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What Orders Did Trump Sign On Day 1?

AJ Staff—Donald Trump has signed a flurry of executive actions just after being sworn in as the 47th president of the United States, marking the beginning of his second term.

There are two types of executive actions: executive orders, which are legally binding written orders to the federal government that do not require congressional approval. Presidents also issue proclamations, which are generally not legally binding.

So what's an executive order and which are the most significant orders Trump signed on Monday?

What are executive orders? Executive orders are formal written statements outlining the president's agenda in running the federal government. These can include direc-

tives for federal agencies or requests for specific reports. Many orders can be unobjectionable, such as giving federal employees the day after Christmas off, and they can also establish major policies.

New presidents, as the head of the executive branch often do – can issue orders to cancel orders of their predecessors.

Article II of the US Constitution grants the president the power to issue executive orders, according to the American Bar Association (ABA). “Only a sitting US president may overturn an existing executive order by issuing another executive order to that effect,” the ABA said.

According to the association, these orders don't need congressional approval and can't be directly overturned by lawmakers. However,

Congress can prevent an order from being carried out by cutting funding or imposing other obstacles.

In his inaugural address, Trump promised that “all illegal entry will be halted” and that millions of “criminal aliens” will be deported.

As part of his decisions, Trump declared a national emergency at the US-Mexico border, ordering the deployment of troops to enhance border security.

He resumed the construction of the border wall initiated during his first term in 2017 and reinstated the “Remain in Mexico” programme, which required asylum seekers to wait in Mexico during their US immigration proceedings.

“All illegal entry will immediately be halted. And we will begin the process of returning millions and

millions of criminal aliens back to the places from which they came,” Trump said. His administration also shut down an app used for immigration appointments and said existing appointments were cancelled.

He announced intentions to end birthright citizenship for the children of undocumented immigrants.

Birthright citizenship, which guarantees citizenship to anyone born on US soil, is protected by the 14th Amendment and any attempt to revoke it will likely bring immediate legal challenges.

Trump also designated cartels and international gangs as “global terrorists,” expanding governmental powers to combat human trafficking and drug smuggling. He also promised to “eliminate the presence of all foreign gangs and criminal networks” in the US.

“You can do whatever you have to do to get out of that problem and we do have that kind of emergency,” Trump said late on Monday.

Trump also issued a proclamation to pardon approximately 1,500 individuals convicted in relation to the January 6, 2021 Capitol attack, and ended federal cases against political opponents of the outgoing administration.

“This proclamation ends a grave national injustice that has been perpetrated upon the American people over the last four years and begins a process of national reconciliation,” Trump said in a statement published on the White House website.

Trump's pardons wiped the slate clean for many of those convicted of committing the most serious crimes on January 6, including Enrique Tarrio, the former leader of the far-right Proud Boys, who was sentenced to 22 years in prison for seditious conspiracy.

The pardons also erased the criminal records of more than 700 people convicted of misdemeanour offences, such as trespassing, and put a halt to



Reggie The Newsman Attends Inauguration

History was made on January 20th, 2025 and *The Carolinian* was present to witness it. We were in the streets of Washington DC which were lined with supporters of Donald J. Trump, vendors peddling Trump merchandise and law enforcement from all over. But, we almost weren't.

Security was so tight, and the crowds were so large that the black press almost got squeezed out of coverage of the inauguration. Luckily we had a friend on the inside with lobbied for us to break through.

The atmosphere was more than what was displayed on television screens. The roar of the crowd in the Capital One arena was deafening each and every time an image of the President appeared on the screen. It seemed more like a rock concert than a presidential inauguration, and the superstar was undoubtedly Donald J. Trump.

Fanfare aside, the event was incredibly educational. Our communities have been lead to believe that Trump supporters are white, racist people with a segregationist agenda. Based on what we saw in Washington DC on Monday, this couldn't be farther from the truth.

Everywhere we went during the event we were greeted by incredibly diverse crowds. People from different ethnicities, religions and genders were all packed together in support of the nations 47th president. It was a literal skin toned rainbow.

When pastor Lorenzo Sewell delivered his speech, he inadvertently touched on something that is often overlooked in the sea of political mud slinging. By weaving rhetoric from MLK's *I Have A Dream* speech

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



President Donald Trump pauses while signing executive orders in the Oval Office of the White House in Washington on Monday, Jan. 20, 2025, following his inauguration as the 47th president. (Doug Mills)

Images Of Migrants Stranded In Mexico As Appointments Cancelled



Colombian Magelis Tinoco, 48, in Ciudad Juarez, Mexico after her CBP One appointment was cancelled [Christian Chavez/AP]



A volunteer with a pro-migrant organisation shows an updated message of the CBP One app [Andres Leighton/AP Photo]



Migrants seeking asylum leave an immigration office in Matamoros, Mexico. [Eric Gay/AP Photo]

The 45th Annual MLK Jr. Prayer Breakfast

By: Jordan Meadows
Staff Writer

The 45th Annual Triangle Martin Luther King Jr. Interfaith Prayer Breakfast took place this week, bringing together hundreds across the region to celebrate Dr. King's legacy. This year's theme, “Mission Possible: The Power of Justice and Radical Love,” set the tone for a powerful morning of reflection, unity, and action.

The breakfast, hosted by Capitol Broadcasting Company and co-ordinated by the Triangle MLK Committee, has become an annual tradition in the Triangle, gathering people from various faiths and backgrounds.

This year's speakers spoke to the essence of Dr. King's work, emphasizing that justice and love are not just ideals but active forces that can transform society.

Donna Colettrane Battle, Ph. D., a spiritual practitioner, soul coach, and educator focused on justice and healing in her keynote speech. Battle, who holds a BA in public relations from NC A&T State University, a Master of Divinity from Duke University, and a Ph.D. in Marriage and Family Therapy, addressed the intersection of race, gender, and spirituality, bringing a profound sense of urgency to the ongoing work for justice.

Parts of the highlighted points of the event was how Dr. King's ability to combine strategic thinking, emotional intelligence, open-mindedness, and deep passion helped him become one of the most effective leaders in American history. Battle stressed the importance of continu-



ing Dr. King's mission today, urging the community to focus on healing through love, and on fostering a just world where all individuals have the opportunity to thrive.

Awards were presented to individuals and organizations that exemplified Dr. King's mission in their work. These honorees were recognized for their efforts to uplift the community, promote equality, and serve those in need. As part of the celebration, a grant of \$7,500 was also given to support future initiatives aimed at promoting social justice.

“We are committed to continuing Dr. King's work of justice, fairness, and equality,” said Reverend William Lucas, chair of the Triangle MLK Committee, in his remarks. “The people we honor today prove that his mission is still possible.”

The event featured powerful musical performances, including a stirring rendition of “In the Water” by Melissa Wade, and a dynamic performance by gospel artist Earnest Pugh,

who sang “God Did It,” bringing the crowd to their feet with his uplifting message of faith and resilience.

A highlight of the event was the youth speaker, an honor student from Garner Magnet High School. The young speaker shared a heartfelt reflection on Dr. King's legacy, emphasizing the role of today's youth in continuing the fight for justice.

The breakfast was enriched by the participation of religious leaders from across the Triangle, each offering a prayer and reflection on their respective faith traditions. Pastor Sharon Dean from Wake Chapel Church, Imam Sami Kocak from the Islamic Center of Cary, and Rabbi Eric Solomon from Beth Meyer Synagogue each spoke on the theme of unity, justice, and love.

The celebration of Dr. King's legacy continued beyond the prayer breakfast with a variety of events throughout the weekend.

The United Way's MLK Day of Service in Raleigh, a student-driven

service event for children, youth and teens to participate in group art projects, volunteerism, panels and workshops, offered an opportunity for community members to engage in volunteer work, contributing to projects that support underserved populations. A free concert featuring music from Black composers also took place, giving attendees the chance to enjoy powerful performances while honoring Black cultural contributions to American history.

In Cary, the MLK 5K Walk for Hope took place, bringing together families, students, and community leaders to walk in solidarity and raise awareness for issues related to racial justice. The week-long series of “Dreamfest” events provided opportunities for education, reflection, and action.

The day also featured the 45th Annual Wreath Laying Ceremony, held just half an hour down the road in Raleigh at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Gardens. Sponsored by the Raleigh Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance (RIMA), the ceremony included Rev. Dr. Kevin D. Sturdivant of the historic Springfield Baptist Church as the keynote speaker.

The National Day of Racial Healing Community Dialogue took place at First Baptist Church, stemming from a partnership between the YMCA of the Triangle, the Encouraging Place, Triangle MLK Committee, Raleigh Chamber, and Wake County, with support from Wells Fargo. Rev. Dr. Sterling E. Freeman, a leadership coach and organizational change agent, delivered the keynote address,

(See **PRAYER BREAKFAST**, P. 2)



JUDGE GRIFFIN CHANGES STRATEGY IN EFFORT TO WIN NC SUPREME SEAT

By Cash Michaels
Contributing writer

Perhaps stung by blistering criticism that he and the Republican Party are trying to “steal” a judicial election after it was lost and over, NC Appellate Court Judge Jefferson Griffin last week changed his strategy in his effort to ultimately secure a seat on the NC Supreme Court.

Judge Griffin has now modified his bid to have 60,000 votes disallowed from the final total in his race against incumbent Democratic state Supreme Court Justice Allison Riggs. Justice Riggs defeated Griffin in the Nov. 5th 2024 election for her seat by over 700 votes, as well as in two recounts.

That's when Griffin filed a motion to have 60,000 votes removed from the final election total, claiming that the voter registration applications did not contain either the Social Security or partial driver license numbers once required. Amid growing protests, the Republican controlled state Supreme Court has agreed to take up the matter.

But before they do, Judge Griffin has now decided, in a court filing to the very state Supreme Court he hopes to join, that 5,509 ballots from overseas should first be examined. That 5,509 would be from the initial 60,000 at issue, and should be disallowed, Griffin contends, because none of those voters showed photo identification as required by law.

If extracting only those 5,509 votes from the total are enough to change the results of the election between Griffin and Riggs, then, Griffin's legal brief says, it may not be necessary to remove the balance of the 60,000.

Drastically lowering the number of votes he seeks to remove makes it easier for the Republican-controlled state Supreme Court to rule in his favor, observers say. However, if removing the 5,509 doesn't win the race for him, Griffin then wants all 60,000 removed.

The NC Board of Elections was expected to respond to Griffin's latest legal gambit by last Tuesday. Griffin has until January 24th to respond to their response.

National Democratic Party Chairman Jamie Harrison, an African-Ameri-

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

Business & Finance

North Carolina Settles On 15% Increase in Home Owner Rates

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP) — Base rates for North Carolina homeowners' insurance premiums will increase on average by about 15% by mid-2026 as part of a settlement reached by the state Insurance Department and the industry.

The agreement announced Friday by state Insurance Commissioner Mike Causey contrasts with the January 2024 request by the North Carolina Rate Bureau, which represents insurance companies, seeking a 42.2% overall average increase.

Causey, an elected official who began his third term earlier this month, formally rejected the bureau's request last year. That led to a formal hearing that began in October and included multiple weeks of witness testimony, evidence and arguments. The state Insurance Department said its witnesses would contend rates should be lowered or increased by less than 3%.

Except for the settlement, a hearing officer — in consultation with Causey — would have decided what



the new rates should be. The Rate Bureau could have appealed that decision in court.

Causey said in a news release that the proposed rate increases "are sufficient to make sure that insurance companies, who have paid out large sums due to natural disasters and face increasing reinsurance costs due to national catastrophes, have adequate funds on hand to pay claims."

The bureau attributed its large request to high inflation — particularly on building materials — combined with calamitous storms and "severely inadequate" premium rates to cover claims. The bureau's requested increases had varied widely from just over 4% in parts of the mountains to over 99% in some beach areas.

The agreed-upon increases, carried out in two parts, will vary based on location. On average statewide, the base rate will increase by 7.5% on June 1 and by another 7.5% on June 1, 2026.

The highest increases generally will occur in parts of eastern North

Carolina hit hard by Hurricane Matthew in 2016 and Hurricane Florence in 2018, *The News & Observer* of Raleigh reported. For example, beach areas from Carteret to Brunswick counties will see an average 16% increase in mid-2025 and an additional 15.9% in mid-2026.

Areas harmed the most by historic flooding from Hurricane Helene in the fall will face lower-than-average increases. Base rates in Buncombe, Watauga and Yancey counties, for example, will increase by 4.4% in 2025 and 4.5% in mid-2026.

Among highly populated areas, base rates in Raleigh and Durham will increase on average by 7.5% in each of the next two years. In Charlotte, rates would increase by 9.3% in 2025 and by 9.2% in 2026.

The settlement also bars the Rate Bureau from undertaking an effort to increase rates again before June 1, 2027, Causey's release said.

Bureau Chief Operating Officer Jarred Chappell said separately that the settlement is "a step in the right direction" but that the bureau had asked for a larger increase "because that's what recent claims data called for."

"Storms have gotten stronger and more damaging, more people are living in disaster-prone areas, infla-

tion in the construction industry has been particularly high and reinsurance costs have exploded. All these cost drivers remain an issue," Chappell said in a written statement.

North Carolina insurance law contains a "consent-to-rate" exception that allows industry members to insure high-risk homeowners if they agree to pay premiums at rates that are up to 250% of the bureau's rate.

While some insurers have pulled out of disaster-prone parts of North Carolina, the exception has helped prevent a mass exodus of home insurers from the state. About 40% of the state's homeowners' policies were set by consent-to-rate policies in 2022, *The News & Observer* reported.

TikTok's Ban And The Impacts of Social Media

By Ms Jheri Worlwide

Staff Writer

As we enter a new era of leadership, it's crucial to examine how we consume information. Congratulations, reading *The Carolinian* is a great first step. Our news is produced by dedicated local journalists working directly for our publication, and our editor carefully curates articles from trusted sources, ensuring you receive the most relevant and reliable information weekly.

The recent events surrounding the dismissal of TikTok serve as a potent example of the need for media literacy and social media discretion. The same president who attempted to ban TikTok made an about-face by granting its parent company, ByteDance (affiliated with the Chinese government), a 90-day extension to find a new owner. This abrupt shift, occurring within 24 hours, raises important questions. While various conclusions can be drawn from this situation, one critical takeaway is the undeniable influence a select few wield over social media. This reality was further underscored as many of these powerful figures were present on the dais during the president's inauguration on Martin Luther King Jr. Day, January 20, 2025.

It's essential to acknowledge that social media is increasingly controlled by a handful of individuals, often referred to as the new American oligarchs. This concentration of power means our online engagement is largely in their hands. We can no longer afford to use social media passively. It wouldn't be surprising to see certain applications, or features within them, placed behind paywalls in the future, further enriching those already in control of these platforms.

Now is the time to reconsider how we communicate and consume news. What are your primary news sources? Are you relying on established news institutions, or are you following independent content creators? These are vital questions to consider. I encourage you to continue reading *The Carolinian*, subscribe, and share our reporting with your networks. Critically evaluate the information you encounter from all sources, and please, don't become overly reliant on any single platform. We saw individuals distraught online when TikTok was temporarily unavailable. Social media can be manipulated or even taken away as easily as an account is created. We must not become overly dependent on digital platforms, especially when they are controlled by a select few. Our ability to communicate and access information should not be solely at their discretion. Pay attention.

No Day-One Tariffs From Trump, But It May Happen By February 1, 2025

WASHINGTON, Jan 20 (Reuters) - President Donald Trump did not immediately impose tariffs on Monday as previously promised but said he was thinking about imposing 25% duties on imports from Canada and Mexico on Feb. 1 over illegal immigrants and fentanyl crossing into the U.S.

As he was sworn into office, Trump stopped well short of a swift tariff action against the two U.S. neighbors, but directed federal agencies to investigate persistent U.S. trade deficits and unfair trade practices and alleged currency manipulation by other countries.

In a presidential memo, opens new tab, Trump directed the Commerce and Treasury departments and the U.S. Trade Representative to probe the economic and national security risks of large trade deficits "and recommend appropriate measures, such as a global supplemental tariff, or other policies, to remedy such deficits."

Investors and foreign capitals had been bracing for a day-one tariff action that could upend longstanding trade agreements, but Trump's trade memo essentially called for more

research that could back future tariff actions.

