



(See **BUDGET FOR BLACK MENTAL HEALTH** P. 2)

Southeast Raleigh Homeowners vs. City Development P3

By Jordan Meadows

Staff Writer

Southeast Raleigh’s Olde Towne subdivision remains the focal point of growing controversy as mounting complaints from residents on the east side of the neighborhood reveal a troubling pattern of exclusion, confusion, and possible civil rights violations.

As previously reported in The Carolinian, the east side of the development—particularly near Holiday Drive, Primrose Bank Road,

Bowmont Grove Street, and Karsota Lane—has been the site of intense frustration over demolition and construction that residents say began without notice, damaged their properties, and put their safety at risk.

The controversy is now split both geographically and bureaucratically between the east and west sides of S. New Hope Road. On the west side, developers linked to Toll Brothers are proposing a 250-unit commercial mixed-use project with a five-story height limit near New Hope Road’s Willow Court.

IS THE AMERICAN DREAM DEAD

Continued from page 1

polling, reflecting both his grip on the Republican base and a broader shift in public sentiment.

A June survey from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research found that 46% of U.S. adults approve of Trump’s handling of immigration, which is nearly 10 percentage points higher than his approval rating on the economy and trade. The poll was conducted at the beginning of the Los Angeles protests and did not include questions about Trump’s military deployment to the city.

‘Shaken their confidence’

The U.S. is still viewed as an economic powerhouse, though people in more countries consider China to be the world’s top economy, according to the Pew poll, and it’s unclear whether Trump’s policies could cause a meaningful drain of international students and others who feel under siege in the United States.

Netherlands-based Studyportals, which analyzes the searches for international schools by millions of students worldwide, reported that weekly pageviews for degrees in the U.S. collapsed by half between Jan. 5 and the end of April. It predicted that if the trend continues, the demand for programs in the U.S. could plummet further, with U.S. programs losing ground to countries like the United Kingdom and Australia.

“International students and their families seek predictability and security when choosing which country to trust with their future,” said Fanta Aw, CEO of NAFSA, which represents international educators. “The U.S. government’s recent actions have naturally shaken their confidence in the United States.”

REPUBLICAN REDISTRICTING PLAN

Continued from page 1

Republicans cut heavily Democratic Guilford County into three pieces. The individual pieces were melded into districts with Republican counties that are more rural.

“I’m concerned about the carving up and cutting up of my community, and I’m trying to get that changed somehow,” said Jones, who is Black.

Under a court-ordered congressional district plan used for the 2022 election, Guilford County was not divided and incumbent Democrat Kathy Manning was elected to represent it as part of the 6th Congressional District.

The redrawn district is heavily Republican. Manning did not run for reelection, and no Democrat opted to run there.

Overall, seven Democrats and seven Republicans were elected to Congress from North Carolina in 2022 using the court-ordered map. The 2024 map yielded 10 Republican and four Democratic winners.

Jones, a Democrat, said he was drawn into the 5th Congressional District, which extends west to include Ashe and Watauga counties in the mountains. Republican U.S. Rep. Virginia Foxx represents the district.

While Manning supported the Black community, Foxx has been absent and doesn’t have an office in Greensboro, Jones said.

“It hurt my community,” Jones said of the district lines. “We don’t have anyone who will address issues important to us.”

Jonathan Rodden, a redistricting specialist at Stanford University, testified that the 2024 districts “are not especially compact,” and “the Black community in the Triad is divided among several districts by splitting municipalities.”

Rodden said he couldn’t see good evidence that sorting voters in and out of districts is entirely driven by party.

Questioned by a lawyer for Republican legislators, Rodden said he did not know what election results legislators used to make the maps.

“I can’t make conclusions about that,” Rodden said. “I wasn’t there in the room.”

The judges also heard testimony about congressional districts 12 and 14 in Mecklenburg and counties west, about state Senate districts 1 and 2, which divide eastern North Carolina’s Black Belt counties, and about state Senate District 8, which is dominated by Columbus and Brunswick counties, with a sliver of Black neighborhoods in Wilmington added for 2024.

“Inner city Wilmington is purposely cut and sent over to rural Brunswick County,” state NAACP President Deborah Maxwell testified.

Three federal judges appointed by Republican presidents are hearing the case. The trial is expected to end in early July.

One resident on the west side was formally notified of a public meeting regarding rezoning, evidenced by a letter sent by the Longleaf Law Partners firm inviting “Neighboring Property Owner and Tenants” to discuss plans for a 22.98-acre parcel. Curiously, this letter—received by only one homeowner known to The Carolinian—outlined procedures required by the City of Raleigh, including community feedback prior to Planning Commission review.

The letter states: “The City of Raleigh requires a neighborhood meeting involving the owners and tenants of property within 1,000 feet of the property after filing the rezoning application, but before the rezoning application is heard by the planning commission. After the meeting, we will prepare a report for the planning department regarding the items discussed at the meeting.”

Some east-side residents, who have no recollection of any notices or public meetings concerning the property damage in their neighborhood, have even called this a “premercy cry to the courts,” saying it appears to be an effort to create a paper trail after leaving the east side completely in the dark.

Although the letter applied to properties within 1,000 feet of the rezoning site, east-side residents who meet that description say they were never contacted. Some who heard about the meeting, which occurred on Tuesday, June 10, attend-

ed anyway—despite never receiving formal notice.

Adding to the confusion is the role of Longleaf Law Partners, who appear to represent the City of Raleigh in the feedback process. Residents are questioning why a law firm—rather than city officials or the developers themselves—is managing community engagement efforts.

“I live 60 feet from the construction site and not one person from the city or developers has ever come to speak with us,” said a member of the Stanford family, who continue to fear the impact of increased traffic, safety risks, and the lack of physical barriers protecting their home from the roadwork. “We didn’t even get a letter. Nothing.”

Dr. Ulysses Lane, chair of the Southeast Citizen Advisory Council, who attended the west side meeting, acknowledged that communication efforts may have been inadequate.

“From the complaints I’m hearing, there may not have been enough done to let residents understand what this dynamiting was going to do,” Lane said, “and if it was going to damage their property, what they were going to do to mitigate it.”

Lane said this was at least the second such neighborhood meeting, though he couldn’t confirm the details of the first.

“It’s difficult to pinpoint meetings for a specific development because the area, especially around New Hope Road, has many such requests,

public services. State entities like DHHS, the Department of Commerce’s Division of Employment Security, and the Housing Finance Agency, along with local housing authorities, would be required to terminate benefits to anyone without legal status. Furthermore, they would be tasked with verifying the immigration status of all future applicants before awarding any benefits, a move critics suggest will complicate and slow down an already difficult process for all citizens seeking aid.

The bill also takes direct aim at so-called “sanctuary” policies. It explicitly withdraws legal immunity from any city or county that has adopted such policies, potentially exposing them to lawsuits. In a move that has drawn concern from the academic community, SB 153 also strictly prohibits the entire University of North Carolina system from adopting any form of sanctuary policies, infringing on the system’s ability to determine how to best serve its students and foster a welcoming environment.

By Ms Jheri Worldwide

Staff Writer

A controversial bill that would enlist state and local agencies in federal immigration enforcement has passed the North Carolina Congress and now awaits a decision from the Governor, who may sign it into law or issue a veto.

The bill, SB 153, mandates a significant shift in the responsibilities of numerous state agencies, requiring them to actively determine the immigration status of individuals in their custody or under their supervision. Under the proposed law, agencies including the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), the State Bureau of Investigation (SBI), the State Highway Patrol, and the Department of Corrections would be compelled to develop policies to check immigration status and notify U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) if an individual is found to be without legal status.

The legislation’s reach extends deep into the social safety net and

Black Mental Health

without sufficient funding in schools. She emphasized that what’s happening to the education system is not an accident.

“We’re watching arts, music, counseling, and essential support services get cut every year — and those are not just services, but those are real people — while are prisons are fully funded and billionaire tax breaks are handed out like candy, chronic underfunding hits Black and Brown schools and under-resourced districts hardest,” Parker said.

This isn’t a new challenge, Parker pointed out. Rather, she said, it’s the continuation of an “incredibly deep injustice.”

“When educators of color or others from marginalized communities don’t see themselves reflected or supported, it sends a clear message

that you don’t belong here, and that must change,” Parker said. “We must be the ones to change it.”

Drew Washington, a youth organizer with Education Justice Alliance, talked about mental health and Black youth.

He said one of the greatest challenges in addressing men’s mental health is starting the conversation.

Often, when Black men are growing up, they’re told what they should be before they’re given a chance to figure out what they want to be, Washington said, referring to stereotypes of becoming a rapper or football player instead of a doctor or lawyer.

“We aren’t given the agency on what we want to do, the person we want to be when we grow up,” he said.

developments, and construction projects,” he added.

Lane also confirmed that Councilman Cory Branch had received The Carolinian’s coverage, though it remains unclear what action will be taken.

While the Halle Building Group confirmed it developed the original Olde Towne subdivision, it denies involvement in the current construction project. GeoSonics-Vibra-Tech, the company responsible for the dynamiting, previously sent a letter in 2022 referencing “pre-blast inspections” and risk mitigation. However, residents of the Olde Towne Subdivision contend the company lacked the proper permits and was allegedly operating under the direction of both Halle and Toll Brothers—though these claims remain contested and partially unverified.

The Toll Brothers did not respond to The Carolinian’s June 9 request for comment via email and phone.

Reverend Green, a longtime voice for Southeast Raleigh’s Black communities, has called for federal oversight and invoked the 14th and 15th Amendments in his outreach to U.S. Representative Deborah Ross. Contrary to earlier reporting, Ross did not attend a civil rights meeting Green helped organize in Washington, D.C. in 2012. Nonetheless, Green remains adamant that she must act.

“We have Democrats who don’t respond,” he said. “They’re supposed to be representing us—Black communi-

ties in North Carolina. Ross needs to come out of the closet and help us get the justice we deserve.”

Residents like Mack Evans and Gail Durham say the damage is already done. Evans filed a formal civil rights complaint with Ross’s office, citing “voter suppression” and unapproved dynamite blasting near his property. Durham reported that her private well was contaminated and her water system damaged after one explosion: “These are not inexpensive fixes,” she wrote to the city.

Still, no concrete remediation plan or compensation framework has been publicly shared.

The City of Raleigh’s Planning Department has yet to address whether the east side of the development was notified in the same manner as the west. The lack of any city records regarding construction on Primrose Bank, Bowmont Grove, or Holiday Drive—despite visible road demolition—raises further questions about whether protocols were followed at all.

Until city officials or developers step forward with clarity, residents of Southeast Raleigh’s Olde Towne subdivision are left with noise, dust, property damage—and no voice in decisions reshaping their neighborhood.

The Carolinian is continuing to seek answers from the Raleigh City Planner, Longleaf Law Partners, the Raleigh City Council, the Toll Brothers, and community residents.

SB 153 - Sweeping Immigration Bill On Governor's Desk, New Mandates Coming



In essence, SB 153 imposes the duties of a federal function onto state agencies, requiring a significant use of state time and resources to enforce federal immigration law. The State Auditor would be tasked with ensuring these agencies comply with the new mandates. While the bill has passed through the leg-

islature, its future is not yet certain. The proposal places new administrative hurdles on state agencies and residents seeking essential services, with no clear benefit stated for the citizens of North Carolina. All eyes are now on the Governor’s office to see if this far-reaching legislation will become state law.

—CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



Washington emphasized the importance to begin the conversation earlier, when kids are still young.

Samuel Scarborough is a student at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and an organizer with their NAACP chapter.

He said young people are the innovators of the future, but they’re also in a crisis.

“Since 2017, the Black youth suicide rate has risen faster than any other ethnic group in the past two decades,” Scarborough said.

The issue has deep roots, he said. But funding for mental health pro-

grams, support for K-12 schools, and jobs for working class families would make a difference.

“When our incomes don’t keep up with the ever-rising cost to live, that attributes to the Black mental health crisis,” Scarborough said. “When we’re going to schools that can get shot up any given day... that fuels the Black mental health crisis.”

Scarborough asked lawmakers for more money to support existing and future mental health initiatives for Black communities, not only across North Carolina, but across the country.



‘NO KINGS’ DAY RALEIGH PROTESTS

NC Newsline – As President Donald Trump celebrated his 79th birthday and the Army’s 250th birthday with a massive military parade, demonstrators held ‘No Kings’ day protests across the country. Hundreds gathered Saturday afternoon at the NC State Capitol to voice support for democracy, due process, and immigrants rights. As demonstrators held signs above their heads, others circled the capitol grounds honking their car horns in approval. Similar events were held in 2,000 communities across the country.

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e-mail: info@caro.news

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Business & Finance

GoTriangle Welcomes New President & CEO Dr. Brian Smith

By Jordan Meadows

Staff Writer

GoTriangle’s newly appointed President and CEO, Dr. Brian Smith, has officially stepped into the role with a pragmatic focus on strengthening the foundation of the Triangle’s regional transit system.

At a press conference last Wednesday, Smith outlined his immediate priorities and long-term vision, emphasizing reliability, consistency, and collaboration as cornerstones for GoTriangle’s future success.

Smith takes the helm at a pivotal moment for GoTriangle, the regional transit agency serving Durham, Orange, and Wake counties. The agency is still regrouping following the resignation of former CEO Charles Lattuca and the collapse of long-anticipated commuter rail plans due to funding issues.

“Right now, the focus is on building a stable and mature organization and operation, and focusing on services we can deliver here in the near future,” Smith said. “There will be opportunities for the bigger picture stuff down the road.”

Smith, a U.S. Army veteran and former Deputy CEO at Hampton

Roads Transit in Virginia, brings over 18 years of transit leadership experience. At Hampton Roads, he helped grow Virginia’s largest transit agency, overseeing both bus and light rail services and securing over \$32 million annually in investments.

He also completed executive training at MIT Sloan and earned a doctorate in organizational leadership, with a focus on collaborative leadership—something GoTriangle’s board highlighted in their selection process.

