May Is Mental Health Awareness Month

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Dedicated
and Serv

Mental Health: History & Barriers

Mass General Brigham McLean— We know that people of all ethnicities and cultures experience mental health conditions, and that Black individuals experiences mental health challenges at rates similar to other groups.

However, when considering the mental health of Black Americans, it's important to look at historical and cultural factors, some of which have led to significant disparities. For example, 25% of Black people seek mental health treatment when needed, compared to 40% of white people.

When Christine M. Crawford, MD, MPH, was doing her psychiatric rotation in medical school, she knew psychiatry was her calling. But when she shared that she decided to become a psychiatrist instead of specializing in another field of medicine, the response she received was one of disappointment.

"One person asked why I didn't want to become a 'real' doctor," Crawford said. "Another asked why I would want to work with 'those' people."

Crawford said it was challenging to hear this from those closest to her—individuals she knew to be compassionate, smart, and supportive to others. Crawford, who is Black, said at that point she truly understood the depth of mental health stigma in the Black community.

"Ironically, as my career as a psychiatrist progressed," she said, "I came to learn that many who responded most negatively to my career choice were the very people I was dedicating my life to helping—African Americans who silently live with mental health challenges for fear of being judged."

The stigma of mental health isn't new to the Black community. Martin Luther King Jr. reportedly had severe depression during periods of his life and refused psychiatric treatment, even when urged to seek care by his staff. Unfortunately, that scenario continues to be common today, with African Americans not seeking mental health care because of stigma.

"We can all work together to recognize and address this challenge," Crawford said. "But to do so, we must understand where it comes from and why it is so ingrained in our culture."

The root of mental health stigma among Black people can be traced back

(See ***MENTAL HEALTH,*** P. 2)

Black WWII Battalion Finally Honored

By Stacy M. Brown

BlackPressUSA.com

Seventy-nine years after their unprecedented service in World War II, the Black women of the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion — the only all-Black Women's Army Corps unit to serve overseas during the war — have finally received one of the nation's highest honors two years after then-President Joe Biden signed a proclamation clearing the way for the award. The heroes will receive the Congressional Gold Medal. "These heroes deserve their dues," Rep. Gwen Moore of Wisconsin said. "And I am so glad their story is being told." Formed in 1944 as pressure grew to include Black women in overseas military operations, the 6888th was tasked with solving a massive wartime mail crisis. More than 7 million U.S. troops, Red Cross workers, and government personnel stationed in Europe were relying on mail to stay connected with loved ones back home. By early 1945, the Army estimated a backlog of roughly 17 million pieces of undelivered mail—some dating back years. The Army's solution was a newly created battalion of about 850 Black women led by Maj. Charity Adams, who would later become the highest-ranking Black woman in the Army during the war. The unit deployed to England in February 1945 and immediately went to work in Birmingham, sorting an estimated 65,000 pieces of mail per shift around the clock, using a system of locator cards to track service members and their units. "They expected we were gonna be there about two or three months trying to get it straightened out," recalled retired Maj. Fannie Griffin McClendon is one of only two surviving members. "Well, I think in about a month, month and a half, we had it all straightened out and going in the right direction."

By the time they finished the job in half the projected time, they had cleared the backlog and restored morale to soldiers desperate for word from home. The women then deployed to Rouen, France, and later to Paris, where they continued their mission while also investigating widespread mail theft and dealing with racism, sexism, and the trauma of burying fellow soldiers killed in a tragic vehicle accident — funerals they paid for themselves when the War Department refused. Despite their success and high praise from fellow service members, the women of the 6888th returned to a country still unwilling to properly acknowledge their service. They received standard medals issued to most who served, but no special commendation. That began to change in the 1980s as their story slowly resurfaced through reunions, books, museum exhibits, and documentaries. A monument was erected in their honor in 2018 at Fort Leavenworth, and they received the Meritorious Unit Commendation in 2019. In 2022, Congress voted unanimously

(See ***BLACK WWII,*** P. 2)

Bill To Ban Camping, Sleeping On Public Property Advances

By Greg Childress

NC Newsline

A bill that would make it unlawful for local governments to allow or authorize any person to "regularly engage in public camping or sleeping on public property, including, but not limited to, public buildings or grounds and any public right-of-way" received a favorable report in a House Judiciary Committee on Tuesday.

The bill, however, includes a significant exception. House Bill 781 would allow local governments by "majority vote" to designate local government-owned property located within its jurisdiction to be used for a "continuous period of up to one year for public camping or sleeping purposes." Local governments can renew the one-year period.

Rep. Brian Biggs (R-Randolph) said he sponsored the bill after leaders of local municipalities came to him looking for guidance in handling homelessness. Biggs insisted the bill doesn't criminalize homelessness as some critics contend.

"It addresses the use of public property for camping and sleeping without prohibiting homelessness," Biggs said. "It does create clear guidance. We need guidance."

In addition to Biggs, HB 781 is cosponsored by GOP Reps. Neal Jackson, Jennifer Balkcom and Mike Schietzelt — who represent parts of Randolph, Moore, Henderson, and Wake counties.

Under the bill, counties or municipalities designating property for encampments must establish and maintain minimum standards and procedures designed to:

•Ensure the safety and security of the designated property and the persons lodging or residing on the property.

•Maintain sanitation, including, at a minimum, by providing access to clean and operable restrooms and running water.

•Coordinate with the county health department to provide access to behavioral health services, which must include substance abuse and mental health treatment resources.

•Prohibit illegal substance use

(See ***BILL TO BAN,*** P. 2)

Famed Memphis Church Damaged By Fire

The Guardian - A fire has severely damaged the historic Clayborn Temple in downtown Memphis, which is closely associated with the US civil rights movement and Dr Martin Luther King.

The temple was headquarters for the sanitation workers' strike that brought King to Memphis in 1968. The campaign's "I Am a Man" signs were made in the church's basement, according to the temple's website.

In 2018, it was designated a national treasure by the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

The Memphis fire department chief, Gina Sweat, said at a news conference that the department received a call at about 1.30am local time on Monday morning through a commercial alarm.

The blaze was largely contained within an hour, she said, but there were still some hotspots so firefighters will remain on site working throughout the day.

The temple had "sustained significant damage", Sweat said, calling it a "devastating fire".

"Due to the significant damage, we could not go inside the building at that point, so we're having to fight the fire, the rest of it, from the outside," she said.

Investigators from the fire department, police and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) were working to determine the cause of the fire.

"This is going to take some time due to the significant damage to the structure," she said. "It's still an active investigation and we're working diligently and thoroughly."

Sweat described Clayborn Temple as "sacred and significant to our entire community".

Memphis's mayor, Paul Young, said in a statement that the fire had "ravaged one of our city's greatest treasures".

"Clayborn is more than a historic building," Young said. "It is sacred ground. It is the beating heart of the civil rights movement, a symbol of struggle, hope and triumph that belongs not just to Memphis but to the world.

"Standing in the shadow of that steeple, generations of Memphians found their courage," he said. "Today, in the face of this tragedy, we must find ours once again."

He said: "We grieve deeply for what has been lost, but we also stand ready to honor Clayborn's legacy the only way we know how: by coming together to restore, rebuild, and remember."

The National Civil Rights Museum also released a statement, describing the temple as a "symbol of organized resistance and hope during the 1968 sanitation workers' strike".

Overhead view of Clayborn Temple in Memphis

"When marchers filled its sanctuary, it wasn't just about better wages; it was about dignity, about declaring that Black lives and labor mattered in a city that often acted indifferent," the statement read.

"In the years since, despite cycles of neglect and efforts at preservation, Clayborn Temple remained a powerful reminder that in the face of obstacles, violence, and hatred, collective action and faith can build something stronger."

King's eldest son, Martin Luther King III, said he was "deeply saddened by the devastating fire that destroyed the historic Clayborn Temple in Memphis".

He said: "Clayborn was the starting point for the sanitation workers' march where my father stood and helped lift up the words 'I Am a Man' to the world.

"The flames that consumed Clayborn Temple cannot erase its legacy as sacred ground. We honor its history and we are committed to supporting efforts to rebuild this cornerstone of the civil rights movement."

According to local newspaper the Commercial Appeal, the temple had been undergoing years of renovations to preserve its structure.

N.C. REAL ID STARTS MAY 7

Beginning May 7, 2025, federal agencies will enforce the REAL ID Act, which requires a REAL ID, U.S. passport or another federally approved identification to board commercial flights and enter secure federal buildings.

The N.C. REAL ID is a REAL ID Act-compliant driver license that is just like a traditional license or ID but has a star at the top. Driver licenses and IDs without a star are noted "Not for Federal Purposes."

N.C. REAL ID Is Completely Optional - You do not need a REAL ID driver license or identification card to do any of the following:

- Drive
- Vote
- Apply for or receive federal benefits (e.g., Veterans Affairs, Social Security Administration, etc.)
- Enter a federal facility that does not require an ID (e.g., a post office)
- Access a hospital or receive life-saving services
- Participate in law enforcement proceedings or investigations (e.g., serve on a federal jury, testify in federal court, etc.)

A REAL ID, however, might be helpful for anyone who frequently:

- Boards a commercial airplane
- Visits nuclear sites
- Visits military bases
- Visits federal courthouses, federal prisons or other federal facilities

An individual without a REAL ID or U.S. passport may still be able to board flights or make visits to the facilities mentioned above, but they may have to provide additional documentation with their traditional license or ID.

Getting an N.C. REAL ID

Even though the federal law is not effective until May 7, 2025, anyone can get a REAL ID now.

To do so, visit an N.C. Division of Motor Vehicles driver license office with the required acceptable documentation:

Other Details to Know

- Your first N.C. REAL ID cannot be obtained online. It can only be issued at a driver license office, where required documents will be scanned and permanently stored, as required under federal law, in your NCDMV record.
- Getting an N.C. REAL ID driver license or ID card costs the same as getting any other license or ID for the first time, and the process is similar.
- If you get an N.C. REAL ID outside of the renewal period, the cost is same as a duplicate license or ID card. You will have to take a new photo, but no tests are required.
- The cost is the same as a renewal, if the REAL ID is obtained within six months of expiration. You will have to take a vision test and take a new photo.
- Applying for a North Carolina driver license or ID card will cancel any licenses or ID cards from other states through the State-to-State Verification program.

Mental Health: History And Barriers—*CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1*

to slavery.

At that time, it was commonly thought enslaved people were not sophisticated enough to develop depression, anxiety, or other mental health disorders.

"From those historic misconceptions, we learned to ignore mental health symptoms or call them other terms, like 'stress' and 'being tired,'" Crawford said.

Such nuanced descriptions for depression and other mental health disorders—adopted by the Black community and passed on from generation to generation—led to underestimating the effects and impact of mental health conditions. Also, it strengthened beliefs that a psychiatric disorder is a personal weakness.

Crawford explained that "all these factors created a culture that is fearful and uninformed about mental health."

Black Americans develop mental health conditions at a rate equal to anyone else. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has declared racism a serious threat to public health that has placed communities of color at greater risk for poor health outcomes.

When considering the mental health of Black Americans, it is important to view their experience through a historical and cultural lens. The Black community has shown resilience in the face of adversity for centuries.

Starting in the 1600s in the United States, Black people faced oppression in the form of the enslavement of Africans and their descendants. The fact that a group of people were once considered property and not human beings, and the effects this has on people of African descent, cannot be underestimated.

Through 1965, U.S. laws were used to justify abuse of Black people. In the years after the American Civil War, Black people faced oppression in the form of sharecropping: farm labor that severely restricted economic mobility. They faced segregation: enforced and legalized separation from housing, health care, and other services.

Racism today is often more hidden, but it is still dangerous. It exists in the form of reduced access to housing, health care, and education and in increased incarceration.

The social, economic, and emotional toll continues for Black Americans.

According to the American Psychological Association, racial trauma can result from direct experiences of racism, as well as insidious occurrences that add up over time.

Major experiences of racism include physical and verbal attacks, while indirect stressors include seeing videos of police brutality on social media or being the target of subtle putdowns. Racial trauma can also result from intergenerational trauma: traumatic stress passed from one generation to the next.

Stress reactions to trauma are normal responses to abnormal situations. A person's response to a trauma depends on the individual, the type of trauma, the meaning of the trauma, as well as cultural factors.

People who have experienced multiple traumas throughout their lives are at greater risk for experiencing another trauma. They also experience more severe symptoms and longer lasting effects.

Researchers believe that racial trauma is one of the reasons Black people in some communities have higher rates of PTSD (8.7%) compared to white people (7.4%).

Studies also show that African American youth are at risk of developing PTSD: Nearly 65% of African American youth report traumatic experiences, compared to 30% of their peers from other ethnic groups.

Since treatment shortly after a traumatic event is a major factor in recovery, lack of access to health care may contribute to the higher rates of trauma symptoms and PTSD among African Americans.

Black people are far less likely to seek care. Statistics tell us that about 25% of African Americans seek mental health treatment, compared to 40% of white Americans.

Unequal access to health care is one major contributor to this disparity. Nearly 10% of Black people in the U.S. do not have health insurance, compared to 5.2% of non-Hispanic white people.

When members of the Black community do seek mental health care, they are more likely to receive it from an emergency department than from a mental health specialist.

According to Crawford, other reasons Black Americans receive less care include "the lack of cultural sensitivity by health care professionals, African Americans feeling marginalized, and the reliance on family, community, and spiritual support instead of medical or psychiatric treatment—even when it is critically necessary."

Black people can also face prejudice from health care providers. Communication between providers and patients can differ for African American patients compared with white patients.

In one study, physicians working with Black patients were 33% less likely to engage in patient-centered communications than they were with white patients. Such discriminatory practices have been connected to patients' increased psychological distress.

One barrier to treatment for African Americans may be an understandable mistrust in the medical and mental health systems.

For example, research studies are less likely to include members of the Black population. There are also historical cases, such as the Tuskegee syphilis experiment (1932-1972), in which Black people were subjected to medical experiments without their permission.

A Legal Firestorm Erupts Over N.C. Supreme Court Race

By Jordan Meadows
Staff Writer

North Carolina's 2024 Supreme Court race has morphed into a sprawling legal and constitutional battle that now spans state and federal courts.

On Tuesday, a three-judge panel from the 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals issued a 2-1 ruling blocking North Carolina from launching its planned ballot-curing process. This halt immediately affected roughly 1,400 military, overseas, and "Never Resident" voters whose ballots remain in legal limbo. The appeals court's intervention came after Riggs' campaign requested a stay while litigation over the final vote count continues in federal court.

Earlier this month, North Carolina state courts ruled that ballots lacking proper identification—primarily cast by military and overseas voters—would need to be "cured" by their voters to avoid being rejected. The cure period gave voters 30 days to provide proper photo ID or documentation. However, Riggs' campaign warned the process could disenfranchise thousands.

Following the state court's decision, the State Board of Elections was preparing to send notices to around 1,500 affected voters. These voters were part of Griffin's legal challenge, which alleged widespread voting irregularities and ID compliance issues.

Riggs turned to federal court, where U.S. District Judge Richard E. Myers declined to block the curing process but agreed to review the broader case. The 4th Circuit's ruling temporarily freezes any action until Myers rules on the constitutional claims.

Among the ballots at stake are 1,409 cast by military and overseas voters in Guilford County, and 266 cast by so-called "Never Residents"—U.S. citizens born abroad to North Carolinian parents who've never resided in the state. In total, more than 5,500 ballots from five additional counties—Forsyth, Durham, Buncombe, Cumberland, and New Hanover—are potentially subject to review.

These ballots represent not only numbers but real people whose votes could be thrown out. Public records and interviews provided by Bryan Anderson, an independent journalist covering NC politics, show many of the challenged individuals have deep ties to North Carolina.

Cameron Avila, a postal worker at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune; Capt. Jacob Sugg, a UNC-Wilmington alum and U.S. Marine since at least 2019; Abdulai Conteh, a U.S. Army mechanic since 2017 based at Fort Bragg.

Josey Wright, a Pitt County native working on her PhD in the UK, said: "I lived in Pitt County until I was 18, when I moved to England for my undergrad, although I was back in NC most summers/Christmas vacations. I am currently still in Cambridge working on my PhD but have voted in North Carolina elections as an overseas voter since I moved in 2017."

A Carolina Public Press analysis of the ballots suggests Riggs is still favored to maintain her lead—if the State Board's plan remains in effect. According to the data:

If only Guilford County and the Never Resident ballots were counted, Riggs would have needed to win 72% of those ballots for Griffin to flip the race—a near-impossible feat given she received just 62% of the overall vote there. If Forsyth, Durham, and Buncombe counties are included, Riggs would need only 57% of those voters to have supported her—a more attainable target for Griffin. Of the 5,504 challenged military and overseas ballots in those counties, 44% were registered Democrats, 10% Republicans, and 47% unaffiliated.

Amid this chaotic litigation, another court struck down an attempted GOP power shift in the state's election administration. A three-judge panel in a North Carolina court ruled SB 382 unconstitutional—a law that would have transferred appointment power for the State Board of Elections from the governor to the Republican state auditor.

"The Constitution prevents the legislature from unreasonably disturbing the vesting of 'the executive power' in the governor or the governor's obligation to take care that the laws are faithfully executed," wrote Superior Court Judges Edwin Wilson and Lori Hamilton.

Had the law taken effect, it would have allowed Republican Auditor Dave Boliek to appoint all members of the elections board and all 100 county election chairs—raising concerns over potential influence in the ongoing Supreme Court case.

The controversy has prompted legal experts to revisit the "Purcell Principle"—a federal standard discouraging courts from changing election rules too close to an election. While North Carolina lacks a state-level version, Republican NC Supreme Court Justice Richard Dietz has advocated for one in dissenting opinions.