The reprieve prompted a rally in global stocks and sent other currencies higher against the dollar. U.S. financial markets were closed on Monday but will reopen on Tuesday. Asked by reporters at the White House whether he would impose a universal tariff on all imports into the United States, Trump said: "We may. But we're not ready for that yet."

Asked about the Canada and Mexico tariffs, he said he was thinking about 25% because the two countries were allegedly allowing "vast numbers of people" and fentanyl into the U.S.

Trump also said he wanted to reverse the U.S. trade deficit with the European Union, either with tariffs or more energy exports. Tariffs were the theme throughout inauguration day, with Trump saying such measures would generate "massive amounts" of federal income as his administration works to rebuild American industry. He said they would be collected by a new agency called the External Revenue Service.

"Tariffs are going to make us rich as hell," Trump told supporters at Capital One Arena in Washington. "It's going to bring our country's businesses back that left us."

CHINA ACTIONS

Trump's trade memo called for the USTR to assess China's performance under the "Phase 1" trade deal he signed with Beijing in 2020 to end a nearly two-year tariff war.

The deal required China to increase purchases of U.S. exports by \$200 billion over two years, but Beijing failed to meet the targets as the COVID-19 pandemic hit.

USTR will determine China's compliance to recommend appropriate actions "up to and including the imposition of tariffs or other measures as needed," it said.

The memo also asks USTR to recommend possible changes to China's Most Favored Nation trading status and to investigate other Chinese economic practices that may be "unreasonable or discriminatory and that may burden or restrict U.S. commerce" -- language associated with Section 301 investigations such as those used to impose tariffs on Chinese goods during Trump's first term and continued by former presi-

Ag Grow Culture

A New Crop of Farming Advocates Is on the Way In 2025

In 2007, fourth-generation farmer Luciano Alvarado Jr. and his family were looking for a fresh start. Their business had been booming in Florida, where they farmed citrus and vegetables. But after a family member died, they decided to pack up and head to land they owned just outside of Fayetteville, North Carolina, to process their loss in a new place.

Alvarado hoped they could turn the acreage into a blueberry farm and make a decent profit. But their fresh start quickly turned sour. The family found themselves in deep financial trouble after learning how different and complicated North Carolina's loan regulations were from those in their home state. And, still struck with grief, he and his family struggled to make sound financial decisions.

It was by a stroke of luck that Alvarado learned about North Carolina-based Rural Advancement Foundation International-USA (RAFI), a nonprofit which helps farmers in tough situations free of charge. "Well, I've got nothing else to lose," Alvarado recalls thinking.



Luciano Alvarado Jr. shows his son Ruben a successful blueberry crop on their North Carolina farm during the first week of harvest in 2024.

themselves, help their neighbors navigate codes and regulations—pertaining to things like zoning, food safety, and property rights—that can save their operations.

Bunting, now 79, runs a family farm with his son in Oak City, North Carolina, where he once raised poultry and hogs and now grows hemp and corn. During his first day helping the Alvarados untangle their messy financial situation, he sat at their kitchen table for eight hours straight, drinking coffee with them in the morning and sharing dinner with them that night.

If not for that help, "I don't think we would be having this conversation right now," Alvarado said. "We could have ended up with nothing."

Though farm advocates like Bunting have made a massive difference for the farmers they've helped, a good number have aged out of the work or died, leaving a void for farmers in need of guidance. For a while, a lack of funding for these positions—and a shortage of people willing to take up the emotionally taxing and sometimes unpaid work—made it difficult for organiza-

tions to recruit these advocates, and the profession was at risk of disappearing altogether.

Now, a new federal effort is looking to create a fresh team of helpers. In September 2024, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) pledged \$30 million over three years to establish the Distressed Borrowers Assistance Network (DBAN), an initiative designed to connect financially distressed farmers and ranchers with personal assistance to help them regain their footing. A large part of this work consists of recruiting and training a new generation of advocates to help farmers struggling with complex financial and legal issues.

Through a series of cooperative agreements, the USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) is facilitating the network, along with a handful of farmer support organizations and land-grant universities: RAFI, Farm Aid, the University of Arkansas, the University of Minnesota, and the Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers Policy Research Center at Alcorn State University in Mississippi.

"It's a high-stakes kind of work," said Margaret Krome-Lukens, RAFI's policy director. "Our goal here is to be able to train folks without having the mistakes that are part of the learning process be those that impact farmers. I have so much admiration for the farm advocates who just sat down and started figuring it out, and I want to give the next generation of farm advocates the benefit of that hard work, experience, and hard-won lessons and knowledge."

As one of the last experienced farm advocates remaining, Bunting has valuable knowledge that the organizations working to create DBAN hope to capture and pass on to the next generation.

"I don't feel like I'm overstating in saying that I think Benny is a national treasure," Krome-Lukens said. "He has a good, strategic mind. He can quote the Code of Federal Regulations to you, chapter and verse. Knowing all that in his head enables him to put the pieces together in a way that sees possibility and if there could be unintended consequences. He also just brings so much compassion."

The Life of a Farm Advocate

Bunting first got involved with farm advocacy because of his own financial struggles and was recruited by RAFI in the early 1980s. He's been with the organization ever since, serving as lead farm advocate for the last 20 years. When Bunting is not out working his own fields, he's advocating for others out of his home office, which is full to the brim with crates and binders of loan regulation information and farm finance manuals.

Over his four decades in the farm advocate profession, Bunting has used his vast knowledge to save many farms—and sometimes, farmers' lives. On average, he counsels between 75 and 100 farmers each year, devoting around 60 hours to each client. Between 2010 and 2013 alone, he helped preserve an estimated \$50 million in assets for farm families, according to RAFI.

While the job once sent him to farms all over the country, Bunting now works within North Carolina,

still making home visits. Many people he has helped consider him family. "When we go in with a farmer, most of the time that farmer would call me up after a meeting and say they got the first good night's sleep that they'd had in months," Bunting said.

Krome-Lukens said the RAFI team frequently hears that Bunting offers farmers reassurance that was previously out of reach for them. "What happens is, they are very freaked out about their situation, and they talk to Benny, and Benny is not freaked out about it," she said. "He can help them figure out a plan and next steps, and that takes a farmer from a place of, 'I have no idea what to do; everything is crashing and burning,' to seeing potential pathways through."

The Birth of Farm Advocacy

The role of farm advocate arose during the farm crisis in the 1980s, when farming was in a state of frightening flux, particularly across the South and Midwest. Drought was worsening, interest rates were skyrocketing, and oil prices were increasing, resulting in thousands of foreclosures.

Attorney Sarah Vogel represented North Dakota family farmers in the landmark class-action case *Coleman v. Block* in 1983, which saved an estimated 16,000 farms from foreclosure. Vogel told Civil Eats that farmers often had to seek finance information themselves and help one another in order to get by.

At the outset, farm advocacy work was often spearheaded by women. In traditional farm households, men would often work longer hours during times of financial stress in hopes of solving their problems, while their spouses would field the delinquent bills piling up on the kitchen table.

It was some of these women, like Oklahoma-based Mona Lee Brock and Minnesota-based Lou Anne Kling, whose activism became legendary. Brock was commonly referred to as "the angel on the end of the line" for setting up an independent 24/7 hotline to talk farmers through mental crises.

Food, Rural Life, and Nutrition Programs

Two years after President Abraham Lincoln created the Department of Agriculture in 1862, he nicknamed it "the people's department" because half of all Americans lived on farms at that time. Today, fewer than 2% of Americans farm, but the Agriculture Department still touches people's lives in many ways.

The modern U.S. Department of Agriculture is a sprawling bureaucracy with a US\$231 billion annual budget. Although it is headquartered in Washington, D.C., about 90% of its employees work in field offices nationwide. Others serve in nearly 100 embassies around the world as part of the Foreign Agriculture Service, promoting U.S. food and farm products.

The most common misconception about the USDA is that it's mainly focused on supporting farmers and

ranchers and conserving agricultural land. These are critical missions, but as a former deputy secretary of agriculture, I can attest that they represent only a small slice of what the department does.

For example, nutrition assistance programs help tens of millions of people escape food insecurity annually. They consume 70% to 80% of the USDA's total annual budget, depending on the year, and include school meals, nutritional support for women, infants and children, and food benefits for low-income families. In contrast, only 13% of the agency's budget goes to farm, conservation and commodity programs.

If confirmed, Brooke Rollins, President Donald Trump's choice for agriculture secretary, will manage one of the largest federal bureaucracies and work with Congress in the

writing of reconciliation and farm bills. In addition, she likely will be drawn into debates about reducing food prices and consumption of processed and sugary foods.

A lifeline for rural America

Throughout the Department of Agriculture's history, presidents have used it as a tool to address rural America's needs, extending well beyond farms. This role continues today, even as the U.S. has become a much more urban nation.

Need broadband, water or wastewater systems? Need to build a library, community center or hospital? For small towns, the USDA will help fund all these things, along with the purchase of fire trucks and police cars. If you live in a community with a population under 35,000, the agency may help you buy, build or repair affordable

homes.

One of my favorite programs is the Business and Industry Loan Guarantee Program, which helps private businesses refinance debt, purchase land and machinery, and build factories, among other things. It does this by guaranteeing loans to reduce risk for commercial lenders, which helps borrowers get financing at the best rate.

From grading eggs to fighting wildfires

The Department of Agriculture has 17 agencies whose focuses range from food safety to research, nutrition, conservation, rural development and more. I served from 1999 to 2001 as administrator of the Agricultural Marketing Service, which oversees food standards that define categories such as Grade A eggs, prime beef and organic products.

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Written by Leo Aquino

CEPF

After paying off \$50,000 of debt in two years, Ja'Net Adams is teaching others to do the same using a 'dream sheet.' Courtesy of Ja'Net Adams

In 2008, Ja'Net Adams (pronounced juh-nay) was laid off from her full-time job in pharmaceutical sales in Kernersville, North Carolina.

She told Business Insider in 2022, "In one phone call, we lost 60% of our household income and our health insurance. And we had a one-year-old at home." Adams used the four months that she was laid off to begin making a bigger plan for her future, including paying off \$50,000 worth of debt, starting her own business, and leaving her full-time job with as little stress as possible.

Fourteen years later, Adams had managed to do all three of those things, and her two children, JR and Jocelyn, had front-row seats.

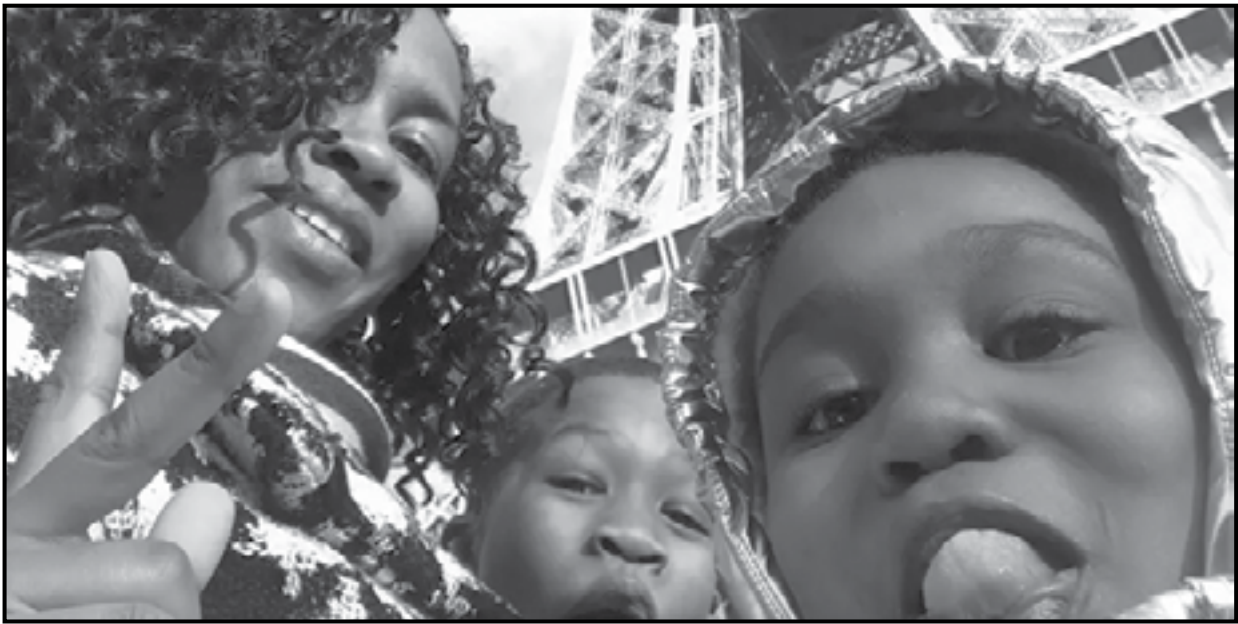
Here are three important lessons that Adams said her children learned simply by watching her work.

1. Asking questions about money and business

Adams plays an NPR podcast called Marketplace Money in front of her kids. "They hate talk radio, but I can tell it makes a difference. They learn a thing or two," Adams told Business Insider.

Her kids weren't afraid to ask questions about why businesses closed during the pandemic, and Adams did her best to answer. "We were talking about why some stores went out of business, and I had the chance to talk to them about the supply chain crisis," she said.

Adams says her kids were upset when Chick-fil-A ran out of sauces, and she used that opportunity to explain that there's a high demand for goods and a low supply because of the pandemic. "That Chick-fil-A sauce, that was ruining their life for a little bit," Adams



said.

2. The importance of a strong work ethic

"My kids understand that if I don't kill it, I don't eat," Adams

said. "My kids ask why I'm still on my computer answering emails later in the evening, and I say, 'Well, there's people in California that are still working. People in

Hawaii are just getting their day started.'"

Her kids understand that the hours their mom puts into her work directly translates into food on the table and a roof over their heads.

3. How to work toward long-term goals

Adams said that her work as a debt payoff coach gives her children a unique perspective on delayed gratification, helping them work toward their long-term goals.

"They don't have to be in on the deeper conversations that parents need to have," she said, "but you can start with explaining why they can't get a toy at Walmart or Target." When her kids ask for toys, she reminds them of their long-term goal of going to Disneyland for their birthday or a bigger present down the line.

This mindset helps them understand delayed gratification, and Adams hopes it fosters a healthy relationship with debt and money down the line.

This article was originally published in March 2022.

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Health and Wellness

A New Approach To Managing Difficult Blood Pressure

WASHINGTON (AP) — Nothing doctors prescribed controlled Michael Garrity’s dangerously high blood pressure — until they zapped away some nerves on his kidneys.

If that sounds weird, well, kidneys help regulate blood pressure in part through signals from certain nerves. The new treatment disrupts overactive renal nerves.

“My blood pressure would spike and I’d run out of breath and feel tired, and that doesn’t happen anymore,” said Garrity, 62, of Needham, Massa-

chusetts. He still takes medicine but at lower doses, his blood pressure normal for the first time in years. “I’m thrilled.”

About half of U.S. adults have high blood pressure, a major risk for heart attacks, strokes, kidney failure, even dementia. Many people don’t even realize they have hypertension until it’s done serious damage.

“Know your blood pressure, know the numbers,” stressed Dr. Randy Zusman of Massachusetts General Hospital, who specializes in the hardest-to-treat cases and advises people who

think they’re fine to at least get a yearly check.

And only a fraction of patients have their hypertension well-controlled, meaning there’s a need for novel strategies. The Food and Drug Administration approved that “renal denervation” option about a year ago, based on studies showing a modest benefit in patients whose blood pressure remains high despite multiple medicines.

Now, after the American Heart Association recently deemed it promising, some hospitals including Mass General Brigham are cautiously offering it as they work out who are good candidates — and whether their insurance will cover a minimally invasive procedure costing thousands of dollars.

What is high blood pressure?

Two numbers describe blood pressure. The top, “systolic” pressure, is the force blood puts on the walls of arteries as its pumped out of the heart. The bottom “diastolic” number measures that same pressure but between heartbeats.

Normal is less than 120 over 80. Blood pressure naturally fluctuates throughout the day, higher when you’re physically active or stressed. But when it stays high — consistently 130 over 80



or higher, according to the most recent guidelines — it stiffens arteries and makes the heart work harder.

