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Dedicated to the Spirit and Service of God

Health Insurance For Millions Could Vanish As States Make Medicaid Cuts

By Anna Claire Vollers
Stateline

State Sen. Casey Crabtree, R-Madison, on the South Dakota Senate floor during the 2024 legislative session. This year, Crabtree is the prime Senate sponsor of a bill that would ask voters to approve the termination of Medicaid expansion if federal support for it falls below 90%.

Republican lawmakers in several states have Medicaid expansion in their crosshairs, energized by President Donald Trump's return to the White House and a GOP-controlled Congress set on reducing spending on the public health insurance program for low-income people.

As the feds consider cuts to Medicaid, some states are already moving to end or shrink their expanded Medicaid programs.

Legislators in Idaho have introduced a bill that would repeal voter-approved expansion, while Republicans in Montana are considering allowing their expanded program to expire. Some South Dakota lawmakers want to ask voters to let the state end expansion if federal aid declines. Nine other states, including North Carolina, already have trigger laws that will end their expansion programs if Congress cuts federal funding.

Meanwhile, discussions have stalled in non-expansion states such as Alabama, as lawmakers wait to



see what the Trump administration will do.

Many conservatives argue that Medicaid expansion has created a heavy financial burden for states and that reliance on so much federal funding is risky. They argue that expansion shifts resources away from more vulnerable groups, such as children and the disabled, to low-income adults who could potentially

get jobs.

In South Dakota, where voters approved Medicaid expansion in 2022 by a constitutional amendment, Republican state Sen. Casey Crabtree wants to bring expansion before voters again with a trigger measure. He told *Stateline* via text that his proposed amendment to the state constitution "empowers voters to maintain financial accountabil-

ity, ensuring that if federal funding drops below the agreed 90%, the legislature can responsibly assess the state's financial capacity and the impact on taxpayers while still honoring the will of the people."

But even some Republicans are uneasy about what repealing expansion would mean for their constituents.

(See **MEDICAID CUTS**, P. 7)

NC AG's Message: Change \$70 M Deal or Else

By Cash Michaels
Contributing writer

Officials at St. Augustine's University (SAU) have capitulated to the demands of the NC Attorney General's Office. The school's \$70 million 99-year land lease agreement with Florida-based developer 50 Plus One Sports - a deal that legally needed prior approval of the state attorney general's office (NC AG) because SAU is a nonprofit - is being changed in order to pass legal muster in time for a Feb. 27th hearing SAU officials are scheduled to have with the SACSCOC (Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission of Colleges) to have its probationary accreditation returned to permanent status.

By showing SACSCOC that it has now made a financial agreement that will satisfy its reported \$32 million in debt (including several million in back taxes to the federal government), SAU hopes to demonstrate that it has its financial house in order to assure its stability into the future.

But getting the NC AG's Office's sign-off on a financial arrangement that will help SAU achieve that goal is the obstacle it must next over-



come.

The original agreement had 50 Plus One Sports paying SAU a reported \$60 million by the end of 2024, followed by another \$10 million by June 2025.

Published reports say after the NC AG's Office rejected that \$70 million 50 Plus One Sports 99-year lease agreement because it involved virtually all of SAU's over 100 acres of property, and also because it severely undervalued the property by \$128 million, SAU officials are going

back to the drawing board, reportedly selling only half of the historically Black private university's acreage.

"Based on our review of the documents submitted thus far, we are concerned about SAU's ability to continue to operate and fulfill its mission if this proposed lease agreement is finalized without substantive improvements," wrote Senior Deputy Attorney General Kunai Choksi to school officials in a recent letter.

That letter also expressed Choksi's concern about "SAU's ability to

continue to operate and fulfill its mission if this proposed lease agreement is finalized without substantive improvements."

What the new assessed land value will be, and for how long the new land lease agreement will be for is still to be determined. But once those new numbers are arrived at, SAU officials are expected to notify the NC AG's Office with the details, in hopes that they will get approval in time for the Feb. 27th SACSCOC hearing.

(See **STATE BRIEFS** P. 7)

Generations Later, A Remedy To Destroying Black Neighborhoods Is Fulfilled In Michigan

HAMTRAMCK, Mich. (AP) — Leslie Knox was a young girl in the 1960s when her Detroit-area city was accused of destroying neighborhoods to get rid of Black residents.

Decades later, the retired nurse has returned to Hamtramck, settling into a new two-story home on Gallagher Street and watching TV from a fold-up chair while she figures out how she wants to furnish it. She has no mortgage to pay, just property taxes and insurance.

Knox is one of the last people to benefit from an extraordinary legal settlement that requires the small city to build 200 homes for the victims of discrimination or their families. A lawsuit filed in 1968 became one of the longest-running civil rights cases over housing in the United States.

And it's finally over.

"I feel like I've been given this house by divine intervention because no man in their right mind would just hand the keys to houses," said Knox, 70, who placed two Black angel figurines on a kitchen window. "I believe God put me here."

Amer Ghalib, a native of Yemen and Hamtramck's mayor, said a "dark chapter" in the city's history is now closed.

"This is not going to happen



Leslie Knox stands outside of her home in Hamtramck, MI

again," said Ghalib, who was elected in 2021. "We are a very diverse community."

"We just want you gone"

In the early 1900s, Hamtramck's blue-collar jobs attracted immigrants from Eastern Europe, especially Poland. The association was so deep that Catholic Cardinal Karol Wojtyla of Poland visited the city in 1969 and returned in 1987 — as Pope John Paul II. A statue of him stands high above a public plaza.

Yet while white people felt welcomed, many Black residents said their civil rights were violated. In

1971, after a trial, U.S. District Judge Damon Keith ruled that the city had intentionally targeted certain Black neighborhoods by demolishing low-income housing.

"It was an attempt to eliminate a Black population," said Michael Barnhart, a lawyer for the victims. "It wasn't, 'We want this land for something and therefore you're in the way.' 'We just want you gone' — that was the motivation, to get rid of people."

Hamtramck spent years appealing before agreeing in 1981 to a remedy: It would build apartments

for seniors as well as 200 scattered housing units for families. People with certain income levels and a connection to the class-action lawsuit would get priority.

So why did the promise take until 2024 — more than 40 years — to fulfill?

"The city didn't have the money," said James Allen, an attorney who represented Hamtramck during the last stages of the litigation.

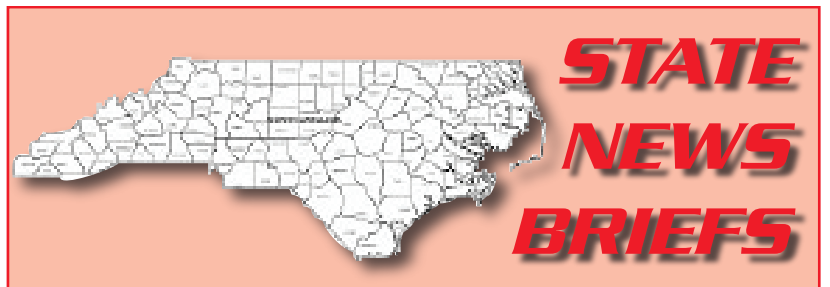
Indeed, city government twice was placed under state oversight, starting in 2000, due to financial problems. There still were dozens of homes left to build or rehab in 2010 when the judge and Michigan Gov. Jennifer Granholm held a festive ribbon-cutting ceremony at a new address on Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

"Most if not all of the construction funding was through federal and state grants," Allen explained. "If the city had been left to its own devices, they never would have been able to do it. They just didn't have the resources."

The total cost to build the last three houses was approximately \$1 million, he said.

Throughout much of its history, Hamtramck rose and fell with the auto industry. More than 30,000

(See **NEIGHBORHOODS**, P. 6)



HEGSETH RENAMES MILITARY BASE FORT ROLAND L. BRAGG

WASHINGTON (AP) — Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth signed an order Monday restoring the name of a storied special operations forces base back to Fort Bragg. The North Carolina base was renamed Fort Liberty in 2023 as part of a national effort under the Biden administration to remove names that honored Confederate leaders.

The base's original namesake, Gen. Braxton Bragg, was a Confederate general from Warrenton, North Carolina, who was known for owning slaves and losing key Civil War battles, contributing to the Confederacy's downfall.

But the Pentagon spokesman said Hegseth was renaming the base to honor Pfc. Roland L. Bragg, who he said was a World War II hero who earned the Silver Star and Purple Heart for his exceptional courage during the Battle of the Bulge.

"This change underscores the installation's legacy of recognizing those who have demonstrated extraordinary service and sacrifice for the nation," spokesman John Ullyot said in a statement.

The choice of the World War II private first class got around a law prohibiting the military from naming a base after a Confederate leader.

In a video he posted on X announcing that he was renaming the base, Hegseth said: "That's right. Bragg is back!"

In reality, the base had still been widely known as Bragg, the new name having not really taken hold. On Hegseth's first official day as defense secretary he made a point of calling it Fort Bragg in his first exchange with reporters.

NC PREPARES TO SOCK IT TO TEACHERS AND STATE EMPLOYEES YET AGAIN

NCNewline—In 2010, the year North Carolina Republicans won control of both houses of the state legislature, *Site Selection Magazine* — the self-described "leading publication in corporate real estate, facility planning, location analysis and foreign direct investment" — ranked North Carolina as the nation's fourth "most competitive state."

It was a familiar accolade. Throughout most of the previous decade, things like solid infrastructure, low-to-moderate tax rates, forward-looking state leaders, rapidly improving systems of K-12 and higher education, good public services and an agreeable environment had kept North Carolina near the top of numerous "best for business" rankings.

Unfortunately, you know what happened next. Upon winning power — a victory they quickly cemented through multiple episodes of extreme partisan and racial gerrymandering — GOP lawmakers commenced a war on all things public by repeatedly slashing taxes in a regressive fashion. The result: today, a decade-and-a-half later, most public structures and systems in our state have been reduced to pale shadows of their former selves.

In 2009-10, state and local public spending was equal to 6.2% of the total state economy. This amount was actually down somewhat from the last few decades of the 20th Century — another period of rapid growth and progress in the state — when the figure was often close to 7%. By 2020-21, however, repeated tax cuts cut this important measure down to 4.3%. That's a decline of more than 30% in core public investments in just a decade. And while, by 2024, things had rebounded slightly to 4.9%, this number still reflects a massive hit to public structures and systems.

Of course, the results of all this bloodletting are not hard to find. They can be readily seen in the massive job vacancy rates that plague so many places of public employment in our state — from public school classrooms to the institutions that serve people with mental and physical disabilities to prisons to highway road crews.

All across our state, lousy pay that has failed to keep up with inflation has driven thousands of people who once happily accepted stable, middle-

Racial Gap Widened In Deaths Among US Moms At Childbirth



By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA

Black women in the United States continued to face the highest maternal mortality rates, dying at a rate more than three times higher than white women, according to a newly released report from the National Center for Health Statistics.

The report, published on February 6, 2025, found that 669 women died from maternal causes in 2023, down from 817 in 2022. The overall maternal mortality rate declined from 22.3 deaths per 100,000 live births in 2022 to 18.6 in 2023. However, for Black women, the rate remained disproportionately high at 50.3 deaths per 100,000 live births—far exceeding the rates for white (14.5), Hispanic (12.4), and Asian (10.7) women.

Despite national efforts to address maternal health disparities, the mortality rate for Black women showed little change from the previous year, when it stood at 49.5. The data highlight persistent systemic inequities in health-care access, quality of care, and medical intervention for Black mothers, who continue to experience higher rates of pregnancy-related complications and a greater likelihood of receiving inadequate medical attention.

Age remains a major risk factor, with maternal mortality rates significantly higher among women 40 and older. In 2023, the mortality rate for this age group was 59.8 deaths per 100,000 live births—nearly five times the rate for women under 25, which was 12.5. Among Black women aged 40 and older, the crisis is even more severe, with a mortality rate of 132.9 per 100,000 live births—more than twice the rate for white women in the same

(See **CHILD BIRTH** P. 5)



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Business & Finance

North Carolina Community College System Launches Boost Program

RALEIGH, N.C. -- Committed to meeting North Carolina's workforce development needs, the North Carolina Community College System (NCCCS) announced NC Community Colleges Boost, a new program designed to quickly move students into the high-wage, high-demand careers that will drive our state's future prosperity. Arnold Ventures, a philanthropy that supports research into America's most pressing problems—and evidence-based solutions to address them—is funding this launch with a grant of more than \$35.6 million, the largest private grant ever received by NCCCS. The model on which the program is built has a proven track record of doubling graduation rates in multiple other states.

"The City University of New York's Accelerated Study in Associate Programs (CUNY ASAP) model is the gold standard for increasing completion in higher education," said NCCCS president Dr. Jeff Cox. "In the NC Community Colleges Boost implementation, we have taken that model and aligned it with North Carolina's workforce development goals as specified in the PropelNC initiative. This is how we will ensure the maximum benefit for our students and our state. Participants will quickly move through college into the careers that our policymakers have identified as most important to North Carolina's economic success."

"Arnold Ventures is excited to support NC Community Colleges Boost, and we have the utmost confidence in North Carolina's ability to successfully



implement this evidence-based program tailored to the unique needs and culture of North Carolina," said Kirby Smith, Executive Vice President of Strategy and Programs at Arnold Ventures. "By aligning the program's goals with the workforce development goals identified by the PropelNC initiative, state leaders are ensuring that students will not only improve their economic security, but will contribute to a thriving North Carolina economy."

"Since the inception of CUNY ASAP in 2007, independent studies have repeatedly confirmed the efficacy of its comprehensive support model as well as its cost-effectiveness and high return on taxpayer investment. ASAP is directly responsible for doubling graduation rates for participating students," said CUNY Chancellor Félix V. Matos

Rodríguez. "We applaud and thank Arnold Ventures for making the largest private investment to date in replication of the ASAP model and we expect it will be a game changer for students in the North Carolina Community College System, as it has been for more than 100,000 CUNY students and for students at dozens of colleges across the country."

Launching over the next two years with technical assistance from CUNY ASAP National Replication Collaborative, NC Community Colleges Boost will serve students at eight colleges across the state in 2025, and add seven more in 2026:

Alamance Community College, Bladen Community College, Caldwell Community College & Technical Institute, Cape Fear Community College, Central

Carolina Community College, Central Piedmont Community College, Cleveland Community College, Forsyth Tech, Isothermal Community College, Johnston Community College, McDowell Technical Community College, Robeson Community College, Sampson Community College, Wake Technical Community College, and Western Piedmont Community College.

This program works through a combination of timely and relevant supports, dedicated advising for students, and incentives to accelerate their education. This program is a partnership between the state, NCCCS, colleges, and students that invests in students so that they can get good jobs that help their communities.

The North Carolina Community Colleges Foundation will be the System's partner in managing this important grant program. The Foundation is a non-partisan, nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting the System's mission.

"This program has increased graduation rates, reduced time to graduation, and lowered the cost per graduate across many individual colleges in several states," said Cox. "Here in North Carolina, we have every reason to expect similar results. What makes this especially exciting is the opportunity to demonstrate success through our pilot and then scale it statewide—something few other states have done. We are fully committed to transparency and will track and report the program's results regularly, ensuring policymakers can clearly see the return on investment."



The Top Benefits Of HSA Accounts

By Jennifer Goldsmith

Merrill

You may have seen the option to open a health savings account (HSA) when you've signed up for health insurance at work or bought your own policy. "HSAs are intended to help you save pre-tax or tax-deductible dollars to pay for qualified medical expenses — both now and in the future — that aren't covered by insurance," says Jennifer Goldsmith, managing director and head of Health Benefit Solutions at Bank of America.

Paired with a qualifying high-deductible health plan (HDHP), an HSA enables you to pay for current medical expenses with pre-tax dollars — and allows you the potential to build a nest egg for the future. For example, a 40-year-old couple who max out HSA contributions each year along with taking advantage of employer contributions could have more than \$600,000 set aside to cover healthcare costs by the time they turn 67.1

Avoiding paying federal tax on the income you earn that goes toward qualified medical expenses is just one of the attractive features of HSAs. Still, the potential advantages of opening an HSA remain a mystery to many people. Below are answers to common questions about HSAs. Mull them over as you consider ways of funding present and future healthcare costs.

