



Who Is Winning America's Fight For Democracy?

By Dani Ross

Special To The Carolinian

This week in Texas, Democrats fled the state to force a pause in the redrawing of its voting maps. Many fled to Illinois where the governor promised protections as their governor promised prosecution. These are lawmakers. These are the people that were elected to represent the best interests of their citizens.

In Colorado clerks are receiving requests for "official" government agents to gain access to voting machines in Democratic states. The request is framed as an initiative to uphold election integrity. The claim is to see if there are any gaps in the network.

'Good Trouble' anti-Trump protests has popped up at more than 1,500 sites across the US. The rallies were against the Trump administrations actions and in honor of the late congressman John Lewis, an advocate for civil disobedience and voters rights.

In Florida, the Supreme Court upheld congressional voting maps

that weaken Black voter's influence. The new map splits the northern Florida district in fourths, diluting the Black vote and potentially making it much easier to draw gerrymandered maps in the future.

In North Carolina, the Democratic National Committee is threatening to sue the state's election board over a plan to purge more than 100,000 voters. With an incredibly vital senate race coming up, every vote is paramount. Many races in this last election cycle were very close, with some being decided in court. The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, along with other voting rights groups, are accusing the GOP led legislature of violating laws with respect to voting.

In Miami, city officials cancelled an election altogether. Outraged citizens are calling the action a power grab, as the city commission voted 3-2 to change the municipal races from this year to 2026. The change was made without asking permission from the voters. All they had to do was put the

(See **DEMOCRACY** P. 2)



NC HOUSE BILL WOULD ALLOW FEWER TRIPS TO THE DMV

By Colin Campbell

WUNC

State lawmakers are trying to address long lines at the Division of Motor Vehicles by making it easier to renew driver's licenses online.

DMV offices have been dealing with a surge in people trying to get a REAL ID under new federal requirements. Rep. Reece Pyrtle, R-Rockingham, says people who get their REAL ID shouldn't have to come back to the DMV in the following years.

"You get your REAL ID, but your expiration doesn't change," he said. "With this bill, the day you get your picture taken, it creates a new expiration date, and that counts as an in-person visit — and that driver's license is good for eight years."

Pyrtle's bill would allow people to renew their driver's license online if they got a new license photo during their last DMV transaction.

It would also allow some drivers getting a full provisional license to do that online without submitting a driving log. Under current law, teen drivers seeking to move up from a limited provisional license requires a driving log that shows they've logged 12 hours of driving time.

"These also are provisions that the Governor's Highway Safety Task Force are in favor of, and they keep drivers safe while making sure that they don't have to have yet another visit to the DMV because of the backlog and the lack of staff," said Rep. Zack Hawkins, D-Durham.

The bill passed the House Wednesday alongside a budget bill that would fund more driver's license examiners and open several new DMV offices. Those include locations in Fuquay-Varina, Cabarrus County, Brunswick County and the town of Garland in Sampson County.

While the budget bill is now headed to Gov. Josh Stein, the driver's license renewal bill still needs approval from the Senate. That won't happen anytime soon, because the legislature has now adjourned until late August at the earliest.

Still, House Speaker Destin Hall says he's hopeful the legislation is "getting us towards getting a handle on" the dysfunction at the DMV.

"It's just not acceptable for somebody to have to spend their entire day off going to a DMV, I can't think of much worse," Hall told reporters. "It's something we've got to get a hold on and figure out some comprehensive reforms and solve the issue."

NORTH CAROLINA LAWMAKERS APPROVE STOPGAP SPENDING MEASURE AMID BUDGET IMPASSE

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP) — North Carolina legislators gave final approval Wednesday to a stopgap spending measure to boost state government spending to prepare for fall classes, cover Medicaid expenses and continue construction projects while a Republican agreement on a comprehensive budget still remains distant.

The GOP-controlled General Assembly took a break five weeks ago with House and Senate negotiators far apart on working out a two-year, \$66 billion budget for the ninth-largest state that should have been in place by July 1. North Carolina is one of a few states that have not yet enacted a budget for this fiscal year.

Teacher and state employee pay, the expansion of previously approved future tax cuts and the extent of vacant position eliminations were among the top disagreements in the competing plans each chamber approved in the spring. These and other issues remain pending.

"It takes time to negotiate a good budget," GOP Rep. Donny Lambeth, one of the House's top negotiators, told colleagues on Wednesday. "We have the option of moving fast for the sake of being agreeable and pass something quickly that hits a fabricated deadline, or we work intensely to stand on the basic needs within our state."

State law already preempts the threat of a government shutdown. But Republicans who reconvened the legislature this week largely to consider overrides of Democratic Gov. Josh Stein's vetoes also worked out a "mini-budget" they say would allocate \$2.3 billion over two years to address agreed-upon pressing needs.

"We just think that the funding that's in this version of a limited budget will get us to the next step in our negotiations," House Speaker Destin Hall told reporters.

But neither Hall nor Senate leader Phil Berger had a good read this week on if and when a broader budget agreement would be reached. The General Assembly's schedule allows lawmakers to reconvene monthly into early 2026, with the next potential meeting Aug. 26.

Berger suggested to reporters that additional "mini-budgets" were possible in the months ahead: "We will continue to have conversations between the House and the Senate to see if there are other matters that we would be able to agree to take up."

The stopgap plan includes money to cover anticipated enrollment changes for K-12 schools and community colleges, as well as for experience-based pay raises already in state law for teachers and some state employees. There's also \$600 million more to meet the increasing costs of Medicaid. It's a common adjustment made annually. But the amount is getting more attention as the spending reduction law passed by Congress this month contains Medicaid reductions that threatens future enrollment levels in North Carolina.

(See **NORTH CAROLINA LAWMAKERS APPROVE** P. 2)

When Power Bills Go Up In North Carolina, Just Remember This Vote

By Will Scott

Environmental Defense Fund

The North Carolina General Assembly's vote to override Governor Stein's veto of Senate Bill 266 is a major setback for North Carolina households, clean energy progress and climate leadership. Despite warnings from economists, energy experts and everyday residents, the General Assembly chose to make law a bill that will raise customer energy costs and shift billions in

risk and cost from utilities and larger commercial and industrial users onto families and small businesses — at a time when energy bills are already straining household budgets.

And there's no mistaking where the blame for this new law and its damaging effects lies: squarely on the shoulders of the powerful utility, Duke Energy, that pushed it and the legislators who caved to Duke's demands. As quoted in a WRAL story when the veto override vote passed both chambers, I summed it up by

saying, "When your power bill goes up next year, remember this vote and the legislators who shifted risk and cost onto households."

There's no way around it. Senate Bill 266, which will now become law, has been a flawed approach from the start. It's bad for customers and bad for the environment.

A \$23 billion burden on households

Two independent studies — one from Duke University's Nicholas Institute and one from NC State Uni-

versity — confirm what should have been obvious from the start: SB 266 is an expensive mistake. As it becomes law, North Carolinians can expect to pay \$23 billion more on their electricity bills through 2050. That's because the bill lets utilities pass fuel cost volatility directly onto customers, with no risk to utility shareholders.

Simply put, as quoted in this WRAL story before the bill passed,

(See **POWER BILLS** P. 3)

State Audit Finds NC DMV In Crisis

By Jordan Meadows

Staff Writer

North Carolina's Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) is facing a mounting service crisis, according to a performance audit released by State Auditor Dave Boliek on Monday evening. The report, based on visits to DMV offices, staff interviews, and data analysis, found that customer service has significantly worsened in recent years. Average wait times at DMV offices have increased by 15.5% since 2019, with customers now waiting an average of 1 hour and 15 minutes for service.

Even more concerning, nearly 14% of all visits now exceed two and a half hours — a 79% jump from 2019. These wait times do not include time spent outside waiting in line before checking in, meaning the actual customer burden may be even greater. "Our audit team has worked hard to find opportunities where the DMV can course correct and effectively serve North Carolina citizens," Boliek said.

The audit highlights that nearly half of DMV customers are bypassing their nearest office, often traveling long distances to find more availability. In rural regions, 14% of customers who go outside their local service area are driving more than an hour.

Staffing shortages are a central issue. The DMV currently has about 160 vacant driver license examiner positions statewide. Despite North Carolina's population growing by 2.5 million people over the past two decades, only 52 new examiner positions have been added during that time.

In some locations, the situation is dire. For instance, in Harnett Coun-



ty's Lillington office, one examiner is responsible for more than 56,000 residents. Other overburdened locations include Fuquay-Varina (4 examiners), Durham East (6), Raelford (2), Clayton (3), Cary (9), and Laurinburg (1).

DMV leadership reports that since January 2025, only 62–75% of all examiners have been available on any given day due to vacancies and unplanned absences, such as sick leave tied to burnout.

Morale among DMV employees is also alarmingly low. Only 4% of employees feel the agency fosters open communication, while 43% express negative views about leadership. Average examiner salaries remain under \$50,000 annually. Workers cited burnout, security risks, and a lack of adequate training as persistent problems.

The audit also underscored the DMV's limited influence within the North Carolina Department of Transportation (DOT), where it operates as a division. Despite generat-

ing 30% of the DOT's revenue, the DMV receives just 2.8% of its total expenditures. Furthermore, only 31% of the DMV's staffing requests were included in DOT's official budget proposals. The report finds that the DMV was excluded from key phases of DOT's planning and procurement processes, limiting its ability to invest in operations and improvements.

To address the crisis, Auditor Boliek and his office issued several key recommendations. Foremost among them is a call to make the DMV an autonomous agency with full control over its own budget, staffing, and strategic direction.

"It's time to solve the DMV problem. North Carolina has the will and the tools to make our DMV better. Our audit lays out some concrete steps to begin the process to fix the DMV," added Boliek.

Other proposals include developing an independent five-year strategic plan, conducting a comprehensive staffing analysis, converting

temporary roles into permanent ones, adjusting pay structures, and building a real-time dashboard to monitor wait times, satisfaction, and staffing levels at DMV offices across the state. Improvements to the DMV's outdated information technology systems were also emphasized as a critical step toward reducing customer backlogs.

The report also encouraged innovative customer service strategies, such as eliminating the current appointment-only system, dedicating specific days for certain appointment types, reducing fees for online transactions to encourage digital use, and hosting more pop-up DMV events in underserved areas.

DMV Commissioner Paul Tine responded to the audit with a statement acknowledging the findings and committing to several of the proposed changes. He noted that the agency is in the process of recruiting 97 new driver license examiners over the next two years and is developing a five-year strategic plan to be completed by December 1, 2025. Additional improvements include website upgrades, a text-based system for walk-in customers, and enhanced REAL ID tools aimed at streamlining service delivery.

Auditor Boliek concluded that reform is not just necessary — it is urgent.

"The DMV is at that level of emergency in the state of North Carolina. Because our DMV affects the economy," he said.

The audit recommends that the DMV and DOT jointly develop a transition plan toward autonomy within six months, with biannual progress reports delivered to both the General Assembly and the Governor's Office.

Corporation For Public Broadcasting To Close Its Doors

By Shauneen Miranda

NC Newsline

WASHINGTON — The Corporation for Public Broadcasting announced Friday that it will be shutting down.

The announcement came just one day after a major Senate appropriations bill omitted funding for the nonprofit that funds public media and a week after President Donald Trump signed a bill into law that yanked \$1.1 billion in previously approved spending for CPB.

CPB, which Congress authorized in 1967, provides funds for National Public Radio, the Public Broadcasting Service and hundreds of local stations across the United States. President Donald Trump and fellow Republicans have criticized NPR and PBS of left-leaning bias, an accusation the public me-



dia organizations have rejected. "Despite the extraordinary efforts of millions of Americans who called, wrote, and petitioned Congress to preserve federal funding for CPB, we now face the difficult

reality of closing our operations," Patricia Harrison, president and CEO of CPB, said in a statement Friday.

"CPB remains committed to fulfilling its fiduciary responsibili-

ties and supporting our partners through this transition with transparency and care," Harrison said.

She added that "public media has been one of the most trusted institutions in American life, providing educational opportunity, emergency alerts, civil discourse, and cultural connection to every corner of the country."

CPB said employees were notified Friday that the majority of staff positions "will conclude with the close of the fiscal year on September 30, 2025," and a small transition team will stay through January 2026.

The Senate Appropriations Committee on Thursday approved the Labor, Health and Human Services and Education spending bill for fiscal year 2026, which did not include any CPB funding.

Sen. Patty Murray of Washing-

ton, the top Democrat on the panel, expressed her disappointment over the lack of a CPB allocation in the bill during a committee markup. "It is a shameful reality and now communities across the country will suffer the consequences as over 1,500 stations lose critical funding," Murray said.

In a win for the Trump administration, Congress passed a rescissions package in July that clawed back \$9 billion in previously approved spending for public broadcasting and foreign aid, including \$1.1 billion for CPB.

Trump signed the measure into law just days later.

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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 Phase 3 Water Improvements project for the Town of Scotland Neck which bids on August 14, 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 * Town of Scotland Neck; 1310 Main Street; Scotland Neck, NC 27874 * Engineering Services, PA; 1202 Benson Road, Suite 200; Garner, NC 27529.

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

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

D/M/WBE

SUBCONTRACTORS/SUPPLIERS WANTED

T. A. Loving Company (NC General Contractor License No. 325) is seeking certified DBE, MBE, and WBE subcontractors and suppliers for the Champion Pump Station Replacement project for the City of Dunn which bids on August 14, 2025, at 2:00 PM. Plans and specifications for this project are available at the following locations: T. A. Loving Company; 400 Patetown Road; Goldsboro, NC 27530 * City of Dunn; 101 East Cleveland Street; Dunn, NC 28335 * The Wooten Company; 120 North Boylan Avenue; Raleigh, NC 27603 * Dodge Data and Analytics website * ConstructConnect website * North American Procurement Council website.

