blood that saved me!

You ain't seen nothing yet! Revelation 20 tells us about the binding of Satan, declaring Christ's victory over darkness.

Jesus said, "My sheep listen to My voice." I decided to follow Jesus because, through it all, I've learned to trust in Him.

Heaven can make Hollywood look like a city dump and Las Vegas a dry desert. Some don't believe, but one day, every knee shall bow, and every tongue shall confess that He is Lord!

Finally, in spite of the direction our country is heading, we know that the best is still yet to come. So, for those of us who love Him, let's prayerfully say that by the Power of God and His wise Providence, "We Ain't Seen Nothing Yet!"



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Practical Biblical Principles

TO BE THANKFUL

Read: Romans 14:6

By John L. Caldwell, Pastor New Jerusalem Baptist Cathedral

This is Thanksgiving season. And not Thanksgiving day. Thanksgiving is a day set apart on which to give thanks for the blessings of the year. The question is, "Who are we to give thanks to?" To God, of course! Or do we?

What is the travel rush all about? It seems as if more attention is given to the amount of people traveling over this holiday as opposed to giving thanks to Almighty God. Television shows crowded people at airports, and long lines of cars on the highways. There are no signs of people worshipping and giving thanks to anybody. In a sense, the church is nowhere to be found in the news. Yet at the far end of the spectrum, the news does show occasions of people who are hungry and deprived of food. The news does encourage giving food to the hungry. This is a good thing, of course. Yet there is very little about giving thanks to God. The secular news doesn't do God very well.

Few Thanksgiving history stories tell of the Pilgrims celebrating Thanksgiving Day and inviting the local Indians to their feast. Thus, giving the impression that the Indians were just invited guests. Many pilgrims died of cold and starvation shortly after arriving in this new land. But the truth of the matter is, if it were not for the local Indians coming to the rescue of the starving pilgrims who had not been in this country long enough to gain full knowledge of its natural environment. The pilgrims didn't know how to plant seed harvest in this different soil, hunt different types of wild game in a new environment, espe-

cially the wild turkeys which were in abundance in the new land, and build shelters warm enough to endure the cold winters. It was the local, friendly Indians who came to the rescue of the cold, starving Pilgrims, who didn't know this land well enough in the beginning. So, who are the Pilgrims to be thankful to? Or who are they to be thankful for? Very little history is given to the fact that God sent the native Indians to save their new in-coming neighbors from Europe. Giving thanks to God for a turkey and not giving thanks to God for having somebody to show them how to first get a turkey. Is there something wrong with this picture?

Would the Black man have found God had he not been stolen from his native homeland, Mother Africa? Is that something to be thankful for? Would God have found the Black man if he stayed in Africa? There was so much resistance against him when the Black man started discovering God while serving as a slave. Is the Black man to give thanks to whoever, or whatever for discovering and knowing God? The pathway to giving thanks, to who deserve our thanks can easily be found when we study and learn of Jesus Christ more so as when we try to study God, Who is past finding out. God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in Him shall not perish but have eternal life (John 3:16). The question for today and all days, "Have we yet found sound and good reasons to give thanks to God? Or are we still confused or nave that we don't bother to give thanks to anybody at all for nothing? Even to the point of not saying grace and thanks for our food whenever we eat.

Paul took note of a situation wherein new Christian Gentiles were eating meat which had been offered in sacrifice to idols. At the same time there were Jews insistence that they observe Jewish festival days and not to observe the Gentile's Lord's Day. Paul says if a Gentile wishes to observe a Jewish Sabbath, it was his privilege, but he must not insist on other Gentiles doing it.

This may well effect the weak Christian in their faith. Paul continues, "one person esteems one day above another; another sees everyday alike. Let each be fully convinced in his own mind. He who observes the day, observes it to the Lord; and he who does not observe the day, to the Lord he does not observe. In short, everybody must find their reasons for giving thanks to whoever. It would seem rational and good to give thanks to somebody who has given something of value to you. Who would that person be? Your parents, or just your Mother, because your dad was never there for you? Or was it a friend who came to your aid in time of real need? Or do you just keep your thanks to yourself?"

Dr. Benjamin Mays leaves us with one of his personal poems to ponder our thanks, entitled "God's Minute" (John 3:16):

I have only just a minute,
Only sixty seconds in it,
Forced upon me-can't refuse
it
Didn't seek it, didn't choose
it.
But it's up to me to use it.
I must suffer if I lose it.
Give account if I abuse it.
Just a tiny little minute
But eternity is in it!!!
Eternity begins with thanks
and will continue with thanks
to God, and Him
only.



Candlelight Celebration of Remembrance

Sunday, December 08, 2024

3:00 PM

Lea Funeral Home Chapel

Your friends at Lea Funeral Home invite you to attend a very special Candlelight Celebration of Remembrance to help you and your family face the holidays after the loss of a loved one. It will also help us all cope with the loss and sorrow that we have shared both at home and abroad. This is a beautifully inspiring and uplifting celebration of Hope, Healing, Comfort and Renewal.

The message, music, sharing of memories and fellowship are designed to bring comfort, peace, strength, love and closure in remembering.

Fellowship and refreshments will follow the celebration.

(Open to the public)



Lea Funeral Home
2500 Poole Road
Raleigh, NC 27610
(919) 231-1000
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The Carolinian

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Editorial Policy

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

Editorials

Bipartisanship Cannot Be a Dirty Word

By Ben Jealous

What is one thing – just one – you can agree on with someone on the opposite side of the political divide? The late General Colin Powell once told me, “Figure that out and you can get a lot done. And as you win one victory together, you might just discover along the way that there’s something else you agree on.”