“GoTriangle is very fortunate, I’m very fortunate, to have an outstanding team around me—a diverse and talented team,” Smith said. “Our mission every day is connecting people and the region with high-quality transit. That’s what we’re here to do and I’m looking forward to rolling up my sleeves.”

Smith made clear that before considering large-scale regional expansions, GoTriangle will concentrate on strengthening its core offerings. His first priority? Improving the reliability and frequency of the agency’s existing bus service.

GoTriangle is already in the midst of significant operational milestones. The new Raleigh Union Station Bus (RUSBus) facility, located on West



Hargett Street, is set to open on July 25 with a ribbon-cutting ceremony. This multimodal hub will link regional bus routes with rail service, enhancing connectivity in downtown Raleigh.

In August, GoTriangle will implement a 15-minute frequency service for the first time on its Route 400 line, a vital link between downtown Durham and downtown Chapel Hill, including direct access to both cities’ major hospitals.

Additionally, the agency has selected a developer for a new mobility

hub planned for the heart of Research Triangle Park. The project, expected to be completed by 2028, received a \$25 million federal grant under the Biden Administration and is one of the cornerstones of GoTriangle’s three-year strategic plan.

With several Triangle cities pursuing their own Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) initiatives, regional coordination is becoming increasingly crucial. Raleigh is preparing to break ground on its first BRT line, Chapel Hill has secured key federal funding for its system, and Durham is in the early

19th Annual North Carolina Minority Farmers & Landowners Conference

By Jordan Meadows

Staff Writer

The 19th Annual North Carolina Minority Farmers & Landowners Conference began Monday morning at the Raleigh Hilton in North Hills.

Archie Hart, a small farms representative with the North Carolina Department of Agriculture (NCD), opened the event with a welcome and introduction, followed by remarks from Shauna Williams, Executive Director of the Legislative Black Caucus.

The conference opened with a policy-focused session titled “Ag Policy Engagement,” led by speaker Phil Farland, who emphasized the importance of minority voices in shaping agricultural policy and explained the conservation easement application process.

Farland described how easement values are calculated by comparing the fair market value (FMV) of a property with its restricted-use value (RUV), with the difference between the two representing the purchase price. He also outlined the financial support available through these programs, including cash considerations and tax incentives, and highlighted key steps such as conducting a 60-year title search, environmental prescreening, and working with land trusts and Soil & Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs).

Farland stressed the role of lenders, explaining, “The lender has to either agree to a payoff or subordinate to the easement. If not, that’s where the process could stop.”

When asked during the Q&A if easements could be placed along a stream, Farland confirmed they could and added that boundaries could be customized to leave out areas for future development or housing, which can aid in financing.

Farland also pointed out that these state and federal farmland preservation programs are highly competitive. Farmers must have a clear title, avoid existing liens, and reach a family consensus before proceeding. Lender-approval is



necessary if there is a mortgage, and participation requires permanent land-use restrictions designed to protect farmland for future generations.

The next session, titled “Ag Economic Outlook,” featured Dr. Jeffrey Dorfman, Distinguished Professor of Agricultural and Resource Economics at NC State University.

Dorfman shared a generally positive economic forecast, citing continued GDP growth—albeit slower—along with low unemployment and strong consumer spending, particularly in services like dining and travel. Although many Americans still feel the sting of inflation, Dorfman noted that inflation has dropped considerably from its peak.

“If people are still eating out and going on vacation, then the economy’s doing okay. You don’t go out to eat if you’re broke,” he said.

However, he flagged the growing federal budget deficit as a concern, noting its role in driving up interest rates and stating that a meaningful reduction in the deficit is unlikely in the near future.

On agriculture specifically, Dorfman predicted commodity prices would remain steady, while input costs—such as fertilizer and diesel—were beginning to stabilize. For many farmers, he expects 2025 to

be a break-even or slight loss year, though livestock producers may fare slightly better than crop growers.

He encouraged farmers to focus on strong business planning and to consider alternative models like agritourism or direct-to-retail sales to improve profitability. Dorfman also mentioned pending legislation, including the Protecting Our Produce Act, which aims to increase traceability requirements, and he warned that potential SNAP program changes could impact food producers depending on how the rules are finalized.

The conference continued with a session on regenerative agriculture led by Joe Schroeder of Accelerated Appalachia and Sam Cook from NC State’s College of Natural Resources. Schroeder encouraged the adoption of practices that build long-term soil health and emphasized the importance of market development, food hubs, and value-added products.

Tim Beard, North Carolina State Conservationist for the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), also presented. With a career at NRCS dating back to 1988 and experience in multiple states, Beard now oversees conservation efforts across North Carolina.

In his remarks, he emphasized the

importance of federal support for landowners and conservation work but was frank about recent challenges the agency has faced. Specifically, he explained that budget cuts under the Trump administration dramatically reduced the agency’s funding.

“We went from \$60 million to \$23 million,” Beard said. “Another program dropped from \$29 million to \$15 million. A set of four projects was cut to one, with funding slashed from \$58 million down to \$16 million.”

The first day concluded with a technology session featuring Joe Trigg, a former city council member and USDA FSA employee from Kentucky, who presented the My Farm Exchange app—a tool designed to help small farmers better manage operations.

That was followed by a presentation from Eloris Speight and Conisha Brumfield of the National Policy Research Center at Alcorn State University, who offered updates on recent USDA equity policy shifts.

On Tuesday, the conference continued with Alicia Netterville of Acclivity Strategies leading a Farm Bill Planning session centered on farmer engagement and strategic policy development, leading to a field visit to the farm of Donald Hines in Jacksonville, NC, where attendees will see firsthand how conservation and regenerative practices are being integrated into a working farm.

On Wednesday, conference attendees gathered for a Fellowship and Prize Drawing session before joining a panel discussion focused on Access to Capital and Economic Development. Later in the day, Kevin E. Price, Chief Sustainability and Inclusion Officer, led a session highlighting the work of the National Institute of Minority Economic Development.

The three-day event concluded with sessions on Estate Planning and Asset Management, a Farm Bill Planning Feedback discussion, and closing remarks from Annette Hiatt, Senior Staff Attorney with the Land Loss Prevention Project based in Durham.

planning stages.

Smith supports these localized efforts and believes they must be proven successful before attempting to integrate them regionally.

“I think it’s important to deliver results initially, and then we will look at opportunities to perhaps connect those services across the region,” Smith said. “It’s a long game, but I think if we roll up our sleeves and stick with it, it’s going to prove out in the future.”

Smith is optimistic about continued federal investment in transit despite shifting political winds.

The agency’s leadership emphasized that the future of transit in the Triangle will rely heavily on partnership and shared purpose.

“Today marks a new chapter. We continue the mission to become the strongest and most profound regional transit system in the nation,” said Chief Communications Officer Eric Curry.

Former Raleigh Mayor and current Board Chair, Mary Baldwin, echoed that sentiment: “We can’t

do this alone. This is about partnerships, and that’s part of why we’re here to celebrate. We all have that common purpose; that purpose is not just about transit. It’s about making our region one of the best places to work, play, and live in the country.”

Smith brings not just technical expertise but also a deeply personal motivation for public service. He credits a decades-old gift—a collection of Martin Luther King Jr.’s speeches and sermons—with shaping his leadership philosophy.

“And that has been a gift that has just kept on giving over the years,” Smith shared.

As GoTriangle moves forward with plans both immediate and long-term, Smith is embracing his role with humility, optimism, and readiness.

“I accept the charge and I’m very eager to be fully engaged with our regional partners and just continuing to work on the progress and the positive efforts that are already very much well underway,” he said.



Can Shoes Be Made In The US Without A Cheap Labor Force?

In a corner of Kentucky just outside of Louisville, family-owned shoe company Keen is opening a new factory this month.

The move fits neatly into the “America First” economic vision championed by the Trump administration - an emblem of hope for a manufacturing renaissance long promised but rarely realized.

Yet beneath the surface, Keen’s new factory tells a far more complicated story about what manufacturing in America really looks like today.

With just 24 employees on site, the factory relies heavily on automation -sophisticated robots that fuse soles and trim materials - underscoring a transformation in how goods are made today.

Manufacturing is no longer the labor-intensive engine of prosperity it once was, but a capital-heavy, high-tech enterprise.

“The labor rates here in the US are very expensive,” says Keen’s chief operating officer, Hari Perumal. Compared to factories in Asia, American staffing costs run roughly 10 to 12 times higher, he explains.

It’s a reality that forced Keen to come up with a solution back in 2010, when rising costs in China pushed the company to begin producing domestically - a decision which today offers it some buffer against Trump’s tariffs. But it’s far from a straightforward win.

Shoemaking, like many industries, remains tightly linked to sprawling global supply chains. The vast majority of footwear production is still carried out by hand in Asia, with billions of pairs imported annually into the US.

To make domestic production viable, Keen has invested heavily in automation, enabling the Kentucky plant to operate with just a fraction of the workforce required overseas.

“We are making products here in the USA very economically and very efficiently,” says Mr. Perumal.

“And the way we do that is with tons of automation, and [it] also starts with how the products are designed and what kind of materials and automation we utilize.”

The challenges of reshoring manufacturing go beyond Keen. Major brands such as Nike, Adidas, and Under Armour also attempted to develop new manufacturing technologies in the US around a decade ago — efforts that ultimately failed.

Even Keen only assembles 9% of its shoes in America. It turns out that making shoes in a new way, and at scale, is complex and expensive.

The story of American manufacturing is one of dramatic rise and gradual decline. After World War Two, US factories churned out shoes, cars, and appliances, employing millions and helping to build a robust middle class. But as globalization accelerated in the late 20th Century, many industries moved overseas, chasing cheaper labour and looser regulations. This shift hollowed out America’s industrial heartland, contributing to political and economic tensions that still resonate today.

Shoemaking has become a symbol of these changes. Approximately 99% of shoes sold in the US are imported, mainly from China, Vietnam, and Indonesia.

The domestic footwear supply chain is almost non-existent - only about 1% of shoes sold are made in America.

Pepper Harward, CEO of Oka Brands, one of the rare companies still producing shoes in the US, knows this challenge well. His factory in Buford, Georgia, crafts shoes for brands like New Balance and Ryka.

But sourcing affordable parts and materials in the US remains a constant struggle.

“It’s not a self-sustained ecosystem,” Mr. Harward says. “You kind of have to build your own. That is extremely challenging as vendors and suppliers sometimes come in and out.”

To source the foam and PVC for their soles, Oka Brands tried tapping into the automotive industry’s supplier network — an unconventional but necessary workaround.

For companies like Keen and Oka, making shoes in America requires patience, investment, and innovation. The question is whether they - and others - can scale production under the protectionist policies now in place.

Mr. Harward says there is definitely more interest in local manufacturing because of tariffs, noting that the supply chain disruptions caused by the pandemic also spurred greater interest in reshoring. But he is skeptical that tariffs alone will drive a wholesale return.

“It would probably take 10 years of pretty high tariffs to give people incentives to do it,” says Mr. Harward. Even then, he believes the industry might realistically see only about 6% of production return to US soil.

As for Keen, plans that began over a decade ago, are coming to fruition. It is the kind of patient investment only a family business can afford.

“We are a private, values-led company,” Mr. Perumal explains. “We’re able to do these types of decisions without having to have to worry about quarter after quarter results.”

Still, even for companies who are already making shoes in America, the reality of modern manufacturing is that it is difficult to simply reverse decades of globalization.

Keen’s new factory is not a signal of a return to the past, but a glimpse of what the future of American manufacturing might look like - one where technology and tradition intersect.

Sheetz Racial Discrimination Case Is On The Chopping Block As Trump Rewrites Civil Rights

(AP NEWS) Federal authorities moved Friday to drop a racial discrimination lawsuit against the Sheetz convenience store chain, part of a broader effort by President Donald Trump’s administration to halt the use of a key tool for enforcing the country’s civil rights laws.

The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, the top federal agency for enforcing workers rights, filed a motion in a Pennsylvania federal court to dismiss the Sheetz lawsuit, citing Trump’s executive order directing federal agencies to deprioritize the use of “disparate impact liability” in civil rights enforcement.

Disparate impact liability holds that policies that are neutral on their face can violate civil rights laws if they impose artificial barriers that disadvantage different demographic groups. The concept has been used to root out practices that close off minorities, women, people with disabilities, older adults or other groups from certain jobs, or keep them from accessing credit or equal pay.

Trump’s executive order is part of his campaign to upend civil rights

enforcement through firings and other steps that have consolidated his power over quasi-independent agencies like the EEOC, redirecting them to implement his priorities, including stamping out diversity and inclusion practices and eroding the rights of transgender people.

In the Sheetz case, filed in April 2024 under the Biden administration, the EEOC had claimed that the company’s policy of refusing to hire anyone who failed its criminal background checks discriminated against Black, Native American and multiracial job applicants.

The lawsuit could survive even if the EEOC drops it: A Black worker who was let go from his Sheetz job in Pennsylvania filed a motion in federal court Thursday evening to intervene and pursue his own class action lawsuit. In its motion Friday, the EEOC asked the court to delay its dismissal of the lawsuit for 60 days to allow potential claimants to intervene.

What is disparate impact?

The Supreme Court recognized the concept of disparate impact in a landmark 1971 case, which held that

a North Carolina power plant discriminated against Black employees by requiring high school diplomas and an intelligence test for certain higher paying roles, even though the requirements were irrelevant to the jobs.

In 1991, bipartisan majorities in Congress voted to codify disparate impact in Title VII of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, which prohibits workplace discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, sex or national origin. The concept holds that it is illegal to impose barriers to employment if such practices have a discriminatory effect and have no relevance to the requirements of the job.

What does Trump’s executive order say?

The April 23 order declared that it is “the policy of the United States to eliminate the use of disparate-impact liability in all contexts to the maximum degree possible.” The order argued that disparate impact has become a “key tool” of a “pernicious movement” that threatens meritocracy in favor of “racial balancing” in

the workforce.