Potential subcontracting opportunities include but are not limited to surveying, clearing and grubbing, hauling, asphalt paving, traffic control, erosion control, seeding, linework/pipe installation, and jack & bore. 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.

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Pipeline Utilities, Inc. (NC General Contractor License No. 325) is seeking certified DBE, MBE, and WBE subcontractors and suppliers for the Lyon and Ivy Road Storm Drainage and Utility Improvements project for the City of Fayetteville which bids on August 18, 2025, at 2:00 PM. Plans and specifications for this project are available at the following locations: Pipeline Utilities, Inc.; 2204-F Associate Drive; Raleigh, NC 27603 * City of Fayetteville City Hall, 433 Hay Street, Fayetteville, NC 28301 * City of Fayetteville website: www.fayettevillenc.gov.

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

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

Will 'The Power Bill Reduction Act' Make Electric Bills In NC Go Up Or Go Down?

By Lisa Sorg

Inside Climate News

Duke Energy can now backslide on its legally mandated carbon emissions reductions, offload a greater share of fuel costs to residential customers and charge ratepayers for financing costs of planned new power plants even if they're never built.

On Tuesday the North Carolina House and Senate overrode Democratic Gov. Josh Stein's veto of Senate Bill 266, "The Power Bill Reduction Act."

Stein vetoed the measure July 2. "This summer's record heat and soaring utility bills have shown that we need to focus on lowering electricity costs for working families—not raising them. ... Additionally, this bill walks back our state's commitment to reduce carbon emissions," Stein wrote in his veto message.

The bill allows Duke Energy to amp up its use of natural gas while cancelling its interim carbon reduction goal of 70 percent by 2030. That benchmark, a crucial and highly lauded provision, was part of a climate law enacted by the legislature just four years ago.

The utility would still be required to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050. But National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration scientists reported in 2022 that "without dramatic action in the next couple of decades, we are unlikely to keep global warming in this century below 2.7 degrees Fahrenheit compared to pre-industrial temperatures"—the threshold at which the most serious climate impacts can be mitigated.

"But the more we overshoot that threshold, the more serious and widespread the negative impacts will be," the NOAA scientists wrote.

"Our planet is on fire," said state Rep. Pricey Harrison, a Guilford County Democrat, on the House floor Tuesday, as she pleaded with her colleagues to sustain the governor's veto. "We have got to reduce our carbon emissions."

The new law was introduced in March as Senate Bill 261, sponsored by Republican Sen. Paul Newton, a



former Duke Energy executive. (Newton resigned shortly after introducing the bill to accept a job as vice chancellor and general counsel for the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.)

At the time, Duke Energy spokesman Garrett Poorman told Inside Climate News that as North Carolina continues to experience unprecedented growth, "we're focused on making substantial investments in our critical infrastructure to ensure reliability and keep costs as low and predictable as possible for our customers. We are supportive of policies that enable us to meet the state's growing energy needs, including those that advance efficient and always-on baseload generation resources."

The bill idled until early June, when its contents were cut and pasted into SB 266, which originally exempted buildings reconstructed after historic floods from floodplain requirements. Bill sponsors then rushed the measure through. Some members of the House Rules Committee had only 12 hours to review the measure before voting on it, Harrison said at the time, adding it became publicly available just 10 minutes before the committee hearing.

Bill sponsors and proponents, including Duke Energy, the N.C. Chamber, the American Petroleum Institute and the N.C. Manufacturers Alliance, have relied on an analysis by the Public Staff of the N.C. Utilities Commission to justify their claims that the measure will lower energy costs.

"This bill is about one thing: saving all consumers money on electric bills," said Rep. Dean Arp, a Republican from Union County who co-sponsored the measure.

The Public Staff estimated that by eliminating Duke's interim carbon reductions goal, ratepayers could save \$13 billion in energy costs by 2050. However, that modeling did not account for the volatility in natural gas prices, nor the escalating costs of turbines required to build the new plants.

An analysis written by three N.C. State University environmental engineering professors accounted for those increases. They estimated that removing the interim target could cost ratepayers up to \$23 billion in added fuel expenses over the same time. Even moderate increases in natural gas prices would hike fuel costs to \$13.7 billion if the interim target is dropped, they found.

Earlier this week, two economists from Duke University's Nicholas Institute for Energy, Environment & Sustainability reviewed that analysis and agreed with its overall findings. They additionally factored in the Trump administration's rollbacks of incentives for renewable energy, which "are also likely to result in a grid that is more reliant on natural gas generation."

NC LAWMAKERS APPROVE

Continued from page 1

The plan also includes over \$800 million for state construction projects, nearly \$200 million for state employee retirement and health care, and money to hire dozens of driver's license examiners and build more Division of Motor Vehicles offices to address long lines. But it also directs three state departments to cut millions of dollars in spending by eliminating vacant positions.

Current and future budget bills go to Stein. His office was reviewing Wednesday's bill, which despite some complaints from Democratic lawmakers passed by wide House and Senate margins.

As override votes began at the General Assembly on Tuesday, Stein held a news conference urging lawmakers to focus on passing a complete budget that provides items to his liking, instead of trying to enact over his objections bills that in part loosened gun regulations and eliminated a greenhouse gas reduction mandate.

"That is the wrong priority," Stein said. "We need to focus on what matters and not these sideshows, which are distractions."

Republicans are one House seat shy of a veto-proof majority at the General Assembly, giving some leverage to Stein seeking more favorable legislation. But as seen on Tuesday, when eight of Stein's 14 vetoes this year were overridden, GOP leaders have been able to persuade some Democrats to side with them on certain issues.

DEMOCRACY

Continued from page 1

measure on the ballot and there would not have been such an uproar. But, by structuring the change the way they did, it gives commissioner Joe Carollo and scandal-ridden mayor Francis Suarez both an additional year despite reaching their term limits.

Campaign spending limits are becoming a thing of the past. Back in 2010 the limits on outside spending in elections was lifted, allowing corporations and unions to flood campaigns with funding. Now it's not just donations, but Republicans are looking to erase the limits on how campaign money can be spent.

Some voters perception of our two political parties as a whole are unfavorable, and may lead to low voter turnout. The Democratic Party is looked at as "weak" or "ineffective," and the Republican Party is viewed as "greedy" or just generally "bad." What's most troubling is that the elected officials are representatives of the people. So does this mean that the American people are weak and greedy? Are the citizens of the United States corrupt, power hungry and also ineffective when it comes to preserving a certain quality of life?

Back in 2023, 63% of U.S. adults agreed with the statement that the Republican and Democratic parties do "such a poor job" of representing the American people that "a third major party is needed." This represents a seven-percentage-point increase from the previous year and is the highest since Gallup first asked the question in 2003. However, these measures are not meaningfully different from the prior highs of 61% in 2017 and 62% in 2021, shortly after the January 2021 Capitol Hill riots.

Elon Musk floated the idea of a third party. The ridicule that followed was swift and harsh. It is often said that power concedes nothing without demand. If you are tired of the circus of our political system then change it! Your vote is your voice. You have the right to use it whatever way you choose. Just be sure to use it.

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Business & Finance

Take This Simple Step As You Approach Your Retirement

By Christine Benz

AP News

While most retirement portfolios include allocations to stocks and bonds in the years leading up to retirement, most retirement savers don't hold much more than an emergency cushion in cash.

Thus, an important job in the years before retirement is building up that cash cushion.

The good news is that cash yields are up, meaning cash holdings aren't the "dead money" they were a few years ago. And equity investments have performed well, too—at least until very recently. That means that most investors can build their cash stakes, at least in part, by pruning appreciated holdings.

Here's some guidance on the amount, source, and location of those liquid reserves, according to the Bucket approach to retirement portfolio planning.

Rightsizing Bucket 1

Your cash bucket should consist of one to two years' worth of portfolio withdrawals, not living expenses.

In order to set up Bucket 1 initially, think through your cash flow sources for the first few years of retirement.

For example, let's say a 66-year-old wants to retire in two years and expects that he'll need to spend \$80,000 per year, in total, from his \$1.5 million portfolio, at that time. He wants to delay filing for Social Security until age 70, so all of his spending will come from his portfolio in those first few years of retirement. After that, roughly half his spending needs will come from Social Security.

If he wanted to be conservative, he could build a cash cushion consisting of \$160,000—his years 1 and 2 portfolio withdrawals.

His Bucket 2—high-quality bonds—would consist of eight years' worth of portfolio withdrawals, which at that point will be \$40,000



per year. The remaining \$1 million and change could go into a globally diversified equity portfolio.

Where to put the money? It's also worth considering the

"where" of your liquid reserves. To do so, consider your sequence of withdrawals in retirement.

Taxable accounts are often first in the queue for retirement withdraw-

als because their ongoing tax costs are higher than tax-sheltered accounts.

But some retirees may benefit from spending from their tax-deferred accounts early in retirement, with an eye toward reducing future required minimum distributions and tax bills. This is a good spot to get some advice from a financial or tax advisor.

Armed with the knowledge of where you'll turn for your spending in the first part of your retirement, you can then figure out where best to hold your liquid reserves.

Where to get the money?

The next step is figuring out how to build up this reserve. Ideally, you'd give yourself a couple of years to enlarge your cash position rather than having to find the money just before retirement.

For preretirees who are still saving for retirement, start by directing new contributions into cash. Say, for example, the aforementioned retiree

is directing a couple years' worth of IRA and 401(k) contributions to cash. He could arrive at nearly half his target cash allocation by the time he reaches his retirement.

There's also potential bonuses and inheritances. If you've recently received a surprise cash injection, the assets are a logical source for bulking up cash reserves.

Another solid option is to build up cash by peeling back on highly appreciated asset classes, especially US stocks. Trimming equities and adding those assets to cash and bonds reduces risk and helps cover cash flows for the first few years of retirement.

Finally, you can reduce risky positions. Consider the employer stock you know you should scale back on or the individual-stock portfolio that's duplicative of what's in your mutual funds. Such holdings can be ideal sources when building up your cash reserves, but mind the tax consequences if you're selling them from a taxable account.

NC's "Housing Wage" Average Is Up Nearly \$2 Since 2024

By Greg Childress

NC Newsline

A full-time worker in North Carolina must earn a minimum of \$27.14 per hour to afford a modest, two-bedroom apartment, according to a recent report by the National Low Income Housing Coalition (NLIHC). A year ago, the state's "housing wage" was \$25.21 per hour.

The NLIHC releases an annual report — Out of Reach: The High Cost of Housing — which shows what people must earn to afford rents. The "housing wage" is an estimate of what a full-time worker must earn to afford rent at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) Fair Market Rent (FMR) without spending more than 30% of their income.

Individuals and families that spend more than 30% of income on housing are considered cost-

burdened. Nearly half — 48% — of the state's renters and 19% of homeowners are considered cost burdened, according to the N.C. Housing Coalition.

At \$27.14 per hour, North Carolina has the 30th highest housing wage in the nation. A worker earning the \$7.25 per hour minimum wage must work 150 per week to afford a modest two-bedroom apartment. An annual income of \$56,442 is needed to afford a two-bedroom home at the \$1,232 per month FMR.

"This report is a critical reminder that we cannot reduce the affordable housing crisis down to individual choice or supply alone," Stephanie Watkins-Cruz, director of housing policy for the N.C. Housing Coalition, said in a statement. "This report reminds us that wages are not keeping up with the cost of living and that more and more North Carolinians are exper-

riencing the strain of cost-burden across our state."

Meanwhile, the national 2025 "housing wage is \$33.63 per hour for a two-bedroom rental home and \$28.17 for a one-bedroom rental home. Last year, the na-

tional "housing wage" was \$32.11 per hour for a two-bedroom rental. It was \$26.74 for a one-bedroom rental.

"Housing is more than just shelter, it is foundational to well-being and dignity," said NLIHC President

and CEO Renee Willis. "This year's Out of Reach report shows that, despite economic gains for some, low-income renters continue to face impossible choices between paying rent and meeting basic needs."

Willis said the report findings reinforce the conclusion that cutting federal housing investments would only deepen the housing crisis.

"Congress must protect and expand housing programs that ensure stability, opportunity, and a pathway out of poverty for millions of renters," Willis said.

California has the highest housing wage at \$49.61 per hour. A worker there must clock 120 hours per week to afford a two-bedroom apartment at the state minimum wage of \$16.50 per hour. An annual income of \$103,184 is needed to afford a two-bedroom home at the FMR of \$2,580 per month.

The report's authors noted that

California is one of 30 states across the nation, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico and 64 local governments that have minimum wages above the \$7.25 per hour federal minimum wage. Those wages range for \$8.75 per hour in West Virginia to \$17.50 per hour in the District of Columbia.

"Yet even in areas with higher minimum wages, the reality remains grim: nowhere in the United States—no state, metropolitan area, or county—can a full-time minimum-wage worker afford a modest two-bedroom rental home at Fair Market Rent," the authors wrote in the report's introduction.

They noted that the outlook for one-bedroom homes is only slightly better with just 7% of counties nationwide — 219 out of more than 3,000, excluding Puerto Rico — have a one-bedroom Fair Market Rent that is affordable for a full-time minimum-wage worker.



Tips To Help You Manage Your Buy Now, Pay Later Loans

NEW YORK (AP) — Between rising prices and dwindling job growth, using "buy now, pay later" on everything from concert tickets to fast food deliveries is becoming increasingly appealing. But greater use could also mean greater trouble, as more people fall behind on repaying these loans.

