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1 Event, Same Outcome, 3 Different Stories

AP News

HE HEARD 'HE'S GOT A KNIFE,' THEN RAN TO STOP A MAN SUSPECTED OF STABBING 11 AT A MICHIGAN WALMART

Matthew Kolakowski was shopping for fishing gear and snacks with his daughter at a Michigan Walmart over the weekend when he heard an employee yelling "he's got a knife" followed by sounds of screaming.

Then he saw a man rushing toward the checkout counter.

"All of a sudden I see him pop up and I swear we locked eyes for a minute and I yelled at my daughter, 'Stay here.' So I just took off running," Kolakowski said, recalling the moment he decided to confront the man accused of stabbing 11 people at the Traverse City store on Saturday.

Bradford Gille was charged Monday with terrorism and 11 counts of attempted murder. Police said they had no apparent motive for the violent attack carried out with a 3 1/2 inch (nearly 9-centimeter) knife.

The actions of Kolakowski and some other men drew effusive praise from Grand Traverse County Sheriff Michael Shea. Overnight, the strangers became online celebrities for their heroics as a video showing the confrontation spread swiftly on social media.

Kolakowski said that as he followed the man out of the store, he saw him plunge his blade into an older woman outside. Having no weapon himself, Kolakowski grabbed a shopping cart, hoping to knock the man down as he gave chase.

"He just ran right behind her and buried his knife into her back, right in front of me," Kolakowski said. "He pulled the knife out of her and went to take off, then stopped and hesitated and turned around like he was going to go after her again. That's when he noticed me with the grocery cart ... I just went as hard as I could and just got him on his ankles with the grocery cart from behind."

Kolakowski, a 39-year-old disabled veteran, was quickly joined by another man with a shopping cart, stopping the man later identified by authorities as Gille. A third man pointed a gun toward the man, repeatedly demanding he drop the knife.

This article was written by Michael Casey for AP News

Fox News

ARMED MARINE VETERAN STOPS MICHIGAN WALMART STABBING SUSPECT

An armed bystander was seen on video heroically stopping a knife-wielding man who authorities say stabbed 11 people at a Walmart in Michigan on Saturday.

The man, identified by family as Derrick Perry, is seen in the video pointing a firearm at the suspect in the store's parking lot in Traverse City as he and other bystanders shout "drop the knife!" Perry is a Marine veteran, the New York Post reported, citing his family.

"What they did was amazing," Grand Traverse County Sheriff Michael Shea told reporters during a media briefing on Sunday.

Perry and the other bystanders ended the suspect's rampage without firing a shot and held him until authorities arrived to take the man into custody without injury.

"First of all, I commend them. It's not very often that we have citizens that are willing to step up and take action, and I ask that we grant them the privacy that they need right now," the sheriff said. "If they choose to make a public statement, they will. But I would ask that we all just give them a little space and say, attaboy."

The suspect, identified as 42-year-old Bradford James Gille, of Afton, Mich., acted alone when he entered the store wielding a folding knife with a 3.5-inch blade, the sheriff said. He faces terrorism charges and 11 charges of assault with intent to murder.

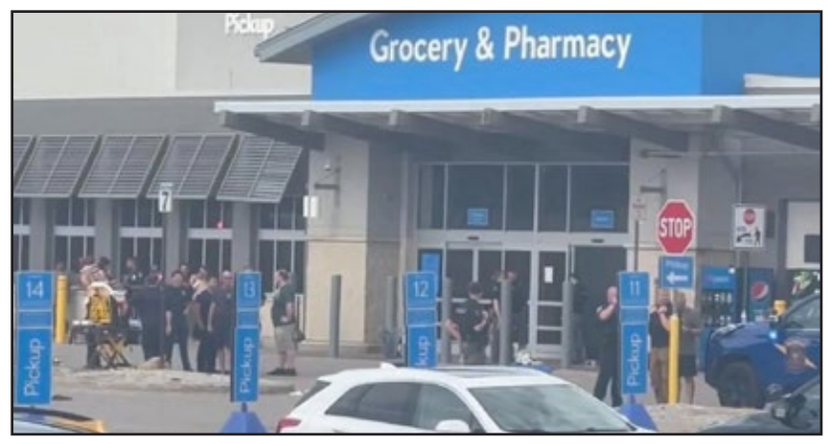
The 11 victims, ranging in age from 29 to 84-years-old, were all expected to survive, Munson Healthcare officials said. One patient has been released while five were listed in fair condition, two in good condition, one in serious condition and two others were treated and transferred as of Monday morning.

The Overheard in Traverse City Facebook group wrote a post recognizing the brave actions of Perry.

"This is Derrick Perry!" read the post. "He is the hero from today's stabbing at Walmart, he is the man that took his gun out and risked his own life to save many lives! Thank you so much Derrick."

This article was written by Stephen Sorace for Fox News

BBC News



SUSPECT FACES TERRORISM CHARGES IN STABBING OF 11 AT WALMART IN MICHIGAN

A 42-year-old man is facing charges of terrorism and assault with intent to murder after 11 shoppers were stabbed at a Walmart supermarket in the US state of Michigan.

An assailant used a folding knife to stab five men and six women, including a Walmart employee, on Saturday afternoon in Traverse City.

The victims, ranging in age from 21 to 84, are all expected to survive. The suspect, Bradford James Gille, is due to be arraigned on Monday or Tuesday.

Investigators said the stabbings were random and they are yet to reveal a motive, but they said a terrorism charge was justified because such a mass attack was believed to be intended to bring fear and destruction to the community as a whole.

Addressing reporters on Sunday, Grand Traverse County Sheriff Michael Shea said officers began arriving at the store two minutes after the first call came through.

"At the time of the deputy's arrival, multiple citizens, including one who was armed with a pistol, were confronting the male suspect in the parking lot and preventing him from harming further people and leaving," he said. "The deputy took the suspect into custody without further incident."

He added that the suspect's motive was "yet to be determined".

"Our detectives, with assistance from the FBI, interviewed him at length, and that will be part of the investigation as it moves forward," he added.

Joe Pennington, a Walmart spokesperson, said: "Violence like this is unacceptable.

"Our thoughts are with those who were injured and we're thankful for the swift action of first responders."

FBI Deputy Director Dan Bongino said on Saturday that federal personnel were responding to provide any necessary support to local authorities.

Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer said: "Our thoughts are with the victims and the community reeling from this brutal act of violence."

Traverse City is about 255 miles (410km) north-west of Detroit.

This article was written by Jake Lapham for BBC News

Possibly The Most Expensive US Senate Race In History

By Cash Michaels

Contributing Writer

Analysis

This might become the most expensive U.S. Senate race in American history, let alone North Carolina history.

Democratic former NC Governor Roy Cooper versus Republican former NC GOP Chairman Michael Whatley, to fill the soon-to-be vacated U.S. Senate seat currently held by Republican Sen. Thom Tillis, who announced after publicly opposing Pres. Trump's "big, beautiful bill" that he would not be running for a third term.

Cooper made it official Monday morning on X, saying "I have thought on it and prayed about it, and I have decided: I am running to be the next U.S. Senator from North Carolina."

As his much celebrated appearance at the annual NC Democratic Party Unity dinner last Saturday night showed, the former two-term governor remains the most popular, and most influential Democratic politician in the state.

Because of his Eastern North Carolina roots and moderate politics, Cooper has proven to be a formidable politician over the years with the ability to attract voters from both rural and urban areas of the state. Republican opponents have always tried to portray the former state representative and NC attorney general as being a tool of the ultra-liberal left, but Cooper's "down-home" ability to effectively communicate with different constituencies across the state has always been his magic touch.

Cooper has never lost a race for public office in over 30 years of being in North Carolina politics, including his two terms as governor that ended in 2024.

Supporters hope that Cooper, 68, will be able to successfully do what he did last Saturday night at the NCDP Unity dinner - blast the Trump Administration for running up the national debt, cutting food stamp aid and health care for the poor, and giving tax breaks to millionaires and billionaires.

ROY COOPER

MICHAEL WHATLEY

And do it against a Republican opponent handpicked and endorsed by the powerful MAGA president.

Michael Whatley, the chairman of the Republican National Committee, and former chair of the NC Republican Party, is expected to formally announce for the seat as well.

Whatley, 57, reportedly stepped in, with Pres. Trump's blessing, after the president's daughter-in-law, Wilmington native Lara Trump, decided she wanted to pursue a career in television and music instead.

Still, Trump's endorsement of Whatley will love to be formidable for NC Democrats, and particularly Roy Cooper, to overcome. The MAGA president has shown exceptional electoral strength in North Carolina in both endorsing local candidates for office, and during his two runs for the White House.

Whatley is expected to have at least two lesser known primary opponents for the Republican Senate nomination, but he's expected to dispatch with them with little problem.

As if to clear an easy path to being the NC Democratic Party's U.S. Senate candidate, former North Carolina Congressman Wiley Nickel has dropped his bid for the seat, and endorsed Cooper, announcing that he'll run for Wake County district attorney instead.

Given the fact that North Carolina is one of a handful of states having senatorial elections in 2026, that raises its national profile in the midterm elections. North Carolina Democrats are also hoping to put one of their own in the Tillis Senate seat in order to close the current 53-47 seat gap with Republicans

Those two priority items could make the Cooper - Whatley U.S. Senate race one of the most expensive in U.S. history, perhaps topping 2024's brutal U.S. Senate contest in Texas between Republican incumbent Republican Sen. Ted Cruz and Democratic challenger Colin Allred.

As of October 31st, according to Federal Election Commission records, that Texas Senate race raised an estimated combined total of $165 million.

Given the national prominence of next year's Cooper-Whatley contest, observers expect at least that much to be raised.

A Rapid Rise In Unregulated Care Homes

By Jaymie Baxley

NC Health News

In the winter of 2021, social workers in rural Wilson County were overwhelmed by a surge in reports of adults with disabilities being abused.

In a typical month, the county's Department of Social Services receives about 30 such complaints. But that February, the agency fielded 33 reports in just seven days.

When Nichole Atkinson, manager of the department's Adult and Family Services program, began to investigate, she noticed a common thread: The reports all originated from residences known as Multi-unit Assisted Housing with Services, or MUAHS.

Unlicensed and largely unregulated, the houses occupy a gray area in North Carolina's long-term care system. They are broadly defined by state law as facilities where patients can choose their own service providers and where personal care is "arranged by housing management."

That essentially makes them independent living settings — places where residents retain autonomy and are free to come and go, hire their own caregivers and manage their own finances. Yet many of the complaints received by Atkinson's office described situations in which residents with behavioral health conditions were being denied access to their money, food stamps and medication — basic resources they were supposed to control themselves and have rights to.

After some digging, she learned that several MUAHS houses in Wilson County had been misleadingly advertised to residents' families and doctors as assisted living communities, which in the public imagination can conjure up visions of dining rooms and plentiful recreation, along with assistance with health needs.

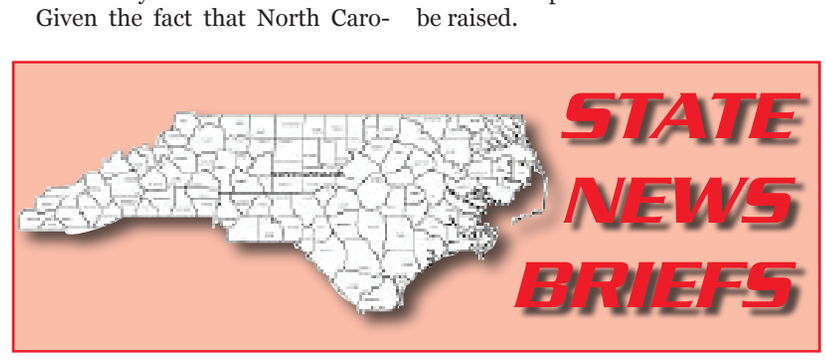
These facilities were anything but. Atkinson said MUAHS operators are only legally required to provide residents with a daily meal. In some houses, simple furnishings like bed frames are considered amenities.

But the deceptive advertising, she said, is technically allowed under state law, which confusingly classifies the houses as one of three types of "assisted living residence[es]" recognized in North Carolina.

The houses are not subject to routine inspections and monitoring like assisted living facilities, nor are their residents protected by the state's Care Home Bill of Rights.

"These homes have no oversight," Atkinson said. "No one is required to

(See ***RISE IN REG*** P. 5)



NORTH CAROLINA'S WEATHER ROLLERCOASTER: FROM DROUGHT TO RECORD FLOODS

By Jordan Meadows

Staff Writer

North Carolina has experienced one of its most extreme years of weather in recent history, beginning with an unseasonably dry winter and spring that sparked a wave of wildfires, and now culminating in record-breaking rainfall, deadly flash floods, and a devastating tropical storm season.

Through late 2024 and early 2025, North Carolina was entrenched in drought. Between October and April, Wilmington recorded a nearly 15-inch rainfall deficit compared to its 30-year average. The dry stretch led to increased wildfire activity across the state, from Wilson County to Swain County, fueled by brittle vegetation and dry air.

Though water demands were low during the cooler months, the agricultural impacts were palpable, particularly in the eastern and central parts of the state. The spring wildfire season scorched thousands of acres, damaging fields and setting the stage for flood vulnerability once the rains returned.

Then came the reversal. In June, North Carolina began to receive regular, heavy rainfall that not only erased the drought but also overwhelmed the landscape. That same month, Greenville recorded its wettest two-day stretch since Hurricane Florence in 2018, with 6.71 inches falling between June 15 and 16. Elizabeth City was also on pace for its wettest June on record.

By July, this shift in weather became a deluge. Over Independence Day weekend, the remnants of Tropical Depression Chantal struck central North Carolina, dropping nearly a foot of rain across parts of the Triangle and causing the Eno River to crest at over 25 feet—shattering a record set during Hurricane Fran in 1996.

The flash flooding killed at least six people, displaced more than 60 in Chapel Hill, and left over 34,000 residents without power. Roads flooded, cars were submerged in downtown Raleigh, and barricades were erected throughout the city.

(See ***NC WEATHER ROLLERCOASTER*** P. 2)

NC WEATHER ROLLERCOASTER

Continued from page 1

Chantal's damage was part of a broader trend of extreme weather across the U.S. this summer. From Texas, where July 4th floods killed more than 130 people, to New York City, where 1-in-1,000-year rainfall events inundated streets and subway tunnels, this season has been defined by relentless and deadly flash flooding. In many places, including North Carolina, this summer's storms dropped more rain in a few days than entire seasons have in years past.

What makes this year particularly concerning is the scientific context. According to a recent Climate Central report, rainfall intensity in Raleigh has increased by 22% since 1970, outpacing the national average. The same study found that hourly rainfall rates have grown heavier in nearly 90% of major U.S. cities.

This year's storms were particularly destructive because they came after months of drought. Dry, compacted soil is less able to absorb sudden rainfall, leading to higher runoff and more flooding. Adding to the danger is the fact that many residents live outside of FEMA's designated floodplains, which are based on outdated data from the 1970s and don't account for smaller streams and creeks that are now frequently overflowing due to more intense rainfall. In fact, 43% of repeatedly flooded buildings in North Carolina lie outside official flood zones.

The effects on agriculture have been severe. Moldy hay poses a serious health risk to animals, forcing farmers to purchase costly feed alternatives to keep their operations running. May brought record storms and disruptions, with many strawberry growers having to discard entire harvests due to rot, and tomato planting was delayed across the state. The combined effects of drought, followed by flooding, have created a season of unpredictability that has tested the resilience of even the most experienced farmers.

This isn't the first year North Carolina has faced flooding due to tropical weather. In 2024, Hurricane Helene brought torrential rain to western North Carolina and set new rainfall records in the Triangle. Later that year, Carolina Beach experienced a shocking 1-in-1,000-year storm that dumped 20 inches of rain in 12 hours.

The summer of 2025 has been dominated by persistent atmospheric patterns—called "atmospheric resonance"—which trap weather systems in place, allowing storms to hover over areas for days instead of hours. These patterns have tripled in frequency since the mid-20th century, particularly during the summer months.

As North Carolina continues to experience more volatile weather, the need for adaptation is becoming clear. Experts at the World Economic Forum recommend resilient water management systems, improved food storage solutions, and updated infrastructure to mitigate the impacts of both flooding and drought. On the local level, authorities are urging residents to reassess their flood risk, even if they live outside of official zones, and to invest in preparedness tools like flood insurance, emergency kits, and weather alerts.

With August and September typically being the peak of flash flood season in central North Carolina, the state may not be out of the woods yet. Meteorologists are forecasting a warmer and wetter-than-average continuation of summer, as ocean temperatures remain at record highs. While the drought has ended, the extreme pendulum swing between dry and wet conditions is a clear signal of a changing climate.

A New Report Shows Violent Crime Continues To Drop Across US Cities

By: Amanda Hernández

Stateline

Amid recent political rhetoric about rising crime and violence in American cities, a new analysis shows that violent crime has continued to decline this year.

Homicides and several other serious offenses, including gun assaults and carjackings, dropped during the first half of 2025 across 42 U.S. cities, continuing a downward trend that began in 2022, according to a new crime trends report released Thursday by the nonpartisan think tank Council on Criminal Justice.

Homicides fell 17% in the first half of 2025, compared with the same period in 2024, among the 30 cities that reported homicide data, according to the report.

During that same period, five cities saw increases in homicide — ranging from 6% in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, to 39% in Little Rock, Arkansas.

While the report's authors say the continued drop in violent crime — especially homicides — is encouraging, they note that much of the decline stems from a few major cities with historically high rates, such as Baltimore and St. Louis.

More than half of the cities studied have higher homicide rates than before the COVID-19 pandemic. Overall, though, the analysis found that there were 14% fewer homicides during the first half of 2025 compared to the same period in 2019.

The authors say more research is needed before crediting any specific policy or practice for the continued drop in violent crime.

The group's findings come as President Donald Trump continues to amplify concerns about crime, at times citing misleading statistics and narratives.

