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Black Mayors Of Cities Trump Decries As 'Lawless' Expresses Significant Declines In Violent Crimes

AP NEWS – As President Donald Trump declared Washington, D.C., a crime-ridden wasteland in need of federal intervention and threatened similar federal interventions in other Black-led cities, several mayors compared notes.

The president's characterization of their cities contradicts what they began noticing last year: that they were seeing a drop in violent crime after a pandemic-era spike. In some cases the declines were monumental, due in large part to more youth engagement, gun buyback programs and community partnerships.

Now members of the African American Mayors Association are determined to stop Trump from burying accomplishments that they already felt were overlooked. And they're using the administration's unprecedented law enforcement takeover in the nation's capital as an opportunity to disprove his narrative about some of the country's greatest urban enclaves.

"It gives us an opportunity to say we need to amplify our voices to confront the rhetoric that crime is just running rampant around major U.S. cities. It's just not true," said Van Johnson, mayor of Savannah, Georgia, and president of the African American Mayors Association. "It's not supported by any evidence or statistics whatsoever."

After deploying the first of 800 National Guard members to Washington, the Republican president is setting his sights on other cities including Baltimore, Chicago, Los Angeles and Oakland, California, calling them crime-ridden and "horribly run."



Brandon Johnson, Chicago Mayor

One thing they all have in common: They're led by Black mayors.

"It was not lost on any member of our organization that the mayors either were Black or perceived to be Democrats," Johnson said. "And that's unfortunate. For mayors, we play with whoever's on the field."

The federal government's actions have heightened some of the mayors' desires to champion the strategies used to help make their cities safer.

Some places are seeing dramatic drops in crime rates. Trump argued that federal law enforcement had to step in after a prominent employee of the Department of Government Efficiency, or DOGE, was attacked in an attempted carjacking. He also pointed to homeless encampments, graffiti and pot holes as evidence of Washington "getting worse."

Chicago Mayor Brandon Johnson scoffed at Trump's remarks, hailing the city's "historic progress driving down homicides by more than 30% and shootings by almost 40% in the last year alone."

Mayor Karen Bass of Los Angeles, where homicides fell 14% between 2023 and 2024, called the federal takeover nothing but a performative "power grab."

In Baltimore, officials say they have seen historic decreases in homicides and nonfatal shootings this year, and those have been on the decline since 2022, according to the city's public safety data dashboard. Carjackings were down 20% in 2023,



Muriel Bowser, DC Mayor

However statistics published by Washington's Metropolitan Police contradict the president and show violent crime has dropped there since a post-pandemic peak in 2023.

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Barbara Lee, Oakland Mayor

and other major crimes fell in 2024. Only burglaries have climbed slightly.

The lower crime rates are attributed to tackling violence with a "public health" approach, city officials say. In 2021, under Mayor Brandon Scott, Baltimore created a Comprehensive Violence Prevention Plan that called for more investment in community violence intervention, more services for crime victims and other initiatives.

Scott accused Trump of exploiting crime as a "wedge issue and dog whistle" rather than caring about curbing violence.

"He has actively undermined efforts that are making a difference saving lives in cities across the country in favor of militarized policing of Black communities," Scott said via email.



Brandon Scott, Baltimore Mayor

The Democratic mayor pointed out that the Justice Department has slashed over \$1 million in funding this year that would have gone toward community anti-violence measures. He vowed to keep on making headway, regardless.

"We will continue to closely work with our regional federal law enforcement agencies, who have been great partners, and will do everything in our power to continue the progress despite the roadblocks this adminis-

tration attempts to implement," Scott said.

Community organizations help curb violence.

Just last week Oakland officials touted significant decreases in crime in the first half of this year compared with the same period in 2024, including a 21% drop in homicides and a 29% decrease in all violent crime, according to the midyear report by the



Karen Bass, Los Angeles Mayor

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(See **BLACK MAYORS** P. 2)



Trump Admin Freezes Fed Loans For M&F

By Cash Michaels

Contributing Writer

Mechanics and Farmers Bank (M&F Bank), the Durham headquartered 118 year-old black banking institution, and the nation's second oldest black bank, with branches in Greensboro, Charlotte, Raleigh, Winston-Salem and Durham, is reportedly now the latest victim of the Trump Administration's war on diversity.