Despite all rulings so far, the case is not settled. The ultimate call now lies with U.S. District Judge Richard Myers, who must weigh constitutional claims raised by Riggs before the race can be certified.

Bill To Ban Camping—*CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1*

and alcohol use on the designated property and enforce the prohibition against such use.

Several people signed up to speak against the bill. They were only given one minute each to speak.

Otto Harris, a pastor speaking on behalf of Ken Carter, bishop of the Western North Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church, said HB 781 treads on the state's most vulnerable citizens.

"How can we push down folks who are already down?" Carter asked. "Seems like it's impossible, but this bill has figured it out."

Harris said the bill will criminalize homelessness and place unhoused people in "harm's way with potential penalties, fines, court dates, blemishes on their record."

Chris Nobblitt, an organizer for Durham-based National Union of the Homeless, said the bill will lead to deaths if approved.

"This bill will kill the Hurricane Helene victims that have still not gotten help from FEMA or the state," Nobblitt said. "This bill will kill veterans that serve my country, please do not let this bill pass."

Nobblitt compared "sanction encampments" to "concentration camps."

"If you really wanted to help homeless people, then you would help to unlock the 27 empty homes for every homeless person. You would help us get Medicaid for every person," Nobblitt said. "You would raise the minimum wage so we could afford the sky-high rent that the corporations in North Carolina are holding hostage."

According to the N.C. Housing Coalition, there are 1.1 million families in North Carolina who are burdened by housing costs. The group's annual County Profiles reported that 48% of renters and 19% of homeowners in North Carolina pay more than 30% of their income on housing. Families that spend more than 30% of income on housing are considered cost-burdened. In 2024, homelessness in North Carolina increased 19%, as the official count reached a total of 11,626 individuals experiencing homelessness.

Chris Sharp of the conservative, Texas-based Cicero Institute, spoke in support of the bill.

"This bill allows for local governments to establish sanctioned camping, camping areas that provide basic sanitation, access to mental health and substance abuse treatment, along with protection from gangs drug dealers, which often prey on these vulnerable individuals," Sharp said. "HB 781 also provides for protection of individual property and small business property rights."

Bill critics have said they believe Sharp's group represents is behind HB 781.

"I'm also glad today that the Cicero Institute has finally revealed itself as the sponsor and lobbyist for this bill," said Latonya Agard, executive director of the N.C. Coalition to End Homelessness.

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BLACK WWII

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— 422-0 — to award the Congressional Gold Medal to the unit. Biden signed the bipartisan bill the following year. "That really shows how long this recognition took," said Kim Guise, senior curator at the National WWII Museum. "It is really important to recognize the accomplishments of these women and what they went through to serve their country in wartime."

The medal is a posthumous tribute for most of the battalion's 855 members. Only two are still alive today, including McClendon, who later joined the Air Force after military integration and became the first woman to command an all-male Strategic Air Command squadron. In addition to the medal and previous honors, their story is now part of popular culture. Netflix has a feature film titled The Six Triple Eight, directed by Tyler Perry and starring Kerry Washington. "They kept hollering about wanting us to go overseas," McClendon said. "So I guess they found something for us to do: take care of the mail. And there was an awful lot of mail." "It's overwhelming," she added. "It's something I never even thought about."

Business & Finance

Art Meets Architecture In Raleigh AJA Lunch & Learn Event

With Black architects representing just 2% of licensed professionals in the U.S. and women making up only 17% of the field, the architecture industry continues to face a representation crisis. On April 24th, Andre Johnson Architects (AJA) answered the call for change - turning their studio to a launchpad for futures once thought out of reach.

Students as young as middle school and Art majors from North Carolina A&T State University were invited to witness the powerful intersection of Art and Architecture - and explore career pathways once perceived as unreachable.

The day included an intimate studio tour and a dynamic panel discussion featuring:

- Andre Johnson, Principal Architect & NC A&T Alumnus
- Darlene McClinton, Muralist & International Artist
- Jake Heffington, Executive Director, Diversify Architecture
- Tiffany Walker, STEM Engagement Specialist, NC A&T

Each speaker shared their creative journey, reinforcing one clear message:

Your creativity is a career. And your creations shape the built world.

Special guest Representative Kanika Brown joined the conversation, urging attendees to connect with elected officials as partners in building career pathways. "We're here to support you," she affirmed, encouraging young people and their families to tap into the resources available through their elected public officials.

Since 2013, AJA has delivered award-winning, human-centered design across North Carolina, transforming spaces from 500 sq. ft. to 300,000 sq. ft. Today, AJA is not only creating buildings - it's building futures.

For Andre Johnson, this Lunch Event was more than professional—it was personal. As a proud graduate of North Carolina A&T State University, opening his studio doors to young dreamers, including middle school students and current A&T Art majors, was a full-circle act of purpose. It was a way to pour back into the same pipeline that once shaped him.

By creating this space, Johnson reminded us that mentorship isn't optional—it's essential. That visibility is power. And that when leaders make room at the table, they don't just change perceptions—they change futures.

In giving students a glimpse into the world of architecture, AJA didn't just share a profession. They offered a vision of possibility, a sense of dignity, and a deep feeling of belonging. In that moment, they weren't just showcasing a career path- they were helping draft the blueprint for a more inclusive future, where every student, regardless of background, can see themselves as part of the design.

North Carolina Lawmakers Want To Encourage Homebuilding

By Mary Helen Moore

NC Newsroom

A bill working its way through the N.C. House of Representatives would allow civil lawsuits against individuals for development decisions they make on city councils or planning boards.

The language is tucked into a wide-ranging bill rewriting development regulations that has bipartisan support from 13 Republicans and nine Democrats.

Rep. Jeff Zenger, a Forsyth County Republican, is a primary sponsor of House Bill 765. He says the legislation makes it easier for developers to build affordable housing.

"We've got a generation of folks that if we're not careful, we're going to box them out of the American dream," Zenger said in a committee meeting last week.

Zenger owns a building company and previously sued the town of Lewisville over a contentious rejected development. He won $2 million in a settlement.

Rep. Jay Adams, a fellow Republican from Catawba County, rejected Zenger's characterization. He said it was essentially "a homebuilders' bill."

"It's really about taking away municipalities' ability to govern how housing is built and where it's built and how much of it's built," Adams said. "And I've got a little bit of a problem with that."

Local leaders say HB 765 goes too far

The bill contains 31 pages of rewrites to North Carolina development regulations. Those changes include:

Allowing civil lawsuits against decision-makers for damages tied to development decisions. This includes elected officials and board appointees.

Barring voting on a land-use decision by officials who have "a fixed opinion... on the matter that appears not susceptible to change."

Requiring cities of at least 125,000 allow tiny homes, and at least one accessory dwelling unit per single-family home. This includes Charlotte, Raleigh, Greensboro, Durham, Winston-Salem, Fayetteville, Cary, and soon, Wilmington.

Doing away with requirements to build a certain number of parking spaces per business, something Durham, Raleigh and Gastonia have all done.

Limiting local authority to control building design; require sidewalks or plant borders; or regulate developments' interior roads and driveways.

Requiring all land-use decisions be made within 104 days of an application, or else approval is automatically granted.

Scaling back a controversial law passed last year limiting down-zoning.

Allowing the building by-right of at least four homes per acre in residential zones statewide.

Making it harder to create a historic district.

Ann Schneider, an Oak Ridge Town Council member, called the proposed new standards "incredibly vague."

The NC League of Municipalities wrote to its members earlier this month that the bill takes "a radical approach."

In response, the governments of Kill Devil Hills, Wilmington, Henderson County and Rowan County all have passed resolutions opposing the legislation. Leaders of cities in Forsyth County will likely soon join them.

NC faces 'housing supply gap'

Supporters argue the best way to lower the price of housing is to build more of it.

A new report showed there is a large "housing supply gap" in North Carolina — estimated to approach 765,000 units by 2029. That report was commissioned by the NC Chamber and state associations representing homebuilders and Realtors.

That gap could be solved through a combination of new construction, repairs to existing housing and financial assistance to the most needy, the study suggest.

The starkest needs identified in the report are for:

Affordable rentals for low-income earners.

Homes for sale for people making 121 to 150% of median income, particularly considering an anticipated influx of new residents.

"We are in a crisis," said Rep. Carla Cunningham, a Mecklenburg County Democrat who is among the bill's primary sponsors.

The legislation faced a wide variety of questions last week as it passed the Housing and Development Committee. The House Rules Committee will be the next to consider the bill, the last step before the full House would vote on it.

Rep. Matthew Winslow, a Franklin County Republican and home builder, urged legislators to "bring us solutions" as the bill continues to be workshopped.

The General Assembly returns to Raleigh on Monday.

BIG-MONEY LOTTERY WINNERS COULD STAY ANONYMOUS

By Mary Helen Moore

NC Newsroom

State lawmakers are considering letting more jackpot winners keep their identities secret.

The bill would give lottery winners the right to remain anonymous if they win $5 million or more in prize money. That privilege is currently reserved for those who win at least $50 million.

Sen. Ralph Hise, a Spruce Pine Republican, is sponsoring the proposed legislation.

"This bill actually started for me with a conversation with someone who was describing the last five years as having a 'unfortunate experience' of buying a scratcher that resulted in a $5 million prize," Hise said last week during a meeting of the Committee on State and Local Government.

Hise said the lucky winners deserve privacy, not "friends and family coming out of the woodwork."

The IRS and state tax authorities would still be notified of a lottery winner's identity, the bill says.

Senate Bill 402 has bipartisan support. It's being considered next by the Senate Rules Committee, the final step before the full Senate could vote on it.

A similar bill was filed earlier this session by Democrats in the House. House Bill 401 would allow any winners to remain anonymous. It hasn't yet had a hearing.

Persistent Inequities with HBCU Funding

By Jordan Meadows

Staff Writer

Former President Donald Trump signed an executive order establishing the White House Initiative to Promote Excellence and Innovation at HBCUs. While not the first executive action of its kind—every president since Jimmy Carter has issued HBCU-related orders—Trump's new directive arrives as Harvard University sued the Trump administration after it froze $2.3bn in federal funding for the institution.

The 2025 executive order praises HBCUs' vital role in American higher education. It aims to strengthen their capacity, promote workforce development, and encourage state compliance with funding mandates. It does not commit any new federal funds. From 2021 through 2024, the Biden-Harris administration directed over $17 billion in federal funding to HBCUs.

Despite federal efforts over the decades, the core funding problem facing HBCUs lies with the states. The Second Morrill Act of 1890 required states to provide land-grant institutions for Black students if they excluded them from their white colleges. However, many states created underfunded "separate but unequal" HBCUs and took federal funds while failing to match them.

According to a 2022 Forbes Magazine investigation, from 1987 to 2020, 18 Black land-grant universities were shortchanged by a combined $12.8 billion in state funding. Tennessee State University (TSU) received $1.9 billion less than the University of Tennessee over that period. North Carolina A&T, the nation's largest HBCU, was underfunded by $2.8 billion compared to NC State University. In 2020 alone, NC A&T received $8,200 less per student than NC State.

While some states—such as Delaware and Ohio—have met funding requirements, most have not. In 2020, Tennessee provided over four times the required state match for the University of Tennessee but barely exceeded the minimum for TSU. This underfunding has a domino effect: HBCUs have smaller endowments, fewer research grants, and greater borrowing costs.

Lack of investment has tangible consequences. Many HBCUs struggle with crumbling buildings, outdated labs, and overcrowded dorms. This has led to confrontations between students and universities, like last Thursday at North Carolina Central in Durham where police detained five people among those rallying for more student housing.

In FY2024, HBCUs reported $91.9 million in new endowment gifts, up from $74.7 million the year before. While welcome, these gifts are a drop in the bucket compared to the $12.8 billion in missing public funds.

THE NEED TO KNOW: FIRE AND ELON MUSK BURDEN MEMPHIS

By: Ms Jheri Worldwide

Staff Writer

Memphis, Tennessee, a city steeped in history, culture, and the echoes of civil rights struggle, finds itself once again at the crossroads of injustice. The narrative, too often framed by the tragic assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., risks overshadowing the vibrant, resilient community that continues to thrive within its borders. We must reclaim that narrative, particularly as our brothers and sisters in Memphis face a new threat: Elon Musk's xAI and its Colossus data center.

The facts are stark. Musk's xAI, operating 35 methane gas-powered turbines in southwest Memphis, is polluting the air with significant amounts of nitrogen oxide and other toxic chemicals. This isn't just an environmental concern; it's a direct assault on the health and well-being of a predominantly Black community already burdened by the legacy of environmental racism.

As Tennessee State Representative Justin J. Pearson rightly pointed out on Democracy Now with Amy Goodman, "This isn't an isolated incident. Memphis has a history of being targeted by industries that prioritize profit over people. From the broken promises of Electrolux to the existing network of Toxics Release Inventory facilities, our community has consistently been treated as the "path of least resistance."

Representative Pearson added, "We must understand that this isn't just about numbers and statistics. It's about real people: families struggling with asthma, loved ones battling cancer, and children whose futures are being compromised by toxic air." It's about the very fabric of communities like Orange Mound, the first U.S. neighborhood to be built by African Americans, and the neighborhoods that make Memphis the soul of Tennessee.

The recent fire at Clayborn Temple, the church where Dr. King preached his last sermon serves as a painful reminder of the challenges Memphis faces. But amidst these trials, we must remember the strength and resilience that define our community. We must channel the spirit of our ancestors, who fought tirelessly for justice and equality, and demand accountability from those who seek to exploit us.

This is a call to action. We cannot allow our voices to be silenced. We must stand in solidarity with our brothers and sisters in Memphis and demand:

- Transparency and accountability: We demand a full investigation into the environmental impact of xAI's operations and immediate action to mitigate the harm being done.
- Environmental justice: We will not tolerate the continued targeting of Black communities for industrial pollution. Clean air and clean water are fundamental human rights.
- Community empowerment: We must support local organizations like Memphis Community Against Pollution and amplify the voices of those directly affected by this injustice.
- Political pressure: We must hold our elected officials accountable and demand that they prioritize the health and well-being of their constituents over corporate interests.The harm being done in Memphis is being done to all of us. As a people, we have to stand together, we are our brothers' keepers. Memphis deserves more than to be remembered as the site of a tragedy. It deserves to be celebrated for its rich history, its vibrant culture, and its resilient people. We must rise up and ensure that our voices are heard, that our communities are protected, and that justice prevails. Let us stand together, not just for Memphis, but for every Black community fighting for its right to breathe, to live, and to thrive.

Loss Of FEMA Programs & Their Projects

AP NEWS - The textile mills that once served as the backbone of Mount Pleasant, North Carolina, have long been shuttered, and officials believed federal money would be key to the town's overdue revitalization. They hoped an improved stormwater drainage system and secured electrical wires — funded through a program to help communities protect against natural disasters and climate change — would safeguard investments in new businesses like a renovated historic theater to spur the largely rural economy.

Mount Pleasant was about to receive $4 million when the Federal Emergency Management Agency eliminated the program. Officials say their plans — years in the making — and those of hundreds of communities nationwide supported by the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities program have been upended.

"This is a generational set of infrastructure projects that would set us up for the next hundred years and it just — poof — went away," said Erin Burris, assistant town manager for Mount Pleasant, 25 miles (40 kilometers) east of Charlotte.

FEMA's elimination this month of the BRIC program revoked upwards of $3.6 billion in funding earmarked for communities like Mount Pleasant. Though President Donald Trump has openly questioned whether to shutter FEMA completely, local officials said they were blindsided by the move to end BRIC, established during the Republican president's first term.

Many affected communities are in Republican-dominated, disaster-prone regions. FEMA called the BRIC grants "wasteful" and "politicized" tools, but officials and residents say they were a vital use of government resources to proactively protect lives, infrastructure and economies. Money would have gone toward strengthening electrical poles to withstand hurricane-force winds in Louisiana, relocating residents in Pennsylvania's floodplains and safeguarding water supply lines in Oklahoma's Tornado Alley.

Disasters affect the vast majority of Americans — 95% live in a county that has had a federally declared weather disaster since 2011, said Amy Chester, director of Rebuild by Design, a nonprofit focused on disaster prevention.

The BRIC program told communities, "We're going to help your community be stronger ahead of time," she said. "Cutting one of the sole sources of funding for that need is essentially telling Americans that it's OK that they're suffering."

Officials call FEMA's program imperfect but important

Across multiple states, officials said the BRIC program was far from perfect — they were often frustrated with the wait for funding.

But in southeastern Louisiana, Lafourche Parish President Archie Chaisson said despite his issues with FEMA's bureaucracy, he's seen firsthand that money invested to fortify homes and infrastructure works.

The hurricane-ravaged state receives the highest rate of federal disaster assistance per capita, with more than $8 billion pouring in since 2011, according to Rebuild by Design. Lafourche Parish has seen more than a dozen federally declared extreme weather disasters since 2011.

Lafourche had been set to receive more than $20 million from several grants to replace wooden electrical poles with steel and take other steps to lower the soaring costs of home insurance.

Chaisson, a Republican whose parish saw 80% of voters support Trump in November, said he backs efforts to streamline federal agencies — as long as funding continues to flow for disaster prevention.

"I'm hopeful that that's what the president's trying to do with this," he said. "Is there some other way to get the money so we can continue to do these projects? ... No matter where you sit on the political spectrum, the programs themselves and the dollars allocated make our communities more resilient."

Research backs him up: A 2024 study funded by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce found every $1 invested in disaster preparation saved $13 in economic impact, damage and cleanup costs.