In a Truth Social post earlier this week, Trump claimed that cashless bail — a practice that allows people charged with a crime to be released pretrial without paying money, unless a judge deems them a threat to public safety — were fueling a national crime surge and endangering law enforcement.

He wrote: "Crime in American Cities started to significantly rise when they went to CASHLESS BAIL. The WORST criminals are flooding our streets and endangering even our great law enforcement officers. It is a complete disaster, and must be ended, IMMEDIATELY!"

Some research suggests that setting money bail isn't effective in ensuring court appearances or improving public safety. Opponents of ending cash bail often raise concerns that released suspects might commit new, potentially more serious crimes. While that is possible in individual cases, studies show that eliminating cash bail does not lead to a widespread increase in crime.

The Truth Social post also marked a sharp shift from Trump's remarks during a June roundtable with the Fraternal Order of Police, where he claimed the national murder rate had "plummeted by 28%" since he took office — a figure that overstates the decline and overlooks the fact that murder rates began falling well before he returned to office.

According to data consulting firm AH Datalytics, which manages the Real-Time Crime Index — a free tool that collects crime data from more than 400 law enforcement agencies nationwide — the number of homicides between January and May 2025 was 20.3% lower than the same period in 2024.

Similarly, data released in May by the Major Cities Chiefs Association showed that homicides fell roughly 20% in the first quarter of 2025 compared with the first three months of the prior year. The group's data is based on a survey of 68 major metropolitan police departments nationwide.

Researchers at the Council on Criminal Justice note in their report that it's difficult to pinpoint a single reason for the drop in homicides, but they note that fewer people appear to be exposed to high-risk situations, such as robberies.

Most major crimes fell in the first half of 2025 compared with the same period last year, according to the council's report.

Motor vehicle thefts dropped by 25%, while reported gun assaults fell 21%. Robberies, residential and nonresidential burglaries, shoplifting, and aggravated and sexual assaults also saw double-digit declines

Drug offenses held steady, while domestic violence reports rose slightly — by about 3%. Carjackings declined 24% and larcenies were down 5%.

Compared with the first half of 2019, before the pandemic and nationwide reckoning over racial justice and policing, overall homicides are down 14%, robberies by 30%, and sexual assaults by 28%.

Still, more than 60% of the cities in the council's study sample report homicide rates that remain above 2019 levels.

Billions Lost, Generational Wealth Crippled By Farm Land Loss

By Dr. Joynicole Martinez

Special To The Carolinian

Black farmers, once a significant portion of America's agricultural workforce, now face a stark decline in farmland ownership. In the early 20th century, Black farmers owned approximately 16 million acres, or almost 2 percent of the nations farmland. However, this figure has plummeted to a fraction of a percent, resulting in billions of dollars in lost generational wealth. This decline is not merely a loss of land but a consequence of a complex history of discrimination and dispossession.

Despite a bevy of systemic obstacles, Black farmers acquired 16 to 19 million acres by 1910, as reported by FoodPrint. However, white supremacist violence, discriminatory laws, and predatory lending practices stripped Black families of their land in the South.

Economic analyses estimate that over $326 billion in wealth was lost since 1920 as Black agricultural land was stolen or forced out of Black hands. Had post-Civil War land grants been honored, the value of that land today would be nearly $7 trillion.

Government policies exacerbated these losses. Early 20th-century programs like the Homestead Act distributed millions of acres to white settlers while excluding Black Americans. Legal loopholes in inheritance laws made it easy for speculators to force sales of family farms for Black farmers who did acquire land.

Today, fewer than 50,000 Americans identify as Black farmers, representing about 1.4 percent of the nation's 3.4 million farmers. Despite the Southeast's agricultural heritage, the region's Black farmer population remains strikingly low.

North Carolina has about 1,500 Black-run farms out of 46,000 statewide, while South Carolina has about 2,600 Black farmers, about 7 percent of the state's producers. Virginia has just over 1,700 Black farmers, about 1.4 percent of all Virginia farmers.

However, McKinsey Institute research highlights the wealth-building potential. The median net worth of U.S. farmers is 43 times the median net worth of Black households, and the median Black farming household earns about 25 percent more per year than the median Black household overall.

There has been progress.

North Carolina has seen innovative approaches to supporting Black farmers. Black farmers' markets in Raleigh, Durham, Greensboro, and other cities have drawn significant crowds and revenue.

At The Grove Market in Greensboro, hundreds of shoppers browse stalls from Black farmers and small businesses. Vendors report high demand. For farmers like Ellis Monroe from Chapel Hill, these markets provided crucial entry points, building confidence and a customer base.

Success stories are emerging across the state. In Warren County, fourth-generation farmer Patrick Brown purchased plantation land where his great-grandfather was enslaved, achieving both symbolic and economic victory. He now grows organic vegetables and cultivates nearly 200 acres of industrial hemp, earning recognition as North Carolina's Small Farmer of the Year in 2023.

His farm, Brown Family Farms, is not just about personal triumph; it's about community. By moving into higher-value crops like hemp (for CBD oil and fiber) and using sustainable practices, Brown is creating jobs and demonstrating how a Black-owned farm can thrive and innovate. "In this work with the land, Patrick is carrying out acts of reclamation," writes Christina Cooke, noting that Brown is "reviving the soil under his feet" and pushing back against systems that were designed to oppress people of color.

From the policy side, North Carolina lawmakers have taken note of these dynamics. In 2021, a bill called the North Carolina Black Farmer Restoration Act was introduced in the General Assembly, aiming to establish a state fund to help Black farmers acquire land and to invest in training the next generation. While that legislation is still pending, it signaled a growing awareness that re-

(See ***FARM LAND LOSS*** P. 7)

Efforts To Restrict Or Protect Libraries Grew This Year

By Robbie Sequeira

Stateline

State lawmakers across the country filed more bills to restrict or protect libraries and readers in the first half of this year than last year, a new report found.

The split fell largely along geographic lines, according to the report from EveryLibrary, a group that advocates against book bans and censorship.

Between January and July 2025, lawmakers introduced 133 bills that the organization deemed harmful to libraries, librarians or readers' rights in 33 states — an increase from 121 bills in all of 2024. Fourteen of those measures had passed as of mid-July.

At the same time, legislators introduced 76 bills in 32 states to protect library services or affirm the right to read, the report found.

The geographic split among these policies is stark.

In Southern and Plains states, new laws increasingly criminalize certain actions of librarians, restrict access to materials about gender and race, and transfer decision-making power to politically appointed boards or parent-led councils.

Texas alone passed a trio of sweeping laws stripping educators of certain legal protections when providing potentially obscene materials; banning public funding for instructional materials containing obscene content; and giving parents more authority over student reading choices and new library additions.

Tennessee lowered the bar to prosecute educators for sharing books that might be considered "harmful to minors."

A New Hampshire bill likewise would've made it easier for parents or the state attorney general to bring civil actions against school employees for distributing material deemed harmful to minors, but it was vetoed by Republican Gov. Kelly Ayotte.

In Nebraska, a new law allows for real-time alerts for parents every time a student checks out a book. South Dakota requires libraries and schools to install filtering software. New laws in Idaho heighten the requirements to form library districts and mandate stricter internet filtering policies that are tied to state funding.

In contrast, several Northeastern states have passed legislation protections for libraries and librarians and anti-censorship laws.

New Jersey, Delaware, Rhode Island and Connecticut have each enacted "freedom to read" or other laws that codify protections against ideological censorship in libraries.

Connecticut also took a major step in modernizing libraries in the digital age, the report said, becoming the first state in the nation to pass a law regulating how libraries license and manage e-books and digital audiobooks.

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Business & Finance

Wake County Commissioner Jonathan Lambert-Melton's Shares His Vision

By Ms Jheri Worldwide

Staff Writer

Raleigh City Council member Jonathan Lambert-Melton is embarking on a new chapter in public service, announcing his candidacy for the Wake County Board of Commissioners. With three terms on Raleigh City Council under his belt, Lambert-Melton is ready to bring his comprehensive approach to pressing issues like affordable housing, transit, and public safety to a county-wide level, all while emphasizing greater collaboration between city and county governance.

Lambert-Melton's decision to run for County Commission stems from a familiar sense of purpose that initially drew him to city council in 2019. "I felt really called to serve and I felt like that there was a need and a void that I could help fill," he stated. After the 2024 council election, which added two at-large seats to the Wake County Commission, he felt the same pull, recognizing an opportunity to address county-level challenges with city-level experience.

One of his primary motivations for this transition is the potential for enhanced collaboration, particularly in human services. Lambert-Melton highlighted the critical need for cities and the county to work together on initiatives like assisting the unhoused population and developing alternative 911 response models involving mental health professionals and social workers. As cities and towns lack their own health departments and must rely on the county for essential services like EMT and transport, he believes his city government background, especially from Raleigh – the largest city in Wake County – would be invaluable. "A lot of the issues that affect Wake County are most acute in Raleigh," he noted, underscoring how his experience in the city could directly benefit the county.

Affordable housing remains a cornerstone of Lambert-Melton's platform. He acknowledged that while federal funding, such as the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds during the pandemic, allowed for significant strides – including purchasing hotels for workforce housing and securing the DMV site on New Bern Avenue for future affordable housing and community resources – sustained solutions require more than crisis-driven funding.

"I don't think it should take a global pandemic for the folks who have more resources to provide them to the folks that can do the most good," he asserted.

He emphasized the challenge of relying solely on property taxes and bond revenue at the city level, as raising taxes can inadvertently make housing less affordable for some. To combat this, he advocates for increased federal, state, and county resources to be directed to where they're most needed.

A key part of his strategy involves leveraging county-owned land. Inspired by Raleigh's successful efforts to convert unused city-owned parcels into affordable housing, Lambert-Melton envisions a similar, bolder approach at the county level. He cited a large county-owned parcel on Capital Boulevard, currently used for parking service vehicles, as

a prime example of land that could be transformed to house people and provide essential services.

He also addressed the common resistance to new development, particularly concerns about density. He explained that making it easier to build diverse housing types, including townhomes, duplexes, and quads – often referred to as "Missing Middle Housing" – actually helps stabilize and reduce housing costs by increasing supply to meet demand. Lambert-Melton is a proponent of substantial investment in affordable housing. He noted that while Raleigh's 2020 affordable housing bond was $80 million, a 2022 Parks Bond for $275 million passed by a similar large margin. This suggests a strong voter appetite for more significant housing investments. "I am fine saying let's start at $200 million," he stated, demonstrating his commitment to setting ambitious goals.

The conversation also delved into the perennial challenge of transit in a rapidly growing region. Acknowledging past failures of light rail proposals, Lambert-Melton is focused on the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) model, approved in the 2016 Wake County Transit Plan. Raleigh is set to begin construction on North Carolina's first BRT line from Downtown to New Bern Avenue, a project he believes will be "transformational."

He described how BRT, when done correctly, will mimic a train experience with articulated buses, elevated stations, real-time updates, off-board ticketing, and dedicated bus lanes. This system will offer signal priority at intersections, ensuring buses keep moving. Four BRT routes are planned to radiate from downtown Raleigh, connecting to areas like Garner and Cary.

Beyond BRT, Lambert-Melton sees potential in expanding and increasing the frequency of the existing NC By Train (Amtrak) service, which currently offers trains almost every two hours between Raleigh, Cary, and Durham. Increasing this to hourly or even 30-minute intervals would transform it into a highly reliable commuter rail. "If we could get more frequency on the current NC by Train... then it's really functioning like commuter rail. You don't have to necessarily plan your day around the train," he explained. Expansion into other parts of the state, like Winston-Salem and Asheville, would further enhance connectivity.

GoTriangle Celebrates Grand Opening of New Raleigh Union Station

By Jordan Meadows

Staff Writer

On Friday morning, GoTriangle marked a major milestone in the Triangle region's transit future with a celebratory ribbon cutting for the new Raleigh Union Station Bus Facility, known as RUS Bus. The ceremony took place at the intersection of West Martin Street and South West Street in downtown Raleigh, right in the heart of the city's historic Warehouse District.

The state-of-the-art RUS Bus facility is a $40.7 million project that provides six off-street bus bays, two layover bays, passenger waiting areas, restrooms, and amenities such as benches, lockers, bike and scooter racks, wayfinding maps, assistance stations, and local information. The new transit center will officially open for service on Sunday, August 3, serving GoTriangle commuter routes to Durham, Chapel Hill, and Research Triangle Park (RTP).

GoRaleigh city buses will continue to use the Moore Square Transit Station.

"This event will be a day to celebrate not just the ribbon cutting of our new transportation center, but also to honor the greater Triangle community and what we can achieve through effective partnerships," said Brian Smith, GoTriangle President and CEO. "Raleigh Union Bus Station Facility will mean improved, more efficient public transportation in our region, which is a benefit for us all."

The Friday morning event featured speeches from public officials, live music, facility tours, food trucks, and giveaways.

Dignitaries in attendance included U.S. Congresswoman Deborah Ross; Raleigh Mayor Janet Cowell; former Raleigh Mayor and current GoTriangle Chair Mary-Ann Baldwin; Raleigh Mayor Pro Tem Stormie D. Forte; Raleigh City Councilor Corey Branch; U.S. Senator Thom Tillis' representative, Trey Lewis; and U.S. Congresswoman Valerie Foushee. Also in attendance were Cary Mayor Pro Tem Jennifer Bryson Robinson and Morrisville Mayor TJ Cawley, along with other municipal leaders from across the region.

"With this location next to Raleigh Union Station, this facility will serve tourists, commuters, and workers who use Amtrak and passenger rail to come to the area," said Baldwin.

Mayor Cowell emphasized the project's broader significance for regional mobility and economic development: "This is all about connecting the 13-county region, connecting people, getting them where they need to go. Someone can get on a bus from Cary and go directly here, get off, and go where they need to go in downtown Raleigh, or they could get on a train behind us at Union Station and go to Charlotte or D.C. and beyond."

The RUS Bus facility is directly adjacent to Raleigh Union Station, allowing seamless transfers between intercity Amtrak train service and local and regional bus lines.

The transit hub has been in the works since 2018, when GoTriangle secured a $20 million federal BUILD grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation. Construction began in 2023. The facility has been designed to accommodate future expansions, including bus rapid transit (BRT) and potential regional rail connections.

City Councilor Corey Branch grounded the impact in real-life scenarios: "GoTriangle has a footprint and a home in Raleigh, North Carolina. When we talk about regionalism and connectivity, I don't want us to forget about the 'why'. Think about that mother who lives in Durham or Chapel Hill, but their job is in Raleigh. They have to get up and find a way to get to Raleigh. That's where GoTriangle steps in."

RUS Bus is also the first phase of a larger vision for a multimodal transportation and development hub. Adjacent to the facility, Hoffman & Associates is planning a 23-story mixed-use tower called Union West. Originally planned to include two buildings—one with affordable housing—financial hurdles led the developer to scale back. Instead of building below-market-rate units, Hoffman received approval to contribute $1.5 million to Raleigh's affordable housing fund.

"We just voted to move forward with the residential and retail plan for this foundation here," Cowell said. "And then you've also got loading properties, which are planning a retail and hotel just over near the old train station there. So you can see how powerful this transportation hub and this project are."

US Economy Rebounds A Surprisingly Strong 3% In 2nd Quarter Of The Year

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. economy expanded at a surprising 3% annual pace from April through June, bouncing back at least temporarily from a first-quarter drop that reflected disruptions from President Donald Trump's trade wars.

America gross domestic product — the nation's output of goods and services — rebounded after falling at a 0.5% clip from January through March, the Commerce Department reported Wednesday. The first-quarter drop was mainly caused by a surge in imports — which are subtracted from GDP — as businesses scrambled to bring in foreign goods ahead of Trump's tariffs.

The bounceback was expected but the size of it wasn't: Economists had forecast 2% growth from April through June.

From April through June, a drop in imports — the biggest since the COVID-19 outbreak — added more than 5 percentage points to growth. Consumer spending registered lackluster growth of 1.4%, though it was an improvement over the first quarter's 0.5%.

Private investment fell at a 15.6% annual pace, biggest drop since COVID-19 slammed the economy. A drop in inventories — as businesses worked down goods they'd stockpiled in the first quarter — shaved 3.2 percentage

Post's Major Exodus of Black Journalists

By Lauren Burke

NNPA

The Washington Post, which has long defined itself as the "paper of record" alongside its competitive rivals, The New York Times, is now witnessing a major exodus of Black journalists. Though the U.S. is becoming more diverse, the Post isn't.

The Post's headquarters sits in the middle of the District of Columbia, which has a 43 percent Black population and a historic Black university less than two miles away. Yet The Post has never had a history of staff diversity. The recent departure of Black journalists is seemingly related to an anti-diversity backlash led by President Trump after the 2020 George Floyd "racial reckoning". Trump's executive order, signed less than 48 hours into his second term on January 21, declared policy war on the diversity and inclusivity of historically marginalized groups. Trump's George Floyd backlash, alongside separate claims of defamation by the president, has led to his targeting of law firms, media organizations, and academic institutions. Several media companies, such as ABC and CBS, have capitulated to Trump. The Washington Post appears to be doing so in advance, as Post owner Jeff Bezos has business before the federal government related to his ownership of Blue Origin and Amazon. The current moment now witnesses an exodus of Black journalists not seen in the paper's history. In recent years, journalists Vanessa Williams, Wesley Lowery, and Kevin Merida have departed The Washington Post. But the current departures include journalists with decades of experience and several Pulitzer Prizes. The current exodus is noteworthy even by the Post's low standards for diversity. The Post went for close to a year without a single Black member of the Editorial Board. Currently, the only Black member, the obscure Keith Richburg, is in Hong Kong. The National Association of Black Journalists noted the issue in a July 26 press release.