How to measure blood pressure

It doesn’t take a doctor’s visit. Pharmacies and sometimes even libraries offer screening, and people can use at-home monitors.

To avoid falsely high readings, the American Medical Association has tips: Sit quietly with feet on the floor, legs not crossed. Place the cuff on a bare arm, not over clothing. Don’t dangle the arm — rest it on a table.

struggled with since his late 20s is treatment-resistant. Despite taking four to six drugs plus a strict diet and exercise, his blood pressure regularly reached 150 over 100 or worse.

What is renal denervation?

Doctors thread a small catheter, or tube, through blood vessels to reach the kidneys, and then beam in ultrasound or radiofrequency energy. Those pulses pass through the renal arteries to selectively target surrounding nerves, said Dr. Joseph Garasic, a Mass General interventional cardiologist who performed Garrity’s procedure. It takes about an hour.

Although already used in other countries, a key U.S. trial of renal denervation failed about a decade ago, prompting changes before researchers tried again. In November 2023, the FDA approved two catheter systems, from Recor Medical and Medtronic.

It’s not a cure — and some patients get no benefit. But Garasic said multiple studies show on average an 8 to 10-point drop in blood pressure, a modest but important improvement. Some like Garrity see a bigger drop, enough to gradually scale back medications.

Red 3 Dye Banned

The Food and Drug Administration is ordering food and drug makers to remove a dye called Red 3 from the products U.S. consumers eat and drink. The colorant was banned from cosmetics and non-oral medications decades ago because a study showed it caused cancer when eaten by rats. But it kept appearing on the ingredient lists of popular snack foods and other grocery products because it remained approved for use until now.

Consumer advocates monitor manufacturers that still include the additive, and companies often switch to less notorious alternatives. Shoppers should always check food labels to see if an item they want to buy includes Red 3, which is also known as erythrosine and FD&C Red No. 3.

These are some of the product categories where the dye is most likely to show up.

- CANDIES: Brach’s Conversation Hearts and Brach’s Candy Corn both contain Red 3. But some other red candies, like Swedish Fish and Wild Cherry Lifesavers, use Red 40.
- BAKED GOODS AND SNACKS: Some baked goods and snacks — mostly with red icing — contain Red 3. Betty Crocker Red Decorating Icing contains Red 3. But Pillsbury’s Funfetti Valentine’s Day Vanilla Frosting — which is swirled with tiny red hearts — uses Red 40.
- DAIRY AND FROZEN FOODS: Check for Red 3 in strawberry-flavored milk, ice cream, frozen yogurt and popsicles. TruMoo Strawberry Whole Milk contains Red 3. But Edy’s Strawberry Ice Cream and Popsicle-brand fruit pops both use beet juice for coloring.
- FRUIT PRODUCTS: Many maraschino cherry brands — including store brands from Walmart and Kroger — have switched to Red 40. But Kroger Extra Cherry canned fruit cocktail contains Red 3.
- BEVERAGES: Ensure Original Strawberry Nutrition Shake contains Red 3. But many beverage brands use Red 40, including Hawaiian Punch and Kool-Aid, Fanta and Jarritos strawberry sodas and Faygo black cherry soda.
- MEDICATIONS: Consumer advocates say some gummy vitamins and medications contain Red 3. But others use natural coloring or alternate dyes. Vicks Formula 44, Luden’s and Halls cough drops all use Red 40. Mucinex Children’s Cough Syrup, Robitussin Adult Cough and Chest Congestion and Vick’s NyQuil Cold and Flu also use Red 40.



THE
GOLDEN
YEARS

By Judykay Jefferson

HOPES AND FEARS

As I write, it is both the MLK federal holiday and the inauguration of Donald Trump. It is cold, really, really cold. The temperature is 27 degrees F but with the windchill it feels like 17 degrees. It partly cloudy with a slight chance of snow midafternoon. For the first time in 40 years, the inauguration will be held inside. I think the weather forecasts reflects the temperature of America. The inauguration of Donald Trump for his second term as President of the United States sparks a wide range of emotions among Americans. From hope and optimism to fear and apprehension, the nation is divided on what the future holds under his leadership.

Hopes

For many of Trump’s supporters, his return to the White House represents a renewed opportunity to implement policies that they believe will benefit the country. One of the primary hopes is that Trump will continue to strengthen border security and reduce illegal immigration. Supporters argue that a more secure border will protect American jobs and reduce crime rates.

Economic growth is another significant hope among Trump’s supporters. They believe that his policies, such as tax cuts and deregulation, will stimulate the economy, create jobs, and reduce unemployment. Before the COVID-19 pandemic, the economy experienced unprecedented growth, and many hope that Trump’s second term will reignite this economic engine.

Trump’s foreign policy is also a source of optimism for his supporters. The Abraham Accords, which normalized relations between Israel and several Arab nations, are seen as a testament to his ability to forge peace in historically strained regions. Supporters hope that Trump will continue to pursue diplomatic solutions without resorting to military conflict.

And then there is TikTok. Content Creators and consumers are counting on President Trump to put an end to the TikTok ban. President Trump plans to force American ownership of TikTok by proposing a joint venture where the United States would own 50% of the app. He intends to issue an executive order to extend the period before the law’s prohibitions take effect, allowing time to negotiate a deal that addresses national security concerns. This approach aims to keep TikTok operational in the U.S. while ensuring that American interests are protected. Here is an area where it is believed that policy will protect the rights of Americans, creators and consumers, across the board. We will see what happens and check in weekly until there is resolution, whatever it may be.

Fears

On the other hand, many Americans are deeply concerned about the implications of Trump’s second term. One of the primary fears is that Trump will continue to target diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives within the government and inspire companies to abandon their own diversity efforts.

Another significant fear is the potential for increased divisiveness and polarization in the country. Critics worry that Trump’s leadership style and rhetoric will further deepen the political and social divides that have plagued the nation in recent years. The fear is that this divisiveness will create an environment of hostility and intolerance. This is my most prevalent fear. Once again, we will normalize ignorance, violence, and just plain stupidity. Many people of color (not just African Americans) wonder if a climate of divisive racism will put them at greater danger. I totally get it; I wonder, too.

Another big fear is the Elon Musk factor and his influence on the country. Many Americans are concerned about Elon Musk’s influence on President Trump due to Musk’s significant political clout and his role in the new administration. Musk’s involvement in the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) have raised fears about potential conflicts of interest and the impact on government policies. Additionally, there are concerns about the potential elimination of federal jobs and overhaul of key agencies.

Economic concerns also loom large for many Americans. While some are hopeful about Trump’s economic policies, others fear that his approach could lead to increased inflation and economic instability. The spin doctors spew mumble-jumble that this will benefit us all. I need to see it to believe it.

The hopes and fears surrounding Trump’s presidency reflect the broader divisions within American society. For some, his leadership represents a return to conservative values and a focus on the economic well-being of American citizens. For others, it signals a dark era of nativism, inward-looking policies, and increased vulnerability for marginalized communities.

The nation will be watching closely to see if and how his administration addresses these hopes and fears. Will he be able to deliver on his promises of economic growth and security, or will the fears of increased divisiveness and instability come to fruition? Only time will tell, but one thing is certain: the Trump presidency will continue to be a defining, contentious period in American history.



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Arts & Culture

African American Theater Highlight Shows To Come

By: Ms Jheri Worldwide
Staff Writer

The vibrant arts scene in North Carolina's Triangle region was fully displayed at the recent Triangle African American Theater Preview 2025 event at the Raleigh Little Theatre. This showcase previewed an exciting lineup of upcoming productions. From beloved classics like *The Color Purple*, *Jitney* by August Wilson, and even a Caribbean-infused reimagining of *The Little Mermaid*, our area theaters offer a wealth of opportunities to experience the power and beauty of dramatic arts. This preview offered a tantalizing glimpse into the rich tapestry of stories soon to grace stages here in central North Carolina. If you want to see the talent and future stars in our area here are a few shows you will not want to miss.

One production that particularly caught my attention is *Confederates*. This play delves into the complex relationship between an enslaved woman and her mistress, picking up their story after the mistress returns home following a failed marriage. *Confederates* produced by PlayMakers Repertory Company, promises to be a powerful exploration of a difficult historical period, demonstrating the art's ability to spark dialogue and foster understanding in creative and innovative ways. Another highlight is the upcoming

season is *Saints and Aints* by Black Poetry Theatre, which explores the intersection of religion and music in African-American culture, weaving together various musical genres to underscore the importance of both in shaping identity and community. Additional shows include: *Li V Mahob Productions' The Old Settler*, *Justice Theater Project – Fairview*, *North Carolina Central University Theatre – Livin' Fat*, *Theatre Raleigh – Once on This Island*, *Raleigh Little Theatre – Akeelah and the Bee*, *Agape Theatre Project – Plenty of Time*, *Raleigh Little Theatre – The Color Purple*. You can also follow the Triangle African-American Arts organization for details on next year's preview and continued highlights of these remarkable shows.

I highly encourage you to explore these and other productions that will be taking place at various theaters throughout the year. For a full schedule, please visit AfricanAmericanArts.org for more details. A special thank you to Raleigh Little Theatre, which has generously hosted the Triangle African American Theater Preview event for the past eight years. The packed house was a testament to both the exceptional artistry on display and the vital importance of supporting African-American arts in the diverse theaters and venues across North Carolina. We will see you at the theatres!

See our Instagram for more photos



Biden Pardons The Late Black Nationalist Marcus Garvey

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA

In one of his final acts in office, President Joe Biden posthumously pardoned Marcus Mosiah Garvey Jr., a seminal figure in the civil rights movement, whose advocacy for Black nationalism and self-reliance left an indelible mark on leaders like Malcolm X and movements across the Black diaspora.

Born on August 17, 1887, in Saint Ann's Bay, Jamaica, Garvey was the son of a stonemason and a domestic servant. His journey to becoming a leader began after traveling to Latin America and studying in London, where he was influenced by Pan-African nationalism.

Garvey founded the Universal Negro Improvement Association (UNIA) in 1914, advocating for Black nationalism through African history and cultural celebration. His ambitious efforts included the establishment of the Black Star Line, a Black-owned passenger line designed to facilitate the "back to Africa" movement, and various economic enterprises like

restaurants and shopping centers to foster Black economic independence. Despite facing relentless criticism and legal challenges, including a controversial mail fraud conviction in 1923 that many believe was politically motivated, Garvey's vision and tenacity spurred a global movement.

Biden's broad act of clemency also included others like Don Scott, the current Speaker of the Virginia House of Delegates, who transformed a past drug conviction into a catalyst for advocacy in criminal justice reform. Ravi Ragbir, an immigrant rights activist; Kemba Smith Pradia, a former drug offense convict turned prison reform advocate; and Darryl Chambers, a Delawarean who now studies and writes about gun violence prevention, were also granted clemency.

Garvey's legacy, though marred by controversies, including his interactions with white supremacists and criticism from Black leaders like W.E.B. Du Bois, has continued to inspire countless individuals within the Nation of Islam, the Black Power movement, and the Rastafari movement. Many, including most Congressional

Black Caucus members, said Garvey's posthumous pardon serves not only as a correction of historical injustices but also as a powerful affirmation of his enduring influence on Black empowerment and self-determination.

The White House proclaimed that Biden's term has been distinguished by a robust commitment to civil rights. Officials said the commitment is evident in significant legislative achievements and proactive executive actions to foster racial equity. His administration pursued an ambitious equity agenda through legislation like the American Rescue Plan and executive orders to dismantle systemic barriers.

Administration officials noted that, as Biden leaves office, his record on equity and justice, marked by these recent pardons, is further proof of his unwavering dedication to building a more inclusive America. They said Garvey's pardon not only rectifies a historical wrong but also powerfully reaffirms his enduring legacy—a legacy that continues to inspire a movement for dignity and self-determination among Black communities worldwide.



Remembering Matilda, The Last Survivor Of The Clotilda

By George Charles Darley
Aljazeera

On a cold December morning in 1931, a short, elderly Black woman set out on a 24km (15-mile) walk from her homestead in Alabama, United States, on a quest for justice. The long trek to the court in Selma was no small undertaking for a person in her mid-70s. But Matilda McCrear was determined to go and make her legal claim for compensation for the horrors that she and her family had been through.

Until her death 85 years ago on January 13, 1940, Matilda was the last surviving passenger on the last-

ever slave ship bound from the West African coast to North America in late 1859.

Her story began many decades before and thousands of miles away from that sharecropping homestead. Originally named Abake – "born to be loved by all" – the girl later renamed Matilda by her American "owner" came into the world circa 1857, among the Tarkar people of the West African interior.

In 1859, at the age of two, little Abake was captured along with her mother (later renamed Grace), her three older sisters and some other relatives, by troops of the Kingdom of Dahomey, located in what is now Benin. Torn away from the rest of their family, they were victims of an age-old regional warfare which underpinned an equally ancient but persistent trade in slavery reaching across North and East Africa, the Ottoman Empire and eventually the Americas.

The precise details of her capture are unknown but, like millions before them, Abake and the other captives were very likely tied together in groups, with ropes and wooden yokes, and forced to march hundreds of miles to the coastal port of Ouidah, now a city in southern Benin. Their so-called "death march" was the first leg of a long and merciless sojourn.

Once they arrived in Ouidah, slaves would be held in "barracoons" – enclosed pens within which pris-

oners awaited inspection and sale to European traders, at which point they were often branded with the dehumanising mark of their new owner.

Abake and her family members were sold as part of a consignment of slaves to one Captain William Foster, of Canadian origin. He wrote in his journal: "I went to see the King of Dahomey. Having agreeably transacted [our] affairs ... we went to the warehouse where they had in confinement four thousand captives in a state of nudity from which they gave me liberty to select one hundred and twenty-five as mine, offering to brand them for me, from which I preemptorily forbid [sic]; commenced taking on cargo of negroes, successfully securing on board one hundred and ten."

Foster's ship, *Clotilda* – a two-masted schooner, 26 metres (86 feet) in length – is now infamous as the last ship known to have carried slaves across the Atlantic to North America. By this time it was an illegal journey, for while slavery continued across the southeast of the US (and in parts of South America), the importation of slaves had been prohibited since 1808. The *Clotilda* set sail from Ouidah late in the year, purportedly carrying lumber – the 11-man crew being promised double their normal wage to keep quiet about the true contents, as per an entry in Foster's journal.

Their route across the Atlantic was known as the "Middle Passage", making up the second part of a triangular trade route connecting Europe, Africa and the Americas. Ships carried weapons and manufactured goods from Europe to the "slave coast" of West Africa on the first part of the round trip; in the Middle Passage, that cargo was traded for enslaved Africans who were transported to the US and South America, where they were usually sold by auction; and on the final course, the vessels returned to Europe usually laden with cotton, tobacco and sugarcane.

The Middle Passage was a horrific journey lasting some 80 days, during which the human cargo endured cramped and filthy conditions. In the autobiography of an 18th-century slave, Olaudah Equiano, one slav-

ing ship is described as being "so crowded that each had scarcely room to turn himself, almost suffocating us. This produced copious perspirations, so that the air soon became unfit for respiration, from a variety of loathsome smells, and brought on a sickness among the slaves, of which many died."

Separated and sold – a brutal but common fate

Of the approximately 12.5 million enslaved Africans transported to the Americas over some 350 years, it is estimated that at least two million souls perished during the crossing over the Atlantic. Grace would later tell her daughters how she had witnessed her nephew and others from her Tarkar village being simply thrown overboard when they became unwell, apparently to prevent any contagion.

Foster navigated the *Clotilda*, now carrying 108 slaves, into the port of Mobile, Alabama under cover of darkness in early 1860. He had it towed up the Mobile River to Twelvemile Island, where the captive Africans were transferred to a river steamboat. Foster wrote in his journal that the *Clotilda* was then burned to destroy any evidence.

Foster was ultimately prosecuted in 1861 for illegal slave importation, but the case was dismissed for lack of evidence from the ship or its manifest. It was not until 2019 that researchers found the remains of the *Clotilda* in the Mobile River, confirming its existence and location.