Democratic officials in states that lost money have publicly expressed outrage. Few Republicans have joined in at a national level, even though about two-thirds of the top 15 states in total FEMA funds received, spending per person and number of federally declared disasters lean heavily Republican.

Federal Bonding Program Is A Gateway To Employment

Some employers may require their employees to be bonded as protection against money or property loss due to employee dishonesty. However, many private bonding agencies will not bond job applicants with conviction histories or other questionable past behaviors because they are often categorized as "at-risk" or "not bondable." Being ineligible for private bonding insurance can be an additional employment barrier for many qualified job applicants with past conviction records. The Federal Bonding Program exists to help alleviate employers' concerns about hiring qualified, but "at-risk," job applicants.

What Is the Federal Bonding Program?

The Federal Bonding Program serves as a job placement tool by guaranteeing to an employer the job honesty of "at-risk," hard-to-place job applicants.

The Federal Bonding Program issues fidelity bonds, which are business insurance policies that protect employers in case of theft, forgery, larceny, or embezzlement of money or property by an employee who is covered by the bond. The bond coverage is usually $5000 with no deductible amount of liability for the employer. Higher amounts of coverage, up to $25,000, may be allowed if justified. The bond does not cover liability due to poor workmanship, job injuries, or work accidents.

Bond packages are issued by the Department of Labor to a purchasing organization such as a job placement agency or employer. The purchasing organization can be public or private, nonprofit or for profit. Then, the job placement organization or employer is able to bond individuals who other bonding agencies usually will not, such as individuals with conviction records.

The bond is put into effect instantly on the first day of employment. The employer simply makes the applicant a job offer and sets a date for the individual to start working. There are no forms or other papers for the employer to sign, and no processing to delay matters.

Who Is Eligible for the Federal Bonding Program?

Bond coverage is provided for any at-risk job applicant whose background usually leads employers to question their honesty and deny them a job. This includes people with conviction records, people in treatment or recovery for alcohol and/or other drug addictions, and people with little or no work history, including people transitioning from welfare to work.

All jobs are bondable in private and public sectors, full and part-time positions, as well as jobs secured through temporary agencies. The bond insurance is free to the employer. It goes into effect the first day of the job applicant's employment and will terminate after six months. After the six months, continued coverage can be purchased under the program's bond.

Program Requirements

The worker must meet the state's legal age for working.

•Workers must be paid wages with federal taxes automatically deducted from the pay.

•The employer must make the applicant a job offer and set a date for the individual to start work.

•Bonds also can be issued to cover an already employed worker who needs bonding in order to (a) prevent being laid off, or (b) secure a promotion to a new job at the company.

Efficiency and Effectiveness of the Program

Bonding services as a job placement tool has achieved a 99% success rate. About 41,000 job placements have been made for at-risk persons who were automatically made bondable.

It encourages employers to hire people with conviction records. A survey of "Employer Attitudes Toward Hiring Ex-Offenders," published in The Prison Journal, determined that employers were much more willing to hire people with conviction records who are bonded. The report states "bonding was the only variable to which the majority of employers (51%) responded favorably."

It reduces reincarceration rates and saves money. A Texas A&M comparison group study found that people with conviction records who were released from Texas State prisons and were job placed by the Texas Employment Commission (Project RIO) through use of bonding and other services, had their reincarceration rate reduced by 40%. Most important was that "RIO saved Texas over $10 million per year in potential reincarceration costs, and participants who secured employment generated about $1000 per year in state and local taxes."

Program History

Purchasers of the bonds include state employment agencies, Workforce Investment Boards and One-Stop Centers, organizations employing people with conviction records, state departments of corrections, private sector organizations and veteran's initiatives.

What is WOTC?

The Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC) is a federal tax credit available to employers who invest in American job seekers who have consistently faced barriers to employment. Employers may meet their business needs and claim a tax credit if they hire an individual who is in a WOTC targeted group.

Employers must apply for and receive a certification verifying the new hire is a member of a targeted group before they can claim the tax credit. After the required certification is secured, taxable employers claim the WOTC as a general business credit against their income taxes, and tax-exempt employers claim the WOTC against their payroll taxes.

WOTC is authorized until December **31, 2025 (Section 113 of Division EE of P.L. 116-260 -- Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021).**

Health and Wellness

Meeting Patients Where They Are: NC Mobile Medicine

By Will Atwater
NC Health News

Rural residents often face significant barriers to accessing health care. Power outages, challenging travel and extreme weather events — such as hurricanes, heat waves and floods — only worsen the challenges posed by limited access to clinics and medical specialists.

This scenario recently played out in western North Carolina, where Hurricane Helene left many rural health care facilities inoperable. In response, the state deployed some mobile medical units to deliver care directly to affected communities.

But ahead of future disasters, more help may be on the way.

Mission Mobile Medical Group, based in Greensboro, announced in February that it was awarded up to $26 million in federal dollars "to develop the next-generation mobile clinic under the Platform Accelerating Rural Access to Distributed and Integrated Medical Care (PARADIGM) program," according to a news release.

The mobile health care company will use the funding to design and build mobile "medical suites" — self-contained clinical units tailored for rural health systems. The goal: deliver hospital-level care and advanced diagnostics to communities across the country, according to the release.

"Only 12 percent of physicians practice in rural communities," said Travis LeFever, chief executive officer of Mission Mobile Group. "With such limited access to medical care and emergency services, rural families — especially children — face barriers to care that should make us all question our priorities, political policies, and our public and personal principles."

Mobile clinics could help eliminate the need for long-distance travel, particularly for residents of remote areas where building a permanent facility isn't feasible. They also offer vital access for hard-to-reach populations, such as migrant workers or fishing communities.

The $26 million initiative is funded through the Biden-era Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health (ARPA-H). Although the Trump administration has canceled or frozen billions of dollars in other federal programs, the funding awarded to Mission Mobile has not, so far, been affected, according to LeFever.

Delivering assistance

While mobile clinics aren't new, they're becoming an increasingly vital part of the health care system — especially in rural "health care deserts" and in the wake of natural disasters, when traditional brick-and-mortar facilities may be inaccessible.

But even in calmer times, staffing rural clinics can pose a major challenge.

"In rural settings, typically, you don't have as many providers [and] specialist positions," said Lyn Jenkins, the executive director of the Community Care Clinic of Dare in Nags Head on North Carolina's Outer Banks. "Three of the counties in eastern North Carolina don't even have a practicing dentist."

This shortage often forces patients to travel outside their communities to find treatment — an obstacle that can be costly and time-consuming.

"We see a lot of transportation barriers within the Outer Banks area," Jenkins said. "But also [barriers] to get to other hubs like Virginia or Greenville or Elizabeth City, for specialists that we don't have down here ... We just can't support all the specialists in this small rural area."

North Carolina has 96 rural health clinics, according to James Werner, a spokesperson for the state Department of Health and Human Services. As of 2020, more than 3 million residents — about 33 percent of the state's population — live in rural communities, according to the Office of State Budget and Management, and North Carolina is second only to Texas for the size of the rural population.

Nationally, more than 60 million Americans live in rural areas where access to rural hospitals is shrinking. Between 2013 and 2020, 4 percent of rural hospitals closed, according to the U.S. Government Accountability Office. Those closures have forced patients to travel, on average, 20 more miles for regular care and 40 more miles for specialty care.

Rendering of Mission Mobile Medical's new electric vehicle MARCUS

Advanced technology

The new mobile clinics will be powered by MARCUS — short for Mobile Access to Revolutionary Care Connecting US — Mission Mobile's customizable system that allows clinics to be outfitted with medical equipment tailored to the specific needs of each community.

"[PARADIGM's mission] is to develop the next generation of mobile clinics across several teams," said Emily D'Agostino, a Duke University School of Medicine associate professor and project research team lead. "Several teams were awarded funding to work together to try to revolutionize how care and access to care work, particularly in rural settings."

D'Agostino noted that rural residents are more likely to be underinsured or uninsured and often face multiple chronic conditions — increasing their risk of adverse health outcomes.

"You have higher heart disease, higher cancer, higher lung disease, higher stroke and trauma," D'Agostino said. "It's not just that there aren't providers, transportation is a major barrier in access to care."

Bridging gaps in coverage

Jenkins, from the Outer Banks, sees opportunities for rural clinics to share the mobile resource.

"On specific days we could use the van [to go] to areas that are hard to reach or [where] there are a lot of people working as day laborers who can't leave to come into the free clinics," she said.

Werner agrees that mobile medical units can increase access to health care for rural residents.

"We believe this is an excellent way to meet patients where they are and to address transportation barriers faced by residents who do not live close to a provider," NC DHHS spokesperson Werner said. "While our support of mobile medical units has primarily focused on primary medical and dental care, we certainly see the potential in Mission Mobile's approach to create more specialized services — should they be needed — through adaptable spaces."

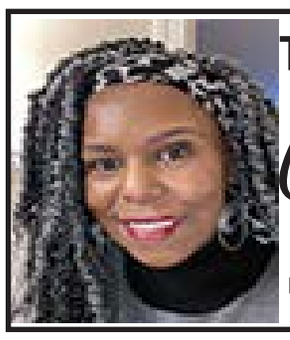
Still, some rural health advocates are taking a more cautious, wait-and-see approach to Mission Mobile's plans.

"The bottom line is, if they are successful at expanding access to care in rural areas — overall, I think that that's a good thing," said Nathan Baugh, executive director of the National Association of Rural Health Clinics. "But, I've seen initiatives like this come and go [during] my time."

While it's not clear how much the mobile medical units will cost, Mission Mobile provides information on its website about applying for grant funding.

The ARPA-H program will support a shared-service model, allowing rural hospitals and other entities to access mobile medical equipment without having to purchase it outright, LeFever said in a text message.

According to the company's website, the first modular units are expected by mid-2025, with a full national rollout anticipated by 2027.



The Golden Years

By Judykay Jefferson

SOUNDTRAX

For most of us, music has been much more than a backdrop to life's moments. It has been a powerful thread, weaving together memory, culture, and identity. From spirituals sung in fields to the soulful voices of Motown, music has carried stories of resilience, hope, and community through generations. And for our senior community, it's not just about nostalgia; it's about keeping those stories alive and vibrant. As elders, we are the keepers of this legacy, ensuring its continuation in the lives of younger generations.

A melody can trigger a memory so vivid it feels as though you're reliving it. This happens to me all the time. Neuroscientists have discovered that music activates multiple areas of the brain, including regions tied to memory and emotions. This is why songs from your younger days can evoke such strong feelings—they're deeply embedded in your brain's emotional core.

For older adults, music is particularly important in maintaining cognitive health. Studies have shown that listening to familiar music can improve memory, reduce stress, and even enhance mood. Throughout Mother's Alzheimer's experience she never forgot her favorite songs. She would sing songs she sang to me as a child. Moments like these demonstrate how music can cut through the fog of memory loss, offering clarity and connection in ways few other tools can.

Through the centuries, African Americans have used music to document their experiences and pass down history. Spirituals, for example, were not just songs; they were coded messages that guided enslaved people to freedom. Each note carried meaning, each verse a testament to endurance and a yearning for liberation.

Fast forward to the 20th century and find a legacy of resilience and creativity in genres like jazz, blues, gospel, and soul. Jazz, also known as African American classical music, turned hardship into harmony and hope. The blues spoke to the frustration of continued oppression with its handmade instruments and simple melodic patterns. Gospel brought the church to the forefront of the Civil Rights Movement, galvanizing communities with songs like "We Shall Overcome." Soul music was the heartbeat of a generation, expressing everything from heartbreak to pride.

North Carolina, had its share of musical trailblazers. From Nina Simone, the "High Priestess of Soul" hailing from Tryon, to the jazz legend Thelonious Monk, born in Rocky Mount, this state has been a cradle for musical greatness. Their songs didn't just entertain; they educated, uplifted, and connected people, creating a legacy that still resonates today.

Beyond their artistry, these musicians played pivotal roles in shaping societal change. Their voices, often rising in defiance of injustice, became anthems of empowerment. Nina Simone's music, for instance, was as much a call to action as it was a masterclass in soul.

Sharing music is a way to pass on wisdom and heritage. Have you ever taught your grandchildren a hymn or told them about your first concert? Moments like these build bridges, connecting generations through the shared language of rhythm and melody.

Hip-hop artists, for instance, often sample soul, jazz, or gospel tracks, blending modern beats with historical narratives. These nods to the past aren't just artistic choices; they're acts of preservation, ensuring that the music of the past continues to influence the future.

We can keep the melody of memory alive in our lives by revisiting old favorites—dusting off those records or ask your grandkids to help you find classics on a music streaming app. Better yet, sing. Whether it's in church, in the kitchen, or just humming along to the radio, singing keeps your memories fresh and your spirit lifted.

Consider joining or supporting local music events and groups. From church choirs to jazz festivals, North Carolina is rich in opportunities to celebrate and enjoy music. You'll not only reconnect with your community but also play a part in keeping our shared history alive.

Music is more than a soundtrack to our lives—it's a keeper of memories, a builder of bridges, and a testament to resilience and creativity. It carries a unique significance, telling stories of struggle and triumph that are as vital today as they were generations ago.

So, the next time you hear a familiar tune, take a moment to savor it. Sing it, share it, and let it remind you of the richness of your journey. Because in the melody of memory, we find not just our past, but the rhythm of our future.

Arts & Culture

Biscuits & Banjos: An Unforgettable Weekend of Black Culture

By Brian Burns

WUNC

The Carolina Chocolate Drops reunited at DPAC (Pic by: Anthony Mulcahy)

Musician Niwel Tsumbu (Pic by: Anthony Mulcahy)

NCCU's Jazz Ensemble I (Pic by: Anthony Mulcahy)

This past weekend, downtown Durham was taken over by the inaugural Biscuits & Banjos Festival, a celebration of Black artists and creators and the brainchild of Grammy and Pulitzer Prize-winning, North Carolina-born artist Rhiannon Giddens. The festival featured musical performances, documentary screenings, lectures, dance parties, and of course, biscuits. With this being the first-ever festival of its kind, you'd expect some logistical hiccups throughout the weekend but from what I saw, there were none. It was a truly astonishing celebration of Black culture and it showcased how great downtown Durham is. There was nothing on the schedule that didn't pique my interest, so it was hard to decide which performances to see, but here's how the weekend went down for me.

Friday: kicking it off with Demeanor, the camaraderie of square and line dancing with Rhiannon Giddens, and the legendary Taj Mahal

My first stop was the Blackbird Stage at Lot 20. This stage had musical performances throughout the weekend that were all free to the public. The first performance came from Greensboro-based rapper and folk musician Justin Harrington, aka Demeanor. His resume includes collaborations with artists ranging from Doechii to Rhiannon Giddens, and his show brought the kind of energy you'd expect from someone with so much range. After his set, I popped up to The Pinhook to catch singer-songwriter and poet Adia Victoria. Her set was haunting and beautiful.

After my time at The Pinhook, I headed over to The Carolina Theatre to check out the great composer and bassist Christian McBride. He was joined on stage by North Carolina Central University's Jazz Ensemble I. I loved seeing all the young local talent on showcase and working with the legendary McBride. With little time for rehearsal, he conducted them through a set of mostly original compositions and gave a lot of the players space to solo.

After Christian McBride's set, I headed back over to The Pinhook to catch Niwel Tsumbu, an artist I wasn't familiar with before the festival. He's a guitarist who was born and raised in the Democratic Republic of Congo but now lives in Ireland, where he met and worked with Rhiannon Giddens. His set was absolutely beautiful. It was a mix of different African guitar styles and he closed the set with a cover of Bob Marley's "Redemption Song."

From The Pinhook, I headed over to The Armory for the first time of the weekend to catch a little bit of the Friday Night Frolic Square & Line Dance with Rhiannon Giddens & Friends. This wasn't on my schedule initially, but I'm so glad I went because I really think it represented what the festival is all about. Giddens was joined on stage by an amazing group of players and a square dance caller who instructed the crowd on how to go through the moves. It was pure joy to see The Armory filled with dancers who were all laughing and smiling the entire time. Between square dance numbers, there were line dances and the crowd was on board for all of it.

From The Armory, I headed back to The Carolina Theatre to catch the night's main event, Taj Mahal with Leyla McCalla. McCalla and her band kicked off the night with a set of songs from her latest record, "Sun Without The Heat," and then brought out the legend Taj Mahal for a set of his classics mixed with more of McCalla's originals. At 82 years old, Taj Mahal sounded fantastic and brought a lot of humor to the set too.

I finally closed out the night back at The Pinhook where Sweet Molasses: A Pop-Up Juke Joint presented by The Conjure was taking place. The Conjure is a Durham-based dance party that celebrates Black & Brown femmes and they brought a super fun mix of dance and country music to close out the night.

Saturday: Library talk, Infinity Song, and the Carolina Chocolate Drops reunion

I got a little bit of a late start on Saturday, but the first thing I caught was a panel called Libraries As Sanctuaries For Black Stories that featured librarian and TikTok star Mychal Threets and New York Times columnist and UNC sociologist Tressie McMillan Cottom. As a MLS holder myself, I loved hearing from these people about how important libraries are to local communities and how in 2025 they're as relevant and important as ever — maybe even more so. Cottom pointed out that libraries will let you walk out the door with $5000 worth of stuff, while when you go to the drug store you have to ask someone to unlock the razors for you because they don't trust you enough to not steal them. This panel took place at The Water Tower on the American Tobacco Campus, right by our studio.

From there, I walked back up to The Blackbird Stage at Lot 20 to catch the end of New Dangerfield's set. New Dangerfield is a Black string band supergroup that features Jake Blount, Kaia Kater, Nelson Williams, and North Carolina's own Tray Wellington. They're a relatively new group carrying on the tradition that the Carolina Chocolate Drops carried on from their mentor Joe Thompson.