An HSA works in conjunction with an HDHP. You can direct portions of your paycheck into the account. Some employers opt to make contributions, too. When your HDHP doesn't cover a qualified medical expense, you can pay for that cost out of your HSA.

The money you contribute to a health savings account is tax-deductible or pre-tax, and any increase in the value of your account (such as through capital gains and dividends on investments held in the HSA) is free from federal taxes — so long as withdrawals are made for qualified medical expenses (see No. 6). "One of the most important features of an HSA is that it has the potential for triple tax advantages — when money goes into the account, with potential growth and when it comes out," Goldsmith says.2

Another advantage of an HSA is that you're not required to take money out of it by any given date, such as the end of the year. As a result, you can save and even invest your balance until you need it. Also, if your employer offers any HSA contributions, you should try to get those funds if possible.

While HSAs are often offered as a work benefit, you may be able to open an account if your employer doesn't offer one or if you're self-employed or unemployed.

Once you create an HSA, you own it. Even if you leave the employer that originally sponsored your HSA, you can keep that HSA or transfer the balance to another HSA — such as one offered by your new employer or an HSA you open yourself. Another plus: If you have an HSA through work but lose your job and continue insurance coverage under COBRA, you can use your HSA to pay your premiums.

Secrecy Preceded The CFPB Shutdown

WASHINGTON (AP) — Over the weekend, some staff members at the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau saw a sign of trouble to come.

Windows in two basement conference rooms were covered with brown paper and blue painter's tape, concealing their occupants. Voices could be heard inside discussing cuts to government agencies. When the door was cracked open, there were young people with

temporary badges.

It was fresh evidence that the agency, which was created to protect Americans from financial fraud, abuse and deceptive practices, was the newest target of Elon Musk and his Department of Government Efficiency, known as DOGE. Now the Washington headquarters is shut down for the week, and there are fears that it will be gutted like the U.S. Agency for International Development.

Pictures of the conference rooms were viewed by The Associated Press, and the scene was described by two current employees who spoke on the condition of anonymity because they feared retaliation. The secrecy contradicts insistence by the White House that Musk is transparently fulfilling President Donald Trump's goal of downsizing the federal government.

Trump defended his administration's broadside against the Con-

sumer Financial Protection Bureau, or CFPB, saying it was "set up to destroy people."

"We did the right thing," he told reporters in the Oval Office on Monday.

Demonstrators gathered outside the bureau to criticize Trump and Musk, who has faced escalating scrutiny as DOGE spreads its reach across the federal government.

(See **CFPB SHUTDOWN** P. 13)



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'No Exemptions, No Exceptions': Trump Slaps 25% Tariffs On Steel, Aluminium

By John Power

Aljazeera

President Donald Trump has slapped 25 percent tariffs on all steel and aluminium imports in his latest push to reshape an international trading order that he claims is unfairly stacked against US manufacturers and workers.

Speaking from the White House as he announced his latest trade salvo on Monday, Trump said that US industry has been "pummelled by both friend and foe alike".

"Our nation requires steel and aluminium to be made in America, not in foreign lands. We need to create in order to protect our country's future," Trump said before signing an executive order to end various country and product-related exemptions from his first administration's tariffs on steel.

"It's time for our great industries to come back to America. We want them back to America. This is the first of many."

Trump said the tariffs, which he had floated on Sunday, would apply

to all countries with "no exemptions, no exceptions".

"This is a big deal," Trump said. "This is the beginning of making America rich again."

Trump's latest tariffs, which are due to take effect on March 12, are all but certain to prompt retaliatory moves from affected countries, which include some of Washington's closest allies, raising the likelihood of new trade skirmishes on multiple fronts.

"Trump's latest tariffs on steel and aluminium are not enough by themselves to ignite a full-blown trade war, but it's definitely an incremental move in that direction," Gabriel Wildau, senior vice president at the global business advisory firm Teneo, told Al Jazeera.

"US trading partners in Europe and Asia are virtually certain to retaliate, but this retaliation is likely to take the form of comparably narrow sectoral tariffs."

The US imported about \$49bn worth of steel and aluminium in 2024, according to government data. Canada was the biggest supplier

of steel, followed by Mexico, Brazil, South Korea, Germany and Japan, according to the US International Trade Administration.

Canada was also the largest exporter of aluminium, with other major suppliers including the United Arab Emirates, South Korea and China.

Trump's announcement prompted an almost immediate backlash in Canada.

"Trump wants us to lose our cool. But we need to stay united, with the right response," Mark Carney, the frontrunner to replace outgoing Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau as leader of the Liberal Party, said in a post on X.

"In the short term, Canada needs to manage foreign trade threats with dollar-for-dollar tariffs and support for our critical steel and aluminium workers."

In Asia, markets mostly reacted negatively to the news, with benchmark indexes falling in Hong Kong, Shanghai, Kuala Lumpur, Jakarta and Manila, though the KOSPI in Seoul saw gains.

South Korea's government-funded Korea Development Institute on Tuesday cut its growth forecast for 2025 to 1.6 percent, down 0.4 percentage points from its previous estimate, citing concerns about the effect of Trump's tariffs.

"Most of Asia is worried about the impact of Trump tariffs. Since these are unilateral and ad hoc and are leading to retaliations, several Asian economies exporting to the West will be worried about their competitiveness and market access," Amitendu Palit, a senior research fellow at the Institute of South Asian Studies, National University of Singapore.

"The impact will be disruptive," Palit added. "Apart from bringing in new procedures for trade invoicing and tariff administration, they will cause upheavals in supply chains."

European Union chief Ursula von der Leyen on Tuesday expressed "regret" over Trump's announcement.

"The EU will act to safeguard its economic interests," von der Leyen said in a post on X.

"We will protect our workers, businesses and consumers."

Trump has signalled that further tariffs lie ahead in the coming days, announcing over the weekend that reciprocal measures would be announced for countries that impose levies on US goods.

Those measures would come on top of Trump's announcements of a 10 percent tariff on all Chinese goods, which came into effect last week, and 25 percent tariffs on Canadian and Mexican imports. The US president agreed to suspend the latter tariffs until March 1 after reaching a temporary deal with Canada and Mexico to boost the security of their shared borders.

Economists have warned that Trump's broad-based tariffs will lead to higher prices for US consumers and risk setting off an escalating spiral of trade disputes that could dampen global growth.

Trump and his allies have argued that the levies will help revive domestic manufacturing and boost state coffers.

The Tax Foundation, a think tank based in Washington, DC, has estimated that Trump's tariffs in 2018 and 2019 led to a 0.2 percent reduction in gross domestic product (GDP).

Michael Stanaitis, a trade expert at the American University in Washington, DC, said the impact of Trump's tariffs would be "very serious".

"Unless the Trump administration offers numerous exemptions to US importers of steel and aluminium, US consumers can expect increased prices and production shortages, particularly in areas like the US auto industry, which routinely uses foreign inputs for domestic production," Stanaitis said.

"Assuming that US producers and consumers are unwilling to absorb the cost of tariffs, we will witness a challenging transition in the global economy as foreign producers determine how best to allocate resources in an attempt to absorb the excess global supply of steel and aluminium brought on by reduced US demand."

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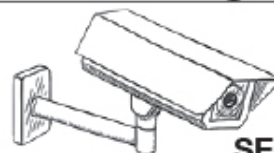
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Onesimus: The African Who Helped Defeat Smallpox

By: Jordan Meadows

Staff Writer

The story of Onesimus, an enslaved African man in 18th-century Boston, is one of perseverance and quiet revolution—whose ripples are still felt today in the global fight against infectious diseases. His knowledge of smallpox inoculation, passed down through generations of Africans, played a pivotal role in introducing the practice of variolation to America. This intervention not only saved lives during a devastating smallpox outbreak in 1721 but also laid the groundwork for the eventual development of vaccines.

Born in Africa—most likely in modern-day Ghana—his exact birthplace and name are unknown. What is clear is that by 1706, he had been forcibly brought to the American colonies as an enslaved person. He was given as a gift to Cotton Mather, a prominent Puritan minister of the North Church in Boston. Mather, a key figure in the Salem Witch Trials, renamed him Onesimus, a name derived from the New Testament, meaning “useful” or “profitable.”

Despite his status as a slave, Onesimus was considered by Whites



to be highly intelligent. Mather educated him in reading and writing, skills that were rare among enslaved people at the time.

In 1716, Onesimus shared with Mather a practice from his homeland: inoculation. He explained how he had been deliberately exposed to smallpox in a controlled way, a procedure that would provide lifelong immunity to the disease. The technique, which involved introducing a small amount of infected material into the skin,

was already a common practice in many parts of Africa.

At the time, smallpox was one of the deadliest diseases in the world, with no effective treatment. The disease was especially devastating in colonial America, where it ravaged both the settler population and Indigenous communities. Onesimus’s description of the practice struck a chord with Mather, who, despite his deeply ingrained prejudices, recognized its potential. Mather had learned that the

practice of variolation—deliberately infecting a healthy person with a mild case of smallpox to prevent a more serious infection—was not limited to Africa. It had been used in Asia and parts of the Ottoman Empire for centuries.

In 1721, a smallpox epidemic swept through Boston. The disease spread rapidly, killing hundreds and overwhelming the medical community. Mather, having been persuaded by Onesimus’s knowledge, began to advocate for inoculation. However, his efforts were met with intense resistance. Many of Boston’s residents, especially the medical and religious authorities, viewed the practice with skepticism. Some dismissed it as “witchcraft” or “African superstition,” while others saw it as an affront to God’s will, fearing that interfering with divine providence would bring misfortune.

Despite the opposition, Mather persisted in promoting inoculation, enlisting the support of a local physician, Zabdiel Boylston. In 1721, Boylston began the first trial of inoculation in Boston, using the method described by Onesimus. He first inoculated his son and a few enslaved individuals, and then extended the practice to other willing

participants.

The results were remarkable. Of the 242 people inoculated, only six died—just 2.5% of those infected. In contrast, the mortality rate among those who were not inoculated was around 14%. Onesimus’s knowledge proved to be a turning point in the battle against smallpox in the colonies.

Although the practice of variolation did not immediately gain widespread acceptance, it ultimately became a vital tool in combating smallpox. The inoculation trials in Boston were followed by similar efforts in other colonies, and by the late 18th century, the method had gained enough traction to influence the development of vaccines. In 1764, John Adams, the future second President of the United States underwent the inoculation. Edward Jenner would later pioneer the smallpox vaccine using cowpox, a much safer alternative to variolation. Over time, the smallpox vaccine became a cornerstone of global immunization efforts.

In 1980, the World Health Organization declared smallpox eradicated—a historic achievement that remains the only instance of the complete eradication of a human infectious disease. The foundation

for this victory was laid by Onesimus’s knowledge and the efforts of individuals who believed in him.

While Onesimus’s role in the smallpox inoculation trials is well-documented, little is known about his life after the 1721 outbreak. It is believed that he eventually bought his freedom from Mather. There is no record of Onesimus’s later years, and his ultimate fate remains uncertain. Some historians speculate that he may have left Boston, while others suggest that he continued to work for Mather in some capacity.

Despite the challenges he faced, including personal tragedy (his two young children died before the age of ten), Onesimus’s legacy endured. In 2016, he was posthumously recognized by Boston Magazine as one of the “100 Best Bostonians of All Time.”

Onesimus’s story is a powerful reminder of the often-overlooked contributions of enslaved people to the advancement of science and society. His knowledge of inoculation, passed down through generations of African medical traditions, saved countless lives during a pivotal time in world history and contributed to the eventual eradication of one of the deadliest diseases.

The Black UNC Medicine Alumni Experience Project

By: Jordan Meadows

Staff Writer

The Black Alumni Experience Project at the University of North Carolina (UNC) School of Medicine provides an insightful collection of oral histories that illuminate the journeys of Black medical professionals.

This project, initiated by the UNC chapter of the Student National Medical Association (SNMA), seeks to preserve and share the stories of Black alumni who have contributed significantly to the medical field, despite facing immense obstacles throughout their careers and lives.

The Black Alumni Experience Project highlights the achievements of alumni like Dr. Lynous Hall, who in 1969 became the only Black student in his medical class. Hall attended Ligon High School, one of the Black high schools in Raleigh, and earned a partial scholarship to Shaw University where he double majored in biology and chemistry.



DR. LYNOUS HALL

“When I graduated from high school, you went to the military, you got a job working in the ditch, or you went to college. And that was it. We had no options,” Hall said in his interview.

Hall’s educational drive continued after he graduated from Shaw in 1961 and then at UNC, where he worked as a technician in the Department of Biochemistry. He simultaneously studied for the MCAT, attended classes, and enrolled in courses at the School of Public Health. The Department of Biochemistry noticed his hard work and recommended him to the UNC School of Medicine.

As the only Black student in his class, he recalled enduring moments of isolation, such as when a fellow student questioned his presence during a gross anatomy class.

“I’d go to class — I’m the only Black in class — and we’re in a gross anatomy and some kid says, ‘Why is he here?’ And I heard it. And I just kept doing what I was doing,” Hall recalled. “And for the most part for the first year, they didn’t talk to me.”

Hall remained focused and committed to his studies, never missing a class. By his second year, he began to feel more comfortable in his

environment.

“I went through classes every day. Never skipped classes. Labs. I did all the lab work. Studied like hell. Pumped out until 2:00 a.m. every night. Never drank beer. Never went to a party. Never had a vacation. Just work,” Hall said. “Next year, things got a little bit better. After that, I felt better about myself. And just kept plugging away.”

After graduating from UNC, Dr. Hall went on to complete his obstetrics residency at the University of Rochester. His early career was shaped by his role at Kaiser Permanente, where he worked as part of a diverse team of physicians running Kaiser’s first high-risk OB clinic.

“You can always learn, regardless of what happens. Superfluous things like race put-downs — these sorts of things should fly over your shoulder. Your ideal situation is the one that you want. And that’s the one that you chose to follow regardless of what happened. And that’s what I did,” Hall said.

In his interview, Dr. Hall also

emphasized the importance of flexibility and encouraged aspiring medical professionals to adapt to the inevitable changes that would come with advancements like artificial intelligence. He also noted the high cost of medical education as one of the most significant barriers for many aspiring physicians.

The collection of Black alumni from UNC’s School of Medicine

also includes the experiences of Dr. Venita Newby-Owens, the first African American woman admitted to the UNC School of Medicine.

Dr. Venita Newby-Owens was born in 1947 in Weeksville, a rural community outside Elizabeth City, North Carolina. After earning a B.S. in Microbiology with a minor

(See **BLACK UNC MED**, P. 6)

CHILD BIRTH

Continued from page 1

age category (56.6). For Black women between the ages of 25 and 39, the rate was 53.6, compared to 13.8 for White women.

While the report indicates a statistically significant decline in maternal mortality rates for White and Hispanic women, no such progress was observed for Black women. Researchers and public health advocates continue to point to long-standing racial disparities in maternal healthcare, calling for stronger policy measures to expand access to quality prenatal and postpartum care, increased funding for maternal health initiatives, and more comprehensive training for medical professionals to address implicit bias in treatment.

The 2023 maternal mortality statistics represent the most recent data available for researchers and were compiled from the National Vital Statistics System.

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Dr. Manassa Thomas Pope: NC's First Licensed Black Physician

By Ms Jheri Worldwide

Staff Writer

When time permits, do yourself a favor and visit the home of Dr. Manassa Thomas Pope, North Carolina's first licensed Black physician and the only Black man to run for mayor of Raleigh during the Jim Crow era. Everything in the house, with the exception of the telephone in the hallway, belong to the Pope family. There have been additions done to the house. Originally the house had a wooden porch, in the thirties, Dr. Pope enclosed it and added the sleeping porch, which is upstairs. The shutters were added in the nineties. The floors downstairs are not original, but the upstairs floors are.