At Twelvemile Island, Abake, her mother and her 10-year-old sister were handed over by Foster to one of the financial backers of *Clotilda*, a wealthy plantation owner by the name of Memorable Creagh.

In another heartbreaking separation, Abake's two other sisters (whose names are unknown) were sent elsewhere, never to be seen again – a typically brutal fate for so many of those regarded as a mere commodity.

Abake, her mother, and her sister soon found themselves on Creagh's plantation near Montgomery, Alabama. There, Abake was given the new forename Matilda, her mother was renamed Grace, and her sister as Sally. Grace was forcibly married to a fellow survivor of the *Clotilda*, who

had been renamed Guy.

Waiting all her life for justice that never came

In 1931, Matilda heard a rumour that people like her were receiving compensation for being illegally smuggled as slaves into the US. That was when she decided to embark upon the 15-mile journey on foot to the Selma court in Alabama to make her claim.

The judge declared the rumour to be "false" and dismissed her case. But fortunately for modern historians, an account of her lawsuit was published by the *Selma Times-Journal*. This was the article discovered by Hannah Durkin, a Newcastle University historian specialising in the transatlantic slave trade and author of the 2024 book, *Survivors: The Lost Stories of the Last Captives of the Atlantic Slave Trade*.

The *Selma Times-Journal* news story provides a vivid description of Matilda: "She walks with a vigorous

stride. Her kinky hair is almost white and is plaited in small tufts and with bright-coloured string ... Her voice is low and husky, but clear. Age shows most in her eyes ... yet her ... skin is firm and smooth."

The article went on to relate that "Tildy has vigor and spirit in spite of her years ... endurance and a natural aptitude for agriculture inherited from the Tarkar tribe, made [her] a thrifty farmer."

Durkin writes that Matilda's story is particularly remarkable "because she resisted what was expected of a Black woman in the US South in the years after emancipation. She did not get married. Instead, she had a decades-long common-law marriage ... Even though she left West Africa when she was a toddler, she appears throughout her life to have worn her hair in a traditional Yoruba style, a style presumably taught to her by her mother."

Matilda fell ill after a stroke and died at the age of 83 on January 13, 1940.



MATILDA MCCREAR



A RENDERING OF THE SLAVE SHIP CLOTILDA



Over 200 people attended the Widow's Lodge 10th Annual Breakfast at Prince Hall Masonic Temple in Raleigh on Monday morning. The event featured inspirational speakers, youth performers and great food. Photos by Mathias Bishop



Community

Summit Connects Dots Between Climate And Injustice

ROCKY MOUNT, N.C. — This week's arctic blast that had folks considering whether that cup of coffee really was worth a trip outdoors is the other side of the same coin that in 2024 delivered excessive heat resulting in Hurricane Helene's destructive floodwaters — weather extremes linked to climate change.

There's a disconnect with that when it comes to the correlation between climate change and environmental justice, which impacts the Black community, in particular, according to thought leaders at the North Carolina Black Alliance 2025 Grounded in Justice, Rooted in Wellness Environmental Injustice and Healthcare Summit Jan. 17-18 at Word Tabernacle Church and Rocky Mount Event Center.

"We want our communities to experience justice. Right now, with the hog farms, PFAS, contaminated air, they're not experiencing justice. That's why we call it environmental injustice. We also know it's affecting their health," said Karida Giddings, the access to health care program coordinator for North Carolina Black Alliance (NCBA).

PFAS is short for perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances. Scientific studies have linked them to health hazards. They are known as forever chemicals and are everywhere — in water, in air, in soil, in fish, in us. Things like PFAS can impact an individual's physical, mental



and spiritual health, Giddings said.

"And when we are experiencing environmental injustice in our communities, it's disrupting all of those different dimensions of wellness, too," she said.

The summit was an opportunity for experts in environmental justice to trade notes. But where it especially had impact was as a hub where everyday people like Jan Perry could dip their toes in the vast subject matter. She's a member of the steering committee for the West Greenville Health Council and acquired knowledge she could take

home, information like connecting the dots between environmental injustice and convenience stores concentrated in Black communities. Those quick-stop shops sell a lot of unhealthy, highly processed food like potato chips, as opposed to grocery stores and supermarkets with fresh potatoes for baking. The summit equipped Perry with language for what she already was seeing, and she left empowered to raise her voice.

"Now we're thinking, 'How can we push back?'" Perry offered. Getting in that kind of good trou-



ble will require those in communities to resist letting power struggles get in the way of the work, the Rev. Lennox Yearwood Jr., president and CEO of Hip Hop Caucus, said during his keynote address.

Tyra Gross, Ph.D., an associate professor of public health at Xavier University of Louisiana, used her keynote speech to make a through line between advocating for maternal and child health while drawing attention to environmental justice and disaster preparedness. Her research includes maternal health and breastfeeding in Louisiana. During the COVID-19 pan-

demic, a recall on baby formula created a shortage. There was another shortage when Hurricane Ida blew through in 2021. That was an issue for mothers who were not breastfeeding. Extreme weather due to climate change could cause the problem to resurface, Gross suggested.

"Seeing firsthand the two issues collide, and that's when I kind of had the epiphany," Gross said.

"Black and brown mothers and families and those that are pregnant and nursing are most vulnerable to some of the impacts of these disasters we've been seeing."

The summit's theme was "Reclaiming Our Health and Environment."

"My vision for the summit was to create a space where folk understand how environmental justice is an issue that is also connected to health care," Giddings said.

"Everyone needs this information," NCBA environmental justice coordinator Brayndon Stafford said. "Everyone needs to know how to be resilient. Everyone needs to know the power of their own agency in protecting their communities. And, of course, with rooted in wellness, grounded in justice, what that means for them individually and how they can apply that when they take that home."

NCBA awarded its annual HBCU Award to the public health program at Fayetteville State University. The historically black institution is in a community impacted by issues of environmental injustice, such as forever chemicals in the Cape Fear River.

"To have an HBCU down there doing work around public health and environmental justice, it only made sense [to award Fayetteville State]," Giddings said.

Melissa Haithcox-Dennis, an associate professor of public health at Fayetteville State, said students in the program will shape how the \$10,000 award is used to reduce health disparities and increase health equity in the community. Some of the students have lived experiences related to issues that need addressing, Haithcox-Dennis said.

"Our communities are always going to be, unfortunately, subjected to environmental concerns, health concerns," Stafford said. "With the recent natural disasters we're seeing — not only with the fires in California but at home here with Helene recently — it was important for us to have conversations around what agency and resiliency, specifically to our communities, means, because that conversation, I haven't heard it."

N.C.'s First Mobile Reentry Service Center For The Formerly Incarcerated

NC Newsline — Inside the brightly decorated bus, Cierra Levy and her team of reentry specialists are on a mission to transform lives. Shelves are stocked with hygiene kits, cold-weather gear, and even activities to keep children occupied, creating a welcoming environment for visitors.

This is the Mobile Recidivism Reduction Center, a pioneering initiative bringing vital resources and support directly to people reentering society from prisons. It is the brainchild of local advocate Kerwin Pittman, executive director of the nonprofit Recidivism Reduction Educational Program Services, who officially launched it this week with a ribbon-cutting ceremony in Raleigh. "It is extremely important to go into directly impacted communities and service directly impacted individuals with a host of different benefits," said Pittman.

The innovative center-on-wheels is outfitted with a range of free resources to assist those reentering society after incarceration. The goal is to be one-stop-shop where people can come and get the help they need. On board, reentry specialists will help connect individuals to benefits like Medicaid, unemployment assistance, substance-abuse treatment, mental health resources, legal aid, and housing support.

"When we go to these communities, we want to uplift, not kick you down," Levy said. "So, we're here to make sure you're able to get to that



next step to make you feel successful."

The center will also distribute harm reduction supplies such as naloxone and fentanyl test strips to address the overdose crisis impacting many reentry populations.

"We provide wraparound supportive services for individuals who are directly impacted," said Pittman, who himself experienced reentry after incarceration. He was inspired to create the mobile center to empower those going through similar challenges. "I want them to know that they are worthy enough to come here and sit on the couches, whatever, to be in a center like this and get the resources and help that they need,"

Pittman said. "But most importantly, I want to empower them to do even greater works than this."

The Mobile Reentry Center arrives at a time when North Carolina is increasingly focused on boosting reentry support for the roughly 18,000 people who leave North Carolina prisons each year.

North Carolina released its "Reentry 2030" strategic plan in August, part of a national initiative calling on state officials to expand access to reentry services that people need when they leave prison.

Last January, former governor Roy Cooper issued an executive order aimed at supporting people released from North Carolina prisons

each year.

The order directed the Department of Adult Correction (DAC) to coordinate with all state cabinet agencies to expand housing opportunities for incarcerated individuals, help people in prison enroll in Medicaid when they are released, and improve economic opportunities for them by expanding access to education.

Reentry is a public safety issue at its core, said Leslie Cooley Dismukes, Secretary of the North Carolina Department of Adult Correction, who attended the launch. "Ensuring those in our custody have the education, training, services and tools to successfully reenter society decreases the likelihood that they will commit further crimes."

The Raleigh launch is just the beginning, with plans to expand the mobile center initiative to three additional regions of the state by the end of the year. For Pittman and his team, this is just the start of their mission to bring vital services directly to those who need it most.

Inside the mobile center, positive affirmations such as "be positive 'be kind' 'stay humble'" adorn the walls. An independent media station allows community members to access the internet, complete job applications, and even print resumes — all with the support of Levy and her team.

With this innovative approach, the Mobile Recidivism Reduction Center hopes to transform lives one community at a time, one person at a time.



JULIA TEAMER, FORMER TEACHER FROM CHARLOTTE TURNS 108

Nationwide — Julia Ann Teamer, a former teacher from Charlotte, North Carolina, recently celebrated turning 108 years old. She is known for her decades of service to Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools and her active role in the community.

Teamer dedicated over three decades to teaching at Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools, leaving a lasting impact on countless students. Outside the classroom, she served as the first lady of Cosmopolitan Community Church in the Dalebrook area and led a local Girl Scout troop.

Her family credits her longevity to a healthy lifestyle, avoiding smoking and alcohol, and her unwavering faith, they told 11Alive.

To celebrate her remarkable milestone, her family hosted a small afternoon gathering at Shad's Landing, where the community joined in to share memories and celebrate her remarkable milestone.

United Way Day of Service



Hundreds of students crowded the Boys & Girls Club of Raleigh to spend MLK Day serving the community. The event was hosted by United Way of the Greater Triangle. They teamed up with community partners to celebrate the legacy of Dr. King with the MLK Day of Service. On January 20th, 2025, nonprofit agencies, corporate partners and community members gathered for a celebration of student-led service opportunities for children, youth and teens.

The MLK Day of Service event, where students and families participated in group art projects with Artspace, service projects for Meals on Wheels, kit-packing with Empower All, and service workshops led by Youth Ambassadors of Service, was a great success for both the organizers and the community. *Mathias Bishop Photos*

Vintage Finds & Local Flair: Durham Vintage Collective

By: Jordan Meadows
Staff Writer

Founded in 2023, Durham Vintage Collective quickly became a standout destination for vintage lovers in Durham, North Carolina.

The Collective's curated selection is a dream come true for fans of all things retro. Whether you're looking for charming home décor, statement fashion pieces, or obscure collectibles, the store has something to surprise and delight you.

From eclectic keychains that span decades to vintage Barbies and VHS tapes, every item feels like a time capsule from a different era. Their home goods selection includes antique picture frames, funky lamps, elegant ceramic vases, and furniture that's perfect for adding character to any living space.

And for fashion lovers, the store offers a carefully chosen collection of timeless clothing and accessories, representing an array of eras. The carefully selected inventory promises something for everyone, whether you're a fan of rugged outerwear or seeking a dazzling disco dress from the 1970s.

"That's our main mission: to provide affordable vintage items to our community," founder and curator Alison Matney said.

The four founders of the Collective, along with Matney, HK McKinney, and Chelsea Polson, though initially strangers to one another, share a deep passion for the niche and the variety that vintage shopping provides. Matney runs Bull City Vintage and has a sharp eye for art, décor, and furniture; another specializes in t-shirts and rugged outerwear; one focuses on disco design and mid-century apparel; and the Durham Vintage Collective as a whole brings

together the best of their individual brands, ensuring the store offers something for everyone. As Matney puts it, the mission is clear: to provide affordable vintage items to the local community.

A key component to the shop's success is its constant freshness. The team is dedicated to keeping the space vibrant and full of new items.

"What separates us from everyone else: we do provide a little bit of everything. And that's because we can't stop ourselves from expanding our products," Matney said. "There's someone out there that has that niche, they collect that thing: McDonald's toys from the '80s down to deadstock '80s earrings. We really search and look out for all those kinds of random little vintage items that bring something special to our shop."

In addition to the core selection, Durham Vintage Collective also offers a unique opportunity for local artists and resellers to showcase their products. The shop subleases spaces to local entrepreneurs on a rotating 2-3 month lease, giving those who have only sold online a chance to experience a physical storefront. This collaboration allows local creatives to gain exposure while simultaneously bringing fresh items into the Collective.

The store's friendly and knowledgeable staff plays a huge role in shaping the welcoming atmosphere. Customer service is a core value to them, and the founders take pride in building relationships with their customers.

"It's not easy: it's harder to find things. You really have to look and you want it to be in good condition. That's very important to me as the curator of the shop: making sure what we're providing is good quality



pieces," Matney said.

She also emphasized how special it is to connect with customers in person, learning about their interests and preferences to make their shopping experience more personal. This direct interaction is something they value deeply and work to improve with every customer.

The wide range of products available appeals to a diverse group of shoppers, especially younger generations looking to rediscover items that their parents or even grandparents once loved. It's this eclectic selection that makes the shop stand out as a treasure trove for collectors and casual vintage enthusiasts alike.

While the physical store has become a beloved local hotspot, Durham Vintage Collective also

maintains an online presence to reach a wider audience. Through their website, they keep customers updated on new arrivals, events, and special announcements.

The shop also has a unique selling program, where customers can submit vintage items for consideration. If accepted, items are purchased, cleaned, and resold at the store, ensuring a steady flow of new inventory while supporting local vintage sellers.

Durham Vintage Collective's growth and success have not gone unnoticed. In 2024, the shop was featured in the New York Times as the #1 place to shop in Durham—a recognition that left the owners shocked and grateful. They also earned accolades from Durham Magazine, winning awards for Best Clothing and Best Home Furnishings.

"Our gratefulness for our clients I think shows. Our inclusiveness, and just treating everybody the way we want to be treated, is also really important because I don't think customer service is as strong as it used to be," Matney said.

However, the journey hasn't been without its challenges. Seasonal fluctuations in demand, particularly after the holidays and before taxes are due, can make it difficult to maintain sales momentum during the colder months. And like many businesses, staying relevant in an era of reduced consumption and high operational costs remains an ongoing challenge.

Looking ahead, the founders are eager to expand their reach and deepen their involvement in the Durham community. They hope to host more partnerships and collaborations, organize customer appreciation events, and further cement their place as a cornerstone of downtown Durham's artistic and entrepreneurial landscape.

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



The Only Path Leading All the Way Out of Our Inflation Quagmire

By Daily Editorials

The Federal Reserve’s premature victory lap over inflation reveals a worrisome misunderstanding of the predicament we still find ourselves in. Unprecedented government spending and debt, combined with mounting fears that the debt can’t (or won’t) be repaid, played a misunderstood role in inflation’s rise several years ago. As such, fiscal policy must be part of the solution.

Otherwise, expect the recent acceleration of inflation to stick around or get worse, bringing trouble for the new administration.

The pressure on the Fed to declare the race over and continue lowering interest rates is real. It would be a mistake to cave any further. Some measures show inflation holding steady. Others show it trending back up since last July. Either way, it’s above the Fed’s 2% target, and now the 10-year rate is pointing up.

To understand what’s going on, remember how we got here.

When COVID-19 and the overreaction of lockdowns arrived, Washington dramatically increased spending through stimulus checks, enhanced unemployment benefits and other means. Spending rose by over \$5 trillion, with the Fed accommodating much of that. Congress and the Biden administration later added another \$4 trillion in various large legislation. Unlike previous crises — recall former President Barack Obama’s promise to halve the deficit within five years of the end of the Great Recession — there was no plan to offset the spending hikes by raising revenue or cutting other spending.