Our nation seems utterly divided. Many of the wounds that have been torn open in these last few election cycles are real and painful. But too much focus has been placed on further tearing open those wounds rather than healing them. One way we can heal them is simply by rolling up our sleeves and getting to work on the things we can agree on.

One thing Dr. Martin Luther King taught his lieutenants, several of whom trained me when I was a young organizer, is that if you are comfortable in your coalition, your coalition is too small.

We need unlikely allies and uncomfortably large coalitions. Coalitions of what can seem like strange bedfellows get things done. When I served as national president of the NAACP, we brought together prison guard unions, conservative governors, and Democratic legislators to dramatically shrink prison systems and allow people who served their sentences to regain their right to vote.

Bipartisanship itself can be a powerful tool and vehicle for progress. Here are a few examples, just from recent or ongoing environmental fights for legislation at the federal, state, and local levels.

We know that Donald Trump and his allies in Congress are close friends of the fossil fuel and other extractive industries. As such, one might assume Republican support for conservation efforts would be hard, if not impossible, to find. But one of the green movement’s great victories at the federal level during the first Trump administration was passage of the bipartisan Great American Outdoors Act. The bill provided permanent funding for important conservation and public recreation projects across the country and addressed a multi-billion-dollar maintenance backlog in national parks and other public lands. At the time, then executive director of the Sierra Club, Michael Brune, called it “one of the most important conservation bills in a generation.” It passed in a closely divided US Senate with overwhelming bipartisan support, by a vote of 73-25.

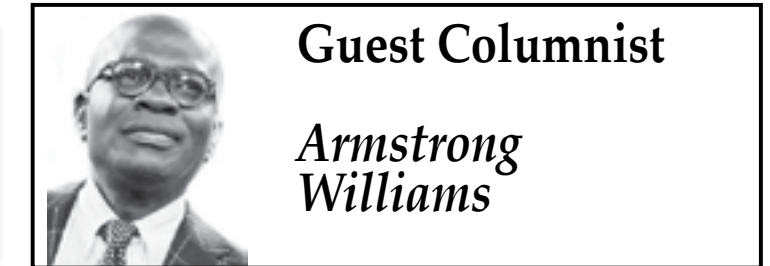
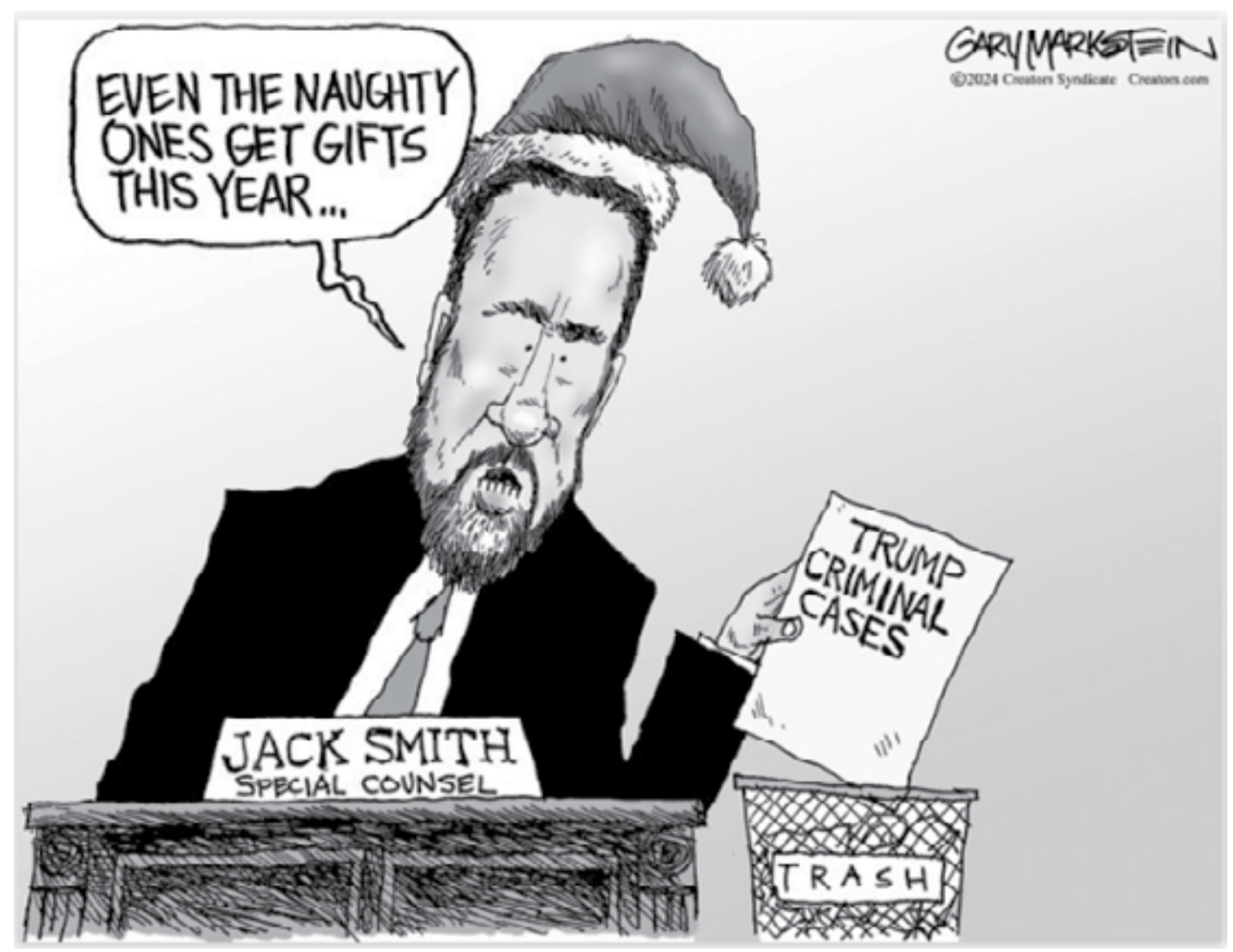
We now hope to replicate that success with passage of the bipartisan EXPLORE Act during the current lame duck session or in the next Congress. That bill is a wide-ranging package of popular policies including the Outdoors for All Act and expansion of the Every Kid Outdoors program to make national parks and public lands accessible to more of America’s youth.