According to published reports, the U.S. Office of Management and Budget (OMB), by order of Trump appointee, Director Russell Voight, has not released \$324 million in fiscal year 2025 funding by Congress to CDFIs (Community Development Financial Institutions).

Since the 1990s, that funding from

Congress and OMB has provided grants to thousands of CDFIs across the country, providing at least 60% of their loans to businesses in low-income rural and urban communities, and has enjoyed bi-partisan support in Congress.

This year, at least 26 CDFIs in North Carolina qualified for funding, including Mechanics and Farmers Bank. But apparently, no OMB funding through the Treasury Dept. is forthcoming, and OMB Director Voight is not responding to congressional inquiries as to when it will for this year.

Furthermore, it's being reported by The News and Observer newspaper of Raleigh that "The White House's 2026 discretionary budget proposal removes \$291 million in CDFI Fund grants and instead cre-

ates a \$100 million grant program exclusively for rural communities, adding that "Past awards may have made race a determinant of access to loan programs," OMB wrote in its proposal.

Last year, while other financial institutions in North Carolina received millions from the federal CDFI fund, M&F Bank received a modest \$280,370. That amount reportedly helped the bank to generate ten times that amount in loans to the community.

But now, even that modest sum from the CDFI Fund is not forthcoming.

M&F Bank CEO James Sills told the N&O that losing the CDFI funding "...would be terrible. That is one of the best programs in the federal government system, because they're

leveraging about \$324 million to about \$300 (billion) to \$400 billion in funding for communities all across the United States. We're still going to do what we've been doing for 118 years, but (CDFI) does help us continue to do the lending to serve the communities that we serve."

Sills says that he's been to Washington, D.C. three times this year so far to lobby the NC congressional delegation and their staffers.

"They are, generally speaking, supportive of the CDFI Fund. But like I said, there's two facets to this. You have the congressional facet, but you also have the administration facet. And one is pushing for one thing, and one is pushing to kind of reduce

(See **FREEZES FED LOANS** P. 4)

Redistricting Sparks Nationwide Debate

WASHINGTON – Fueled by President Donald Trump's aims to bolster the U.S. House's razor-thin GOP majority in the 2026 midterm elections, a rare mid-decade redistricting fight in Texas grew increasingly bitter in recent days and engulfed other states.

As Democratic legislators in the Lone Star State fled to block a new congressional map, a handful of both blue and red states eyed their own redistricting plans, lawsuits cropped up and members of Congress pledged bills to curb redistricting wars.

While Texas is the only state that has so far taken formal action to redraw its U.S. House lines, a full-blown arms race could be imminent.

Here's a breakdown on the redistricting battle as the drama unfolds:

How did all of this interest in redistricting kick off?

Republicans in Texas drew a new congressional map at the urging of Trump that could give the GOP five crucial new congressional seats in 2026.

Midterm elections typically lead to the loss of congressional seats for a president's party.

Meanwhile, the GOP currently holds 219 seats in the House, while Democrats hold 212 spots, and four



NC Senate reviews 2024 congressional map in Raleigh, Oct. 19, 2023. (Hannah Schoenbaum / AP)

vacancies. That extremely narrow majority has created immense challenges for U.S. House Speaker Mike Johnson, a Louisiana Republican, as he tries to enact Trump's sweeping agenda and cater to the president's demands as well as factions in the GOP conference.

Though congressional districts are typically redrawn every decade fol-

lowing each U.S. Census, the move, particularly in Texas, is not unprecedented and is allowed.

What's going on in Texas?

Texas Republicans unveiled a draft of the new congressional map in late July, which looks to reshape and flip major metro areas' districts held by Democrats.