Hazel Boomer was an amazing tour guide, we began in the living room amazing pictures and family artifacts, "Dr. Pope, was born in Ridge Square, Northampton County. He had two free parents. His mother, Permelia Pope, and his father, Jonas Elias Pope, were both for free. Dr. Pope can trace his ancestry a couple of centuries because of a white great-grandfather and an African great-grandmother. We don't know her name, we just know she was free. The great-grandfather, his name was Jonas Pope. Jonas Pope was considered a subsistence farmer, but he also bought land in the surrounding counties of Northampton in Halifax, so he had some money. I

believe he might have passed out this land or some of this land to Elias Pope, Dr. Pope's grandfather. Because of this land ownership in the family, we know that Dr. Pope was born into some type of wealth. When Jonas Salih Pope died, the newspaper reported that he was the richest man in the county. We don't know much about his childhood, but we do have Dr. Pope's father's freedom paper."

As we moved through the home it was fascinating to learn about the family roots, "His first wife's name was Lydia. She was born in 1868, in Wynton, North Carolina, which isn't too far from Northampton County. Lydia's father, James Walden, was in a Union cavalry regiment during the Civil War and helped co-found a school still in Wynton, North Carolina today."

Dr. Pope's first wife died young, his family continued to grow and have many connections to our enduring institutions, "Dr. Pope had two daughters with his second wife, Delia. Ruth and Evelyn, Evelyn was born in 1908, and Ruth in 1910. Dr. Pope and his family were a part of civic and political activities. Dr. Pope was a mason, and he belonged to the Prince Hall Lodge. We also believe that Delia was a part of the Eastern Stars, she had a cosmetology business and was trained in the Madam CJ Walker method. Daughter Evelyn was a librarian, she retired as the dean of library sciences at North Carolina Central University. Ruth



was a school teacher, taught home economics. Both of them went to Shaw, and both of them went to Columbia in New York to get their master's degrees."

The location of the home is a story within itself, "This was the color line. Middle-class people, businesses put their houses on the front of south Wilmington street. Then behind Dr. Pope's house, which would have been Stronachs Alley, where working class African Americans thrived and engaged

in intellectual pursuits. Dr. Pope bought the land 122 years ago."

It does not take long to move through the well maintained and quaint home. As we wrapped up the tour I had questions for Hazel about being a museum educator in such a history and overlooked home, "We get a lot of people, a diverse range of people from different political backgrounds. Different walks of life coming in and learning about Dr. Pope and the neighborhood. Different people

coming in with different types of information, we hear a lot of comments when we talk about fusion politics and the race massacre in Wilmington and how that's intertwined with Dr. Pope running for mayor. We talk about the differences between Republican and Democrat at that time... I use this house as a jumping off point to tell the history of not only Dr. Pope but, but Raleigh, North Carolina in general. This house, you can talk about so much history here. You can tell the story of other people's lives here because this house itself has been here for a very long time and became a museum. There's really nothing left of the third ward because of how it's been developed."

We discussed the impact the City of Raleigh's decision to put resources into preservation has had on the community, "I'm very thankful for the fact that the city of Raleigh is beginning to invest in the black history of Raleigh because when I began, in 2019 as a museum educator, first of all,

I didn't know about the city of Raleigh Museum. I didn't know about the Pope House. I didn't know anything about Dr. Pope. I didn't know that he was the first licensed African American doctor in North Carolina. One of the first, and he was in the first class. I'm very thankful that Top Green exists and it's becoming a historical center for black Raleighites. I am thankful to have the Turner House. The Turner House is another historic house that is operated by a descendant of the Turner family. And just like the Pope House, a lot of the original items belong to that family. They have a very long history. I'm thankful for the friends of Oberlin for keeping up the fight to preserve the history of Oberlin Park, because these places are important. They are significant to the community."

Hazel concluded, "We are stewards of this, this house. I do my best to keep the grounds clear. I do my best to represent this family. Telling the truth and being honest if I don't know something. I don't do it by myself. Many museum educators who are dedicated, who really love this house, and who want to see this house grow have helped. I'm very thankful, especially to the Friends of the City of Raleigh Museum and other Pope House managers who worked here, because, without them, I wouldn't be able to build upon this museum, to build upon programming. I'm very happy that I don't have to start from nothing. I really do stand on the shoulders of other previous museum educators and managers."

If you're interested in learning more two programs are happening in November. November 15th, come learn about the St. Agnes Hospital and Dr. Lawson A. Scruggs, who was in Dr. Pope's graduating class. November 16, is a specialized tour with Shaw University's archives. They have medical school items, and will be talking about medicines in the 19th and early 20th century.

Dr. Marilyn Hughes Gaston: A Pioneer in Medicine

By: Jordan Meadows

Staff Writer

Dr. Marilyn Hughes Gaston, a pioneering physician, educator, and public health leader, dedicated her life to improving the healthcare of underserved communities, particularly minority and low-income families. Born in Cincinnati, Ohio in 1939, Gaston grew up in a familial environment that valued determination and a commitment to social equality.

Dr. Gaston faced numerous obstacles as a young girl, including racial prejudice and economic hardship. Her passion for medicine burned brightly. By the age of 9, she had set her sights on becoming a doctor. In 1960, Gaston graduated from Miami University with a degree in Zoology, and soon after, she enrolled in the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine. She was one of only six women in her class, and the only African American woman.

After completing her medical degree in 1964, Dr. Gaston finished her internship at Philadelphia General Hospital, followed by a pediatric residency at the Children's Hospital Medical Center. During these formative years, her growing interest in pediatric care found its focus when she encountered sickle cell disease (SCD) during her internship. This disease, which causes chronic anemia and severe pain due to abnormal sickle-shaped red blood cells, became the cornerstone of her future research



and clinical work.

Dr. Gaston's first direct encounter with sickle cell disease came during a routine admission of a baby with a swollen hand. The baby had no signs of trauma, and Gaston initially could not explain the swelling. Her supervising resident suggested testing for sickle cell disease, a condition Gaston had not fully considered.

When the test came back positive, the child's condition was traced to a sickle cell-related infection. The incident had a profound effect on Dr. Gaston and inspired her to become an expert in the disease, setting her on a path to groundbreaking re-

search and advocacy.

Her work on sickle cell disease would go on to shape public health policy in significant ways. In 1986, Dr. Gaston published a groundbreaking study that demonstrated the effectiveness of early intervention for infants diagnosed with sickle cell disease. Her research showed that administering prophylactic penicillin to these infants could prevent the life-threatening infections that were a common complication of the disease.

This discovery led to national legislation that funded and promoted newborn screening for sickle cell disease, which has since saved countless lives—especially for minority patients. Within a year of the publication, forty states adopted screening programs, marking a major victory for Dr. Gaston and public health.

The success of Dr. Gaston's work was not limited to the United States. Her research on sickle cell disease and its management became influential worldwide, with data from African nations supporting the efficacy of penicillin therapy. This global impact culminated in her receiving the prestigious National Medical Association (NMA) Scroll of Merit in 1999, and several honorary degrees, in recognition of her tireless advocacy for health equity and her scientific contributions.

In addition to her research achievements, Dr. Gaston made history in 1990 by becoming the first African American woman to direct

a public health service bureau in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. As the director of the Bureau of Primary Health Care, she managed a \$5 billion budget, overseeing healthcare services for 12 million Americans, particularly those from underserved communities. In this role, she worked to ensure that those who had long been excluded from quality healthcare services received the care they needed.

Dr. Gaston's impact on public health was not only felt in the policies she helped shape but also in the lives she touched through her advocacy and mentorship. Upon her retirement in 2001, the staff of the Bureau of Primary Health Care presented her with data from a prophylactic penicillin program implemented in Africa.

Throughout her career, Dr. Gaston received numerous honors, including every award given by the Public Health Service, and was celebrated by the NMA with the Lifetime Achievement Award. Her legacy extends beyond these accolades through the Marilyn Hughes Gaston Scholarship, established at the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine. The scholarship supports underprivileged minority students pursuing medical degrees.

Through her work, Dr. Gaston not only changed the lives of countless individuals with sickle cell disease but also paved the way for future generations of minority healthcare leaders.

BLACK UNC MED

Continued from page 5

in Chemistry from Howard University, she made history as the first African American woman to be admitted to the UNC School of Medicine. After completing her pediatrics residency at the George Washington University Children's Hospital National Medical Center, she further advanced her education by obtaining a Master of Public Health (MPH) from Johns Hopkins University.

Dr. Newby-Owens worked as a pediatric consultant and the Director of Public Health in multiple areas, including Portsmouth, VA, Virginia Beach, Norfolk, Eastern Shore, and Chesapeake. One of her most significant contributions was pioneering the establishment of federally funded community health centers in Portsmouth and Virginia Beach, which continue to serve local communities today.

The Black Alumni Experience Project is a collaborative effort that spans multiple generations of students, faculty, and alumni. Leaders like Candace Barr and Imani Sweatt, who first envisioned the project in 2021, passed the responsibility on to other students, like Dr. Ahlina Archibald (Class of '24), who worked tirelessly to conduct interviews, write transcripts, and dig through archival materials.

Founded in 1879, UNC-Chapel Hill became the first public university in the United States in 1793, and the medical school, though officially established in 1879, had roots in medical instruction dating back to before the Civil War. Among the notable milestones in its history was the admission of the first female student in 1915 and its first African American student, Oscar Diggs, in 1951—over 155 years after its opening.

The 1960s and 1970s were transformative decades for both UNC School of Medicine and the broader medical community. During this time, the number of underrepresented minority students in medical schools across the United States grew from about 1% to 16% by 1976. Today, it's about a quarter of all students.

You can check out the Black Alumni Experience Project at www.med.unc.edu/md/baep.



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NEIGHBORHOODS

Continued from page 1

people worked at a local Chrysler factory, known as Dodge Main, in the 1950s. By 1980, the year the factory closed, the workforce was just a fraction of that number, and the population had plummeted. Polish Americans were slowly moving out, and Hamtramck became a gateway for new arrivals from Yemen, Bangladesh, Bosnia and elsewhere.

Still a gritty, dense community of just 2 square miles, Hamtramck remains defined by two-story flats with small yards and narrow paths between homes. Today, General Motors makes electric vehicles at a plant that straddles Hamtramck and Detroit, and the population has rebounded to 27,000, 20% higher than in 2010 and holding steady, though nowhere near the peaks of the early 20th century when it was double.

Median household income was \$40,000 in 2023 compared to \$71,000 statewide, the Census Bureau said.

A remarkable cultural change
Now, the mayor and city council members are all Muslim. A stretch of Holbrook Street was formally renamed Palestine Avenue during the Israel-Hamas war. Amar Pizza, influenced by Bangladeshi tastes, was named one of the best pizzerias in America last year by The New York Times.

St. Ladislaus Catholic Church, where a future pope had visited, is closed and for sale, while calls to Muslim daily prayer are amplified.

"Sometimes they'll wake me up at 6 a.m. because it's on a loudspeaker," Knox said. "I'm Christian so when they pray in Yemeni I pray in my spiritual language."

She couldn't recall exactly what drove her Black family out of Hamtramck when she was a child. Knox said she applied to join the lawsuit settlement and was selected for one of the last three houses, moving from nearby Detroit in November.

"I do reflect about the history," Knox said. "I believe I was put here for a reason. I can't explain it. ... I'm already 70 and just startin' all over again."

Hamtramck isn't trying to cover up its past. A park honors the late Sarah Sims Garrett, the lawsuit's lead plaintiff, and a monument there describes the long struggle to overcome discrimination.

Her son, Dwydell Garrett, 59, also lives in a house granted to him through the settlement. Memories of his mother inspired his return.

"It's a very special honor to have someone raise me as not being bitter for things that went on," Garrett said. "I can't hold a grudge."

Community

Connecting Our Roots: FamFest 2025 Black History Event In Harnett County

By Ms. Jheri Worldwide

Staff Writer

If you know Desi L. Campbell, you know him as a historian and educator deeply committed to using the past to illuminate the present. He doesn't just utilize these skills for his own family; he empowers others to do the same. Campbell recently hosted the first FamFest of 2025 at the Harnett County Commons in Lillington, NC, on February 9th, bringing the rich history of the region to life.

The Harnett County African American Heritage Center played a vital role in the event, showcasing a wealth of research through documents, family trees, obituaries, and other historical artifacts. The Center's mission is clear: to empower, educate, and



enlighten the African American community with the tools and resources necessary to explore and celebrate the rich history of their ancestors in Harnett County and surrounding areas. FamFest provided a perfect platform for this mission, allowing attendees to connect with their heritage in a tangible and meaningful way.

FamFest 2025 continues its journey in Eastern Wake County on February 23rd at 2PM at the Zebulon Community Center. Take some time to honor the past and empower your future with knowledge and understanding. These events offer a unique opportunity to delve into your family history, connect with your community, and gain a deeper appreciation for the contributions of African Americans in the region.



MaryAnn Black Distinguished Health Equity Symposium

On Friday evening over 400 people attended the MaryAnn Black Symposium at the Durham Convention Center. The keynote speaker was NC Senator Natalie Murdock. There were also poster presentations regarding community health and health policy and a panel discussion led by Deborah Holt Noel. *Mathias Bishop Photo*

N.C. Considers Bill To Invest In Bitcoin

By Liz Napolitano

Decrypt

North Carolina lawmakers are considering a proposal to invest public funds into Bitcoin exchange-traded products.

The bill, filed Monday by Rep. Deborah Ross (D-NC), calls for the State Treasurer to invest up to 10% of money from North Carolina's funds and retirement systems into Bitcoin ETPs. That means the state could pour more than \$10 billion into funds built around the world's oldest cryptocurrency.

Although the draft legislation doesn't refer to Bitcoin by name, it calls for the State Treasurer to invest in exchange-traded products tracking digital assets with a minimum average market capitalization of \$750 billion over the past twelve months.

Only one digital asset fits the bill, as of this writing: Bitcoin

More than a dozen states have put forth bills to invest public funds in digital assets such as Bitcoin or stablecoins, with Montana, Maryland, and Kentucky filing such bills just last week. The scope and depth of

those proposed investments differs from state to state, however, with some enabling direct investments into cryptocurrencies and some even mentioning Bitcoin by name.

North Carolina has previously propelled pro-crypto bills through its legislature. In 2023, its House of Representatives passed legislation that would prohibit government bodies in the state from accepting central payments denominated in central bank digital currencies, or CBDCs—a form of virtual asset controlled by a state that is opposed by some privacy advocates and crypto-

natives.

Not all legislators in North Carolina are supportive of cryptocurrencies, however. Lawmakers last year proposed a bill that would outlaw or introduce stricter regulations on digital assets mining in three parts of the state: Henderson, Polk, and Rutherford Counties, local news outlet NC Newsline reported.

The State Treasurer may invest directly in the Bitcoin exchange-traded products or rely on indirect third-party investment management arrangements, according to the bill.

Alarming Stat About Suicide & Students

By Cash Michaels

Contributing Writer

If you're the parent of an African-American middle school student, please take note.

According to a new study from UNC researchers, one-in-four Black middle school students have had thoughts of suicide, 1-in-6 "made plans to take their own lives, and 1-in-10" actually made a suicide attempt.

These are just some of the findings recently published in the *Journal of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry*.

Based on information derived from 7,643 "self-identifying" Black youth for the study titled "The Factors Associated with Suicide Risk Behavior Outcomes Among Black Middle School Adolescents," researchers further found that "...28% of Black middle school students nationally have reported suicidal thoughts or behaviors..."

From the "Plain Language Summary" of the report, *Suicide rates have alarmingly increased for early*

adolescent Black youth, and exploring factors that inform suicide risk behavior outcomes is necessary for this population.

...the authors found that approximately 28% of Black middle school adolescents reported some form of suicidality with higher odds experienced among female participants. Other factors associated with suicidality included carrying a weapon, being bullied, being cyberbullied, and reporting lower grades in school.

The stunning report adds that *Suicide rates for early adolescent self-identifying Black populations, aged 10 to 14 years, have extraordinarily risen in the United States over the last 2 decades, resulting in suicide becoming the second leading cause of death for this population. From 2003 to 2017, researchers noted significant upward trends in suicide rates for Black youth aged 5 to 14 years. Furthermore, Black youth aged 5 to 12 years were twice as likely as White youth to die by suicide.*

These alarming increases have

resulted in the acknowledgment and amplification of Black youth suicide as a national public health crisis. Researchers attribute these increases in suicidality to the disproportional experiences of racism, gendered racism, discrimination, and racial trauma found to increase suicide risk outcomes among Black youth populations.