One of my favorite current examples of a powerful multi-partisan, common ground-finding coalition at the state level is in the fight to stop a dangerous carbon capture pipeline in Iowa. A bill supported by that coalition to slow approval of land seizures for the project passed the Republican-majority Iowa House in March by a whopping 86-7 vote. That bill was unfortunately killed in the state Senate, by just a handful of powerful senators, before it could receive a floor vote. But coalition organizers are still fighting, and they believe the bill – or one similar to it – has the support to pass once they can get it to the Senate floor.

At the local level, I heard a story just this month that illustrates how, even when things seem bleak, there are still plenty of opportunities for progress. A Sierra Club volunteer leader receiving a lifetime achievement award for her work spoke to a crowd that was no doubt devastated by the results of the recent election. She told them she had, just the day prior, attended a board of supervisors meeting in her community where she and other community members convinced the body – composed entirely of Republicans except for one Democrat – to ban gasoline-powered leaf blowers. It was a reminder of how often straightforward local community organizing transcends politics.

This is just a small sampling of countless examples across the country of Americans who are not letting partisanship stand in their way as they work to make things better for their families and communities. The common ground is there if we bother to look for it. And look we must if we care about getting things done.

We do not have to agree on much for us to thrive together, in our families and communities, and as a country. For those of us fighting to get something done, we must remember: coalitions that include a variety of viewpoints are coalitions that ultimately win. General Powell’s words still ring true.



IT MIGHT BE TOO LATE

I don’t want to scare anybody, but our government may be getting ready to turn against its citizens. I saw a post that suggested that the Department of Public Instruction and Durham schools, in particular, are going to drop one day a week of transportation for its students. Durham students have already lost school time this year because of an employee strike that was thankfully resolved. If this is true, perhaps it’s a budget issue, but I believe that public education is essential in our society.

Our students are children, and they are our most precious commodity. We owe all of them a ride to school since we have chosen to assign children to schools to which they cannot walk. Are we not aware that not all students come from homes with cars? Are we considering the idea of a four-day school week? Maybe that would be better. I don’t think so, then having a systematic idea that another division amongst the haves and have-nots would be those who can get to school and those who cannot. We observed this week that the cabinet Trump has chosen are those he believes will carry out his agenda. They appear to be people who don’t have the experience, expertise, or integrity to follow the learnings of our Constitution.

Since the Congress, Senate, and White House appear to be right-leaning and mad at Republicans, those of us who have lived as ones who can rely on democracy kicking in at best hold onto our heads and Jesus. It’s a fairly hopeful sign that Matt Gaetz will not be the Attorney General since he assigned the house and withdrew his name as a candidate, but getting elated about that is probably not indicative since his name was put forward in the first place. Some of these names I do not know; however, it appears to me that they all are Trump loyalists whom he has picked as the first distinguishing characteristic.

A friend forwarded to me a podcast this week; it was from a Clear Value Tax blogger, and the guy seemed to be hopeful that the incoming administration might do something that would bring relief to the citizens in the area of taxes. She wanted my opinion. I told her that I don’t want to be negative, but I can’t imagine the three people looking at this to start doing stuff that does not benefit them financially. I’ve looked at Project 2025, and to me, it looks like a plot rather than a plan. As a matter of fact, I reviewed a mysterious video this weekend. I call it mysterious because the person who sent it to me says she didn’t. In addition, when I tried to send it out to others, it wouldn’t go through. Weird, right? Stubborn me, I went on YouTube and searched until I found it. Even when I found it and sent it again, people said they didn’t get it.

At any rate, a woman, mother, wife, and teacher, was in an unavoidable car accident and was so severely injured that she coded. As with most near-death experiences, she says she went to heaven and was instructed by Jesus about what’s going on now and what’s going to come. Now, there are people who may question my Christianity because I believe that dreams, visions, auditory messages, etc., are plausible. I don’t know why, because Paul in the New Testament describes an out-of-body experience. Joseph had prophetic dreams, and I’ve heard voices and seen things that are supernatural. Jesus went up to the Mount of Transfiguration, and the disciples saw him talking with deceased Old Testament figures, and they, the disciples, recognized them. So why would I, after reading the Bible, not believe Jesus?

If the Bible prophesied of a time of lack of faith, what faith would I have if I didn’t believe and didn’t share it? In addition, I’m paying attention, and some of what she said is beginning to happen, and in my eyesight, I see what she sees. If you want to know more, go to YouTube and search for “Teacher in car crash has near-death experience.”