Buy now, pay later loans gained popularity during the pandemic, especially among young people. While these loans can help you make large purchases without paying interest or undergoing a hard inquiry in your credit report, they can also easily be overused.

About 4 in 10 Americans under the age of 45 say they've used "buy now, pay later" services when spending on entertainment or restaurant meals, or when paying for essentials like groceries or medical care, according to a poll from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research.

Buy now, pay later loans were not previously reported to the three major credit reporting bureaus. But consumers will soon see the impact of buy now, pay later loans on their FICO credit scores.

Whether you're a first-time or recurring user of buy now, pay later plans, here are some expert recommendations to use this tool responsibly.

Focus on needs vs. wants

Buy now, pay later plans divide purchases in monthly installments, typically in four payments. These loans are marketed as having low or no interest. Klarna, Afterpay, PayPal Later and Affirm are among the most popular buy now, pay



later companies.

These loans should ideally be used for large purchases or necessities, said Lauren Bringle, Accredited Financial Counselor at Self Financial.

Bringle recommends asking yourself these questions before purchasing: Can I survive without this purchase right now? Do I need it for work, school, or a basic household need?

Buy now, pay later is best used when you have a plan for the purchase, not for impulse buys. For example, when you need to buy a computer for school or a new

refrigerator for your house, recommended Tyler Horn, head of planning at Origin, a budgeting app.

Pause before purchasing Before deciding to take out a buy now, pay later loan, it's a good idea to pause and consider if it's the best financial decision for you, recommended Erika Rasure, Chief Financial Wellness advisor for Beyond Finance.

Buy now, pay later plans can be positive budgeting tools when used strategically. However, it's essential you know your spending behaviors before using them, said Rasure. If you're an emotional spender, it might be hard for you to moderate your use of this tool and you could end up adding to your financial stress.

"Buy now, pay later can become a coping mechanism rather than a financial tool that can get you a good deal or improve your cash flow," said Rasure.

If you have other payments due, such as credit card or student loan payments, consider how a buy now, pay later loan will add to your monthly payments, recommended Sarah Rathner, Senior Writer for NerdWallet.

Read the fine print

Like credit cards, each buy now, pay later loan has terms and conditions that can vary by purchase and providers. It's crucial that you know what you're agreeing to before you sign up, recommended Michael Savino, Chief Lending Officer at Municipal Credit Union.

"Always read the fine print. Understand fees, repayment schedules, and what happens if you miss

a payment or go into default," said Savino.

In general, if you miss a buy now, pay later payment, you can face fees, interest, or the possibility of being banned from using the services in the future.

Avoid stacking BNPL loans

You can easily run into difficulty keeping up with the cost and schedule of your repayments if you're trying to simultaneously pay off two, three or more loans, Savino said.

"Juggling multiple plans creates a blind spot and overall debt load, and multiple repayment dates are hard to manage," Savino said. "So more loans makes it more difficult to budget."

The best approach: Stay mindful of your overall spending, and limit the number of buy now, pay later loans.

Keep track of your loan(s)

Whether or not you're paying for multiple buy now, pay later purchases at once, you want to be aware of where your money is going at any given time, recommended Courtney Alev, consumer advocate at Credit Karma.

"Buy now, pay later often requires automatic payments, so you want to make sure that your account is funded so that those payments are processing successfully," recommended Jennifer Seitz, director of education at Greenlight, a financial literacy app for families.

There are many ways to track your loan payments — from setting a reminder on your calendar, to creating an intricate excel spreadsheet or tracking them on an app,

said Jesse Mecham, founder of the budgeting app YNAB.

Finding the best method that works for you will help you stay on track and avoid late fees.

Make buy now, pay later work for you

For shoppers with low credit scores or no credit history, buy now, pay later loans can seem like the best, if not the only, loan option. If used moderately and responsibly, these short-term loans can be a positive lending exercise, said Savino.

"It allows you to establish a

baseline (and) get access to other affordable credit options that you can leverage that will ultimately provide financial wellness," he added.

Still, NerdWallet's Rathner emphasized that shoppers using these tools always remember that buy now, pay later is a form of borrowing money.

"It just kind of feels like you're given a little extra time to pay back," Rathner said. "But the reality is, if you miss payments, it can hurt your credit, much like missing payments with any other loan."

GOOD EATS: TOP BURGERS IN 919



By Ms Jheri Worldwide

Staff Writer

A good burger is the staple of any restaurant menu. Burgers are special, featuring iron-rich meat, cheese that boasts calcium, and vegetables. Technically, with the diversity of ingredients, the argument can be made that burgers are healthy. While nothing beats homemade, there are a few places in our area where you can find a high-quality burger. I've done the research so you don't have to. These are the top three burgers in our coverage area of North Carolina. Please note this list is ongoing.

At number three, we have Carolina Ale House. The Carolina Ale House is reliable, conveniently located, and consistently delicious. This is a large, well-seasoned burger made to order. All of the locations can be counted on for quality; I've never had a bad meal at the Carolina Ale House. Great for groups or pull up to the bar alone, you can't go wrong with a burger here.

Our number two selection is Smashed Burgers & Cocktails in Holly Springs. Not only are the flavors here outstanding, but so is the service. There are a plethora of different burger options spanning flavors across many cultures; however, I prefer the classic smashed with their house sauce. Drinks here are also wonderful, as well as the wings. This burger truly took me by surprise due to its deliciousness and freshness. Smashed is serving exceptional burgers!

Finally, the number one burger I've tasted of late in our area can be found on the rooftop of the AC Hotel at The Willard Rooftop Lounge. The first time I ate here, we had appetizers. Someone at a table near us ordered the burger. From that point on, I was determined to come back and try that burger. The burger looked and smelled wonderful. The day finally came when I was able to wrap my lips around this delectable burger, and I immediately began to compare it to California's In-N-Out Burger. Large, flavorful, and juicy in all the right ways, this is the best burger I've ate in years.

All in all, I will continue to eat burgers because I feel passionate about this filling all American meal. I'm a burger, sandwich, and wraps girl through and through. Honorable mention goes to Five Guys; they didn't make the list, but they are consistently delicious and readily available when the above locations are out of reach. As LeVar Burton would say, "Don't just take my word for it," go get yourself a tasty burger today!

When Power Bills Go Up—CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

["The Nicholas Institute] study reaffirms the cost risks to North Carolina households from passing a bill that will expose them to billions of dollars in additional fuel costs — expenses which are risk-free to the utilities and passed directly on to customer bills."

The bill also shifts 19% more of the fuel cost burden onto residential customers, according to an EQ Research analysis, effectively giving large commercial and industrial users a break at everyone else's expense.

Forcing customers to pay upfront for power plants that may never get built

SB 266 doesn't just increase bills, it opens the door for utilities to charge customers upfront for the cost of new fossil fuel power plants, even before they're completed or

approved. This model, known as "construction work in progress" or CWIP, has been rejected by ratepayers across the political spectrum. A poll by Conservatives for Clean Energy found that 85% of North Carolinians oppose it.

Yet lawmakers voted to enshrine this unpopular and unfair model into law, giving utilities a direct draw on customer bills for projects before they deliver a single kilowatt-hour of electricity.

Killing jobs and clean energy investment

SB 266 may also slam the brakes on North Carolina's clean energy economy. A study released by BW Research estimates that the bill will lead to the loss of 50,700 job opportunities and \$47.2 billion in potential investments, because it makes it harder for renewable energy proj-

ects to connect to the grid.

That's not just bad for the climate, it's a direct hit to North Carolina's competitiveness and workforce. We're turning away good-paying jobs and affordable, clean energy at a time when other states are racing forward. And clean energy, especially solar, is the most affordable and rapidly scalable form of energy we can produce. To sideline solar is a huge mistake — a mistake for which Duke Energy and legislators have left customers to pay.

Repealing bipartisan climate goals

In a final blow, SB 266 repeals North Carolina's 2030 climate pollution reduction target, a benchmark that was adopted just a few years ago with broad bipartisan support. That goal helped provide

certainty for clean energy developers, communities, and businesses that the state was serious about a low-carbon future.

With this vote, that future is in question.

What comes next?

At EDF, we'll continue to fight for policies that protect North Carolina families, ensure utility accountability, and accelerate the transition to clean, affordable energy. But we can't do it alone.

Thank Governor Stein for vetoing the bill. Ask your legislators why they voted to pass more costs onto households and block job-creating clean energy. Hold them accountable. Because when your power bill rises in the months and years ahead, it won't be a mystery as to why. It will be because of this vote.

NCDHHS, NC Colleges Offer Free Training For Support Workers

RALEIGH—The North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services and the North Carolina Community College System have partnered to launch an Advanced Training Certificate program for current Direct Support Professionals or people interested in pursuing a career in the field. The DSP workforce is critical in helping people with intellectual and developmental disabilities live, work and thrive in communities of their choice. They provide a wide range of supports from daily tasks like bathing, eating and taking medications to connecting people with community resources and employment opportunities.

"This partnership with North Carolina's Community Colleges will strengthen and retain our direct support professionals workforce," said NC Health and Human Services Secretary Dev Sangvai. "The advanced training certificate provides an opportunity for individuals

to obtain new skills and training to support this critical profession that cares for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities in North Carolina."

The pilot program is being offered for free through the continuing education programs at Stanly Community College, Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College and Forsyth Technical Community College beginning in August or September. It may expand to more community colleges in 2026-27.

The certificate consists of two eight-week continuing education courses. The sessions will be offered virtually, making it easier to participate and expanding access to individuals not located near one of the pilot college campuses.

The certificate is geared for current DSPs looking to enhance their skills but is also available to anyone who is interested in pursuing a career in the field. Individuals

interested in earning the certificate should contact the continuing education office at their preferred campus for registration information and the schedule. Space in each course is limited.

"North Carolina's community colleges are proud to partner with NCDHHS to launch this vital training program that not only addresses the state's growing need for direct support professionals but also opens doors to long-term career opportunities in behavioral health," said Dr. Jeff Cox, President of the North Carolina Community College System. "Through this collaborative effort, we've developed a statewide curriculum that promotes credit mobility, expanded faculty capacity, and aligned training with real workforce needs. This is exactly the kind of responsive, student-centered programming that makes our colleges such powerful engines for community well-being and economic advancement."



The certificate program is part of a NCDHHS commitment to address the critical shortage of DSPs who provide in-home care and community-based services for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities in North Carolina. In September 2024, NCDHHS launched a campaign targeting

high school and community college students and people who are unemployed or underemployed to educate and motivate them to consider a career in human services.

As part of its Direct Support Professional Workforce Plan, NCDHHS awarded \$3 million in grants to more than 140 provider agencies and employers of record this year. These funds went to recruit, support, train and retain DSPs through hiring and retention bonuses, on-the-job training and childcare assistance.

"These efforts reaffirm NCDHHS' dedication to enhancing opportunities for North Carolinians with I/DD by creating a more accessible and supportive community," said Kelly Crosbie, MSW, LCSW, Director of the NCDHHS Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Substance Use Services. "DSPs are essential to building a comprehensive system of care that promotes inclusion and connectivity."



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Health and Wellness

Obesity Comes From Diet, Not A Lack Of Exercise, Says Duke

By Bianca Garcia

WUNC

That Americans are sedentary at work and at home has long been a part of the explanation for the obesity epidemic.

For Britt Creech, this has meant getting creative with how she fits movement in her day. In college, she played rugby for NC State. And in her early career as an engineer, she was also on her feet working with technicians on the manufacturing floor. But, that changed as she started advancing in her career.

"You're just doing the day to day things from your desk, like invoicing, so you're sitting a lot more. And so naturally, my step counts were much lower than they had been," she said.

This career transition is analogous to something epidemiologists call the obesity transition – as countries get richer, obesity becomes more prevalent. Today, over 40% of US adults are obese. Scientists are still puzzling over why.

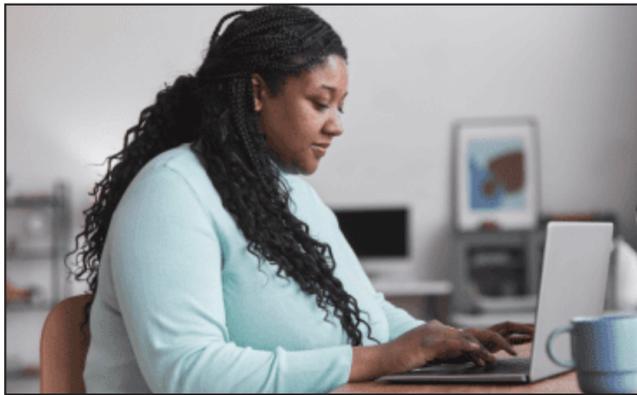
In a study published in July in the journal PNAS, evolutionary anthropologists at Duke University looked at the question of how economic development contributes to obesity. They compared the number of calories consumed and burnt by people living in economies across the development spectrum.

Forager-horticulturalists in Bolivia and hunter-gatherers in Tanzania were compared to people from Nepal, South Africa, the US, and beyond. In all, 36 populations spanning 6 continents were compared. Despite the differences in development across groups, researchers found no real difference in energy expenditure, or calories burned.

Basically, those who hunt and gather for their dinner are burning as many calories as those of us who can afford to order it as takeout.

Yet, those in the developed world do have higher rates of obesity. If it's not the lack of "calories out" that is causing obesity in the developed world, then it must be the other side of the energetic equation, "calories in." Eating excessive calories is 10 times more influential than sedentariness in driving the obesity epidemic, the researchers say.