In fact, it was the opposite. The Biden administration doubled down with more plans for student loan forgiveness and talk of handing additional billions to semiconductor manufacturers through a second CHIPS Act.

When bondholders don’t see a credible fiscal path to be repaid for current and future government debt, they expect that eventually the central bank will create new money to buy those government bonds, leading to higher inflation. It didn’t help that the Fed kept interest rates so low for so long, including for months after it was clear the inflation problem was anything but “transitory.”

This is how focusing solely on monetary policy or interest rates misses the importance of fiscal policy. Recent inflation wasn’t just about money supply; it reflected the market’s adjustment to unsustainable fiscal policy.

Recent studies confirm this. Francesco Bianchi and coauthors, for instance, find that “unfunded fiscal shocks sustain the recovery but also cause a persistent increase in inflation.” Meanwhile, Bianchi’s new study with Robert Barro uses an informative measurement of spending (the growth of government spending during the COVID-19 years compared to the pre-COVID-19 debt burden, and how long that debt needed to be paid back), revealing a very clear relation between government spending and inflation.

Making matters trickier, not only can fiscal policy fuel inflation, but vice versa is true too. The Fed fought inflation with higher interest rates that, coupled with quickly maturing government debt, made the fiscal situation worse. Each percentage-point increase in interest rates adds hundreds of billions to the government’s debt-financing costs very rapidly.

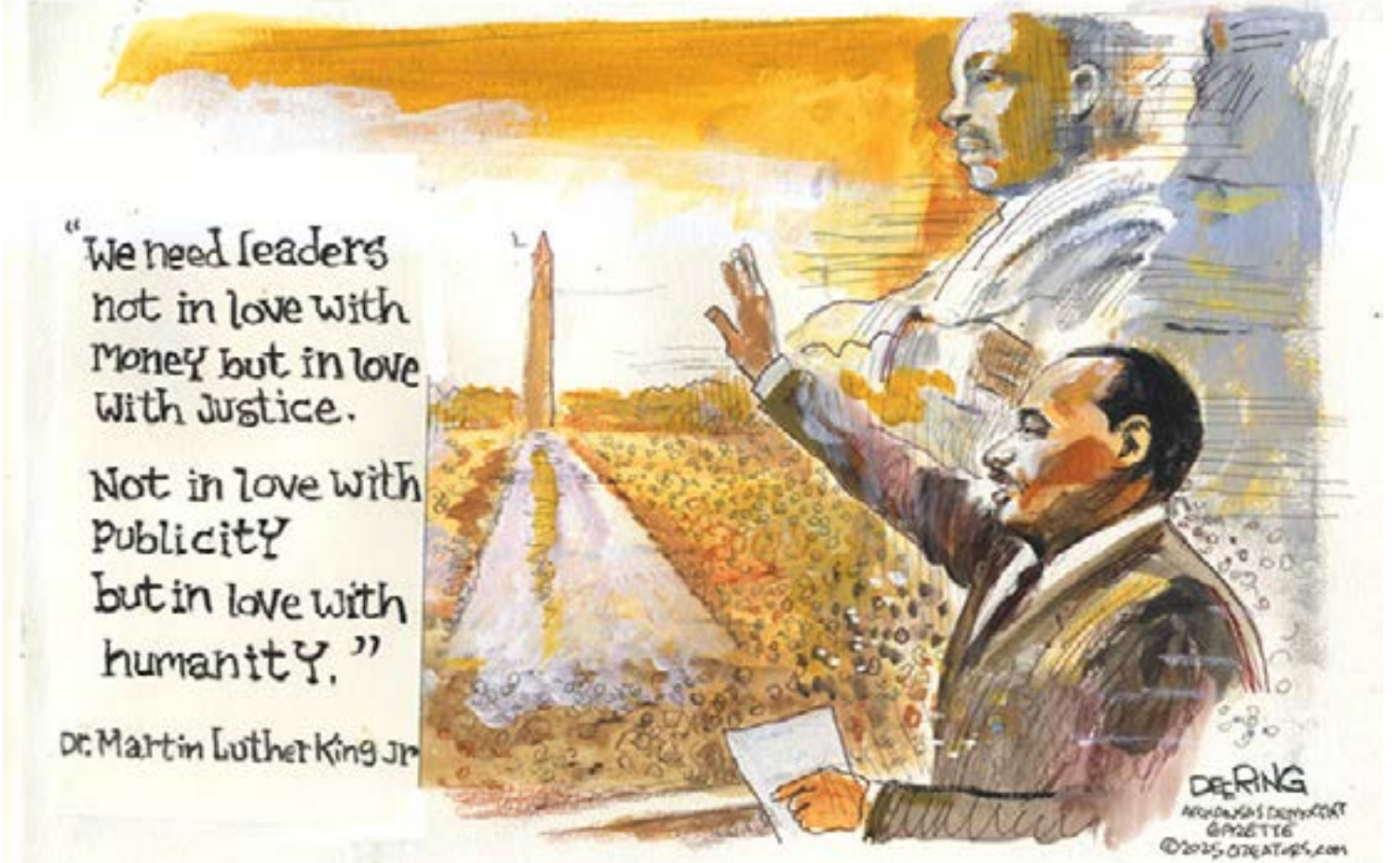
So we’re left with a dangerous feedback loop: Higher inflation leads to higher interest rates, which lead to higher debt-service costs, which then require more government borrowing or money creation, potentially fueling further inflation.


The result? The Fed can hike interest rates, but without equivalent fiscal adjustments to make space for the larger debt payments, inflation goes down at the cost of making it more persistent. And right now, it’s persistent.

For all the excitement about the incoming administration and a return to the 2019 economy, market stability rests on the precarious assumption that the government will eventually put its fiscal house in order. Continued high spending and the prospect of mostly unfunded tax-cut extensions could shatter this confidence. If bond markets grow too pessimistic, the resulting interest-rate spike will further increase borrowing costs and may trigger a fiscal crisis.

It’s important for the new administration to understand that controlling inflation requires more than Federal Reserve action. It demands fiscal discipline. That means difficult choices that politicians typically avoid. Federal spending must be curtailed, particularly in entitlement programs. Tax revenues must be made stable and predictable. Most importantly, the administration must reject new spending, regardless of the apparent merits. Finally, more tax revenue through more growth — made possible by the improved tax system and deregulation — would help.

Continuing to ignore fiscal-monetary interactions and hoping inflation will mysteriously moderate risks a crisis that could dwarf any challenges we face today. Fiscal responsibility isn’t just about balancing books; it’s about maintaining the stability of the dollar and the prosperity of the American people. History tells us that the longer we wait, the more costly the eventual solution becomes.





Guest Columnist

Armstrong Williams

MLK IN MY HEART

Rev. Dr. Martin L. King Jr. remains a bright ornament in the heavens — an inspiration to rise to moral heights in the face of danger or evil. In Alabama, Birmingham Commissioner of Public Safety Bull Connor had his fire hoses, and Dallas County Sheriff Jim Clark his cattle prods, but Dr. King prevailed with justice fortified by courage.

His sermon to judge people by the content of their character, not by the color of their skin, still thunders like a hammer on an anvil today. But are we listening?

Tribalism flourishes. Stereotypes abound. Everyone is pigeonholed. Marching to your own drummer is verboten. This is contrary to Dr. King’s vision of America in which your station in life is determined solely by character and accomplishments, nothing more. We know that vision is unattainable because where and from whom you are born is serendipitous. But both materially influence your journey in life. To the extent we achieve the goal, to that extent we are a just society.

Dr. King’s dream is not an impossible dream. We all know people who look on us as people, not as Black or white. That type of colorblind outlook, however, is not instinctual. It is learned — largely by example. In the 61 years that have elapsed since Dr. King’s “I Have a Dream” address, racism has diminished. The Klan is not flourishing. The White Citizens’ Council is a museum piece. A white Justice of the United States Supreme Court wrote in dissent for the ages in Plessy v. Ferguson (1896):

“In the eye of the law, there is in this country no superior, dominant, ruling class of citizens. There is no caste here. Our constitution is color-blind, and neither knows nor tolerates classes among citizens. In respect of civil rights, all citizens are equal before the law. The humblest is the peer of the most powerful. ... The arbitrary separation of citizens, on the basis of race, while they are on a public highway, is a badge of servitude wholly inconsistent with the civil freedom and the equality before the law established by the constitution.”

On Jan. 10, the U.S. Department of Justice revised an earlier finding in declaring the Tulsa Race Massacre of 1921, in which a prosperous Black neighborhood in Oklahoma was destroyed and up to 300 people were killed, was not committed by an uncontrolled mob but was the result of “a coordinated, military-style attack” by white citizens.

We have elected a Black man president of the United States for two terms with no assassination attempts. We have elected a Black woman - who later was the 2024 Democratic presidential nominee — vice president of the United States with no assassination attempts. A Black woman now sits on the U.S. Supreme Court, the highest court in the land. In the 118th Congress, the Congressional Black Caucus sported 60 members. The minority leader in the House of Representatives is Black.

But racism is still alive, albeit in a less virulent form than during Jim



Crow. Who can forget the violent and vile Unite the Right mob in Charlottesville, Virginia, in 2017? Who can forget the brutal homicide of George Floyd in Minnesota? Who can forget the cold-blooded murder of Sonya Massey by a white police officer near Springfield, Illinois?

We will never witness perfect relations between Black and white because mankind is made of crooked timber. But perfection should be the goal. As poet Robert Browning wrote, “Ah, but a man’s reach should exceed his grasp, or what’s a heaven for?”

A Different Voice

By Dorothy Shaw Thompson



WE ARE SEEDS

When I was a young teenager, my sister insisted that I sit and watch the inauguration with her. Now, at 78 years old, this is the first presidential inauguration I will intentionally boycott. This is a personal decision for me, but I am learning that there is an organized effort to resist watching the inauguration. Those who keep statistics will be able to tell how many people did not tune in. I am glad there is a national movement to show resistance to what is happening today. Nonetheless, we can realize that the new President has already formed his own view of the numbers present and the numbers watching from home.

For me, it’s simple: I don’t watch what I view as something wrong, yet happening. I couldn’t have attended a crowded public lynching. I would not have dressed up for it, nor would I have brought my children to it. Yet, that is what happened in 1918 in America. When a young African American woman demanded justice for her husband who had been lynched, enraged people of that time decided to lynch her for having the nerve to protest what they had done. They captured the woman, hung her from a tree, and planned a lynching party for right after church on a Sunday. As she hung dying, a man reached up, cut her unborn baby out of her womb, and had their children stomp the baby to death.

As someone smarter than me stated recently, they didn’t know that as these corpses were being buried, they were planting seeds. We, those of us who are refusing to watch the inauguration, are the seeds that will continue to work until people are not denied their rights in this experience called life, in this place called America, and in this world called the universe. Each of us is art. Each of us is a child of God. Our immortal souls cannot die, and we will continue to return to our purpose until all humans are free.

It will not happen through wars, drive-by shootings, or lethal gas chambers. It can only happen when we feel filled with love and decide to treat others as we want to be treated. This is the day to accomplish freedom because we are the seeds. By the way, isn’t it ironic that the celebration of MLK Day opposes this inauguration?

Guatemalan Immigrants Bring Black Christ of Esquipulas To Minn.

WORTHINGTON, Minn., (AP) — With their sparkling embroideries and colorful sashes flapping in the frigid wind, hundreds of Guatemalan faithful flocked to the Catholic church of this heartland farming town to celebrate their biggest festival yet in honor of the Black Christ of Esquipulas.

Just days before the start of a U.S. administration that's promised a swift immigration crackdown, they turned with hope and pride to the statue of the crucified Jesus, an elaborately carved replica of the most venerated image in their tropical homeland. Church members had it especially commissioned and brought from Guatemala at enormous expense, along with two massive marimbas. No feast is complete without these musical instruments.

"The Black Christ of Esquipulas has come taking planes and crossing borders like us," said Lucas López. Fourteen years ago, he left San Marcos, one of Guatemala's poorest regions, where communities nonetheless also organized festivals this week.

López and his wife, María

Ramírez, are now raising their four children in Worthington, a town transformed by international migration. With his salary from the pork processing plant job for which he awakes daily at 4:20 a.m., the couple recently bought their first home a few blocks from church.

At Sunday's Mass that launched the daylong celebration, López and Ramírez — wearing sequined and embroidered huipil and skirt, colorful ribbons tied in her hair — led a dozen faithful in a traditional barefoot dance bringing the offerings to the altar.

"We're so happy to show that we are here, with our American dream, and also to share our culture with others," López said.

One crucifix for many countries — and their migrants

The original crucifix dates back to the late 16th century, and its feast day on January 15 draws thousands of pilgrims to the basilica in Esquipulas, a city on Guatemala's border with Honduras. On Sunday, Cardinal Fabio Baggio, long the head of the Vatican's migrants department, will also celebrate a special Esquipulas

Mass at St. Peter's.

From New Mexico to Panama, and throughout Guatemala, nearly 300 churches are devoted to its veneration, making the image a source of communal identity even beyond its religious meaning, said Douglass Sullivan-González, a University of Mississippi history professor.

He added that it's been intertwined in modern Central American politics, from Indigenous rights — because centuries of candle smoke have given it a darker skin tone — to civil wars.

"The image itself comes alive in its context," Sullivan-González said.

For many in Worthington, that context is migration. Gratitude they made it to the United States, whether twelve months or two dozen years ago, mingles with nostalgia for customs and loved ones left behind.

The community includes undocumented migrants, asylum seekers and U.S. citizens, so apprehension over who will get to stay and for how long mixed with the pride of having pulled off a genuinely Guatemalan celebration some 2,500 miles (4,080 kilometers) away.

"The immigration police is coming already!" joked Benigno Miranda when an empty passenger van pulled up by the house where he and other church members had gathered to prepare the two marimbas to be transported to St. Mary's Church. That's what the van was really for.

"One can't be afraid all the time," added Miranda, reflecting widespread sentiment among those celebrating the festivities that God will decide their destinies more than shifting politics and policies.

Working a miracle to bring a sacred image to Minnesota

After all, the Black Christ of Esquipulas is known for miracles — as long as one truly has faith, choir member Lilia Soto said.

She remembers going to visit the sanctuary in Esquipulas with her grandmother before she came to Minnesota at 17 — and also recalls how, shortly afterward, an Immigration and Customs Enforcement raid at Worthington's meatpacking plant had many migrants terrified to leave their homes.

But now the Black Christ is here at St. Mary's — normally hanging

on a wall by the entrance, though for the festivities it was mounted on a processional float decorated with the same kaleidoscopic fabrics as the women's dresses.

"When they were getting it down, I basically went running to give it a hug," Soto said.

That made it even better than in Esquipulas, where the image is untouchable behind glass, she said.

"It's like having a little piece of Guatemala in this church," added Dilma Pérez, her fellow choir member.

Pérez and her brother Sergio came to Worthington from San Marcos — where their parents regularly took them to church, but couldn't afford to travel to Esquipulas — more than two dozen years ago, when she was a

teen and he about 9.

Now Pérez and her husband have three U.S.-born children, and also relatives in Guatemala who still depend on their remittances because wages in their region hover around \$6 a day. They both work in a pork processing plant 45 minutes away by car.

Nevertheless, one taco and tamale sale at a time, the family led the community's effort over the last three years to fundraise the nearly \$40,000 needed to have an artist in Esquipulas sculpt the statue, to buy the wooden marimbas, and to get them to Worthington.

"We sacrificed a lot," Sergio Pérez said Sunday afternoon, after serving the celebration's free taco lunch in the parish school cafeteria and before playing guitar in the hours-long

prayer service. "It's been somewhat physically exhausting, but spiritually I feel strengthened."

Keeping traditions alive for future generations

For many diaspora communities, maintaining traditional celebrations while integrating in the life of the local church is crucial for the faith of future generations, said Jennifer Hughes, a history professor at the University of California, Riverside.

In the villages in San Marcos that also celebrated festivals this week for the Black Christ of Esquipulas, some participants lamented losing many youth to migration.

"Unfortunately, our people have to migrate to get ahead," said Freddy De León, a dancer in one of the processions.