Now, I don’t believe that all dreams and visions are from God. For example, Kynan Bridges, an African American minister, had a dream he says was from God. He says he went to the White House and saw what he said were angelic beings that were eight feet tall. He says that Donald Trump had the Bible, an ancient one with theories of the world, and that Donald Trump was also eight feet tall. He says that God has charged these angels to protect Donald Trump. Donald Trump signed this Bible. I think he has also signed a Bible already. He believes that Donald Trump has been sent to his office to save America. He believes that the black community is being destroyed by the Democrats. He blames the media for hiding this truth. I think that this brother had a dream that has given him the opposite interpretation of what is to happen.

Go to YouTube and look for “Kynan Bridges’ Shocking Dream.” I think this brother has been given a dream but not from God. The Bible says if we want to test if a prophecy is from God, watch to see if it comes true. I don’t want to scare anybody because regardless of what man does, God is in charge. Because we as a country have failed in following the golden rule, this may be the time for us to reap what we sow. Since we have been lovers of money, which the Bible says is the root of all evil, we may experience having our money taken away by the government. See Project 2025.

Because this is Thanksgiving and we will be stuffing our mouths and stomachs while millions of people are hungry every day, maybe we are going to have to learn what it is to be hungry so that we can prioritize the right of every man, woman, and child to have food every day. I’m not scared, and I don’t want to scare you, but this may just be what we have to get prepared to deal with.



Classifieds

DURHAM COUNTY

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

File Number 24E002476-310
The Undersigned, having qualified as CO-ADMINISTRATORS of the Estate of JACQUELINE DENISE MARSH, 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 28th 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 28th day of November 2024.

Kimberly Headen Rempson
Co-Administrator
1507 Autumn Ridge Dr.
Durham, NC 27712
Camille Allen, Co-Administrator
5218 Fayetteville Road
Durham, NC 27713
11/28, 12/5, 12/12, and 12/19/2024
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS File Number 24E002440-310

The Undersigned, having qualified as EXECUTOR of the Estate of BESSIE L. CRUMPLER a/k/a BESSIE LAWS CRUMPLER 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 28th 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 28th day of November 2024.

Cynthia L. Harris fka Cynthia L. Crumpler, Executor
c/o Marion Law Office, PLLC
2741 University Drive
Durham, NC 27707
11/28, 12/5, 12/12, and 12/19/2024
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

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

File Number 24E002481-310
The Undersigned, having qualified as EXECUTOR of the Estate of SELENA M. HUNTER, 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 28th 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 28th day of November 2024.

John A. Hunter Jr., Executor
919 Cana Street
Durham, NC 27707
11/28, 12/5, 12/12, and 12/19/2024
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

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

File Number 24E002458-310
The Undersigned, having qualified as ADMINISTRATOR of the Estate of ESTELLE JOHNSON, 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 28th 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 28th day of November 2024.

Yolanda Arroyo, Administrator
10 Stone Village Court
Durham, NC 27704
11/28, 12/5, 12/12, and 12/19/2024
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

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

File Number 24E002465-310

The Undersigned, having qualified as ADMINISTRATOR CTA of the Estate of JAMES KEITH BOST, 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 19th 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 21st day of November 2024.

Charles L. Miller, Administrator CTA
2008 Pratt Circle
Franklinton NC 27525
11/21, 11/28, 12/5, and 12/12/2024
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

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

File Number 24E002431-310
The Undersigned, having qualified as EXECUTOR of the Estate of MARY IRENE GILL DUNBAR, 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 19th 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 21st day of November 2024.

Robt Joseph Dunbar, Executor
1671 Gallup Road
Chapel Hill, NC 27517
11/21, 11/28, 12/5, and 12/12/2024
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

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

File Number 24E002375-310
Having qualified as Administrator of the Estate of GRACIE JEAN ROGERS, deceased, this is to notify all persons, firms, and corporations having claims against the Estate of Gracie Jean Rogers to present them to the undersigned within three months from the date of the first date of publication of this Notice or same will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms, and corporations indebted to said Estate, please make immediate payment.

This, the 21st day of November, 2024.
CaLisa Rogers Lynk, Administrator
c/o John W. Perry, Attorney for the Estate
Post Office Drawer 2051
Durham, North Carolina 27702
Telephone: (919) 683-8685
11/21, 11/28, 12/5, and 12/12/2024
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS File Number 24E002320-310

The undersigned, having qualified as Executor of the Estate of JUDITH L. PARKER, Deceased, late of Durham County, North Carolina, does hereby notify all persons, firms, and corporations having claims against the estate to exhibit the same on or before February 19, 2025, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment.

Dated: November 21, 2024.
Billye Jean Wilkins, Administrator
c/o Attorney Heather Hazelwood
PO Box 61182
Durham NC 27715
11/21, 11/28, 12/5, and 12/12/2024
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

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

File Number 24E002393-310
The Undersigned, having qualified as EXECUTOR of the Estate of MARTHA LILLIAN SMITH, late of Durham County, North Carolina, hereby wishes to notify all persons having claims against the Estate of said deceased to exhibit them to the undersigned at the below listed address on or before the 14th 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 14th day of November 2024.

Mary Ann Chap, Executor

107 Gresham Avenue
Durham, NC 27704
11/14, 11/21, 11/28, and 12/5/2024
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

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

File Number 24E002224-310
The Undersigned, having qualified as EXECUTOR of the Estate of HELEN PATRICIA JONES BOND, 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 14th 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 14th day of November 2024.

Darian Craig Jones, Executor
4470 Oliver Lane
Douglasville, GA 30135-1965
11/14, 11/21, 11/28, and 12/5/2024
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

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

File Number 24E002419-310
The Undersigned, having qualified as EXECUTOR of the Estate of PATRICIA LYNN SALDARINI, 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 14th 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 14th day of November 2024.