Craig Leen, a former top official at the Labor Department under the first Trump administration, said while the executive order take a more aggressive approach, it reflects long-standing conservative concerns that disparate impact liability encourages the assumption that any racial imbalance in the workforce is a result of discrimination.

Harmeet K. Dhillon, assistant U.S. attorney general for civil rights, said the Trump administration would rightfully “focus on individual discrimination cases,” which she said are “more factually sound, less susceptible to manipulation, and more closely hews to the original intent” of civil rights law.

What is happening with the Sheetz case?

The EEOC filed the original Sheetz lawsuit after an eight-year investigation that arose from complaints filed by two job applicants. But following Trump’s disparate impact order, the EEOC filed a motion District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania to dismiss the lawsuit.

Why Burkina Faso's Junta Leader—CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

paramilitary brigade, and adopted left-wing economic policies. This included setting up a state-owned mining company, requiring foreign firms to give it a 15% stake in their local operations and to transfer skills to Burkinabé people. The rule also applied to Russian miner Nordgold, which was given a licence in late April for its latest investment in Burkina Faso's gold industry. As part of what Traoré calls a "revolution" to ensure Burkina Faso benefits from its mineral wealth, the junta is also building a gold refinery and establishing national gold reserves for the first time in the nation's history. However, Western-owned firms appear to be facing a tough time, with Australia-headquartered Sarama Resources launching arbitration proceedings against Burkina Faso in late 2024 following the withdrawal of an exploration licence.

The junta has also nationalised two gold mines previously owned by a London-listed firm, and said last month that it planned to take control of more foreign-owned mines. Enoch Randy Aikins, a researcher at South Africa's Institute for Security Studies, told the BBC that Traoré's radical reforms had increased his popularity in Africa. "He is now arguably Africa's most popular, if not favourite, president," Mr. Aikins said. His popularity has been fuelled through social media, including many misleading posts intended to bolster his revolutionary image. AI-generated videos of music stars like R Kelly, Rihanna, Justin Bieber and Beyoncé are seen immortalising him through song - though they have done nothing of the sort. Ms. Ochieng said that Traoré first caught the attention of Africans when he spoke at the Russia-Africa summit in 2023, telling African leaders to "stop behaving like puppets who dance every time the imperialists pull the strings". This speech was heavily publicised by Russian media, which has become a major player in promoting Traoré's pan-Africanist image. Traoré attended commemorations in Russia last week to mark the 80th anniversary of the Soviet victory over Nazi Germany in World War Two. He posted on X that he, along with military leaders from neighbouring Mali and Niger, were inspired by it "to winning the war against terrorism and imperialism at all costs". Thanks to his rhetoric and pushed by a slick social media campaign, his appeal has spread around the world, including among African-Americans and Black Britons, Ms. Ochieng noted. "Everyone who has experienced racism, colonialism and slavery can relate to his messages," Ms. Ochieng said, pointing out that

African-American rapper Meek Mill had posted about him on X late last year, saying how much he liked his "energy and heart" - though he was ridiculed for mixing up names by referring to Traoré as Burkina Faso and later deleted the post. But France's president is not a fan, describing Traoré as part of a "baroque alliance between self-proclaimed pan-Africans and neo-imperialists." Emmanuel Macron was also referring to Russia and China whom he accused, in a 2023 speech, of provoking coups in Africa's former French colonies, and hypocritically stirring up old arguments over sovereignty and colonial exploitation. Traoré's popularity comes despite the fact that he has failed to fulfil his pledge to quell a 10-year Islamist insurgency that has fuelled ethnic divisions and has now spread to once-peaceful neighbours like Benin. His junta has also cracked down on dissent, including the opposition, media and civil society groups

and punished critics, among them medics and magistrates, by sending them to the front-lines of the war against the jihadists. For Rinaldo Depagne, the Africa deputy director of the International Crisis Group think-tank, Traoré commands such support because "he is young in a country with a young population" - the median age is 17.7 years. "He is media-savvy, and uses the past to build his popularity as a re-incarnation of Sankara," he told the BBC. "And he knows the art of politics - how to make a nation completely traumatised by war feel there is a better future. He is really good at that game." Sankara rose to power in a coup in 1983 at the age of 33, rallied the nation under the motto "Fatherland or death, we will win!", and was killed four years later in another coup that put Burkina Faso back in France's political orbit until Traoré's seizure of power.

Ghanaian security analyst Prof Kwesi Aning, who previously worked at the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre, said the popularity of the military leader reflected a political shift taking place on the continent, especially in West Africa. A 2024 survey in 39 countries by Afrobarometer showed a drop in support for democracy, although it remained the most popular form of government. "Democracy has failed to give hope to the youth. It has not delivered jobs or better education and health," Prof Aning told the BBC. He said Traoré was "offering an alternative, and re-capturing the spirit of two historic epochs": The post-independence era, when there were leaders like Ghana's Kwame Nkrumah and Kenneth Kaunda of Zambia And a later era with Sankara and Ghana's Jerry Rawlings, whose coup in 1979 "was also very popular at the time".



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Hit Hard by Opioid Crisis, Black Patients Further Hurt by Barriers

KFF Health News

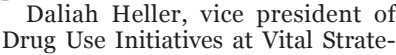
Incarcerated People Are Helping Prevent Suicide

NC Health News

Generally, a correctional officer provides the observation. It's time-intensive to monitor someone closely 24/7 — and that's made more difficult by chronic staff shortages at the Department of Adult Correction.

Department Secretary Leslie Cooley Dismukes told state lawmakers during her May 14 confirmation hearing that the correctional officer vacancy rate is near 40 percent, and the shortage is a "direct threat to public safety."

According to the CDC, only 1 in 12 non-Hispanic Black people who died of an opioid overdose had been



Those medications have the potential to reduce overdose risk by half and double a patient's chances of entering long-term recovery. The FDA has approved three medications: buprenorphine and metha-

Edwin Chapman, who runs an addiction clinic in Washington,

“Drug use occurs at the same levels across racial and ethnic groups, but Black Americans are more likely to be arrested and incarcerated on drug charges,” Heller said. “The more hyper-criminalized experience levied against Black communities interferes with access to care.”



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Arts & Culture

Afro Mexican Actors Celebrate Their Heritage Through Plays

TICUMÁN, México (AP) — There was something about her body, but Mexican actress Eréndira Castorela couldn’t quite put her finger on it.

Some casting directors told her she was “too tall” to play a Mexican woman. Others insinuated her features weren’t sufficiently “Indigenous.”

“It wasn’t until later that I discovered what it means to recognize oneself as Afro,” said Castorela, who subsequently confirmed her African ancestry. “We are a diverse community which, perhaps due to discrimination, doesn’t identify as such.”

Her life changed after she joined Mulato Teatro, a theater company that empowers actors of African descent who are eager to forge a career despite racism. However, like most Afro Mexican activists, Castorela believes that nationwide recognition is still a long way off.

“If we look around, we’ll see curly hair, high cheekbones, full lips or dark skin,” the 33-year-old said. “But there’s a wound that prevents us from recognizing ourselves.”

Unlike the United States, where there have been concerted efforts to boost awareness of the Black history,

acknowledging Black people in Mexico has received little support.

“The concept of mixed race denies the cultural diversity that defines us as Mexicans,” said María Elisa Velázquez, a researcher at the National School of Anthropology and History. “We are not only Indigenous, but also European, African and Asian.”

It is well known that the Mesoamerican lands conquered by the Spaniards in the 16th century were inhabited by Indigenous people, resulting in mixed-race marriages and births. Less noted is the fact that some mixed-race Mexicans are partly descended from enslaved Black people.

According to Velázquez, the evolution of communities incorporating Black people depended on their geographic location. “Much of the Afro-descendant population established relations and coexisted alongside different Indigenous groups, resulting in very heterogeneous communities,” she said.

Official figures from 2024 estimate the Afro-descendant population in Mexico is 3.1 million, mainly residing in the states of Guerrero, Morelos, Colima and Quintana Roo. While



Colombian actress Marisol Castillo, a cast member of Mulato Teatro

most identify as African Mexican, nearly two-thirds also perceive themselves as Indigenous.

Castorela — born in Morelos, a state neighboring Mexico City — recalls looking through family photo albums after first wondering if she had African ancestry. The features of her relatives left no

room for doubt.

“I also realized we had created a narrative that concealed our origins,” she said. “There was always someone saying: ‘But there was a blond person in the family,’ or ‘Grandma had finer features.’”

Castorela may not have curly hair

and her skin tone may not resemble that of other Afro women, but she said her body never lied.

When she was a young actress taking ballet classes, she felt constrained and uncomfortable. It wasn’t until she joined African dance classes that the choreography was ideal for her height, weight and soul.

“I feel much freer because there’s openness and movement,” she said. “Identifying as African Mexican has given me the mental and spiritual peace I needed to realize there is a place where I can reflect myself.”

The theater company where Castorela and two dozen other artists collaborate was founded in the early 2000s by another Afro woman who struggled to excel as a Black actress in Mexico.

Born in Colombia, a South American country where around 10% of the population is Black, Marisol Castillo said she had no clue her physical features would hinder her career. But after falling in love with Mexican playwright Jaime Chabaud and moving to his hometown, everything changed.

“Some want to force us to fit a mold, a white mold,” Castillo said. “And when we differ, we’re told: ‘You’re a bad actor, you’re out of tune.’ But we’re just

different.”

Casting directors mostly offered Castillo roles as prostitute, exotic dancer, maid or slave. So she teamed up with Chabaud, and “Mulato Teatro” was born.

“There was very little openness and awareness,” Chabaud said. “So I started writing plays for her.”

The themes of Chabaud’s plays are as diverse as the actors who bring his characters to life.

“African Erotic Tales of the Black Decameron” draws inspiration from oral traditions, fusing the worldview of African communities. “Yanga” portrays a real-life 17th-century Black hero who is considered a liberator in the Mexican state of Veracruz.

Among the topics inspiring Chabaud are not only African legends or characters, but stories closer to home. “Where are you going, Mr. Opossum?” tells the tale of a “Tlacuache,” an ancient creature from Mesoamerican mythology.

In Chabaud’s play, the Tlacuache steals fire from a goddess to save humanity from hunger and darkness. The creature has no divine powers, but his ability to play dead enables him to sneak past the Jaguar, a deity safeguarding the flames.

100 Years Since Successful Supreme Court Nomination Block

By Ms Jheri Worldwide

Staff Writer

Glen Anthony Harris in his 2023, biography of prolific photojournalist and public relations expert Alexander McAllister Rivera Jr., mentioned, “By 1920, African Americans in the south began to have confidence in the NAACP’s ability to act as a national political force.”

With the confidence of the people and the strength of its members, Dr. Alexander McAllister Rivera, president of the Greensboro branch of the NAACP and father of Rivera Jr., began to raise efforts and attention for registering Black women to vote. He worked with Bennet College professor Charles H. Moore, Charlotte Hawkins Brown of Palmer Memorial Institute to craft a response to state Republican Party Leaders that, “deplored the republican treatment of black citizens (male or female) by the ‘lilywhite’ managers of the Republican organization in the state.”

His quest uncovered the perspectives of state leadership. The unfavorable response indicated that Frank A. Linney, statechairman of the white Republican State Executive Committee, pledged “to the states’ white women” that if the Republican party carried the state, they would “have a strictly white government and the Republican Party’s policy will be to let the negro stay out of politics.”

Charles H. Moore, was quoted in the Greensboro Daily News warning Linney, “rejection of black Republican voters would return to haunt him.”

During this time Judge John Johnston Parker was the Republican candidate for governor. A UNC graduate with a private law practice in Greensboro from 1908 - 1922, it is not far fetched to place Judge Parker and Dr. Rivera in some of the same Greensboro circles and certainly aware of their respective politics. Between 1910 and 1916

Judge Parker ran for NC House as well as for attorney general. These races empowered him to share his perspectives on the African American vote in North Carolina.

Judge Parker was quoted in local media, “The Negro as a class does not desire to enter politics ... the Republican Party of North Carolina does not desire him to do so.” Judge Parker went on to assert that Black voters, “yet to reach that stage of development when [they] can share the burdens and responsibilities of government ... The participation of the Negro in politics is a source of evil and danger to both races and is not desired by the wise men in either race or by the Republican Party of North Carolina.” Judge Parker failed to obtain the votes for governorship, however Dr. Rivera took careful note of his ideas and public statements. Judge Parker went on to become the special assistant to the attorney general of the United States by the Republican President Calvin Coolidge and was eventually confirmed

by the Senate to the US Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit.

It is said that Judge Parker’s career success was largely due to his stance on the negro vote. Dr. Rivera, Moore, and others from the North Carolina NAACP began to lobby against political appointments at the national level when candidates were against negro voting. Their presence in Washington, DC while not always successful proved to be continuously impactful. In March 1930, after the death of Supreme Court Justice Edward Terry Sanford, President Warren G. Harding nominated Judge John J. Parker to fill the seat. Walter White, NAACP executive secretary, “felt it was imperative to move with the utmost speed to ascertain Judge Parker’s positions.” White didn’t have to look far, his good friend and Greensboro branch president Dr. Rivera had held news clippings outlining Judge Parker’s positions from his racist speeches. It was clear to both NAACP leaders that Judge Parker represented “a grave threat to the future of Black Americans and to the progressive work of the NAACP.” White went on to express firmly, “This



ALEXANDER MCALLISTER RIVERA JR.

situation ought as nothing else could, convince the Negroes of North Carolina not of the desirability but of the absolute necessity of having alert, strong and well-organized branches to be on guard, ready to handle a situation like this.”

Walter White safeguarded his source to the grave referring to Dr.

Rivera in his autobiography as the “key negro” on this endeavor or in other texts as “an ally in North Carolina.” The communication between White and Dr Rivera launched a chain of events that ushered in the first open challenge of a Supreme Court candidate. White wrote to Judge Parker seeking clarity on the comments made ten years earlier. No response was the response White accepted as he began a “spirited opposition ... sending telegrams to 35 US Senators and all one hundred seventy seven NAACP branches ‘requesting that the nomination’ of Judge Parker to the Supreme Court ‘be rejected.’” May 7, 1930, 39 days later, Oscar De Priest, a Republican from Illinois, and the only Black representative in Congress, “phoned Walter White to inform him that the Senate had just voted 41 - 39 against confirmation of Judge Parker.