When it comes to losing weight,



it's not a 50-50 mix of diet and exercise.

Physical activity has always been a part of public health guidance on obesity prevention from organizations like the WHO or CDC. But Herman Pontzer, professor of evolutionary anthropology and global health at Duke University, wanted to get more specific. His lab, the Pontzer Lab, was the one responsible for the PNAS study.

"The guidance always gives diet and physical activity equal weight in trying to explain why obesity is such a problem," Pontzer told WUNC. "So I think people lean into the exercise part of that diet and exercise guidance. But this study asked the question, 'Well, is it really a 50-50 mix?'"

To answer the question, Pontzer's team drew from a global archive of data on metabolism called the International Atomic Energy Agency Doubly Labelled Water Database. It contains measurements of thousands of research subjects' caloric expenditure. It's collected through a method called doubly labelled water, which tracks the path of special, recognizable water molecules (isotopes) as they are consumed and expended by the body, cluing scientists into the metabolic or processing rate of the body.

Amanda McGrosky, lead author of the PNAS study and assistant professor of biology at Elon University, explained what story emerged from the data.

"It seemed that across all of these populations, people weren't really differing in the amount of energy that they were expending on activity," she said, adding, "We did, however, see

differences in total body fat percentage."

What they found was that obesity was more prevalent in developed economies. If there was no change in energy expenditure across populations, "it has to be a product of taking in more calories as you become more economically developed," said McGrosky.

"It takes an hour of walking to burn off calories from a sugary doughnut' Though the researchers did not

have access to dietary data for each of the populations included in their study, they point to existing research about how consuming ultra processed foods (UPFs)—which is characteristic of diets in developed countries—can lead to obesity.

"They push us to eat too much," said Pontzer. "They're engineered to be delicious, and they're engineered to be energy dense, and all these things that make it hard for our bodies to regulate how many calories we're eating."

NPR recently reported that on average in the US, kids get 70% of their calories from UPFs.

Adam Drewnowski is a professor of epidemiology at the University of Washington, where he is also the director of the Center for Obesity Research. In an email to WUNC, he wrote that "There is a link between obesity and poverty which must not be ignored." This is because "low income people in rich societies have low-cost diets full of empty calories."

Still, Drewnowski maintained that no one country is obese, rather, specific vulnerable populations within the country are. Nonetheless, he said that the main thesis of the PNAS study is largely correct.

"Physical activity was never the principal means of weight loss," he said. "It takes an hour of walking to burn off calories from a sugary doughnut. It was always diet."

This does not mean we should stop exercising.

"Physical activity is still really important for health. This study doesn't change anything about that," said Pontzer. Exercise is important for developing strength in our bones and muscles so we can be healthy throughout life stages. It been shown to mitigate chronic disease and improve mental health as well.

Pontzer said we need to think about diet and exercise as "two different tools that do two different jobs."

The future of basic science

The data from the PNAS study was not collected all in one go, by one team. It was the result of a massive international scientific collaboration spanning decades.

Pontzer estimates that there are ten labs in the world that use the doubly labelled water method for metabolism research, including his lab. It is understood to be the gold standard of metabolism research because it can be done outside of

the lab. This gives a more accurate picture of how people spend their energy day-to-day.

Amanda McGrosky collected samples from a hunting and gathering group in Tanzania. This data is reflected in the PNAS study, alongside the work of other scientists who have been working with similarly rural communities for years.

"This is not the sort of thing that any one lab could ever do," said McGrosky, adding that the databases that result from this international network "are the product of many, many people working over many decades."

As funding for scientific research faces cuts from the Trump administration, research and collaborations like this one are on the line. Inside HigherEd has reported that the National Science Foundation, one of the funders of the PNAS study, is facing cuts of \$16 million even after a Senate committee pushed back on the president's initial \$5 billion cut.

"I think that we also need to maintain a focus on basic research, research that doesn't have an obvious clinical outcome right now, but that might be important in the future," Pontzer said.

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THE GOLDEN YEARS

By Judykay Jefferson

THE COMPETITIVE SPIRIT

I've seen competition in all its forms—rivalries over church hats, fierce debates at family domino tables, or unspoken pride in who brought the best dish to the reunion. For us, competition has never been about cold ambition or ruthless one-upmanship. It has been a tool—sometimes subtle, sometimes loud—for survival, dignity, and self-expression.

What gets overlooked in mainstream narratives is how deeply nuanced our competitive spirit truly is. It's not about winning at all costs; it's about rising, together and individually, when the world expected us to stay down. This spirit has roots that go back generations—through HBCU rivalries, civil rights organizing, jazz improv battles, and even the quiet triumph of our grandparents out-cooking expectations with nothing more than salt, cornbread, and soul.

I have always said I wasn't a competitive person. I was taught early in life that I couldn't live or die based upon someone else's opinion of me. Mother used to say, "There are nine million people in the city of Chicago. You can't please all of them. Why worry about pleasing any of them?" That was the permission I needed to march to the beat of my own drummer. I convinced myself and others that I didn't need to triumph over others to feel good about myself. Recently I have questioned the validity of that claim. At 72 years old, I want to win but I'm not afraid to lose. Bring it on.

Last week, I won a baking competition held on my job. When the dessert competition was announced, there was some discussion of having me act as a judge rather than a contestant. Something inside, something undeniable clicked and I knew I wanted to compete. And not just quietly compete. I wanted to win. Suddenly, I began to consider what I would bake, how it would be presented. This is where I spiraled out of control for a while. I bake cookies weekly for my co-workers, so I didn't want to enter cookies. My offering had to be bigger, better. It had to have crowd appeal, tantalizing the senses with a nostalgic look and irresistible fragrance. I chose Peach Cobbler. I wanted to present it warm and up until the night before I looked for a way that didn't involve an open flame. I imagined the warm cobbler filling the room with the seductive fragrance of cinnamon, brown sugar, and my secret ingredient, ginger. The planning became bigger than the baking and I finally admitted to myself and others that I really wanted to win.

And I did. I won. It felt wonderful. No Olympic medalist, no Academy Award winner, no Super Bowl team was prouder in that moment. I received my trophy, humbly thanked my supporters while relishing the spotlight. I had finally joined the legions of brave competitors who were willing to risk defeat for a chance at victory. I am a winner.

With our legacy of survival of weighted scales and uneven playing fields, competition shaped us, but it didn't harden us. It taught us how to strive without stepping on others, how to encourage through excellence, and how to take pride not just in what we've done—but in how we've done it.

As elders in our families and communities, we now hold a unique vantage point. We've seen how competition can lift people, and how it can wear them down. Many of us notice a shift in how younger generations see competition—more public, more digital, more exhausting. So much energy spent on proving instead of progressing. But that doesn't mean the torch should be dropped—it just means it needs a wiser hand to carry it.

Seniors are not a demographic to be sidelined. We're mentors, makers, historians, and visionaries. We compete with the past, not to erase it, but to honor it and add to it. There's power in striving toward something greater, even now—whether it's mastering pickleball, launching a podcast, or finally perfecting that sweet potato pie recipe to pass down.

Our competitive spirit doesn't fade—it refines. It gets choosier about where we place our energy and how we define "winning." We are proud competitors: bold, brilliant, but always rooted in grace. We compete to win, but also to inspire, to teach, and to leave a mark that reflects not just our achievements but our spirit.

It's not about beating someone else. It's about becoming the best version of ourselves, with a little flair, a little fire, and a whole lot of soul.



Arts & Culture

The Woman Who Brought Black Girls Into the Girl Scouts

By Jordan Meadows

Staff Writer

Josephine Amanda Groves Holloway, born on March 10, 1898, in Cowpens, South Carolina, was a determined pioneer who worked to ensure African-American girls had a place in the Girl Scouts. The seventh of ten children born to Emma Gray Groves and Methodist minister John Wesley Groves, she was raised in a household that deeply valued education. After completing Brewer Normal School in Beaufort, she followed a teacher's advice and enrolled at Fisk University in Nashville in 1919. Despite struggling with illness and finances, she earned a sociology degree in 1923, later adding a second bachelor's degree in business from Tennessee A&I State College in 1926.

Her journey into Girl Scouting began soon after graduation, when

she became the Girls' Worker at the Bethlehem Center, a settlement house for at-risk women and girls. Inspired by the potential of Girl Scouting and trained by the founder Juliette Gordon Low herself, Holloway organized the first unofficial Black Girl Scout troop in Middle Tennessee in 1924.

She was temporarily interrupted in 1925 when she married Guernsey Holloway, the Boys' Worker at the Bethlehem Center. The center's director believed a married woman couldn't manage her work duties, and she was forced to resign. The troop dissolved soon after her departure, but Holloway's mission was far from over.

While raising three daughters and working as a registrar at Fisk and later for the Tennessee Department of Welfare, she continued her fight for inclusion in scouting. When her eldest daughter turned six in 1933,

she petitioned the newly formed Nashville Girl Scout Council to create a troop for Black girls. Her request was denied.

Undeterred, Holloway began organizing unofficial troops with over 150 girls, using handbooks her husband acquired while studying in Chicago. She taught the girls everything they needed to know—Scout laws, promises, and skills—without official support.

For nearly a decade, Holloway and other Black women sustained these unofficial troops. In 1942, the increasing number of African-American troops forced the Nashville Council to officially recognize them. One year later, Troop 200, led by Holloway and including her own daughters—Nareda, Josephine, and Weslia—became a reality.

In 1944, Holloway became the first African-American professional hired by the Middle Tennessee Girl Scout Council, serving as field advisor, organizer, and later as a district and camp director. Her work laid the foundation for hundreds of Black girls to engage in scouting, despite continuing segregation. By 1944, there were 13 troops and over 250 Black Girl Scouts in Nashville.

As opportunities for Black Girl Scouts expanded, Holloway recognized the need for facilities. Many state parks remained closed to African Americans, so she used her community connections to help the council purchase land from Black landowners near White House, Tennessee. In 1955, Camp Holloway was opened in her honor.

Despite limited council funding, she and her family maintained the grounds, brought in military

surplus buildings, and even constructed a swimming pool, ensuring Black girls could enjoy a full scouting experience.

The council began integrating troops between 1960 and 1965. Nevertheless, Holloway continued advocating for equity until her retirement in 1963.

Interactive Theatre Experience at Mordecai Park To Portray The Life Of The Enslaved

Ms Jheri Worldwide

Staff Writer

MOJOAA Performing Arts Company is a family-owned, Black theatre company based in Raleigh, NC. Existing to support Southern Black playwrights and the worlds they create with their words. This September, MOJOAA Performing Arts Company is teaming up with Mordecai Historic Park to offer a powerful and immersive look into the past with "Escape to Freedom," an interactive theatre experience. The event is designed to guide guests through the realities of plantation life through the eyes of an enslaved person.

Throughout the hour-long tour, audience members will join the performers, becoming part of the narrative as it unfolds across the historic park grounds. The experience aims to move beyond a traditional historical tour, using live theatre to create a visceral connection to the stories and struggles of the people who were enslaved at Mordecai.

Following each performance, at-



tendees will participate in a crucial reflection session. Led by members of the MOJOAA Performing Arts Company and Mordecai Historic Park staff, this guided conversation will provide a space for guests to process the experience, ask questions, and discuss the enduring legacy of the history presented.

"Escape to Freedom" is recommended for audiences aged 16 and

quarters opened the Josephine G. Holloway Historical Collection and Gallery.

Upon her passing on December 7, 1988, at the age of 90, she bequeathed 50 acres of land next to Camp Holloway, ensuring her legacy of inclusion and empowerment would continue.

Performances are scheduled to take place rain or shine on Friday, September 12, at 7:30 p.m. and 9 p.m., with an additional performance on Sunday, September 14, at 4:30 p.m. Tickets are \$18, and advanced registration is required via Raleigh.gov website. For more information, please call Mordecai Historic Park at 919-996-4364.



Sports

The New Northgreen: A Historic Course & Bold Revival

By Ms Jheri Worldwide

Staff Writer

Designed by legendary Golf Architect Bob Toski in the late 70's, Northgreen Country Club has become a staple of the Rocky Mount community, beloved by both veterans and newcomers in the sport of golf. Northgreen Country Club is back, and according to the Stanley and Cheryl Campbell, it's on a path to becoming "the best golf course within the region," to be "the best course in the state." What was once a source of historical pride, but more recently a subject of conversation due to its state, is now a course being meticulously brought back to glory.

In a recent interview, details were shared regarding the comprehensive revitalization efforts currently underway. While the course may not be the "neatest" at the moment due to ongoing projects, the work being completed is extensive. Seven miles of new cart paths have been added, the greens are being carefully restored with weekly fertilizing

and monthly treatments, and the fairways are being repaired to eliminate concave paths from collapsed, 50-year-old pipes. The timeline for completion is ambitious, with the course expected to be back to its old self within three weeks.

The course itself, which meets all PGA certifications, is described as both "very difficult" for professionals and "very easy" for the average player—the true "beauty of Northgreen." Beyond the course itself, other facilities are also being upgraded. The driving range, which was uncovered from under dirt and grass, will soon have new cushioned pads for teeing off. Plans are also in place to reopen the tennis courts and the pool, and the clubhouse is receiving a facelift.

The ownership story behind this revival is as compelling as the course's history. The Campbell family are among only eight Black owners of PGA-certified country clubs in the United States, and they are the only people of color to own more than two, with three total clubs. The ownership team lamented the lack of

diversity in the business of golf. This historical context is a driving force behind their mission.