According to The Texas Tribune,

the Department of Justice sent Texas' leaders a letter in early July that said four of its districts violate the U.S. Constitution. The proposed map would dismantle those districts, per the Tribune.

More than 50 of Texas' Democratic legislators left the state to try to block the legislature from adopting the new map, according to the Tribune.

This move has drawn the ire of Texas Gov. Greg Abbott, who went so far as to file a lawsuit asking to remove the Texas House Democratic Caucus chair, state Rep. Gene Wu, after Wu left the state.

Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton also said Tuesday that he will pursue a court ruling that declares the seats vacant for the House Democrats who do not return by Friday.

Texas GOP U.S. Sen. John Cornyn has also called on the FBI "to take any appropriate steps to aid in Texas state law enforcement efforts to locate or arrest potential lawbreakers who have fled the state." Trump on Tuesday, asked by a reporter if the FBI should "get involved," said, "Well, they may have to."

How is California reacting?

California Gov. Gavin Newsom has

(See **REDISTRICTING** P. 2)

the legislature approved last month also helps address the deficit.

(See **NC PREMIUMS RISING FAST** P. 5)

BLACK TRUCK DRIVER FILES FEDERAL CIVIL RIGHTS LAWSUIT AFTER ARMED LANDFILL ALTERCATION IN NC

By Jordan Meadows

Staff Writer

In Raleigh last Wednesday, attorneys representing Black truck driver Joseph Joines held a press conference at the Marriott City Center's Congressional Room to announce plans to file a federal civil rights lawsuit following an altercation at a Haywood County landfill.

The June 26 incident, which unfolded at TBD Landfill in Clyde, North Carolina, has drawn national attention after a series of TikTok videos posted by Joines went viral, amassing more than 9 million views before being removed by July 30. The videos captured a chaotic confrontation between Joines, making his first truck delivery to the site, and a group of white landfill workers—one of whom he said was armed and later confirmed to be a part-time sheriff's deputy.

Attorneys Moseley Matheson and Karl Roth allege Joines and another truck driver, Angelica Hendon, were subjected to physical assault, threats with firearms, false imprisonment, and a systemic failure by law enforcement to protect their rights.

Joines recounted the event in vivid detail during the press conference, stating that after mistakenly bypassing a staging area at the landfill, he was confronted by landfill employee Andrew Ferguson and told to move to the end of the line. Ferguson later returned with four other men, one visibly armed.

"I was approached by five workers, one of whom had a gun on his hip. The armed man accused me of stealing a cell phone, which I denied," Joines said.

After reaching the top of the landfill to unload, Joines said the same group

(See **DRIVER FILES CIVIL LAWSUIT ON LANDFILL** P. 2)

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DRIVER FILES CIVIL LAWSUIT ON LANDFILL

Continued from page 1

approached again, and this time the armed man had drawn his weapon. He attempted to drive away, only for a bulldozer to ram his truck head-on, while another struck his trailer, tipping it onto its side on the edge of a steep embankment.

Joines escaped on foot and ran to Hendon's truck for safety. Hendon described what happened next: She said Ferguson pointed a gun at them while another man reached into her cab and took her keys.

"I was in fear for my life and extremely upset when I ordered Joseph out of my truck so the TBD employees would leave me alone," Hendon said.

Joines said that after leaving Hendon's truck and attempting to find refuge in another locked vehicle, he returned to her truck and was again confronted by Ferguson, who told him he "was going to jail." Hendon had already called 911.

"While I was waiting, I saw a group of about five men, some of whom I recognized as TBD employees, as I sat there, I saw them pushing stuff over," Hendon recalled.

When a sheriff's deputy arrived, Joines requested an ambulance. He was treated at the scene with a neck brace and released from the hospital later that day. He reported lingering physical pain in his neck, back, and hip, along with emotional distress.

"I'm having trouble sleeping. I'm experiencing a lot of distress and anxiety," Joines said, adding that he has not been employed since the incident.