After New Dangerfield, I went back to The Armory to catch Infinity Song, who were at the very top of my list of artists I was excited to see at the festival. I missed them a few months back at the Cat's Cradle Back Room so I was really glad they were in town for Biscuits & Banjos. Their set did not disappoint. It was easily the most high energy performance I saw all weekend. The band's sound is hard to describe. It's a mix of choir music, dance music and rock music. They did a really fun cover of Fleetwood Mac's "Dreams" that had everyone in The Armory on their feet clapping their hands and singing along. At the end of the set, they mentioned that they'd be back in the Triangle soon so I would highly recommend catching them then.

After Infinity Song it was time for the main event, Rhiannon Giddens' Carolina Breakdown ft. The Carolina Chocolate Drops Reunion at DPAC. The show started off with a set from New Dangerfield and was followed by Niwel Tsumbu. What a treat to get to see both of those artists twice at the festival. After those performances, Rhiannon Giddens came out with her band, starting her set with Elizabeth Cotten's "Freight Train" — a local favorite if there ever was one.

After a brief intermission, it was time for The Carolina Chocolate Drops, on stage together for the first time in 12 years. The set began with the original three Chocolate Drops, Dom Flemons, Rhiannon Giddens, and Justin Robinson going through some fan favorites. Eventually, they brought out Hubby Jenkins, Leyla McCalla, Rowan Corbett, and Sule, all people who spent time in the band as it evolved. It was truly one of the most special shows I've ever seen. After all these years, you could tell that everyone on stage was thrilled to be there and having a great time.

Sunday: closing things out with The Legendary Ingramettes and The Bittersweet Brass Band

Finally on Sunday morning, the festival wrapped with two performances. The Legendary Ingramettes put on a barn-burner of a show at the Durham Armory. Over at The Blackbird Stage, the local Bittersweet Brass Band put on an equally high-energy performance. It was a great way to wrap things up and leave people wanting more.

The arts scene in Durham thrives on collaboration and the Biscuits & Banjos Festival gave the city a chance to show that to the fans who traveled to be here. From the food to the music to the lectures, every detail of this festival was curated and organized with love and intention and I'm truly in awe of Rhiannon Giddens and her team of organizers for putting on such a special celebration. Cheers to them and love live Biscuits & Banjos.

Nana Morrison's Brings Beloved Soul Food Flavors to Town of Cary

By Ms Jheri Worldwide

Staff Writer

Cary, North Carolina, the aroma of authentic, heartwarming soul food is in the air. Nana Morrison's, a cherished family-owned restaurant with deep roots in the south, has officially opened its doors in Cary, bringing its celebrated recipes and vibrant family spirit to the Triangle.

In an exclusive interview, Shawn Morrison, the passionate co-founder of Nana Morrison's alongside his wife, shared the incredible journey that led to this exciting expansion. Their story is one of love, family, and confidence, because this is truly a family affair.

"My wife and I have been together for 29 years, since high school," Shawn fondly recounts. "The restaurant was my wife's idea. Despite my initial hesitation, she had no restaurant experience! Her determination and incredible cooking talent have brought us to where we are today."

"Nana" in Nana Morrison's is a tribute to Shawn's wife's grandmother, whose traditional Southern recipes form the heart of their menu. "Morrison" proudly represents Shawn's family name, creating a moniker that embodies both heritage and the generational wealth they are building as a family-based business.

What truly sets Nana Morrison's apart is the integral role their children play in the family business. From one son managing the original Charlotte location, which has thrived for 14 years, to another son at the Florida location, to their daughter recently promoted to COO, overseeing a substantial team, the Morrison children have been immersed in the restaurant from a young age. Shawn proudly explains their unique approach to instilling responsibility: "All of our kids started working as children. If they can master video games, they can learn the restaurant business through practice." This early involvement has clearly paid off, fostering a strong work ethic and deep understanding of the family's culinary vision.

The Harrison Avenue Cary location marks Nana Morrison's fifth establishment, a testament to their unwavering commitment to quality and community. Shawn hints at an exciting future, revealing plans for a refreshed restaurant design that promises a "breathtaking" and brighter atmosphere while maintaining the core values that have made them a local favorite. They are also embracing technology with an upcoming mobile app for rewards and easy ordering.

"We don't want to be just the best soul food restaurant," Shawn declares with ambition, "We want to be the best of the best." For Cary residents, this means access to genuine soul food crafted with love and tradition right in their neighborhood. Located conveniently off I-40 in Cary, Nana Morrison's is poised to become a go-to spot for those craving fresh and flavorful soul food in a welcoming atmosphere.

As a Cary native, I can attest to the growing appetite for diverse culinary experiences in this ever-expanding town. Nana Morrison's arrival is not just the opening of a restaurant; it's the introduction of a family's legacy and a taste of true Southern comfort. Get ready to experience the warmth and deliciousness!

Artists Survive Through History

THE CONVERSATION - In a February 2025 Truth Social post, President Donald Trump declared a "Golden Age in Arts and Culture."

So far, this "golden age" has entailed an executive order calling for the federal agency that funds local museums and libraries to be dismantled, with most grants rescinded. The Trump administration has forbidden federal arts funding from going to artists who promote what the administration calls "gender ideology." There's been a purge of the board of the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, with Trump appointing himself chair. And the administration has canceled National Endowment for the Humanities grants.

Suffice it to say, many artists and arts organizations across the U.S. are worried: Will government arts funding dry up? Do these cuts signal a new war on arts and culture? How do artists make it through this period of change?

As scholars who study the arts, activism and policy, we're watching the latest developments with apprehension. But we think it's important to point out that while the U.S. government has never been a global leader of arts funding, American artists have always been innovative, creative and scrappy during times of political turmoil.

A rocky relationship with the arts

For much of the country's early history, government funding for the arts was rarely guaranteed or stable.

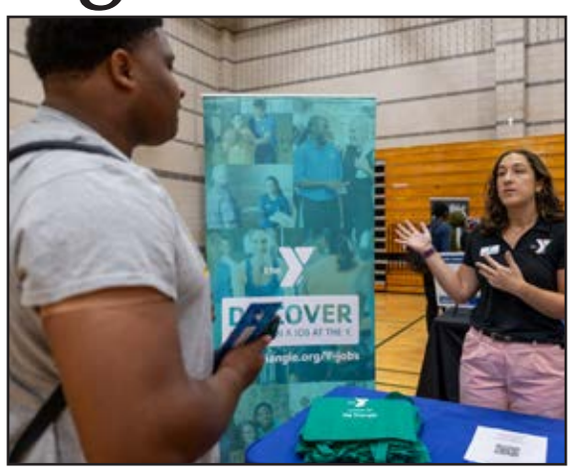
After the Civil War, the Second Industrial Revolution facilitated massive concentrations of wealth, in what became known as the the Gilded Age. Private arts funding soared during this period, with some titans of industry, such as Andrew Carnegie and John D. Rockefeller, seeing it as their duty to build museums, theaters and libraries for the public. The heavy reliance on private funding for the arts troubled some Americans, who feared these institutions would

(See ***ARTISTS SURVIVE,*** P. 12)

WOMEN OF SUBSTANCE DINNER HELD—The Garden on Millbrook was the scene recently of the Women Of Substance Dinner. The event was created by Ms. Carmen Cathen to research the Black Women in Raleigh/Wake Co. from the past and present who have contributed to the development of this city. Among the attendees were: (left to right) Wanda Sharpe, Sherri Belk, Mary Sharpe (honoree), Jason Belk, F. Lonnette Williams, Will Marks, and Charles Flowers. Ms. Cathen, a historian, currently has the names of close to five hundred Black women, who were listed in the program, and will be included in the book that will be available at the end of May. *Contributed Photo*

Community

Southeast Raleigh Seniors Shine at Connect The Dots Event



By Ms Jheri Worldwide
Staff Writer

Last Thursday, the Southeast Raleigh High School class of 2025 was able to Connect The Dots. Connect The Dots organization hosted its 3rd annual Southeast Raleigh Senior Day. The energy was high as graduating seniors engaged in a day brimming with insightful panels, valuable networking opportunities, and exciting prizes that included a $1,000 scholarship, gift cards, stylish sneakers, and even laptops!

The event, true to Connect The Dots' mission of "empowering young people through focused programs and vital resources," delivered precisely that. Students were treated to a diverse range of perspectives and guidance on navigating the transition from high school to their next chapter. Following these informative sessions, the gymnasium transformed into a hub of connection, where a multitude of professionals and organizations eagerly shared their expertise and opportunities from the military, to medicine, to the personal care industry, and everything in between.

What truly set this event apart was the prominent presence and invaluable contributions of alumni. For graduating seniors standing on the cusp of a new beginning, hearing directly from those who have walked a similar path is incredibly impactful. Alumni, having navigated the very challenges and excitement these students are now facing, offered relatable advice, shared their personal journeys, and provided tangible insights into various career paths and post-secondary options. By bridging the gap between current students and accomplished alumni, the organization fosters a sense of possibility and provides roadmaps for success. Hearing firsthand accounts of triumphs and even navigating setbacks from individuals who once sat in the same classrooms can be profoundly motivating and demystifying for graduating seniors.

Connect The Dots continues to be a vital force in the Southeast Raleigh community, living up to its dedication to "closing the divide between potential and opportunity." By creating initiatives like the Senior Day, Khalya Swain and her team are not only providing immediate resources but also creating lasting positive memories by connecting young people with the wisdom and experience of those who have come before them. The 3rd annual Southeast Raleigh Senior Day was a testament to the power of community, mentorship, and the bright futures that lie ahead for these graduating seniors and decorated alumni.

Citizen Spotlight: Daphne Moore on Finding Purpose & Impact

By Ms Jheri Worldwide
Staff Writer

The Carolinian is proud to introduce a remarkable individual in our ongoing Citizen Spotlight series – a feature dedicated to highlighting the everyday heroes who weave the fabric of our North Carolina communities. This week, we had the privilege of speaking with Daphne Moore, someone whose journey is a testament to resilience, purpose, and the profound impact one person can have. Daphne graciously shared her experiences, offering insights into pivotal moments, community contributions, and the guiding principles that shape her life.

Daphne's story begins with a courageous decision: returning to education after stepping away from high school. "For me, everything changed when I made the decision to go back to school and earn my GED in 2013," she shared. "I had left high school in the 10th grade, feeling lost and unsure of where I fit in or what I had to offer. I knew there had to be more to life than what I was settling for, but I didn't know how to reach for it." This pivotal step, though challenging, opened doors to Rowan-Cabarrus Community College, where Daphne excelled in Business Administration, graduating with highest honors. Reflecting on this transformative period, Daphne Moore noted, "Looking back, I realize how powerful one decision can be. It not only changed my life, but also introduced me to people who supported and inspired me along the way," including a significant mentor, Mrs. Barbara Meidl, who instilled valuable lessons in leadership.

Daphne's commitment to the North Carolina community shines through in her actions. Daphne recalled two particularly moving instances: assisting a constituent in finding her first independent living space, a moment of profound pride for both mother and daughter, and offering comfort and connection to a man experiencing homelessness. "These moments stay with me, reminding me of the impact we can have on someone's life, even in small or unseen ways," Daphne shared with heartfelt sincerity.

Communication, particularly the ability to truly listen, plays a crucial role in Daphne's daily interactions. "Connecting with so many different people every day has really strengthened my ability to use emotional intelligence in my work," she explained. "I've learned the importance of pausing and truly listening—not just to the words someone is saying, but to the tone and emotion behind them. There's something powerful about listening simply to understand, rather than listening just to reply." This emphasis on genuine connection fosters trust and understanding in all of Daphne's endeavors.

Life, however, has presented significant challenges. Daphne bravely recounted a devastating apartment fire in October 2024 that resulted in serious burns. "I struggled to understand why this happened to me, especially when I felt like I'd been working so hard and only seemed to be met with setbacks," Moore admitted. This experience, though painful, became a turning point, highlighting the importance of community support and personal resilience. Surrounded by a dedicated medical team and loving friends and family, Daphne Moore began a journey of healing. "This experience, as painful as it was, became a turning point for me. It forced me to slow down and allowed others to pour into me, helping me heal in ways I didn't expect. I'm still on that journey of healing, but I see myself as a phoenix rising from the ashes—transformed by fire, but not defeated."

Beyond Daphne's professional life, a deep sense of purpose drives her involvement in the community. Volunteering with mobile shower units and at a local shelter allows her to connect with individuals and advocate for their needs. Her passion extends to empowering others, as evidenced by her work as co-director for the Voices of Change Political Institute. "Ultimately, my calling is to help wherever I can, guided by a genuine desire to connect, understand, and advocate for others," Daphne shared.

When asked about the meaning of "citizen" and "community," Daphne offered a thoughtful perspective. "When I reflect on what it means to be a citizen, the word that comes to mind is 'unique.' Each of us carries our own set of experiences, perspectives, and backgrounds, and I believe it's this individuality that shapes the richness of our communities. To me, community is all about belonging—feeling connected to others while also being accepted for who you truly are."

Looking to the future, Daphne Moore expressed a hopeful anticipation for the journey ahead, with a focus on amplifying the voices of North Carolinians. Potential paths include a run for office or establishing a nonprofit dedicated to community service.

The unwavering support of family and the guidance of mentors, particularly Congresswoman Deborah Ross, have been deeply inspiring. Above all, faith serves as a central anchor. "Through faith, I've learned the importance of mercy, grace, and resilience—qualities I try to extend to everyone I meet," Daphne Moore explained.

Finally, when asked to offer one piece of advice to the readers of The Carolinian News, Daphne shared a powerful message of hope and perseverance: "Things aren't always what they seem. Sometimes, the very breakthrough you've been waiting for is right in front of you, just not in the form you expected... Keep working toward your dreams, turning them into goals and those goals into reality. And remember, there's power in moving quietly. Not everyone needs to know your plans or every step you're taking. Sometimes, it's best to let your actions and your results speak for themselves. Stay focused, trust your journey, and let your success be your voice."

This Citizen Spotlight illuminates the extraordinary impact of an individual driven by compassion, resilience, and a deep commitment to serving others. Daphne Moore's journey reminds us that even amidst challenges, purpose can be found, and that every act of kindness and advocacy contributes to a stronger, more vibrant community.

What's Going on With SAU? Pt 1

By: Jordan Meadows
Staff Writer

In October 2023, a five-member team of higher education professionals arrived at St. Augustine University (SAU) on behalf of its accreditor—the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACS)—to evaluate the university's finances and leadership.

Their findings: the university faced "dire and fundamental financial challenges," and its board of trustees lacked even the most basic systems for risk evaluation and fiscal oversight. The committee found that the board had approved budgets since 2019 without any verified, externally audited financials. There was no evidence of long-term strategies to address growing deficits.

Despite a brief return to probationary status following an initial appeal, SACS withdrew SAU's accreditation again in December 2024. That revocation, based on six violations including board mismanagement, struck a major blow to the university's viability. Without accreditation, students cannot access federal financial aid, and the institution becomes ineligible for most forms of government and philanthropic funding.

SAU's leadership—specifically its board of trustees—has been at the center of growing controversy. More than a dozen former trustees and administrators allege misconduct and power consolidation under the two most recent board chairs: current chair Brian Boulware and former chair James Perry, a retired Florida Supreme Court justice. Accusations range from silencing dissent to the wrongful termination of employees, improper documentation of board meetings, and the marginalization of faculty and staff voices. Several internal complaints and lawsuits corroborate these claims.

The alumni-led organization Save SAU filed a lawsuit seeking to reconstitute the board altogether. The North Carolina Attorney General's Office launched an investigation into the university's governance, citing concerns over potential violations of nonprofit oversight laws.

In a statement issued by the university, officials denied all wrongdoing and defended Boulware and Perry as committed stewards trying to save SAU from inherited dysfunction: "We remain dedicated to our mission and the well-being of the university amidst all opposition."

Boulware insists that the financial collapse long predates his leadership and has emphasized steps taken by the board since 2023, including hiring an internal auditor and renegotiating financial processes. But critics argue that under Boulware and Perry, transparency diminished and internal dissent was squashed. By the end of Perry's first year as chair, 15 of the 21 board members had resigned.

Leadership turnover has further destabilized the university. In 2019, then-President Dr. Everett Ward—a popular alumnus and former executive director of the NC Democratic Party—announced his retirement after five years of attempted reform. Under Ward, enrollment had started to rebound and annual donations nearly tripled. Yet his departure was expedited by board leadership, with then-chair Perry announcing an interim replacement before Ward's intended retirement date.

That move drew immediate criticism. Longtime general counsel Charles Francis resigned in protest, warning trustees that bypassing shared governance could breach accreditation requirements. What followed were years of presidential transitions and a revolving door of key staff.

Within weeks of the December 2024 decision, SAU was hit with two lawsuits totaling more than $18 million. SBA Connect, a wireless provider, alleged that the university defaulted on a contract within a year of signing it, demanding over $16.8 million in early termination fees and interest. Avaria, the university's IT services provider, followed with its own lawsuit seeking $1.3 million in unpaid bills dating back to 2020.

In response, SAU filed an emergency motion to delay any enforcement of the levies, warning that doing so would"exacerbate institutional disruptions and further erode the public's confidence in SAU's viability."

The university has touted a $70 million "bridge loan" as a critical financial lifeline. However, officials have refused to disclose key details, including the lender's identity, the terms of repayment, or how the money will be used. SAU also drastically cut its workforce in November.

At the center of the university's financial recovery plan is a controversial real estate deal with Florida-based 50 Plus 1 Sports. Originally proposed as a lease of the university's entire 105-acre campus, the plan triggered a required review by the state Department of Justice. The DOJ flagged the deal for potentially undervaluing the property by "tens of millions of dollars," warning that it could compromise SAU's nonprofit status. In response, the university and the developer restructured the agreement to cover less than half the campus, effectively avoiding regulatory review.