The NAACP had done more than keep a racist judge off the highest bench, they demonstrated the power of organized state and local branches of like minded individuals to work together on a common goal.



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Amy Sherald, *She was learning to love moments, to love moments for themselves* (large detail), 2017, oil on canvas, 54¼ x 43 in., Courtesy of the artist and Hauser & Wirth

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Slick Rick Returns After 26 Years With ‘Victory’ Album, Storytelling Still Reigns

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Hip-hop legend Slick Rick is proving his creative spark is far from fading.

The English-born rapper — known for his signature eye patch and masterful storytelling — returned to the booth with his first new project in nearly three decades. He’s reminding the world of his timeless rap prowess on his visual album, “Victory,” released Friday.

It marks Slick Rick’s first album since 1999’s “The Art of Storytelling.” This new project is largely self-produced, with the rapper handling 95% of the production and sharing executive producer duties with Emmy-nominated actor and occasional rapper-DJ Idris Elba, who appears on the album alongside Nas, Giggs and Estelle.

“You was a young adult, then a middled aged man and now you’re an older man, so my mentality has to

grow with it,” said Slick Rick, known for his rap classics such as “Children’s Story,” “La Di Da Di” with Doug E. Fresh and “Mona Lisa.” His debut album, “The Great Adventures of

Slick Rick,” in 1988 hit No. 1 on the Billboard R&B/hip-hop charts.

Slick Rick believes his voice still resonates in hip-hop. He said the subjects he tackles have grown with him.

“Can’t always be children all the time,” he said. “We grow and talk about things that interest us at this age.”

In a recent interview, Slick Rick spoke with The Associated Press about how storytelling plays a role in today’s rap, his relationship with Elba and how hip-hop has no limitations.

Remarks have been edited for clarity and brevity. “Victory” was four years in the making, with Slick Rick, now 60, writing and recording the album between his birthplace of London then France, while the visuals were filmed in the United States, United Kingdom and Africa.

Art Therapy Supports The Community

Fayetteville, NC — Employment Source announces support for Community Inclusion Day Program-Art Therapy with the help of a grant in the amount of \$8,000 from the Arts Council of Fayetteville/Cumberland County.

“The FY26 grant from the Arts Council of Fayetteville/Cumberland County provides Art Therapy and Bloom Artisan’s program for adults with disabilities who attend our Community Inclusion Day Program here in Fayetteville at our Employment Source office, Monday – Friday. Art Therapy is provided each Wednesday for over 30 participants. Yael, a certified Art Therapist provides projects that help promote creativity, expression, and self-esteem. Our participants say Wednesday and Art Therapy are their favorite day and activity!” Handmade Bloom items such as greeting cards, shirts, soaps, candles and jewelry are sold at our summer Bloom Farmers Markets held at Friendship House Fayetteville each Monday, June-August.

The mission of Employment Source is to facilitate services and partnerships to support people with disabilities, their families, their caregivers, and community members in order to build more inclusive communities. The Art Therapy classes have played a significant role in developing creativity and self-esteem in our participants. Art therapy provides an outlet that

traditional therapies lack, especially for individuals who have developmental disabilities. When presented with the chance to create art, a person with developmental disabilities is invited to awaken his or her creative spirit. Our first “Thankful for Art” Showcase was held November 14 and will host our 2nd Annual fall of 2025.

The grant from the Arts Council will help our agency for the entire season of FY26 in providing the fees for our art therapist and supplies needed.

Project Support Grants increase opportunities for access to arts, cultural, and historical programming in Cumberland County. The grants are awarded to nonprofit agencies, institutions of higher education, and

municipal entities in Cumberland County that demonstrate financial and administrative stability.

Employment Source -A ServiceSource Affiliate has served Fayetteville since 2001 in providing services and resources for individuals with disabilities in our community. Our Community Inclusion Day Program, Warrior Bridge Program for Veterans with disabilities, Friendship House Fayetteville, and the Clark Endowment to Support Independence continue to grow in order to meet the needs here in Cumberland County. We could not do it without support like the Arts Council of Fayetteville/Cumberland County has provided.

Community

What’s Going Down in Taylortown: Black Town Fights for Its Future

By Ms Jheri Worldwide

Staff Writer

In the heart of Moore County, a battle is brewing that pits a small, historically Black town against the formidable forces of corporate developers and political pressure. Taylortown, named for its founder an emancipated enslaved man who traced his roots to Nigeria, Remus Taylor. A favored caddy on the Pinehurst greens, Taylor obtained land and founded a community that has long carved its own identity in the shadow of Pinehurst. Taylortown now finds itself on the front lines of a fight for its very core, its right to self-determination, its soul, and its future. The town is unified and bracing for a struggle that will define its enduring legacy of perseverance.

The conflict ignited when two major hotel developers, Parks Hospitality Group and Summit Hospitality Group, both proposing Marriott-branded hotels, descended upon the town with surprising speed. As reported by Elena Marsh of The Pilot, the sudden interest from developers, including a possible third, caught town officials off guard. Faced with aging infrastructure and operating on a shoestring budget, the Taylortown Board of Commissioners did what any responsible local government would do: they voted for a six-month building moratorium on March 11. The move was a logical pause, a chance to update regulations and ensure any new development would serve the community, not overwhelm it. But this prudent step was met with swift and powerful opposition.

State Representative Neal McInnis immediately entered the fray, sending a letter urging the town not to adopt the moratorium. This intervention has been described by town leaders as a blatant attempt to prioritize developer interests over the will of the people.

“McInnis joins a long line of

people who try to diminish the town’s authority as a municipality in North Carolina,” said Mayor Pro Tem Nadine Moody, highlighting a painful history. “He supported a five-year moratorium in Pinehurst but couldn’t support a six-month moratorium in Taylortown.” The sentiment is echoed throughout the town’s leadership.

“Mr. McInnis’s bill targeting Taylortown is a clear message to every small town and county that he puts the interests of developers before the interests of the citizens of North Carolina,” stated Mayor Sidney Gaddy. “And that should concern all of us, not just the predominantly black town of Taylortown in Moore County.”

Garry Brown, Chair of the Taylortown Planning Commission, confirmed the town chose to stand its ground. “Taylortown did respond to Mr. McInnis’s letter... We factored in his support for developers and our need for our citizens to be involved in the town’s planning process, and we chose to meet the needs of our citizens.”

The situation has grown more tense as troubling questions surface about the motivations behind the development push. Jeffery Moody, Vice Chair of the Planning Commission, raised explosive concerns.

“Is Mr. McInnis really as short-sighted as he seems?” Mr. Moody questioned. “Or is he just using his position to help one of his supporters conceal illegal activity regarding Taylortown’s sewer system, wetlands, and grant funds? One of the best investments our town could make is to find out what the developer of Olmsted Village did against the Town of Taylortown that is costing its citizens today.”

This allegation points to a complex web of local interests, particularly involving Pinehurst businessman Marty McKenzie, CEO of the Olmsted Village Co. According to Town Administra-



tor Carolyn Cole, the town is already grappling with a major issue: “Mr. McKenzie alleges the town’s sewer system is his private sewer system.”

The hotel developers appear to be entangled in this local dispute. Mayor Pro Tem Moody revealed a stunning detail from a pre-development consultation with Parks Hospitality Group (PHG). “PHG told Mayor Gaddy, Ms. Cole, and me... that they were following Marty McKenzie’s lead on their water and sewer agreement and project design,” she said. When she asked to see their original design before McKenzie’s influence, they showed it to her. “I liked that one better. They seemed pleased, the next thing we got was their lawsuit.”

The developers’ actions since the moratorium was enacted have only deepened the community’s distrust. Town Clerk Mikayla Sinclair reported that while Summit Group eventually submitted the town-approved application on June 10, “PHG insists on using

their self-created application.”

Neither project has been approved or denied. Yet, the developers’ impatience and legal maneuvers suggest a desire to bypass the community’s process. For Taylortown, a town chartered in 1987 and historically denied the right to control its own borders, this fight is about more than zoning. It is a declaration of sovereignty. As Carolyn Cole warns, this is rapidly escalating from a “highly unusual local issue” to a statewide and even national matter. Global brands like Marriott now find their names “banded about with negative connotations that are sure to arise.”

For now, the people of Taylortown are standing firm. They are not just defending against unwanted development; they are defending their history, their independence, and their place in the world. They are sending a clear message to developers and politicians alike: Taylortown is not for sale, and its future will be decided by its people.



OMEGA PSI PHI’S BETA PHI CELEBRATES STEM

The Durham Beta Phi Chapter of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity wrapped up the academic year with an End of School Stem event on June 05, 2025. The activity honored the achievements of students who participated in the chapter’s Stem focused youth activities. Held in collaboration with the Salvation Army Boys & Girls Club (with Director-Joshua Dorsett), the event brought together students, parents, family members and program partners to celebrate growth, resilience and academic curiosity. Certificates of achievements, customer swag bags & refreshments were also provided for participants. Throughout the school year, the Beta Phi Chapter has hosted numerous Stem workshops designed to foster curiosity in science, technology, engineering & mathematics. The Stem Program is one of the Fraternity’s Nationally Mandated Programs.



Habitat for Humanity of Wake County Celebrates 40 Years of Affordable Housing

By Jordan Meadows

Staff Writer

In Wake and Johnston Counties, the affordable housing crisis is no longer a looming threat—it’s a daily reality. One in four families in these counties are burdened by housing costs, spending over 30% of their income on shelter. This leaves little room for other essentials like food, education, transportation, and healthcare.

This is where Habitat for Humanity of Wake County (Habitat Wake) steps in. Since its founding in 1985, Habitat Wake has partnered with over 800 families to build homes. What began as a coalition of local churches under the name The Heart of the Carolinas Habitat has evolved into one of the most impactful non-profit developers in the Triangle region.

Habitat Wake built its first home in 1986 and, within five to seven years, was completing homes in the double digits—eventually building a couple dozen homes each year. The organization’s early success was powered by grassroots support from local organizations, churches, and community leaders.

In the early 2000s, Habitat Wake launched the Home Builders Blitz program, and in 2002, they completed twelve houses in a single week. By the time Brad McHugh joined the team, Habitat had been building at this ambitious pace every year—and more.

“We are kind of a turnkey, all-in-one developer and builder,” said Brad McHugh, Habitat Wake’s Vice President of Construction, who has been with the organization for two decades.

From acquiring land to overseeing home construction, McHugh’s team handles it all. And they’re not just building houses—they’re building entire communities.

Currently, Habitat Wake is developing a large-scale subdivision in Southeast Raleigh at Old Poole Road and New Hope Road, which will include over 100 homes. Another proj-

ect in Garner, on Gatewood Drive, is expected to bring more than 400 homes to the area.

“Just like any builder or developer out there, we’re always looking for land,” McHugh said. “We actively do work with municipalities, and I think the relationships we’ve built there are strong because they identify the need for more affordable housing.”

These partnerships with local governments are critical but operate differently than traditional, for-profit developers. While private companies often pursue maximum profit, Habitat Wake is a nonprofit focused on serving households earning between 25% and 80% of the Area Median Income (AMI).

“The families that come to us may not qualify for typical mortgages on the open market, so they work with us to help finance that,” McHugh explains.

Habitat collaborates with lending institutions and banks to secure low-interest mortgages, ensuring that no family pays more than 30% of their take-home income on housing.

Once land is secured, the organization begins a thorough planning and construction process.

“Once we get under contract and the entity to purchase the land, we do our due diligence to vet the property to see if it makes sense so we can get as much density as possible,” says McHugh. “As a nonprofit, we need to be good stewards of our dollars to get the most out of a parcel of land as possible—providing the most vibrant community possible.”

After that, Habitat Wake works closely with contractors, donors, volunteers, and homebuyers to bring each community to life. Single-family homes typically take 12 to 14 weeks to build, a pace far quicker than the City of Raleigh’s average of 6 to 14 months. Multifamily homes and duplexes can take up to 30 weeks with Habitat Wake—compared to 20 to 30 months under city timelines.

Most of Habitat Wake’s funding comes from private entities and philanthropy, though municipalities do support them in various ways, such

as expediting permitting processes, waiving certain fees, or helping identify areas with rapid population growth and low housing supply.

Importantly, Habitat Wake’s support doesn’t end when families move in. The organization offers a one-year warranty and stays in regular contact with homeowners to address any issues and ensure lasting satisfaction.

Beyond building, Habitat Wake also focuses on advocacy and education. Their Advocacy Ambassador program is a grassroots initiative that educates the public, challenges housing stigma, and promotes inclusive, equitable neighborhoods. Meanwhile, the Home Preservation program—which provides critical home repairs—is approaching its 700th completed project.

This year, Habitat Wake is set to

reach two major milestones: celebrating 40 years of service and completing its 1,000th home, scheduled for this fall. These aren’t just numbers—they represent 1,000 individuals and families who have found stability, hope, and dignity in a thriving community.

“We are focusing on our nine newest homes that are nearing completion in Garner, Raleigh, and Wake Forest,” McHugh said.

While government agencies and private developers each play a role in housing, Habitat Wake stands apart with its nonprofit model that prioritizes impact over income. The organization remains committed to serving families often excluded from the traditional housing market, while still upholding the highest standards in construction and community development.



NCLBCF SCHOLARSHIP BANQUET

Monday night hundreds packed the Sheraton Imperial Hotel & Convention Center to celebrate the annual NCLBCF Scholarship Banquet. The evening was kicked off with a reception to honor the major donors to the scholarship program. Later, the guest watched while U.S. Congresswoman Alma Adams received the Annie Brown Kennedy Civil Rights Award; Honorable Mickey Michaux received the Henry Frye Civil Rights Award but Dan Blue accepted the award since Mickey Michaux was unable to attend due to a prior commitment. The guest speaker was Bonita J. Brown, Chancellor of Winston-Salem State University. Photos: Mathias Bishop



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Church

10 Years After Charleston Church Massacre And Still No Change

CHARLESTON, S.C. (AP) — People of faith gathered again at Mother Emanuel AME on Tuesday just like they did 10 years ago, searching for God’s truth and His love in the church fellowship hall.