At the press conference, attorney Matheson declared, "Let me be clear: Mr. Joines and Ms. Hendon are not just victims of assault. They are victims of a system that failed them. A system where private violence was followed by official indifference, where power was abused and the basic principles of due process and civil rights were trampled."

He said the law firm will file suit in federal court in the coming weeks and encouraged those with evidence or information to contact them.

Roth, speaking separately, stated, "We believe Mr. Joines was steps away from being killed... I do believe that if it wasn't for the fact that there were other witnesses ... I think that Joseph was just seconds away from being shot."

The video footage Joines initially posted showed men shouting profanities at him and included one moment where Joines asked, "You're the sheriff, right?" A man responded, "Yes," before closing Joines' truck door, prompting a dog to yelp.

Haywood County officials have confirmed that one of the men in the videos is a part-time deputy with the Haywood County Sheriff's Office, employed since 2019. An official incident report from the Sheriff's Office listed Joines as a victim and documented the crimes as "simple assault, injury to personal property and assault by pointing a gun," also noting the presence of a handgun. Despite this, no charges have been filed to date, and the Sheriff's Office declined to comment on the pending litigation.

TBD Landfill and its parent company, Two Banks Development, have denied any wrongdoing. In a statement, they said, "Joines engaged in aggressive and threatening behavior and broke the facility's rules, as well as state and federal law."

They also claimed that Joines' social media posts were misleading.

"Mr. Joines' posted videos are selected to tell an untrue story. Prior to the scene depicted in a misleading video clip, there were many attempts by Landfill employees to de-escalate the situation caused by his actions. A timeline of multiple outgoing calls for help, and ultimately to 911, demonstrates the significant efforts made by the landfill employees to resolve the situation quickly and safely."

Wright Brothers Construction, which had an employee at the scene, emphasized that the event did not take place on one of its job sites.

Though much of the public outrage has focused on the apparent racial dynamics of the incident, Matheson declined to expand on the racial element beyond what was captured in the videos.

"The videos speak for themselves," he said, though the press release accompanying the event described the altercation as a "racially charged assault."

Joines' legal team emphasized that their clients were participating in cleanup efforts related to Hurricane Helene and that the citizens of Haywood County and the town of Clyde should not be blamed or harassed as a result of the lawsuit.

"The citizens of Haywood County have suffered greatly as a result of that storm, and the town of Clyde and its residents have played no role in this incident, and we expect they will be treated accordingly and not harassed or threatened."

This incident echoes another troubling case that rocked the state less than a year earlier.

On September 11, 2024, Javion Magee, a 21-year-old Black trucker from Illinois, was found dead in Henderson, North Carolina, seated at the base of a tree with a rope wrapped around his neck. The other end of the rope was tied to the tree. The Vance County Sheriff's Office told the family it was a suicide. However, attorneys for Magee's family stated it was premature to conclude the cause of death. In May of 2025, after a State Medical Examiner ruled Magee's death a suicide, the Sheriff's Office said there was no foul play suspected in Magee's death.

Redistricting Nationwide — CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

been among the most vocal Democratic governors in suggesting retaliating against Texas Republicans by redrawing his populous blue state's own lines before the 2026 elections.

State laws in California and other Democratic states make mid-decade redistricting tougher than it is in Texas.

While pro-democracy groups have praised California's nonpartisan commission as the "gold standard" of independent redistricting, Newsom has indicated he would ask state lawmakers to temporarily scrap it to join the arms race he says Trump started in Texas.

At a Monday press conference, Newsom justified his exploration of mid-decade redistricting in the Golden State by describing Trump's recent and historic record as anti-democratic.

"These folks don't play by the rules," Newsom said. "If they can't win playing the game with the existing set of rules, they'll change the rules. That's what Donald Trump has done ... Here is someone who tried to break this country, tried to light democracy on fire on Jan. 6. He recognizes he's going to lose in the midterms."

What other states are looking at potentially redistricting?

Vice President JD Vance is slated to visit Indiana Thursday in an attempt to push redistricting, according to the Indiana Capital Chronicle.