Altogether, data indicate an increased risk of suicide for self-identifying Black adolescents, where race is acknowledged as a social construct. Despite the increased suicide rates for Black youth populations, less is known about the early adolescent or middle school population, necessitating an examination of this younger population.

The report summary continued, *Among Black youth aged 13 to 19 years, sex-based differences were identified with male suicidal thought and behavior (STB) rates increasing by 60% and female rates increasing by 182% between 2001 and 2017. These rates are alarming as individuals who have engaged in STBs are at high risk for future death by*

suicide. Specifically, among Black adolescents aged 12 to 14 years, researchers found a significant upward trend in suicide rates, with Black girls experiencing an annual percentage rate twice that of Black boys.

The UNC researchers add that because Black youth suicide is an "understudied" area of research, a ground-level approach aiming to build a more encompassing understanding of suicidality is necessary.



Wakaboomee Presents: Career Exposure Day

On Saturday about 45 local students attended the Wakaboomee Career Day at the Echo Center in Durham. The students heard from an author/publisher/entrepreneur; firefighter/EMT; corporate finance professional; architect; sales manager and SBI agent.

Medicaid Cuts—CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"Quite honestly, I have received hundreds of emails from constituents that have said, 'please do not repeal.' I have received zero asking me to repeal, which I think is very telling," said Idaho state Rep. Lori McCann, a Republican who represents a swing district in the northern part of the state.

McCann said she's interested in reining in Medicaid costs, but skeptical about a full expansion repeal. More than 89,000 Idahoans could lose their coverage if the state repeals its expansion, according to the latest numbers from the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare. McCann said she learned this month that only a fraction of those would qualify to buy discounted insurance on the state exchange.

"For the rest, what's going to happen to them? They will utilize the emergency rooms again, and we'll be back to the same problems we had prior to the Medicaid expansion."

Before President Barack Obama signed the Affordable Care Act into law in 2010, traditional Medicaid insurance was mainly available to children and their caregivers, people with disabilities and pregnant women. But under the ACA's Medicaid expansion program, states can extend coverage to adults making up to 138% of the federal poverty level — about \$21,000 a year for a single person — and the federal government will cover 90% of the costs for those newly eligible enrollees. States kick in the rest.

All but 10 states, most of them controlled by Republicans, have taken the deal. Nationwide, more than 21 million people with low incomes get their health insurance because of expanded Medicaid eligibility.

But the Trump administration and a Republican-controlled Congress are seriously considering options for shrinking Medicaid as they look for ways to pay for extending tax cuts enacted during Trump's first term in office. Proposals include reducing the federal 90% funding match,

which could shift a greater chunk of Medicaid spending onto states, and greenlighting extra hurdles such as requiring enrollees to work in order to qualify for coverage.

The swirl of uncertainty at the federal level is supercharging efforts by Republican state lawmakers who have long opposed the program, despite its popularity.

If Congress reduces the 90% federal match rate for Medicaid expansion, more than 3 million adults could immediately lose their health coverage.

That's because nine states have

so-called trigger laws that would automatically end Medicaid expansion if federal funding is cut: Arizona, Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, Montana, New Hampshire, North Carolina, Utah and Virginia. Three additional states — Iowa, Idaho and New Mexico — would require the government to take cost-saving steps to ease the financial impact of federal cuts.

Alker is skeptical that Congress would be able to get such legislation passed before most state legislative sessions end this spring. But if cuts are made, the impacts could start showing up in 2026.

STATE BRIEFS

Continued from page 1

class lives as career public servants, to abandon government employment in search of living incomes.

In North Carolina, the public sector-private sector pay gap — that is the gap between what someone with the education it takes to be a public school teacher can earn in the public and private sectors — is among the nation's largest. Even states like Alabama and Mississippi can rightfully claim a much higher "funding effort" when it comes to teacher pay.

And now, as NC Newsline's Ahmed Jallow reported last week, it looks like the situation is going to get even worse. Thanks to the never-ending cost surges that plague America's madly overpriced health care system, and the General Assembly's refusal to provide adequate funding, the State Health Plan Board of Trustees has a \$500 million deficit to close. As a result, the trustees have made clear that they intend to impose significant new premium hikes on employees, retirees and their families to close the gap.

While the trustees have expressed an admirable desire to spare the state's lowest paid employees from some of the pain, the premium hikes under consideration in a "moderate increase" scenario for middle and higher paid employees still figure to cost already struggling workers hundreds of dollars per year.

Such increases would be one thing if employee pay had been keeping up with the cost of living, but they're quite another in a situation in which veteran schoolteachers with decades of experience are bringing home half what they could make in the private sector. As Tamika Walker Kelly, president of the N.C. Association of Educators observed, the increases are but the latest in seemingly endless series of actions by state leaders that are "...pricing our educators out of the profession."

Of course, as noted, there are other maddening factors at work in this situation. In addition to the legislature's cheapstate funding practices, soaring health care costs are another contributing factor.

As Ardis Watkins, executive director of the State Employees Association of North Carolina, has argued forcefully and persuasively of late, costs are an area in which lawmakers and State Health Plan leaders could be doing much more to demand greater transparency and cost control in provider reimbursements.



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Church

Prayer As A Health Benefit

So, in what ways is prayer associated with better health?

Crystal Park, PhD, a professor of psychological sciences and a researcher at the Spirituality, Meaning, and Health Lab at the University of Connecticut in Storrs, prefaces this discussion noting that there are limits to how it's possible to empirically study prayer and its effects on health.

How do you isolate the effect of prayer alone on health? People who pray often and are active with their

faith communities might be making generally healthier decisions, such as taking fewer risks or avoiding smoking and drinking. So if people who pray more have healthier outcomes, is prayer causing that, or the other behaviors? Researchers can control for some of that with data analysis, but not all of it.

It's also possible that people are praying too erratically — in crises only, for example — for researchers to know just what effects it can have on well-being, Dr. Park says.

With those caveats in mind, the research that has been done clearly points to a correlation between prayer and well-being. Here are several ways in which a regular spiritual practice may improve or protect your emotional health (and even strengthen physical health).

- Offer a bigger sense of purpose
- Provide social support
- Elevate mood
- Help you cope with difficulties
- Enhance gratitude
- Promote mindfulness

Obituaries

ANITA RENEE DAVIS PEARSON

Anita Renee Davis Pearson's journey began on Nov. 4, 1958, when Louise Elliott Davis gave birth to a beautiful baby girl that she affectionately named Anita Renee. Her father, James William Davis, and mother Louise, devoted their life to guiding her with poise and pride. She began to bloom early in life as a youth involved in the community and an active, dedicated member of her home church: Love Grove AME Zion Church, Sanford, NC.

Anita matured into a very polished, astute young lady attending the schools of Harnett Co., NC, where she graduated from the former Benhaven High School, Olivia, NC, in 1976. Her aspirations led her to North Carolina Central University, Durham, NC, where her story began to blossom. She majored in History and excelled at her studies, pledging to her dear Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. in November 1978. This foundation served as the stepping stone to accomplish her dreams towards becoming a lawyer, and she enrolled at the University of North Carolina School of Law, Chapel Hill, NC, in 1980.

Fulfilling her dreams of becoming a practicing attorney, Anita began her career with the Law Offices of Currie, Simmons, Pugh, and Davis, where after graduation, she quickly distinguished herself as a wise, capable, and knowledgeable force in the field. Her acumen quickly led her to open her own law firm in Raleigh, NC, focusing on Real Estate and Estate Planning, where he partnered with several established attorneys. Through her practice, Anita supported her clients with the utmost determination and efficiency for over 30 years. In that time, she met and married prominent businessman and insurance agency owner, Dolphus Pearson, Jr. Together, they



forged a legacy that produced several business professional across industry, time, and space.

Her life had begun to make a vast impact, one that Anita had dreamed of since she was a little girl. She and Dolphus birthed two children, Megan and Dolphus, III, known as "D", and began shifting their legacies to them. Anita had accomplished things that some would consider unfathomable; however, her imprint did not stop here. She continued her deep-rooted commitment to her AKA Sorority by serving two consecutive terms as the Chapter President of Alpha Theta Omega Chapter in Raleigh (1994-1995 and 1995-1996). Under her administration, she established the chapter's nonprofit organization ATO, Inc., where she served as Chair of the Board of Directors. In later years, she continued to support the chapter and Sorority by serving in the Order of the Baselei, Chair of the Rituals Committee, Chair of the Mortgage Burning Committee, and a member of the Social Justice Committee, where she adamantly advocated for voter rights and transparency within our community.

Anita's community engagement and selfless dedication also extended

to her church denomination, the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church. Her reach in the AME Zion Church was a testament to her faith in Christ and her willingness to serve wherever she was called. Over her lifetime, she held many positions at the local church, district conference, and general levels of the denomination. Her influence was felt on a denomination-wide level as a Connectional Trustee since 2012; a liaison to the Zion Benefits Services, Inc.; and a facilitator, trainer, and rusted consultant and confidant to bishops and leaders throughout the denomination for decades. Upon her transition, Anita was a member of Amanah-Rush Metropolitan AME Zion Church, Raleigh, NC.

There is so much more to say about the woman that Anita became. She is a light to all who had the opportunity to meet her and a source of strength to those she leaves behind. Though we all must meet the same destiny, there are those that simply never die, because we will not let their legacies do so. Her path to her eternal home in Glory was paved by her parents, and her husbands: Dolphus Pearson, Jr., (d. 1999) and Vernon Royster (d. 2019).

Those left to cherish her memory are he daughter: Megan Pearson-Mason, and her beloved son-in-law: Roderick Mason of Knightdale, NC; her son: Dolphus Pearson, III, and fiancée, Kennedy Cuspard of Cape Girardeau, MO; her dotting grandchildren: Amelia Mason, Averie Mason, Dru Pearson, and Dolphus Pearson, IV; her lifelong "sister-friends:" Lenora Berryman, Regina Strickland, Loretta Jefferson, Denise Lennon, Deborah Holland (Michael), Avis Saunders, Gwendolyn Burrell (Gary); her sister-in-law: Joyce Perry of Raleigh, NC; her nephews, a host of colleagues, sorority sisters, extended family, and dear friends.

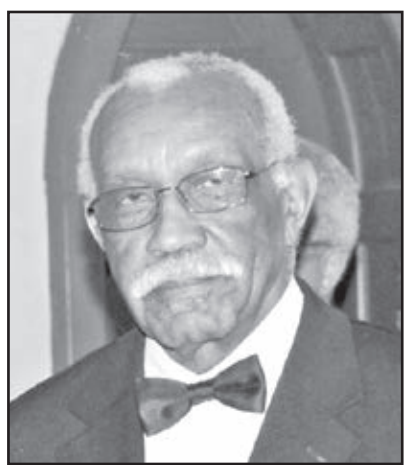
Obituaries

GEORGE W. FLEMMING

George William Fleming, a wise and dedicated man who exemplified hard work, devotion to family, community, and church, passed away at his home on February 3, 2025 leaving an indelible mark on all who knew him.

George was born on April 8, 1933, in Pamplico, South Carolina, to the late William and Alverta Fleming of Clinton, North Carolina. He was the youngest of six children. At the age of two, the family moved to Clinton, where they permanently resided. Growing up, George split his time between academic pursuits and working on the family farm with his father. He attended Sampson High School before enrolling at North Carolina Agricultural & Technical State University for two years.

In pursuit of serving his country, George enlisted in the United States Army, where he received an honorable discharge. He then attended and graduated from St. Augustine's College in Raleigh, North Carolina, with a Bachelor of Arts in Business Education in 1960. George was a remarkable student leader, holding many leadership positions including President of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Incorporated. He was also awarded the Senior Superlative for Most Handsome and served as the



North Carolina State President of the National Education Association and business manager of his senior class.

George's dedication to education continued as he taught business at Charles E. Perry High School in Roseboro, North Carolina, for two years. He then returned to St. Augustine's College as the Director of Public Relations and Alumni Affairs. Furthering his own education, George earned a Master of Public Affairs from North Carolina State University in 1973, and a certificate from the Government Executives Institute in 1980 from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Business.

George worked for the North Carolina Department of Social Services, rising to the position of Chief Officer, and retired after 30 years of dedicated service in 1995.

A faithful member of First Baptist Church-Wilmington Street until his illness in 2011, George served his church and community tirelessly. He was a Deacon for 25 years and the Chair of the Deacon Board for eleven years. George was a Bible scholar who taught Senior Ministry and also served as the community photographer.

George is survived by his loving and devoted wife of 57 years, Shirley Rogers Fleming; two sons, George Christopher Morris (Tarcia) Columbia, South Carolina and Dominique Patrick Noel (Chalice) Raleigh, North Carolina; and three grandsons, 1st Lieutenant Jordan Christopher (Army) Oahu, Hawaii; Justin Cameron (North Carolina A&T State University) Greensboro, North Carolina; and Jaiden Christian Raleigh, North Carolina; two sisters Bernice Godwin and Alverta Groom both of Washington, DC and a host of family and friends.

George W. Fleming's legacy of wisdom, hard work, and dedication will be cherished and remembered by all who had the honor of knowing him. May he rest in peace.

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Featuring

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16 February 2025 at 4:30 p.m.

Holy Name of Jesus Cathedral
Raleigh, North Carolina

Practical Biblical Principles

New Wine In Old Bottles

Read: Matthew 9:14-17

By: John L. Caldwell, Pastor
New Jerusalem Baptist Cathedral

It was not long after Jesus had healed the lame man, who was let down through the roof, in his hometown, Capernaum. This healing caused a stir (Matthew 9:3). Jesus had healed the man of his sin and his lame condition. As Jesus left the area, He saw Matthew, the tax collector, sitting in his office. Jesus said to him, "Follow Me." And Matthew did.

Matthew had a dinner in his home with Jesus, alone with other tax collectors. This event gave rise for the Pharisees to ask Jesus 's disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors?"

When Jesus heard that, He said to them, "Those who are well have no need for a physician, but those who are sick. Here Jesus is referring to spiritual sickness (sin) (Matthew 9:13). Jesus did not come to patch up Judaism, but to introduce the Gospel of Grace, a wholly new thing. Jesus did not come to reform people but to redeem them. The Jews of that day had no clue they needed to be redeemed for they were of Abraham's seed. They believed this to be their "slam-dunk," when it came to being accepted and favored by God.

The new push to start introducing the gospel of grace to the Jews all started when the disciple of John came to Jesus, following the Pharisees need to know, and asked Him, "Why don't Your disciples fast?" We do. Christ knew then it was time to start teaching grace to the Jews. This turned out to be like speaking a foreign language to them. These Old Testament believers never heard of Grace. Jesus knew that if He started marrying Grace to the Law, it would be like sewing a new patch of cloth on an old piece. Knowing that the patch would never hold (Matthew 9:16). The old cloth

represents Judaism giving them a promise of a Land filled with milk and honey, and the new cloth represents the promise of living in the kingdom of God. This is totally a new teaching never heard before by the Jews.

In a spiritual sense, Jesus began comparing the Mt. Sinai Covenant of the Old Testament with a New Covenant which is about to be made when He goes to the cross (Matthew 9:15). In an attempt to help the Jews to understand Jesus gave the illustrations of sewing a new patch cloth on an old garment (Matthew 9:16). The new patch will not adhere to the old cloth. Putting new wine into old leather-skin bottles (Matthew 9:17), the old wine skin bottle will not hold the new wine when it begins to ferment and form gases, thus bursting the old wine skin. Here the new wine is the Holy Spirit. The wine skins are the believers. The Jews never heard of the Holy Spirit. So the introduction of this New teaching of Grace and the Holy Spirit is all new stuff as far as the Old- Testament believes were concerned.