The 32nd Annual 100 Men, Women, & Youth for Christ 2025

Coming Together, Praying Together, Working Together and Staying Together

"How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity." Psalms 133:1 NIV

Our message this year was not about Race, Gender, Political affiliations, or denominations but about Christ, being FOR Christ.

In the program's closing, I told the congregants that if people were more FOR Christ and less about being FOR themselves, I believe churches, cities, counties, states, nations, and the whole world would be a better place FOR everybody. The Bible says what doth it profit a man to gain the whole world and then lose their soul. Also, it says that if God be FOR you, it's more than the whole world against you.

A Certificate of Appreciation was presented to Former Raleigh Mayor Mary Ann Baldwin for her contributions and past service to the city of Raleigh. An emotional Baldwin told the audience about some of the things accomplished during her term that helped our community.

I want to thank the President, Commissioner Cheryl Stallings (Wake County Board of Commissioners, District 3), Elder Demetrius and Evangelist Selena Hunter for the Scripture and Prayer, Deacon Harvey Horton for giving a warm welcome and Councilman Corey



Rev. William Ratcliff and former Raleigh Mayor Mary Ann Baldwin

Branch (Raleigh District C) & Mrs. Chanda Branch for providing the Response.

We were provided exceptional entertainment from the Martin Luther King, Jr. All Children's Choir, Lincoln Park Community Youth Choir, Lincoln Park Awesome Angels Dance Group, and violinist Kimberly Michelle. Our guest speakers included Judge Damion McCullers & Mrs. Bene' McCullers; Justice Michael Morgan & Mrs. Audrey Morgan; Sheriff Willie Rowe & Mrs. Viviette Rowe; Judge Vince Rozier & Attor-

ney Dekhasta Rozier.

Thanks to our administrative team, Jeremy Allen for the Hallelujah Hot Dogs and Soul-Searching Sausage Dogs; Rev. Marty Bledsoe, photos; Teron Morris Media Center; Takara Morris and my son Quenten Ratcliff. A special thank you to Bro. Dwight Spencer, for assisting with the program, and to my Father, for blessing us to start this event 32 years ago. We look forward to you joining us next year on the Sunday before Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr's Birthday.

Practical Biblical Principles

NIMROD - THE ORIGINAL BAD BOY
Read: Genesis 11:1-9

By John L. Caldwell, Pastor
New Jerusalem Baptist Cathedral

Very little is recorded in our Bible about Nimrod, the grandson of Noah. Yet much is written about him in Jewish Midrash history and commentary, the Muslim's Kharan, Jewish midrash and legend commentary. The bible only mentions Nimrod basically three times but does not record him rebelling against God. Yet this is what Jewish tradition states Nimrod is accused of doing. The bible uses the terms, "US" and "THEY" when it describes the sin of the disobedient people, but not Nimrod. Yet Nimrod is implicated as the ringleader, so to speak.

The name "Nimrod" is said to mean rebellion coming from the Hebrew Midrash records. If this is the case, the entire story of the "Tower of Babel" is the first case of man's rebellion against God recorded in the Bible. And that rebellious man is Nimrod. The Bible does not directly indicate that Nimrod was the one who called the people together in one location in opposition to God's command to scatter themselves over the earth and multiply (Genesis 1:28; 9:1).

The Bible states, Then they said to one another, "Come, let us make brick... "Come, let us build ourselves a city, and a tower whose top is in heaven; let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth" (Genesis 10:3-4). The Hebrew Midrash and traditional biblical legends tell us that it was Nimrod who was encouraging the people to rebel against God's command to scatter over the earth. At this point in time

Nimrod, the tyrant, is seen as the leader of the rebellion against God's command to scatter over the earth.

What the bible tells us, and we must be careful in interpreting this; Nimrod begins to be a mighty one on earth, and he was a mighty hunter before the Lord, as well. And the beginning of his kingdom was Babel (Genesis 10:9-12). As we can see Nimrod was a city builder all over Mesopotamia (Iraq) and Assyria. This implicates him as leader of people. Nimrod was the first king upon the earth and the first to wear a crown as king.

Some Jewish legends tell us that the reason Nimrod wanted to build a great high tower was to be able to have a safe haven above the flood in case God sends another flood. Another legend states the reason Nimrod wanted to build the tower so he could march his army up to heaven and confront God and His kingdom. As the story goes, God sends a swarm of flying nats to devour the flesh of Nimrod's army. As this story ends, a nat entered the nose of Nimrod and got into his brain, causing him mental issues and he died. Yet, nowhere in the bible does it tell us how Nimrod really died.

Traditional Jewish history paints a rebellious picture of Nimrod in that he was a tyrant, egotistical and is seen as a man to himself and for himself only. Nimrod is seen as the first form of anti-Christ. The term great "A great hunter before God" is not complementary but interpreted as a hunter of men not animals. Meaning Nimrod was a blood thirsty, egotistical tyrant. He overthrew and conquered the nation of Assyria, located NW of Babylon, which is mentioned in the Book of Micah (5:6) as a nation which eventually warred against God's

people. The implication here is that It was Nimrod who led the people against God after he had conquered Assyria. Nimrod was anti God and thought himself to be as powerful as God. What an ego! Yet, the Bible tells us God called for no personal punishment upon Nimrod. God never did endorse Nimrod for anything.

The building of the tower of Babel is seen as all-out war against God and His commandment to scatter and populate the world. Jewish sources tell us Nimrod led this rebellion. "But the Lord came down to see the city and the tower which the sons of men had built. "Indeed, the people are one and they all have one language, and this is what they begin to do; now nothing they proposed to do will be withheld from them (Genesis 11:5-6). God's solution to this rebellious act was to simply confuse their language so they would not be able to understand one another's speech. This, God did and scattered the people abroad over all the earth (Genesis 11:7). This is the reason this city is called Babel. There the Lord confused the language of all the earth and from there He scattered the people all over the world.

If we do a biblical comparison study about God's forgiveness, we will see that God forgave king Ahab for his terrible sin after he repented. God forgave king David for his gross sin of murder and adultery after he repented. We have no biblical record of God punishing Nimrod for Nimrod never repented of his rebellion. Yet when king Saul, who was ordained of God, sinned and tried to repent through the prophet Samuel, God did not forgive him. Who then is the first original "Bad Boy?"

Obituaries

CONSTANCE JOSEPHINE DAVENPORT FLEMING

Constance Josephine Davenport Fleming, affectionately known as "Connie, was born on Nov. 10, 1951. Connie transcended into eternal rest on Friday, Jan. 3, 2025 at Duke Raleigh Hospital, Raleigh, NC. Connie was the second of two children born to Warner "WC" and Annie Ruth Davenport.

She was educated in the Raleigh City School System, graduating from J.W. Ligon Senior High School in 1969. She then enrolled in Morgan State University, Baltimore, Md., and earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in business in 1973. Connie was initiated into Alpha Gamma Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. in April 1971. In 1994, she earned a Master of Arts degree from College of Notre Dame of Maryland, Baltimore, Md.

Connie began her professional career as an Assistant Buyer for the historic Hochschild Kohn & Co. Department store in downtown Baltimore. Later in 1974, she was hired as the second African American Communication representative in the Marketing Department of the



CONNIE DAVENPORT

Chesapeake and Potomac (C&P) telephone company in Baltimore city. At the breakup of the Bell system in 1983-84, Connie transferred to AT&T as an Account Executive. While working at AT&T, she met and married the "love of her life" Quince Fleming on Aug. 3, 1985. She continued to serve in that capacity even after moving back to Raleigh, NC in 1997. She retired from AT&T in 2001. She was later employed as a Before and After School

Certification consultant with Wake Co. Public Schools.

At an early age, Connie joined first Baptist Church, Raleigh, NC. Upon returning to Raleigh in 1997, Connie and Quince reunited with her church family here.

Throughout Connie's life, she had a "knack" for never meeting a stranger. She enjoyed her time with family and friends. We will always remember her infectious smile. We will miss Connie's gentle smile, her calm demeanor, her sense of style, and pizzazz.

Connie is survived by her husband, Quince D. Fleming; brother, Walter Davenport; Aunt Dessie Pearson, Winnsboro, South Carolina; nephews Walter Davenport, Jr., Raleigh NC, Winston Davenport (Angela), Cary, NC; a host of cousins and longtime friends. Her many special friends include; Maxine Wall, Charlesena and Milton Walker, Dorothy Jackson, Lovieree Warren, Dennis Davis; and many, many more... the "Little Blues" of Ligon Senior High School, The "Bears of Morgan State University, The "Crew" from AT&T, and the "Team" of Wake Count Public Schools.



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Classifieds

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. 24CV002012-180

To: JOSE JEREMIAS MINERO
HERNANDEZ, 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 February 25, 2025 said date being at least forty (40) days from the first publication of this Notice, and upon your failure to do so, the Plaintiff, MARIA ANTONIA GONZALEZ DE MINERO, will apply to the court located at 40 E Chatham St, Pittsboro, NC 27312 for the relief sought.

This, the 16th day of January, 2025

Aneta Paval
Paval Law Offices, PLLC
7404 Chapel Hill Rd
Suite M
Raleigh NC 27607
Telephone: (919) 410-6690
1/16, 1/23, & 1/30/2025
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
CHATHAM COUNTY

**NOTICE OF SERVICE OF
PROCESS BY PUBLICATION**
In the General Court of Justice,
District Court Division
File No. 24CV002039-180

To: CARLOTA SILVINA MORALES
DIAZ, 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 February 25, 2025 said date being at least forty (40) days from the first publication of this Notice, and upon your failure to do so, the Plaintiff, ABIGAIL EUSEBIO RAMIREZ LOPEZ, will apply to the court located at 40 E Chatham St, Pittsboro, NC 27312 for the relief sought.

This, the 16th day of January, 2025.

Aneta Paval
Paval Law Offices, PLLC
7404 Chapel Hill Rd
Suite M
Raleigh NC 27607
Telephone: (919) 410-6690
1/16, 1/23, & 1/30/2025
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
CHATHAM COUNTY

**NOTICE OF SERVICE OF
PROCESS BY PUBLICATION**
In the General Court of Justice,
District Court Division
File No. 24CV002057-180

To: MARIELOS ISAMAR
MORALES GRANADOS, 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 February 25, 2025 said date being at least forty (40) days from the first publication of this Notice, and upon your failure to do so, the Plaintiff, WALTER ALBERTO RAMIREZ MEDRANO, will apply to the court located at 40 E Chatham St, Pittsboro, NC 27312 for the relief sought.

This, the 16th day of January, 2025.

Aneta Paval
Paval Law Offices, PLLC
7404 Chapel Hill Rd
Suite M
Raleigh NC 27607
Telephone: (919) 410-6690
1/16, 1/23, & 1/30/2025
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
CHATHAM COUNTY

**NOTICE OF SERVICE OF
PROCESS BY PUBLICATION**
In the General Court of Justice,
District Court Division
File No. 24CV002026-180

To: JOSE FRANCISCO LOPEZ
ORTIZ, 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 February 25, 2025 said date being at least forty (40) days from the first publication of this Notice, and upon your failure to do so, the Plaintiff, CRISTABEL QUINTEROS VILLANUEVA, will apply to the court located at 40 E Chatham St,

Pittsboro, NC 27312 for the relief sought.

This, the 16th day of January, 2025.

Aneta Paval
Paval Law Offices, PLLC
7404 Chapel Hill Rd
Suite M
Raleigh NC 27607
Telephone: (919) 410-6690
1/16, 1/23, & 1/30/2025
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
CHATHAM COUNTY

**NOTICE OF SERVICE OF
PROCESS BY PUBLICATION**
In the General Court of Justice,
District Court Division
File No. 24CV002127-180

To: JOHN DOE, 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 February 25, 2025 said date being at least forty (40) days from the first publication of this Notice, and upon your failure to do so, the Plaintiff, ETELVINA OTILIA RAMIREZ LOPEZ DE ROBLERO, will apply to the court located at 40 E Chatham St, Pittsboro, NC 27312 for the relief sought.

This, the 16th day of January, 2025.

Aneta Paval
Paval Law Offices, PLLC
7404 Chapel Hill Rd
Suite M
Raleigh NC 27607
Telephone: (919) 410-6690
1/16, 1/23, & 1/30/2025
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
CHATHAM COUNTY

**NOTICE OF SERVICE OF
PROCESS BY PUBLICATION**
In the General Court of Justice,
District Court Division
File No. 24CV002154-180

To: JOSE REFUGIO MARTINEZ
CABALLERO, 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 February 25, 2025 said date being at least forty (40) days from the first publication of this Notice, and upon your failure to do so, the Plaintiff, MARGARITA ARANZAZU PENA, will apply to the court located at 40 E Chatham St, Pittsboro, NC 27312 for the relief sought.

This, the 16th day of January, 2025.

Aneta Paval
Paval Law Offices, PLLC
7404 Chapel Hill Rd
Suite M
Raleigh NC 27607
Telephone: (919) 410-6690
1/16, 1/23, & 1/30/2025

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 25E000044-310

The Undersigned, having qualified as EXECUTRIX/PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE of the Estate of LINDA MARIE PRASHAW, late of Durham County, North Carolina, hereby wishes to notify all persons having claims against the Estate of said deceased to exhibit them to the undersigned at the below listed address on or before the 24th day of April 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 23rd day of January 2025.

Joanne Norwood, Executrix/
Personal Representative
c/o M. Walker Brummitt, Hicks,
Preddy, Washburn & Brummitt, PC,
P.O. Box 247, Oxford, NC 27565
1/23, 1/30, 2/6, & 2/13/2025
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File Number 25E000034-310

The Undersigned, having qualified as ADMINISTRATOR of the Estate of MICHAEL THOMAS BULLOCK, late of Durham County, North Carolina, hereby wishes to notify all persons having claims against the Estate of said deceased to exhibit them to the

undersigned at the below listed address on or before the 24th day of April 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 23rd day of January 2025.

Hope Bullock Carter, Administrator
5520 Cheek Rd.
Durham, NC 27704

1/23, 1/30, 2/6, & 2/13/2025
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File Number 25E000010-310

The Undersigned, having qualified as CO-EXECUTORS of the Estate of Verna Reynolds Hall, late of Durham County, North Carolina, hereby wishes to notify all persons having claims against the Estate of said deceased to exhibit them to the undersigned at the below listed address on or before the 24th day of April 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 23rd day of January 2025.

Andrew Trent Hall, Co-Executors
212 Brook Ln
Durham, NC 27712
Grant Reynolds Hall, Co-Executors
5706 Deblyn Ave
Raleigh, NC 27612
1/23, 1/30, 2/6, & 2/13/2025
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File Number 24E001717-310

The Undersigned, having qualified as EXECUTOR of the Estate of SHARON KAY HEINEMEIER, late of Durham County, North Carolina, hereby wishes to notify all persons having claims against the Estate of said deceased to exhibit them to the undersigned at the below listed address on or before the 17th day of April 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 16th day of January 2025.

Sarah Heinemeier, Executor
3803 Chimney Ridge Place #203
Durham, NC 27713
1/16, 1/23, 1/30, & 2/6/2025
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
File Number 24E002080-310

The undersigned, having qualified as Administrator of the Estate of Jason Arritt, Deceased, late of Durham County, North Carolina, does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the estate to exhibit them to the undersigned at the offices of Munson Law Firm, PLLC, P.O. Box 1811 Pittsboro, NC 27312, on or before the 16th day of April, 2025, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to the estate will please make immediate payment.

This 16th day of January 2025.

JUSTINE MARKHAM,
ADMINISTRATOR
ESTATE OF JASON ARRITT
1/16, 1/23, 1/30, & 2/6/2025
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File Number 25E000025-310

The Undersigned, having qualified as ADMINISTRATOR of the Estate of LINDA FAYE GREGORY, late of Durham County, North Carolina, hereby wishes to notify all persons having claims against the Estate of said deceased to exhibit them to the undersigned at the below listed address on or before the 17th day of April 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 16th day of January 2025.

James Neil Gregory, Administrator
1511 Mountaintview Ave.
Durham, NC 27705
1/16, 1/23, 1/30, & 2/6/2025
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File Number 24E002623-310

The Undersigned, having qualified as EXECUTOR of the Estate of EDWIN C. DANLEY, JR., late of Durham County, North Carolina, hereby wishes to notify all persons having claims against the Estate of said deceased to exhibit them to the undersigned at the below listed address on or before the 17th day of April 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 16th day of January 2025.