Ross J. Saldarini, Executor
5022 Lady Fern Circle
Charlotte, NC 28211
11/14, 11/21, 11/28, and 12/5/2024
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

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

File Number 24E002410-310
The Undersigned, having qualified as EXECUTRIX of the Estate of THERESA O'REILLY, 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 14th 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 14th day of November 2024.

Valarie Pasiack-Reeves, Executrix
412 Green Turret Dr.
Rolesville, NC 27571
11/14, 11/21, 11/28, and 12/5/2024
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

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

File Number 24E002383-310
The Undersigned, having qualified as ADMINISTRATOR of the Estate of DIANE W. DRAUGHON, 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 14th 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 14th day of November 2024.

Timothy C. Draughon, Administrator
2221 Bayswater Dr.
Creedmoor, NC 27522
11/14, 11/21, 11/28, and 12/5/2024
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

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

File Number 24E002265-310
The Undersigned, having qualified as ADMINISTRATOR of the Estate of WANDA DUKE LIPSCOMB, 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 14th 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 14th day of November 2024.

Kimberley Clemons, Administrator
9910 Grette Court
Raleigh, NC 27617
11/14, 11/21, 11/28, and 12/5/2024
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

WAKE COUNTY

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA WAKE COUNTY ORDER TO CONTINUE ORDER TO APPEAR AND SHOW CAUSE AND ADVISEMENT HEARING

In the General Court of Justice,
District Court Division
File Number 20CV009565-910
SHAQUEZ D. RAY, Plaintiff
v. JENNIFER A. RAY, Defendant
To the Defendant named above:

The Court finds probable cause to believe that your are in civil or criminal contempt for failing to comply with the Court's order as specified in Plaintiff's Motion for Order to Show Cause, filed 12/5/2022. You are Ordered to appear on January 27, 2025 at 9:00AM to the below address to show cause, if any, why the Court should not enter an order holding you in civil or criminal contempt. Your failure to appear as ordered may result in the issuance of an Order for Arrest.

Wake County Courthouse
316 Fayetteville Street

Courtroom 4D
Raleigh, North Carolina 27601
This is the 21st day of November, 2024.

Shaquez Ray, Plaintiff
5404 Emerson Dr.
Raleigh, NC 27609
11/21, 11/28, and 12/5/2024
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
WAKE COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS In The General Court Of Justice District Court Division Small Claims

File No. 24CV037373-910
**COMPLAINT TO ENFORCE
POSSESSORY LIEN ON MOTOR
VEHICLE**

TJ'S AUTO SALES & REPAIR V,
Plaintiff

vs.
UNKNOWN OWNER,
VIN: CS1408129809, Defendant

TO UNKNOWN OWNER:

TAKE NOTICE the petitioner has filed with the clerk a petition in proper form indicating that the petitioner has a valid lien against a Chevrolet/1970, ID No. CS1408129809 and that the petitioner shall have the right to sell to the highest bidder the motor vehicle listed on January 6, 2025 at WCCH, 316 Fayetteville St., Raleigh, NC 27601, at 1:30 p.m. You are required to make a defense to such pleading before such date and time.

This the 28th day of November, 2024.

Tj's Auto Sales & Repair, Plaintiff
6809 Poole Road
Raleigh, NC 27610
954-268-6994

11/28, 12/5, and 12/12/2024
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
WAKE COUNTY

In The General Court Of Justice District Court Division Small Claims

File No. 24CV037372-910
**COMPLAINT TO ENFORCE
POSSESSORY LIEN ON MOTOR
VEHICLE**

TJ'S AUTO SALES & REPAIR V,
Plaintiff

vs.
UNKNOWN OWNER,
VIN: 2292152192, Defendant

TO UNKNOWN OWNER:

TAKE NOTICE the petitioner has filed with the clerk a petition in proper form indicating that the petitioner has a valid lien against a Chevrolet/1970, ID No. 2292152192 and that the petitioner shall have the right to sell to the highest bidder the motor vehicle listed on January 6, 2025 at WCCH, 316 Fayetteville St., Raleigh, NC 27601, at 1:30 p.m. You are required to make a defense to such pleading before such date and time.

This the 28th day of November, 2024.

Tj's Auto Sales & Repair, Plaintiff
6809 Poole Road
Raleigh, NC 27610
954-268-6994

11/28, 12/5, and 12/12/2024

CHATHAM COUNTY

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY

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

File No. 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

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CARO.
news

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Classifieds



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>

WANTED WBE, MBE & DBE BIDS

for the following job:

Town of Zebulon

2025 Pavement Preservation Project

Wake Co.

Bid Date: December 17th

These projects may involve some or all of the following aspects of construction: construction survey, clear and grub, trucking, drainage, milling, paving, incidental concrete, fence and guardrail, signs, structures, traffic control, utilities, signals, pavement marking, erosion control and seeding.

Bids can be emailed to stw.quotes@stwcop.com

Please contact S. T. Wooten at 252-291-5165,

Fax 252-243-0900 no later than 5:00 p.m. the day before the bid date.

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

D/M/WBE

SUBCONTRACTORS/SUPPLIERS WANTED

T. A. Loving Company (NC General Contractor License No. 325) is seeking certified DBE, MBE, and WBE subcontractors and suppliers for the **West Smithfield Sanitary Sewer Improvements project for Town of Smithfield Public Utilities** which bids on **December 5, 2024, at 2:00 PM.** Plans and specifications for this project are available at the following locations: T. A. Loving Company; 400 Patetown Road; Goldsboro, NC 27530 * Town of Smithfield, Public Utilities; 230 Hospital Road; Smithfield, NC 27577 * The Wooten Company; 120 North Boylan Avenue; Raleigh, NC 27603 * Dodge Data and Analytics website * ConstructConnect website * North Carolina Bid Network website.