NABJ stated that they are "closely monitoring the recent wave of departures and voluntary exits from several legacy media institutions, including The Washington Post. This ongoing disruption has far-reaching implications for newsroom diversity, representation, and the future of Black journalists." The list of departures includes two Pulitzer Prize winners: Jonathan Capehart, an opinion columnist who has been with the Post since 2007 and is taking a buyout offer. Capehart also recounted a racial episode in 2024 in his book related to his former colleague Karen Tumulty, who was deputy opinions editor at the time. Tumulty has now been promoted to lead the Post's politics coverage. Post editorial board member Karen Attiah announced on social media on July 22 that she was "the last Black staff columnist left in the Washington Post's opinion section." On July 21, Pulitzer Prize-winning author Toluse Olorunnipa, who was the White House Bureau Chief for The Washington Post, announced he was now a writer at The Atlantic. Olorunnipa won the Pulitzer for the book "His Name is George Floyd" in 2023 for General Nonfiction. Several Post journalists have fled to The Atlantic. Other departures include Eugene Robinson and Krissah Thompson, who was the only Black managing editor on the masthead.

Building Convertion Could Bring Jobs Back To Graham County

By Jane Winik Sartwell

Carolina Public Press

When Shaun Adams was laid off by Stanley Furniture in 2014, he was beyond frustrated. Not only was he losing his job at the furniture manufacturing plant, but Graham County was losing its largest employer and last major manufacturer.

In the year after Stanley left, the unemployment rate in Graham County rose to the highest across North Carolina. Adams' frustration grew as he saw the Robbinsville facility lay almost entirely vacant for more than a decade. Why weren't town and county officials courting another company to use the factory space and create more jobs?

Adams ran for mayor, determined to bring manufacturing jobs back to Robbinsville. He won the office in 2021.

Last week, he got his wish: the Chinese biodegradable paperware company EcoKing announced an $80 million investment to reopen the same shuttered facility, promising 515 jobs in one of North Carolina's most economically distressed counties.

"We have lost so much population over the years because of factories closing and our low median income," Adams told Carolina Public Press. "This means a lot of people will get to come home."

EcoKing manufactures for fast food restaurants like Chipotle, Chick-Fil-A, and Panda Express. When the Robbinsville facility comes online in 2026, it will be the biggest employer in Graham County, providing an average wage of $46,700, nearly double the median individual income in the county.

Picking Graham County

But first, the abandoned Stanley plant needs major renovations — to the tune of $21 million.

"If you walked through the plant with me, you would say they ought to do a series of The Walking Dead here, because it just looked abandoned and neglected," Robin Sargent, owner of Old Town Brokers, a firm that helped orchestrate the sale of the plant.

"At one time, it was a vibrant place, but holy cow, someone just let it go to hell. Taking the pictures was like getting it ready for a dating site. It takes a special person to be able to have a vision for a space like that."

The facility needs major HVAC, plumbing and electrical work. But EcoKing wasn't scared off by the state of the plant.

Partially they were wowed by Graham County's natural beauty. Partially they were swayed because of the cheap, abundant power supply in the area.

The deciding factor, however, was incentives: between the town, the county and the state, EcoKing was offered $12 million over five years to pick Graham County instead of a site in the other Southern states they were eyeing.

EcoKing's customers — those big name fast food restaurants — wanted paperware products made domestically. With the tariffs coming down from Washington, the company had to act quickly.

"The tariff is high," John Lin, EcoKing's representative for this project, told CPP. "And 80% of our customers are here in the United States. So is most of our raw material. That taught us to make a decision: we're going to land right here, and be Made in the USA."

Economic lifeline

Stanley Furniture, the largest employer in Graham County, announced it would be closing its manufacturing plant, laying off about 400 workers in this county of about 8,600. Gwen Albers/ Carolina Public Press

The EcoKing investment is a lifeline for this Western corner of the state. Graham County once had more than 1,100 manufacturing jobs across four factories and a sawmill. Now all of that is gone.

After Stanley Furniture was the last to leave, a company called Oak Valley Hardwood occupied a small corner of the same building starting in 2016, but left when COVID hit. Other than that blip, hardly any economic investment has come to the area.

"For decades we struggled with the closing of textile plants and furniture plants and the tobacco industry being more or less sunset," Sargent said.

"This area has just been hammered in a way that is not well understood — 500 jobs is a big deal here. This is a really great story of how we were able to capture the interest of an Asian company to launch a big investment in their industry here."

There's a certain economic irony to EcoKing's investment. Many of the manufacturing jobs that left Graham County — and Western North Carolina more broadly — went to China as companies chased cheaper labor. Now, a Chinese company is bringing manufacturing back to the exact same building where American workers once made furniture.

EcoKing will use the same pulp supplier that served the Pactiv paper plant in Canton, whose 2023 closure resulted in the loss of 1,200 jobs and a lawsuit from former attorney general and current governor Josh Stein.

Bringing back Graham County workforce

The one downside of US manufacturing is the cost of labor, Lin said. In China, the company can get away with much lower wages. EcoKing plans to use some automated manufacturing to offset this inflated cost.

But still, the plant will need 515 workers. In one of the state's smallest counties, that won't happen overnight — it will require coordinated workforce development.

Hiring is projected to happen in two phases. The first phase will take place over the next three to five years, and create about 300 jobs. The second, on a longer timeline, will bring on 215 more. The company is partnering with Tri-County Community College and Western Carolina University for workforce development.

"We're going to take a slow-burn approach," Josh Carpenter, director of economic development group Mountain West Partnership, told CPP. "That's what we did with Harrah's Cherokee Casino: built a workforce of 900 to 1,200 over the years."

Construction crews are already at work on the $21 million restoration. And for the first time in over a decade, Graham County has concrete reason for economic optimism.

Citing Potential For Fraud, States Pass New Crypto Laws

By Kevin Hardy

Stateline

They may resemble other ATMs, but officials are increasingly warning about the potential for fraud with the expanding fleet of cryptocurrency ATMs popping up across the country.

The National Consumers League says the largely unregulated machines have become favored by scammers for their anonymity and irreversibility — once a user transfers or deposits funds, that money is essentially gone.

While officials say the machines can be used for legitimate purposes, red and blue states are increasingly imposing new regulations to protect consumers: AARP says 11 states have recently passed new laws or regulations of the machines.

"In state after state, AARP found lawmakers on both sides of the aisle and local law enforcement eager to work on commonsense rules that balance innovation and consumer safety," Nancy LeaMond, AARP's executive vice president and chief advocacy and engagement officer, said in a news release.

Last year, the FBI reported nearly 11,000 complaints of cryptocurrency ATM fraud. Those cases disproportionately affected older Americans and cost victims $246.7 million.

Cryptocurrencies are digital assets, including bitcoin, that offer an alternative payment or method without control of a central bank or government like other currencies. Crypto ATMs, sometimes called crypto kiosks, allow users to insert cash or use debit cards to convert currencies such as U.S. dollars into cryptocurrencies.

The Federal Trade Commission says crypto ATM scams often start with a call or text message warning of a supposed problem, such as unauthorized bank charges or suspicious activity on an Amazon account.

The FTC says consumers should contact banks or other institutions directly about any account issues. And it warns consumers not to believe anyone who says they must use a crypto ATM to address a financial problem.

"Real businesses and government agencies will never do that — anyone who does is a scammer," the agency said.

After signing a bill with new regulations, Nebraska Republican Gov. Jim Pillen was clear that the state would continue to welcome cryptocurrency businesses as it aims to become a hub for the industry.

The Nebraska law requires ATM operators to acquire state licensure, warn customers of the potential for criminal exploitation and take "reasonable steps to detect and prevent fraud." The law also limits transactions to $2,000 per day for new customers and $10,500 for existing customers, and requires operators to issue refunds for properly reported fraudulent transactions.

At least 40 states have introduced legislation regarding cryptocurrency, digital or virtual currencies and other digital assets in the 2025 legislative session, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures. Those measures include ATM regulations, prohibiting the use of digital currencies by governments and allowing state investment in digital assets.

Federal lawmakers are also taking action on the issue. The Republican-controlled U.S. House of Representatives declared the week of July 14 "Crypto Week," when lawmakers considered several pieces of legislation.

At the end of that week, President Donald Trump signed into law the GENIUS Act, the first major law governing digital currency. It establishes a regulatory framework for the industry.

Trump hopes the bill will instill confidence in the industry that spent heavily to strengthen its legitimacy and political might, The Associated Press reported.

"This signing is a massive validation of your hard work and your pioneering spirit," the president told crypto executives.

In state legislatures, new bills regulating crypto ATMS have enjoyed bipartisan support. AARP tracking shows new bills have been approved in Arkansas, Iowa and Oklahoma, as well as in more liberal states such as Maryland and Vermont.

In May, Arizona Democratic Gov. Katie Hobbs signed Republican-sponsored legislation that sets daily transaction limits and mandates crypto ATM operators provide customers certain disclosures and warnings.

The legislation followed local news coverage of at least two dozen crypto scams, including one that cost an Arizonan $28,000.

Health and Wellness

Rise In Unregulated Care Homes —CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

go in to make sure that they have proper zoning and proper construction, or that proper rules are in place. There's no vetting of who owns or operates them."

The hospital incident

In the years since that rash of reports, the houses have been a persistent problem in Wilson County.

Then came the hospital incident.

On the weekend of Aug. 12, 2023, a local MUAHS operator brought all 34 of his residents to the 20-bed emergency department of Wilson Medical Center. All of them had behavioral health issues.

Chris Munton, then CEO of the hospital, said the department's emergency staff typically treat three to four behavioral health patients a day. It usually takes six more days, he said, to find a place that can provide those patients with an "appropriate level of care" after they've been discharged.

Hospital staff and administration scrambled to meet the needs of a large group of people with lots of needs. The influx of patients forced Wilson Medical Center to activate a special command center typically used during hurricanes and other natural disasters.

"It was discovered that an owner of multiple MUAHS in the area had gone out of town and did not have anyone to provide the required one meal a day for their residents," Munton told the city council in Wilson, the county seat, during a June 2024 meeting. "To solve this dilemma, the owner brought all their residents to the ED."

The incident led to an audit that revealed more than 60 percent of all behavioral health patients seen at Wilson Medical Center from 2021 to 2023 had been residents of MUAHS houses. An "alarming" number of those patients had traveled from other states to live at the facilities, according to Munton.

Some MUAHS operators, he added, appeared to be using the hospital as a "holding station" for residents who "become too aggressive or unstable."

"These patients often do not require immediate health care assistance but are left at our facility to alleviate unwanted disruption within the MUAHS house," he said. "Without any accountability or guardrails to how these MUAHS operate, Wilson Medical Center is left to care for and find placement for these patients, even if they do not require emergency care."

Munton left Wilson Medical Center less than two months after his remarks to the council. The hospital did not respond to written questions from NC Health News.

Unwitting epicenter

MUAHS houses have existed in the state since 2001, when the N.C. General Assembly passed legislation recognizing them as part of a broader effort to expand residential options for older adults and people with disabilities.

The goal was to provide a flexible model of care that would allow residents to live more independently than in traditional adult care homes or nursing facilities, while still having access to support services. These settings were intended for individuals capable of directing their own care, and the state placed fewer regulatory requirements on them than on licensed facilities.

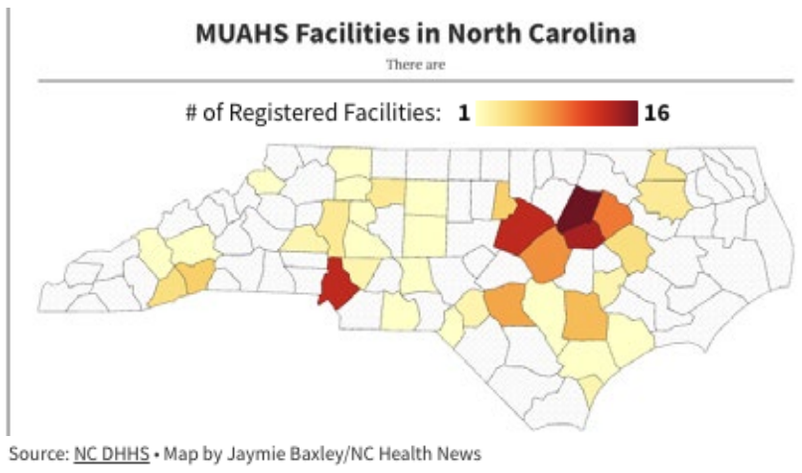
Over time, however, the lack of oversight has made the houses a "regulatory black hole," said Corye Dunn, head of public policy for Disability Rights North Carolina.

Unlike adult care homes, which must meet staffing and quality standards, MUAHS facilities operate with minimal state involvement.

Kimberly Irvine, director of Wilson County DSS, said this regulatory gap, combined with growing demand for affordable housing and supportive care, has created a system ripe for abuse.

"This program was developed to be an alternative to more expensive, restrictive nursing home care," she said. "But with the lack of regulations and [no] licensing requirement, that has kind of opened the door for people that want to exploit our disabled and elderly."

"The state has very little power, but very vulnerable people are often housed there," said Dunn, whose organization also has access to the facilities.



Source: NC DHHS • Map by Jaymie Baxley/NC Health News

The number of MUAHS houses in North Carolina grew significantly in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, which exacerbated the nation's ongoing mental health crisis and intensified demand for community-based housing for people with disabilities. An NC Health News analysis found that just 87 of the state's 141 registered houses were in business before 2020.

Wilson County, which had no MUAHS houses before the pandemic, has become the unwitting epicenter of that growth. Fourteen facilities have set up shop there over the past five years, more than any other county in the state over the same period.

And that's just counting the ones that are registered. Irvine said several houses in the county — ranked as the state's 25th most populous by the U.S. Census Bureau — are being run off the books with near impunity.

"Operating one of these facilities without being registered is the lowest misdemeanor with the lowest fine," she said. "They're going to pay the fine and continue to operate, so there really is no penalty."

Atkinson, the DSS program manager, noted that some houses in Wilson County are "actually run properly." But for reasons she and others don't fully understand, the community has become a hot spot for unscrupulous operators.

Behind closed doors

Many of the so-called facilities in Wilson County are little more than aging single-family dwellings scattered across residential neighborhoods — indistinguishable from the homes around them.

The operators make their money, she said, by withholding residents' Social Security benefits. They also claim any payments made to residents through the state's Special Assistance In-Home program.

"The individuals are really not seeing any benefit from their Social Security check, in addition to their Special Assistance In-Home payment," Atkinson said, adding that some operators collect as much as $1,900 a month per resident.

Dunn said she has seen operators charge "surprisingly high rental rates for surprisingly poor conditions with poor access to food and services."

There have also been cases, she said, in which the owners of licensed facilities with more oversight, such as family care or adult care homes, have opened MUAHS houses.

"They recruit someone to the licensed facility and then after a while, if they're the right profile, they let the person know, 'Hey, there's another opportunity and do you want to move in?'" Dunn said.

"These are options that are designed to extract as much money as possible from people with disabilities," she added. "Once that bed opens up in that licensed facility, they have a pipeline of people to come in to the more profitable MUAHS."

County social workers have documented troubling conditions inside the homes.

In several cases, Atkinson said, residents were found sleeping on bare mattresses placed directly on the floor. Others were living four or more to a room, crammed into tight quarters with no privacy.

The Golden Years

By Judykay Jefferson

THE GIFT OF TIME

At my church the last week in July is Love Week, our volunteer intensive. There are in-person events, online events, indoor and outdoor events. You name it, we are doing it. I began attending Elevation Church in the spring of 2018. Since then, I have participated in eight Love Weeks. My personal favorite is serving at the Raleigh Rescue Mission. Until I began volunteering there, I never knew the joy of service. I'm sure I receive more than my few-hour effort provides. Volunteering in a structured environment can fill a void many seniors experience. It can provide purpose, a sense of accomplishment, and the reminder that we are a part of the family of man.

Not everyone wants to get up at 4am to volunteer but everyone has some time, skills, experiences to share. Are you thinking you don't have time or energy to figure it out and then do it? One of the Triangle's strengths is its flexibility. Whether you're a busy professional, a student, a retiree, or a parent looking for family-friendly service projects, there's a place for you.

• Short on time? Try one-day events like park cleanups or food drives.

• Want to build skills? Volunteer roles in marketing, public speaking, or tech support can double as professional development.

• Looking for connection? Many organizations offer group opportunities, perfect for team-building, or making new friends.

Here are just a few standout opportunities:

• Activate Good connects volunteers with over 600 local causes, from environmental cleanups to youth mentorship programs. Their platform makes it easy to find projects that match your interests and schedule.

• HandsOn Triangle, part of the Triangle Nonprofit & Volunteer Leadership Center, offers a searchable database of opportunities across the region. Whether you're looking for one-time events or ongoing commitments, they've got you covered.

• Interfaith Food Shuttle tackles hunger through farm work, food distribution, and warehouse support. Volunteers can help grow sustainable food or deliver groceries to families in need.

• Raleigh Rescue Mission supports individuals transitioning out of homelessness. Volunteers can serve meals, mentor job seekers, or assist with administrative tasks.

• Safe Haven for Cats and SPCA of Wake County offer hands-on roles for animal lovers, from cleaning shelters to helping with adoption events.

• Triangle Land Conservancy invites volunteers to help maintain nature preserves, remove invasive species, and lead guided hikes—perfect for those who love the outdoors.

Even remote volunteering is on the rise, with options like tutoring online, writing letters to seniors, or helping nonprofits with digital tasks.

Volunteering can transform the volunteer. It's a chance to step outside your routine, challenge your assumptions, and rediscover your capacity for kindness. It's also a powerful antidote to isolation.

Volunteerism is often seen as a noble act, but its value goes far beyond altruism. Studies show that volunteering improves mental health, reduces stress, and even boosts longevity. It fosters empathy, builds resilience, and creates a sense of purpose. In fact, AmeriCorps reports that formal volunteering contributed nearly 5 billion hours of service nationwide, with an estimated economic value of $167.2 billion.

But the true impact of volunteering isn't measured in dollars—it's measured in lives touched. Whether it's mentoring a child, planting trees, or serving meals to those in need, volunteers are the quiet architects of stronger, more compassionate communities.