Jeannie Collier, Executor
3304 Winston Rd
Durham, NC 27704
1/16, 1/23, 1/30, & 2/6/2025
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File Number 25E000006-310

The Undersigned, having qualified as EXECUTOR of the Estate of GEORGE H. CONKLIN, late of Durham County, North Carolina, hereby wishes to notify all persons having claims against the Estate of said deceased to exhibit them to the undersigned at the below listed address on or before the 17th day of April 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 16th day of January 2025.

Wendy L. Conklin, Executor
c/o Marion Law Office, PLLC
2741 University Drive
Durham, NC 27707
1/16, 1/23, 1/30, & 2/6/2025
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File Number 24E002440-310

The Undersigned, having qualified as EXECUTOR of the Estate of BESSIE L. CRUMPLER aka 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 17th day of April 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 16th day of January 2025.

Cynthia L. Harris fka Cynthia L. Crumpler, Executor
c/o Marion Law Office, PLLC
2741 University Drive
Durham, NC 27707
1/16, 1/23, 1/30, & 2/6/2025
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File Number 24-E-481

The Undersigned, having qualified as ADMINISTRATOR of the Estate of CARTER FARRAR, late of Durham County, North Carolina, hereby wishes to notify all persons having claims against the Estate of said deceased to exhibit them to the undersigned at the below listed address on or before the 17th day of April 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 16th day of January 2025.

Gloria Daniel, Administrator
7 Regan Ct.
Durham, NC 27703
1/16, 1/23, 1/30, & 2/6/2025
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File Number 24E002595-310

The Undersigned, having qualified as EXECUTOR of the Estate of ERNEST DARRAL THOMPSON, JR., late of Durham County, North Carolina, hereby

wishes to notify all persons having claims against the Estate of said deceased to exhibit them to the undersigned at the below listed address on or before the 17th day of April 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 16th day of January 2025.

Kirk Bullock, Executor
PO Box 12347
Durham, NC 27709
1/16, 1/23, 1/30, & 2/6/2025
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File Number 24E002587-310

The Undersigned, having qualified as EXECUTOR of the Estate of FRANCES T. BOWLES, late of Durham County, North Carolina, hereby wishes to notify all persons having claims against the Estate of said deceased to exhibit them to the undersigned at the below listed address on or before the 17th day of April 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 16th day of January 2025.

John C. Wainio, Executor
109 Presque Isle Lane
Chapel Hill, NC 27514
1/16, 1/23, 1/30, & 2/6/2025
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
File Number 24E002603-310

THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 23th day of December 2024, as Executor of the ESTATE OF CARLTON HOWARD FOSTER, 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 10th day of April, 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 9th day of January 2025.

Frank Christian Felder, Executor
Estate of Carlton Howard Foster
c/o Richard G. Long III, Attorney
Walker Lambe, PLLC
Post Office Box 51549
Durham, North Carolina 27717
1/9, 1/16, 1/23, & 1/30/2025
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File Number 25E000007-310

The Undersigned, having qualified as EXECUTOR of the Estate of BYRON LLOYD NICE, late of Durham County, North Carolina, hereby wishes to notify all persons having claims against the Estate of said deceased to exhibit them to the undersigned at the below listed address on or before the 10th day of April 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 9th day of January 2025.

Joseph Hessnice, Executor
985 Stonehaven Dr.
Graham, NC 27253
1/9, 1/16, 1/23, & 1/30/2025
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File Number 24E001699-310

The Undersigned, having qualified as EXECUTOR of the Estate of MARIA KERNER PETRUSZ, late of Durham County, North Carolina, hereby wishes to notify all persons having claims against the Estate of said deceased to exhibit them to the undersigned at the below listed address on or before the 10th day of April 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 9th day of January 2025.

Catherine Petrusz, Executor
2006 Sunset Avenue
Durham, NC 27705

1/9, 1/16, 1/23, & 1/30/2025
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File Number 24E002601-310

The Undersigned, having qualified as ADMINSTRATOR of the Estate of DERRICK ROGERS, late of Durham County, North Carolina, hereby wishes to notify all persons having claims against the Estate of said deceased to exhibit them to the undersigned at the below listed address on or before the 10th day of April 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 9th day of January 2025.

Brenda Lee Rogers, Administrator
304 Cook Rd.
Durham, NC 27713
1/9, 1/16, 1/23, & 1/30/2025
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File Number 24E002578-310

The Undersigned, having qualified as EXECUTOR of the Estate of MICHELE LONGINO, late of Durham County, North Carolina, hereby wishes to notify all persons having claims against the Estate of said deceased to exhibit them to the undersigned at the below listed address on or before the 10th day of April 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 9th day of January 2025.

Geraldine Francoise Smith,
Executor
c/o Marion Law Office, PLLC
2741 University Drive
Durham, NC 27707
1/9, 1/16, 1/23, & 1/30/2025
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File Number 24E002559

The Undersigned, having qualified as ADMINISTRATOR of the Estate of SANDRA MCDONALD, late of Durham County, North Carolina, hereby wishes to notify all persons having claims against the Estate of said deceased to exhibit them to the undersigned at the below listed address on or before the 10th day of April 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 9th day of January 2025.

Robert Wilson, Administrator
1975 Grand Ave., #4F
Bronx, NY 10453
1/9, 1/16, 1/23, & 1/30/2025
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Having qualified as Administrator of the Estate of Luann Brown, aka Luanne Brown, deceased, of 5600 N. Roxboro Rd., Durham County, North Carolina 27712, the undersigned does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the estate of said decedent to exhibit them to the undersigned in care of the attorney for the estate on or before April 10, 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 the 9th day of January, 2025.

Jeffrey L. Austin
Administrator of the Estate
Law Office of Jeffrey L. Austin
PLLC
500 Westover Dr. #32043
Sanford, NC 27330

Publication: The Carolinian
Dates of publication: January 9, 2025, January 16, 2025, January 23, 2025, and January 30, 2025
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
ESTATE OF MURRY RAYMOND
HANDLER
File Number 24E002177-310

All persons, firms and corporations having claims against Murry Raymond Handler, deceased, of Durham County, N.C.,

Classifieds

DURHAM COUNTY

are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before April 3rd, 2025, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment.

This the 2nd day of January, 2025.
Evan Elliot Handler, Executor
C/O W.G. Alexander & Associates, PLLC

3717 Benson Dr.
Raleigh, NC 27609
Durham, North Carolina 27717
1/2, 1/9, 1/16, & 1/23/2025
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE FILE NO. 24 E 002533-310

All persons, firms and corporations having claims against Michael Farmer Blachly, aka Michael Matthew Farmer Blachly, deceased of King County, Washington (owning real property in Durham County, North Carolina), are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before April 6, 2025 or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 2nd day of January, 2025.
Kendra Johnson Blachly, Ancillary Administrator, c/o Andrea L. Hinshaw, PO Box 10867, Raleigh, NC 27605. This notice runs January 2, 9, 16, 23, 2025 in The Carolinian.
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

The undersigned, having qualified as Executor of the Estate of Joanna Hawkins Maclay, 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 April 3, 2025, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment.
Dated January 2, 2025,
Barbara Maclay Cameron, Executor
c/o Attorney Heather Hazelwood
PO Box 61182
Durham NC 27715
1/2, 1/9, 1/16, & 1/23/2025
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Estate of Lauree Hersch Meyer. Lauree Hersch Meyer died on September 24, 2024, in Durham, NC. Joel Newman Meyer qualified as her Executor with Durham County, NC Clerk of Superior Court file 24-E-002549. All persons, firms or corporations indebted to Lauree Hersch Meyer will please make immediate payment. This is to notify all persons, firms, and corporations having claims against Lauree Hersch Meyer to present them before April 15, 2025, or this Notice may be pleaded to bar their claim. Claims and payments may be filed with James M. Arges, Attorney for the estate at Arges Law Firm, 3200 Croasdaile Drive, Suite 706, Durham, NC 27705. For Publication: 01/02/2025, 01/09/2025, 01/16/2025, and 01/23/2025.

Joel Newman Meyer, Executor

GUILFORD COUNTY

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
GUILFORD COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File Number 24 E 2470-310
In The Matter Of Estate Of Joseph Dwight Puckett, Deceased

The Undersigned, having qualified as EXECUTOR of the Estate of JOSEPH DWIGHT PUCKETT, late of Durham County, North Carolina, hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the said Estate to present them to the undersigned at the below listed address on or before the 10th day of April 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 9th day of January 2025.

Diane Puckett Nickerson, Executor of the Estate of Joseph Dwight Puckett, Deceased
c/o Lawrence J. D'Amelio, III
Attorney for Estate
1834 Pembroke Rd., Ste 2
Greensboro, NC 27408
Telephone: (336) 615 8367
1/9, 1/16, 1/23, & 1/30/2025

HARNETT COUNTY

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
HARNETT COUNTY
NOTICE OF LEGAL PUBLICATION
In the General Court of Justice,
District Court Division
File Number 24CV003212-420
CHINITA FISHER, Plaintiff Vs.
CHRISTOPHER O'NEAL FISHER,
Defendant

TAKE NOTICE that a Complaint for Absolute Divorce has been filed in the above-referenced action.

You are required to make defense to such pleading no later than forty (40) days from January 23, 2025 and upon your failure to do so, the party seeking relief against you will apply to the court for sought.

This the 23rd day of January, 2025.
Charlene Edwards
Attorney for the Plaintiff
P.O. Box 2446
Lillington, NC 27546
Telephone: (910) 893-1128
1/23, 1/30, & 2/6/2025

WAKE COUNTY

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF RICHLAND
SUMMONS

IN THE FAMILY COURT FOR THE FIFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
Docket No. 24DR401202
W Stovall Witte, III, Plaintiff vs.
Kylie Brook Adamson, Defendant
TO: DEFENDANT KYLIE BROOKE ADAMSON

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED AND REQUIRED TO Answer the Complaint herein, a copy of which is herewith served upon you, and to serve a copy of your Answer to the Complaint upon the subscriber at One North Main Street, 2nd Floor, Greenville, South Carolina 29601 within thirty (30) days of the date hereof, exclusive of the day of such service, and if you fail to Answer the Complaint within the time aforesaid, Plaintiff will apply to the Court for the relief request in the Complaint.

This, the 23rd day of January, 2025.
Haynsworth Sinkler Boyd, P.A.
Reid T. Sherard, SC Bar No. 72536
Email: rsherard@hsblawfirm.com
Carlisle B. Allen, SC Bar No. 104605
Email: callen@hsblawfirm.com
ONE North Main Street, 2nd floor
P.O. Box 2048 (29602)
Greenville, SC 29601
(864) 240-3278
1/23, 1/30, & 2/6/2025
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
WAKE COUNTY

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

File Number 24E004796-910
The Undersigned, having qualified as ADMINISTRATOR of the Estate of BERNICE WHITLEY COOLEY, late of Wake County, North Carolina, hereby wishes to notify all persons having claims against the Estate of said deceased to exhibit them to the undersigned at the below listed address on or before the 17th day of April 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 16th day of January 2025.
Ella Louise Whitley, Administrator
380 Mountain Road, APT NO 1311
Union City, NJ 07087
1/16, 1/23, 1/30, & 2/6/2025
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
WAKE COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File Number 24E004009-910

The Undersigned, having qualified as CO-ADMINISTRATORS

of the Estate of THOMAS JOSEPH BOLTZ, late of Wake County, North Carolina, hereby wishes to notify all persons having claims against the Estate of said deceased to exhibit them to the undersigned at the below listed address on or before the 17th day of April 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 16th day of January 2025.

Judy Joseph & Robert Stephen Monks, Co-Administrators
c/o Monks Law Firm, PLLC
6613 Speight Circle
Raleigh, NC 27616
1/16, 1/23, 1/30, & 2/6/2025
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
WAKE COUNTY

NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION
In the General Court of Justice,
District Court Division
File No. 24CV037611-910

AMADA MARTINEZ SALINAS, Plaintiff v.

JAVIER CAMACHO OCAMPO, Defendant

TO The Defendant:

TAKE NOTICE that a pleading seeking relief against you has been filed in the above-entitled action, by the Plaintiff herein, the nature which is as follows: COMPLAINT FOR ABSOLUTE DIVORCE. You are required by law to appear and make defense to such pleading no later than 40 days after the first publication of this notice. If you fail to do so, Plaintiff will seek the relief sought herein, and a Judgment for Absolute Divorce may be entered.

This, the 9th day of January, 2025.

Amada Martinez Salinas, Plaintiff
1002 Beddingfield Dr.
Knightdale, NC 27545
1/9, 1/16, and 1/23/2025
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
WAKE COUNTY

NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION
In the General Court of Justice,
District Court Division
File No. 24CV019193-910
AGUSTO A. ROBLERO DIAZ, Plaintiff VS. CHASITY DAWN SCAGGS, Defendant

TO The 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 February 18, 2025 said date being

at least forty (40) days from the first publication of this Notice, and upon your failure to do so, the Plaintiff, will apply to the court for the relief sought.

This, the 9th day of January, 2025.

Agusto A. Roblero Diaz, Plaintiff
610 Cedar St.
Cary, NC 27511
1/9, 1/16, and 1/23/2025
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
WAKE COUNTY

NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION
In the General Court of Justice,
District Court Division
File No. 24CV016984-910
DIMITRIADES MCCLAIN, Plaintiff VS. DELISIA PALMER, Defendant
TO The Defendant:

TAKE NOTICE that a pleading seeking relief against you has been filed in the above-entitled action, by the Plaintiff herein, the nature which is as follows: COMPLAINT FOR ABSOLUTE DIVORCE. You are required by law to appear and make defense to such pleading no later than 40 days after the first publication of this notice. If you fail to do so, Plaintiff will seek the relief sought herein, and a Judgment for Absolute Divorce may be entered.

This, the 9th day of January, 2025.

Dimitriades McClain, Plaintiff
105 Raven Rd.
Chase City, VA 23924
1/9, 1/16, and 1/23/2025
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
WAKE COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Having qualified as Personal Representative of the Estate of Ulrich Georg Weiss, deceased, of 509 Gallberry Dr., Cary, Wake County, North Carolina 27519, the undersigned does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the estate of said decedent to exhibit them to the undersigned in care of the attorney for the estate on or before April 10, 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 the 9th day of January, 2025.

Janet Weiss
Personal Representative
c/o Jeffrey L. Austin,
Attorney for the Estate
500 Westover Dr. #32043
Sanford, NC 27330
Dates of publication: January 9, 2025, January 16, 2025, January 23, 2025, and January 30, 2025

PROJECT MANAGEMENT WANTED

Environmental Science U.S. LLC's Cary, NC office seeks a Project Management Officer. This is a hybrid office/work-from-home position that will contribute to establishing and improving existing processes and tools as well as providing high-quality data from these systems for resource planning, bottleneck analysis, cost tracking and economical business evaluation of development projects. To apply, email careers-us@envu.com with cover letter, resume, salary requirements, and reference to Project Management Officer.

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 Expansion - Valley Protein** project for the Town of Wallace which bids on **February 3, 2025, at 3:00 PM**. Plans and specifications for this project are available at the following locations: T. A. Loving Company; 400 Patetown Road; Goldsboro, NC 27530 * Stroud Engineering, PA; 107-B Commerce Street; Greenville, NC 27858 * Dodge Data and Analytics website * ConstructConnect website.

Potential subcontracting opportunities include but are not limited to surveying, clearing and grubbing, hauling, asphalt paving, traffic control, erosion control, seeding, electrical, SCADA, linework, jack & bore, bypass pumping, dewatering, flatwork, plumbing, 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 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 **Sanitary Sewer Pump Station Rehabilitation** project for the Town of Winterville which bids on **January 27, 2025, 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 * Winterville Town Operations Center; 2936 Church Street; Winterville, NC 28590 * Rivers and Associates, Inc.; 107 East Second Street; Greenville, NC 27858.