The same is still true today for many Christian church-goers. They have trouble accepting what might appear as a new revelation from the Bible, as opposed to what was taught to them during their upbringing in the church. What Jesus taught from the Old Testament, was not new. Jesus just gave the original interpretation of the Old Testament scriptures that was missed and overlooked because the Jews somehow began to worship God with rituals instead of obedience, humility, and kindness one to another. God told them, I rather have your obedience and mercy rather than your sacrifice (rituals, (Matthew 9:11; Samuel 15:22). Some of God's children are not able to process new information, especially from the Bible due to the fact what they already know about the Bible is enough and thus their old beliefs are almost set in stone. And they are fear-

ful that what they have believed for years is wrong. Whereas they should take the posture of always wanting to simply update their old beliefs. This is what Jesus was doing with the Old Testament believers. They did not want to believe that they misinterpreted the Law of Moses which was so sacred to them. The same is true today for there are many Christians who do not want to believe that what their parents or old church taught them was in error or wrong. To do so would be, in a sense, disgraceful or a rejection of the folks they loved who taught them in the past. They do not want to think they were taught wrong by their parents and the church, as they grow up. Such subjects as divorce, forgiveness, judging others, the reality of hell, the Holy Spirit, what love is, and other Kingdom of Heaven teachings are all redefined by Jesus in His "New cloth and New wine teachings." What stops the learning process, and what makes things worse, is when they grow up, they stop wanting to learn, because the exciting world had gotten their attention.

The Bible tells us we are to "spread our tent pegs" This means to make room for more learning of God's Word, etc.

The Kingdom of Heaven teachings are expansive because the Holy Spirit is forever exposing the child of God to new things. New wine in new wineskins means more Holy Spirit in the child of God as they grow in the Spirit. A child of God never stops growing in the Spirit. When Jesus told us that the Holy Spirit will lead us into all truths, He was telling us that it will take our entire lives to take in the all the truths of Grace, Love, and the Kingdom of Heaven. It would behoove all of God's children to train their hearts and minds to be flexible, thus, making it easier for the mind to take in new and additional information revealed in the Bible and all therein.

SERMON of the WEEK



Touch Me Lord Jesus

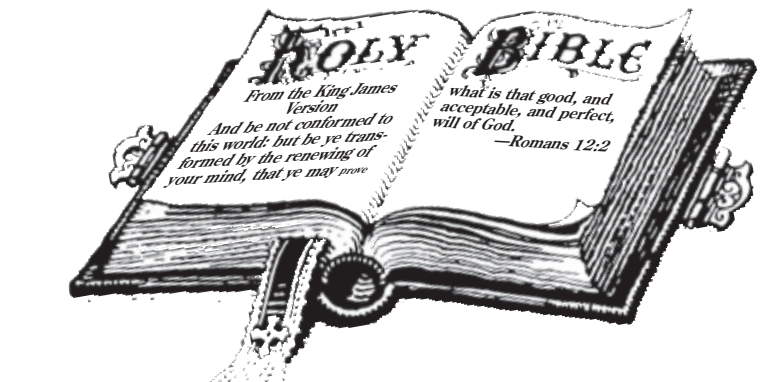
By Dr. Derrick L. Sauls

We live in a world where we often sing the song, "Let us all go back - To the old-time way." Yet, we must realize that we grow into the grace of God. As children of believers in Christ Jesus, we can tell the story of how Grandma and Momma talked about how the saints got together. They would get together on Sunday and during harvest time and praise the Lord all day.

This leads me to this scripture, and I ask, "Do we let Jesus touch our children?" It is evident that in following the world, the world has taken over. Many are being led like sheep to slaughter. I know you have heard the news; families may be unable to care for their children and loved ones. Society is strangled by artificial intelligence, and the keyboard's keystroke can determine whether you are in or out. But today I recommend a touch from Jesus.

To follow homiletics, I will emphasize three points. These points follow the social dogma of our society, whereby we have itchy ears, yet not hearing God.

Point one: In following the scrip-



ture, true love means wanting the best for your children. We all know they need to be blessed. Therefore, in understanding blessings, why not take them to the Blessers named Jesus? These parents in verse 15 surrounded Jesus with their children; I can see them saying, please just touch them. If Jesus were at the altar, I know the word would be all over the neighborhood that Jesus is at Lincoln Park Holiness Church.

Point two: There will always be naysayers and haters. As parents, we know how we raise our children; others will see Christ in them. The disciples did not understand that Jesus is empowering His spirit in the children for they are innocent. They did not understand. The disciples, like haters, will tell your children you don't need to pray; your parents are old-fashioned.

Along with, living your own life, do not let them cut off your fun. That is when the trouble starts. Those haters are not there to comfort your children when they overdo. They are not there when the jail cell shuts behind them. They are not there when the child is homeless with an infant on the street. They are not there;

however, I remind you Jesus is, and all they must do is call him and get a touch.

Point three: In verse 17, Jesus was letting the disciples and everyone else know that you must believe and have the innocence of a child to trust God to receive the kingdom. Jesus said, let the children come do not forbid them. When your child comes home and says, "I want to go to church." Do you get up and say that is a good idea, I need a touch today. Do not be like disciples and become negative because you also need a touch. Ironically, even Michael Jackson knew the innocence of a child was pure. In his song "Child's Heart," he wrote, "Like a child so peaceful and so carefree."

As I close, it is like the song by the Angelic Gospel Singers that all the adults know. When you were touched as a child and now you are old, the song is "Touch Me Lord Jesus." It is time for Families to go to Jesus and just sing, "Touch Me Lord Jesus." How many today have faced trials and tribulations - going down on bent knees and whispering or cried out touch Lord, please touch Lord!



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Sports

Shaw University Splits Final Home Games Against Livingstone At Home

By: Steve Worthy

Photographer

Raleigh, N.C. (February 8, 2025)—Shaw University wrapped up its final home games of the season with a split result against Livingstone College on Saturday, February 8, 2025. The women's team secured an impressive 88-77 victory, while the men's team fell short in a close 86-82 battle.

Shaw Women Dominate in Season Finale

The Shaw Bears' women's basketball team delivered a commanding performance, defeating Livingstone 88-77 in front of an energetic home

crowd.

Leading the charge was Keibra Hopkins (4), who aggressively drove to the basket against Livingstone's Bria Griffith (2) in the second half, setting the tone for Shaw's offensive attack. D'Azyha Atkinson (25) showcased her finishing ability, scoring a crucial layup over Breasia Colt (34). Additionally, Zaniyyah Ross-Barnes (5) contributed to the team's strong offensive execution, looking for key shots against Samiyah Briggs (1).

With this win, Shaw capped off their home schedule on a high note, setting momentum for postseason play.

Shaw Men Fall Short in Hard-Fought Contest

The men's game was a tightly contested matchup, but Livingstone managed to hold off Shaw's late push to secure an 86-82 victory.

Shaw's Jermaine Vereen (20) showed his shooting prowess, launching a contested jump shot over Livingstone's Kingsley Ijeoma (34) in the first half. Trent McIntyre (0) attacked the rim aggressively, driving past Sila Tako (33) as Shaw looked to gain control early. Dee Barnes (55) also made his presence felt, battling against Jacob Hunkins (44) in the post.

Despite a strong effort, Shaw

couldn't complete the comeback, allowing Livingstone to escape with the win.

Looking Ahead

With the regular season winding down, both Shaw teams will now turn their attention to the postseason. The women's team will look to build off their dominant performance, while the men's team will aim to bounce back and make a deep tournament run.

As the Bears close the chapter on their home schedule, they will rely on their resilience and talent to make a statement in the final stretch of the season.



Fisk's Morgan Price Is First HBCU Gymnast To Score A Perfect 10!

By Caroline Price

Freelance Forbes Contributor

History made for Morgan Price of Fisk University. The junior gymnast earned a perfect score for her bar routine in a tri meet at Temple University on Saturday. With the score, Price etches her name in the record books for college gymnastics. Price becomes the first gymnast representing a Historically Black College or University (HBCU) to earn a perfect score in women's collegiate gymnastics.

The now-historic routine came in the third rotation for the Fisk Women's Gymnastics team. Price showcased her trademark clean skills and nailed her stellar full-twisting double-back dismount to the roar of her teammates. When the '10.0' officially flashed, the entire Bulldog gymnastics team excitedly swarmed Price.

Price's score shattered her previous career high of 9.90 on the event – but that's not all. In a career-meet for the junior, Price won every event but beam en route to a career-high all-around total. She didn't just win the all-around; she dominated the competition. With a 39.500 overall, Price topped the second-place gymnast by almost an entire point, a staggering margin in women's gymnastics.

The historic meet marks another highlight in Price's record-breaking career. Since Fisk University founded the first HBCU gymnastics program in 2022, Price has led the charge for HBCU gymnastics. In her freshman season, Price became the first HBCU gymnast to earn a 9.90, recording the score on bars in just week four of her rookie season. She also became the first HBCU gymnast to win an all-around title, claiming the win at Georgia. Later that season, she became a USAG First-Team All-American.

In year two, Price only got stronger. In week four, Price posted the then-highest score in HBCU history with a massive 9.95 on the balance beam. While she would go on to post personal bests throughout her sophomore season, the highlight came at the USAG National Championships later that spring.

On April 11, 2024, the sophomore made national headlines. Making history once again, Price won the USAG All-Around title to become the first college gymnastics National Champion from an HBCU program.

Reflecting on her monumental win, Price spoke with ABC News' Good Morning America later that month. "I'm very honored to be on such an amazing team, being part of the first-ever HBCU gymnastics team and being the first HBCU gymnast to win [an] all-around national title. It really means everything to me," she said.

Nearly a year later, she has made history again – this time during Black History Month. For Price, the opportunity to compete for a historically black school has been "an honor." A top recruit as a high school gymnast, Price initially committed to compete alongside her sister, Frankie Price, for the Arkansas Razorback gymnastics program. When Fisk created their historic gymnastics program in 2022, Price knew where she needed to be. Ultimately, she switched commitments and never looked back.

"I chose Fisk because it is the first HBCU with a gymnastics team; growing up in gymnastics, I rarely had teammates who looked like me," Price says in her Fisk University bio. "I wanted to be a part of history & inspire younger girls who want to attend a HBCU as well. I will forever cherish being a part of this team."

Next Up For HBCU Gymnastics:

Looking to watch Price and HBCU gymnastics go for more history? The Bulldogs take to the floor next week on Sunday, February 16, at the Brown Girls Do Gymnastics Invite. Fisk will take on Wilberforce, the other active HBCU Gymnastics program, and Greenville University, in a historic tri-meet on Wilberforce's home turf.

Sharpe Brothers Make NFL HOF History

By Kari Anderson

Yahoo Sports

When former Green Bay Packers wide receiver Sterling Sharpe was announced as a member of the Pro Football Hall of Fame, he made history. Sharpe and his brother, Hall of Fame tight end Shannon Sharpe, became the first pair of brothers to be enshrined in Canton.

Even better, Sterling's younger brother was the one who got to break the news to him in the first place. In a video shared by CBS Sports on social media, Shannon surprised his older brother Sterling with the news that he was part of the Class of 2025.

In the video, Sterling seemed completely unaware of why his brother was there.

"Welcome bro," Shannon said, to which Sterling replied, "To your house?" Shannon then revealed that he was welcoming his brother to the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

The two brothers were both emotional throughout the exchange; Sterling was nearly speechless.

"This is something I..." Sterling said, before trailing off. "Oh wow. I need a seat and a drink."



Shannon took the time to tell Sterling how proud he was of his brother. "To have this moment, and I've had some great moments in my professional life, this is

the proudest moment in my life," Shannon said.

Sterling said that he felt that same pride when Shannon became a Hall of Famer; he was part of the

Class of 2011.

"I felt like that when you went in, and you know I'm not a crier, but when you said that you were in and that weekend in Canton, man, ain't nothing topping that," Sterling said, to which Shannon replied, "This tops it."

Shannon, who is three years younger than Sterling, pointed out that his older brother had blazed his path. Sterling attended South Carolina and was drafted seventh overall in 1988 by the Packers, where he played for seven seasons before his career was cut short due to a neck injury.

"I'm happy, man, 'cause I finally get to follow you with something," Sterling said.

During Thursday's NFL Honors ceremony, Shannon introduced Sterling with a speech in which he called his brother his "hero."

"You taught me everything I know about sports, and a lot about life," Shannon said in the speech. "I never once lived in your shadow. I embraced it."

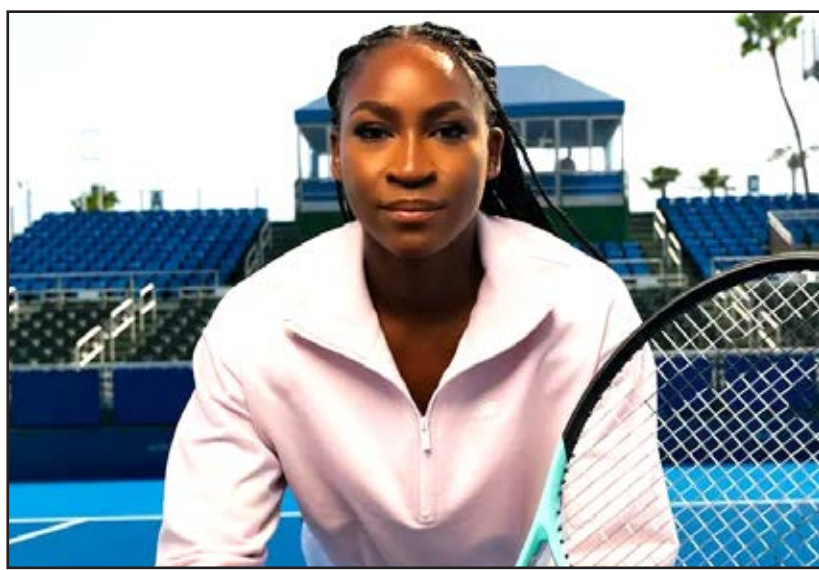
Along with Sterling Sharpe, the Hall of Fame honored three other members of the Class of 2025: tight end Antonio Gates, defensive end Jared Allen and cornerback Eric Allen.

Coco Gauff Donates \$100,000 To UNCF For A Scholarship Program At HBCUs

WASHINGTON (AP) — Tennis star Coco Gauff donated \$100,000 to UNCF to provide scholarships for students playing competitive tennis at historically Black colleges and universities.

UNCF will administer the Coco Gauff Scholarship Program, which was announced Tuesday.

"My family has a deep-rooted history with HBCUs, going all the way back to my great-great-grandfather. From aunts and uncles to cousins, HBCUs have played a huge role in shaping who we are," Gauff said. "Supporting UNCF in creating opportunities for student-athletes in tennis means a lot to me. As a young Black athlete, I understand how impactful it is to see people who look like me thriving



in both sports and education."

Gauff, a 20-year-old from Florida, won the 2023 U.S. Open singles championship and the 2024 French Open women's doubles title.

She is currently No. 3 in the WTA rankings.

"Her commitment not only showcases her dedication to education and athletics but also inspires the next generation of student-athletes to pursue their dreams," said Maurice Jenkins Jr., UNCF's executive vice president and chief development officer. "This gift reinforces the importance of supporting our young leaders and ensuring they have the resources necessary to succeed both on and off the court."

DOE Asks NCAA, High Schools To Erase The Records Set By Transgender Athletes

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Department of Education took another step Tuesday in advancing the Trump administration's new transgender policy for sports by asking the NCAA and a key high-school sports organization to restore titles, awards and records it says have been "misappropriated by biological males competing

in female categories."

The department's office of general counsel sent a letter requesting the changes to the National Federation of State High School Associations and the NCAA. In a news release, the department said the request was "entirely consistent with the NCAA's new policy."

The day after President Donald Trump signed an executive order last week aimed at banning transgender athletes from women's and girls sports, the NCAA changed its participation policy to restrict competition in women's sports to athletes who were assigned female at birth.

Neither the NCAA nor the high

school federation immediately returned emails from The Associated Press seeking comment.

The most obvious target for reallocation on the college level would come in women's swimming, where transgender swimmer Lia Thomas won the national title in the 500-yard freestyle in 2022.