Northgreen's history is illustrious, having hosted the ACC championship when the conference had the best golfers in the world. The Mr. Campbell recalled that even legendary golfer Davis Love III, who was once the best golfer alive, never won here despite playing three times. Their ultimate goal is to bring that prestige back by inviting the ACC to return for a championship or tour play within a year.

The ownership team's passion for golf goes beyond the greens and into the community. The club is currently hosting students from the Boys and Girls Club of Rocky Mount in an eight-week program designed to teach them the game and golf culture. They are also actively mentoring future PGA professionals, including Xavier Williams, a North Carolina A&T alum who is now competing for a spot in the Wyndham Classic. Williams developed into one of the top golfers on N.C. A&T's

team. He has had an outstanding career thus far not allowing COVID-19 pandemic to hamper his collegiate career. He has played 73 1/2 rounds as an Aggie with 5,605 strokes for a career average of 76.3. Mr. Campbell emphasized that this mentorship includes not just golf skills but also the business of golf and a rigorous training regimen that rivals that of NFL players.

Mrs. Campbell elaborated that the club is not just for golfers; it's a versatile facility for the entire community. It's open to the public, with no membership required to enjoy its offerings. The club has recently hosted family reunions, weddings, baby showers, and even a "paint and sip" event. Mrs. Campbell encourages non-golfing women to get out of the cart and play the game, reinforcing the idea that this is a place for everyone to engage and enjoy. Northgreen Country Club welcomes you to visit the website, book a tee time, and enjoy this gem in eastern North Carolina.



One Man, A Thousand Cheers: The Story Of "Big Mike"

By Jordan Meadows

Staff Writer

Mike Whiting, affectionately known across the Triangle as "Big Mike," is more than just a familiar face at Carolina Hurricanes games—he's the heartbeat of the fan experience, a beloved preschool teacher, and a local hero whose impact spans classrooms, arenas, and countless hearts.

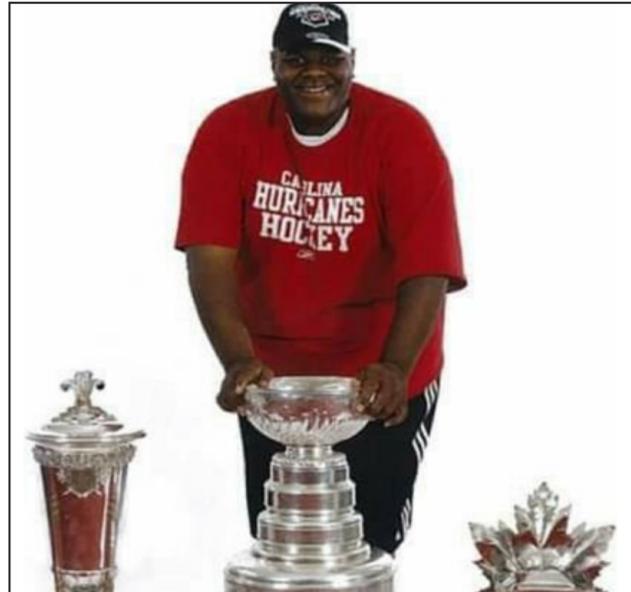
Raised in Cary, North Carolina, Mike grew up as one of the few Black families in the area, where he developed a love for hockey after being hooked by a video game as a child. That spark grew into a lifelong passion, and in 2002, he officially joined the Carolina Hurricanes as a team ambassador.

Since then, his energy, laughter, and presence have become synonymous with Canes home games. Fans know him as the horn-blowing, crowd-rallying, joy-spreading superfan who has helped transform the face of hockey in North Carolina.

"When I first started coming, it was all white people here," Mike said. "Now I look around and there's a mix of people everywhere... Maybe that's due in part to me."

And it's true—Mike has played a significant role in making the sport more welcoming, helping diversify the stands and amplify Black voices in a sport that has traditionally lacked representation.

Before his rise in the sports world, Mike made a name for himself on NC State's campus as "Mean Gene the Dancing Machine," a sideline sensation during basketball games, and as "Mic Man"



for Wolfpack football. His ability to hype up crowds with dance and personality eventually caught the attention of the Hurricanes, leading to his ambassador role with the Storm Squad.

But off the court and ice, Mike's true calling has always been in the classroom. Since 2000, he has worked as a preschool teacher, giving his heart daily to children and families. He is known for his generosity and the selflessness he instills in his students.

Each year on his birthday, he organizes donation drives in lieu of gifts—collecting toys, socks, blan-

kets, and even underwear for local hospitals and children's charities.

"Each year for my birthday, I have the kids bring in things in lieu of presents—items to help the local hospital or a kids' charity," Mike explained. His "Operation Undercover" campaign alone collected hundreds of essential clothing items.

Now, after decades of lifting others, Mike needs help himself. He is facing a number of serious health and housing challenges, including the need for a double hip replacement, extensive dental work, and mobility support in his home. Due

to traumatic dental experiences in his youth, Mike suffers from severe dental anxiety, which now complicates his treatments. His high blood pressure spikes during procedures, requiring general anesthesia—which insurance won't fully cover.

The untreated dental issues are now threatening his heart health. On top of that, his hips are deteriorating to the point of constant pain, and he needs a heavy-duty lift chair to sleep properly. His mobility scooter is also breaking down, and being out of warranty, repairs or replacement are costly. As these challenges mount, Mike has been forced to do something he never imagined—ask for help.

"It's truly out of my comfort zone to ask for help," he said, "but I've reached a point where it's essential. I've always strived to be a helper and a giver. It's humbling to now be on the receiving end of support."

The community response has been nothing short of incredible.

Jan Cooper started a GoFundMe that raised over \$50,000 in less than a week. Support has poured in from all directions: the Carolina Hurricanes organization, NC State alumni, former students and their families, fellow teachers, and fans from across the hockey world.

The Hurricanes featured his story on their "Amplifying Black Voices" CanesCast podcast, celebrating his role in growing the sport and bringing diversity and energy to the fan base. Even casual fans who've only caught a glimpse of him dancing or laughing in the stands have reached out to donate, share the fundraiser, or simply say "thank you."

Mike comes from a legacy of trailblazers—his grandfather, Johnnie Johnson, was the legendary pianist who played with Chuck Berry for over 30 years and was the inspiration behind the classic "Johnny B. Goode." In many ways, Mike is continuing that legacy: bringing people together through joy, music, and love.

His laugh, which he says once got him pulled over while driving because it was so loud, is a symbol of who he is—a light in every room, every game, every life he touches. Whether he's firing up the Hurricanes crowd, dancing courtside, or inspiring preschoolers to think of others, Big Mike is always lifting people up.

Jacory Patterson: From UPS To Top 400 Runner

(AP) At night, Jacory Patterson loaded delivery trucks at UPS. That way by day, he could train.

This routine went on for nearly a year to support his true dream job — sprinting.

Patterson's time in the 400 meters this season has never been speedier, even if he has been sometimes sleep deprived. At 25, he finally is finding his stride and along with it earning a paycheck from track.

His life began to change after winning a Grand Slam Track event in Miami, which led to Diamond League meet invitations and a sponsorship deal from Nike.

Business is now booming so much for him that Patterson was able to clock out for the final time in June from his position at UPS. He has the third-fastest time (43.98 seconds) in the world this season heading into U.S. championships this week in Eugene, Oregon, where he is eager to make even more of a name for himself.

"If everything in life was easy, everybody would be at the top," said Patterson, who advanced to the 400 final by winning his heat Friday night. "But everybody's not at the top. We've just got to understand everything won't be smooth, green grass. There's going to be some hills and some bumps and some potholes."

CHIP ON SHOULDER

Each time he steps into the the starting blocks for a race, Patterson tells himself the same thing: Show the world. Show everyone what he can do, even if it took him a little bit longer to get here.

A standout at Florida, he watched friends and rivals sign lucrative deals while he patiently waited for his time. His personal-best time before this season was 44.18 in 2021.

"I knew it was there. I just had to figure it out," he said. "I would tell myself, 'Man, you're young, there's no way that you're done.'"

Community

A Free Healthcare Clinic This Weekend In Rocky Mount

For millions of Americans, access to basic healthcare is a challenge at best and an impossibility at worst. Due to geographic or economic factors much of the U.S. population is uninsured or underinsured. Remote Area Medical (RAM®) is stepping

in to address this urgent issue by offering a free, comprehensive dental, vision, and medical clinic at Nash Central High School, located at 4279 Nash Central High Road, Rocky Mount, NC, 27804 for two days only this weekend, on August 9-10.

This clinic will provide dental, vision, and medical care to those who might otherwise go without these essential services. This free clinic is in collaboration with Ripple Effects Group.

RAM's clinics are a lifeline for underserved communities, offering free dental cleanings, dental fillings, dental extractions, dental X-rays, eye exams, eye health exams, eyeglass prescriptions, eyeglasses made on-site, women's health exams, mammograms, and general medical exams. By bringing healthcare directly to those in need, RAM's free clinics remove the barriers of cost and distance that often prevent people from seeking care.

No insurance or ID required, the clinic in Rocky Mount is open to anyone in need. RAM encourages anyone who could benefit from these services to attend and receive the



care they deserve. The parking lot will open no later than 11:59 p.m. (Midnight) on Friday night, August 8 and remain open for the duration of

the clinic. Once in the parking lot, patients will receive additional information regarding clinic processes and next

steps.

Clinic doors open at 6 a.m., and services are offered on a first-come, first-served basis, the clinic closes when capacity is reached. Sunday's clinic operations will be an abbreviated day, so patients are advised to arrive as early as possible. Due to time constraints, patients should be prepared to choose between DENTAL and VISION services, and all patients are offered general medical care.

In some situations, outside of RAM's control, such as inclement weather, volunteer cancellations or other circumstances, the parking lot may open earlier, or a smaller-than-anticipated number of patients may be served. RAM encourages everyone who would like services, especially dental services, to arrive as early as possible. Clinic closing time varies based on daily capacity.

WAKE COUNTY OMEGAS HOST FORUM



Garner, N.C. - The Xi Mu Mu Chapter of Omega Psi Phi, in collaboration with the Omegas of Raleigh, and in partnership with the Iota Iota Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Incorporated hosted the "All Politics is Local" forum recently to highlight the importance of energizing community-based organizations and citizens to become change agents in the political landscape.

The event was held recently at the Omegas of Raleigh Multipurpose Facility in Garner.

The forum was moderated by Patrick Curry, Basileus of the Xi Mu Mu Chapter and the N.C. Political Action Chair for the Fraternity's Sixth District, representing North and South Carolina.

The featured panelists included Town of Apex Mayor Jacque Gilbert, N.C. Representative Zack Hawkins (District 31-Durham), and N.C. Representative James Roberson (District 39 - Wake County).

"Since the fraternity's founding in 1911, Omega Psi Phi has historically remained in the forefront of providing a forum for citizens to be politically and socially engaged," said Curry.

BETA LAMBDA SIGMA AWARDS BOOK SCHOLARSHIP TO WATSON



Beta Lambda Sigma Philo Affiliate of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. awarded the Mamie S. Haywood Book Scholarship on July 3, 2025 to Clarsey Michelle Watson. Clarsey is the daughter of Mujahid Hasan and Patrice Watson of Raleigh, N.C. Clarsey graduated with Honors from Garner High School. She will attend North Carolina Central University in Durham, NC in the school of Nursing this fall.

By Ahmed Jallow

NC Newswire

Officials and residents from the town of Louisburg gathered Tuesday outside of the North Carolina Legislative Building to protest a surprise change to the town's mayoral election process, which they say was made without their knowledge or any public input.

The provision was inserted into House Bill 183, which originally focused on wake surfing restrictions on Lake Glenville in Jackson County. But in a last-minute revision, lawmakers added a language that alters how Louisburg, a town in Franklin County, elects its mayor.

The change requires a runoff election if no candidate receives more than 50% of the vote. If only two candidates file for the office, however, the winner will be determined by a simple plurality. Town council elections will not be affected by the change and will continue to be decided by plurality.

The incumbent, Mayor Christopher Neal, said runoff elections create unnecessary burdens for voters, especially those with limited time

Louisburg Leaders Decry Surprise Election Change Passed Without Any Local Input



and resources. He cited studies that have shown a significant drop in voter turnout for runoff elections, often with participation declining by 40% or more between the initial primary and the second round of voting.

"That puts a burden on seniors, single mothers, working people who have to take off and vote," he said at the press conference.

Town leaders say they were not consulted and only learned of the provision after the bill had already passed both chambers of the legislature and became law on June 26.

Because the measure was a local bill applying only to specific juris-

dictions, it did not require the governor's signature to become law.

Neal questioned why the provision was added so late and by whom. He noted that the bill was sponsored by Rep. Mike Clappitt, R-Tennessee, whose district is more than 300 miles from Louisburg. A review of the recording of the House session on June 25 — the day the conference report containing the addition was adopted — revealed that no explanation was provided for the provision or the bill before it was voted on. The Senate does not archive recordings of its sessions.

"Only reason that I can come

up with this bill being passed is because of Louisburg having an African American mayor... hopefully someone else can offer a much better [explanation]," Neal said. Neal is the only Black mayor in Franklin County.

Local leaders demanded transparency and answers from lawmakers about who pushed for the provision and why it was added without input from the community it affects.

Andrea Woodin, the Franklin County Democratic chair, called for "complete transparency" from Rep. Matthew Winslow, R-Franklin. "The voters deserve the whole story," she said during the press conference. Winslow and Sen. Lisa Barnes — also a Republican — are the only two lawmakers who represent Franklin County in the legislature.

Newline efforts to contact Reps. Clappitt and Winslow were unsuccessful.