In a world increasingly defined by digital connection and individual pursuits, volunteering remains one of the most powerful ways to build real community. It's not just about lending a hand—it's about lending heart. And here in North Carolina's Triangle region, the opportunities to do so are as diverse and vibrant as the people who call it home.

In the Triangle, where innovation meets Southern hospitality, volunteering is more than a civic duty—it's a cultural cornerstone. It's how we show up for each other, how we build bridges across differences, and how we create a region that reflects the best of who we are.

In the end, volunteering isn't just about giving—it's about jumping in to be a part of the solution. And in the Triangle, there's never been a better time to become part of something bigger.

Arts & Culture

Back To School Special: Dr. Edward Bell On Raising Resilient Children And Cultivating Community In A Complex World

Ms Jheri Worldwide
Staff Writer

In a compelling interview, Dr. Edward Earl Bell, a distinguished academic and social worker, shared profound insights on parenting, community, and navigating the intricate tapestry of modern society. His perspectives, deeply rooted in experience and a commitment to social justice, offer a guiding light for families and communities striving for positive change.

Dr. Bell, whose extensive teaching career spans institutions like several local school systems, Capella University, and NC State, is a staunch advocate for progressive educational approaches. A native of New Bern, Dr. Bell has called Raleigh home since 2005, dedicating his expertise to school counseling and social work. His work often intersects with the challenging realities faced by Black men and boys, a topic he discussed with a nuanced understanding of contemporary social dynamics. One of the most powerful threads throughout our conversation was Dr. Bell's unwavering conviction regarding the resilience of the Black community, particularly in the face of political rhetoric. He firmly debunked the "Black Fathers are all absent" narrative, stating, "We stick together. Yes. When it matters." He pointed to the consistent voting patterns of Black men and women in elections, demonstrating a collective commitment to progress despite internal disagreements.

Dr. Bell candidly addressed the persistent presence of racism and sexism, describing them as being "in the DNA of the country." While acknowledging that these societal ills may never be fully eradicated, he expressed hope for their weakening. He challenged the notion of passive acceptance, emphasizing the continuous need to "keep challenging and keep fighting."

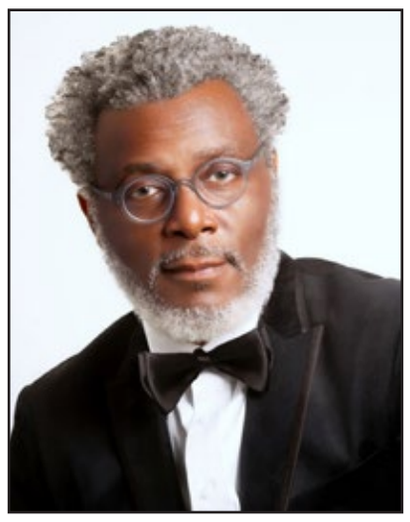
A significant portion of our discussion centered on Dr. Bell's profound insights into parenting. He champions a philosophy of raising "potential" rather than merely "children." "Stop sending children to school... You have to send potential to school. You have to send that doctor to be, that teacher to be, that plumber to be, the electrician to be to school," he urged. This transformative mindset, he believes, shifts the entire atmosphere of education. He also stressed the importance of preparing children to become adults, advocating for a foundational approach that instills confidence and self-worth from a young age. He shared a poignant anecdote about guiding a young student out of hiding in a school bathroom, affirming his feelings rather than questioning his behavior, demonstrating the power of empathetic engagement.

Dr. Bell also critically examined the allocation of funds within the education system, particularly Title I and federal monies intended for disadvantaged children. He challenged parents and community members to look beyond individual incidents of behavior and instead scrutinize where these substantial funds are truly going. He asserted that while addressing individual injustices is crucial, the larger battle lies in holding institutions accountable for the equitable distribution of resources.

In a world where societal norms around language and professionalism seem to be shifting, Dr. Bell offered a thought-provoking perspective. While he personally adheres to a professional demeanor, he acknowledged the privilege that allows some public figures to deviate from traditional decorum without consequence. This, he noted, creates a challenging environment for parents trying to instill values in their children, as the distinction between acceptable and unacceptable behavior can become blurred.

Looking ahead, Dr. Bell is actively promoting his children's book titled "I Love You," inspired by his own upbringing where expressions of love were shown through actions rather than words. The book aims to encourage open verbal affirmations of love between parents and children. He is also crafting an ethnographic reflection on his experiences in juvenile justice, utilizing critical race theory and labeling theory to analyze the systemic challenges faced by marginalized youth.

Dr. Bell's unwavering optimism, even in the face of daunting societal challenges, is truly inspiring. His dedication to education, social justice, and empowering families shines through every word. His work serves as a powerful reminder that while the fight for a more equitable world is ongoing, progress is possible when individuals and communities commit



to understanding, challenging, and actively shaping their realities. His insights provide a valuable roadmap for The Carolinian's readers as we collectively strive to build a more just and nurturing community.

PBS NC CEO David Crabtree On Funding Cuts To Public Media

By Ms Jheri Worldwide
Staff Writer

Recently PBS North Carolina's CEO, David Crabtree, went on record regarding federal funding cuts and what's at stake following federal funding cuts to public media. Crabtree discussed the impact on our community and how we move forward together.

While the interview can be searched on YouTube, several important points were:

1. Significant Funding Loss: PBS North Carolina is scheduled to lose over $9 million in federal funding over the next two years, effective October 1st, 2025. This is considered a significant and tough loss. Reliance on diverse funding will be critical. While federal funding is being cut, PBS North Carolina also relies on local donors, state appropriations, grants, and other sources.

2. Commitment to Programming and Services: Despite the cuts, Crabtree emphasizes that PBS North Carolina is not going anywhere and will not sacrifice its quality programming (national, local, and international), public safety commitments, or educational content. The goal is for viewers to see no changes in what they receive. Crabtree assures viewers that they will continue to see high-quality content produced by a dedicated team, and that donated funds will be managed responsibly.

3. Fundamental Business Model Change: The loss of federal funding is forcing a fundamental change in how PBS North Carolina does business.

4. Increased Fundraising Efforts: There will be an effort to raise funds to offset the loss, with Crabtree stating that everyone in the organization essentially works in development to convey the importance and relevance of their work. The station will be asking viewers and donors for continued and potentially different types of support, emphasizing that public media exists because the public supports it. They need investments from those who believe in their mission.

5. Serving All North Carolinians: A core part of their mission is to provide services for free to everyone in the state, including those who cannot afford to donate. Those who can afford to support help make it available for all.

Viewers are encouraged to visit pbsnc.org for more information and to reach out with questions or feedback. You can watch the full interview on YouTube.

Sports

Garner's First Champions: The Incredible, But Forgotten Story Of The Undefeated 1978 Women's Basketball Team

By Jordan Meadows
Staff Writer

In 1978, a team of young women from Garner, North Carolina, accomplished what no one in their school had ever done before.

Under the quiet but powerful leadership of Coach Lawrence L. Dunn, the Garner High School Women's Varsity Basketball Team went undefeated in the regular season, dominated the conference tournament, and captured the first state championship in the school's history—in any sport, men's or women's.

And yet, for decades, their story was largely forgotten.

Coach Dunn was not just a basketball coach; he was a builder of character, a father figure, and the heart of the 1978 championship team. A Raleigh native, Dunn had carved out a name for himself as a standout athlete at Berry O'KellyHigh School, averaging over 32 points per game and leading his team to a 2-A state title. His excellence carried into college, where he played at North Carolina A&T and helped secure a CIAA Conference Title in 1970.

After college and a stint in the U.S. Army, Dunn transitioned into coaching and took the helm of Garner's girls' basketball program. His impact was immediate.

"From our first practice, we could tell he knew the game. He knew basketball," Gail Pittman, member of the 1978 championship team, said about Dunn.

But it wasn't just strategy or skill that won over the team—it was his heart.

"Every one of us on the team, we all felt like he was a second father to us because of the way he cared about us. Things he would ask the athletic department to provide for us—shoes, warmups—and they turned it down," Pittman said. "They always turned down what he asked of them to provide us, so he paid for it out of his pocket."

Despite administrative disdain, Dunn went the extra mile to provide his players with dignity and pride. He bought new uniforms, organized music for warmups, and even choreographed their pre-game entrances—drawing on his own experiences as a college athlete.

"I got some music. That was Star Wars. They played music when they came out of the locker room. And I choreographed the routine they used," Dunn said.

The 1977–1978 season quickly turned into something special. Garner went undefeated in the regular season and won the conference tournament. By the time they reached an 8-0 record, the entire communal atmosphere had changed.

Crowds swelled. Excitement grew. People stood in the gym just to catch a glimpse of the team.

Dunn told The Carolinian that the boys' team eventually started playing before the girls, breaking tradition—because once the girls played, the crowd would leave.

"We got more attendance than the guys. So, what they did was, because when my girls would play, we had a big crowd. After we finished playing, everybody would leave. So, they switched and let us play last, and let the boys play first. That created some conflict," Dunn said.

The girls fed off the energy—but their motivation ran deeper than public attention.

"We wanted it, no doubt," Pittman

said. "As young ladies, we would love to win a state championship. But the words that came out of our mouths as we would talk to each other were, 'we want this for Coach Dunn.'"

Jealousy and tension followed their continued success. Some of it came from within the school—coaches, staff, and others who resented the girls' rise and Coach Dunn's leadership.

"Jealousy from other coaches, some of the staff in the front office of that school. Coach was very quiet about it, but at the end of the season, we learned about it. He told them he didn't want to burden them with the outside issues during the season because he wanted them to concentrate on the schedule," Pittman said. "It got so bad, the way some people at the school were treating him, that he finally did have to mention a little of it to us. It was nothing but jealousy. Nobody wanted to coach us that year, but Coach Dunn stepped up."

Still, they pushed on. With future stars like Teresa Brown (6'4"), playing at UNC-Chapel Hill 1981-1984, and Terra Boyd, one of the most decorated women's basketball players in the history of Barton College and an NAIA All-American, the team had the height, skill, and drive to win it all.

Before the championship, Dunn convinced the athletic department to allow the team to stay overnight in a hotel—a rare luxury for high school girls' teams at the time.

But like Dunn promised the Athletic Director at the time, the team came home champions. That championship status was elevated by the statistical perfection of a 26-0 season.

Despite receiving letters of congratulations from Governor Jim Hunt, the NC General Assembly, the News and Observer, and the Garner Chamber of Commerce, the celebration faded quickly.

Decades later, Pittman was invited to tour Garner High School's newly established Hall of Fame. She brought along Coach Dunn and several teammates.

What they found was painful.

Their trophy—the first state championship trophy in Garner history—was stuffed in the back of a display case, hidden behind other items. The championship net they'd draped on it was still there, but the trophy's figurine had broken off.

"It felt like somebody punched me in the stomach when I saw it," Pitman recalled. "First of all, it was the first championship Garner Senior High School had. Everything about that season was so special to us; it hurt when we saw that trophy sitting in the back of the case broken."

Coach Dunn was devastated.

"Seeing that trophy broken like that. That hurts," Pittman recalls him saying. He couldn't even eat dinner that night.

Yet what never faded was the bond between coach and team. To this day, the players, coaches, and managers share a group chat. They gather for meals, cheer each other on, and stay close to one another.

"It was just a magical, wonderful experience playing on that team. Seeing the way the town of Garner came together for us just added to it," Pittman exclaimed. "The memories we always reminisce over when we get together. Coach is such a smart man. He's the best!"

For Coach Dunn, the lack of recognition still stings. Since his retirement in 2001, he's rarely attended Garner athletic events.

"They recognized the girls one night at a football game. I went to that, but when I retired in 2001... I just haven't been," Dunn said quietly.

Still, his legacy endures. In addition to the girls' basketball title, Dunn coached the Garner baseball team to a state championship later that same year. He amassed accolades throughout his career: NCHSAA Hall of Fame inductee, Athens Drive High School Hall of Fame, Raleigh Metro Coach of the Year, and more.

His career record with the Garner Women's Varsity Basketball team? An astounding 41–5.

It took more than 40 years for the 1978 Garner Women's Basketball Team to receive proper consideration for the school'sHall of Fame.

Their trophy, once hidden and broken, is now a symbol of triumph—a testament to their unmatched accomplishment and the long delay in giving them the credit they deserved.

But through it all, they never let it define them. Because for the girls of '78, what mattered most was the family they formed, the coach who believed in them, and the legacy they refused to let be forgotten.

Members of the championship team includes: Caroline Austin, Fran Boyette, Teresa Brown, Karen Porter, Sharon Wright, Laurie Bailey, Tyra Boyd, Angela Johnson, Mary Murphy, Anita Phillips, Gail Pittman, Karen and Karla Roberson, LeAnne Young, and Gwen Evans.

Wallace Becomes First Black Driver To Win A Major Race On Indy's Oval

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Bubba Wallace climbed out of the No. 23 car Sunday, pumped his fists, found his family and savored every precious moment of a historic Brickyard 400 victory.

He deserved every minute of it.

The 31-year-old Wallace overcame a tenuous 18-minute rain delay, two tantalizing overtimes, fears about running out of fuel late and the hard-charging defending race champ, Kyle Larson, on back-to-back restarts to become the first Black driver to win a major race on Indianapolis Motor Speedway's 2.5-mile oval. No Black driver has won the Indianapolis 500, and Formula 1 raced on the track's road course.

"This one's really cool," Wallace said. "Coming off Turn 4, I knew I was going to get there — unless we ran out of gas. I was surprised I wasn't crying like a little baby."

His third career NASCAR Cup victory delivered Wallace's first victory in the series' four crown jewel events, the others being the Daytona 500, Coca-Cola 600 and Southern 500. It also snapped a 100-race winless streak that dated to 2022 at Kansas and locked up a playoff spot. His only other win came at Talladega in 2021.

The final gap was 0.222 seconds, but that was no measure of the consternation he faced.

Larson cut a 5.057-second deficit with 14 laps to go to about three seconds with six laps left as the yellow flag came out for the rain. The cars then rolled to a stop on pit lane with four laps remaining, forcing Wallace to think and rethink his restart strategy.

"The whole time I'm thinking are we going? Are we not?" he said. "I will say I leaned more towards 'I know we're going to go back racing. Be ready. Don't get complacent here."

He beat Larson through the second turn on the first restart only to have a crash behind him force a second overtime, forcing his crew to recalculate whether they had enough fuel to finish the race or whether he needed to surrender the lead and refuel.

In Wallace's mind, there was no choice.

"The first thing that went through my mind was, 'Here we go again,'" he said. "But then I said, `I want to win this straight up. I want to go back racing.' Here we are."

He beat Larson off the restart again and pulled away, preventing Larson from becoming the race's fourth back-to-back winner.

The victory also alleviated the frustration Wallace felt Saturday when he spent most of the qualifying session on the provisional pole only to see Chase Briscoe claim the No. 1 starting spot with one of the last runs in the session.

On Sunday, he made sure there was no repeat, providing an added boost to the 23XI Racing team co-owned by basketball Hall of Famer Michael Jordan and last week's race winner, Denny Hamlin, as it continues to battle NASCAR in court over its charter status.

"Those last 20 laps there were ups and downs and I was telling myself 'You won't be able to do it,'" Wallace said. "Once I'd seen it was Larson, I knew he won here last year and he's arguably the best in the field. So to beat the best, we had to be the best today."

The other big race — the In-Season Challenge — went to Ty Gibbs, who had a better car than Ty Dillon in qualifying and on race day. Gibbs finished 21st o win the inaugural March Madness-like single-elimination tournament and collect the $1 million prize.

Dillon, a surprise championship round entrant after making the field as the 32nd and final driver, finished 28th.

"They brought me money guns and they jammed so I decided to take all the money and throwing it to the fans and they were all wrestling and fighting over it," said Gibbs, who also received a title belt and a ring. "But it's super cool. It's a cool opportunity."

Tire troubles

At different points, Austin Cindric and three-time Cup champion Joey Logano appeared to be in control of the race, but tire problems took them out of contention. Eric Jones also was knocked out of the race when his right front tire came off between Turns 3 and 4, sending him hard into the outside wall on Lap 91.

They weren't the only drivers who made early exits.

Ross Chastain was the first out after just 18 laps when a tap from Michael McDowell sent Chastain's car spinning into the third turn wall and caused heavy damage.

The others who were out before Lap 100 were Austin Dillon, Ricky Stenhouse Jr. and Cody Ware.

Community

Southeast Raleigh Development Versus Residents Part 4

By Jordan Meadows
Staff Writer

Early Friday morning, a modest but resolute group of Southeast Raleigh and broader Triangle residents gathered outside a home on Barwell Road to protest a new road construction project they say is unfolding without transparency, community consent, or regard for civil and property rights.

The protest was led by Reverend Isiah Green, a prominent voice in the neighborhood who has been championing community concerns around the ongoing development and its repercussions.

"We didn't come to socialize. We came here for business; we come today to let the world know what's been going on in Raleigh, Wake County, and North Carolina," Rev. Green declared, opening the event with a forceful call for accountability.

Pastor Shirley Bryant of Sandford opened the protest with an invocation, followed by Rev. Green's speech, which wove together personal testimony, legal grievances, and powerful community appeals.

Green, who identified himself as the first Black Master Sergeant in North Carolina and the first to win an international award for service in law enforcement, claims to have sued the state of NC more than anyone ever.

"Here in Southeast Raleigh, there has been a lot of construction that's been going on for several years," Green said. "In the construction process, dynamite has been the use of dynamite. And the use of dynamite has done property damage, underground well water supplies have been disrupted, sewer systems and standing pine trees have been affected by the dynamiting."

The area at the heart of the growing controversy lies near Holiday Drive, Bowmont Grove Street, and Karsota Lane—streets not clearly reflected in any of the city's publicly accessible planning documentation for the project. According to residents, this absence is just one example of what they see as a broader pattern of neglect and exclusion by the City of Raleigh.