In a dramatic twist on April 25, Boulware requested an investigation by the State Bureau of Investigation (SBI) into the possible mismanagement of federal COVID-19 relief funds received by the university. In a statement, he accused prior administrators of wiring millions of dollars in relief funds to "unknown sources."

As the university prepares for another appeal of accreditation to SACS, SAU must demonstrate sustainable financial operations, compliance with legal and regulatory requirements, and—most crucially—a functional and accountable board of trustees.

The SAU community is not taking these developments quietly. In April 2025, more than 300 alumni, students, faculty, and former administrators packed Martin Street Baptist Church in Raleigh for a town hall organized by journalist Roland Martin.

CONGRATULATIONS, JHERI HARDAWAY!
We are thrilled to celebrate our very own Ms. Jheri Worldwide, Staff Writer and now 3rd Vice Chair of the Harnett County Democratic Party!

Church

The Legacy Of Slavery Still Affects Our Mental Health

By Alma Carten

New York University

Ten years ago, on July 22, in announcing the federal indictment of Charleston killer Dylann Roof, Attorney General Loretta Lynch commented that the expression of forgiveness offered by the victims' families is "an incredible lesson and message for us all."

Forgiveness and grace are, indeed, hallmarks of the Black Church.

Since slavery, the church has been a formidable force for the survival of blacks in an America still grappling with the residual effects of white supremacy.

This was eloquently illustrated in the aftermath of the Charleston church massacre. Americans rightly stood in awe of the bereaved families' laudable demonstration of God's grace in action.

But what about the psychic toll that these acts of forgiveness exact?

Events like Charleston put a spotlight on the growing body of literature that looks not only at the United States' failure to have authentic conversations about slavery and its legacy but also at the mental health impact of forgiving acts of white racism and repressing justifiable feelings of anger and outrage – whether these are horrific acts of terrorism or nuanced microaggressions.

In his seminal book, *Mighty Like A River, the Black Church and Social Reform*, sociologist Andrew Billingsley asserts that the Black Church is the only African-American institution that has not been reenvisioned in the image of whites.

His research illuminates the role of religion in building the resilience that allows blacks as a people to overcome the various forms of terrorism and oppression endured over centuries that sustain doctrines of white supremacy.

Indeed, in his analysis of the African-American family, Billingsley concludes that it is "amazingly strong, enduring, adaptive and highly resilient."

But as we pay homage to church and family in buffering blacks against the full effects of racism, we must not obscure or diminish racism's impact on the mental health that few blacks – irrespective of educational, social or economic status – will escape.

There is increasing evidence that repressing feelings associated with acts of racism may be psychologically damaging and lay the foundation for future mental health problems and behaviors symptomatic of post-traumatic stress syndrome.

Harvard psychiatrist Alvin Poussaint asked why suicide rates among black males doubled between 1980 and 1995.

In his co-authored book, *Lay My Burden Down: Suicide and the Mental Health Crisis among African-Americans*, which takes its title from a Negro spiritual describing the hardships of the slave system, he argues that one of the reasons for this increase is that African-American young men may see the afterlife as a better place.

Terrie M Williams is a clinical social worker in New York. In her book, *Black Pain: It Just Looks Like We're Not Hurting*, she uses powerful personal narratives of blacks from all walks of life to illustrate the high toll of hiding the pain associated with the black experience on mental health.

Joy DeGruy, Portland State University researcher and scholar, has developed "post-traumatic slave syndrome" as a theory for explaining the effects of unresolved trauma on the behaviors of blacks that is transmitted from generation to generation.

DeGruy's argument may be controversial, but the questions she asked are surely relevant as we try to make sense, for example, of research released this July that shows suicide rates among black elementary school pupils significantly increasing between 1993 and 2012.

The fact is that from my perspective at New York University's Silver School of Social Work, these publications have yet to move into mainstream literature. They have low visibility in the curricula and training programs for mental health professionals.

Nor have the questions these scholars and practitioners raised led to the kind of research that is needed to support race-conscious and culturally appropriate practices for the mental health programs and agencies working with African-American families.

At the same time, however, the original thinking of authors like Poussaint and DeGruy is very much in sync with the new emphasis on trauma-informed care in social work across all fields of practice.

As the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention concluded in a May 2014 research report, undiagnosed childhood neglect or trauma is widespread among American adults and is the root cause of mental health and behavioral problems in adulthood.

Indeed, it is now the recommendation of the National Council for Behavioral Health that trauma-informed care be integrated into all assessment and treatment procedures.

This emphasis on trauma provides a new lens for developing research into the impact of slavery - and its legacy of structural and institutional racism - on black mental health today.

The problem is, no one likes to talk about slavery.

For blacks descended from slaves, the subject evokes feelings of shame and embarrassment associated with the degradations of slavery. For whites whose ancestry makes them complicit, there are feelings of guilt about a system that is incongruent with the democratic ideals on which this country was founded.

Cloaked in a veil of silence or portrayed as a benevolent system that was in the best interest of blacks, slavery – much like mental illness – has become shrouded in secrecy and stigma.

Associated emotions are pushed away.

Anger, however, is a healthy emotion, as even the Scriptures acknowledge.

The God of the Old Testament is angry and vengeful. In the New Testament, Jesus vents his anger in driving the money changers from the Temple.

As research (including my own) has shown, when anger is internalized and driven deep into the unconscious, contaminated by unresolved pain, it becomes problematic.

So what happens to the anger felt by people discriminated against and, in extreme cases, physically targeted because of their race?

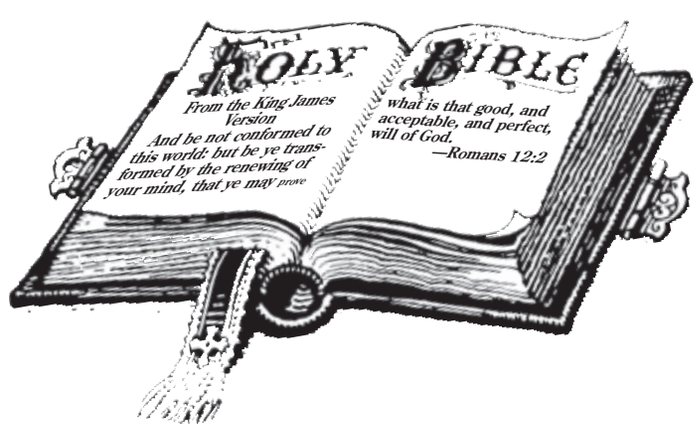
Not enough is known about the relationship between clinical depression and race. But there are extensive findings (including reports by the Surgeon General) that attribute racial disparities in mental health outcomes for African Americans and whites to clinician bias, socioeconomic status and environmental stressors (such as high rates of crime and poor housing). And there is evidence of a link between perceived racism and adverse psychological outcomes such as increased levels of anxiety, depression and other psychiatric symptoms.

The numbers tell a story. According to the Minority Health Office of the Department of Health and Human Services, black adults are 20% more likely to report serious psychological distress than white adults and are more likely to have feelings of sadness, hopelessness and worthlessness than do their white counterparts.

And yet there continues to be reluctance to forthrightly confront the impact of racism on mental health. Some of my colleagues, for example, say that content on race and racism is the most challenging content for them to teach. Authentic dialogue on race is constrained by the fear of being "political incorrect." It takes less effort to promote the more inclusive liberal view that we live in a "color-blind society."

It may be easier to allow everyone to remain in their comfort zone. But today as the US faces what would appear to be an epidemic of race-based attacks, it is time to examine how our history of racism affects the mental health of African Americans as well as that of whites.

SERMON of the WEEK



I AM STILL HERE

By Dr. Derrick L. Sauls

Romans 8:31: "What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?"

We live in a time when God is needed daily in our lives, especially when we must make decisions or others are making them for us. I'd like to indulge you briefly and take you back down memory lane.

There are three points that I would like to explore. The first is a situation in which you want something in your life. Point one, life is full of rejections as we live with anticipation. Growing up, it was always stated that one day you would grow into an adult. Then, when you became grown, there were grown decisions and grown circumstances. But, as usual, others were involved in the decisions, and those decisions could end up positive or negative.

The negative aspect was generally no, you can't, or no, you weren't selected, and suddenly you felt the pain of rejection. As the old folks would say, "Keep on living. You have not seen anything yet." I, too, have had to deal with rejections in life. All the time, I could not see that God was with me step by step, heartache by heartache, and tear by tear.

The second point is that in the Bible, so many stories unfold, yielding the understanding that sometimes life is out of your control. A good example is Joseph's story, growing up enjoying family life with his brothers. He did not know that every day, they were jealous and decided to reject him and sell him into slavery. Then again, what about David, tending the sheep (a frail boy), and Samuel came to visit the family to anoint the next king of Israel? Whispers in the family were not from him, but from his brothers, but God showed up.

Although they were young boys, God was preparing them to be strong men for their families and the people they would serve. Sometimes our families, peers, friends, fellow workers, and confidants will not see God's plan. When they don't see it, their actions can lead to rejection. Yet, in the end, determination and resilience inspired them to trust God's timing and purpose.

The third and last point leads to an interesting and personal situation. It was one in which I was captivated with UNC-Chapel Hill 50 years ago, this same time of year. I received a letter stating that after careful consideration, I did not qualify for admittance to the class of 1975. I felt the pain of rejection. Then I received a letter from NC State College stating, "With pleasure, we welcome you to the class of 1975. We invite you to visit us for a weekend; you will receive tickets for a concert, housing on campus, and free food." Of course, I responded, 'I am on my way.' I said, 'Thank you Lord,' and I am still here, trusting God.

Little did I know that my experience at NC State College, which became NC State University, would change my life and lead to a plethora of experiences. Yes, I had to deal with some racism on campus, but there was also racism off campus, but I let the world know, I am still here. Just like in your life, God is waving his hand daily, changing rejection into acceptance. Ultimately leading to redemption, resilience, triumph, overcoming adversity, and feeling the power of the grace of God.

In closing, when we meet walls of resistance in our lives, we can sing, "Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine, oh what a foretaste of glory divine." It is evident that God's love and acceptance are unwavering, providing strength in tough times, especially in times of rejection. In saying, Lord, I am still here; let us move forward like David and Joseph, receive our blessings, and take on the unexpected challenges that lead to greater purpose and fulfillment.

We just left a time in remembrance of Jesus; he met all the hostility and rejection but showed love and forgiveness and ultimately sacrificed Himself for humanity's salvation. Richard Smallwood summed it all up in his song "Jesus, You're the Center of My Joy." Yes, the good and perfect comes from him. Yes, I am still here, you are still here, so let the church say Amen. Please visit Lincoln Park's website at https://www.lincolnparkchurch.com/ for sermons and other information regarding our ministry and community service.

Practical Biblical Principles

HE MADE IT PERSONAL

Read: John 10:31-39

By John L. Caldwell, Pastor

New Jerusalem Baptist Cathedral

The Bible says that Jesus is God's Son, yet it is said that Jesus is God. How can one "Being" be both Father and Son? This is truly a tricky question. Providing you have no understanding of a "Hypostatic Union." The first church describes this Father and Son relationship as" mysterious" in that it describes the spiritual relationship of the Heavenly Father as He relates to the human and fleshly nature of His Son. No one can explain or know God.

When one speaks of the Father and Son one must also infer the presence of the Holly Spirit. The Holy Three (The Trinity) cannot be separated under any circumstances. The Three are One. This is the way it was in the beginning.

We read in Genesis, "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. The earth was without form, and void: and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the water. (Genesis 1:1-2). We must take note of the fact that only two entities were mentioned here, God and the Spirit. Where is that third person, Jesus, that we know of? It is here that we can know that Jesus is God, but not yet. Jesus, the earthly part of God is yet to be born. or simply put, Jesus is in God, but He is not separated from Himself at this time.

John tells us, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him and without Him nothing was made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it (John 1:1-5).

When God saw man was in trouble at the point of them being truly lost from Him, He intervened. God intervened personally. Man had put himself in a situation in which there was no return as he was slowly being pulled into the pits of hell with no chance of return. This is when God made it personal in that He would retrieve and redeem man from the pit of hell, Himself. How was God to do this? Remember in John 1:4, we read, "In God was life, and the life was the light of men." Light here means life for mankind. Every man walking upon the earth has life in him, life given to him from God, Himself. And God blew in Him (Adam) the breath of life and man became a living Sole.

In order for God to personally come down to man, he had to put Himself in the form of man. For God is a Spirit and a Spirit, we cannot see him for the time being because of the sin in the world. However, one day we will see him as he is, when we all get together with the Lord. Just as Adam and Eve saw Him before the "Fall." God was personal with them in the Garden.

To get around this sin thing with man, God chose to become another person. This He did not by the flesh of man but the Holy Spirit, Who also has power to give and create life as well. This is when the Angel of the Lord appeared to the young teenage, virgin girl, Mary and told her God wishes to use her virgin body to come into the world among Men. However, her birth partner will be of God, Himself in the form of the Holy Spirit. A man of the flesh cannot be apart of this glorious miracle. To do so would give Satan total control over Jesus while in the flesh on earth. Since the fall in the Garden Eve demonstrated to the world that the flesh is easily possessed by the devil. God did not take any chances; He was put here through and by the Holy Spirit which is a part of Himself. God made it personal to come down and lead man, his prized creation, back to heaven, his intended home.

The Old Testament animal sacrifices were prophetic road signs pointing to the work and coming of the Messiah (God), Whose earthly human name was Jesus. This way God could relate to man-kind up to a point. Every man on earth was born of a father. In order for Jesus to relate to them, He told them He had a father also, when they asked Him where did he come from? Jesus wanted to leave the legacy and image that while He is away, That He (God) is everybody's father and the Holy Spirit will take His place with all men in a very, spiritual, and earthly sense, Jesus's father is the Holy Spirit. This father's image is what he was impressing upon His disciples when He taught them how to pray. Saying "Our Father, Who art in heaven…" When Jesus, the human, prayed to His Father in heaven, He was praying to the Holy Spirit. In a real sense, Jesus actually was praying to His heavenly Father, who birth Him. The Holy Spirit is a person, a part of the Three God-Heads, which are One, and not an "It." When He was about to return to His Father in heaven, He begin to tell His disciples and the people Who He was and how Him and His father were one. This was spiritual talk. Jesus told His disciples. "When you have seen Me, you have seen the Father" when the disciple asked if they could see God, His Father (John 14:7-10). This was a trouble spot for Jesus, calling Himself God. This got Him crucified. By this death Jesus returned to heaven. Not only did he return to heaven, He proved that He was God, when He was resurrected from the tomb. In other words, return to His original self, God). Our earthly Lord was 100 percent God and 100 percent man at the same time. He was Man to do the Get-on-Cross and redemption work, and He was God in order to raise His earthly, Spirit-born Son from a human death. He made it personal. He then offered the redeemed man eternal life with Him.

Three years upon the earth walking among man-kind was His time limit. As a human on the earth, Jesus was limited to being everywhere. This he could not do as a human being. Butwhen He died for all the world, being in Heaven gave Him access to the entire world at any one time. God is omnipresent. He is everywhere, at all times. This is what makes Him God. He is beyond being supernatural.

Finally, when Mary came to the tomb that early morning, seeking Jesus (Matthew 28:1-2), the scriptures did not tell us Who it was that raised Jesus from the dead. There are only two heavenly powers left that could do such. The Holy Spirit and the God Head. Jesus as a human being, could not raise Himself from the dead. When the remaining two -part Trinity gave Jesus a new spiritual body while in the grave, Jesus took on His God-head spiritual nature and rose from the tomb, not as a natural man, but as the everlasting God, Who can never die. God made His visit to us personal.

Editorial Policy

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

Editorials

Economic Barriers

By Tamia Corbett

Contributor

I am writing to express concern for individuals who wish to enter new career fields but lack access to education, internships, and other vital programs that could support them in this journey. This issue disproportionately affects people from lower socio-economic backgrounds, who often don't have the resources that others take for granted, hindering their ability to pursue career opportunities. Without the proper support systems in place, these individuals face significant barriers to career advancement.

To address these challenges, policymakers must prioritize funding for programs and educational institutions in underserved neighborhoods where resources are scarce. By investing in schools, hospitals, after-school programs, and STEM camps in these areas, we can provide much-needed support to communities that often go overlooked. These initiatives can inspire future generations, opening doors to education and opportunities that were previously inaccessible.

How can individuals from lower socio-economic backgrounds overcome their circumstances if they are not given the opportunity to succeed? Many people in these situations face discrimination and are sometimes unfairly labeled as lazy or unmotivated. This stigma is harmful because it creates a false sense of superiority among those who are fortunate enough to have access to resources, while ignoring the real challenges faced by others. It's essential to recognize these systemic inequalities and work toward eliminating them.

In order to make meaningful progress, we need a collective effort from all sectors of society—government, businesses, and communities. It is only through equitable access to resources and opportunities that individuals from lower socio-economic backgrounds will have the chance to succeed and thrive in their chosen career fields. Reducing these barriers not only benefits individuals but strengthens society as a whole.

SUPPOSE WITH ME...

Someone sent me a video last week of a human being who experiences autism. The theme of the video was "Let Me Be Me." It reminded me of things my children used to say to me, and of thoughts I had when I was little. One child said, "I'm just the way I'm supposed to be," and another said, "They want to change who I am, and I'm not supposed to let them." Sounds like they knew something, right?

I'm a believer. I believe that we are all souls. Jesus said, "All souls belong to God." I believe that before we leave heaven, God—or someone He appoints—packs our suitcase and puts everything in it that we'll need for our journey.