"There's a problem with people trying to turn municipality elections, which are supposed to be nonpartisan, into a partisan pony race," said Deborah Maxwell, president of the North Carolina State Conference of the NAACP. "That is not fair."

Local Pickleballer Makes National Waves

Apex resident and 62-year-old athlete Pamela DeLoatch recently competed at the 2025 National Senior Games presented by Humana in Des Moines, Iowa. Pamela took 5th place in the women's doubles pickleball competition, and was chosen from over 12,000 athletes to be one of just ten 2025 Humana Game Changers — a national recognition of an athlete who exemplifies healthy aging and provides encouragement, motivation and inspira-



tion for all seniors to live healthy lifestyles.

After discovering pickleball by chance, Pamela quickly became passionate about the sport and made her debut at this year's National Senior Games. She credits pickleball with keeping her physically active and socially connected, and even founded "Black Girl Magic Pickleball," a Raleigh-area group to inspire others in her community to get active.



NCDOT TO HOLD PUBLIC UPDATE MEETING REGARDING THE PROPOSAL TO GRADE SEPARATE FRANKLIN BOULEVARD AND THE CLOSURE OF O'FERRELL STREET RAIL CROSSING IN GUILFORD COUNTY

STIP Project No. P-5709



GREENSBORO - The N.C. Department of Transportation is hosting a public update meeting on its proposed plan to grade separate Franklin Boulevard and the closure of O'Ferrell Street rail crossing in Guilford County. A grade separation means using a bridge to separate intersecting roads and/or railroads.

The purpose of the project is to remove existing at-grade railroad crossings, provide safety improvements, and improve passenger and freight rail operations along the Piedmont Corridor between Raleigh and Charlotte.

Project details and maps can be found on the NCDOT project web page publicinput.com/franklinbvd-greensboro. The information will be available at the meeting allowing for one-on-one discussions with engineers, but there will be no formal presentation.

The meeting will be held from 4 to 7 p.m. on August 12 at Falkener Elementary School, 3931 Naco Road, in Greensboro.

Comments received will be noted in the project record, but because the project has advanced beyond the preliminary design stage, no formal response or design revisions are required or expected.

People may also submit comments by phone at 512-580-8850 project code 5688, email franklinbvd-greensboro@publicinput.com, or mail at the address shown below.

By Mail: Christa Greene, PE
NCDOT Senior Rail Project Development Engineer
1553 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-1553

NCDOT will provide auxiliary aids and services under the Americans with Disabilities Act for disabled people who wish to participate in this meeting. Anyone requiring special services should contact Tony Gallagher, Environmental Analysis Unit, at 1598 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, N.C. 27699-1598, 919-707-6069 or mgallagher@ncdot.gov as early as possible so arrangements can be made.

Those who do not speak English, or have a limited ability to read, speak or understand English, may receive interpreter services upon request prior by calling 1-800-481-5434.

Assistive services, no readers, braille, or screen reader services are available upon request. For more information, please call 1-800-481-5434.

Raleigh Kappa's To Host Big Back To School Event



On behalf of the Raleigh Alumni Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc., it is our honor to extend an invitation to Bugg Magnet Elementary to participate in our annual **Operation Fresh Start** initiative. This year's event includes a special focus on celebrating educators and supporting students as they return to school.

We're excited to host a **Staff Appreciation Breakfast**, on August 19, 2025 beginning at 8:00 am, designed to thank your incredible faculty and staff for their unwavering dedication. In addition, we'll be providing **free haircuts** and **free sneakers** to students, ensuring they start the year with confidence and readiness.

Event Highlights: Date: August 16, 2025 Time: 7:00 am-11:00 am Location: Kappa Center 750 King Richard Road, Raleigh NC, 27610
Staff Breakfast: A catered meal served with appreciation and cheer
Student Services: Free professional haircuts for boys
Sneaker Giveaway: Stylish and comfortable sneakers available in multiple sizes

We'd love to work with you and your team to coordinate logistics, identify needs, and ensure this event runs smoothly for both staff and students.

Thank you for your continued commitment to the students and families of our community. We look forward to celebrating and serving alongside you.



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Church

No Indictment For Ex-Atlanta Cop In Deacon's Death

ATLANTA (AP) — A grand jury on Monday declined to indict a former Atlanta police officer on manslaughter charges in the death of a church deacon who died in a struggle with the officer following a minor car crash.

After hearing the case, Fulton County grand jurors rejected criminal charges against Kiran Kimbrough, said Jeff DiSantis, a spokesperson for Fulton County District

Attorney Fani Willis.

Johnny Hollman Sr. died in August 2023 after he refused to sign a citation following a wreck. Family members said the 62-year-old Hollman was driving home from Bible study at his daughter's house and taking dinner to his wife when he collided with another vehicle while turning across a busy street just west of downtown.

Body camera video of Hollman's

arrest shows Kimbrough repeatedly demanding that Hollman sign the citation, while Hollman insists he did nothing wrong. The two men tussled and Hollman ended up face down on the ground with Kimbrough over him, pressing him down. Hollman repeatedly says "I can't breathe," and Kimbrough uses a Taser to shock him repeatedly. The video also shows a tow truck driver helping Kimbrough.

Hollman became unresponsive and

was declared dead at a hospital. An autopsy determined the death was a homicide, with heart disease also a contributing factor.

Lance LoRusso, who represents Kimbrough, said prosecutors sought to indict his client for one count of manslaughter, one count of simple battery and three counts of violating his oath of office. Kimbrough testified before the grand jury, as is an officer's right under state law, LoRusso said.

"While Johnny Hollman's death was tragic, in no way did Kiran Kimbrough cause the death," LoRusso said in a statement Monday. "Johnny Hollman's death was caused by medical complications and his felonious, unlawful resistance of a uniformed officer performing his lawful duties."

DiSantis said Willis is conferring with prosecutors and investigators about whether to ask a new grand jury to indict Kimbrough.

Hollman's family members have repeatedly called for the former officer to be criminally charged.

A statement from lawyers attributed to the family said they were "devastated" by the grand jury's decision not to indict.

"The failure to hold this officer accountable is another painful reminder of how little value is placed on his life by some citizens," the statement said. "Our faith and our



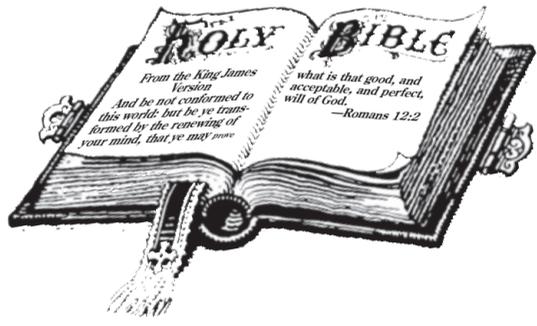
fight for justice will not waver."

Atlanta officials fired Kimbrough, saying he should have agreed to Hollman's request to speak to a supervisor. A civil service board upheld the firing, and the Atlanta City Council agreed to settle a lawsuit by Hollman's family alleging excessive force for \$3.8 million. The family also sued the tow truck driver and his employer, saying the driver straddled Hollman's head and neck for at least 20 seconds and appeared to "sit with his full body

weight" on Hollman's head and neck while Kimbrough handcuffed Hollman.

Atlanta and some other police departments have enacted policies saying that officers should no longer arrest people who refused to sign citations. State lawmakers passed a bill that would have enacted such a policy statewide earlier this year, but Gov. Brian Kemp vetoed it because he opposed a provision unrelated to collecting signatures from people named on citations.

SERMON of the WEEK



Sermon by: Pastor William "Billy" Eli Ratcliff

Daniel 3:19-20 Then Nebuchadnezzar was furious with Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, and his attitude toward them changed. He ordered the furnace heated seven times hotter than usual and commanded some of the strongest soldiers in his army to tie up Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego and throw them into the blazing furnace. NIV

BEAT THE HEAT

July 2025 was the hottest month on record in Raleigh, with an average daily high of 93.5 degrees. And just to be clear, I'm not talking about a radio station—that's degrees Fahrenheit! The actual hottest day reached a scorching 99 degrees. It was so hot, I wouldn't have been surprised if someone told me cows were giving evaporated milk and chickens were laying hard-boiled eggs. It was hot!

But this weekend at Lincoln Park, we beat the heat! When we took our youth to Kings Dominion in Doswell, VA, the blazing heat that was 93° on Friday, gave way to a beautiful 78° high on Saturday. But today, I want to talk about three young men who beat the heat—not in a water park, but in a fiery furnace.

In Daniel 3, King Nebuchadnezzar ordered Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego to be thrown into a furnace heated seven times hotter than normal because they refused to worship his golden idol. This wasn't just a problem, it was a predicament. A problem has a solution. A predicament only has an outcome.

They were tied up with no fire department, no fire escape, and no extinguishers, which would have been useless anyway. All they had was a

collective and unwavering faith—and that was all they needed.

What kind of faith? The kind that invites God in. Jesus said, "Where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there." And when Nebuchadnezzar looked into the furnace, he saw a fourth man—and said, "He looks like the Son of God."

If God stood with them, He'll stand with you. What should've killed them, promoted them. I want you to know today that you can beat the heat, too! Let's take a look at how they reacted to King Nebuchadnezzar.

1. They Refused to Bow

When the music played, everyone bowed—but Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego stood tall. They believed God was able to deliver them, and even if He didn't, they still wouldn't bow.

We live in a world that pressures us to bow to fear, to temptation, or sin. But when you know who you serve, you don't bend, and you don't break because we serve a God who is able to deliver, if He chooses to do so!

They didn't give in, give up, or give out, and because they didn't, God brought them out! What is your fire? Is it depression, addiction, arrogance, jealousy, pride, anger, or something else? But I want you to know today, if you hold on to your faith, you'll walk through it and not even smell like smoke. Let's take a look at how they responded to KING JESUS!

2. They Worshipped in the Fire

These young men didn't wait until they got out of the furnace to praise God—they worshipped right in it! Their worship didn't make sense, but it made miracles. They weren't sitting on padded pews in air conditioning,

or fanning and saying "Amen"—they were dancing in the fire that was meant to destroy them!

Sometimes, the devil will get you so heated that you'll tell someone that this or that thing is burning you up! Some things can make you so mad, it'll make you want to chew your nails like they are McDonald's French fries or make you feel like you could chew rocks like they're bubble gum. But don't do that—chew on the Word of God. When life is too hot to handle, hold on to Jesus. You can't lose with the God we use.

God didn't just rescue those boys—He promoted them. They went from a sizzling furnace to favor and from a scorching fire to a successful future, and so can you!

So, when fear, doubt, and intimidation try to heat you up and make you hot under the collar—speak from God's Word, repeat a bible verse, or sing a song that helps to keep your faith, hope, and trust in our God, the one who delivers and promotes.

Yes, you can beat the heat. If you refuse to bow and worship in the fire, your victory is in your praise. Romans 14:8 says, "Whether we live or die, we are the Lord's." So, whether God brings you out of the fire, walks with you through the fire, or calls you home from the fire, you still win.

Tell yourself or somebody, I refuse to bow. Tell yourself, I will worship in the fire and with God—I will beat the heat!

YOUR VICTORY is in your PRAISE! Read Psalm 27:1-6.

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

Practical Biblical Principles

A RELEVANT RELIGION
Micah 6:1-8

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

When we become Christians what is the first order of business? Out of the sixty-six books in the Bible which book should we start reading? Or should we wait on the leading of the Spirit? If we wait on the Spirit, this could be very challenging, because we are not yet familiar with the Spirit and His work with us. Yet, God gives us a part of His Spirit the moment we become saved. However, the spiritual part of our lives seems to be the last thing we deal with. Where, how, and when does one start living their Christian life?

No one can start living a Christian life without a leader or teacher of the faith. The church would fail measurably if it did not have spirit filled Christian leaders in the church. How did the people in the Old Testament sustain their godly belief if they were only required to attend church once a year? The truth is that some did and some didn't. What made the difference? The male head of the house was the key to maintaining a holy and godly life in his family. Only the males were required to attend worship at the temple once a year. It was the husband in the house which was given the responsibly to lead his family into a holy relationship with God. The Old Testament family did not have the bible to read and live by. The man of the house was required to remember all which is taught by the leaders of the Church. In the Old Testament, Moses was the leader and teacher chosen by God. Moses had no bible to prime his thinking therefore, all of his godly wisdom was a direct spiritual download from God. In short, outside of the Ten Commandments given by God. Men were required to remember and obey what was taught to them by Moses. The once-a-year temple worship in the Old Testament time was designed to remind the people of God's holy presence with them throughout the year.

If this were today the church would probably be empty. Today people remember the hurt, pain, the sorrow, and moral pleasure more than remembering godly stuff that is taught in the home and church. It appears people today have forgotten why God gave a brain. Today it appears that people use their brain more to gain and

get pleasure rather than seeking the God, who gave them their lives and freewill to be able to relate and fellowship with Him. God loves to fellowship with His obedient people. This is one Christian principle that is not taught and stressed enough in the life of God's children.

How relevant is your religion today? Is your religion based upon a relationship with God (Christ), or is it based upon you living your life the way you want to? Have you ever asked yourself the question, "What does God require of Me?" Believe it or not people are living a pagan life as it were in the days of the prophets and Christ.

In Micah's day, the people were burning animals on the altar to please God, while cheating their fellowman at the same time. Seven hundred years before Christ some of the people offering their first-born children as sacrifices for their own adult sinning—this is akin to abortion today. The people were dutiful in worship, but they robbed the poor and exploited their farm workers, not unlike today, when the rich take the advantage of poor labor. Micah, Amos, and Isaiah preached that none of these things please or satisfied God. In many ways these prophets of God called for repentance. Like today this call was mostly ignored.