Potential subcontracting opportunities include but are not limited to wet/hot tapping. Please contact **Chris Hill** (chill@taloving.com), **Zach Futrell** (zfutrell@taloving.com), or **Bradlee Tierson** (btierson@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 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 **YMCA Taylor Lodge Pump Station Replacement** project for **YMCA Group** which bids on **January 28, 2025, 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 * YMCA Camp Seafarer; 2744 Seafarer Roa; Arapahoe, NC 28510 * The Wooten Company; 301 West 14th Street; Greenville, NC 27834.

Potential subcontracting opportunities include but are not limited to surveying, hauling, asphalt paving, erosion control, seeding, electrical, SCADA, linework, and bypass pumping. 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 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 **Eastside Pump Station Improvements** project for the City of Dunn which bids on **February 13, 2025, at 2:00 PM**. Plans and specifications for this project are available at the following locations: T. A. Loving Company; 400 Patetown Road; Goldsboro, NC 27530 * City of Dunn; 401 East Broad Street; Dunn, NC 28334 * WithersRavenel, 115 MacKenan Drive, Cary, NC 27511 * QuestCDN.com.

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

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Sports

Shelton Will Face Champion Sinner In The Semifinals

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP) — Ben Shelton’s Australian Open quarterfinal foe, Lorenzo Sonego, produced the shot of the tournament — diving to his left for a volley with so much spin that the ball bounced on one side of the net, then floated back over to the other — but it was the American who ended up with the victory

Wednesday. The left-handed Shelton did some entertaining of his own, including earning cheers by doing a couple of push-ups after tumbling in the concluding tiebreaker, and he reached his second Grand Slam semifinal at age 22 by beating the unseeded Sonego 6-4, 7-5, 4-6, 7-6 (4). “I’m relieved,” said Shelton, who

will meet No. 1 Jannik Sinner of Italy on Friday for a spot in the final. “Shout out Lorenzo Sonego because that was some ridiculous tennis.” Sinner, the defending champion at Melbourne Park, completely overwhelmed the last Australian in the men’s bracket, No. 8 Alex de Minaur, 6-3, 6-2, 6-1 at night.

Strahan Reps HBCUs With His College Hall of Fame Selection

The 2025 College Football Hall of Fame Class will have some HBCU representation as former Texas Southern defensive lineman Michael Strahan has been announced as one of 18 inductees.

This makes him the first person (player, coach, or administrator) in Texas Southern history ever to be inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame. Strahan played for Texas Southern from 1989-1992, setting the school record for sacks in a season (19.0) his senior year and holding the school’s career record for sacks (41.5).

He was named to two All-SWAC teams and won the SWAC Defensive Player of the Year Award in his final two collegiate seasons.

In addition, the Associated Press named him the Division I-AA Defensive Player of the Year and First Team All-America as a senior.

The former Tigers defender then entered the 1993 NFL Draft, where



the New York Giants selected him in the second round.

Strahan is also a member of the Black College Football Hall of Fame and the Pro Football Hall of Fame, having been inducted into both in

2014. He joins a College Football Hall of Fame Class that also includes Norfolk State head coach and former Virginia Tech quarterback Michael Vick.

Lewis Hamilton Test Drives Ferrari F1 Car For First Time

Lewis Hamilton, Formula One’s most successful driver of all time, waved to a crowd of waiting fans as he drove a Ferrari racing car for the first time since joining the Italian team for the 2025 season.

Hamilton was behind the wheel of a 2023-specification Ferrari SF-23 bearing his racing number, 44,

at the team’s Fiorano test track on Wednesday and wore a new helmet design in yellow with a prominent Prancing Horse logo.

The 40-year-old British driver set out for his first lap at 9:16am local time in light fog and twice waved to a crowd of about 1,000 spectators, who had gathered on a nearby bridge

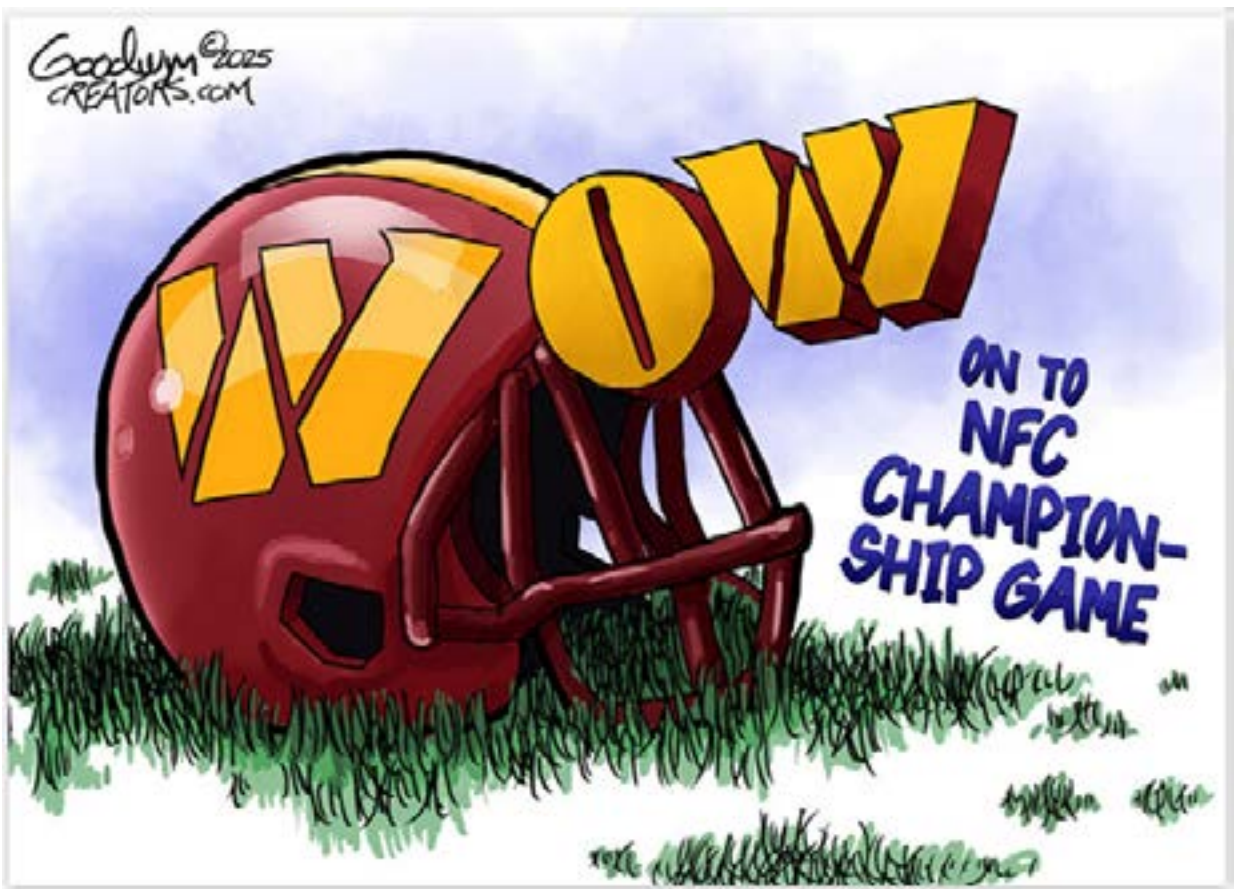
despite the cold and wet weather.

Hamilton moved to Ferrari for the 2025 season after 12 years with Mercedes, where he won six of his seven world titles. He has said he is fulfilling a childhood dream.

“I’ve been lucky enough to have achieved things in my career I never thought possible, but part of me has always held on to that dream of racing in red. I couldn’t be happier to realise that dream today,” he said on Monday after arriving at Ferrari’s Maranello headquarters.

F1 tightly restricts teams from testing current-specification cars, but the rules are looser for older cars like the SF-23 that Hamilton drove on Wednesday. Official preseason testing for the new season’s cars starts in Bahrain on February 26 and will continue till February 28.

Hamilton will partner with Charles Leclerc at Ferrari, who have been without a driver’s title since 2007 but hope to change that in the 2025 season, which begins with the Australian Grand Prix, scheduled from March 14 to 16.



Washington Commanders Are On Their Way To The NFC Championship Game

SportingNews—The Washington Commanders went from one of the worst franchises in the NFL to one of the hottest teams in the league in a transformation that only took one season.

After years of dysfunction, drama and losing while Dan Snyder owned the team, the historic NFL franchise has pulled off one of the most improbable turnarounds in the history of the league this season, with 14 wins so far and a trip to the NFC Championship game for the first time in 33 years.

Washington has been one of the best stories in the NFL in 2024, with rookie QB Jayden Daniels already cementing himself as the next young must-see signal caller proving time and time again, he has a poise and clutch gene that’s so incredibly rare. Daniels has led the Commanders to six fourth quarter comeback victories in the final minutes of the game.

Despite heading into a hostile environment in Detroit on Saturday to face the No.1 seed Lions in the NFC divisional round, Daniels and the Commanders pulled off arguably the biggest upset of the NFL season, winning 45-31 to advance to the NFC Championship.

Now, Washington is one game away from the Super Bowl in a year that was supposed to be a total rebuild. The Commanders will have to beat a familiar foe, the Philadelphia Eagles, on the road if they are going to keep the magic rolling and reach the Super Bowl.

Washington split the two-game series with its NFC East rival during the regular season. In their road trip to Lincoln Financial Field back on Nov. 18, the Eagles dominated the Commanders in a 26-18 game where the scoreboard looked much closer than it actually was.

The Eagles defense was able to rattle Daniels and Washington’s potent offense, holding them to just 264 yards of total offense, converting just 3-of-12 on third down and getting three sacks and an interception.

The Commanders defense couldn’t find an answer for Saquon Barkley, who finished the game with 146 rushing yards and two touchdowns.

But on Dec. 22 when Philadelphia came to D.C., Washington squeaked out a 33-30 victory on a day where Daniels and the Commanders offense once again was rattled by the Eagles defense. Washington’s offense had five turnovers, with three fumbles and two interceptions thrown by Daniels. If it weren’t for Jalen Hurts leaving the game with a concussion in the first quarter, the outcome may have been different.

Still, with the familiarity of their opponent and the Commanders playing

as well as any team in the playoffs, there is a decent chance Washington could pull off the upset on Sunday and reach the Super Bowl.

But on Monday, the NFL announced the referees for the NFC Championship game and their track record with the two teams doesn’t bode well for Washington.

Shawn Hochuli’s crew penalized the Commanders nine times in the Week 15 matchup vs. the Saints and mysteriously stopped the clock for four seconds at the end of regulation, giving New Orleans a chance to win the game. The NFL acknowledged the error and Washington ended up winning, but it’s still concerning.

Even more troubling for the Commanders is Hochuli’s track record with the Eagles. Since Nick Sirianni has been the head coach in Philly, the Eagles are 6-0 in games where Hochuli was the referee.



William Peace Secures Win Over Meredith College, 62-51

RALEIGH, N.C. - The William Peace University women’s basketball team picked up a hard-fought 62-51 victory against Meredith College on January 15th at the Hermann Athletic Center in Raleigh, N.C. With a balanced team effort and a strong second-half, the Pacers claimed their third win of the season.

The Pacers faced a challenging first quarter, trailing 16-8 after shooting just 17.6% from the field. However, they found their rhythm in the second half, outscoring Meredith 19-10 in the third quarter and 23-17 in the fourth. Alayna Randolph had a stand out performance, leading the Pacers with 20 points, including three three-pointers. She also grabbed seven rebounds.

Ja’Naisja Baker added 13 points, connecting on 6-of-8 free throws and recording four steals in a strong defensive effort. Zikira Henderson recorded a double-double with 11 points and 12 rebounds, while also dishing out five assists and contributing two steals.

William Peace’s ability to convert at the free-throw line (77.8%, 21-of-27) and improved three-point shooting in the second half (42.9%) were critical to their victory.

“Tonight was awesome for our program.” Head Coach Annalee Bollinger said tonight after the win. “It’s always nice to get a win in front of your home crowd. I thought the energy from the group and our fans was through the roof tonight. We played hard 40 minutes and came out with a huge conference win for us. *Steve Worthy Photos*



Online Abusers Target —CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

discussions and reminders are key to safe online habits,” the Know-2Protect campaign recommends.

The FBI recommends people exercise extreme caution when sharing information and photos on social media and other platforms, which can make people more vulnerable to harassment. The FBI also recommends occasionally searching themselves and their children’s name,

photo, phone number and other information.

Understand potential harms. Some online perpetrators ask victims to cut themselves, so parents should talk with their child and review their online activity if they recognize that behavior from their son or daughter. Other warning signs of online abuse include sudden behavior changes, eating habits or

appearance along with isolation and wearing long sleeves in hot weather to cover cuts, according to the FBI.

Report online abuse. The FBI recommends reporting online abuse through its Internet Crime Complaint Center or an FBI field office. It also recommends reporting to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children’s CyberTipline.

Rifenbark said people can block

abusers on platforms but said they should not delete the messages or accounts so they can share it with law enforcement.

Help get content removed. If a child has sent a nude picture online, they can go to Take It Down, a service provided by the national center to help remove sexually explicit videos and photos taken of someone younger than 18

Maternal Deaths —CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

they couldn’t access legal abortions and timely care. Georgia law prohibits abortion after six weeks of pregnancy.

Dr. Kathleen Toomey, commissioner of the Georgia Department of Public Health, said in November that she dismissed the committee members because confidential information provided to them was “inappropriately shared” with the ProPublica reporters, violating state law and the confidentiality agreement that committee members must sign.

The state’s investigation never determined whether a committee member, or someone else, leaked the documents.

“I am concerned that this will continue to happen in other places,” said Johnson, the Atlanta father. “I think that Georgia demonstrated an overreach and abuse of power that other states and other state medical directors may not have been aware they have.”

Last September, Texas’ MMRC made headlines by announcing it wouldn’t review maternal deaths from 2022 and 2023. The committee chair, Houston OB-GYN Dr. Carla

Ortigue, said skipping those years would help avoid a backlog of older cases so they could work on more recent deaths. The committee’s latest report, released that same month, covers 2020 cases. Ortigue also noted that a few years ago, before the abortion ban, the committee “leapfrogged” records from 2014 to 2018. But the decision also means the committee won’t investigate any potential deaths that could be connected to the state’s abortion ban for the first two years it was in effect. ProPublica’s reporting has tied the deaths of three Texas women to ban-related delays in care.

Tennessee state Sen. London Lamar, a Democrat, sponsored a bill signed into law last spring that requires the state’s MMRC to reserve four of its seats for community-based birth workers. She hopes the move will increase the diversity of perspectives on the committee and position it to make recommendations that address the severe racial and economic maternal health disparities in the state.

In Tennessee, as in many states, Black women die at two to three

times the rate of white and Hispanic women from pregnancy-related causes, while low-income women who qualify for Medicaid are nearly three times as likely to die as their counterparts with private insurance.

Lamar, who lost her baby at full term in 2019 due to a pregnancy-related condition, is frustrated by conservative politicians’ efforts to intervene in what she said should be a bipartisan issue.

“When majority governments take steps to remove people because they are not pleased with recommendations that are based on their own ineffective legislating, to me that’s an abuse of power,” said Lamar. “They don’t want the public to know that the policies they’re passing to hinder women’s reproductive rights are having a negative impact.”

An Arkansas workaround Arkansas is the only state in the nation that hasn’t taken steps to extended its Medicaid coverage to one year postpartum for low-income women. Nationally, researchers and advocates have stressed the importance of continuing insurance coverage after birth because more than

half of pregnancy-related deaths in the U.S. occur in the year following a pregnancy, and Medicaid covers about 40% of births.

In recent years, Arkansas’ maternal mortality review committee has recommended postpartum Medicaid extension as a way to reduce maternal deaths.

But the governor remains staunchly opposed.

“[W]e want to make sure that we are transitioning women to coverage that already exists in the state,” Sanders said during a March 2024 news conference. “I don’t believe creating a duplicative program just for the sake of creating a program is actually going to fix the issue. We already have so many women who aren’t taking advantage of the coverage that exists.”

About 40% of low-income pregnant women in Arkansas lose their Medicaid eligibility two months after they give birth.

Last March, the governor created her own maternal health working group to review and recommend solutions for improving maternal and infant health.