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

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

D/M/WBE

SUBCONTRACTORS/SUPPLIERS WANTED

T. A. Loving Company (NC General Contractor License No. 325) is seeking certified DBE, MBE, and WBE subcontractors and suppliers for the **Water Line Replacements - Contract No. 25** project for the **Town of Pikeville** which bids on **December 5, 2024, at 2:00 PM.** Plans and specifications for this project are available at the following locations: T. A. Loving Company; 400 Patetown Road; Goldsboro, NC 27530 * Town of Pikeville, Town Hall; 105 West School Street; Pikeville, NC 27863 * McDavid Associates, Inc.; 109 East Walnut Street; Goldsboro, NC 27533 * Dodge Data and Analytics website * ConstructConnect website * Construction Journal website * Builders and Contractors Exchange website.

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

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

D/M/WBE

SUBCONTRACTORS/SUPPLIERS WANTED

T. A. Loving Company (NC General Contractor License No. 325) is seeking certified DBE, MBE, and WBE subcontractors and suppliers for the **Sewer System Rehabilitation project for the Town of Jamesville** which bids **December 3, 2024, at 11:00 AM.** Plans and specifications for this project are available at the following locations: TA Loving Company, 400 Patetown Road, Goldsboro, NC 27530 * Town of Jamesville, Town Hall; 1211 Water Street; Jamesville, NC 27846 * Municipal Engineering, Inc.; 68 Shipwash Drive; Garner, NC 27529 * Dodge Data and Analytics website * ConstructConnect website.

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

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

WANTED WBE, MBE & DBE BIDS

for the following job:

Town of Fuquay-Varina

BL-0022

Wake Co.

Bid Date: December 12th

Town of Zebulon

Old Bunn/Proctor St. & Shepard School Rd Intersection Improvements

Wake Co.

Bid Date: January 7th

These projects may involve some or all of the following aspects of construction: construction survey, clear and grub, trucking, drainage, milling, paving, incidental concrete, fence and guardrail, signs, structures, traffic control, utilities, signals, pavement marking, erosion control and seeding. Bids can be emailed to stw.quotes@stwcop.com

Please contact S. T. Wooten at 252-291-5165,

Fax 252-243-0900 no later than 5:00 p.m. the day before the bid date.

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

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

Barnhill Contracting Company will be bidding on the following project on December 17th, 2024. We are most interested in receiving quotes from your company on these projects:

Raleigh Paving Division Contract ID: C205006

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 December 6th, 2024 at 9:00 AM in the Raleigh Office.

Northeast Division Contract ID: C204854

Contact: Shannon Douglas, sdouglas@barnhillcontracting.com, at 252-335-9503 or fax 252-335-7452 in our Elizabeth City Office, located at 1304 US 17 South, Elizabeth City, NC 27909. Contract ID: C204997

Pre-Bid Meeting: Friday December 6th, 2024 at 8:00 AM in the Elizabeth City Office.

Heavy Highway Division Contract ID: C204988

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 December 6th, 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

WANTED WBE, MBE & DBE BIDS

for the following job:

NCDOT Central Letting

C205005

Chatham Co.

Bid Date: Dec. 17th

C205006

Wake Co.

Bid Date: Dec. 17th

C205008

Chatham Co.

Bid Date: Dec. 17th

NCDOT Division 1 Letting

DA00629

Northampton Co.

Bid Date: Dec. 18th

NCDOT Central Letting

C204992

Hoke Co.

Bid Date: Jan. 21st

These projects may involve some or all of the following aspects of construction: construction survey, clear and grub, trucking, drainage, milling, paving, incidental concrete, fence and guardrail, signs, structures, traffic control, utilities, signals, pavement marking, erosion control and seeding. Bids can be emailed to stw.quotes@stwcop.com

Please contact S. T. Wooten at 252-291-5165,

Fax 252-243-0900 no later than 5:00 p.m. the day before the bid date.

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



"Based on your current lifestyle, your best bet for a long life is to get bitten by a vampire."

HBCU News

Deeper Story Behind Tenn State University's Budget Crisis

By Jesse Washington

Andscape

Living with no money can make us do things that look wrong.

When I say living with no money, I mean having less in your bank account than the looming cost of necessities – cellphone, mortgage, Jordan 11s – and still figuring out a way to stay solvent. Living with no money means we sign up with a different email address to get another free trial period or take our daughter's camera, which she never used anyway, to the pawn shop, or play the American Express billing cycle like a hand of spades. Sometimes it works, sometimes it only delays the inevitable. It's called "how to make a dollar out of 15 cents" (a dime and a nickel). It's called survival.

I've seen the inside of a few check-cashing joints. So, as I watched a cascade of financial calamities hit historically Black Tennessee State University this year – from its marching band getting yanked back from Howard University's homecoming to mass layoffs of employees to talk of selling off parts of campus – I wondered about the backstory. As TSU's 8-3 football team prepares to play for the Big South/Ohio Valley Conference title Saturday against Southeast Missouri, what is truly behind the strife at this proud HBCU, whose history includes legends such as talk host Oprah Winfrey; John McLendon, the nation's first African American pro basketball coach; and

Olympic sprinter Wilma Rudolph?

Turns out, it's a lot.