FEBRUARY 22ND 2025

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Arts & Culture

Event Review: "Roots and Threads" with Stephen Satterfield

By Ms. Jheri Worldwide

Staff Writer

Raleigh was gifted wisdom last week in the form of "Roots and Threads: How Food and Textiles Shape Culture and Connection," a conversation with Stephen Satterfield, the visionary behind the Netflix special *High on the Hog*. Hosted by the Wilson College of Textiles and NC State University Libraries, this special event featured a keynote by Stephen Satterfield, the Wilson College of Textiles' 2025 John W. Pope Industrialist-in-Residence. Satterfield began his talk by sharing his experiences as a sommelier and

within the food industry. Recalling his brief time in college and experiences in culinary school in Portland, Oregon, he noted the irony of his presence on campus, stating, "This is what food can do for you."

A central theme of the conversation emerged early: "Depth, complexity, empathy—when we miss each other, it's because we don't understand each other. My work is building empathy through food. We all have to eat. It's our only shared cultural experience. Food is the basis of empathy." Satterfield then bridged this concept to his burgeoning interest in clothing and textiles, asserting, "We've identified

that emotion that is the foundation of empathy" and delving into the impact of capitalism, which, he argued, "has separated us from the craft, skill, and magic that goes into making clothes."

The conversation moved towards the concept of reclamation, with Satterfield emphasizing the urgent opportunity to support and seek out natural and sustainable fibers that will return to the earth unlike much of the fast fashion of today. When challenged regarding the prevalence of cheaper, mass-produced items, Satterfield countered, "We should be more skeptical about who is giving this message." This resonated deep-

ly with many audience members, myself included, given the hyper-consciousness surrounding spending and supporting ethical businesses—a topic frequently covered in *The Carolinian*. Satterfield's point about discerning the source of information is crucial. He continued, "When we are defenseless, we are open to exploitation. It alters our brain chemistry when we know there's something has come from." Satterfield also suggested, "People still manufacture clothes in North Carolina. We need to elevate these brands; we know who the villains are."

Satterfield's appearance at NC State was enhanced by catering

from Chef Joya and a vibrant audience Q&A. In response to a question about entrepreneurship, Satterfield offered insightful advice: "Brands have to assume the role of education. You need to look like a solution to a problem I didn't even know I had. It's all about story. How will you compete for market share of attention? People need a powerful emotional truth. People are hungry for truth that's revelatory." What's next for Stephen Satterfield is unclear however we will be watching whether on Netflix or here in North Carolina he is holding space for important conversations and we are here for it.



6 Hidden Messages In Kendrick Lamar's Super Bowl Performance

The Hill – Kendrick Lamar's Super Bowl halftime performance is growing in viewership hours after the big game, gaining more 11 million views since it aired Sunday night.

Lamar, who has won a Pulitzer Prize, is known for his storytelling, and his performance at Caesars Superdome sought to tell a story of Black Americans and their place within U.S. history.

While fans gathered in New Orleans rapped along to hits including "Humble" and the Grammy-winning diss-track "Not Like Us," Lamar's all-Black performance was filled with political references and Black history.

Here are six hidden meanings in Lamar's performance.

Uncle Sam / Uncle Tom

The start of Lamar's performance featured a cameo from award-winning actor Samuel L. Jackson. Known for his comedic timing and especially for his love of dropping the f-bomb, Jackson donned a red, white and blue suit with a top hat to introduce Lamar at "the Great American Game."

The characterization was one that offered a different narrative of what patriotic Uncle Sam, normally depicted as a white man, looks like.

But as Jackson emceed Lamar's performance, his role took on one of a different uncle: an Uncle Tom.

The term, which originates from Harriet Beecher Stowe's 1852 novel



"Uncle Tom's Cabin," refers to Black Americans who turn their backs on the Black community and culture and willingly embrace subservience to white Americans.

Jackson famously took on an Uncle Tom-themed character in 2012's "Django Unchained."

At one point during the performance, the actor accused Lamar of being "too loud, too reckless, too ghetto," voicing stereotypes often associated with Black Americans and hip-hop music.

The revolution

Early in his performance, Lamar speaks of "the revolution," telling the audience that "The revolution is about to be televised; You picked the

right time but the wrong guy."

The line was in reference to Gil Scott-Heron's 1971 poem "The Revolution Will Not Be Televised," which argues that change does not come from corporations but individuals, and that the media will not showcase the violence of racism.

But Lamar's "wrong guy" reference, some social media users speculated, was a direct attack on President Trump, who was in attendance Sunday.

While Trump won the support of several prominent hip-hop artists, including Lil Wayne and Kodak Black, Lamar has been known to criticize the president, including in his songs "The Heart Part 4" and "XXX."

Mass incarceration

The set for Lamar's performance sent its own message. As the rapper and his all-Black dancers spun around the field, it soon became clear they were performing in a prison yard.

The set was designed to highlight the issue of mass incarceration and the racial disparities of those behind bars. Black Americans are incarcerated at much higher rates than white Americans, even for the same crimes.

Though Lamar has never faced incarceration, he often raps about the carceral system's impact on Black Americans, such as his featured appearance on Beyoncé's song "Freedom," where he calls for "opening correctional gates in higher deserts."

Sunday's performance was not the first live show Lamar has used to highlight the disparities of the justice system.

At his 2016 Grammy's performance, he dressed in a prison uniform and led a chain gang of backup dancers across the stage as musicians performed in prison cells.

The American flag Lamar's backup dancers were dressed in red, white and blue, but if the message of the flag wasn't clear enough, they came together during "Humble" to form the image explicitly.

At one point during the line-up, the dancers all bent forward, lifting

their backs in the air. Many on social media theorized the move was meant to indicate how America was built on the backs of Black Americans during slavery.

Shortly after, the dancers separated, standing in two groups on either side of Lamar.

The image of the divided flag seemed to speak to political divisions around the nation, to which Lamar alludes with the line, "it's a cultural divide."

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The promise was never fulfilled, and the order is often raised in conversations around reparations for Black Americans.

Serena Williams

If fans were surprised to see Jack-

son join Lamar's performance, they were shocked when tennis legend Serena Williams took the stage to dance alongside Lamar's team.

Williams's appearance was a direct diss to her ex, Canadian rapper Drake, the subject of "Not Like Us."

But Williams, decked out in a royal blue tennis skirt and matching jacket, didn't just dance: She was crip walking.

The move, a series of intricate foot movements, was created by the Crips, a predominantly Black gang from Southern California.

Williams, like Lamar, is from Compton, a city with deep hip-hop roots. But her performance Sunday harkened back to her 2012 victory over Maria Sharapova at the Olympics.

The tennis superstar faced major criticism for her dance that year, with some calling the move "tasteless" and "crass" as others accused her of glamorizing gang violence. Supporters of Williams accused those critics of being biased and even racist.

Williams spoke of the experience Sunday; in a video posted on social media, the four-time Olympic gold medalist said, "Man, I did not crip walk like that at Wimbledon. Ooh, I would've been fined!"

Kendrick Lamar's Super Bowl Performance: A Moment of Unapologetic Authenticity

By: Ms. Jheri Worldwide

Staff Writer

Over 133.5 million viewers tuned in to the Super Bowl Halftime Show this year, witnessing a stirring performance by Pulitzer Prize and Grammy Award-winning rapper Kendrick Lamar. Hailing from Compton, California, Lamar proved to be the perfect artist for this moment in American history. His performance, a powerful blend of artistry and social commentary, resonated deeply while shouting out enduring influences like Gil Scott-Heron "The Revolution Will Not Be Televised" and the failed American promise of 40 Acres and a Mule.

Kendrick made a choice to challenge the audience to think, which many football viewers and Americans are not simply not in the space to do. While some may have missed

the significance of Lamar's presentation, their opinions ultimately pale in comparison to the sheer impact of his moment of artistic interpretation. This was a Black artist unapologetically showcasing his political views on the world's biggest stage. The "Uncle Sam" character, portrayed by actor and activist Samuel L. Jackson, served as a powerful symbol, elevating the conversation around social consciousness—racially, economically, and mentally. Have you ever seen a Black Uncle Sam? Uncle Sam coddledly stated, "You're being to ghetto, too rebellious, don't you know how to play the game?" He praised Kendrick for staying in line when he sang slow songs luther and Black Panther's hit All the Stars, to soothe the people then "deducted one life" when Kendrick rapped with his boys on the corner during Man at the Garden,

which many believe alludes to the perpetual violence against Black men in America.

The varied reactions to the performance emphasized its relevance to the current state of the nation. Lamar's purpose was not to soothe the masses but to ignite a dialogue, an effort in which he excelled. For many, myself included, Lamar's performance was a powerful, electrifying, motivating experience. It wasn't designed to be universally palatable; instead, it prioritized authenticity over comfort simulating the American game by the stage layout of a playstation controller alluding to the game in which we are all trapped.

The production itself was a masterpiece, featuring appearances by SZA, DJ Mustard, tennis star Serena Williams, and a crew of incredibly talented all Black dancers. Beyond

the spectacle, Lamar's message remained clear and unwavering. He directly addressed systemic racism and economic disparities, refusing to shy away from uncomfortable truths. He displayed the division of America through the formation of his dancers as a Black man made American flag, this symbolism will reverberate through photos for generations to come.

A critique of America at the Super-Bowl was timely and impactful. This performance arrived at a time when DEI policies are being rolled back and efforts to level the professional playing field are being dismantled. In this context, Lamar's unapologetic stance felt particularly vital. His Super Bowl appearance wasn't just a concert; it was a cultural moment, a reminder of the power of art to challenge, provoke, and inspire. Turn your TV off, game over!

Sonny Kelly Presents The Ongoing Fight for Freedom

By Ms. Jheri Worldwide

Staff Writer

A one-man play is a massive undertaking. Add to that an impactful player from every major American conflict since the American Revolution. Sonny Kelly of Legacy Heirs Productions with the support of the North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources' America 250 NC initiative was able to execute this artistic expression flawlessly. The presentation is based on historical research yet is empowered with artistic liberties and details that give the historical figures the space to tell their stories and articulate their purposes through Kelly. In every single major American conflict Black freedom fighters participated, known and unknown these men and women demonstrated sacrifices, resistance, and resilience in efforts to contribute to democracy. This play is even more essential in our current times as a direct example of Black excellence and the ideals that have empowered over 400 years of the struggle for freedom, liberty, and equality. The

fight is not new to us yet some of the names featured might be. Kelly began the role by reminiscing about his own enlistment, his father's, and his grandfather's. He goes on

to embody: Thomas Peters (c. 1738 - 1792), John Chavis (c. 1763 - 1838), Ned Griffin (unknown - 1842), Lucy Nichols (1838 - 1915), Abraham Galloway (1837 - 1870), Sgt Henry

Johnson / Harlem Hellfighters (c. 1892 - 1929), Capt. James H. Porter / 555 Battalion "Triple Nickles" (1925 - 2006), Sarah Keys Evans (1929 - present), and many other individuals and events.

The Ongoing Fight For Freedom: Stories of NC Black Veterans will continue to run in different parts of the state throughout the year. You can find more showtimes at <https://www.legacyheirsproductions.com/>.

Witnessing this play in the state house in our current political climate was very poignant. One observer noted that the very laws that stripped North Carolina's African American population of their dignity and liberty were created in the same room where this important story was told. Insight about The Stono Rebellion and the assertion of "holding on to your humanity as an act of defiance" rang louder than ever in the North Carolina State Capital building. The stories truly provided insight and depth for all attendees, this is North Carolina's story and as we work to make America's founding principles a reality for all telling these stories is a step in the right direction.

THE ONGOING FIGHT FOR FREEDOM: STORIES OF NC BLACK VETERANS

A 75-minute performance that centers the stories of Black North Carolinians who have fought for freedom & inclusive democracy, on & off the traditional battlefield, throughout the last four centuries.

Performed by Dr. Sonny Kelly, Legacy Heirs Productions. The play's development was commissioned & funded by the NC Department of Natural & Cultural Resources' America 250 NC initiative & produced by Carolina K-12. For information & accompanying materials, visit humanities.unc.edu/ncblackveterans/contact Christie Norris at cnorris@unc.edu.

AMERICA 250 NC

CAROLINA K-12

THE GOLDEN YEARS

By Judykay Jefferson

HABITS

My mother was from New Orleans, my father, Mississippi. Although we were not Catholic, we observed Lent yearly. As a child, I vaguely understood the significance of making the sacrifice, but I wasn't very good at it. It seemed that from the moment Lent began, after the parades and Mardi Gras hoopla, at 12:01am the Wednesday following Fat Tuesday, I began craving whatever it was I had given up. It was like New Year's resolutions on steroids. I'm sure I never made it past 24 hours.

As an adult, not much changed. I have a dear friend who is a devout Catholic and a devoted beer drinker. His Lenten sacrifice is always the same. He would give up alcohol. I mean, he would really give it up. I watched him for a couple of decades and marveled at his resolve. It wasn't until last year that I stuck it out and made it through the 40 days. I gave up Temu. It was then that I began to understand the power of repetitive behavior, habits. I now believe that when the behavior is socially acceptable, we call it a habit, or even a passion. When it isn't socially acceptable, we call it an addiction. Call it what you want, it's still behavior driven by undeniable desire. For me, it's shopping. More specifically, online shopping. The thrill of buying cheap stuff that is delivered to my house is palatable. This year I'm giving up all online shopping for those 40 days. It's not going to be easy, but it's not supposed to be easy.

The practice of a Lenten sacrifice, where Christians give up something for the 40 days of Lent, has its roots in the early days of Christianity. In the Sixth Century, Pope Gregory I is credited with standardizing the Lenten fast, setting it to begin on Ash Wednesday and excluding Sundays. Over time, the focus shifted towards personal sacrifice and spiritual reflection. Giving up certain foods or luxuries became a common practice.

Many Christian denominations observe Lent. Some of the denominations that commonly practice Lent include:

- Eastern Orthodox Church
- Anglican Communion
- Lutheran Churches
- Methodist Churches

As with anything involving groups, the actual observances can vary greatly. Some people choose to give up certain foods, while others may focus on giving up a particular habit or taking on a new spiritual discipline. I believe the sincerest sacrifice is altering a pattern that has become a habit.

Habits have been defined as automatic behaviors; actions we perform automatically, often without much conscious thought. They are deeply ingrained patterns that our brains rely on to save energy. Habits typically follow a loop: a trigger leads to a behavior, which results in a reward. This reward reinforces the behavior, making it more likely to occur again in the presence of the cue. Habits can be helpful or harmful, but the underlying mechanisms are similar.

If you've ever tried you know that habits are hard to break. Psychologists have determined that repeated behaviors strengthen the neural pathways associated with them, making the habit more automatic and difficult to resist. Behaviors that trigger the release of dopamine (a "feel-good" neurotransmitter) are particularly addictive. This is why habits associated with pleasure, like eating junk food or using social media, can be so hard to break. Our environment is full of triggers that can automatically activate our habits. These triggers can be places, times, emotions, or even other people.

Breaking a habit requires awareness and acknowledgement of the habit and the triggers that set them off. Once you know your triggers, try to avoid them. Change your routine and avoid the people, places and things associated with that behavior. Under the heading of TMI: I was briefly married to a drug addict. He often said (usually after a stint in rehab), "If you're not doing what they're doing, you shouldn't be where they are." Made sense until his mind and body wanted what it wanted, and logic flew out of the window.

It's often easier to replace a bad habit with a good one than to simply eliminate it. Rather than buying stuff I don't need online, I'm going to deposit that money in my meager savings account. Breaking habits can be challenging. Having someone to hold you accountable can make a big difference. It's not going to happen overnight. Don't get discouraged. Just keep practicing the new behaviors and eventually, they will become habits themselves. Whatever you do, don't give up.

Although Lent doesn't begin for a few weeks, I'm beginning mental and spiritual preparation. The goal is to faithfully observe Lent and break this habit, once and for all. Keep a good thought.

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Editorials

Conservatives Of Color Have Lofty Expectations For Trump's Second Term



WASHINGTON (AP) — Delivering his first address as a reinaugurated president, Donald Trump spoke directly to communities that had historically shunned his party.

“To the Black and Hispanic communities, I want to thank you for the tremendous outpouring of love and trust that you have shown me with your vote,” Trump said. “We set records, and I will not forget it. I’ve heard your voices in the campaign, and I look forward to working with you in the years to come.”