Rev. Green had invited Raleigh Mayor Janet Cowell and other city representatives to attend the event to clarify the city's position and address community concerns. No elected official or representative from the City of Raleigh appeared.

That absence, community members say, is indicative of a troubling disconnect.

"There's always an aftermath, especially to dynamiting," Green emphasized. "You don't always see the results after dynamiting takes place because it can extend further out. And damages can occur after they're done here and have moved on from the destruction of your property while they give you nothing."

What began nearly three years ago as property flagging and dynamite blasting for a proposed connector road—Primrose Bank—has escalated into claims of structural damage, environmental disruption, and deep concerns about safety and civil rights violations.

The new road is intended to connect Holiday Drive with Bowmont Grove Street. However, residents say they were never consulted or notified. Four families have filed formal complaints, and residents say communication from the city has been inconsistent at best and nonexistent at worst.

"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 has voiced fears over rising traffic, lack of safety buffers, and noise. "We didn't even get a letter. Nothing."

The family also issued a written complaint: "There does not appear to be plans to create substantial barriers between the street and our home," they wrote, noting fears of "potential vandalism, loitering, and increased traffic in a previously quiet area."

The two potential developers working under City guidance have each said they are not involved in any way in the construction efforts.

Dr. Ulysses Lane, chair of the Southeast Citizen Advisory Council, who attended a meeting related to a project on the other side of Rock Quarry Road, acknowledged the issue.

"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."

A key point of frustration for residents is the City's decision to allow Longleaf Law Partners—a private law firm—to oversee the community feedback process, rather than having city officials or developers directly engage with those impacted.

Adding to the tension, several area residents report real and costly damages from the blasts.

Gail Durham, who lives nearby on Barwell Road, described in a letter to the city how her private well and septic systems were impacted: "Our well water systems became muddy and unusable for days," she wrote. "A plumber had to pull and replace the water pump. These are not inexpensive fixes."

Mack Evans, a longtime homeowner, filed a formal complaint with U.S. Representative Deborah Ross, alleging that the city's use of dynamite without homeowner consent constitutes a "civil rights violation." Evans also raised concerns about voter suppression, though further details are pending. To date, residents say they have received no responses.

Rev. Green recently followed up with Rep. Ross and also sent a complaint to the U.S. Department of Justice. He told The Carolinian that he has received confirmation that his complaint is under review.

The Carolinian reviewed public records and city planning files. While documentation exists for a widening project on Barwell Road and an application for the Olde Towne Subdivision, there are no clear records involving the disputed areas around Holiday Drive, Bowmont Grove Street, or Karsota Lane.

For Green, the matter is not just about property lines and roadways—it's about fundamental civil rights. "I'm going to court to fight this particular development," Green said. As he closed out the protest, his message was sharp and unmistakable: "You say 'I'm sorry', I say 'I'm glad you admitted it.'"

With tensions rising and trust continuing to erode, Southeast Raleigh residents are calling for more than apologies. They want answers, accountability, and a seat at the table—before the next blast shakes their homes and their confidence, even further.

The Lumbee Tribe Of NC Sees Politics Snarl Recognition

(AP NEWS) Since the 1980s, the Lumbee Tribe has lobbied Congress to acknowledge it as a sovereign nation. There was renewed hope last year when both major party candidates in the presidential election promised to intervene on behalf of the Lumbee.

In his first week in office, President Donald Trump appeared to be making good on his endorsement. He issued an executive order directing the Interior Department to create a plan for federal recognition, a move Lumbee Chairman John Lowery called a "significant step forward." But several months later, it remains unclear if Trump will take further action.

The plan was submitted to the White House in April, according to the Interior Department. However, a White House official told The Associated Press last week that the Lumbee will have to achieve its goal through legislation — which the Interior Department also confirmed.

"We anticipate the tribe will work with Congress on a path forward to be formally recognized," Interior spokesperson Elizabeth Peace said in a statement.

Federal acknowledgement comes with a bevy of resources owed to tribal nations through treaty rights and acts of Congress, including health care through the Indian Health Service, access to certain federal grants, and the ability to create a land base such as reservations through the land-to-trust process.

Many of the 574 federally recognized tribes in the U.S. have been acknowledged through legislation. Dozens more have been recognized through the Office of Federal Acknowledgement, which determines if applicants have a documented history of political and social existence as a tribe.

Critics of the Lumbee Tribe, including several tribal nations, argue that it has not been able to prove its historic and genealogical claims and it should do so through the formal federal process. The tribe is recognized by the state of North Carolina.

"The gaps in the Lumbee's claims are staggering," said Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians Principal Chief Michell Hicks. He said the Lumbee have yet to show who they descend from and that recognizing them through legislation would open the door for fraudulent groups to gain federal acknowledgement. "Congress wouldn't be recognizing a tribe, it would be manufacturing one," he said.

Lowery argues that the Lumbee can prove who they descend from but that the application and vetting process through the Office of Federal Acknowledgement is too long and arduous and could take decades complete. He has been working closely with U.S. Sen. Thom Tillis of North Carolina to pass a bill that would federally recognize the Lumbee Tribe.

"For anyone, from any tribe, to somehow think that a tribe that receives federal recognition via legislation is somehow circumventing the process," Lowery said, "is being disingenuous."

The Lumbee Tribe applied for recognition in 1987. But Arlinda Locklear, a Lumbee attorney who has worked on the issue for decades, said staff at the Office of Federal Acknowledgement offered conflicting opinions because a 1956 congressional act acknowledged the Lumbee exist but denied them access to federal resources. She said they asked the office to issue a formal opinion regarding the 1956 bill. "If we're not eligible then tell us at the beginning so we can ask for it from Congress," she said.

The Office of Federal Acknowledgement determined the Lumbee Tribe was ineligible for recognition, but that decision was reversed in 2016 by Interior's Office of the Solicitor. Despite being allowed to reapply since 2016, both Locklear and Lowery said that process remains too lengthy and have opted instead to urge Congress to pass legislation.

That could prove difficult in the current climate, as Trump and Republicans lawmakers are slashing federal spending. In 2011, the Congressional Budget Office estimated that recognizing the Lumbee Tribe and providing the necessary federal resources would cost the U.S. more than $840 million in the first four years. A 2022 CBO estimate put that number at more than $360 million. This month, a Brookings Institution report found that the Trump administration's directive to freeze federal grants could disrupt $24 billion that go to tribes.

Tillis, the author of the bill, has also been the subject of the Trump's ire recently, after he voted against the president's tax bill in June. Trump threatened to campaign against him, and Tillis said he would not seek reelection. His bill, the Lumbee Fairness Act, was referred to the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs in January.

Sen. Lisa Murkowski of Alaska, who chairs the committee, said she will work with Tillis on the bill.

David Wilkins, a Lumbee author and professor at the University of Richmond, has advocated for federal recognition for decades. But, he said the Lumbee face opposition across Indian Country, and he's concerned that gaining it with Trump's endorsement will add to that.

"The way he's battering Indian Country with his cuts or with his layoffs," Wilkins said. "If we do slip through because Trump convinces his Secretary of Interior to either expedite the acknowledgement process or get Congress to find a move on the Lumbee bill and get it through, I worry about how that's going to be received in Indian Country."

Some NC Dems Break From Party To Pass GOP Priorities

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP) — North Carolina Republican lawmakers on Tuesday overrode several vetoes by Democratic Gov. Josh Stein, getting just enough votes from Stein's own party to enact some laws while falling short on others.

The votes were key tests for Republican General Assembly leaders since they narrowly lost their veto-proof majority following last fall's elections.

Both chambers enacted eight of 14 vetoed measures to further their conservative agenda, including laws that target transgender rights, allow firearms on private school property and eliminate an interim greenhouse gas reduction mandate.

The GOP is one seat shy in the House of overcoming vetoes at will. Lawmakers were able to convince anywhere from one to three House Democrats to override on some measures.

"It depends on what the issue is, but on most issues, we're going to have a working supermajority," House Speaker Destin Hall told reporters after session.

Democratic leaders managed to keep intact other vetoes issued by Stein, meaning GOP goals to let adults carry concealed handguns without a permit and eliminate DEI initiatives are derailed for now.

Republicans "didn't override them all. I mean, we might come back and override them if they have the numbers," Democratic Rep. Pricey Harrison said after Tuesday's session. "It's a heck of a way to do policy."

Possible Democratic victory on transgender bill ends in defeat

House Democrats weren't able to uphold the governor's veto on a bill targeting transgender people when one of their party members broke ranks.

The legislation initially ran as a bipartisan measure curbing sexual exploitation of women and minors on pornography websites. But several contentious provisions were tacked on later, such as recognizing only two sexes and preventing state-funded gender transition procedures for prisoners.

Freshman Democratic Rep. Dante Pittman voted for the measure in June but on Tuesday sided with Stein's veto instead. Another Democrat, Rep. Nasif Majeed, sided with Republicans to override Stein's veto.

"I had some moral issues about that and I had to lean on my values," Majeed told reporters of the bill after the vote.

DEI bills blocked for now

In one of their biggest victories, Democrats blocked three bills that would have restricted diversity, equity and inclusion programs across the state by staying unified in their opposition.

Two of the bills would bar certain "divisive concepts" and "discriminatory practices" related to race and identity in K-12 schools, public universities and community colleges. The third bill would ban state agencies from implementing diversity, equity and inclusion programs or utilizing DEI in hiring practices.

Hall told reporters he expects the chamber will overcome the remaining vetoes, such as the DEI bills, at some point.

"If people are out and the numbers are there, we're going to vote to override," Hall said.

Mixed results on guns and immigration

Republican lawmakers fervently prioritized legislation on guns and immigration this session, but in some cases, they couldn't complete that agenda Tuesday.

A vetoed bill allowing permitless concealed carry for eligible people over the age of 18 wasn't heard in the House. That bill already faced an uphill battle after two Republicans voted against it with Democrats last month.

House Republicans also failed to call a vote on vetoed legislation that would require several state law enforcement agencies to engage in the Trump administration's immigration crackdown by formally cooperating with federal agents.

Other legislation on guns and immigration followed the pathway to becoming law.

A bill that allows certain people to carry firearms onto private school property with administrative permission passed with support of a Democrat. Another Democrat's support also pushed through a separate immigration measure expanding the offenses that would require a local sheriff to check a detained person's legal status in the country.

Interim greenhouse gas mandate gets repealed

Enough Democrats joined Republicans in overriding Stein's veto of legislation that largely addressed activities of Duke Energy, the state's dominant electric utility.

The new law in part repeals a portion of a bipartisan 2021 law that told electric regulators to work toward reducing carbon dioxide output 70% from 2005 levels by 2030. A directive in the 2021 law to meet a carbon neutrality standard by 2050 is still in place.

Republicans said the 70% reduction mandate was unnecessary and if eliminated would moderate electricity rate increases required to meet the 2050 standard by allowing use of less expensive power sources.

Stein and environmental groups opposed the measure, saying that eliminating the 2030 standard and other provisions will result in higher consumer rates by having utilities rely more more on natural gas to generate electricity.

Crippled By Farm Land Loss —*CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2*

storing Black landownership is vital for economic justice. Additionally, North Carolina has joined a number of states in adopting the Uniform Partition of Heirs Property Act, a law that strengthens the property rights of family landowners and helps prevent unscrupulous developers from forcing Black families off ancestral land. And through Cooperative Extension programs at NC A&T State University (the state's prominent historically Black land-grant college), Black farmers are getting access to workshops on agribusiness, soil health, and marketing tailored to small-scale and minority farmers.

More must be done.

The nation needs to provide grants, loans, or land trust support for Black farmers to acquire or retain farmland. Efforts might include state-level restoration programs (like those proposed in NC and SC) and support for organizations like the Black Family Land Trust, which has helped Black landowners in the Southeast retain over 3,000 acres

valued at $12 million in just a five-year span. Protecting existing Black-owned land from forced sales (via heirs' property reform and legal aid) is equally vital.

Shifting wealth requires access to affordable credit, whether through dedicated USDA programs or community financial institutions. This could involve enforcing equity in USDA lending and fully funding programs for socially disadvantaged farmers. Flexible capital (micro-grants, low-interest loans) can help farmers invest in improvements and new ventures. Public-private partnerships could establish funds earmarked for minority farmers' infrastructure (such as irrigation systems, processing facilities).

We need education and technical assistance programs, market development, and policy and advocacy.

Each of these steps requires political will and yes - funding. But the cost of inaction is higher – it is the cost of allowing the racial wealth gap to persist or even widen. As a recent economic study noted, Black families are more than three times less likely to receive an inheritance than white families, and when they do inherit, it's typically only one-third the value of white inheritances. That disparity is not due to lack of effort or ability; it is the legacy of racist policies that denied Black Americans assets. Reinvesting in Black agriculture directly attacks that legacy by putting assets back into the hands of those who are most deserving of restoration and a renaissance.

CHANGE THE TYPE HOSTS 5TH ANNUAL BACK TO SCHOOL DRIVE TO SUPPORT LOCAL YOUTH AND WESTERN NC FAMILIES AFFECTED BY HURRICANE HELENE

Raleigh, N.C. — Change the Type, a Raleigh-based nonprofit will host its 5th Annual Back to School Drive on Friday, August 8, 2025, from 4:30–6:00 p.m. at Biltmore Hills Community Center (2615 Fitzgerald Dr, Raleigh, NC 27610). The event will provide free school supplies, haircuts, food, and other essentials to local students and families.

This year, our efforts reach even further—supporting students in Raleigh and families in Western North Carolina impacted by Hurricane Helene. With a goal to assist 150+ children and their families, Change the Type invites the community to help make a meaningful impact.

"We believe every child deserves to begin the school year prepared, confident, and seen," said Sydney Ross, founder and president of Change the Type. "This year's drive is especially important. We're proud to expand our reach and show up for communities that need it most."

Get Involved

- Volunteer: Help at the event by signing up via SignUpGenius: https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0548ADAE2BA1FAC34-57586218-change
- Donate Supplies: Ship school supplies to PO Box 392, Garner, NC 27529
- Give Financially:
- CashApp: $changethetype
- PayPal: paypal.me/changethetypedonates
- Spread the Word: Share our event info with your family, friends, and networks

Church

Remembering Mattie Lee Alexander Who Lived A Life of Love

By Ms Jheri Worldwide
Staff Writer

The community of Cary and beyond mourns the passing of Mattie Lee Alexander, a beloved mother, devoted community member, and dedicated professional who peacefully departed on July 20, 2025. Her life, marked by unwavering faith, family values, and a commitment to education, leaves a lasting legacy for all who knew her.

Born on March 16, 1951, in Tallulah, Louisiana, Mattie was the cherished daughter of West Alexander, Jr. and Rosie Peterson Bynum. From an early age, she exemplified a strong sense of community and family values, which were foundational throughout her life. Her spiritual journey was deep, having accepted Christ at an early age at St. Matthew AME Church, laying the foundation for a lifetime of faith.

Mattie's pursuit of knowledge was a defining characteristic of her life. She graduated from Richardson High School and later attended Southern University, earning a Bachelor of Science in Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology in 1973. Her dedication to academic excellence continued as she pledged Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. demonstrating her commitment to fostering educational opportunities for others.

Her professional career was equally distinguished. Mattie built a remarkable career marked by dedication and excellence, spending eight years with JC Penney Corporation before embarking on a thirty-three-year tenure as a business analyst with IBM. Her work at IBM was highly celebrated, earning her several management and executive positions and numerous awards before her retirement.

Beyond her professional achievements, Mattie was a faithful and devoted servant, deeply committed to her church community. She was a dedicated member of St. Paul United Methodist in Oxon Hill Maryland, for many years, where she served on the Usher Board and as a Sunday School teacher. Later, at Marietta Chapel AME Church in Marietta, Georgia, she continued her devoted service for over 25 years, serving on the Steward and Usher Boards, teaching Sunday School, and supporting various programs. Her efforts at Marietta Chapel also extended to establishing the Alexander/Bynum Family Scholarships in honor of her mother and brother, benefiting the graduating youth of Marietta Chapel.

Mattie found immense joy in the simple pleasures of life, especially in spending time with family, reading books, and cooking. Her culinary skills were legendary, a testament to her generous spirit and talent. Her cooking was truly described as "superpower," making people feel special.

To continue Mattie's legacy of supporting education and empowering future generations, donations can be made to The Southern University Scholarship Fund.

Practical Biblical Principles

HAVE YOU FOUND GRACE WITH GOD?
Read: Ephesians 1:3-11
By John L. Caldwell, Pastor
New Jerusalem Baptist Cathedral

We have read the story of Noah and how He had found grace with God. Considering the fact God regretted that He had made man. Yet, Noah and his family found grace in the eyes of God to be spared the destruction of the great flood.

I recently pointed out to you two points of grace God gave or allowed man prior to the great flood. First, was the 1500-year time-period God let go by before He even decided to destroy mankind. And the second point of grace was when He still gave man 120 years to repent while Noah and his sons were constructing the Ark. And they didn't. The reason being is they didn't think they had to. This is still true today. When we deny God, we then deny His grace which will never come to us. Instead let us follow the Hebrew teachings, "Let us learn to come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need (Hebrews 4:16).

Grace is God's unmerited love and favor toward the unworthy, which is all of us. His favor includes our salvation, forgiveness, and freedom from sin.

Question: How would you feel if you received a great gift from someone who really loves you, but for whatever reason you decided not to value this gift and you gave it away to whoever. Well, this is exactly what we have done with God's first gift to us (Genesis 1:28-29). Through our sins we gave the devil control over what God had given us. And to make a long story short, this is why Our Lord will have to soon return and take back what our sins have given away. God gave us favor when He put man in control of the entire world which He had just created.

In a similar fashion, God gave us the gift of a freewill and for many, they have decided to give it away to some dark temptation power in exchange for disobedience, worldly sin, and pleasure.