On that horrible night in 2015, nine Black church members were gunned down by a white man who hated them just for the color of their skin. He sat with them through their Bible study, then as they closed their eyes and bowed their heads, he started firing.

As survivors gathered in 2025, they invited another congregation that knows the pain of murderous hatred to join them. When a gunman killed 11 people at the Tree of Life synagogue in 2018, Mother Emanuel’s pastor, the Rev. Eric Manning, flew to Pittsburgh to comfort another flock.

It was up to Rabbi Jeff Myers to lament Tuesday that the world hasn’t changed as much as was hoped by the congregation of the South’s oldest African American church, which was founded by enslaved people, torn down after they rebelled and then rebuilt following the Civil War.

“Both of us were assaulted by Americans who did not want us to exist, who thought violence would solve their problems,” Myers said.

Then he read the portion of the U.S. Declaration of Independence that starts with “we hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal.”

“Except for the Jews and the Blacks. That’s how I feel in America right now,” Myers said.

Democratic U.S. Sen. Mark Kelly said American society combines hate and guns in a stew that threatens the

country’s existence.

“We know that hate is dangerous. But hate with a gun in its hand is deadly,” said Kelly, who was joined at the Mother Emanuel pulpit by his wife, former U.S. House member Gabby Giffords, who was gravely wounded in a January 2011 mass shooting in Arizona.

The Charleston church massacre did change the world in some ways.

The shooter, now on death row just like the killer at Tree of Life, posted selfie photos with a Confederate flag to hammer home his racist reasons for shooting Black parishioners. For many, this act made it impossible to keep defending the rebel banner as a symbol of southern heritage. South Carolina then took the flag down from the Statehouse grounds where it was installed as a rebuttal to federal desegregation orders.

But some things are the same. Mother Emanuel’s sanctuary still has the same deep red carpet. The church continues its mission of empathy, empowerment, encouragement and equipping.

And the nation still struggles with the legacy of enslaving Black people for hundreds of years.

South Carolina remains one of only two states in the U.S. without a hate crime law even though survivors keep pushing for it. Months before the massacre at Mother Emanuel, a white North Charleston police officer shot and killed an unarmed Black man in the back about 10 miles (16 kilometers) away. Six years later, a white officer knelt on a Black man’s neck in Minnesota for nine minutes, killing him.

“On paper, the concept of the United States is a wonderful one.

In reality, it is not successful right now,” Rabbi Myers said.

Mother Emanuel member Marvin Stewart has tried to emulate the love he saw in his nine friends killed that night.

“Unfortunately, the present time is very demoralizing and very challenging with the political divide. As I sat in church today, and I keep hearing the word forgiveness, I said, ‘am I in that space?’ I would use the word acceptance as the space I’m in,” Stewart said after the service.

One hymn was sung Tuesday. It was “Amazing Grace” — the spiritual that Barack Obama, the nation’s first Black president, began singing at the memorial service for the nine victims, held just blocks from Gadsden’s Wharf, where an estimated 40% of enslaved Africans first touched U.S. soil.

Rapturous applause rained down when survivors of the shooting and relatives of the people killed were asked to stand and be seen.

Chris Singleton, whose mother Sharonda Coleman-Singleton was killed, asked everyone to “hug somebody who looks different than you,” and for several minutes the packed sanctuary was abuzz with smiling people, arms reaching over pews and hugs spilling into aisles.

Large photos of those killed were on display in the sanctuary — pillars of the community who included the church’s pastor who was a state senator, a high school track coach, the church sexton, a librarian and an aspiring poet. The shooter sprayed more than 70 bullets to kill them — and told Polly Sheppard he was leaving her alive so that the world would know his motive: “You’re taking over our country. And you have to go.”



Lincoln Park Holiness Church Men’s Day Celebration

The Lincoln Park Holiness Church Family joyfully celebrated Men’s Day on June 15. The service featured powerful messages from Elder Derrick Sauls, Elder Demetrius Hunter, and Evangelist James Waddell. Centered on the theme “Me, My House, My God and I” — drawn from Joshua 24:15 — each speaker delivered

a compelling presentation titled “The 10 Most Wanted Men.” Their words offered attendees plenty of spiritual insight and reflection.

Music for the occasion was provided by the Lincoln Park Male Chorus, who looked sharp in their white jackets and black bow ties. We are extremely proud of our God-

fearing men, who not only serve faithfully in the ministry but also play an active role in our Food Distribution Center.

Pastor William “Billy” Eli Ratcliff extends a heartfelt invitation to join the Lincoln Park family for worship every Sunday at 11:00 AM, located at 13 Heath Street, Raleigh, NC.

Practical Biblical Principles

GOD HAS PROMISED

Read: Isaiah 43:1-7

By John L. Caldwell, Pastor New Jerusalem Baptist Cathedral

There may be times when you think God has forgotten what you are going through. At times it may seem like you are going under. But God has proven time after time He’ll take care of you. These are the inspiring words from Shirley Caesar’s up lifting song, “He’ll Do It Again.”

CeCe Winans tells us in her song, “Mercy Said No,” “As I come to see the weakest side of me, sin demanded justice for my soul. Mercy said No, I’m not going to let you go. I’m not going to let you slip away. Life and death stood face to face and darkness tried to steal my heart away, Thank You, Jesus, mercy said No.”

The above gospel songs bring us relief at times when we are being defeated and even when we have been disobedient. God has promised us redemption and restoration. Redemption not only from sin, as in the case of the Prodigal Son, but also from our trials, sickness, fear, and hopelessness.

God makes clear and direct promises to His children. And He never fails to carry out His promises to His children. Our faith is often challenged when we fear the enemy is gaining the upper hand in our lives. But how often do we lose sight of the fact that God is near when the storm is raging around us. Those that have God need not fear who or what can be against

them.

But now, thus says the Lord, “Who created you, O Jacob, And He Who formed you, O Israel: Fear not for I have redeemed you; I have called you by your name: you are “Mine.” Not like some self-centered people, God has an unchangeable love for those He love.

Redemption is a very personal act by God who calls His redeemed by name whether it be a nation or personal. The Redeemed belongs to God, Himself. Today our redemption is through Christ, whom we have been redeemed by His blood. We get the same blessings, love and promises the Old Testament Saints of Isaiah 43 were promised. We have been set aside by God, Himself. God is no respecter of persons. His love and mercy endure forever.

“When you pass through the waters, I will be with you. And through the water, I will be with you; And through the rivers, they shall not overflow you. When you walk through the fire, you shall not be burned, Nor shall the flame scorch you. For I am the Lord your God.” These promises appear to be allegorical in nature. The word, “fire” implies being tested. The bottom line is, God is faithful in His redemptive promises when we are being tested during our trial. Just as He promised Israel and called them by name, He will do the same for His children. Especially those who have pleaded the blood under Christ. He will take care of us when the storm comes.

The question is, are we to feel God’s presence, or are we to know by faith that God is near? Faith is not a feeling, but a strong belief providing us with the evidence and assurance that God is near without having to see Him.

God’s people should know the power of His grace, the sweetness of His comforts, the kind care of His providence, and the truth of His promise. We as servants of God, should be able at some point in our Christian lives be able to give some account of what God has wrought in our lives from past times. Each storm brings a heavier rain than before, yet God has never failed to keep us safe until the storm passes over. God promises to be with us when the next storm comes. Even though the rain gets heavier and heavier.

These trails only come to make our faith stronger. His love for us will sustain us regardless of how heavy the rain may be. In a sense, we are standing on God’s promises of Christ our Savior.

Question: Has God ever failed you? Or should we be asking ourselves, have we ever failed God? God loves us so much, He overlooks our faults and sees our needs. His love covers a multitude of our sin, and He promises us redemption as an extra grace. How can we not serve a God whose love for us is everlasting? All because of the redemptive work Christ did for us. There is no power which can stop God from loving us.

Chamika Nixon-McCray Obituary

Chamika Nixon-McCray, 48, a loving mother and a steadfast figure in her faith, peacefully departed this life on June 14, 2025. Born on October 21, 1976, in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, her unwavering faith was the foundation of her life and her role as a dedicated wife and mother. As a mother of four, Chamika McCray imparted her strong values and faith to her family.

She led by example, serving not only as the First Lady of Life Sanctuary Apostolic but also as a prayer warrior, ministering to those in need. Chamika’s home was a sanctuary of prayer and support, not just for her children but for many others seeking guidance and comfort.

She is survived by her husband of 28 years, Pastor Tyrone McCray Sr. (54), their children Tyria Bourda, (28), Tyrone E. McCray Jr. (22), Cydnee L. McCray (19), and Tyralynn G. McCray (18). Additionally, she leaves behind her son-in-law, Joshua P. Bourda (29), and her extended family, who will forever cherish the love she brought into their lives.

Chamika was a passionate healthcare worker, a plant enthusiast, and had an impressive collection of purses that she playfully dared anyone to touch. She loved spending quality time with her husband and children, whether at the beach, planting, or simply enjoying the sights. Decorating her home with cajun, Louisiana decor was also one of her greatest joys.

Chamika was celebrated for her elegant demeanor and compassionate heart. She was the heart and soul of our family, and her absence will be profoundly felt.

In accordance with Chamika’s wishes, there will be a gravesite

burial, and she expressed her desire for us to remember the joyful memories, celebrate her journey home, and understand that life continues.

A celebration of Chamika’s life and faith is scheduled for June 20, 2025,

at Carolina Biblical Gardens, 10am, at 1530 Creech Rd Raleigh, NC 27529. Her children will pay tribute to her with heartfelt comments, accompanied by a song selection, and final words will be shared by her husband/pastor, Tyrone McCray Sr.

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

Editorials



Clyburn on 10th Anniversary of Mother Emanuel AME Church Shooting in Charleston

Congressman James E. Clyburn (SC-06) released the following video on X, paying tribute to the 10th anniversary of the shooting that took place at Mother Emanuel AME Church in Charleston, South Carolina on June 17, 2015.

“Over 6 years ago, the House first passed my Enhanced Background Checks Act to close the Charleston Loophole that allowed a white supremacist to obtain the gun he used to murder nine worshipers at Emanuel AME Church on June 17, 2015.

“I’ll never stop fighting to pass this law.”



Joy as Resistance: Reclaiming Juneteenth in a Time of Backlash

By Cicley Gay

Board Chairwoman of Black Lives Matter Global Network Foundation

Juneteenth, America’s newest federal holiday, was meant to symbolize a national reckoning with history and a celebration of freedom when President Joe Biden signed the bipartisan legislation into law in 2021. Yet, just a few years later, we find Juneteenth events canceled in cities across Indiana, Illinois, and Oregon, as backlash against diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) initiatives intensifies. This is not just an administrative shift, it’s a cultural one. As some seek to erase or diminish Black joy, we must remember that indulging in joy itself has always been an act of resistance.

But Juneteenth also reminds us that freedom in America has never been granted equally. It was delayed for enslaved Black people even after it was declared. Today, for many immigrants, especially Black and brown families, freedom is once again being delayed and denied at borders, in detention centers, and through discriminatory policies. The struggle for liberation is ongoing, and it is interconnected.

Juneteenth itself commemorates the moment when freedom finally reached the enslaved in Galveston, Texas, two and a half years after the Emancipation Proclamation. That delay was not just a historical footnote; it was a wound that echoes across generations. Today, asylum seekers and migrants, many of them Black and brown, live in limbo, waiting for freedom. The delay may look different, but the harm is the same.

At Black Lives Matter, we believe that in the face of attempts to silence and suppress, investing in joy is a radical, necessary form of protest. This Juneteenth, we invite all to join us in celebrating and investing in Black and brown joy as a cornerstone of true liberation, while also standing in solidarity with all who are still waiting for freedom to be realized.

The attacks on DEI and the cancellation of Juneteenth events are not isolated incidents; they are part of a larger movement to strip Black communities, and other marginalized groups, of resources and visibility. In this climate, our resistance must evolve. Our response cannot be limited to protest alone. It must also include reclaiming the right to thrive, to play, and to experience joy.

From the earliest Juneteenth celebrations to today’s block parties and art festivals, play and happiness have been tools for survival and defiance. For Black and brown communities, joy has always been revolutionary. BLM was founded in 2013 in response to unspeakable tragedies, ones where ruthless oppression, abuse of power, and brutalities flooded our social media timelines following the murder of innocent young men like Trayvon Martin and Michael Brown. Yet even in mourning, our communities found ways to laugh, dance, and dream together. The movement’s global resonance is rooted in this duality, the courage to confront injustice, and the audacity to celebrate life.

Juneteenth also invites us to ask, who in America is still fighting for our freedom? Black and brown immigrants, refugees, and asylum seekers face family separation, lack of running water, lack of due process, unsanitary conditions, and more. Undeniably, the same forces that once delayed emancipation, white supremacy, and profit-driven policy, now shape immigration enforcement and send troops when we have the audacity to rise up in cities like Los Angeles.

True freedom is not just the absence of harm; it is the presence of opportunity, creativity, and fulfillment. BLM is evolving to meet the needs of our most vulnerable, investing in programs that provide access to art, wellness, and community spaces. We will continue to advocate for divestment from police, prisons, and punishment paradigms while also pushing for investment into justice, joy, and culture.



“I LOVE A PARADE”

The last time I remember going to a parade was probably in the 11th grade, around Christmastime—that would have been 1962. I stopped going after my friend Reggie had an unfortunate encounter with a bird that clearly lacked bathroom manners and chose to relieve itself on her brand-new winter coat. I know one experience, especially one that didn’t even happen to me directly, shouldn’t have denied me a lifetime of parades. But the truth is, I realized I wasn’t all that crazy about them anyway.