Indiana GOP Gov. Mike Braun said that as of now, no commitments have been made, when asked about redistricting efforts in the Hoosier State, per the Capital Chronicle.

Leaders of large Democratic states, in addition to California, are considering their own redistricting in response to Texas.

New York Gov. Kathy Hochul wrote in an op-ed published in the Houston Chronicle Tuesday that she would "not sit on the sidelines" and watch "Republicans dismantle democracy."

"What Texas is doing isn't a clever strategy, it's political arson — torching our democracy to cling to power," Hochul wrote. "The only viable recourse is to fight fire with fire."

Illinois Gov. JB Pritzker appeared alongside Democratic National Committee Chair Ken Martin and a group of exiled Texas Democratic lawmakers at a news conference Tuesday. Pritzker said it was "possible" the state would pursue redistricting, according to the Chicago Sun-Times.

Other Democratic governors — even including Laura Kelly of rubred Kansas — raised the prospect during a Democratic Governors Association meeting in Wisconsin last week of pursuing mid-decade redistricting if Texas follows through.

Republican states are also considering jumping in the fray.

Missouri Senate President Pro Tem Cindy O'Laughlin, a Republican, told a news radio station last week that it was "likely" lawmakers would convene in a special session to redraw district lines after pressure from Trump.

And Rep. Don Bacon, a Republican who holds the most competitive of Nebraska's three U.S. House seats but plans to step down, told the Nebraska Examiner that Republicans in the state were having conversations about potential redistricting.

What downside do some see?

An arms race to shorten the cycle for redrawing congressional lines could come at a cost for efforts to overhaul the redistricting process.

Common Cause, a national pro-democracy group that advocates for election reforms including nonpartisan redistricting, urged Democrats not to respond to Texas.

A redistricting arms race would only result in "rigged elections across America," Emily Eby French, the policy director for Common Cause Texas, said on a press call last week. It was wrong for Republicans to put "a thumb on the scale" through redistricting, she said, but also wrong for Democrats to do the same.

"The real solution is for Democrats to help us lift the Republican thumb off of the Texas scale and every other scale in America until we reach free and fair elections for everyone."

Are party leaders egging this on?

Trump, whose urging appeared to prompt Texas Republicans to action, has consistently pushed lawmakers in that state to reinforce the GOP advantage there.

Tuesday, he said on CNBC that Republicans were "entitled" to five more House seats in Texas.

Martin, the DNC chair, responded in Illinois.

"No party is entitled to any district," he said. "We have to go out and earn the votes."

Still, Martin advised Democrats in blue states to do the opposite by responding in kind to Texas Republicans.

In an interview with States Newsroom last week, Martin suggested

Democratic states drop any commitment to nonpartisan redistricting in response to Texas.

"We're not here to tie one of our hands behind our back," he said. "We can't be the only party that's playing by the rules."

How is Congress reacting?

At least two GOP House lawmakers — representing blue states looking at retaliatory redistricting efforts against Trump — are taking it upon themselves to introduce bills in Congress that bar these initiatives.

BLACK MAYORS

Continued from page 1

Major Cities Chiefs Association. Officials credited collaborations with community organizations and crisis response services through the city's Department of Violence Prevention, established in 2017.

"These results show that we're on the right track," Mayor Barbara Lee said at a news conference. "We're going to keep building on this progress with the same comprehensive approach that got us here."

After Trump gave his assessment of Oakland last week, she rejected it as "fearmongering."

Social justice advocates agree that crime has gone down and say Trump is perpetuating exaggerated perceptions that have long plagued Oakland.

Nicole Lee, executive director of Urban Peace Movement, an Oakland-based organization that focuses on empowering communities of color and young people through initiatives such as leadership training and assistance to victims of gun violence, said much credit for the gains on lower crime rates is due to community groups.

"We really want to acknowledge all of the hard work that our network of community partners and community organizations have been doing over the past couple of years coming out of the pandemic to really create real community safety," Lee said. "The things we are doing are working."