Grace is a two-way street. God gives and we receive. God does not force His grace upon anybody for any reason. For it is by grace we have been saved through faith, and that's not of yourselves, it is "the" gift from God, not of works, lest anyone should boast (Ephesians 2:8).

Paul tells us that it is by grace that he receives all of his revelation about grace from God due to God's favor toward him. And in return, he gives us the same message of grace he receives from God (Ephesians 3:2-3). The desire and spirit to give to the Lord comes upon us when one has experienced a full measure of God's grace. God gives so multiple blessings and gifts to those who know they are living under God's grace (Ephesians 9: 6-9).

One is living under God's grace, when one has totally surrendered one's life to God and recognize that they no longer wish to be in control of their lives for they have decided to give it to Jesus, now that one realizes Who paid for it. Yes, realizing we have literally nothing to offer God but our selves. It is often a great spiritual and ego challenge for some individual to give up control of their lives to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 6:20).

Have you ever given thought to the fact that God might not have had Noah to build the Ark just to save the animals? God's grace is not often seen in the fact as to why He allowed Noah 120 years to build the Ark. Had people repented during this time-period and sought God's grace, do you not think for a moment, that God would have had Noah to regroup, replan, and enlarge the Ark so as to accommodate those souls who repented and sought God's grace?

There are many reasons why the Church calls God's grace toward us, Amazing Grace. Do you know from your viewpoint, whether or not God has just shed His "grace" or "amazing grace" on you?

Ray Charles got it right, "America, America God done (already) shed His grace on thee!" What will our response be? Will it be seeking God's grace or will our lives end in disgrace.

Church, somewhere between the painted blood on the door posts in Egypt, the floating Ark, and the Precious Blood of Jesus which was shed on the Cross at Calvary, one is guaranteed to find God's favor and grace for one's weary and tired soul. This, of course can only happen when we give Jesus total control over our lives.

The Old church calls God's grace "the Old ship of Zion." It has landed a-many of thousands, So, get onboard! And in doing so, God's grace will cover you and bless your life.

Service Honors Durham's Pauli Murray

By Max Tendler
WUNC

In a dark time for a Black queer activist's legacy, a small Durham church filled with light.

Dozens crowded into St. Titus' Episcopal Church last Thursday (July 17) evening to honor the late Rev. Pauli Murray, a 20th-century civil rights activist raised in the city.

The celebration came amidst an uncertain time for Murray's legacy.

The federal government cut more than $300,000 of funding for the recently-opened Pauli Murray Center, and references to Murray's queerness and history have been censored or altogether erased on federal websites. However, Murray was also posthumously bestowed the Order of the Long Leaf Pine, one of North Carolina's highest awards.

The Rev. Racquel Gill, board member of the Pauli Murray Center, underlined the importance of telling Murray's story.

"Pauli's story is not just a Black story, it's not just a female story, but it is a deeply American story," she said. "One that shows both the honor and the degradation of our history and our past so that we can light a path for the future."

"Commemoration requires that we continue to act," she continued, encouraging attendees to support Murray's legacy by donating to the center. Gifts made until July 31 will be matched up to $30,000 by donors Susan and Michael Hersfield, she added.

A Beacon of Hope

At 6:30 p.m., the church was hot, overflowing with worshippers who fanned themselves with pamphlets or pride flags or "Black Votes Matter" signs as the service started up.

"We are on sacred ground," the Rev. Valerie J. Mayo, rector of St. Titus', began. "We are in a house of worship where Pauli theirself (sic) once worshiped as a child."

This month marked Titus' 16th annual commemoration of Murray — whom scholars posthumously refer to with they/them, she/her, and he/him pronouns — and the 13th anniversary of Murray's sainthood in the Episcopal Church.

"Services like these are very much a grounding presence and an anchoring practice," Jesse Huddleston, board chair of the Pauli Murray Center, said. "I remember that in July, we're going to gather and sing these hymns and hold hands and hug one another, and that does the heart good."

Attendees sang hymns like Lift Every Voice and Sing, listened to a drum concert and a choir composed of singers from across the city, and responded as one to a litany of thanksgiving.

"Jesus the teacher, who taught through both words and actions, thank you Pauli's love of learning and her strength to pass that learning on," the Rev. Lindsey Ardrey said. "Even in ways that challenged the sensibilities of those around her."

"In thanksgiving, we remember Pauli's work," the congregation replied.

'The Work Continues'

The Rev. Melanie Mullen, a guest speaker from the episcopal diocese of Washington, D.C., told stories from Murray's life, like how they organized a successful sit-in protest before "sit-in" was a term.

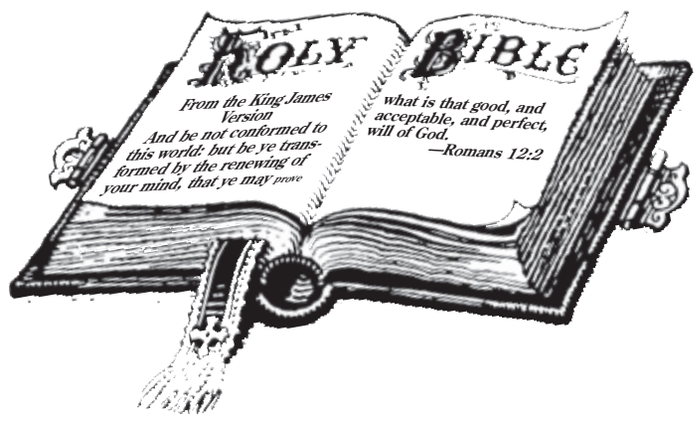
"Our sibling was baptized in fury," she said. "And there's very few Christians who can talk about being really angry all the time, but not have it be destructive." Today, she said, Murray's legacy is a reminder to act against the cruelty of ICE raids or Medicaid cuts.

As board chair Huddleston put it: "The work continues."

Making Her Debut

Young Ms. Tahlia sings for the first time for the Youth Community Choir's 2nd Anniversary.

SERMON of the WEEK



IT'S JUST A SET UP
Elder Demetrius Hunter

Genesis 50:20-21 – "But as for you, ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good, to bring to pass, as it is this day, to save much people alive. Now therefore fear ye not: I will nourish you, and your little ones. And he comforted them, and spake kindly unto them."

The truth is, change is something that we all have to learn to deal with. The most challenging change to deal with is one that is caused by things outside of your control. Change gets difficult when you start going through changes because of what somebody did to you. The change that comes as a result of things outside of your control is just as hard. Every living person on this earth had to deal with change in 2020. We had to change how we lived. This change was a difficult one. The things and people we lost during this change could have easily crushed some of us. But we made it. Here, we see Joseph, a victim of circumstances that kept his life in continual turmoil, and faced many changes beyond his control. He makes a remarkable statement concerning the events in his life that has become a mantra permeating the culture of the Christian movement. Joseph's understanding of the favor in his life is something that I believe we can all learn from. I want to highlight three key points from this statement.

1. God has a way: the Bible says that his ways are not our ways, and his thoughts are not our thoughts. Joseph was shown a sign from the end of his story, but was unaware of the journey he would take to get there. We often quote phrases like "I am more than a conqueror." But a few times, do we really understand what we have to conquer? God is the ultimate chess player. He sees the whole board. He has a way to pull out the victory even if some pieces have to fall. Faith is knowing that God has a plan, even though it may not make sense to us. Joseph believed the vision of him ruling over his brothers. But if you were to tell him he would be sold into slavery and then tossed in jail because of a lie, I'm not sure he would have been as excited about the vision. So, along this life's journey, we have to remember that when things happen, God has a way.

2. Don't let the fire go out: Through all that Joseph went through, he maintained his relationship with God. The greatest way we can do this is through praise. The Bible declares that He inhabits the praises of His people. While things around us change and things happen, we must do our best to stay consistent with our praise. See, praise invites God into the situation. My praise is a connection to God that I can control. I might not be able to control people hating on me. I can't control the results of the pandemic. I can't control cancer in my body. But I can control my praise. So don't let the fire go out. I know you have been through heartbreak, pain, and confusion. But praise him anyway.

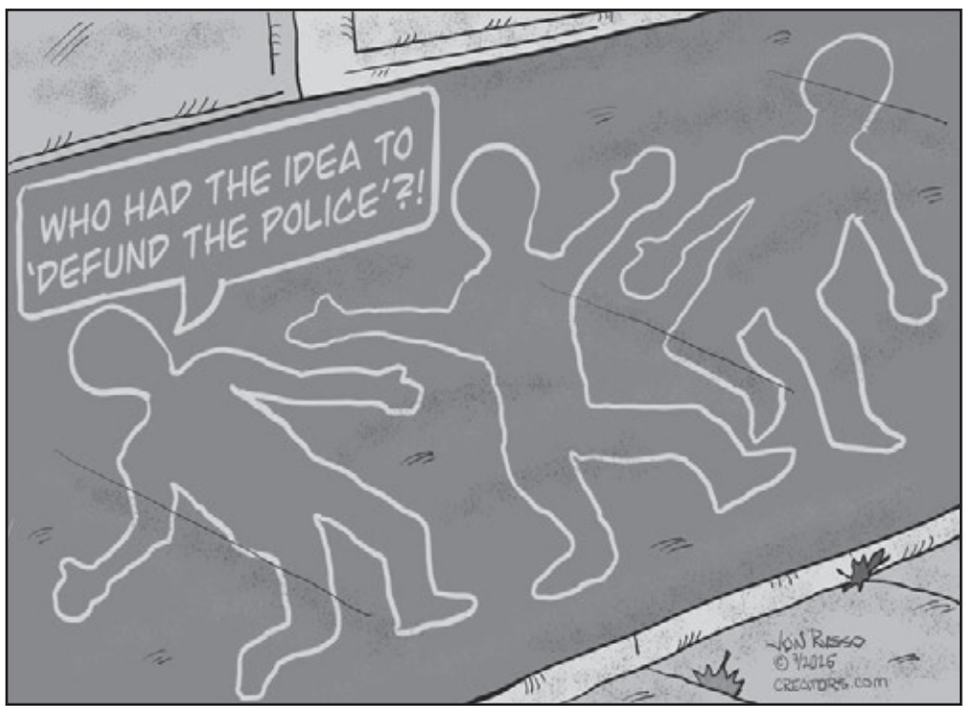
3. It was just a setup: Joseph's belief in the vision that God showed him enabled him to have a clear understanding of the things that he went through. His brothers feared what Joseph was going to do to them now that their father was gone. But Joseph, looking at every trial and every tribulation, recognized it was all a setup. While going through, we might not see the hand of God, but when I look where I'm at, I see the setup. That's why people don't understand how you are making it right now after you lose your loved one. After you lose your job. After they turned their back on you. You were supposed to be crazy. You were supposed to throw in the towel. But because you are here, it was just a setup. So, if you think I was anointed before, if you think I had praise before, you haven't seen anything yet. The way God set me up, I can now sing the song, "My worship is for real."

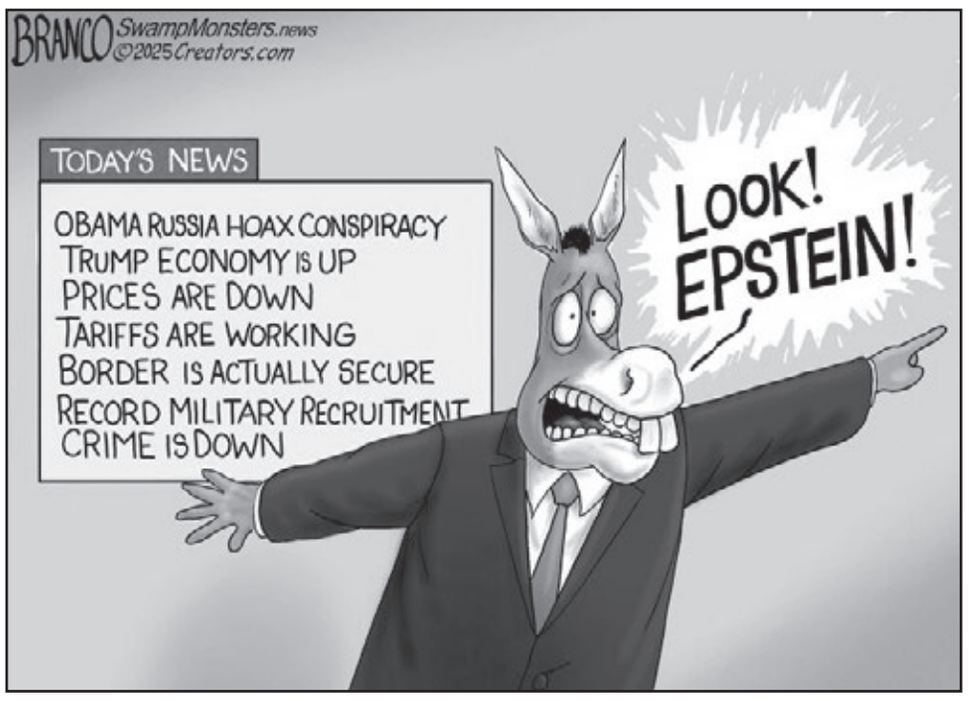
Please visit Lincoln Park's website at https://www.lincolnparkchurch.com/ for sermons and other information regarding our ministry and community service.

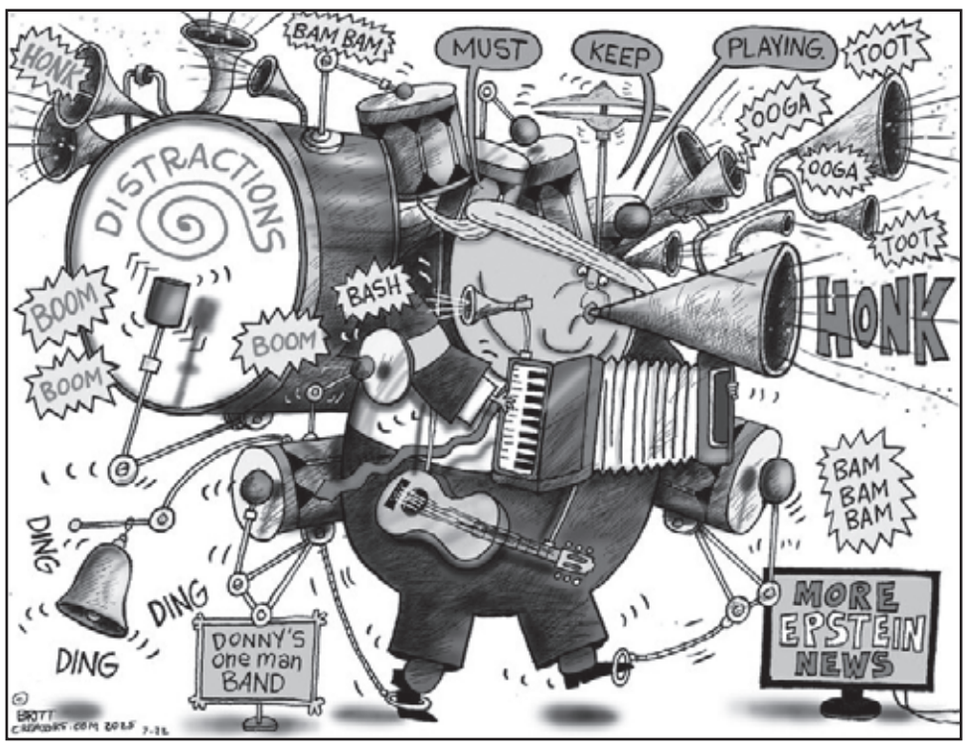
Editorial Policy

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

Editorials







Why Diversity, Equity And Inclusion Cannot Be Canceled

By Bonnie Jean Feldkamp

I first met Elise Carter at a public meeting in spring 2021. Elise sat with her colleague and friend Trinity Walsh in the auditorium of Highlands High School in Fort Thomas, Kentucky, where I had graduated in 1993. The community assembled to talk about a social equity course Elise and Trinity were slated to teach as a high school elective. Enough parents spoke out that night against the course that it was removed from the curriculum. Angry community members echoed legislative soundbites at the mic: They believed that social equity was code for indoctrinating children in critical race theory (CRT).

That's why when I learned that Elise was named the 2025 recipient of the Carter G. Woodson Memorial Award, I had to talk to her. The award is given to an individual whose activities in Black affairs significantly impact education and the achievement of equal opportunity. It is presented by the National Education Association in partnership with the Association for the Study of African-American Life and History.

Just because Elise and Trinity's social equity course was canceled and the political criticisms turned from CRT to DEI, didn't mean they gave up.

First, after that May meeting, "We cried a lot," Elise said. But the conversation soon became, "We can do this work outside of the school." Instead of fighting with parents who didn't see the value in a multicultural education, they decided to focus on the families "who know this work is important and knows that it needs to start younger," she said.

Elise and Trinity founded Northern Kentucky Inclusive Students In Education as a nonprofit educational initiative specializing in diversity, equity and inclusion for college and career readiness. Students participate on Saturdays for the whole year and it only costs $50. They go on field trips, learn history and hear from guest speakers with lived experience.

"I try to give them those histories that they're not taught in school," Elise said. These are histories that Elise has the credentials to teach but remain underutilized in public education. NISE starts the education with understanding intersectionality, because when you show students how someone they love may fit into a marginalized group, then everything they learn from there becomes more relatable.

From there, NISE dives into historical aspects. "I'm moving away from the MLK and Rosa Parks stories," she said. NISE focuses on the stories students have not heard — ones that are here and now or not so long ago. "John Lewis is one," Elise said; "A lot of kids don't know who John Lewis was," and he just died in 2020. NISE doesn't just teach Black history. It teaches Jewish history, LGBTQ+ history, Native American history and Latino history.

Elise's tenacity and persistence makes sure that children are educated in a way that prepares them to thrive in our diverse global society. It's why she has also received the Smith-Wilson Award for Civil and Human Rights in Education. It's why she was the 2024 Innovative Teacher Award Winner for Northern Kentucky, and why she was also named a 2024 Upstander Awards Finalist by The Nancy and David Wolf Holocaust and Humanity Center.