The problem is, we come to a world that often thinks it's wise enough to tell us how we should be—or worse, tries to take things out of us that were meant to be part of who we are. You've heard it: "You talk too much," "You're too quiet," "What's wrong with you?" These are the kinds of statements that too often cause us to doubt ourselves, to believe we need to be fixed.

The adult world often rebels against those who are free spirits. Someone once told me a teacher said to her, "Your problem is that your dad had too many children." How crazy is that? If you're ever tempted to believe that such a statement might be true, I invite you to think for just a minute or two about the God you believe in. So He loves you—but sends you into a large family you had no control over? The Bible says, "In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy path." I happen to think that a better question might be: How does God fit into this disturbing thought or situation? What is He trying to teach me?

Nature or nurture? It's a big question. Experts study it, but most still don't agree. Are we shaped more by what we come here with, or by the environment we are raised in? I think it's a little of both—depending on how much we conform or hold on to the "I Am" self we truly are.

What disturbs me even more than parents' or teachers' confusion on this topic is the confusion within the Church. As we move past Easter, have we really considered why Jesus was crucified?

Pilate washed his hands, recognizing Jesus was innocent, but the bottom line was that the Pharisees—except for a few—believed Jesus was upsetting their system with His differentness. He challenged their priorities and worldview. Surely a spiritual teacher wouldn't reinterpret the views of God handed down by their forefathers? Yet Jesus did. Eating corn on the Sabbath, hanging out with sinners, talking to women as equals, challenging hypocrisy, and overturning tables that symbolized greed—He was, to them, a troublemaker. So they decided to kill Him. Sending Him away wasn't enough—His influence was too great.

I keep thinking about Judas. He loved money and doubted. He couldn't understand how Jesus could allow a woman to anoint Him with expensive oil. Judas had a different idea of what the Messiah should be. He betrayed Jesus, expecting a certain outcome—and when it didn't happen, he used the same conforming mind that led him astray to destroy himself. The problem wasn't him—it was the belief that he was the problem, rather than recognizing the flaw in his thinking.

Too often, the Church today has the same issue. It wants everyone to think the same, be the same, conform to the same. I submit that some church leaders are thinking the same way Donald Trump thinks now. Just as he dismisses the Constitution, they dismiss the Bible. Too often, churches are not being led by the Holy Spirit or by the model Jesus gave us. Instead, leaders revise the Word to fit their own ideas of power and leadership—not equality, not love, not allowing others to be different. They believe they are smarter and more capable of leading, and they wonder why their sanctuaries are growing more and more empty.

But not all churches are this way.

Consider Alfred Street Baptist Church, led by Pastor Howard-John Wesley. He seems to understand the mission. He honors the individuality of his congregation. He recognizes that if they're different from him, that doesn't make them wrong. Under his leadership, everyone seems to find a ministry in which they can bloom. In fact, the church was able to cancel the debt of 11 students by giving $132,000. How many churches could ever do that?

Am I speculating? Perhaps. But I believe that some churches—and some parts of our government—are failing because they refuse to believe that God doesn't make mistakes. God sends people into the families and bodies and circumstances He chooses, with physical, emotional, and temperamental characteristics that have purpose. Our job is to nurture, assist, educate, and support—not change—God's creations.

To me, Donald Trump is boxing with God, misinterpreting his own past and using it as fuel to damage the world. He doesn't believe that Black people, women, Mexicans, Chinese people—or really, anyone who isn't like him(or how he envisions himself)—deserve to be here. He ignores the resilience of those who have survived and disproven his beliefs about who should lead, learn, or live freely. Whether it's conscious or unconscious, his actions show he doesn't value the Constitution, the Bible, or human dignity. He is a law unto himself, enabled by people who've been taught to believe that others know them better than they know themselves.

But what if we all embraced our purpose?

What if we helped children fit in without forcing them to conform? What if we treated others—all others—the way we want to be treated? The world might come to see that we all belong, and we might finally live in a world where we all feel safe.

Classifieds

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 **Pearl and Parker Street Improvement** project for the **Town of Garner** which bids on **May 13, 2025, at 10:00 AM.** Plans and specifications for this project are available at the following locations: Pipeline Utilities, Inc.; 2204-F Associate Drive; Raleigh, NC 27603 * Garner Engineering Department; 900 Seventh Avenue; Garner, NC 27529 * Kimley-Horn; 421 Fayetteville Street, Suite 600; Raleigh, NC 27601 * Duncan-Parnell bid room.

Potential subcontracting opportunities include but are not limited to surveying, clearing and grubbing, hauling, asphalt paving, striping, traffic control, erosion control, seeding, sodding, landscaping, linework, bypass pumping, 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.

D/M/WBE

SUBCONTRACTORS/SUPPLIERS WANTED

T. A. Loving Company (NC General Contractor License No. 325) is seeking certified DBE, MBE, and WBE subcontractors and suppliers for the **Longwood Road Sewer** project for **Brunswick County Public Utilities** which bids on **May 6, 2025, at 2:00 PM.** Plans and specifications for this project are available at the following locations: T. A. Loving Company; 400 Patetown Road; Goldsboro, NC 27530.

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

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

ATTENTION: DBE'S-WBE'S-MBE'S

Barnhill Contracting Company will be bidding on the following project on January 16th, 2024. We are most interested in receiving quotes from your company on these projects:

Heavy Highway Division **Contract ID: C205032**

Contact: Chris Stroud, cstroud@barnhillcontracting.com, at 252-823-1021 or fax 252-977-7512 in our Rocky Mount Office, located at 800 Tiffany Blvd, Suite 200, Rocky Mount, NC 27804.

Pre-Bid Meeting: **Friday May 2nd,2025 at 10:00 AM in the Rocky Mount Office.**

Southeast Division **Contract ID: C205081**

Contact: JR Hott, jrhott@barnhillcontracting.com , at 910-488-1319 or fax 910-488-5673 in our Fayetteville Office, located at 1100 Robeson Street, Fayetteville, NC 28305.

Pre-Bid Meeting: **May 2ND, 2025 at 9:00 AM in the Fayetteville Office.**

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

1. For hauling operations, we will need to know how many of your own hauling units will be available for this project. We will need this on your written quote prior to bid time and this will be made a part of any subcontract.
2. Plans and specifications are available at:
   a. NC DOT **https://connect.ncdot.gov/letting/Pages/Central.aspx**
   b. Plans may also be viewed in our offices. Please call for an appointment.
3. These projects include opportunities on, but not limited to hauling, clearing & grubbing, paving & grading, milling asphalt, concrete structures, construction surveying, brick masonry construction, drainage structures, curb & gutter, shoulder construction, sidewalk/driveways, permanent signing, traffic & work zone control, pavement markings, water/sewer line install, bore and jack, trenchless install of utilities, temporary silt fence, seeding & mulching, and metal pole install. All firms or people interested in bidding on any applicable portions of these projects or supplying materials for any applicable portion of this project are invited to contact us directly or by phone (we accept collect calls). By submitting a quote, it is understood that you have read and understand the specifications.

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

NC General Contractors Lic. # 3194
Attn: Tom Shannon

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

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 **Large Diameter Valve Replacement project for City of Raleigh Public Utilities Department** which bids on **May 22, 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 * CJS Conveyance, PLLC; 320 South Academy Street; Cary, NC 27511 * Accent Imaging website * Dodge Data and Analytics website * ConstructConnect website * Construction Journal website * NC Institute of Minority Economic Development (NCIMED) 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.

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 **South Broad Street Culvert Replacement** project for the **Town of Angier** which bids on **May 1, 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 Angier, Public Works Office; 594 Campbell Street; Angier, NC 27501 * Gradient, PLLC; 1513 Walnut Street, Suite 230; Cary, NC 27511.

Potential subcontracting opportunities include but are not limited to surveying, clearing and grubbing, hauling, asphalt paving, striping, traffic control, erosion control, seeding, sodding, linework, directional drilling, bypass pumping, 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.

Submit your Classified BID Advertising to
ads@caro.news

Classifieds

CHATHAM COUNTY

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
CHATHAM COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice, Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File Number 25E000173-180

THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 16th day of April 2025, as EXECUTOR of the Estate of ELIZABETH ANN BALLARD, Deceased, of Chatham, 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 25th day of July, 2025 or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery.

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

This the 24th day of April, 2025.
Daniel L. Rogers Jr., Executor
c/o Patrick Law, PLLC
3805 University Drive, Suite A
Durham, North Carolina 27707
4/24, 5/1, 5/8, and 5/15/2025

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
CHATHAM COUNTY
NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION
In the General Court of Justice, District Court Division
File Number 25CV000231-180

To: JOSE ERNESTO ARGUIJO CALLES, Defendant.

Take notice that a pleading seeking relief against you has been filed in the above-entitled action. The nature of the relief being sought is for child custody. You are required to make defense to such pleading no later than May 27th, 2025 said date being at least forty (40) days from the first publication of this Notice, and upon your failure to do so, the Plaintiff, DENIA MARISOL GAMEZ LOPEZ, will apply to the court located at 40 E Chatham St, Pittsboro, NC 27312 for the relief sought.

This, the 17th day of April, 2025
Aneta Paval
Paval Law Offices, PLLC
7404 Chapel Hill Rd
Suite M
Raleigh NC 27607
Telephone: (919) 410-6690
4/17, 4/24, and 5/1/2025

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
CHATHAM COUNTY
NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION
In the General Court of Justice, District Court Division
File Number 25CV000135-180

To: JUAN MIGUEL ACUNA RODRIGUEZ, Defendant.

Take notice that a pleading seeking relief against you has been filed in the above-entitled action. The nature of the relief being sought is for child custody. You are required to make defense to such pleading no later than May 27th, 2025 said date being at least forty (40) days from the first publication of this Notice, and upon your failure to do so, the Plaintiff, PASTORA VALERIA VENERIO ESTRADA, will apply to the court located at 40 E Chatham St, Pittsboro, NC 27312 for the relief sought.

This, the 17th day of April, 2025
Aneta Paval
Paval Law Offices, PLLC
7404 Chapel Hill Rd
Suite M
Raleigh NC 27607
Telephone: (919) 410-6690
4/17, 4/24, and 5/1/2025

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
CHATHAM COUNTY
NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION
In the General Court of Justice, District Court Division
File Number 25CV000272-180

To: CILIAN DARIELA NAVARRO MORENO, Defendant.

Take notice that a pleading seeking relief against you has been filed in the above-entitled action. The nature of the relief being sought is for child custody. You are required to make defense to such pleading no later than May 27th, 2025 said date being at least forty (40) days from the first publication of this Notice, and upon your failure to do so, the Plaintiff, JAEL DARIO ROMERO BOBADILLA, will apply to the court located at 40 E Chatham St, Pittsboro, NC 27312 for the relief sought.

This, the 17th day of April, 2025
Aneta Paval
Paval Law Offices, PLLC
7404 Chapel Hill Rd
Suite M
Raleigh NC 27607
Telephone: (919) 410-6690
4/17, 4/24, and 5/1/2025

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
CHATHAM COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
File Number 25E000493-310

The undersigned, Paula Perry Murphy, having duly qualified as Executor of the Estate of James Anthony Germolec, deceased, late of Durham County, North Carolina, hereby notifies all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said Estate to present them to the undersigned in care of Ronald G. Coulter, Attorney for the Estate, 3400 Croasdaile Dr., Ste 205, Durham, NC 27705, on or before August 1, 2025 or it will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons and legal entities indebted to the Estate will please make immediate payment. This the 1st day of May, 2025.
Paula Perry Murphy, Executor
C/O Ronald G. Coulter, Attorney
3400 Croasdaile Drive Ste 205
Durham, NC 27705
1-919-246-5775
5/1, 5/8, 5/15, and 5/22/2025

DURHAM COUNTY

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice, Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File Number 25E000565-310

THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 28th day of April 2025, as EXECUTOR of the Estate of DOROTHY JONES FERRELL, Deceased, of Durham, 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 4th day of August, 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 1st day of May, 2025.
Wanda F. Hutson, Executor
2725 Umstead Rd.
Durham, NC 27712
5/1, 5/8, 5/15, and 5/22/2025

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice, Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File Number 25E000370-310

THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 4th day of April 2025, as ADMINISTRATOR of the Estate of CHRISTINE GENTRY, Deceased, of Durham, 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 4th day of August, 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 1st day of May, 2025.
Melvin T. Drew, Administrator
3620 Portico Lane
Durham, NC 27703
5/1, 5/8, 5/15, and 5/22/2025

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
File Number 24E001704-310

The undersigned, Alan William Chappell, having qualified as Executor of the Estate of HILDA VINSON CHAPPELL, deceased, late of Durham County, notifies all persons having claims against said estate to present them to the undersigned on or before 4th day of August, 2025, or this notice will be plead in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This the 1st day of May, 2025.
Alan William Chappell c/o Vail Gardner, Attorney for the Estate
Vail Gardner Law
739 9th St. #621
Durham, NC 27705
5/1, 5/8, 5/15, and 5/22/2025

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice, Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File Number 25E000413-310

THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 23rd day of April 2025, as EXECUTOR of the Estate of GURBAXSH SINGH VIRK, Deceased, of Durham, 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 4th day of August, 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 1st day of May, 2025.
Donald E. Shamblee
Ancillary Administrator
140 Underwood Road
Murfreesboro, NC 27855
5/1, 5/8, 5/15, and 5/22/2025

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
File Number 25E000433-310

The undersigned having qualified as Executor of the Estate of MARTHA G. RILEY, a/k/a MARTHA KERR RILEY, Deceased, late of Durham County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the Estate to Exhibit them to the undersigned at the office of IDOL LAW, PLLC, PO Box 51759, Durham, North Carolina 27717, on or before the 4th day of August, 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 1st day of May, 2025.
Martha Riley McCracken, Co-Executor
Homer L. Riley, Jr., Co-Executor
Estate of Martha G. Riley, a/k/a Martha Kerr Riley, Deceased
Robert A. Idol, Esquire
IDOL LAW, PLLC
Attorney at Law
PO Box 51759
Durham, NC 27717
(919)401.5151
5/1, 5/8, 5/15, and 5/22/2025

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice, Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File Number 25E000422-310

THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 31st day of March 2025, as EXECUTOR of the Estate of WILLIS E. GREENSTREET, Deceased, of Durham, 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 25th day of July, 2025 or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery.

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

This the 24th day of April, 2025.
James E. Fisher, Executor
4811 Highgate Dr.
Durham, NC 27713
4/24, 5/1, 5/8, and 5/15/2025

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
File Number 25E000421-310

All persons, firms and corporations having claims against SHIRLEY ANN CLAYTON, DECEASED, of Durham County, NC, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before July 23, 2025, or this notice along with the appropriate general statute will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the deceased are asked to make immediate payment. This the 24th day of April, 2025. All correspondence should be to the Robin Huges, Administrator c/o Florence A. Bowens, Attorney, P.O. Box 51263, Durham, NC 27717.
4/24, 5/1, 5/8, and 5/15/2025

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
File Number 25-E-000386-310

Having qualified as the Executor of the Estate of MICHAEL DALE NASH, deceased, late of Durham County, North Carolina, the undersigned does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said Estate to present them to the undersigned in care of Mark R.A. Horn, Esq., Moore & Van Allen PLLC, 100 North Tryon Street, Suite 4700, Charlotte, North Carolina 28202-4003, on or before the 24th day of July, 2025, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said Estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This the 24th day of April, 2025.
Abigail K. Hedges, Executor of the Estate of Michael Dale Nash
4/24, 5/1, 5/8, and 5/15/2025

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice, Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File Number 25E000485-310

THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 10th day of April 2025, as ANCILLARY ADMINISTRATOR of the Estate of SHIRLEY M. CHAMBLEE, Deceased, of Durham, 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 4th day of August, 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 is the 1st day of May, 2025.
Jeremiah J. O'Keeffe, Co-Executor
Martin W. O'Keeffe, Co-Executor
Estate of Patrick Augustine O'Keeffe, a/k/a Patrick A. O'Keeffe, a/k/a Patrick Austine OKeeffe, Deceased
Robert A. Idol, Esquire
IDOL LAW, PLLC
Attorney at Law
PO Box 51759
Durham, NC 27717
(919)401.5151
5/1, 5/8, 5/15, and 5/22/2025

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice, Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File Number 25E000489-310

The undersigned having qualified as Executor of the Estate of PATRICK AUGUSTINE O'KEEFFE, a/k/a PATRICK A. O'KEEFFE, a/k/a PATRICK AUSTINE OKEEFFE, Deceased, late of Durham County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the Estate to Exhibit them to the undersigned at the office of IDOL LAW, PLLC, PO Box 51759, Durham, North Carolina 27717, on or before the 4th day of August, 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 1st day of May, 2025.
Jeremiah J. O'Keeffe, Co-Executor
Martin W. O'Keeffe, Co-Executor
Estate of Patrick Augustine O'Keeffe, a/k/a Patrick A. O'Keeffe, a/k/a Patrick Austine OKeeffe, Deceased
Robert A. Idol, Esquire
IDOL LAW, PLLC
Attorney at Law
PO Box 51759
Durham, NC 27717
(919)401.5151
5/1, 5/8, 5/15, and 5/22/2025

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice, Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File Number 25E000488-310

THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 11th day of April 2025, as EXECUTOR TRUSTEE of the Estate of CAROL ELIZABETH GLASGOW FRAZER, Deceased, of Durham, 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 25th day of July, 2025 or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery.