Trump, whose inauguration coincided with the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday, promised to “strive together to make his dream a reality.” It’s a vow that many prominent Black and Hispanic civil rights leaders view skeptically. But among the conservatives of color who surround Trump, the moment was an endorsement of their biggest hopes, years in the making.

“This room was impossible twenty years ago,” Rep. Byron Donalds, R-Fla., said Sunday evening during the “Legacy of Freedom Ball,” a gala of a few hundred mostly Black conservatives who gathered to ring in the new administration. “But in 2024 not only are we back, but we’re bringing Black people and Hispanic people into the Republican Party,” Donalds told the crowd.

Trump’s comments alluded to the record margins he garnered among heavily Black and Hispanic regions of the country compared to past Republican presidential candidates. At galas preceding Trump’s inauguration, conservative Black and Hispanic activists and lawmakers toasted to a new era in which many of them hope to play a larger role than in Trump’s first term.

“There’s so much that we expect from the president, and I believe he’s going to deliver,” said Virginia Lt. Gov. Winsome Earle-Sears, an outspoken conservative who is running to become the state’s first Black and female governor.

Earle-Sears listed stricter immigration policies, cracking down on crime and reducing the federal government’s role in education as priorities she believed would speak to Black Americans. “Let’s just give him a chance,” she said.

The revelry came after a year of bifurcated messaging from the Trump campaign, which invested in appeals to Black and Hispanic voters while at the same time depicting immigrants and communities of color as violent criminals and the country as beset by diversity and inclusion policies that conservatives view as weakening the nation.

But Trump’s divisive messages on “Black jobs” and “Hispanic jobs” spoke to a view of the economy and society that found salience with some voters, including voters of color, on top of concerns over inflation, rapid technological change and geopolitical unrest abroad.

Trump gained a larger share of Black and Latino voters than he did in 2020, when he lost to Democrat Joe Biden — most notably among young Black and Hispanic male voters — according to AP VoteCast, a nationwide survey of more than 120,000 voters.

Overall, about 16% of Black voters supported Trump in November, while about 8 in 10 voted for Democrat Kamala Harris. But that represented a shift from 2020 when only 8% of Black voters backed Trump and about 9 in 10 went for Biden. Among Hispanic voters, 43% voted for Trump in November, up from about one-third in 2020.

Black women are largely the exception to this shift — about 9 in 10 Black female voters supported Harris in 2024, similar to the share that backed Biden in 2020.

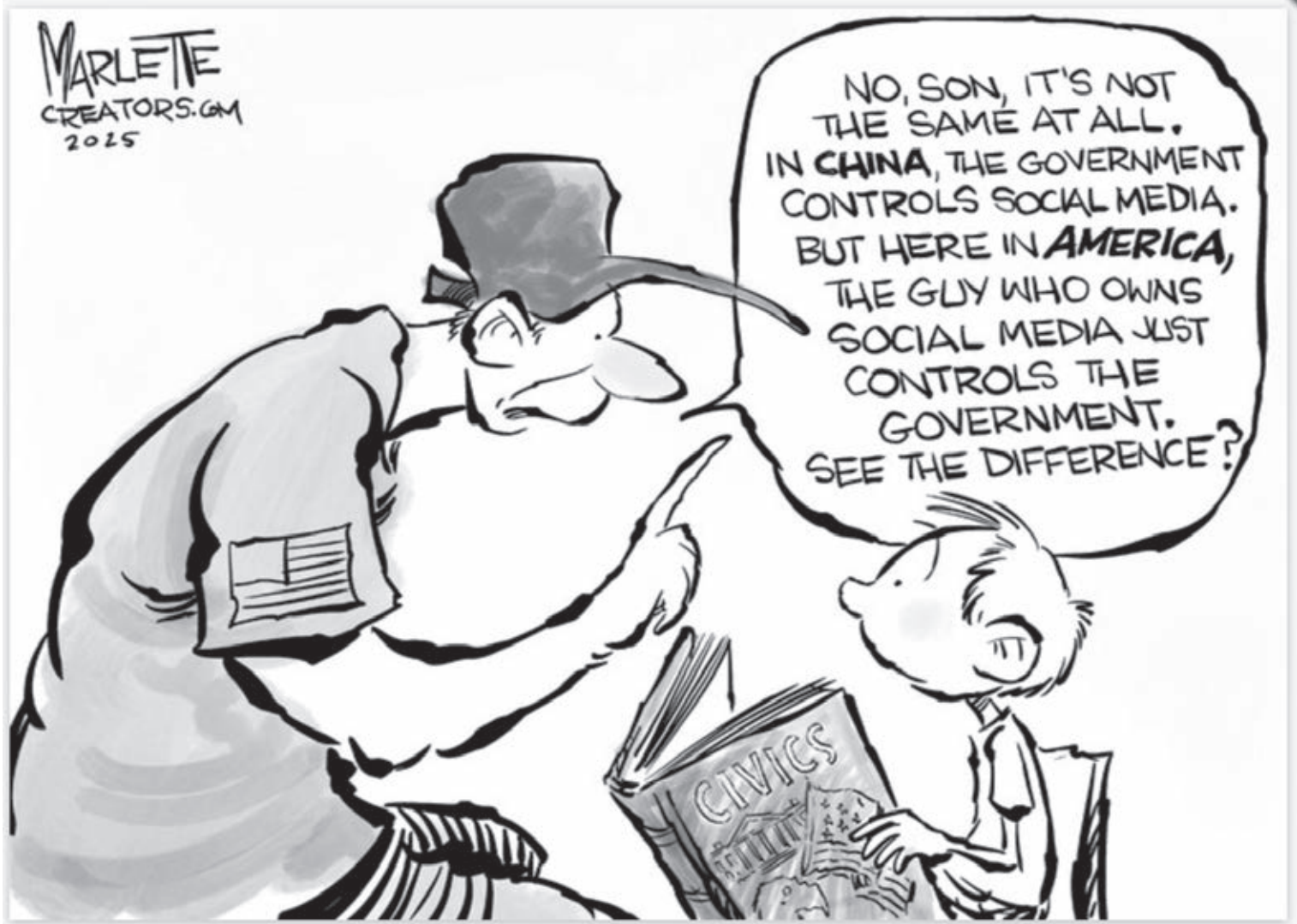
At the Hispanic Inaugural Ball the Saturday before Trump’s inauguration, GOP members of Congress, state lawmakers and governors mingled with conservative activists and business executives from across the Western Hemisphere.

Latin American leaders like Argentinian President Javier Milei and Paraguayan President Santiago Peña rubbed elbows with Republican members of Congress, including Rep. Maria Elvira Salazar, Mexican actors and Hispanic business executives. Vivek Ramaswamy, Robert F. Kennedy Jr. and Texas Gov. Greg Abbott all made appearances.

“I don’t think Trump gets enough credit for listening and tailoring his policies in part to what people want in these communities,” said Francis Suarez, mayor of Miami. Suarez, who leads a city that is overwhelmingly Hispanic and sits at the nexus of the U.S. and Latin America, said Trump can maintain his support among Hispanic voters “and grow it again. It just goes back to the basics.”

Texas Sen. Ted Cruz rallied gala attendees by recounting the November election, in which many majority-Hispanic counties in his home state that had traditionally backed Democrats flipped to Trump. Cruz, who trailed Trump in many of those same counties as he ran for reelection, called the GOP’s inroads with Hispanic voters “unprecedented.”

“The Rio Grande Valley has been bright blue for 100 years. Well, I’m here to tell you the Rio Grande Valley flipped red,” said Cruz, who is Hispanic. “That is a generational change for Texas, and it is a generational change for America.”



A Different Voice
By Dorothy Shaw Thompson



Other Viewpoints

AGAIN, STOP BLAMING DEMOCRATS

In my life, I have learned that when you blame others for your predicament or expect someone else to help you fix it, other than God, the battle is lost. You can stew into eternity while the predicament remains unsolved. Now, unless you voted for the Republicans, you didn’t cause their winning this election. Neither did the Democratic Party or those who voted for Democrats. Don’t blame Joe Biden; he wasn’t, and isn’t, senile. Those who thought he was and asked him to step down didn’t cause Trump to win. It wasn’t caused by the African American people or the few men who couldn’t vote for a woman and would have died in slavery because they didn’t think a woman could lead like Harriet Tubman. Neither did Kamala Harris, Michelle, or Barack Obama cause it.

The Black Lives Matter protests against police brutality, support for Ukraine, or protesting the treatment of Palestinians didn’t cause this either. So, stop blaming Democrats. Support for the equal rights of gay human beings or the democratic rights to have an abortion didn’t cause Donald Trump to win the election.

The first step in addressing your predicament is to seriously consider what caused it, not necessarily who. Typically, we find ourselves in predicaments because of how we think and stay in them for the same reason. In my opinion, too many people think that rich, old white men know better how to solve problems than others. That’s a belief, not a fact. If we just stop and consider our own Black history and the inventions African slaves and other Black people have contributed through the ages, we see that it’s not true.

I’ll save that discussion for later. For now, I’m only going to talk about the first step. This idea can work for any predicament we find ourselves in: instead of wasting our time and energy blaming others, we should get to work on resolving the problem.

Let me provide an example: Deacon George Fleming, who passed away last week, taught me something great through his life story and that of Doctor William Barber. When Doctor Barber delivered the eulogy, he told the audience that as a teenager he had the opportunity to become a page, but his family didn’t have the money it would cost. His father wrote to George Fleming asking for help. Fleming didn’t have the money either, but he wasn’t ashamed of his predicament and allowed himself to ask for help. He didn’t blame the General Assembly for not covering the costs. If he had, there would have been no page for Barber, and we would have lost a powerful leader and advocate.

Doctor Barber, who went on to become the state NAACP President and moral leader, inspiring many across the country and at Yale University, was able to achieve all this because George Fleming chose to help instead of telling him to seek assistance from a rich old white man.

This week, Donald Trump suggested that he is going to become the chairman of the Kennedy Center. Only 20% of Americans support what Elon Musk is doing with private information, yet this man, put in place by a rich old white man, says he’s going to defy court orders. Poll numbers on deportation strategies are falling, and senators and congressmen are reportedly receiving 1600 calls a minute to protest what Republicans are doing and not doing.

Did you see helicopters flying over the Super Bowl? Likely not, except maybe once on social media, because the stadium in New Orleans has a dome. Thank God they didn’t crash into the crowd. Is it the Democrats’ fault that millions of dollars were spent on that?

Believing that rich old white men know how to solve all problems is flawed. Don’t blame the Democrats for that. If you ever try to talk to a Trump supporter, you may find their cognitive dissonance is impenetrable. Now it’s up to those of us seeking real solutions. I recommend listening to leaders like Jasmine Crockett and Cory Booker.

FOREVER CREATING BLACK HISTORY

By: Tanya Wallace-Gobern

NBWC

Prominent Black leaders such as Harriet Tubman and Martin Luther King Jr. represent the Black history leaders we learned about in grade school. In addition to the historical giants we revere, countless Black leaders and innovators today are shaping the world in transformative ways. From political trailblazers, creative visionaries and social justice changemakers, Blacks are taking up the mantle inherited from our ancestors and are actively redefining what it means to make history in real time.

Mary McLeod Bethune, born to formerly enslaved parents, overcame significant obstacles to pursue education and transforming lives. In 1904, with just \$1.50 she founded a school for girls in Florida, which grew into Bethune-Cookman University. She later became the first woman president of the National Association of Teachers in Colored Schools (NATCS), which helped shape the National Education Association (NEA). Today NEA is the nation’s largest labor union and is led by fierce social justice warriors and defenders of educator rights, president Becky Pringle and Vice President Princess Moss.

In 1968 “Unbought and Unbossed” Shirley Chisholm, became the first Black woman to be elected to the United States Congress, Chisholm was also the first Black woman to campaign for the Democratic Party’s presidential nomination in 1972. We don’t have to look far to see the impact of this political pioneer. From Rep. Jasmine Crockett in TX, Black Worker Center’s own home-grown CA State Senator Lola Smallwood-Cuevas, Maxine Waters who reclaimed time on behalf of us all and last but never least Kamala Harris who has been making history since the early 2000’s our legacy of leadership lives on. Harris is the first Vice President who graduated from a HBCU, Howard University, she was elected as district attorney of San Francisco in 2003, attorney general of California in 2010, reelected as attorney general in 2014 and in 2016 she was elected as a Democrat to the United States Senate for the State of California. As the first woman, the first African American, and the first Asian American to hold each office, Harris is the definition of a Bad Mamma Jamma!

Music has long been a powerful force in social justice movements, serving as both a form of protest and a source of resilience for marginalized communities. From the spirituals sung by enslaved Africans to the freedom songs of the Civil Rights Movement, music has provided a way to express struggle, inspire action, and unite people in the fight for justice. Hip-hop has continued this legacy, with artists like Kendrick Lamar using their platform to shed light on systemic oppression and the Black American experience. His 2015 album *To Pimp a Butterfly*, masterfully blends jazz, funk, and spoken word to critique racism, economic disparity, and cultural exploitation, and his Grammy-winning song “Alright” became a rallying cry during the early days of the Black Lives Matter movement.

It is important now more than ever to remember both the roots and the ever-growing branches of Black History. Our achievements and contributions will never be limited or erased. It didn’t stop our historical ancestors, and it will not stop us! No matter who is in office, no matter what policy changes are made, no matter the hate we receive, the future will still be ours!

Classifieds

DURHAM COUNTY

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

File Number 25E000093-310

Having qualified as Executor of the Estate of Danny McCoy Daye deceased, this is to notify all persons, firms, and corporations having claims against the Estate of DANNY MCCOY DAYE to present them to the undersigned within three months from the date of the first date of publication of this Notice or same will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms, and corporations indebted to said Estate, please make immediate payment.

This the 13th day of February, 2025.

Shayetta E. Lindsey-Daye, Executor

c/o John W. Perry

Attorney for the Estate of Danny McCoy Daye

Post Office Drawer 2051

Durham, North Carolina 27702

Telephone: (919) 683-8685

2/13, 2/20, 2/27, & 3/6/2025

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

File No. 25E000127-310

The Undersigned, having qualified as EXECUTOR of the ESTATE OF MARGARET RILEY, 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 16th day of May 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 is the 13th day of February, 2025.

Ann Roy, Executor

Estate of Margaret Riley

c/o Shirley M. Diefenbach, Attorney

Walker Lambe, PLLC

Post Office Box 51549

Durham, North Carolina 27717

2/13, 2/20, 2/27, & 3/6/2025

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Estate of Christene Jo Hitchcock

File No. 25E000132-310

The undersigned, having qualified as Executor of the Estate of Christene Jo Hitchcock deceased, of Durham County, North Carolina hereby notifies all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the Estate to present such claims to the undersigned at the address below on or before the 13th day of May 2025, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms and corporations indebted to the Estate will please make immediate payment.

This is the 13th day of February 2025.

Michael Hitchcock, Executor

136 Dennis Ct.

Clemmons, NC 27012

2/13, 2/20, 2/27, & 3/6/2025

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

In the General Court of Justice,

Superior Court Division

Before the Clerk

File Number 25E000155-310

The Undersigned, having qualified as EXECUTOR of the Estate of KATHRYN RAINEY, 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 16th day of May 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 is the 13th day of February, 2025.

Mark A. Kuhn, Executor

2821 Wade Rd.

Durham, NC 27705

2/13, 2/20, 2/27, & 3/6/2025

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

In the General Court of Justice,

Superior Court Division

Before the Clerk

File Number 25E000148-310

The Undersigned, having qualified as EXECUTOR of the Estate of JESSIE TAYLOR HOLLEMAN A/K/A DOROTHY JESSIE TAYLOR HOLLEMAN, 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 16th day of May 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 is the 13th day of February, 2025.