For Elise it's about "taking what God gave you as a gift, and using that to speak into spaces that may not always get the voices, the history, the knowledge, the representation or the courage to say, 'whoa, something's not right here,'" she said, stressing, "and that's what I do,"

NISE goes into the community with programming and volunteering opportunities for both kids and adults. That combination of classroom plus experiential education truly honors what it means to value diversity, equity and inclusion.

Elise does all of this while still teaching business and leadership courses at Highlands High School. When she was hired in 2012, she was the school's first Black teacher.

She keeps her nonprofit organization separate, but that doesn't mean that she isn't open with her students. "I tell them, if they're going to ask me a question, I'm going to give them an honest answer," she says. She's not afraid of hard conversations. She knows kids are curious and she also stresses to her students that "everybody doesn't have the same thought process as you or your family, and that's OK." True diversity makes room for all perspectives.

That's hard to remember when legislation is chipping away at anything related to diversity, equity and inclusion. The political sentiment these days is to cancel, not include. I asked Elise what kept her going after her social equity class was shut down. She said, "I'm a mother of a Black son, and so he is essentially my 'why'... and when your 'why' is someone who is marginalized, you can't just sit and hope that someone else is going to do it."

A Different Voice

By Dorothy Shaw Thompson

DECEPTION IS A MENTAL ILLNESS

I believe we live in a time when mental illness is running rampant. Dr. Frances Cress Welsing wrote about this in her book The Isis Papers. In her role as a psychiatrist in America, she examined racism through the lens of ego defense mechanisms and psychotic principles of diagnosis, ultimately identifying racism as a form of mental illness.

She labeled it as such long before the DSM did. Many questioned how America could elect the president we have now, but as one minister on Facebook put it plainly: only in America can a white man be videotaped with underage girls, be friends with a child sex trafficker, cheat on his wife with a porn star and pay her to keep quiet, publicly fantasize about having sex with his own daughters, be accused of sexually assaulting random women, be convicted of 34 felonies, face 91 criminal charges, have 26 sexual assault allegations, file for five bankruptcies, face two impeachments, be sued by the Department of Justice for racial discrimination, and be involved in a 25 million dollar fraud settlement and 400 million dollars in fraud debt, plus a 96 million dollar sexual assault judgment, and still be considered a good Christian by white evangelicals and elected President of the United States. - Bishop Talbert Swan

What he said about this isn't just opinion. It's a documented fact. To me, it's proof that too many have allowed racism to foster mental illness while still appearing sane. Unfortunately, this problem isn't limited to evangelical Christians. It includes liberal whites and Black conservatives too. People across the political spectrum have been misled. It seems simple enough. Racism is a man-made system of thought that exposes the ignorance and miseducation in our churches, schools, and families. I'll give you just a few examples from my own life.

Back in the 1970s, I learned that a counselor at a school where I worked was advising Black students not to attend Shaw or Saint Augustine's if they couldn't get into UNC, NC State, Meredith, or similar schools. She told them to just skip college altogether and get any job. When I brought it up to some of my coworkers, including a Black assistant principal, they told me to leave it alone. Bless their hearts, they clearly didn't know who they were talking to.

When I confronted the counselor, she thought I was naive. She couldn't believe I was calling her out. I suggested she take a poll of the Black staff at our school and ask where they had gone to college. She refused and chose instead to cling to her racist beliefs.

When my second son chose to attend A&T, he was told the same things. A coworker at the mental health center where I worked asked me why my son hadn't chosen a predominantly white school. I asked him if he had ever compared the graduation rates and job security for Black students at UNC schools versus historically Black colleges. He admitted he hadn't and chose not to look into it. In other words, he chose to keep his racism.

Another time, a coworker asked me if my private clients were Black or white. I said both, and asked why she wanted to know. She said, "Well, everybody knows Black people can't be counseled." This was someone who constantly came to me for help with her clients and often told me I was one of the best counselors she knew.

So I asked her how she could hold such contradictory thoughts in her mind. She said, "Well, you're different." Frankly, that's insulting, and it's also a mentally ill way of thinking.

I could give you many more examples. So many, in fact, that I wonder: if this is how the so-called "good whites" think, how can we expect better from the MAGA crowd or the proudly racist?

Sadly, we hear this from miseducated Black folks too. It's preached from pulpits, written by intellectuals and politicians, and especially by Black conservative authors. What was Bill Cosby using, other than his own self-denial and self-hatred, when he gave that commencement speech at Howard—a speech that so many Black people agreed with and still quote? (Thank you, Michael Eric Dyson, for writing a whole book in response to that speech.)

Recently, a young Black teenage boy asked me as we drove through Southeast Raleigh, "Is all this Southeast Raleigh?" I said yes, and asked why. He replied, "Because I don't like Southeast Raleigh." When I asked why, he simply said, "I just don't."

Another youth, a client of mine who was having major issues in school, told me during a session, "This is the first time I've ever been to the ghetto." Wow.

Some people even blame Black folks for racism in America. I'm talking now about Black people. An administrator in a large school district once told me he was embarrassed when Black people came in to apply for jobs. This is the kind of insanity that's in the air in America, polluting the minds of otherwise capable, common-sense people.

Donald Trump says Black history causes division in America. But it's deception that causes division. Lies cause division. The lack of truth about how deeply embedded racism is in our society is what causes division. And he wants that division to continue. That's why he wants to shut down Black history museums.

He doesn't want people to know that the everyday items Americans use, items that make life easier, were invented by the very people they claim are lazy and ignorant. They don't know the shoes on their feet, the ironing boards they use, the Ferris wheels they ride, and even the vanilla ice cream they eat come from Black ingenuity.

They don't know that without Black inventors, they wouldn't have stoplights, working car brakes, elevators, or air conditioning. They would likely be injured or exhausted.

They don't realize that without Black innovation, like remote controls, food processing, GPS, and more, they would be lost in their cities or stuck flipping channels by hand. All of this insanity is fueled by lies, by people who want us mentally ill and deceived. Because once our minds are healthy, our bodies will move in the right direction. We won't continue walking around like the living dead, doing whatever crazy thing we're told.

This is the America we've created. One that, despite its Constitution and promises of democracy, has not yet allowed the truth to set us free.

Guest Columnist

Armstrong Williams

THE ROTTEN CORE OF A MANUFACTURED SCANDAL

Did former President Barack Obama play a role in the fabrication of the Russia collusion narrative? According to National Intelligence Director Tulsi Gabbard — once a rising star within the Democratic Party and now a gadfly for political truth — the answer is unequivocally yes. More than that, Gabbard suggests the Obama administration orchestrated a "treasonous conspiracy" in 2016, one that weaponized the intelligence community and buried exculpatory findings that contradicted their desired political outcome.

Let us not pretend this charge is light. A "treasonous conspiracy" suggests not merely malfeasance but a betrayal of the public trust at the highest levels of government. If these allegations are true — and the declassified documents and testimonies increasingly suggest they are — then we are dealing with one of the most corrosive abuses of power in American history. And yet, predictably, the usual suspects in the Democratic Party and their allies in corporate media have denounced these revelations not with evidence but with noise.

Men like Sen. Adam Schiff, the architect and chief propagandist of the Russia hoax, have long enjoyed the luxury of consequence-free deception. Schiff assured the nation, repeatedly and confidently, that he had "direct evidence" of collusion between President Donald Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin's government. No such evidence ever materialized. None. Instead, what we received was a yearslong investigation — one that disrupted a presidency, undermined international credibility and cost the American taxpayers tens of millions of dollars — only to conclude there was no collusion.

The Mueller report confirmed it. The Durham investigation exposed the rot. Yet the architects of the lie remain untouched, their reputations defended by a press that long ago abandoned its role as watchdog in favor of partisan priesthood.

What Gabbard alleges, however, takes this abuse of power a step further. According to her review of intelligence findings — now echoed by former National Intelligence Director John Ratcliffe — the original assessments from our intelligence community clearly stated that Russia's efforts had no material effect on the outcome of the 2016 election. In other words, while Russia may have engaged in cybermeddling and online influence operations (as every major power does), it had no decisive impact on voting outcomes. That should have been the headline. Instead, it was buried.

Why? Because truth was inconvenient to power. Because the narrative of Russian interference served a political end: to delegitimize Trump's presidency before it even began. What followed was not a sober investigation into foreign threats but a coordinated disinformation campaign by our own intelligence apparatus at the urging of political elites. It was, as the late Justice Antonin Scalia might have argued, an affront not merely to the legal process but to the very idea of republican government.

In Morrison v. Olson, Scalia famously dissented alone, warning against the creation of a fourth branch of government — unaccountable bureaucracies with the power to influence political outcomes. "A government of laws, and not of men," he wrote, means that our rulers are bound by the law, just as the governed are. Yet here we are, in 2025, looking back at a moment when our rulers were the law — when intelligence agencies were pressured into revising their own conclusions to align with political imperatives.

This is not a conspiracy theory. This is the documented history of the modern American state. It is what happens when ideology becomes the lens through which evidence is interpreted, and when political expediency outweighs constitutional restraint.

And now, with Trump back in the White House, the fear among Democrats is palpable. Not because of what Trump might do in the future but because of what he might uncover from the past. This is the nightmare scenario for the Left — not a second Trump term but a reckoning with the truth. The emails, the memos, the redacted reports — they may not remain buried for much longer.

Gabbard is right to call it treasonous. Whether that charge meets the legal standard or not is almost beside the point. What matters is that Americans were lied to by their own government — systematically, persistently and with great sophistication. As Thomas Sowell has often warned, "It is hard to imagine a more ... dangerous way of making decisions than by putting those decisions in the hands of people who pay no price for being wrong."

The question now is whether anyone will be held accountable. Or whether, once again, we will look the other way while the powerful write a different version of history — one where the truth is not merely inconvenient but disposable.

Classifieds

CUMBERLAND COUNTY

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
CUMBERLAND COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File Number 25E001051-250
THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 7th day of July 2025, as ADMINISTRATOR of the Estate of LOUIS ENRIQUE RIVERA, Deceased, of Cumberland 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 24th day of October, 2025 or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said Estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned.
This, the 24th day of July 2025.
Miriam Rivera, Administrator
5305 Trampas Court
Fayetteville, NC 28303
7/24, 7/31, 8/7, and 8/14/2025

DURHAM COUNTY

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File Number 25E000886-310
THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 23rd day of July 2025, as EXECUTOR of the Estate of ELIZABETH L. LACY, 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 31st day of October, 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 31st day of July 2025.
Gail K. Lacy, Executor
c/o Law Office of Anne Page Watson PLLC
3400 Croasdaile Drive, Suite 205
Durham, NC 27705
7/31, 8/7, 8/14, and 8/21/2025
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File Number 25E000914-310
THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 24th day of July 2025, as ADMINISTRATOR of the Estate of JASON CABOT CALDWELL, 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 31st day of October, 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 31st day of July 2025.
Susan D. Caldwell, Administrator
c/o Law Office of Anne Page Watson PLLC
3400 Croasdaile Drive, Suite 205
Durham, NC 27705
7/31, 8/7, 8/14, and 8/21/2025
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File Number 25E000961-310
THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 24th day of July 2025, as EXECUTOR of the Estate of ALFRED COREY O'BRIEN, 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 31st day of October, 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 31st day of July 2025.
Jennifer Anne Zinn O'Brien
3212 Sherbon Drive
Durham, NC 27707
7/31, 8/7, 8/14, and 8/21/2025
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File Number 23E000800-310
THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 16th day of June 2023, as ADMINISTRATOR of the Estate of AINZARGUL TOTAKHIL, 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 31st day of October, 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 31st day of July 2025.
Taj Bibi Ahmadzai, Administrator
1101 Rose Garden Lane
Durham, NC 27707
7/31, 8/7, 8/14, and 8/21/2025
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File Number 25E000910-310
THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 8th day of July 2025, as EXECUTOR of the Estate of DIANE COOPER COVINGTON, 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 31st day of October, 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 31st day of July 2025.
Delilah Cooper Moore, Executor
629 Yorkshire Drive
Cameron, NC 28326
7/31, 8/7, 8/14, and 8/21/2025
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File Number 25E000899-310
THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 12th day of June 2025, as ADMINISTRATOR of the Estate of WALTER JERRY LEWIS ROYAL, 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 31st day of October, 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 31st day of July 2025.
Robert Stephan Monks
Attorney For Walter Lacey, Administrator
6613 Speight Circle
Raleigh, NC 27616
7/31, 8/7, 8/14, and 8/21/2025
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File Number 25E000792-310
THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 12th day of June 2025, as EXECUTOR of the Estate of WILLIS EDWINA PAGE, 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 31st day of October, 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 31st day of July 2025.
Sharon D. Beard, Executor
1903 Pear Tree Lane
Durham, NC 27703
7/31, 8/7, 8/14, and 8/21/2025
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File Number 25E000792-310
THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 12th day of June 2025, as EXECUTOR of the Estate of ANNIE LOUISE ATKINS, 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 24th day of October, 2025 or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said Estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned.
This, the 24th day of July 2025.
Michelle Jeanette Liles
Administrator
810 Duke St., Apt 2
Durham, NC 27701
7/24, 7/31, 8/7, and 8/14/2025
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File Number 25E000377-310
THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 3rd day of April 2025, as ADMINISTRATOR of the Estate of ANNIS F. WILLIAMSON, 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 24th day of October, 2025 or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said Estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned.
This, the 24th day of July 2025.
Lisa Williamson, Administrator
407 Weatherly Drive
Durham, NC 27703
7/24, 7/31, 8/7, and 8/14/2025
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File Number 25E000932-310
THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 17th day of July 2025, as ADMINISTRATOR of the Estate of KENNETH DAVIS, 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 24th day of October, 2025 or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said Estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned.
This, the 24th day of July 2025.
Ronald Davis, Administrator
428 Walton St.
Durham, NC 27703
7/24, 7/31, 8/7, and 8/14/2025
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File Number 25E000916-310
THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 14th day of July 2025, as EXECUTOR of the Estate of ELSA AMANDA SCHERER, 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 24th day of October, 2025 or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said Estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned.
This, the 24th day of July 2025.
Gabriela J. Matthews, Executor
4 Sawmill Lane
Durham, NC 27712
7/24, 7/31, 8/7, and 8/14/2025
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File Number 25E000934-310
THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 17th day of July 2025, as EXECUTOR of the Estate of MARCENE BIVINS BYRD A/K/A LOLA MARCENE BYRD A/K/A LOLA BIVINS BYRD, 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 24th day of October, 2025 or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said Estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned.
This, the 24th day of July 2025.
John E. Byrd, Jr., Executor
1200 Byrds Views Lane
Hillsborough, NC 27278
7/24, 7/31, 8/7, and 8/14/2025
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File Number 25E000867-310
THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 30th day of June 2025, as EXECUTOR of the Estate of EDITH MOORE OTTAWAY, 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 24th day of October, 2025 or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said Estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned.
This, the 24th day of July 2025.
Barry M. Ottaway, Executor
3021 Redwood Rd.
Durham, NC 27704
7/24, 7/31, 8/7, and 8/14/2025
NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION
NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF DURHAM
In the General Court of Justice
District Court Division
File No: 24CVD000121-310
[CHILD CUSTODY PROCEEDING]
OFELIA LANDIN,
Plaintiff
v.
ESEQUIEL TREVINO,
Defendant.
To Esequiel Trevino, the above-named defendant:
TAKE NOTICE that a pleading seeking relief against you has been filed in the above-entitled action. The nature of the relief being sought is as follows: that permanent sole legal and physical custody of the minor child Daniela Landin, born September 18, 2012 be granted to Ofelia Landin.
You are required to make defense to such pleading not later than August 26, 2025, said date being forty (40) days from the first publication of this notice, and upon your failure to do so the party seeking service against you will apply to the court for the relief sought.
This, the 17 day of July, 2025
Kayla Chargois, JusticeMatters, Inc. Attorney for the Plaintiff
P.O. Box 199 Durham, NC 27701
(919) 794-7511
7/17, 7/24, and 7/31/2025