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

This the 24th day of April, 2025.
Lori Gaddy, Executor Trustee
PO Box 262
Creedmoor, NC 27522
4/24, 5/1, 5/8, and 5/15/2025

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice, Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File Number 25E000427-310

THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 15th day of April 2025, as EXECUTOR of the Estate of RICHARD LITTLE, JR. A/K/A RICHARD STARK LITTLE, JR. A/K/A RICHARD S. LITTLE, JR., Deceased, of Durham, 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 25th day of July, 2025 or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery.

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

This the 24th day of April, 2025.
Jonathan Little, Executor c/o The Law Office of Anne Page Watson, PLLC, 3400 Croasdaile Drive, Suite 205, Durham, NC 27705
4/24, 5/1, 5/8, and 5/15/2025

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice, Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File Number 25E000420-310

THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 15th day of April 2025, as EXECUTOR of the Estate of ARTHUR DANIEL GRAY, SR., Deceased, of Durham, 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 25th day of July, 2025 or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery.

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

This the 24th day of April, 2025.
Tammy Gray Cohn, Executor
c/o Richard F. Prentis, Jr
4 Consultant Pl.
Durham, NC 27707
4/24, 5/1, 5/8, and 5/15/2025

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY
NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION
In the General Court of Justice, Superior Court Division
File Number 24CVS001582-310

PHYLLIS SCOTT v. AMANDA WEAVER To: Amanda Weaver Defendant Take notice that a pleading seeking relief against you has been filed in the above-entitled action. The nature of the relief being sought is as follows: Plaintiff is seeking personal injury damages due to Defendant's negligence. You are required to make defense to such pleadings no later than June 3, 2025, which is 40 days from the first publication of this notice. Upon your failure to file a pleading by the above date, the party seeking service against you will apply to the Court for relief sought. This is the 17th day of April, 2025

C. A. Couch, Esq. Couch & Associates, PC, P.O. Box 1527, Durham, NC, 27702.
4/24, 5/1, and 5/8/2025

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
File Number 25E000392-310

The Administrator of the Estate of HOLLY ANN BENAZERGA, deceased, of DURHAM County NC, notifies all persons or entities having claims against said estate to present them to the Administrator on or before the 17th day of July 2025, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. All indebted to the estate shall make immediate payment to the estate.

This, the 17th day of April 2025.
William Bushman, Administrator, c/o Law Office of Robert Pochapsky PLLC, 3400 Croasdaile Drive, Suite 205, Durham, NC 27705.
4/17, 4/24, 5/1, and 5/8/2025

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
File Number 23E001157-310

All persons having claims against Ruby Wilson, of Durham County, North Carolina, are notified to present them to GWENDOLYN H. WADDELL-SCHULTZ, Personal Representative of the Estate of Ruby Wilson, at NextGen Estate Solutions, 500 Westover Dr. #35317, Sanford, NC 27330 or before July 17th, 2025. Failure to present a claim in timely fashion will result in this Notice being pleaded in bar of recovery against the estate, the Personal Representative, and the devisees of Ruby Wilson. Those indebted to Ruby Wilson are asked to make prompt payment to the Estate.
Gwendolyn H. Waddell-Schultz, Personal Representative
c/o Brittany N. Porter, Attorney
NextGen Estate Solutions
500 Westover Dr. #35317
Sanford, NC 27330
4/17, 4/24, 5/1, and 5/8/2025

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice, Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File Number 25E000477-310

THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 9th day of April 2025, as EXECUTOR of the Estate of MAETHELL ALBERTA TAYLOR SUITT RUFFIN, Deceased, of Durham, 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 18th day of July, 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 17th day of April, 2025.
Cordie Renee Suitt McIntyre
Executor
1312 North Street
Durham, NC 27701
4/17, 4/24, 5/1, and 5/8/2025

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice, Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File Number 25E000424-310

THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 31th day of March 2025, as EXECUTOR of the Estate of ROBIN KENNETH HENNING, Deceased, of Durham, 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 11th day of July, 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 10th day of April, 2025.
Mary Hill Henning, Executor
8723 Millers Bend
Bahama, NC 27503
4/10, 4/17, 4/24, 5/1/2025

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice, Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File Number 24E002502-310

THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 31th day of March 2025, as ADMINISTRATOR of the Estate of MELVIN DARRY GENTRY, Deceased, of Durham, 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 11th day of July, 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 10th day of April, 2025.
Melvin T Drew, Administrator
3620 Portico Lane
Durham NC 27703
4/10, 4/17, 4/24, 5/1/2025

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice, Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File Number 25E000330-310

THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 31th day of March 2025, as ADMINISTRATOR of the Estate of TIMOTHY CRAIG DRAUGHON JR., Deceased, of Durham, 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 11th day of July, 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 10th day of April, 2025.
Emily C. Draughon, Administrator
112 Plano Drive
Durham, NC 27703
4/10, 4/17, 4/24, 5/1/2025

Classifieds

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice, Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File Number 25E000400-310
THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 1st day of April 2025, as EXECUTOR of the Estate of PAUL LEONARD SHICK, Deceased, of Durham, 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 11th day of July, 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 10th day of April, 2025.
Robert K. Zuber, Executor
194 Gray Rock Lane
Boone, NC 28607
4/10, 4/17, 4/24, 5/1/2025
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice, Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File Number 25E000425-310
THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 31st day of March 2025, as EXECUTOR of the Estate of KEITH SPENCER GUILE, Deceased, of Durham, 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 11th day of July, 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 10th day of April, 2025.
Emily Friedman, Executor
3819 Cole Mill Rd.
Durham, NC 27712
4/10, 4/17, 4/24, 5/1/2025

WAKE COUNTY

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
WAKE COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice, Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File Number 25E001202-910
THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 25th day of March 2025, as EXECUTOR of the Estate of RHODERICK THOMAS WILLIAMS, JR., Deceased, of Wake, 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 4th day of August, 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 1st day of May, 2025.
Thomas Miles Williams, Executor
615 Peace St. Unit 408
Raleigh, NC 27605
5/1, 5/8, 5/15, and 5/22/2025
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
WAKE COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice, Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File Number 24E004227-910
THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 27th day of March 2025, as CO-EXECUTORS of the Estate of BETTY RALSTON MOORE A/K/A ELISABETH RALSTON MOORE, Deceased, of Wake, 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 4th day of August, 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 1st day of May, 2025.
Elisabeth Moore Whitener, Co-Executor
1766 Candle Ridge Ln
Bolivia, NC 28422
Peter A. Moore Jr., Co-Executor
2226 Whitman Rd
Raleigh, NC 27607
5/1, 5/8, 5/15, and 5/22/2025
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
WAKE COUNTY
NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION
In the General Court of Justice, District Court Division
File No: 25CV001577-910
[CHILD CUSTODY PROCEEDING] SHAQUETTA B. TURNER, Plaintiff v. SHANIYA D. TAYLOR and ANDRE L. HARVEY JR., Defendants. To SHANIYA TAYLOR mother of H.W.H born on 4/4/2022, in Halifax County, NC. TAKE NOTICE that a pleading seeking relief against you has been filed in the above-entitled action. A hearing date of 7/16/2025 has been scheduled. The nature of the relief sought against you is an award of permanent legal custody of the aforementioned child to Shaquetta B. Turner. You are required to make defense to such pleading with the Wake County Clerk of Court no later than 6/11/2025 said date being forty (40) days from the first publication of this notice. Upon your failure to do so, the parties seeking relief against you will apply to the Court for the relief sought. This, the 1st day of May, 2025. Katherine S. Moye, JusticeMatters, Inc., Attorney for Plaintiffs, P.O. Box 58058, Raleigh, NC, 27658, 919/794-7511, Ext. 9. The Carolinian: 5/1, 5/8, 5/15, 2025.
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
WAKE COUNTY
NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION
File No. 18CVD010358-910
REGINALD HOPKINS, Plaintiff v. TONSHALA MARCUS, Defendant
TO DEFENDANT: TAKE NOTICE that a pleading seeking relief against you has been filed in the above-entitled action, by the Plaintiff herein, the nature which is as follows: COMPLAINT FOR ABSOLUTE DIVORCE. You are required by law to appear and make defense to such pleading no later than 30 days after the first publication of this notice. If you fail to do so, Plaintiff will seek the relief sought herein, and a Judgment for Absolute Divorce may be entered.
This, the 1st day of May, 2025.
Reginald Hopkins, Plaintiff
2945 Glade Aster Ct.
Raleigh, NC 27608
5/1, 5/8, and 5/15/2025
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
WAKE COUNTY
NOTICE OF PUBLICATION
In The Superior Court Of Columbia County State Of Georgia
IN THE INTEREST OF:
CHRISTOPHER LOVETT, A CHILD
Civil Action File No.: 2025A0009
TO: BRYANNA LOVETT, BIOLOGICAL MOTHER
YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that on January 24, 2025, a Petition for Adoption of a minor male child born to Bryanna Lovett on October 28, 2015 in Raleigh, Wake County, North Carolina was filed in the Superior Court of Columbia County, Georgia, Civil Action File Number 2025A0009.
Let all interested persons show cause before the Court, if any they can, at 9:30 a.m., on the 12th day of May, 2025 at the Columbia County Courthouse, Courtroom CR4, 640 Ronald Reagan Drive, Evans, Georgia 30809, why the Court should not permit the adoption of the minor child by the Petitioners.
WITNESS, the Honorable Barry A. Fleming of the Superior Court of Columbia County, Georgia.
This 31st day of March, 2025.
Cindy Mason
Clerk of Court, Columbia County
Adam D. Land
Georgia Bar No: 775211
Attorney for Petitioners
207 N. Belair Road
Evans, Georgia 30809
Telephone (706) 869-1348
Facsimile (706) 869-9464
4/24, 5/1, and 5/8/2025
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
WAKE COUNTY
NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION
In The General Court Of Justice District Court Division
FILE NO.: 24CV020990-910
TO: EUGENE STRICKLAND, Defendant
TAKE NOTICE that a pleading seeking relief against you has been filed in the above entitled action. The nature of the relief being sought is an Absolute Divorce from the Plaintiff.
You are required to make defense to such pleadings no later than the 3rd day of June 2025, said date being at least forty days from the first publication of this notice; and upon your failure to do so the party seeking relief against you will apply to the Court for the relief sought.
This the 24th day of April, 2025.
Helidah A. Aganyo, Plaintiff
2222 Fox Ridge Manor Rd.
Raleigh, NC 27610
4/24, 5/1, and 5/8/2025
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
WAKE COUNTY
NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION
File No. 25CV007766-910
MILLIE FIGUEROA, Plaintiff v. TEQUON CHAPMAN, Defendant
TO TEQUON CHAPMAN: 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: PETITION FOR ABSOLUTE DIVORCE. You are required by law to appear and make defense to such pleading no later than 30 days after the first publication of this notice. If you fail to do so, Plaintiff will seek the relief sought herein, and a Judgment for Absolute Divorce may be entered.
This, the 25th day of April, 2025.
Millie Figueroa, Plaintiff
3940 Marcom St., Apt A
Raleigh, NC 27606
4/24, 5/1, and 5/8/2025
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
WAKE COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice, Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File Number 23E006165-910
THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 13th day of March, 2025, as Administrator CTA of the ESTATE OF GERALDINE THORPE LANE, Deceased, of Wake 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 25th day of July, 2025 or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said Estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned.
This, the 24th day of April, 2025.
Ronnie Bertell Harris
c/o Attorney George Ligon, Jr.
Post Office Box 1106
Raleigh, NC 27602
Phone: 919-833-7992
Facsimile: 919-833-9381
4/24, 5/1, 5/8, and 5/15/2025
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
WAKE COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
File Number 24E003807-910
The undersigned, Renee Squires Ford, having duly qualified as Administratrix of the Estate of LINDA JACKSON SQUIRES, deceased, late of Wake County, North Carolina, hereby notifies all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the Estate to present them to the undersigned in care of Ronald G. Coulter, Attorney for the Estate, 3400 Croasdaile Dr., Ste 205, Durham, NC 27705, on or before July 17, 2025 or it will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons and legal entities indebted to the Estate will please make immediate payment.
This the 17th day of April, 2025.
Renee Squires Ford, Administratrix
C/O Ronald G. Coulter, Attorney
3400 Croasdaile Drive Ste 205
Durham, NC 27705
1-919-246-5775
4/17, 4/24, 5/1, and 5/8/2025
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
WAKE COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
File Number 25E000805-910
The undersigned, Bradley Wayne Wilkins, having duly qualified as Administrator of the Estate of LARRY JAMES WILKINS, deceased, late of Wake County, North Carolina, hereby notifies all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the Estate to present them to the undersigned in care of Ronald G. Coulter, Attorney for the Estate, 3400 Croasdaile Dr., Ste 205, Durham, NC 27705, on or before July 17, 2025 or it will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons and legal entities indebted to the Estate will please make immediate payment. This the 3rd day of April, 2025.
Bradley Wayne Wilkins, Administrator
c/o Ronald G. Coulter, Attorney
3400 Croasdaile Drive Ste 205
Durham, NC 27705
1-919-246-5775
4/17, 4/24, 5/1, and 5/8/2025
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
WAKE COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice, Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File Number 25E006184-910
THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 27th day of March 2025, as EXECUTOR of the Estate of WILKIE LEE TILLAGE, Deceased, of Wake, 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 18th day of July, 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 17th day of April, 2025.
Evelyn S. Tillage & Felicia Tillage Hunter, Co-Administrators
836 Brookhannah Ct.
Fuquay-Varina, NC 27516
4/17, 4/24, 5/1, and 5/8/2025
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
WAKE COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice, Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File Number 25E000474-910
THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 24th day of February 2025, as EXECUTOR of the Estate of DALLAS LEE GILL, Deceased, of Wake, 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 18th day of July, 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 17th day of April, 2025.
Deanna A. Bledsoe, Executor
11409 Shadow Elms Lane
Raleigh, NC 27614
4/17, 4/24, 5/1, and 5/8/2025
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
WAKE COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice, Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File Number 25E000521-910
THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 4th day of March 2025, as EXECUTOR of the Estate of BETTY EARLENE BUXTON, Deceased, of Wake, 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 11th day of July, 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 10th day of April, 2025.
Lisa Buxton, Executor
3916 Tyler Bluff Lane
Raleigh, NC 27616
4/10, 4/17, 4/24, 5/1/2025

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY
NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE
Special Proceedings No. 25 SP 118
Substitute Trustee: Philip A. Glass
Date of Sale: May 14, 2025
Time of Sale: 2:00 p.m.
Place of Sale: Durham County Courthouse
Description of Property: See Attached Description
Record Owners: Vaughn Badger
Address of Property:
2113 Aiken Ave.
Durham, NC 27704
Deed of Trust:
Book : 9186 Page: 710
Dated: January 05, 2021
Grantors: Vaughn Badger an unmarried person
Original Beneficiary: State Employees' Credit Union
CONDITIONS OF SALE:
This sale is made subject to all unpaid taxes and superior liens or encumbrances of record and assessments, if any, against the said property, and any recorded leases. This sale is also subject to any applicable county land transfer tax, and the successful third party bidder shall be required to make payment for any such county land transfer tax.
The property to be offered pursuant to this Notice of Sale is being offered for sale "AS IS, WHERE IS." THERE ARE NO REPRESENTATIONS OR WARRANTIES relating to the title or to any physical, environmental, health or safety conditions existing in, on, at or relating to the property being offered for sale, and any and all responsibilities or liabilities arising out of or in any way relating to any such condition are expressly disclaimed.
A cash deposit of 5% of the purchase price will be required at the time of the sale. Remote bidding will not be accepted pursuant to North Carolina General Statutes Section 45-21.25 (a). Credit bids on behalf of the Noteholder will be accepted. Any successful bidder shall be required to tender the full balance of the purchase price so bid in cash or certified check at the time the Substitute Trustee tenders to him a deed for the property or attempts to tender such deed, and should said successful bidder fail to pay the full balance purchase price so bid at that time, he shall remain liable on his bid as provided for in North Carolina General Statutes Section 45-21.30 (d) and (e). This sale will be held open ten (10) days for upset bids as required by law.
Residential real property with less than 15 rental units, including single-family residential real property: an order for possession of the property may be issued pursuant to G.S. 45-21.29 in favor of the purchaser and against the party or parties in possession by the clerk of superior court of the county in which the property is sold. Any person who occupies the property pursuant to a rental agreement entered into or renewed on or after October 1, 2007, may, after receiving notice of sale, terminate the rental agreement by providing written notice of termination to the landlord, to be effective on a date stated in the notice that is at least 10 days, but not more than 90 days, after the sale date contained in the notice of sale, provided that the mortgagor has not cured the default at the time the tenant provides the notice of termination. Upon termination of a rental agreement, the tenant is liable for rent due under the rental agreement prorated to the effective date of the termination.
Dated: April 16, 2025

Philip A. Glass, Substitute Trustee
Nodell, Glass & Haskell, L.L.P.
Posted on April 16, 2025
Exhibit A
THE FOLLOWING DESCRIBED LAND SITUATE, LYING, AND BEING IN THE CITY OF DURHAM, COUNTY OF DURHAM, AND STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA, AND MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:
LYING ON THE NORTH SIDE OF AIKEN AVENUE AND BEING ALL OF LOT 11 OF PLAT ENTITLED BYRD PROPERTY OF R.G. SYKES BY GEORGE C. LOVE, REGISTERED ENGINEER DATED MAY 5, 1947 AND NOW ON FILE IN THE OFFICE OF THE REGISTER OF DEEDS OF DURHAM COUNTY IN PLAT BOOK 18 AT PAGE 90, TO WHICH PLAT REFERENCE IS HEREBY MADE FOR A MORE PARTICULAR DESCRIPTION. THIS BEING THE SAME PROPERTY CONVEYED TO VAUGHN BADGER, SINGLE, DATED 12/29/1999 AND RECORDED ON 01/10/2000 IN BOOK 2765, PAGE 937, IN THE DURHAM COUNTY RECORDERS OFFICE.
Subject to easements, restrictions and rights of way of record, and utility lines and rights of way in existence over, under or upon the above-described property.
PIN: 0842028179
Property Address: 2113 Aiken Ave.
Durham, NC 27704
5/1 & 5/8/2025

WANTED WBE, MBE & DBE BIDS

for the following job:

NCDOT Division Five Letting

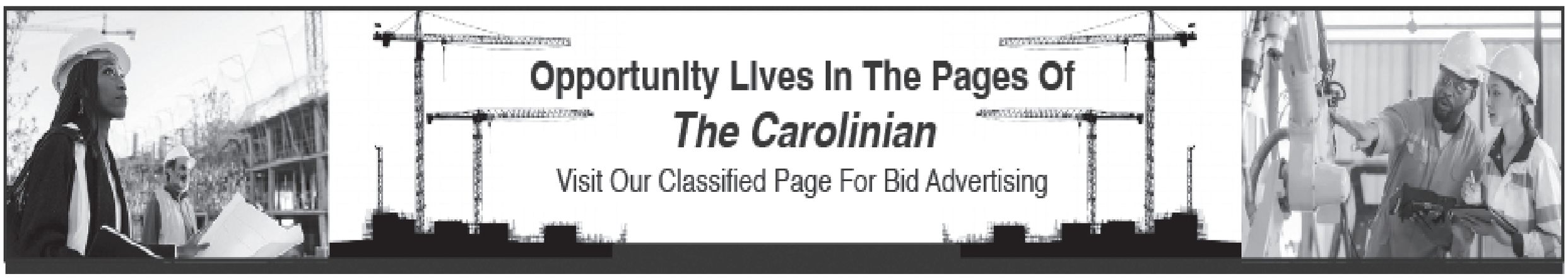
DE00379 Wake Co. Bid Date: May 14th

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

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

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

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



Sports

Sports Spotlight: The First Black Trailblazers In NFL History

By Jordan Meadows
Staff Writer

Long before the Civil Rights Movement reshaped the American legal and cultural landscape, four pioneering African American athletes shattered the NFL's color barrier in 1946. This moment occurred a full year before Jackie Robinson broke into Major League Baseball, yet their names remain far less recognized in the national memory.