I’m so glad God sent my children a father who actually liked parades and was willing, after I bundled the kids up, to take them on that particular journey. Reggie had a favorite joke, and she was pretty good at telling them. I’m not, but I’ll do my best to share it.

In Jerusalem, thousands of years ago, people were gathered on both sides of a long hill. A reporter noticed a man gyrating as he walked, singing the same song over and over. From a distance, he looked spastic, until the reporter decided to ask him what he was doing. Without missing a beat, the man responded, “I love a parade.” He was oblivious to the fact that just ahead of him was a man carrying a cross.

Such is the nature of a birthday parade held in Washington, D.C. Donald Trump once stated that he wanted a military parade, complete with soldiers and tanks, and that he wanted to be saluted. He had admired similar spectacles in places like China or North Korea, or wherever it was, and he wanted one for himself. This past weekend, he finally got it. I don’t know if he got saluted, because I didn’t watch it. But I found it ironic that the same president who claimed he wanted to rid the country of financial fraud and waste would, just six months into his presidency, authorize spending an estimated \$25 to \$40 million on soldiers marching down the street.

I wasn’t alone in choosing not to watch. Instead, I was drawn to the “No Kings in America” protest. Across the country, millions of dollars were spent on those, too, as the National Guard, local law enforcement, and in some cases the military, were deployed to keep the protests from getting out of hand.

People from all ethnicities, but largely white Americans, and from various walks of life—could see exactly where the president thought he was taking the country. History tells us that parades like these were the beginnings of what happened in Nazi Germany before the Holocaust. It’s not lost on me that Trump could deliver a speech—excerpts of which I saw after the fact—lavishly praising the military for their service, while simultaneously cutting their benefits and slashing programs meant to support them in the aftermath of war: programs for amputees, for the blind, for veterans struggling with PTSD and addiction, and even services like Head Start, Job Corps, and Upward Bound—programs that help the children and grandchildren of these very same soldiers.

But why would I expect more from an administration whose patriarch left Germany rather than submit to mandatory military service? Why would I expect empathy or duty from a man and his sons who never served in the military, or even in the Peace Corps?

To him, a parade isn’t about honoring individual sacrifice. It’s about the spectacle: rows of people marching in lockstep, controlled by human authority. To Trump, the soldiers are props, feeding his ego and aggressive posturing. His idea of fireworks bursting in the air isn’t about honoring the courage that kept the flag flying, it’s about dominance. But to me, the flag is supposed to be a symbol of democracy, of freedom, and of equality for all.

So if you understand my point, go back to that man dancing behind the one carrying a cross, completely unaware of the momentous, tragic events unfolding before him, and remember his words: “I love a parade.”



CRYPTO, GOLF, AND NOW PHONES: TRUMP CASHES IN ON THE WHITE HOUSE

By Stacy M. Brown

Black Press USA Senior National Correspondent

Donald Trump, already under scrutiny for leveraging the presidency to boost his fortune, has launched a new venture — Trump Mobile — while continuing to rake in profits from a vast web of business interests tied to his time in office. Trump Mobile, introduced on the 10th anniversary of his 2015 campaign announcement, promises “top-tier connectivity” through the “T1 Plan” at \$47.45 per month. The service includes unlimited data, device protection, telehealth, roadside assistance, and free international calling, particularly for military families. Marketed as a populist solution for “hard-working Americans,” the mobile service expands Trump’s brand into the wireless market under a licensing deal bearing his name. But this latest launch is just a sliver of Trump’s ongoing effort

to monetize the presidency.

According to a June 2025 financial disclosure, Trump reported more than \$600 million in income from ventures, including cryptocurrency, golf resorts, and licensing deals. He made at least \$217 million from Florida golf clubs alone, including \$110 million from Trump National Doral. A meme coin called \$TRUMP earned an estimated \$320 million in fees, and Trump holds billions of governance tokens through his crypto venture World Liberty Financial. While he claims his businesses are in a trust managed by his children, Trump continues to benefit from licensing fees, including \$16 million from a Dubai project, \$10 million from India, and \$5 million from Vietnam. He also made money from Trump Watches, NFTs, Bibles, and other branded merchandise.

A separate analysis by Forbes reveals that Trump’s wealth more than doubled from \$2.3 billion to \$5.1 billion in just one year — thanks to post-election crypto mania, a surge in Truth Social stock, and product sales. His digital token project alone reportedly funneled at least \$110 million after taxes into his fortune. This builds on earlier reports showing that Trump earned up to \$160 million from foreign governments while serving as president. His dealings spanned Saudi Arabia, Turkey, China, India, and other countries, with golf courses and hotels serving as conduits for foreign interests seeking access and favor. Despite promises to halt international deals, Trump and his sons continued to expand and promote global projects during and after his presidency.

Meanwhile, Trump’s taxpayer-funded birthday and military parade reportedly cost \$143 million, and his repeated golf trips have already cost taxpayers an estimated \$30 million. While Trump’s team insists all disclosures have been filed and ethics briefings completed, critics argue that the lines between Trump’s profit and presidential power have not only blurred — they’ve disappeared.



TUCKER CARLSON VERSUS MARK LEVIN ON IRAN

By Star Parker

Center for Urban Renewal and Education

Per the U.S. State Department, in a statement issued in April 2025, "Iran remains the leading state sponsor of terrorism in the world and has financed and directed numerous terrorist attacks and activities globally, through its IRGC-Qods Force and proxies such as Hizballah and Hamas."

On Sunday, Fox host Bret Baier interviewed Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and asked him why Israel attacked Iran. Netanyahu explained the "existential threat" to his country, as well as to the whole world, from Iran on the verge of having nuclear weapons. Further, Netanyahu explained Israel's concerns about Iran producing larger quantities of ballistic missiles which would be used to attack his country.

"We can't have the world's most dangerous regime have the world's most dangerous weapons," he summed up.

It seems black and white.

However, despite the awesome precision and success with which Israel has carried out its operations, it still needs U.S. help.

One key uranium enrichment site, Fordow, is buried half a mile under a mountain. It can't be destroyed without the 30,000-pound bunker buster bombs that only the U.S. has. With this facility left intact, Iran likely will retain the capability to make a nuclear bomb.

U.S. support here should be straightforward, as in the past.

But one stream of the MAGA crowd, whose most prominent voice is podcaster Tucker Carlson, doesn't see it. According to Carlson, the U.S. should "drop Israel" and U.S. involvement to prevent Iran's nuclear capability betrays Trump's "America First" campaign promise.

The real issue, per Carlson, is between "warmongers and peacemakers" and those who support Israel's effort to prevent "the leading sponsor of terrorism in the world" from going nuclear are warmongers. He calls out commentator Mark Levin among these.

To think that acquisition of nuclear weapons by a maniacal regime — who calls America the "great Satan" and Israel the "little Satan," where the American flag is burned, where there are demonstrations calling for "Death to America" — is not a problem is logic that can be at best called deeply twisted.

Fortunately, there are many who understand that there is indeed a special and vital relationship between the U.S. and Israel. Different explanations are given. Many say it is because Israel is the only democracy in the Middle East.

But I see more. As a Christian, I love Israel because I love God. And I read about the special relationship between the Jewish people and the Creator every morning when I read Psalms and Proverbs.

Regarding America First, I would explain it by turning to the words of a Jewish rabbi named Hillel who lived 2,000 years ago.

He said, "If I am not for myself, who will be for me? But if I am only for myself, what am I? And if not now, when?"

The internal crisis our nation is experiencing is about meaning. It flows directly from the extent to which Americans have pushed faith in the God of the Bible out of their lives and substituted various secular ideologies.

Polling shows that lower support for Israel correlates with weakening of religion in the country. But the good news is it's turning around.

In a new Gallup poll asking the question, "Do you think religion ... is increasing its influence on American life or losing its influence?" 34% said increasing, compared to 20% one year ago, and 59% said losing, compared to 75% one year ago.

Classifieds

DURHAM COUNTY

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Having qualified as the Public Administrator of the Estate of Judith V. Womack, deceased, of 3609 Sugar Tree Place, Durham, Durham County, North Carolina 27713, the undersigned does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the estate of said decedent to exhibit them to the undersigned in care of the attorney for the estate on or before September 20, 2025 or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery.

All persons, firms and corporations indebted to the said estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This the 19th day of June, 2025.

Jeffrey L. Austin
Public Administrator
Law Office of Jeffrey L. Austin
PLLC

500 Westover Dr. #32043

Sanford, NC 27330

6/19, 6/26, 7/3, and 7/10/2025

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk

File Number 25E000534-310

THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 22nd day of April 2025, as EXECUTOR of the Estate of NANCY WILLIAMSON WATKINS, 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 19th day of September, 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 19th day of June, 2025.

Teresa Watkins Brown, Executor
c/o Law Office of Anne Page
Watson

3400 Croasdaile Drive, Suite 205
Durham, NC 27705

6/19, 6/26, 7/3, and 7/10/2025

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Having qualified as Executor of the Estate of Frank Boyd Mayfield, of Durham County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons having claims against the Estate of said Frank Boyd Mayfield, deceased, to present them to the undersigned, or his attorney, on or before the 17th day of September of 2025 or same will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate please make immediate payment.

This the 19th day of June, 2025.

John Allen Mayfield
Executor of the Estate
Jonathan S. Care
Attorney At Law, P. A.
109 W. Montgomery Street
Henderson, NC 27536
(252) 492-3053

6/19, 6/26, 7/3, and 7/10/2025

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

File Number 25E000588-310

Having qualified as Executor of the Estate of Matthew Brian Stevens, late of Durham County, North Carolina, the undersigned does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the estate of said decedent to exhibit them to the undersigned at 409 East Boulevard, Charlotte, North Carolina 28203, on or before September 19, 2025, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms and corporations indebted to the said estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This the 19th day of June, 2025.

Mark Vincent Stevens, Executor
Estate of Matthew Brian Stevens
Erin Patterson Law, PLLC
Erin B. Patterson

409 East Boulevard

Charlotte, NC 28203

6/19, 6/26, 7/3, and 7/10/2025

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division

Before the Clerk

File Number 25E000725-310

THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 10th day of June 2025, as EXECUTOR of the Estate of WALLACE WARD PEACE, 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 15th day of September, 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 12th day of June, 2025.
Daphine Delois Peace, Executor,
c/o Richard F. Prentis, Jr., 4
Consultant Pl., Durham, NC 27707

6/12, 6/19, 6/26, and 7/3/2025

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk

File Number 25000778-310

THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 10th day of June 2025, as CO-EXECUTORS of the Estate of ERNEST GARY BROWNING, 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 15th day of September, 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 12th day of June, 2025.

Diane B. Parrish, Co-Executor

8402 Polaris Drive

Bahama, NC 27503

Nancy J. Browning, Co-Executor

5901 Boylan Rd.

Durham, NC 27712

6/12, 6/19, 6/26, and 7/3/2025

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk

File Number 25E000778-310

THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 9th day of June 2025, as ADMINISTRATOR of the Estate of LYNDA MORRIS CARPENTER, 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 15th day of September, 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 12th day of June, 2025.

Jennifer Carpenter Green,
Administrator, c/o Richard F.

Prentis, Jr., 4 Consultant Pl.,
Durham, NC 27707.

6/12, 6/19, 6/26, and 7/3/2025

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

File Number 25E000624-310

Having qualified as Personal Representative of the Estate of EULENIA A. MATARESE, deceased, of 109 Tee Pee Trail, Durham, Durham County, North Carolina 27703, the undersigned does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the estate of said decedent to exhibit them to the undersigned in care of the attorney for the estate on or before September 13, 2025 or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery.

All persons, firms and corporations indebted to the said estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This the 12th day of June, 2025.

Melinda Morales
Personal Representative

c/o Jeffrey L. Austin,
Attorney for the Estate

500 Westover Dr. #32043

Sanford, NC 27330

6/12, 6/19, 6/26, and 7/3/2025

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

File Number 24E002295-310

THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 9th day of October 2024 as Executor of the Estate of JUDITH C. LARRIMORE, Deceased, of Durham County, North Carolina, does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said Estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 13th day of September, 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 12th day of June 2025.

Patricia M. Larrimore, Executor
ESTATE OF JUDITH C.
LARRIMORE

c/o Richard G. Long III, Attorney

Walker Lambe, PLLC

Post Office Box 51549

Durham, North Carolina 27717

6/12, 6/19, 6/26, and 7/3/2025

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk

File Number 25E000768-310

THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 9th day of June 2025, as EXECUTOR of the Estate of HELEN BELLA TAYLOR, 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 15th day of September, 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 12th day of June, 2025.

William Earl Taylor Jr., Executor

1311 John Jones Rd.

Bahama, NC 27503

6/12, 6/19, 6/26, and 7/3/2025

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk

File Number 25E000674-310

THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 19th day of May 2025, as EXECUTOR of the Estate of MICHAEL DAVID JORDAN, 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 15th day of September, 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 12th day of June, 2025.

Jennifer Jordan-Harrell, Executor

1048 Trail Dr.

Forest, VA 24551

6/12, 6/19, 6/26, and 7/3/2025

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

25E000675-310

The undersigned, N. Vail Gardner, having qualified as Administrator CTA of the Estate of RONER LEE REED, deceased, late of Durham County, notifies all persons having claims against said estate to present them to the undersigned on or before 15th day of September, 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 12th day of June, 2025.

N. Vail Gardner

c/o Vail Gardner Law

732 9th St. #621

Durham, NC 27705

6/12, 6/19, 6/26, and 7/3/2025

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

File Number 25E000676-310

The undersigned, Kaye D. Thomas, having duly qualified as Executrix of the Estate of Glenda D. Thomasson, deceased, late of Durham County, North Carolina, hereby notifies all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the Estate to present them to the undersigned in care of Ronald G. Coulter, Attorney for the Estate, 3400 Croasdaile Dr., Ste 205, Durham, NC 27705, on or before September 12, 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 12th day of June, 2025.
Kaye D. Thomas, Executrix
c/o Ronald G. Coulter, Attorney
3400 Croasdaile Drive Ste 205
Durham, NC 27705

1-919-246-5775

6/12, 6/19, 6/26, and 7/3/2025

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk

File Number 25E000639-310

THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 3rd day of June 2025, as ADMINISTRATOR of the Estate of BOBBY LENWOOD BROWN, 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 15th day of September, 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 12th day of June, 2025.