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File Number 25E000793-310
THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 12th day of June 2025, as EXECUTOR of the Estate of EDNA GOOCH PARRISH, 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 15th day of October, 2025 or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said Estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned.
This, the 17th day of July 2025.
Debra Parrish Kearns, Executor
1528 Palmers Grove Church Rd.
Hillsborough, NC 27278
7/17, 7/24, 7/31, and 8/7/2025
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
File Number 25E000890-310
ALL PERSONS, firms and corporations having claims against Musia G. Lakin aka Musia Gingold Lakin, deceased, of Durham County, N.C., are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before 10-17-2025, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This 7-17-2025.
Lori M. Bernstein, Executor of the Estate of Musia G. Lakin aka Musia Gingold Lakin
2726 Croasdaile Dr. Suite 202
Durham, North Carolina 27705
7/17, 7/24, 7/31, and 8/7/2025
NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION
NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF DURHAM
In the General Court of Justice
District Court Division
File No: 25CV004072-310
[CHILD CUSTODY PROCEEDING]
ALMONIE ALSTON,
Plaintiff
v.
UNKNOWN FATHER,
Defendant.
To Unknown Father of a female child born to Mortier Shenee Watson on October 26, 2010, in Durham, Durham County, North Carolina:
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: that permanent sole legal and physical custody of the minor child Bre'Nyah Di'Shae Earls, born October 26, 2010 be granted to Almonie Alston.
You are required to make defense to such pleading not later than August 26, 2025, said date being forty (40) days from the first publication of this notice, and upon your failure to do so the party seeking service against you will apply to the court for the relief sought.
This, the 17 day of July, 2025
Kayla Chargois, JusticeMatters, Inc. Attorney for the Plaintiff
P.O. Box 199 Durham, NC 27701
(919) 794-7511
7/17, 7/24, and 7/31/2025
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
File Number 25E000812-310
All persons, firms, and corporations having claims against Marcia Elizabeth Seume Hanson, deceased, late of Durham County, NC, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 13th day of October, 2025, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment.
This the 10th day of July, 2025.
Jennifer Cate, Co-Executor
Scott Davis, Co-Executor
c/o Hemphill Gelder, PC
PO Box 97035
Raleigh, NC 27624-7035
7/10, 7/17, 7/24, and 7/31/2025
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File Number 25E000817-310
THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 1st day of July 2025, as EXECUTOR of the Estate of MARYANN ROHRER A/K/A MARY A. GALLIGAN, Deceased, of Durham County, North Carolina, does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said Estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 10th day of October, 2025 or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said Estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned.
This, the 10th day of July 2025.
Walter Scott Rohrer, Executor
c/o Marion Law Office, PLLC
2741 University Drive
Durham, NC 27707
7/10, 7/17, 7/24, and 7/31/2025
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File Number 25E000460-310
THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 8th day of May 2025, as ADMINISTRATOR of the Estate of MAUDE SPEAKMAN, Deceased, of Durham County, North Carolina, does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said Estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 10th day of October, 2025 or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said Estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned.
This, the 10th day of July 2025.
Todd Speakman, Administrator
5308 Silkwood Drive
Durham, NC 27713
7/10, 7/17, 7/24, and 7/31/2025
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File Number 25E000868-310
THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 30th day of June 2025, as EXECUTOR of the Estate of BETTY S MOORE A/K/A BETTY STRAYHORN MOORE, Deceased, of Durham County, North Carolina, does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said Estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 10th day of October, 2025 or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said Estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned.
This, the 10th day of July 2025.
Sherry L. Strayhorn a/k/a Sherry Lewis Strayhorn, Executor
4004 Capul Drive
Durham, NC 27703
7/10, 7/17, 7/24, and 7/31/2025
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Having qualified before the Clerk of Superior Court of Durham County as Public Administrator of the Estate of FELTON R. ADAMS, this is to notify all persons, firms, and corporations having claims against the Estate to send them, duly itemized and verified, to P.O. Box 51429, Durham, NC 27717, on or before the 10th of October, 2025 (three months after the date of this Notice) or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery.
All persons, firms and corporations indebted to the Estate are requested to make prompt settlement with the undersigned.
This the 10th day of July, 2025.
Robert E. Levin
Public Administrator of the Estate of Felton R. Adams, Deceased P.O. Box 51429
Durham, NC 27717
7/10, 7/17, 7/24, and 7/31/2025

HOKE COUNTY

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
HOKE COUNTY
NOTICE OF SERVICE BY PUBLICATION
FILE No. 25 JA 33
IN RE: D. DOCTOR, a minor child
TO: The Respondent Father Shamond Reid of D. Doctor, born May 15, 2025. Take notice that a Petition has been filed by the Hoke County Department of Social Services for the purpose of alleging dependency concerning the above-named child. You must prepare and file with the Clerk of Court of Hoke County a written answer to the Petition within forty (40) days of the first date of publication of this notice. You must also serve a copy of the answer on the Petitioner's attorney (address below). If you fail to file an answer; may result in the court making a finding of dependency and entering orders affecting your parental rights. The Petitioner will apply to the court for the relief demanded in the Petition. You are entitled to attend any hearing affecting your parental rights, including those related to allegations of dependency. If you are indigent, and not already represented by counsel, you are entitled to appointed counsel in this matter, and may contact the Clerk of Court of Hoke County in order to request that counsel be appointed to you. You are advised to IMMEDIATELY contact the Clerk of Court of Hoke County, at (910) 878-4109, to obtain further information about this case, including a copy of the pleading filed herein, the date(s) and times) of scheduled hearings.
First published this the 31st day of July, 2025.
Aaliyah J. Russell, Esq.
The Charleston Group Lawyers
Attorney for the Petitioner
Hoke County Department of Social Services
Post Office Box 1762
Fayetteville, N.C. 28302
Telephone: (910) 485-2500
State Bar No. 57350
7/31, 8/7, and 8/14/2025

WAKE COUNTY

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
WAKE COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File Number 25E002451-910
THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 22nd day of July 2025, as EXECUTOR of the Estate of ARTHUR MARVIN BLUM A/K/A ARTHUR M. BLUM A/K/A ART BLUM, Deceased, of Wake County, North Carolina, does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said Estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 31st day of October, 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 31st day of July 2025.
Laurie Glodowski, Executor
1708 Burnley Dr.
Cary, NC 27511
7/31, 8/7, 8/14, and 8/21/2025
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
WAKE COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File Number 25E002859-910
THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 21st day of July 2025, as EXECUTOR of the Estate of KAY FRANCES LUCAS A/K/A KAY FRANCES, Deceased, of Wake County, North Carolina, does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said Estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 31st day of October, 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.

Classifieds

This, the 31st day of July 2025.
Chrystal Lucas, Executor
918 Fir Ridge Rd.
Garner, NC 27529
7/24, 7/31, 8/7, and 8/14/2025
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
WAKE COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice, Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File Number 25E002382-910

THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 7th day of July 2025, as ADMINISTRATOR of the Estate of HOWARD DOUGLASS MARTIN, Deceased, of Wake County, North Carolina, does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said Estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 24th day of October, 2025 or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said Estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This, the 24th day of July 2025.
Dolores Simpson Martin, Executor
616 Oakbrook Pass Way
Fuquay Varina, NC 27526
7/24, 7/31, 8/7, and 8/14/2025
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
WAKE COUNTY
NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION
File No. 24CV021463-910
THERESE MCCULLERS, PLAINTIFF VS. CHARLENE DOUGLAS, DEFENDANT

TO DEFENDANT: TAKE NOTICE that a pleading seeking relief against you has been filed in the above-entitled action, by the Plaintiff herein, the nature which is as follows: COMPLAINT FOR ABSOLUTE DIVORCE. You are required by law to appear and make defense to such pleading no later than 30 days after the first publication of this notice. If you fail to do so, Plaintiff will seek the relief sought herein, and a Judgment for Absolute Divorce may be entered.

This, the 24th day of July, 2025.
Charlene Douglas, Plaintiff
7903 Holly Lea Ct. Apt. D
Tampa, FL 33614
7/24, 7/31, and 8/7/2025
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
WAKE COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice, Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File Number 25E000203-910

THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 4th day of June 2025, as ADMINISTRATOR of the Estate of EARNEST WESLEY JORDAN, Deceased, of Wake County, North Carolina, does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said Estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 15th day of October, 2025 or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said Estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This, the 17th day of July 2025.
Jennifer Mangum Jordan
Administrator
609 Berry Chase Way
Cary, NC 27519
7/17, 7/24, 7/31, and 8/7/2025
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
WAKE COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Having qualified as Administrator of the Estate of SANDY MARIE JOHNSON (25E002230-910), late of Wake County, NC, the undersigned does hereby notify all persons,. firms, and corporations having claims against the estate of said decedent to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 17th day of October, 2025 or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. All persons, firms, and corporations indebted to the said estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This the 13th day of July, 2025.
Dorothy L. Little, Administrator
36 Mitchell Manor Drive
Angier NC 27501
9192759415
7/17, 7/24, 7/31, and 8/7/2025
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
WAKE COUNTY
NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION
In the General Court of Justice, District Court Division
File No. #24CV040271-910

[ABSOLUTE DIVORCE & CHILD CUSTODY PROCEEDING] BIANEY GARCIA ESPINOZA, Plaintiff v. CARLOS MORENO SANTIAGO, Defendant, father of C.J.M.G born 12/14/07 and E.N.M.G born 10/27/10 to Plaintiff.

TAKE NOTICE that a pleading seeking relief against you has been filed in the above-entitled action. The relief sought is an award of absolute divorce and legal custody of the children to Plaintiff. You are required to make defense with the Wake County Clerk of Court no later than 8/27/25. Upon your failure to do so, Plaintiff will apply to the Court for the relief sought. Katherine Moye, Attorney for Plaintiff, P.O. Box 58058, Raleigh, NC, 27658, 919-794-7511. The Carolinian 7/17, 7/24, 7/31.
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
WAKE COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice, Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File Number 22E000184-910

THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 19th day of June 2025, as Administrator of the Estate of ROSEMARIE MADISON, Deceased, of Wake County, North Carolina, does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said Estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 10th day of October, 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 3rd day of July 2025.
ERIKA SMITH, Administrator
40458 Village Wood Road
Novi MI 48375
7/10, 7/17, 7/24, and 7/31/2025
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
WAKE COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice, Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File Number 25E000203-910

THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 4th day of June 2025, as ADMINISTRATOR of the Estate of EARNEST WESLEY JORDAN, Deceased, of Wake County, North Carolina, does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said Estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 10th day of October, 2025 or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said Estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This, the 10th day of July 2025.
Jennifer Mangum Jordan
Administrator
609 Berry Chase Way
Cary, NC 27519
7/10, 7/17, 7/24, and 7/31/2025

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 **Southeast Service Area Wastewater Improvements – Phase 1B – Pump Stations** project for **Onslow Water and Sewer Authority** until **August 8, 2025, at 5:00 PM.** Plans and specifications for this project are available at: T. A. Loving Company; 400 Patetown Road; Goldsboro, NC 27530.

Potential subcontracting opportunities include electrical. Please contact **Ethan Houston (ehouston@taloving.com)** if you are interested in submitting a proposal for the electrical work on this project. Contact via phone 919-709-9677; fax: 919-736-2148; or email. All quotations will be accepted up to the due date/time listed above. 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 due date/time.

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 **Flow Meter Installation** project for the **City of Goldsboro** which bids on **August 5, 2025, at 2:00 PM.** Plans and specifications for this project are available at the following locations: T. A. Loving Company; 400 Patetown Road; Goldsboro, NC 27530 * City of Goldsboro, City Engineer; 200 North Center Street; Goldsboro, NC 27530 * City of Goldsboro website.

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

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

WANTED WBE, MBE & DBE BIDS

for the following job:

NCDOT Division 4 Letting

DD00477	Johnston Co.	Bid Date: August 12th
DD00500	Nash Co.	Bid Date: August 12th
DD00502	Johnston Co.	Bid Date: August 12th

NCDOT Division 5 Letting

DE00393	Wake Co.	Bid Date: August 13th

NCDOT Central Letting

C204832	Halifax/Nash Co.	Bid Date: August 19th

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

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

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

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

ATTENTION: MBE's & WBE's

BID REQUEST-BARNHILL CONTRACTING COMPANY

Attention MBEs, WBEs, HUBs-Barnhill Contracting Company is requesting bids from any interested firms for the following project: **NCDOT Contract: #DA00625 Bertie & Martin County – Milling, Resurfacing, Shoulder Reconstruction & Pavement Markings on Primary & Secondary Roads in Bertie & Martin County.** Pre-Bid Meeting is on Thursday, August 7th, 2025 at 10:00 AM. This meeting will be held virtually utilizing conference call and online meeting tools. Please contact Jimmy Spivey at the number below for meeting details. This project bids on August 20th, 2025 and includes opportunities on, but not limited to **Hauling, Traffic Control, Erosion Control, Milling, Minor Drainage Structures, Adjustments Valve/Meter Boxes, Concrete Curb & Gutter, Pavement Markings & Pavement Markers.** Bids are due to James Spivey no later than 12:00 P.M. on Tuesday August 19th, 2025.

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

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

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

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

BUYING CASSETTE TAPES

Paying cash and buying old Rap music cassette tapes and used blank cassette tapes. Call Marvin 919-268-7476.

SOFTWARE DEVELOPER WANTED

Infotek Groups, Inc. (Durham, NC) seeks a Software Developer to design, develop & implement applications software using Salesforce Adapter, J2SE (JAVA), JavaScript, Oracle DB, & SQL Server 2008. Reqmts.: BS or Foreign Equiv. in Comp. Sci./MIS/ IT or rel. + 24 months of relevant exp. as Application Developer/Consultant, Systems Engineer, or rel. using Salesforce Adapter, J2SE (JAVA), JavaScript, Oracle DB, & SQL Server 2008. Position involve travel to client locs. all over USA. Send resume to Director – Infotek Groups, Inc., 2530 Meridian Pkwy, Ste 300, Durham, NC 27713 or Email: hr@infotekgroups.com.

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 **Holiday City Sewage Pump Station Improvements** project for the **City of Jacksonville** which bids on **August 12, 2025, at 2:00 PM.** Plans and specifications for this project are available at the following locations: T. A. Loving Company; 400 Patetown Road; Goldsboro, NC 27530 * City of Jacksonville; Engineering Division of Public Services; City Hall; 815 New Bridge Street; Jacksonville, NC 28540.

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

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

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Town of Lucama
P.O. Box 127
Lucama, NC 27851

Separate sealed BIDS for the construction of 2019 CWSRF Sanitary Sewer Improvements Contract No. 6 - Sewer Replacement and Pump Station Rehabilitation will be received by the ENGINEER at the Lucama Town Hall, 111 South Main Street, Lucama, NC 27851 until 2:00 PM Eastern Daylight Time, September 4, 2025, and then at said office publicly opened and read aloud.

The CONTRACT DOCUMENTS may be examined at the following locations:

Lucama Town Hall, 111 South Main Street, Lucama, NC 27851

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

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

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

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

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

Physical copies of the CONTRACT DOCUMENTS may be obtained at the office of McDavid Associates, Inc. located at 3714 North Main Street, Farmville, NC 27828-0049 upon a non-refundable payment of $151.00 for each set.

The OWNER reserves the right to reject any and all BIDS.

BIDDER shall be properly licensed under Chapter 87, General Statutes of North Carolina. Small, minority, women's, and disadvantaged businesses and labor surplus area firms are encouraged to submit BIDS.

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

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

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

A pre-Bid conference will be held at 10:00 AM on August 20, 2025 in the Lucama Town Hall, 111 South Main Street, Lucama, NC 27851. Prospective BIDDERS are encouraged to attend this pre-bid conference as part of their good faith efforts.

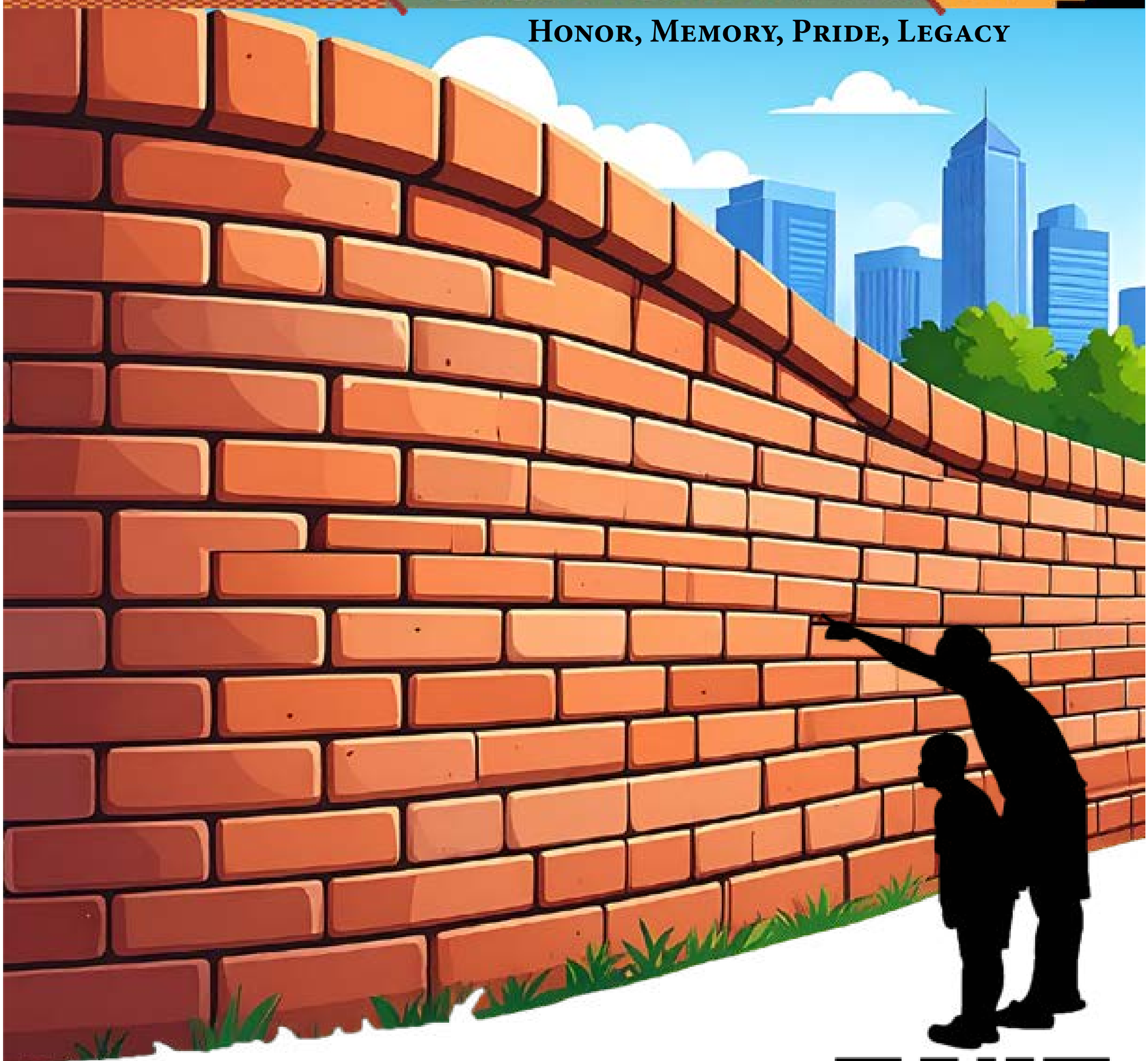
August 1, 2025

Matthew Creech
Mayor

Town of Lucama

The Carolinian

Honor, Memory, Pride, Legacy



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