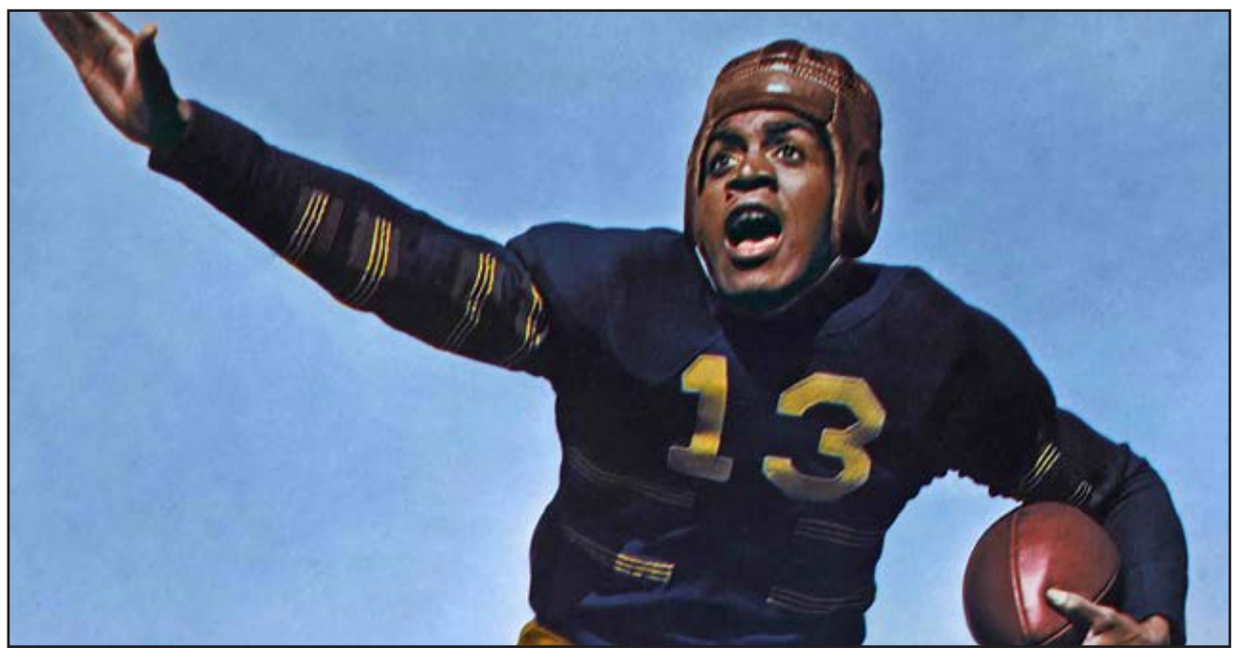
The National Football League had briefly seen African American players in its early years, most notably Fritz Pollard and Bobby Marshall in 1920. But by 1933, a "gentleman's agreement" among team owners effectively banned Black players from the league. It wasn't until external pressure—particularly from the Los Angeles Coliseum, which threatened to evict the Rams—forced the issue that change finally came. The Rams responded by signing two standout UCLA teammates: Kenny Washington and Woody Strode.

Washington, who had led the nation in scoring in 1939, was a phenomenal talent and the first Black player to sign an NFL contract in the modern era. He played three seasons with the Rams, posting impressive numbers including a 7.4 yards-per-carry average, and still holds a 92-yard run record with the team.

Strode's NFL tenure was shorter—only one season—partly due to limited playing time and the relentless racial abuse he faced. Disillusioned with the league, he left to pursue a successful Hollywood acting career, appearing in iconic films such as Spartacus, The Ten Commandments, and The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance.

While Washington and Strode opened the door in Los Angeles, two more African American athletes were making history in Cleveland—Bill Willis and Marion Motley. Willis, a lightning-fast defensive tackle from Ohio State, revolutionized the defensive game and helped shape the modern linebacker position. Motley, a bruising fullback and linebacker, was known for his power, speed, and resilience in the face of adversity. Together, they formed the backbone of a team that would dominate for years, and both men would eventually be inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

The road for Black players remained steep even after these initial breakthroughs, but more firsts would follow. In 1949, Paul "Tank" Younger became the first NFL player from a historically Black college or university (HBCU), signing with the Rams after a stellar career at Grambling State. Though undrafted, Younger quickly made his mark, becoming one of the league's top rushers and later transitioning into a front-office role. He would go on to become the first African American NFL front-office executive, and eventually the first Black assistant general manager with the San Diego Chargers.



That same year, George Taliaferro made history as the first African American player ever drafted by an NFL team. Willie Thrower followed closely in 1953, becoming the first Black quarterback to start in an NFL game for the Chicago Bears. Although his playing time was limited, Thrower's presence marked an essential step toward the eventual rise of Black quarterbacks in the league.

Barriers were also being broken off the field. In 1965, Burl Toler became the first African American to officiate in the NFL. Over his 25-year career, Toler brought dignity and excellence to his role, eventually working Super Bowl XIV and setting a new standard for representation in league officiating.

In 1975, another milestone came when Pittsburgh Steelers fullback Franco Harris became the first Black player to win Super Bowl MVP honors. The 1980s saw further progress when Art Shell, a Hall of Fame offensive tackle, became the first Black head coach in the NFL's modern era. Hired by the Raiders in 1989, Shell's leadership on the sidelines broke a long-standing barrier in the coaching ranks and helped normalize the idea of Black leadership in football management.

In 2002, Ozzie Newsome made history of his own by becoming the first African American general manager in the NFL. Leading the Baltimore Ravens, Newsome built a championship team and helped redefine what was possible for Black executives in a sport that had been slow to diversify its leadership.

Most recently, in a historic moment during Super Bowl LVII in 2023, quarterbacks Patrick Mahomes and Jalen Hurts became the first pair of Black quarterbacks to face off in the NFL's biggest game. Their presence on football's grandest stage was the culmination of decades of struggle, perseverance, and triumph by those who came before.

Carson Vinson Drafted By Ravens, Only HBCU Player Selected In Draft

HBCU Buzz—Baltimore, MD — In a powerful moment for HBCUs and Black college football, Alabama A&M offensive lineman Carson Vinson has been selected by the Baltimore Ravens with the 141st overall pick in the fifth round of the 2025 NFL Draft, making him the only HBCU player drafted this year.

At 6-foot-7 and 314 pounds, Vinson is a force on the field. A native of Morrisville, North Carolina, he started 48 consecutive games at left tackle for Alabama A&M, anchoring the Bulldogs' offensive line for five straight seasons. In 2024, he earned First-Team All-SWAC honors, capping off a standout collegiate career that drew attention beyond the SWAC.

Vinson's hard work and dedication earned him an invite to the 2025 Reese's Senior Bowl, where he was the only player from an HBCU to participate. His performance there solidified his draft stock and placed him firmly on the radar of NFL scouts.

Vinson's selection is not just a personal milestone — it's a reminder that HBCU programs are producing NFL-caliber talent and deserve broader recognition on draft boards. He becomes Alabama A&M's first NFL Draft pick since 2011, and one of the few offensive linemen from an HBCU drafted in recent years.

The Ravens, known for developing linemen and valuing versatility, plan to begin Vinson's transition into the pros under the mentorship of veterans like Ronnie Stanley. Analysts believe Vinson could eventually see snaps at both tackle and guard, giving Baltimore valuable depth and future potential on their offensive front.

For the HBCU community, Vinson's draft moment stands tall — a beacon of what's possible when talent, opportunity, and preparation meet. As he embarks on his NFL journey, Carson Vinson carries not only his personal dreams but also the pride of Alabama A&M and HBCUs across the nation.

We'll be watching. And rooting for him all the way.

CARY, N.C. – In their first-ever appearance in the MEAC Tennis Championship final, the North Carolina Central women's team fell 4-0 to the defending champs of South Carolina State on Saturday morning at the Cary Tennis Park.

SCSU took an early lead after securing the doubles point with victories in the No.1 and 3 positions. Mariana Zottoli and Valeria San Miguel Soria's No.2 Doubles match went unfinished with the duo up 5-4.

Patricia Palencia was upended in No.4 Singles with 6-3, 6-2 sets, giving SCSU a 2-0 advantage. An extension of the lead occurred with a No.6 Singles 6-4, 6-1 defeat by Gabriela Mejia Arenas.

The last match to go final was No.1 Singles as Alejandra Hidalgo Vega dropped 6-4, 7-5 sets to Sofiya Chursina. That was the last point that South Carolina State needed to win the MEAC title.

Anthony And Howard To Highlight Basketball Hall of Fame Class of '25

Hypebeast—Carmelo Anthony and Dwight Howard have been named to the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame Class of 2025.

Melo, who is a 10-time NBA All-Star, three-time Olympic Gold Medalist, member of the NBA 75th Anniversary Team, played on the 2008 U.S. Olympic Men's basketball "Redeem Team" with fellow inductee, Howard. Alongside Melo and Howard, WNBA greats Sue Bird, Maya Moore and Sylvia Fowles. Additionally, Chicago Bulls coach two-time NCAA champion Billy Donovan, Miami Heat managing general partner Micky Arison and longtime NBA referee Danny Crawford are also expected to be inducted into the 2025 Hall of Fame class. Melo said in a statement, reflecting on this honor "This is it. It don't get no better than this."

The enshrinement weekend is scheduled for September 5 to 6 at the Mohegun Sun in Uncasville, Connecticut and the Hall of Fame in Springfield, Massachusetts. On a televised announcement, Anthony said, "When the call comes and in my case, I saw Springfield on the phone. You know what time it is Springfield is on the phone. You know who it is. You get the phone call and you hear, 'You're in.' And I think for me, it was a burden off of my shoulders."

Artists Survive—*CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6*

become too exposed to the whims of the wealthy.

In response, Progressive Era activists and politicians argued that it was the government's responsibility to build arts spaces accessible to all Americans.

Efforts to fund the arts expanded with the election of Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1932, as the country was reeling from the Great Depression. From 1935 to 1943, the Works Progress Administration provided jobs with stable wages for artists through the Federal Art Project. However, Congress famously terminated the program in response to a 1937 production of "The Revolt of the Beavers," which conservative politicians denounced for containing overt Marxist themes.

Nonetheless, over the ensuing decades, the federal government generally signaled its support for the arts.

Congress established the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities in 1965 to fund arts organizations and artists. And since 1972, the General Services Administration has commissioned public art for federal buildings and organized a registry of prospective artists.

The NEA gave US$8.4 million in direct funding to artists in 1989 via fellowships and grants. This might be considered the high-water mark for unrestricted government funding for individual artists.

By the 1980s, sexuality, drugs and American morality had become hot-button political issues. The arts, from music to theater, were at the center of this culture war. Pressure escalated in 1989 when conservative leaders contested two NEA-funded exhibitions featuring work by Andres Serrano and Robert Mapplethorpe, which they deemed homoerotic and anti-Christian. In 1990, Congress instated a "decency clause" guiding all future NEA work. When Republicans regained control of Congress in 1994, they slashed direct funding for the arts.

With direct funding to artists largely eliminated, today's artists can indirectly receive federal government support through federal arts agency grants, which are given to arts organizations that then dole out a portion to artists. Local and state government agencies also provide small amounts of direct support for artists.

The stage of democracy

Artists and arts organizations have a long legacy of persistence and strategic organizing during periods of political and economic upheaval.

In the pre-Revolutionary colonies, representatives of the British government banned theatrical performances to discourage revolutionary action. In response, activist playwrights organized underground parlor dramas and informal dramatic readings to keep arts-based activism alive.

Activist theater continued into the antebellum period for the purposes of promoting the abolitionist cause.

These dramas, often organized by women, would take place in living rooms, outside of public view. The clandestine staged readings – the most famous of which was written by one of the earliest Black American playwrights, William Wells Brown – seeded enthusiasm and solidarity for the antislavery cause. These privately staged readings took place alongside public performances and lectures.

Craft the world you want

Dozens of experimental schools like the Highlander Folk School in Tennessee and Commonwealth College in Arkansas were founded in the 1920s and 1930s to train activists.

Supporting adult learners of all ages – but specifically young adults – they initially focused on arts-based techniques for training workers in labor activism. For example, students wrote short plays based on their experiences of factory work. In their rehearsals and performances, they imagined endings in which workers triumphed over cruel bosses.

Many programs were residential, rural and embraced early versions of mutual aid, where artists and activists support one another directly through pooling money and resources. Tuition was minimal and generally provided directly from labor organizations and allies, including the American Fund for Public Service. Most teachers were volunteers, and the learning communities often farmed to cover basic necessities.

Although these institutions faced perpetual threats from local governments and even the FBI, these communal schools became testing grounds for social change. Some programs even became training sites for civil rights activists.

Curate the world you need

Black artists have long created spaces for community connection and career development. The Great Migration brought many Black American artists and thinkers to New York City, famously spurring the Harlem Renaissance, which lasted from the end of World War I through the 1920s. During this period, the neighborhood became a fountain of culture, with Black artists producing countless plays, books, music and other visionary works.

NFL Is Sanders' First Major Hill To Climb

Andscape—Why did Shedeur Sanders fall in the NFL draft? The University of Colorado star quarterback and the son Pro Football Hall of Famer Deion Sanders was overlooked on the first two days of the NFL draft before the Cleveland Browns traded up to select him in the fifth round (144th overall) on Saturday.

This is not a situation I had anticipated, nor was it the subject of a column I expected to write.

The answer? Who knows? Perhaps young Sanders is being humbled by powers that be who do not like his swagger. On the other hand, perhaps he simply is not the great prospect many of us thought he was.

This much is certain: Shedeur was one of the most significant college players in recent college history and for the past four years he, his father and teammate Travis Hunter were part of one of the greatest stories in college football.

Nothing that has happened these last three days can change that.

From the very beginning and before any selections were made, I filtered this week's NFL draft through the prism of Shedeur and his famous father. Draft day would be the final chapter of a dramatic story and journey that began at Jackson State University and continued at Colorado, where they rebuilt a major college program. With Coach Prime doing the coaching and the preaching, Shedeur doing the quarterbacking and eventual Heisman Trophy winner Hunter doing virtually everything, the Colorado rebuild became one of the great stories in college football.

From my perspective, this draft for the Sanders family was a graduation ceremony for Shedeur. Coach Prime had been Shedeur's coach since pee wee football, through high school and then college. Thursday's draft would be the final farewell, the handoff as Shedeur headed to the NFL, perhaps among the first five players chosen.

Then came the curveball. Shedeur was not only not drafted in the top five, he was not selected on the first day of the draft. This was an upset, a stunning turn of events. What I framed as a graduation ceremony — a father saying goodbye to his son — became one of the most humiliating evenings of his son's athletic life

Not only was he not drafted on Day 1, but he was not drafted on Day 2 either and two other quarterbacks (Alabama's Jalen Milroe, selected by the Seattle Seahawks, and Oregon's Dillon Gabriel, also picked by Cleveland) were drafted ahead of him on Friday. Throughout the evening, cameras checked in on Shedeur's draft party in Canton, Texas, where there was nervous optimism. By the end of the evening, there was disappointment which justified the decision to stay put rather than travel to Green Bay. Better to be at home surrounded by friends and family than in an empty green room.