After speaking to seven members of the TSU community – alums, current and former administrators and members of local and state government – I believe the following is true:

For decades, the university on the north side of Nashville has suffered from racist underpayments by the Tennessee state government – TSU did not receive funding equal to that of predominantly white state campuses. After a temporary surge in federal COVID-19 economic relief money, TSU hit a rough patch when it enrolled more students than it could handle (like when I bought a new car and then lost the job that was paying for it). TSU had little margin for error (also known as living paycheck to paycheck) which was compounded by alleged sloppy or negligent financial practices (I'm still getting around to filing my 2023 tax returns). As freshman enrollment plunged 50% this fall, these mistakes snowballed into a \$39 million budget deficit for 2024.

As a state university, TSU is controlled by a Tennessee government that might want to seize the land on which TSU sits. When the budget shortage was revealed, Gov. Bill Lee and his Republican legislature swooped in, pushed out former TSU President Glenda Glover, removed the entire board of trustees, and installed new leaders receptive to their desires. All of which drew only



moderate attention in the world of struggling HBCUs until TSU interim president Ronald Johnson said the school could not afford to send its band to Washington for Howard's homecoming in October.

Marching bands are the beating heart of HBCUs. And this was the Aristocrat of Bands, which became the first college marching band, HBCU or otherwise, to win a Grammy in 2023. And this was the 100th anniversary of Howard's homecoming.

Johnson's announcement came just a few weeks before the game, denying the band a chance to raise the \$150,000 cost of the trip. Never mind that Howard, which ended up losing the football game 27-14, ducked all the halftime smoke and said the Aristocrat of Bands would have had to perform in the Fifth Quarter after the game. To many in the TSU community, denying the band any participation in such a huge cultural moment felt like a slap in the face and a kick in the

butt at the same time. That's when my phone buzzed with a call from a Nashville homie – "Yo, Jess, something ain't right down here" – and I started to pay attention.

By now, you can tell I ride with the folks with no money. I empathize with the widespread feeling in the TSU community, amid the current financial crisis, that their school was set up to fail. In 2023, the U.S. government told the governors of 16 states they had broken federal law by funding Black land-grant colleges at lower levels than white ones. The federal report said TSU was denied \$2.1 billion between 1987 and 2020.

"If we had a fraction of that money, maybe we wouldn't have had to wiggle around and try to do things," Austin Wille, a TSU graduate and former band member, told me. "I'm not absolving TSU as a whole of any mismanagement ... any mistake they might have made. But we have to call a spade a spade. The government owes us money that we could be using for the thriving of this campus. And without it, in a lot of different aspects, we see that it's causing the experience to suffer."

State officials and Johnson have consistently blamed Glover's administration for the crisis. I was not able to contact Glover, who recently told a Nashville TV station that the state government was trying to "destroy" TSU.

Sharon Hurt, a 1979 TSU graduate and former city council member, told me that the recent problems were inseparable from the school "trying to serve champagne on a beer budget."

"Trying to give a top-quality education when we've been denied the funds that would have allowed us to do that," she said. "It's amazing the institution has stood as long as it has

and produced the quality of students that they have."

I feel that in my bones.

My father, a Black man born in 1937, was not permitted to work, rent a home, or own real estate in places that would have provided equal financial opportunity. But if I'm being honest about my own history and how I responded to the generational effects of discrimination? Some Black folks from similar circumstances have better financial habits. If they have 15 cents, they spend 12 and save 3. They don't buy their children expensive gifts. They pass on the Jordan 11s and wear the treads off some Nike Cortezes.

I thought about that after talking to state Rep. Harold Love Jr., who graduated from TSU and marched in the band. Following in the footsteps of his father, former state Rep. Harold Love Sr., he researched and exposed state underfunding long before the 2023 federal report and helped allocate hundreds of millions to compensate for it.

But Love says that an audit of Glover's administration shows that it badly mismanaged university finances – not fraudulently, but in a way that resulted in problems such as students not receiving promised scholarships or students with outstanding balances being allowed to enroll without a payment plan.

Love knows the full scope of TSU's underfunding as well as anyone. "It was based upon discriminatory practices that were put in place when the school was founded," he said. "The discrimination started from the beginning, and it got perpetuated because it's baked into the system. It's probably one of the clearest of systemic racism because it is literally just in the system."

When I asked him how much responsibility for the current crisis lies with the Glover administration, he replied, "All of it, because they were the ones in charge of the university at that time."

"My mother worked at TSU for 57 years. She ran a program called Upward Bound for pre-college, first-generation or low-income students. I love TSU. All my family went there. My sisters, my father, my mother, a niece, and two nephews graduated from there. I'm invested in TSU's future. I will vigorously defend my president when they're doing the right thing, and I will vigorously call out my colleagues on the House floor when they're mistreating the school. But when the administration is putting student education in jeopardy and then pointing to the underfunding as the cause ...

"I don't think that the underfunding of the university did not play a role in TSU's financial issues," Love said. "But I cannot just put it all on that and say that the administration had no other options."

Supporters Of SAU Concerned About Terms Of "Predatory" \$7 Million Loan

By Cash Michaels

Contributing writer

What was at first seen as a financial lifeline, is now being criticized as anything but, by supporters of St. Augustine's University, as the troubled private historically black institution continues to battle back to solvency.

At issue are the terms of a \$7 million loan SAU officials secured last May from a Durham-based venture capital group, Gothic Ventures, which, according to critics, reportedly required SAU to pay a 24% interest rate and 2% loan management fee, in addition to a \$75,000 "due diligence and documentation fee."