Ora Jean Clark-Brown,
Administratrix, c/o Richard F.

Prentis, Jr., 4 Consultant Pl.,

Durham, NC 27707.

6/12, 6/19, 6/26, and 7/3/2025

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division

Before the Clerk

File Number 25E000770-310

THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 9th day of June 2025, as CO-EXECUTORS of the Estate of JACQUELINE P. ADAMS A/K/A JACKIE P. ADAMS, 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 15th day of September, 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 12th day of June, 2025.

Larry D. Adams, Co-Executor

3122 Pat Tilley Road

Bahama, NC 27503

Stella A. Wilson, Co-Executor

226 Greenwood Court

Youngsville, NC 27596

6/12, 6/19, 6/26, and 7/3/2025

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

25E000582-310

ALL PERSONS, firms and corporations having claims against MARIE ALEANA SINGLETARY, of Durham County, N.C., are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before September 8th, 2025 or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 5th day of June, 2025.

Daron D. Satterfield
Attorney for Personal
Representative, Reuben Tobias
Singletary

24 Stonewall Way

Durham, NC 27704

6/5, 6/12, 6/19, and 6/26/2025

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk

File Number 25E000678-310

THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 20th day of May 2025, as EXECUTOR of the Estate of ROBERT BRUCE NICKLAS, 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 8th day of September, 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 5th day of June, 2025.

Mark A. Kuhn, Executor

2821 Wade Rd.

Durham, NC 27705

6/5, 6/12, 6/19, and 6/26/2025

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk

File Number 25E000338-310

THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 30th day of May 2025, as ADMINISTRATOR of the Estate of NELLIE C. SMITH, 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 8th day of September, 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 5th day of June, 2025.

Alicia Hairston, Administrator

c/o Ethan C. Timmins

Patrick Law, PLLC

3805 University Drive, Suite A

Durham, NC 27707

6/5, 6/12, 6/19, and 6/26/2025

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk

File Number 25E000663-310

THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 2nd day of June 2025, as EXECUTOR of the Estate of KIRIT HASMUKH PATEL, 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 8th day of September, 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 5th day of June, 2025.

Zankhana K. Patel, Executor, c/o
Richard F. Prentis, Jr., 4 Consultant
Pl., Durham, NC 27707

6/5, 6/12, 6/19, and 6/26/2025

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk

File Number 25E000687-910

THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 21st day of May 2025, as EXECUTOR of the Estate of RIKY LEE LYNCH, 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 8th day of September, 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 5th day of June, 2025.

Valere Anderson Clark, Executor

12158 Hurdle Mills Road

Hurdle Mills, NC 27541

6/5, 6/12, 6/19, and 6/26/2025

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk

File Number 25E000482-310

THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 10th day of April 2025, as ADMINISTRATOR of the Estate of KENNETH CARSON ALLISON, 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 8th day of September, 2025 or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery.

All persons indebted to said

Classifieds

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 25E002353-910
THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 11th day of June 2025, as EXECUTOR of the Estate of JOSEPH MERRICK SANSOM, 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 19th day of September, 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 19th day of June, 2025.
Karen Sansom Goodman, Executor
2909 Oak Bridge Dr.
Raleigh, NC 27610
6/19, 6/26, 7/3, and 7/10/2025
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
WAKE COUNTY
NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION
In the General Court of Justice,
District Court Division
Small Claims
File Number 24CV023536-910
LINDA LEONARD DOHME, Plaintiff Vs. HARRY DANIELS III, Defendant
TO THE DEFENDANT: A Small Claim Action Has Been Commenced Against You! You are notified to appear before the magistrate at the WCCH, 316 Fayetteville St., Raleigh, NC 27601, July 14, 2025 at 9:30am. You will have the opportunity at the trial to defend yourself against the claim stated in the attached complaint. You may file a written answer, making defense to the claim in the office of the Clerk of Superior Court at any time before the time set for trial. If you fail to appear and defend against the proof offered, the magistrate may enter a judgment against you.
This is the 19th of June, 2025.
6/19, 6/26, and 7/3/2025
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
WAKE COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File Number 2022E000875
THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 25th day of February, 2022, as ADMINISTRATOR of the Estate of SAMBHAV DUTT NIDAMARTY, 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 15th day of September, 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 12th day of June, 2025.
Sai Uday Nidamarty, Administrator
265 Seymour Pl.
Cary, NC 27519
6/12, 6/19, 6/26, and 7/3/2025
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
WAKE COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File Number 25E002134-910
THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 6th day of June 2025, as ADMINISTRATOR of the Estate of WALLACE ANTHONY DUNN, 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 15th day of September, 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 12th day of June, 2025.
Sandra Dunn Rogers, Administrator
4104 Grandover Dr.
Raleigh, NC 27610
6/12, 6/19, 6/26, and 7/3/2025
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
WAKE COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File Number 25E001986-910
THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 16th day of May 2025, as ADMINISTRATOR of the Estate of FRANKLIN D. MARSH, 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 15th day of September, 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 12th day of June, 2025.
Judy Marsh Miller, Administrator
2421 Evers Dr.
Raleigh, NC 27610
6/12, 6/19, 6/26, and 7/3/2025
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
WAKE COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
File Number 25E001078-910
Having qualified as Administrator of the Estate of MOSS EVAN BLEWETT, late of Wake County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons, firms, and corporations having claims against the estate to present them to the undersigned at 1200 Indian Trail, Apex, NC 27502 on or before September 12, 2025, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery.
All persons indebted to the estate should make immediate payment. This the 12th day of June, 2025.
Wendy Blewett, Administrator
Estate of Moss Evan Blewett
1200 Indian Trail
Apex, NC 27502
6/12, 6/19, 6/26, and 7/3/2025
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
WAKE COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File Number 24E001823-910
THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 25th day of July 2024, as EXECUTOR of the Estate of CHESTEEN LANCASTER, 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 15th day of September, 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 12th day of June, 2025.
Beverly G. Klus, Executor, c/o Richard F. Prentis, Jr., 4 Consultant Place, Durham, NC 27707
6/12, 6/19, 6/26, and 7/3/2025
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
WAKE COUNTY
NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION
In the General Court of Justice,
District Court Division
File Number 25CV009406-910
[CHILD CUSTODY PROCEEDING] DAWN NICOLE JONES, Plaintiff v. JAI JONES & TRUSTON CRUTCHFIELD, Defendants. To Defendant Crutchfield: TAKE NOTICE that

persons, firms and corporations having claims against said Estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 15th day of September, 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 12th day of June, 2025.
Sandra Dunn Rogers, Administrator
4104 Grandover Dr.
Raleigh, NC 27610
6/12, 6/19, 6/26, and 7/3/2025
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
WAKE COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File Number 25E001986-910
THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 16th day of May 2025, as ADMINISTRATOR of the Estate of FRANKLIN D. MARSH, 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 15th day of September, 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 12th day of June, 2025.
Judy Marsh Miller, Administrator
2421 Evers Dr.
Raleigh, NC 27610
6/12, 6/19, 6/26, and 7/3/2025
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
WAKE COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
File Number 25E001078-910
Having qualified as Administrator of the Estate of MOSS EVAN BLEWETT, late of Wake County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons, firms, and corporations having claims against the estate to present them to the undersigned at 1200 Indian Trail, Apex, NC 27502 on or before September 12, 2025, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery.
All persons indebted to the estate should make immediate payment. This the 12th day of June, 2025.
Wendy Blewett, Administrator
Estate of Moss Evan Blewett
1200 Indian Trail
Apex, NC 27502
6/12, 6/19, 6/26, and 7/3/2025
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
WAKE COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File Number 24E001823-910
THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 25th day of July 2024, as EXECUTOR of the Estate of CHESTEEN LANCASTER, 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 15th day of September, 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 12th day of June, 2025.
Beverly G. Klus, Executor, c/o Richard F. Prentis, Jr., 4 Consultant Place, Durham, NC 27707
6/12, 6/19, 6/26, and 7/3/2025
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
WAKE COUNTY
NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION
In the General Court of Justice,
District Court Division
File Number 25CV009406-910
[CHILD CUSTODY PROCEEDING] DAWN NICOLE JONES, Plaintiff v. JAI JONES & TRUSTON CRUTCHFIELD, Defendants. To Defendant Crutchfield: TAKE NOTICE that

a pleading seeking relief against you has been filed in the above-entitled action. A hearing date of 8/14/25 has been scheduled. The nature of the relief sought against you is an award of legal custody of the child to Plaintiff. You are required to make defense to such pleading with the Wake County Clerk of Court no later than 8/6/25. Upon your failure to do so, the party seeking relief against you will apply to the Court for the relief sought. This, the 12th day of June, 2025. Katherine Moye, Attorney for Plaintiff, P.O. Box 58058, Raleigh, NC, 27658, 919-794-7511, The Carolinian, 6/12, 6/19, 6/26, 2025.
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
WAKE COUNTY
NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION
In the General Court of Justice,
District Court Division
File Number 25CV015587-910
ANEASHA MEADE, Plaintiff, v. JERMAINE SIMS, Defendant.
To: Jermaine Sims
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:
This is a civil action to establish custody of two minor children born to the parties. The Plaintiff is seeking primary physical and legal custody of the minor children. This action is filed pursuant to N.C. General Statutes Chapter 50.
You are required to make defense to such pleading not later than forty (40) days after the date of the first publication of this notice, exclusive of such date. If you fail to do so, the party seeking service against you will apply to the court for the relief sought.
This notice shall be published once a week for three consecutive weeks in The Carolinian.
This the 10 day of June, 2025.
Aneasha Meade
3783 Burtons Barn St,
Raleigh NC 27610
6/12, 6/19, and 6/26/2025
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
WAKE COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
25E001711-910
The undersigned having qualified as Executor of the Estate of VIVIAN DARYLENE NETZER, a/k/a DARYLENE A. NETZER, a/k/a DARYLENE ADAMS NETZER, Deceased, late of Wake 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 8th day of September, 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 5th day of June, 2025.
Michael Austin Netzer, Jr., Executor,
Estate of Vivian Darylene Netzer, a/k/a Darylene A. Netzer, a/k/a Darylene Adams Netzer, Deceased
Robert A. Idol, Esquire
IDOL LAW, PLLC
Attorney at Law
PO Box 51759
Durham, NC 27717
(919)401.5151
6/5, 6/12, 6/19, and 6/26/2025
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
WAKE COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File Number 24E001393-910
THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 19th day of February 2025, as ADMINISTRATOR of the Estate of LAZARO GUIDO, 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 8th day of September, 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 5th day of June, 2025.
Osvaldo Guido, Administrator
401 Hillstone Drive
Raleigh, NC 27615
6/5, 6/12, 6/19, and 6/26/2025
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
WAKE COUNTY
NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION
In the General Court of Justice,
District Court Division
File Number 25CV008948-910
To: MISAEEL FLORES SAUCEDO, 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 divorce. You are required to make defense to such pleading no later than July 15, 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, MAELENA JASMIN VEGA, will apply to the court located at 316 Fayetteville St, Raleigh NC 27601 for the relief sought.
This, the 5th day of June, 2025
Aneta Paval
Paval Law Offices, PLLC
7404 Chapel Hill Rd
Suite M
Raleigh NC 27607
Telephone: (919) 410-6690
6/5, 6/12, and 6/19/2025
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
WAKE COUNTY
NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION
In the General Court of Justice,
District Court Division
File Number 25CV005378-910
[CHILD CUSTODY PROCEEDING] CESIA DE LOS ANGELES RAMOS MARTINEZ, Plaintiff v. SANTOS EDENILSON SORTO AMAYA, Defendant. To Defendant, father of I.E.S.R. a male child, born to Plaintiff on 5/25/2014. TAKE NOTICE that a pleading seeking relief against you has been filed in the above-entitled action. A hearing date of 8/12/25 has been scheduled. The relief sought against you is an award of legal custody of the child to Plaintiff. You are required to make defense to such pleading with the Wake County Clerk of Court no later than 7/30/25. Upon your failure to do so, the party seeking relief against you will apply to the Court for the relief sought. This, the 5th day of June 2025. Katherine Moye, Attorney for Plaintiff, P.O. Box 58058, Raleigh, NC, 27658, 919/794-7511, The Carolinian, 6/5, 6/12, and 6/19/2025.
ESTATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
WAKE COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File Number 25E001925-910
THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 12th day of May 2025, as EXECUTOR of the Estate of JIN GUO, 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 1st day of September, 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 29th day of May, 2025.
Yu Zhang, Executor
2517 Trailwood Hills Dr.
Raleigh, NC 27603
5/29, 6/5, 6/12, and 6/19/2025

FARMVILLE FIRE STATION AND HEADQUARTERS

Sealed proposals from single prime contractors will be opened on Thursday July 16, 2025, in the Upstairs Courtroom at the Farmville Municipal Building - 3672 North Main Street, Farmville, NC 27828 for the Farmville Fire Station and Headquarters Project. The project will be bid and awarded in accordance with North Carolina law. Sealed proposals from single prime contractors will be received until 2:00PM. Minority and women-owned businesses are encouraged to participate. The Town of Farmville reserves the right to reject any and all bids, waive informalities and irregularities in bidding and to accept bids which are considered to be in the best interest of the Town. Complete plans and specifications may be obtained from Davis Kane Architects, PA (919)-719-2812 during normal office hours beginning June 18, 2025.