Micah summed God's requirements for His people. "He hath showed thee, O man, what is good; And what does the Lord require of you a relevant religion, which is not a ritual of just going to church and serving on committees and boards, but a godly relationship with God. But to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God?"

Doing Justly comes first. This simply means being fair dealing with people—doing to others what you would have them do to you (the Golden Rule). Justly means doing all we can to see that everybody has an equal opportunity to achieve equal results. This is hard for a lot of people, who may be selfish and egotistical. A community cannot survive as one, if people are not being just and honest with each other.

Next is the love of mercy. Dr. Samuel Proctor in one of his sermons talks about an old deacon in the church would pray and in the middle of his prayer he would stop and say, "Now Father, your humble servant does not pray for justice because justice does not suit my condition; I'm praying for a double portion of your mercy this morning." This man did not want God to be legalistic with

Him; he did not want God to put the law to him; he did not want God to be only just with him; he wanted God to be more than that; he wanted God to be merciful to him. Justice may not only suffice all by itself, but it may also not be well enough informed on human needs. Think of the ways we use to treat children and old folks who were mentally challenged. If we kept them clean and locked them up that appeared to be just because we didn't have that much time for them. And yet even today we forget such individuals have the same needs as we have for ourselves. Only in recent times have we learned through studies and psychology to show mercy to such individuals today. We lose the mercy when we don't take the time, as we should, to cater to them. We often have become too busy so as not to cater to the social and physical needs of our own family members who may become physically and socially challenged.

Finally, the prophet said, "the end of it all is to learn to walk humbly with God. Our religious experience must be able to support and sustain our justice and mercy that we may implore. We are frail people and often we do deceive ourselves. We do not pause and worship God on a daily basis, in the beauty of His holiness, we will start calling things by the wrong name and think you have told the truth. The moments of silence and prayer before God keeps us aware that God is keeping watch over us and sees all we do and hears all we say. We live in tough times and awful tensions. Who or what will guide us through the maze of confusion and troublesome life today.

One young college student was quoted as saying when I visit churches, I'm sometimes confused - in one I hear stories of the bible and in another I hear quoted scriptures that I'm not familiar with. The problem with this young man is he has not been taught or instructed to study the bible for himself. Under such circumstances how relevant will this young man's religion be, if he is not shown the way to God by people who already know God?

To do justly, to love mercy and to walk humbly with God is the major work of the Holy spirit, which we all have if we are saved. The spiritual problem of today in the church is the fact we don't call on or believe in the unseen Holy Spirit enough to help us do justly (justice), to love mercy, and to walk humbly with our God.



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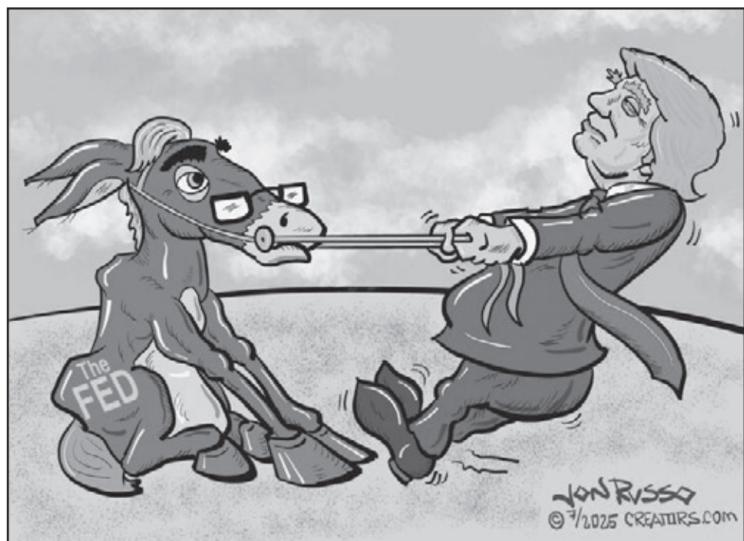
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Editorial Policy

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



WE'RE BEING DEAFENED BY DIGITAL NOISE. PAUSE IT AND YOU HEAR THE SOUND OF DEMOCRACY IN CRISIS

By Rafael Behr

Returning from holiday, asked where I have been, I want to say “of-fine”. The more precise answer is France, where the internet is available. But I tried not to use it compulsively because there isn’t much point in getting away from it all if you carry it all with you on a phone and check it every few minutes.

At some point in the past decade or so, the condition of vacation came to be defined more by detachment from the digital realm than departure from home. The break begins not in a departure lounge but with the act of logging off, setting the out-of-office email auto-reply, archiving work-related WhatsApp chats, deleting social media apps.

The benefit isn’t immediate. The cacophony rings in your ears for a few days before you notice the stillness, the change in tempo. It is the difference between gliding on thermal currents of private thought and hurtling along rails, propelled by the burning urgency of other people’s opinions. The contrast is even starker in reverse, the roar of the tunnel as you go back to work, the jostle of notifications, the bowed head, scrolling the horizon away.

I’m not an analogue nostalgist. I don’t prefer getting lost to having Google Maps. I don’t think people were better informed when they had fewer channels or were less vulnerable to superstition when clerical authority was absolute.

We are now in the third decade of the first digital century. The revolution is irreversible and of unknowable duration. History has had a number of these explosive profusions of interconnectedness, driven by a radical innovation in communication technology. But not many. The writer Naomi Alderman calls them “information crises”, and argues that the present one is only the third. The printing press was the second. The invention of writing some time around the fourth millennium BC was the first.

The comparison doesn’t have to be exact for us to marvel at the scale of what we are experiencing. It is immeasurable because we don’t know how far along the track we have travelled. AI is only getting started.

religion, and books in school libraries are valid, well—I’ve got a talking dog I could make money off of. The idea that schools or books are “convincing” children to be homosexual is absurd.

Children are not being sexually abused by homosexuals. It’s heterosexuals who are committing the majority of sexual crimes in our society. And since homosexuals make up only 1% of the population, why are we enacting laws against them?

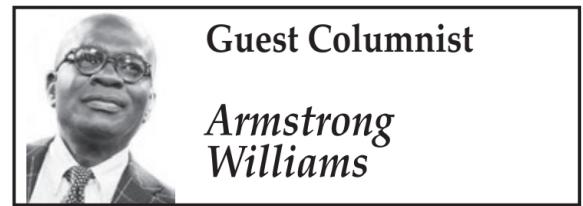
Then there’s the banning of books. Did you know that most of the banned books are by Black authors and deal with true history and complex realities? The initial Republican bill didn’t look as extreme—it was the later additions that led the governor to veto it. Look it up. As Bernice King said, if you’re going to release the Martin Luther King Jr. file, then release the Epstein files too.

Here’s the real consideration: let’s not have a double standard in America. We are a different kind of nation because of our Constitution. It’s an ideal worth continuing to pursue.

Here’s where I stand: If the Trump administration is for it, I don’t care how good it looks—I’m against it. I know that doesn’t sound great, but that’s how diabolical I believe their agenda is.

I look carefully at the temptation of Christ in the wilderness for 40 days and 40 nights. Interestingly, Satan says some things that are true. But Jesus knew his intentions—and rejected them all.

Another way of looking at it, right?



Guest Columnist

Armstrong Williams

MODERATION IN ALL THINGS

Moderation in all things is our deliverance from the strife and upheaval of extremism. The Aristotelian means recognizes that wisdom and truth are more chiascuro than prime colors. Drawing lines are the heartland of civilized law. It can be said without exaggeration that civilization was born when the first human reflected, “I could be wrong. I need to entertain alternative views.”

Thomas Jefferson underscored in his first inaugural address, “All too will bear in mind this sacred principle, that though the will of the majority is in all cases to prevail, that will, to be rightful, must be reasonable; that the minority possess their equal rights, which equal laws must protect, and to violate would be oppression.”

Republican presidential candidate Barry Goldwater stumbled in thundering, “Extremism in defense of liberty is no vice. Moderation in pursuit of justice is no virtue.” The storming of the Bastille and the French Revolution began the Reign of Terror and Napoleon’s self-coronation. The moderate American alternative gave birth to the United States Constitution and the Statue of Liberty. Extremism in the defense of liberty prompted then-Sen. Goldwater to oppose the 1964 Civil Rights Act, which emancipated Blacks from a century of Jim Crow earmarked by lynchings and the dastardly murder of Emmett Till.

Yet extremism on both the left and right flourishes, tending to shipwreck moderation. Poet William Butler Yeats versified, “The best lack all conviction, while the worst are full of passionate intensity.” The media fuels extremism by courting guests eager for gladiatorial combat that makes for wonderful ratings. Balanced commentary is shunned as lacking verbal pyrotechnics. President Donald Trump was right in stating, “This is going to be great television,” regarding his White House jousting with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky.

The extreme Right conceives any criticism of American history as treason — even acknowledging the horrors of slavery, the extermination of Native Americans, or female disenfranchisement until the 19th Amendment. Extreme rightists have defended slavery by arguing it cultivated skills that could be turned to personal benefit. But if slavery were so advantageous, why did whites fiercely resist slavery for themselves to enjoy its putative advantages? The extreme Right embraces the “great replacement” theory, which postulates white supremacy indistinguishable from Adolf Hitler’s master race. The violent Jan. 6 violent attack on the U.S. Capitol to prevent the peaceful transfer of presidential power in accord with the 12th Amendment and the Electoral Count Act was an attempted reprise of South Carolina’s firing on Fort Sumter, which triggered the Civil War.

The extreme Left preaches that because the United States is imperfect, it is entirely evil — that the baby should be thrown out with the bathwater. Their cures are vastly worse than the disease: defunding the police; disparaging merit-based enrollments or employment; sclerotic government substitutions for private enterprise; and lighting a match to the U.S. Constitution, a masterful blueprint for limited, balanced government that William Gladstone praised as “the most wonderful work ever struck off at a given time by the brain and purpose of man.” The extreme Left salutes sacrificing the good on the altar of the perfect.

Benjamin Franklin displayed the ideal of moderation and anti-zealotry at the constitutional convention. The grand statesman is worth quoting at length to teach a standard of self-doubting that should be inculcated in every home or classroom:

“I confess that I do not entirely approve of this Constitution at present, but Sir, I am not sure I shall never approve it: For having lived long, I have experienced many Instances of being oblig’d, by better Information or fuller Consideration, to change Opinions even on important Subjects, which I once thought right, but found to be otherwise. It is therefore that the older I grow the more apt I am to doubt my own Judgment and to pay more Respect to the Judgment of others. Most Men indeed as well as most Sects in Religion, think themselves in Possession of all Truth, and that wherever others differ from them it is so far Error. (Sir Richard) Steele, a Protestant, in a Dedication tells the Pope, that the only Difference between our two Churches in their Opinions of the Certainty of their Doctrine, is, the Romish Church is infallible, and the Church of England is never in the Wrong.”

A Different Voice

By Dorothy Shaw Thompson



ANOTHER WAY OF LOOKING

This week and last week, there have been some very interesting votes on vetoes issued by Governor Josh Stein, addressing the consequential power the Republicans are trying to assert as they attempt to shape the state according to their—and their president’s—ideology. Last week, three African American representatives voted with them on what I consider to be controversial bills.

They were elected as Democrats. Forgive me if my understanding of politics is more idealistic—or, as some might say, naive—but to me, representation means just that. I thought we had a representative system of government. So when we overwhelmingly elect someone to represent us, I expect them to do just that.

I read Josh Stein’s reasoning for vetoing eight bills that the Republicans introduced. Forgive me if I get the number wrong—I’m an opinion writer. Case in point: Governor Stein vetoed the Energy Bill because it would allow Duke Energy to charge customers for new plants before the plants are even built.

Stein’s position was that the bill would make utility bills more expensive, shifting the cost away from large industrial users and onto regular households. On top of that, this bill also rolls back laws that reduce carbon emissions and other environmental standards.

I don’t know about you, but as a consumer of both weather and air, it’s clear to me that environmental protections are necessary if we want to reduce, or at least slow, global warming and preserve air quality. Once again, politicians are financially rewarding themselves and those who benefit from not holding companies accountable for the high health and financial costs their decisions create.

It has been reported that asthma, COPD, and other breathing difficulties are directly linked to changes in heat and air quality. Republican Karla Cunningham—an African American Democrat from the Mecklenburg district—voted for a law that requires sheriffs to work with Immigration and Customs Enforcement amid the federal government’s mass deportation efforts. She said, “Oh wow, cultures are not equal.”

I say: they must adapt to the country they live in? Huh, sister girl, would you have said that when those who got off the Nina, the Pinta, and the Santa Maria took over the land that the natives—meaning the first people—occupied? What about the enslaved? Should they have adapted to the laws written after they were kidnapped?

Cultures are not the same—that’s what makes them cultures. But that is not a valid argument against equal rights. If I make my potato salad one way, serve collard greens and fried chicken, should I have to serve caviar at my family reunion? Should I be forced to adopt the menu of the dominant culture in order to “adapt”?

Culture is not the problem here—race is. And Trump’s goal is to ensure that white people remain the dominant culture and race in America. Remember the slogan: “If they come for you in the morning, they’ll come for me in the afternoon.”

Then there’s my friend and former schoolmate, Massahied. He voted for the bill on sexuality and religion in schools. I haven’t spoken to him, but I’m not surprised by how he voted. He’s Muslim and said his reasons were personal and religious.