And what did SAU have to provide as collateral for the loan? Its main Raleigh campus, and at least 40 other pieces of property on more than 11 acres around the SAU campus. If the school defaults on the loan, which comes due on June 30, 2025, those properties are forfeited to Gothic

Ventures.

SAU reportedly has the right to extend the maturity date of the loan until December 31, 2025, and can secure up to \$30 million in total.

To say that the terms of the \$7 million loan outraged SAU supporters would be an understatement.

Several SAU alumni, along with civil rights activists from ONE Wake, Durham CAN, the Center for Responsible Lending, Save SAU Coalition and members of the clergy, held a press conference in downtown Raleigh Nov. 20th to protest the loan agreement between the school and Gothic Ventures.

Those SAU supporters demanded that Gothic Ventures reduce the 24% high interest rate to just 9%, or waive the pre-payment penalty so that another lender can take over the loan with more favorable terms.

"Saint Augustine's University's continued existence rides on achieving an equitable resolution to financial challenges and problems facing

the historically Black university that could jeopardize its ability to serve current and future students," a news release from the protesting supporters stated.

Kip Johnson, founder of Gothic Ventures, said his company reached out to SAU once their financial problems became well known, and officials there responded.

"The interest rate was based on the financial challenges facing the university which included its most recent audit report indicating concerns about the university's ability to continue operating as a going concern, the lack of audited financial statements for the last several years, historical losses because revenues exceeded expenses, significant outstanding debt, IRS liens on the university's property, and the suspension of the university's accreditation," Johnson wrote in an email to WRAL-TV.

"While we hoped that the government or a foundation or a bank

would provide the funds necessary to keep the university open, that did not happen," Johnson added.

According to published reports, \$3 million of the \$7 million loan went to satisfying past due and upcoming payroll taxes; almost \$2 million to the U.S. Dept. of Education; and the rest to pay off student refunds, several outstanding audits, property insurance and appraisals, among other expenses.

With an upcoming meeting about maintaining its accreditation scheduled for next month, SAU has reportedly instituted deep cuts to its operation to cut expenses by \$17 million, including eliminating 67 staff positions, ending under-enrolled programs, and "settling outstanding balances with vendors," according to a press release.

"While we recognize the seriousness of these financial adjustments, these decisions are essential for safeguarding the future of Saint Augustine's University and the students we serve," the release continued.

Divine Nine

Omegas Host Achievement Week Events

By Eric Curry

Contributor

A featured keynote address from Bro. Cedric Luckey, 44th Sixth District Representative, as well as a robust public forum to discuss the recent elections highlighted the Achievement Week events led by the Xi Mu Mu Chapter (Cary, N.C.), in partnership with the Iota Iota Chapter (Raleigh, N.C.), of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc. Achievement Week activities took place November 10-16.

With the week's theme of "Omega Men Building a Better Society with Friendship as the Foundation," the chapters began the week worshipping at the Fountain of Raleigh Fellowship Church in Raleigh, led by Pastor and Brother Paul L. Anderson (Beta Phi, '86).

On Monday, Xi Mu Mu brothers rolled up their sleeves for an annual Feeding the Community Day initiative in Southern Wake County. Brothers joined forces with staff from Operation Nahvelle, a non-profit organization serving underserved communities.

One of the most anticipated events took place on November 12, with the chapter's First Annual public forum, "Next Steps after the Elections." The event, which was organized prior to the November 5 election results, provided an opportunity for panelists and attendees to discuss the outcomes of the recent elections and how to be better engaged in community issues. The panelists included Raleigh City Councilman Stormie Forte, Terrence Ruth, a former Raleigh Mayoral candidate and community organizer Bro. Jeremy Collins.

"As a committee, we felt the need to create an event that promoted positive, civic engagement," said Bro. Brandon Teal, Achievement Week chair. "Regardless of who won on the local, state and federal levels, people need to know what can be done to stay engaged in our various communities. I think the event met that goal. We can't wait to follow-up with a similar event."

On Wednesday, approximately a dozen Xi Mu Mu brothers took part in Reading Day, by sharing the love of literacy with the students at Herbert

Akins Elementary School, in Fuquay-Varina, N.C. Brothers covered 24 classes, reading to students from kindergarten through fifth grade.

Following the annual Rededication and Reclamation ceremony on Thursday evening, the signature Achievement Week banquet took place on Friday, November 15, at the historic Martin Street Baptist Church's Family Life Center, near downtown Raleigh.

Following a keynote address by Sixth District Representative Bro. Cedric Luckey, brothers recognized award nominees, including:

- High School Essay Contest Winners: Gabrielle Coe, Xi Mu Mu nominee and Joshua Monden, Iota Iota nominee
- Organization of the Year: Clarence E. Lightner Y-Achievers Program
- Citizen of the Year: District Court Judge Ashleigh Parker
- Superior Service Award: Bro. Weston Wills
- Founders Lifetime Achievement Award: Bro. Issac J. Fleming
- Omega Man of the Year: Bro. Otis M. Harvey

"The events for the week aligned

with our theme in many ways," added Teal. "From distributing food to the community to providing a forum to discuss the importance of promoting community engagement, the Omegas of Raleigh and Wake County continue to display the motto of "Service over Self."



Shaw guard Dee Barnes (55) goes for the lay-up between Mid-Atlantic Christian's Keith Shakes, Jr. (1) and Stewart Clough (10) during the first half. Shaw and Mid-Atlantic Christian met in a game in Raleigh, N.C. on November 20, 2024. Shaw wins 67-42.