INVITATION TO BID

ATTENTION: DUB SUBCONTRACTORS/VENDORS

Colmar Contracting, Inc. invites all qualified MWBE/ HUB SUBCONTRACTORS AND VENDORS to submit proposals for the following project: Windhill Apartments in Greensboro, NC – The renovation of a 60-units + clubhouse Apartment building.

Bids due Tuesday July 15,2025 @ 5:00 PM

Contact: Matthew Morrison by e mail mmorrison@colmar-contracting.com or fax 336-315-1227 for information on this and other projects and for assistance with plans and specifications.

M/WBE MUST BE CERTIFIED OR ELIGIBLE FOR CERTIFICATION BY STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA.

ALL SUBCONTRACTORS/VENDORS WILL RECEIVE CONSIDERATION REGARDLESS OF RACE, CREED, COLOR OR NATIONAL ORIGIN.

Colmar Contracting Inc. offers assistance to MWBE/HUB businesses on a one-on-one basis that need quick pay options, joint pay agreements and reduced retainages.

There will be a VIRTUAL pre-bid meeting (not mandatory) on 1 July 2025. Please follow the link below:

Computer, Tablet or Smartphone Link: <https://meet.goto.com/936884037>

Dial-In by Phone:

Access Code: 936-884-037

United States Toll Free Number: 1-866-899-4679

United States: +1 (571) 317-3116

D/M/WBE

SUBCONTRACTORS/SUPPLIERS WANTED

T. A. Loving Company (NC General Contractor License No. 325) is seeking certified DBE subcontractors and suppliers for the following projects that bid for NCDOT:

Bid Date: 06/25/2024 at 2:00 PM

Project: Replace Bridge #131 Over Little Contentnea Creek in Pitt County (Division 2)

Plans and specifications are available for inspection at the following locations: TA Loving Company, NC DOT Division office.

Potential subcontracting opportunities include but are not limited to surveying, demolition, clearing and grubbing, hauling, asphalt paving, striping, traffic control, earthwork, erosion control, and seeding.

Please contact Justin E. Hill at our office as soon as possible if you are interested in submitting a proposal on any portion(s) of this project. Quotes may be emailed to Justin E. Hill - jehill@taloving.com. All quotations will be accepted up to the bid closing time of the bid date. Our address, phone number, and fax number is as follows.

T. A. Loving Company PO Box 919 Goldsboro, NC 27533 919-734-8400 (phone) 919-736-2148 (fax).

TA Loving Company is an Equal Opportunity Employer

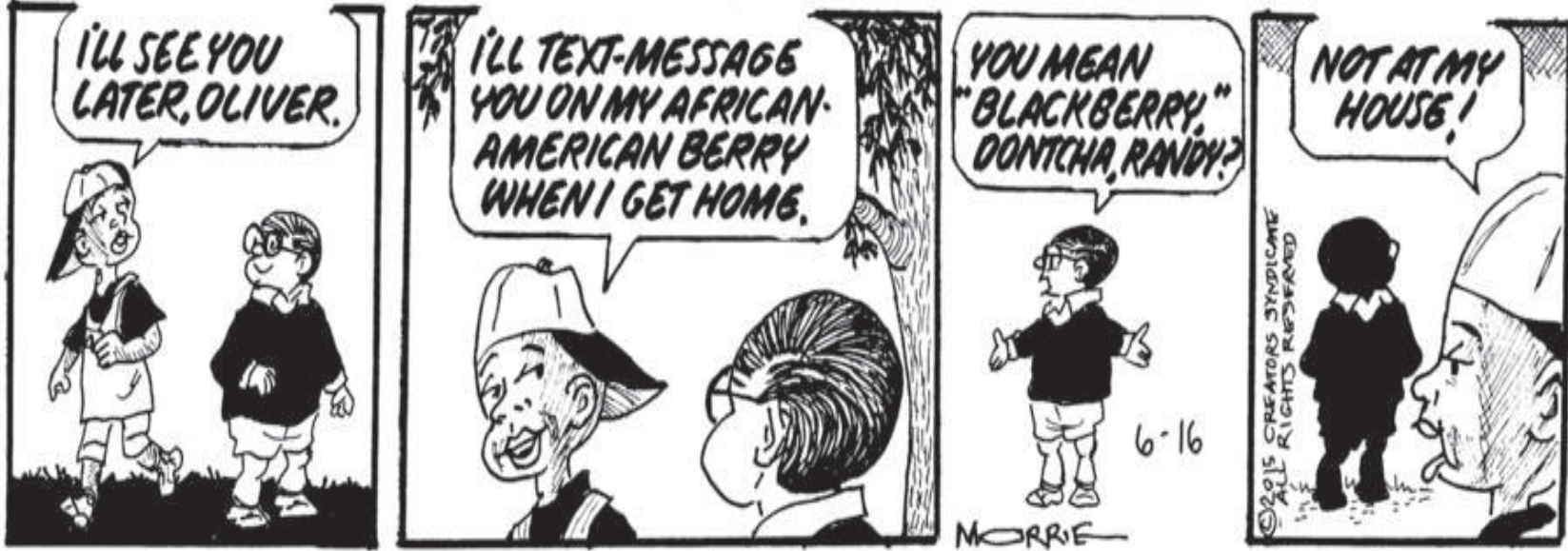
D/M/WBE

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 Buffalo Road Parallel Force Main project for Johnston County which bids on June 26, 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 * Johnston County Public Utilities, Land Use Center; 309 East Market Street; Smithfield, NC 27577 * Johnston County Procurement website * Accent Imaging website * Carolinas AGC Website * Dodge Data and Analytics website * ConstructConnect website (formerly iSqFt.com) * Construction Journal website * Hispanic Contractors Association of the Carolinas website * CDC News website * Construction Market Data website * Bid Clerk website.

Potential subcontracting opportunities include but are not limited to surveying, clearing and grubbing, hauling, asphalt paving, traffic control, earthwork, erosion control, seeding, linework/pipe installation, jack & bore, directional drilling, bypass pumping, flatwork, and manhole lining. 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.



Sports

NCFC Youth Unveils First-Ever Custom Adidas Jersey

Raleigh, NC (June 10, 2025) – North Carolina FC Youth (NCFC Youth), the largest youth soccer organization in the state serving more than 17,000 local players annually, in partnership with adidas and Soccer.com, is proud to unveil a milestone in North American youth sports; the first-ever, bespoke, custom designed adidas jersey co-created with a youth soccer club. This historic collaboration took place over 12 months and serves as an inaugural test case for the process of scaling a custom youth jersey across planning, design, production, inventory, and execution. The three organizations also worked together on a professionally produced reveal video to premiere today, merging cinematic storytelling with design inspiration in the same vein as those produced by professional soccer clubs around the globe.

“We are extraordinarily proud to unveil this new home kit and be part of a groundbreaking collaboration,” said Gary Buete, CEO of NCFC Youth. “The custom jersey design is incredible and the meaning behind it represents who we are as a club. To be the

first North American youth club to have the freedom to design a one-of-a-kind jersey and bring it to life speaks volumes about our culture and the people who make NCFC Youth special. This was an opportunity to design something that reflects our values and our identity, and I think we’ve created something that every current and former player, coach, and family can be proud of. NCFC Youth, adidas, and Soccer.com are long-time partners who have worked together for decades, and this opportunity would not have been possible without trust, confidence, and partnership.

The new home kit features a custom jersey paired with adidas navy shorts and grey socks, which will be worn by the club’s Classic and ECNL teams. The jersey design is inspired by North Carolina’s state tree and serves as a powerful symbol of identity and connection. The rows of pine trees and roots reflected in the design speak to themes of strength, resilience, and unity. Pines cover over sixty percent of North Carolina, including more than half of the Raleigh-Durham area, and grow



in all 100 counties. They’re a constant presence in neighborhoods, along commutes to training, and often surround the fields themselves. Named the state tree in 1963, the pine represents longevity, adaptability, and economic importance. The rows of pines on the jersey represent the individuals who make up the NCFC Youth community, the players, parents,

coaches, volunteers, and the deep history of a club now in its 51st year. The roots beneath those trees tell the rest of the story. When pine trees grow close together, their roots form interconnected networks that help them share nutrients and support one another against the elements. It’s a fitting metaphor for the power of teamwork and for a club built on deep roots, collective strength, and growing stronger together.

“Working with NCFC Youth and Soccer.com has been both groundbreaking and inspiring,” said Tor Southard, Senior Director, adidas Soccer North America. “When presented with the opportunity to co-create a fully bespoke jersey from the ground up, NCFC Youth did not hesitate. The club provided important input on what makes their club unique, and we ensured

the jersey incorporated that input. Soccer.com was instrumental in the process and logistics execution. With the success of this inaugural collaboration, we’ve taken a meaningful step toward bringing the same opportunity to more youth clubs in the future.”

Founded in 1974 as the Capital Area Soccer League (CASL), NCFC Youth has grown over five decades to become the largest youth-to-professional soccer club in the country, impacting more than one million players over the years. What started in Raleigh expanded to the Capital area and now serves families across a wider radius in North Carolina. In 2017, the club rebranded following a collaboration with Triangle Futbol Club Alliance and a partnership with North Carolina Football Club. While still rooted in local

service, NCFC Youth welcomes players from anywhere. The club’s statewide identity is reflected in its name and now, in the design of its first custom kit. Rather than use typical soccer motifs, the club looked to create something meaningful, connected to its journey, and reflective of the state and community in which it serves.

“From day one, everyone approached this opportunity with purpose and vision,” said Brian Berklich, Chief Marketing Officer with Soccer.com. “The design is something special. Perhaps even more so is the collaboration, the storytelling, and the shared belief that youth clubs and players deserve moments like this. We are proud to have played a role in creating something that reflects the heart of NCFC Youth, and to set the stage for what’s next.”

Breaking Barriers: N.C. Teen Gears Up For International Golf Tournament in Australia

Raleigh, NC – While most teens spend their summers hanging out with friends or relaxing poolside, 17-year-old Genesis Lewis is preparing for something much bigger—representing the United States at an international golf tournament in Australia.

The North Carolina rising senior has been selected by Coast to Coast International Athletics to join a U.S. junior golf team competing down under this July. For Lewis, this isn’t just another trip or tournament—it’s part of a journey she’s been on since she was four years old.

“I started playing golf because of my dad,” she shared in a recent interview. “He’d take me to the driving range and I’d just watch him swing. That’s what drew me in.”

By age seven, she was competing. A decade later, Lewis has racked up years of experience, and even a trip to Australia under her belt. At just eight years old, she earned her spot in an international tournament after winning a championship tour.

Despite her talent, Lewis admits her journey hasn’t been without ob-

stacles—especially in a sport where representation remains limited. “It was tricky,” she recalled. “When I started getting better, some kids on the course didn’t want to be friends anymore. That really set me back for a while.”

Her outlook changed when she joined TWIGS—Triangle Women in Golf—a local organization that empowers Black girls through mentorship and community in the sport.

“TWIGS gave me sisterhood,” she said. “They helped me meet mentors, learn new golf skills, and now I get to give that back.” Lewis has mentored a younger girl for the past two years, offering not only golf advice but life guidance. “She may not experience the exact same things I did, but I want to make sure she doesn’t go through what I went through,” Lewis explained.

With eyes on a future in college golf—and eventually the LPGA—Genesis is also navigating the college recruiting process. While she hasn’t made a final decision yet, coaches are paying attention.

As she heads to Australia on July 5 for two weeks of competition and



team training, Lewis remains focused, humble, and driven. “Golf is such a strategic game,” she said. “It challenges your mind. That’s what I love about it.”

Tennis Player Boulter Reveals Scale Of Abuse

Laura Scott

BBC

Katie Boulter had just lost a tie-break at the French Open when the death threats started.

It did not matter that the Briton would go on to win the match.

"Hope you get cancer," said one message.

Another - laced with expletives - referenced damaging her "grandmother's grave if she's not dead by tomorrow" and "candles and a coffin for your entire family".

A third said: "Go to hell, I lost money my mother sent me."

The British number two's response, as she reads through them 10 days later, is a mix of despair, resignation and fear.

Boulter agreed to sit down with BBC Sport to provide unprecedented insight into the volume and nature of abuse received by players,

including sharing screenshots of her private inbox.

'It shows how vulnerable we are' Boulter's reasoning for sharing the messages is two-fold.

The first, she says, is abusive content like this has become "the norm". Boulter, 28, also has fears about the impact it can have on younger players.

"At the very start of my career, it's probably something I took very personally... getting comments about the way you look," she says.

"It becomes more apparent every single time you go on your phone."

"I think it increases in number and it also increases in the level of things that people say. I don't think there's anything off the cards now."

The message threatening her loved ones was sent during her French Open first-round match against Carole Monnet on 29 May.

After losing the first-set tie-break, Boulter rallied to win 6-7 (4-7) 6-1 6-1 - her first victory in the main draw at Roland Garros.

As she reflects on the messages she receives, she says it is hard to differentiate between those that constitute a genuine risk and those that do not.

"I think it just kind of shows how vulnerable we are," Boulter says. "You really don't know if this person is on site. You really don't know if they're nearby or if they know where you live or anything like that."

Looking again at the message hoping she gets cancer, she shakes her head.

"I just wonder who the person is that has sent that," she says.

"I don't think it's something that I would ever say to my worst enemy. It's just an awful, awful thing to say to anyone. It's horrible."

Moving

NC STUDENTS

FORWARD

Angela's

scholarship story

earned \$2,000.

Yours could too.

I'm able to make a difference for myself, for my kids, and most importantly, for the community I live in. And the lottery scholarship has made that possible."

– Angela Dennis, scholarship recipient.

Scholarships make dreams come true. Last year, the North Carolina Education Lottery helped fund more than 65,000 scholarships across the state.

If you, your student, or your school has benefited from Lottery funds, we want to hear from you. Submit your story for a chance to earn \$2,000 at MovingNCStudentsForward.com

NC Education

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MUST BE 18 TO PLAY. Problem Gambling Helpline: 877-718-5543.

Angela Dennis

Scholarship Recipient | Wake County