Susan Caviness, Executor

2413 Patterson Rd.

Durham, NC 27704

2/13, 2/20, 2/27, & 3/6/2025

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

FILE NO. 24E002620-310

THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 23rd day of December 2024, as Administrator of the ESTATE OF BENJAMIN KOLIN MARTIN, 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 14th day of May, 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 13th day of February 2025

Karla Martin Curran

Administrator

Estate of Benjamin Kolin Martin

c/o Richard G. Long III, Attorney

Walker Lambe, PLLC

Post Office Box 51549

Durham, North Carolina 27717

2/13, 2/20, 2/27, & 3/6/2025

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

In the General Court of Justice,

Superior Court Division

Before the Clerk

File Number 25E000073-310

The Undersigned, having qualified as ADMINISTRATOR of the Estate of MARION D. COUCH, 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 16th day of May 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 is the 13th day of February, 2025.

Bonita D. Couch, Administrator

1000 Arnette Ave.

Durham, NC 27707

2/13, 2/20, 2/27, & 3/6/2025

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

In the General Court of Justice,

Superior Court Division

Before the Clerk

File Number 25E000085-310

The Undersigned, having qualified as EXECUTOR of the Estate of TERRY JOHN HEINDEL, 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 16th day of May 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 is the 13th day of February, 2025.

Lorri Bass, Executor

3800 Ridgewood Dr.

Franklinton, NC 27525

2/13, 2/20, 2/27, & 3/6/2025

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

In the General Court of Justice,

Superior Court Division

Before the Clerk

File Number 25E000142-310

The Undersigned, having qualified as EXECUTOR of the Estate of JERRY LEE NOWELL, 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 16th day of May 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 is the 13th day of February, 2025.

Lesley N. Day, Executor

213 Desert Tree Court

Cary, NC 27519

2/13, 2/20, 2/27, & 3/6/2025

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

In the General Court of Justice,

Superior Court Division

Before the Clerk

File Number 25E000096-310

The Undersigned, having qualified as EXECUTOR of the Estate of ANNIE LOU HAMLETT, 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 9th day of May 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 is the 6th day of February, 2025.

Nancy H. Tillman, Co-Executor

1821 Grady Drive

Durham, NC 27712

Randall J. Hamlett, Co-Executor

217 W. Scarlett Mtn Rd.

Hillsborough, NC 27278

2/6, 2/13, 2/20, & 2/27/2025

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

File Number 25E000059-310

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

This the 6th day of February, 2025.

John W. Perry, Administrator

Perry, Perry & Perry, P.A

Attorneys at Law

Post Office Drawer 2051

Durham, North Carolina 27702

Telephone: (919) 683-8685

2/6, 2/13, 2/20, & 2/27/2025

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

File Number 25E000058-310

Having qualified as Administrator of the Estate of Roderick Eugene Roberts deceased, this is to notify all persons, firms, and corporations having claims against the Estate of Robert Eugene Roberts to present them to the undersigned within three months from the date of the first date of publication of this Notice or same will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms, and corporations indebted to said Estate, please make immediate payment.

This the 6th day of February, 2025.

John W. Perry, Administrator

Perry, Perry & Perry, P.A

Attorneys at Law

Post Office Drawer 2051

Durham, North Carolina 27702

Telephone: (919) 683-8685

2/6, 2/13, 2/20, & 2/27/2025

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

File Number 24E002506-310

THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 26th day of November 2024, as Executor of the ESTATE OF EDWIN DOYLE GRIFFIN, Deceased, of Durham County, North Carolina, does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said Estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 7th day of May, 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 6th day of February, 2025.

Stuart Doyle Griffin, Executor

Estate of Edwin Doyle Griffin

c/o Shirley M. Diefenbach, Attorney

Walker Lambe, PLLC

Post Office Box 51549

Durham, North Carolina 27717

2/6, 2/13, 2/20, & 2/27/2025

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

In the General Court of Justice,

Superior Court Division

Before the Clerk

File Number 25E000088-310

The Undersigned, having qualified as EXECUTOR of the Estate of JEAN MARY KEENE, 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 9th day of May 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 is the 6th day of February, 2025.

Paul L. Keene, Executor

c/o Marion Law Office, PLLC

2741 University Drive

Durham, NC 27707

2/6, 2/13, 2/20, & 2/27/2025

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

File Number 25E000091-310

The undersigned having qualified as Executor of the Estate of MARY B. McLELLAND, Deceased, late of Durham County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the Estate to Exhibit them to the undersigned at the office of IDOL LAW, PLLC, PO Box 51759, Durham, North Carolina 27717, on or before the 10th day of May, 2025, or this Notice will be in bar of their recovery.

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

This is the 6th day of February, 2025.

Robert McLelland, III, Executor,

Estate of Mary B. McLelland,

Deceased

Robert A. Idol, Esquire

IDOL LAW, PLLC

Attorney at Law

PO Box 51759

Durham, NC 27717

(919) 401.5151

2/6, 2/13, 2/20, & 2/27/2025

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

In the General Court of Justice,

Superior Court Division

Before the Clerk

File Number 25E000098-310

THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 24th day of January, 2025, as Executor of the ESTATE OF CAROLYN ANN HIGGINBOTHAM, 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 2nd day of May, 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 30th day of January 2025.

James O. Spinks III, Executor

2520 Wyndemere CT

Hillsborough, NC 27278

1/30, 2/6, 2/13, & 2/20/2025

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

In the General Court of Justice,

Superior Court Division

Before the Clerk

File Number 24E002599-310

The Undersigned, having qualified as EXECUTOR of the Estate of A

Classifieds

WAKE COUNTY

This is the 13th day of February, 2025.

Alice Ann Rodden, Executor
4808 Greenpoint Lane
Holly Springs, NC 27540
2/13, 2/20, 2/27, & 3/6/2025
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
WAKE COUNTY

NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION
In the General Court of Justice,
District Court Division
File No. 23CV004686-910
Shawn Smithwick, Plaintiff v.
Michelle D. Smithwick, Defendant
TO MICHELLE D. SMITHWICK:
TAKE NOTICE that a pleading seeking relief against you has been filed in the above-entitled action, by the Plaintiff herein, the nature which is as follows: ABSOLUTE DIVORCE. You are required by law to appear and make defense to such pleading no later than 30 days after the first publication of this notice. If you fail to do so the Plaintiff will seek the relief

CFPB SHUTDOWN

Continued from page 3

“Elon Musk, where are you?” said Rep. Maxine Waters, a California Democrat. “We’re not afraid of you.”

The White House is considering opportunities for Musk to talk publicly about his work for the first time since the billionaire entrepreneur joined the administration as a special government employee, according to an official who spoke on the condition of anonymity about internal discussions.

So far, Musk has only defended himself on social media, saying he's confident that the American people will support DOGE's efforts. He also responded to accusations that he's improperly accessed sensitive information through government databases, saying “I'm 1000% more trustworthy than untold numbers of deep state bureaucrats and fraudsters.”

Russ Vought, Trump's budget chief, is serving as the CFPB's acting director after the previous director, Rohit Chopra, was fired by Trump. Vought sent an email to employees on Monday morning saying they should “not perform any work tasks.” They were directed to contact the top lawyer for the Office of Management and Budget “to get approval in writing” before doing anything.

Vought's message followed one on Saturday evening that ordered the bureau to “cease all supervision and examination activity.”

There are indications that the bureau's website is being disrupted. The homepage displays a “404: Page not found” message, although other parts still work.

The National Treasury Employees Union, which represents more than 1,000 workers at the bureau, filed a lawsuit saying that Vought's order illegally exceeded his authority.

“It is substantially likely that these initial directives are a precursor to a purge of CFPB's workforce, which is now prohibited from fulfilling the agency's statutory mission,” the lawsuit said.

The CFPB, was created after the 2008 financial crisis and subprime mortgage-lending scandal. Officials said that it has obtained nearly \$20 billion in financial relief for U.S. consumers since its founding in the form of canceled debts, compensation and reduced loans.

“This is a fight between millions of hardworking people who just don't want to get cheated and a handful of billionaires like Elon Musk, who wants the chance to cheat them,” said Sen. Elizabeth Warren, a Massachusetts Democrat who helped create the CFPB.

In recent years, the agency had passed rules capping bank overdraft fees, removing medical debt from consumer credit reports, regulating “buy now, pay later” loans, and requiring disclosures on short-term loans known as earned wage access. It has sued banks for misleading consumers and employers for misleading workers, with a particular focus on curbing junk fees and predatory lending under President Joe Biden's administration.

sought herein, and a Judgment for Absolute Divorce may be entered.

This, the 6th day of February, 2025.

Shawn Smithwick, Plaintiff
5202 Little Sandy Drive
Raleigh, NC 27616
2/6, 2/13, & 2/20/2025
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
WAKE COUNTY

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

File Number 25E000052-910
The Undersigned, having qualified as EXECUTOR of the Estate of MAX HINDENBURG, 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 2nd day of May 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 30th day of January

2025.
Amanda Hindenburg, Executor
2029 Atkins Drive
Raleigh NC 28610
1/30, 2/6, 2/13, & 2/20/2025
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
WAKE COUNTY

COMPLAINT TO ENFORCE POSSESSORY LIEN ON MOTOR VEHICLE

In The General Court Of Justice
District Court Division
Small Claims

File No. 24CV037372-910
TJ'S AUTO SALES & REPAIR,
Plaintiff
vs.
UNKNOWN OWNER,
VIN: 2292152192, Defendant
TO UNKNOWN OWNER:

TAKE NOTICE the petitioner has filed with the clerk a petition in proper form indicating that the petitioner has a valid lien against a Volkswagen/1979, ID No. 2292152192 and that the petitioner shall have the right to sell to the highest bidder the motor vehicle listed on March 11, 2025 at WCCH, 316 Fayetteville St. Raleigh, NC 27601, at 1:30 p.m. You are required to make a defense to such pleading before such date and time.

This the 30th day of January, 2025.
TJ's Auto Sales & Repair, Plaintiff
6809 Poole Road
Raleigh, NC 27510
1/30, 2/6, & 2/13/2025

D/M/WBE

SUBCONTRACTORS/SUPPLIERS WANTED

Pipeline Utilities, Inc. (NC General Contractor License No. 325) is seeking certified DBE, MBE, and WBE subcontractors and suppliers for the **North Ennis Street Water Main Improvements** project for the **Town of Fuquay-Varina** which bids on **February 18, 2025, at 2:00 PM**. Plans and specifications for this project are available at the following locations: Pipeline Utilities, Inc.; 2204-F Associate Drive; Raleigh, NC 27603 * Town of Fuquay-Varina; Town Hall; 134 North Main Street; Fuquay-Varina, NC 27526 * NCDOA website for Historically Underutilized Businesses * Accent Imaging website.

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

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

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Town of Littleton
P.O. Box 87
Littleton, NC 27850

Separate sealed BIDS for the construction of Project SRP-W-ARP-0056 Contract No. 13 - WWTP Improvements will be received by the ENGINEER at the Littleton Town Hall, 112 East South Main Street, Littleton, NC 27850 until 2:00 PM, March 20, 2025, and then at said office publicly opened and read aloud.

The CONTRACT DOCUMENTS may be examined at the following locations:
Littleton Town Hall, 112 East South Main Street, Littleton, NC 27850

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

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

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

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

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

Copies of the CONTRACT DOCUMENTS may be obtained at the office of **McDavid Associates, Inc.** located at **3714 North Main Street, Farmville, NC 27828-0049** upon a nonrefundable payment of \$500.00 for each set.

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

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

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

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

A pre-Bid conference will be held at 10:00 AM on March 10, 2025 in the Littleton Town Hall, 112 East South Main Street, Littleton, NC 27850. Prospective BIDDERS are encouraged to attend this pre-bid conference as part of their good faith efforts

February 14, 2025

Heidi G. Hogan
Mayor
Town of Littleton

ATTENTION: MBE's & WBE's

BID REQUEST-BARNHILL CONTRACTING COMPANY

Attention MBEs & WBEs-Barnhill Contracting Company is requesting bids from any interested firms for the following project: **NCDOT Contract: #DA00616 Washington County - Milling, Resurfacing, Open Grade Friction Course, Shoulder Reconstruction & Pavement Markings on US 64 and Various Secondary Routes**. Pre-Bid Meeting is on Wednesday, February 19th, 2025 at 10:00 AM. This meeting will be held virtually utilizing conference call and online meeting tools. Please contact Jimmy Spivey at the number below for meeting details. This project bids on March 5th, 2025 and includes opportunities on, but not limited to **Hauling, Traffic Control, Erosion Control, Pavement Markings, Pavement Markers, Milling and Meter & Valve Box Adjustments**. Bids are due to James Spivey no later than 12:00 P.M. on Tuesday March 4th, 2025.

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

Attn: James Spivey at (252)335-9503.

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

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

NOTICE TO SUBCONTRACTOR ADVERTISEMENT TO BID FOR THE

Raleigh-Durham Airport Authority Runway 5L-23R Preservation 2025

ADVERTISEMENT TO BID:

Balfour Beatty has been selected as the Construction Manager at Risk (CMR) for the project and will receive bids from and contract with the principal contractors for the execution of the work.

Sealed proposals from Pre-Qualified Bidders will be received by Balfour Beatty for the Runway 5L-23R Preservation project on the following dates and times: **March 13, 2025 at 3:00PM**

Bids will be received and opened publicly at the RDU Maintenance Building, at 200 Haleys Branch Rd., Cary, NC 27513

A non-mandatory Prebid Conference and MWSB Workshop will be held on **February 18, 2025 at 1:00PM** at 200 Haleys Branch Rd., Cary, NC 27513. Site tours will immediately follow the Pre-Bid. The site tours will take place in a secure area so RSVP's are required and a maximum of 2 attendees per company will be allowed. RSVP to the site tour by emailing nwilliams@bbus.com.

You may also request a virtual invite to the meeting by emailing Nathan Williams at nwilliams@bbus.com or Victor Malcolm at vmalcolm@bbus.com or you may access by clicking the below link.

[Join the meeting now](#)

All bidders must be prequalified by Balfour Beatty in accordance with the Airport Authority's "Prequalification of Bidders for Construction or Repair Projects Policy." The deadline for prequalification package submittals is two weeks prior to the bid date at 5:00 PM. A current listing of all prequalified bidders in each bid package and instructions for prequalification can be publicly obtained in Tab 7 of the Bid Manual.

The Construction Manager and Owner reserve the right to add pre-qualified bidders beyond this deadline.

Full Bid Manual can be obtained through the Balfour Beatty plan room under "RDU Runway 5L-23R Preservation - BID" at the following link: **FULL BID MANUAL WILL BE ISSUED FEBRUARY 17, 2025** http://app.buildingconnected.com/_/risk/public-invite/5430e7a75cdc2e0300dd757d

You may also contact Nathan Williams, nwilliams@bbus.com | office: 919-233-5001 for access to complete plans, specifications, and contract documents. Bid documents will also be available for review at Balfour Beatty office located at 1001 Cemetery Road, Morrisville, NC, 27560.

All Bidders are strongly encouraged to include opportunities for Minority Business participation wherever possible in their respective bid submission. Minority Business is a part of this contract and must comply with the State of North Carolina General Statutes and RDU MWSB program. The goal for this project is 5% MSB and 5% WSB.

The Construction Manager and Owner reserve the right to reject any or all proposals. Should you require additional direction, please contact Balfour Beatty, Victor Malcolm | vmalcolm@bbus.com | office: 919- 233-5001

Subcontractor Opportunity Session

Balfour Beatty is sponsoring a MWSB Outreach/Information Sessions to discuss construction of the Runway 5L-23R Preservation project. **This event will be held during the Pre-Bid Meeting on February 18, 2025.** Balfour Beatty highly recommends that all interested 1st tier (majority and/or minority) subcontractors and lower tier subcontractors participate in this meeting as a subcontractor attendance will be considered towards "MWSB Good Faith Efforts."

For MWSB inquiries contact:

LaQuiana Bailey - lbailey@bbus.com

Joshua Spells - jspells@rightbuildint.com

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We live for
dunkable, shareable,
unbelievable moments.



UNC
HEALTH®

Greatness can be defined in many ways—and by many moments. Whether it's putting on a show for friends or simply getting back to exercise after months of physical therapy, we're here to get you back to your amazing self. At every stage of life.

[EverydayGreatness.com](https://www.EverydayGreatness.com)