He’s been quoted as saying this. My problem is not with his religion—it’s with the meaning behind his vote. Was he elected to vote based on personal or religious beliefs? Or was he elected to represent his constituents and uphold the Constitution?

Also, if he believes the Republican talking points about sexuality,

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

File Number 25E002030-310

All persons, firms and corporations having claims against RONALD HARRIS, SR., DECEASED, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before November 5, 2025, or this notice along with the appropriate general statute will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the deceased are asked to make immediate payment. This the 7th day of August, 2025. All correspondence should be to the Estate of Ronald Harris Sr., c/o Florence A. Bowens, Attorney, P.O. Box 51263, Durham, NC 27717.

8/7, 8/14, 8/21, and 8/28/2025

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

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

File Number 25E000684-310

THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 20th day of May 2025, as EXECUTOR of the Estate of MICHAEL WAYNE GILLMER, Deceased, of Durham County, North Carolina, does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said Estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 7th day of November, 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 7th day of August 2025.

Michael Wayne Gillmer II, Executor
910 Glen Eden Dr.
Raleigh, NC 27612

8/7, 8/14, 8/21, and 8/28/2025

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

File No. 25 E 000852-310

The Administrator of the Estate of ATRAYUS OMAR GOODE, deceased, of DURHAM County NC, notifies all persons or entities having claims against said estate to present them to the Administrator on or before the 7th day of November 2025, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. All indebted to the estate shall make immediate payment to the estate.

This, the 7th day of August 2025.
Rosa Latimer, Administrator, c/o Law Office of Robert Pochapsky PLLC, 3400 Croasdaile Drive, Suite 205, Durham, NC 27705.

8/7, 8/14, 8/21, and 8/28/2025

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

File Number 25E000929-310

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

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

This is the 7th day of August,

2025.

Nicholas McLeod Livengood,
Executor, Estate of Faye Thomas
Livengood, Deceased
Robert A. Idol, Esquire
IDOL LAW, PLLC

Attorney at Law
PO Box 51759
Durham, NC 27717
(919)401.5151

8/7, 8/14, 8/21, and 8/28/2025
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

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

File Number 25E000937-310

THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 31st day of July 2025, as CO-EXECUTRIX of the Estate of JAMES KENNETH BELL, SR., Deceased, of Durham County, North Carolina, does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said Estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 7th day of November, 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 7th day of August 2025.

Iris Bell, Co-Executrix
Karen Moore, Co-Executrix
c/o Ethan C. Timmins
Patrick Law, PLLC
3805 University Drive, Suite A
Durham, NC 27707

8/7, 8/14, 8/21, and 8/28/2025
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

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

File Number 25E000995-310

THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 30th day of July 2025, as EXECUTOR of the Estate of ENDELL G. STEWART, Deceased, of Durham County, North Carolina, does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said Estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 7th day of November, 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 7th day of August 2025.

Rhonda Endell Stewart Best
Executor
3761 Raleigh Pkwy W., Unit 1015
Wilson, NC 27896

8/7, 8/14, 8/21, and 8/28/2025
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.

Deilah 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

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

Classifieds

WAKE COUNTY

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 7th day of August 2025. Josephine Oparaocha, Plaintiff 5016 Babbling Brook Drive Raleigh, NC 27610 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 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,

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 **Pump Station and Force Main Improvements** project for the **Town of Four Oaks** which bids on **August 13, 2025, at 2:00 PM**. Plans and specifications for this project are available at the following locations: T. A. Loving Company; 400 Patetown Road; Goldsboro, NC 27530 * Town of Four Oaks; 304 North Main Street; Four Oaks, NC 27524 * The Wooten Company; 120 North Boylan Avenue; Raleigh, NC 27603 * Dodge Data and Analytics website * ConstructConnect website * North American Procurement Council website.

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

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

D/M/WBE

SUBCONTRACTORS/SUPPLIERS WANTED

T. A. Loving Company (NC General Contractor License No. 325) is seeking certified DBE, MBE, and WBE subcontractors and suppliers for the **23rd Street Generator Installation** project for **Cape Fear Public Utility Authority** which bids on **August 12, 2025, at 2:00 PM**. Plans and specifications for this project are available at the following locations: TA Loving Company, 400 Patetown Road, Goldsboro, NC 27530 * Cape Fear Public Utility Authority; 235 Government Center Drive; Wilmington, NC 28403 * Carolinas AGC Website * Dodge Data and Analytics website * ConstructConnect website * Construction Journal website * Hispanic Contractors Association of the Carolinas website * North American Procurement Council website * The Blue Book Building & Construction Network website * H2bids website.

Potential subcontracting opportunities include but are not limited to surveying, hauling, seeding, CIPC, concrete forms, and concrete rebar. Also, electrical supplies such as gear, conduit, wire, and a new generator. Please contact **Eric Zeiders (ezeiders@taloving.com)**; **Lonnie Nolan (lnolan@taloving.com)**; or **Michael Cox (mcox@taloving.com)** if you are interested in submitting a proposal on any portion(s) of this project. Contact via phone 919-734-8400; fax 919-736-2148; or email. All quotations will be accepted up to the bid closing time of the bid date. TA 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.

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.

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 MCCOLLERS, 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

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 **Phase 3 Water Improvements** project for the **Town of Scotland Neck** which bids on **August 14, 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 * Town of Scotland Neck; 1310 Main Street; Scotland Neck, NC 27874 * Engineering Services, PA; 1202 Benson Road, Suite 200; Garner, NC 27529.

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

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

D/M/WBE

SUBCONTRACTORS/SUPPLIERS WANTED

T. A. Loving Company (NC General Contractor License No. 325) is seeking certified DBE, MBE, and WBE subcontractors and suppliers for the **Highway 97 Lift Station Screw Pump Replacement** project for the **City of Rocky Mount** 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 Rocky Mount; 331 South Franklin Street; Rocky Mount, NC 27802 * The Wooten Company; 120 North Boylan Avenue; Raleigh, NC 27603 * Dodge Data and Analytics website * ConstructConnect website * North American Procurement Council website.

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

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.

RE-ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

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

Separate sealed BIDS for the construction of Wastewater Collection System Improvements Project Contract No. 14 - Sanitary Sewer Improvements will be received by the ENGINEER at the Town Hall, 112 East South Main Street, Littleton, NC 27850 until 2:00 PM Eastern Daylight Time, September 2, 2025, and then at said office publicly opened and read aloud.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Copies of the CONTRACT DOCUMENTS may be obtained at the office of McDavid Associates, Inc. located at 109 East Walnut Street, P.O. Box 1776, Goldsboro, NC 27533-1776 upon a non-refundable payment of \$250.00 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 14, 2025 in the Town Hall, 112 East South Street, Littleton, NC 27850. Prospective BIDDERS are encouraged to attend this pre-bid conference as part of their good faith efforts. August 2, 2025

Heidi G. Hogan
Mayor
Town of Littleton

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Morehead City
1100 Bridges Street
Morehead City, NC 28557

Separate sealed BIDS for the construction of Projects SRP-W-ARP-0155 and CS3705_6J-05 Contract No. 129 - WWTP Belt Press and Solar Dryer will be received by the ENGINEER at the Morehead City Train Depot, 1001 Arendell Street, Morehead City, NC 28557 until 2:00 PM, September 2, 2025, and then at said office publicly opened and read aloud.

The CONTRACT DOCUMENTS may be examined at the following locations:

Morehead City, City Hall, 1100 Bridges Street, Morehead City, NC 28557

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

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

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

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

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

Copies of the CONTRACT DOCUMENTS may be obtained at the office of McDavid Associates, Inc. located at 109 East Walnut Street, P.O. Box 1776, Goldsboro, NC 27533-1776 upon a non-refundable payment of \$500.00 for each set.

The OWNER reserves the right to reject any and all BIDS. BIDDER shall be properly licensed under Chapter 87, General Statutes of North Carolina. Small, minority, women'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 21, 2025 at the Morehead City Train Depot, 1001 Arendell Street, Morehead City, NC 28557. Prospective BIDDERS are encouraged to attend this pre-bid conference as part of their good faith efforts. August 3, 2025

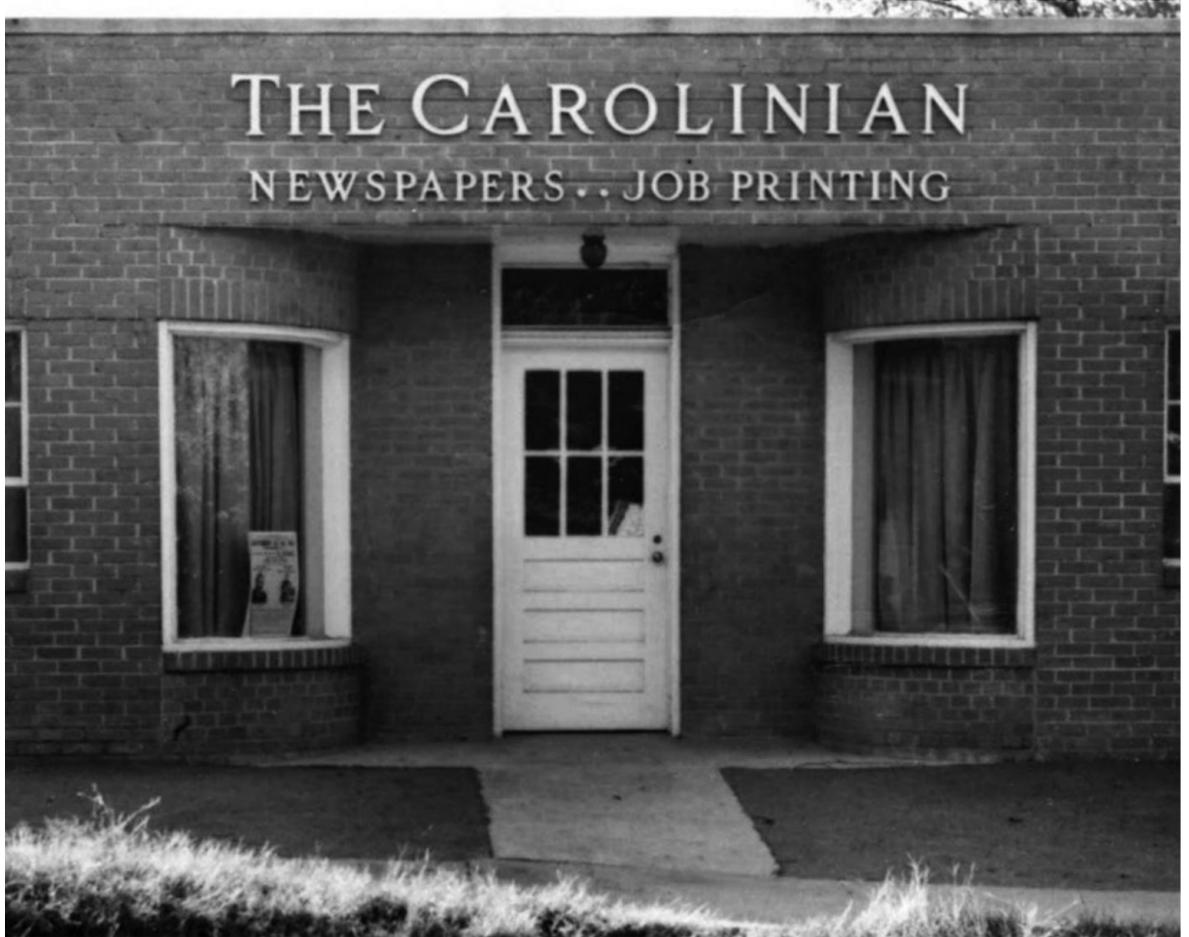
Chris Turner
City Manager
Town of Morehead City

What is the Carolinian Legacy Project?

From the 1950s through the 1980s, The Carolinian newspaper was the hub of the community in Raleigh. It was where all of the spokes met to form a well oiled, spinning wheel of progress for the Black community. It was the library, the business center and the community cork board. Rich and poor, faithful and fractured, everyone knew where they could go in a time of need.

The strength of The Carolinian was its independence. The fearless, unbiased reporting of a generation that saw their enslaved grandparents as well as their college educated children. The Carolinian never had to ask permission to tell the truth. That is the legacy that we are striving to preserve for the next generation. That is the purpose of the Carolinian Legacy Project.

Today we spend our time online, on platforms that we don't own. We give our attention, and data to companies that know us only as another nickel in their pocket. The digital cow herding of social media has robbed our community of common sense and free thinking. That is why the Carolinian Legacy Project is so important. We must save the art of discovery. It is paramount that we know what is going on in our community without having to ask an algorithm for permission.



The original Carolinian building was located at 518 E Martin St, Raleigh. It was positioned on a 2 acre parcel of land just two blocks from what is now Moore Square. Ownership of this property was taken over by the city through urban renewal.

The Carolinian wants to return to a time when the community was a community. We want to give you communal security, freedom and familiarity again. The Carolinian was never just a newspaper, it was always a gathering place. People may have gone to different churches, shopped at different grocery stores and worked in different industries, but they all came to The Carolinian to share their accomplishments, voice their injustices and find resources to improve their lives. We must keep this avenue open, and the Carolinian Legacy Project is how we do it.

The first piece of the puzzle is the Legacy Wall, which is currently in process. This wall will stand as symbol of strength, unity and resilience. Please join us in persevering Black history and supporting progress. Your purchase of a brick in our Legacy Wall will help build our library, buy supplies, educate generations and solidify you as a recorded piece of Raleigh's history.

Please visit <https://caro.news/legacy-project/> to make a difference. Join us in being a part of the solution.