She worries that an intervention by military forces would undermine that progress.

"It creates kind of an environment of fear in our community," Lee said.

Patrols and youth curfews

In Washington, agents from multiple federal agencies, National Guard members and even the United States Park Police have been seen performing law enforcement duties from patrolling the National Mall to questioning people parked illegally.

Pentagon press secretary Kingsley Wilson said the guard troops will not be armed but declined to elaborate on their assignments to safety patrols and beautification efforts.

Savannah's Johnson said he is all for partnering with the federal government, but troops on city streets is not what he envisioned. Instead, cities need federal assistance for things like multistate investigation and fighting problems such as gun trafficking, and cybercrimes.

"I'm a former law enforcement officer. There is a different skill set that is used for municipal law enforcement agencies than the military," Johnson said.

There has also been speculation that federal intervention could entail curfews for young people.

But that would do more harm, Nicole Lee said, disproportionately affecting young people of color and wrongfully assuming that youths are the main instigators of violence.

"If you're a young person, basically you can be cited, criminalized, simply for being outside after certain hours," Lee said. "Not only does that not solve anything in regard to violence and crime, it puts young people in the crosshairs of the criminal justice system."

A game of wait-and-see

For now, Johnson said, the mayors are watching their counterpart in Washington, Muriel Bowser, closely to see how she navigates the unprecedented federal intervention. She has been walking a fine line between critiquing and cooperating since Trump's takeover, but things ramped up Friday when officials sued to try to block the takeover.

Johnson praised Bowser for carrying on with dignity and grace.

"Black mayors are resilient. We are intrinsically children of struggle," Johnson said. "We learn to adapt quickly, and I believe that we will and we are."

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Business & Finance

Chicago Pastor Declares War On Obama's \$830M Library

By Dana Kennedy In Chicago
The Daily Mail Exclusive

Less than a mile from the enormous \$800million-plus Obama Presidential Center rising up over Jackson Park in Chicago's gritty South Side, one local pastor is developing his own \$47million hub for change - without a dime from the city's Democrat machine, BLM, or the Obama Foundation.

Reverend Corey Brooks has been building the Leadership and Economic Opportunity Center through his organization, Project HOOD, on the city's notorious 'O Block', long considered one of the most dangerous neighborhoods in the country.

A conservative Republican in a very blue city, Brooks earned the nickname 'Rooftop Pastor' after spending 94 days in the bitter Chicago winter of 2021-2022 living on the roof of his construction site to raise funds for the new center.

Brooks's mission is to mentor and lift young people out of poverty - but unlike Obama's embattled legacy project - he aims to do so without 'woke' ideology or the belief that success depends on government handouts.

For his latest fundraising effort, the 56-year-old grandfather, who jokes he could lose a few pounds, will set off on a year-long, 3,000 miles 'Walk Across America' starting in New York City's Times Square on September 1, with the hope of raising money and attention for both his project - and his philosophy that people of color do not need to be treated like oppressed victims.

But Brooks's vision for the 84,000-square-foot center across the street from his New Beginnings



Reverend Corey Brooks, 56, has been raising money to build his \$47million Leadership and Economic Opportunity Center in Chicago's notorious 'O-Block'

Church, where he has helped steer troubled youth and gang members away from crime for more than 25 years, has not been embraced by Chicago's political elite.

'It's partly because of my conservative philosophy,' he told Daily Mail. 'I believe in the American dream. I'm a patriot. I tell people we are not victims, and we don't have to wait on government.'

'That way of thinking is totally different from the victim-oriented mindset of the Obama Center or BLM - that America has damaged us so badly we can't succeed without white guilt. I reject that outright.'

Brooks says he's reached out repeatedly to both the Obama Foundation and Black Lives Matter - 'we've

made requests, we've written letters' - but has never heard back from anyone in either organization.

Not that it has ever deterred Brooks, who says he understands why he's shunned by the city's black elite - especially the powerhouse Obama Foundation.

The nonprofit organization is funding the former president's \$830million project in Chicago, along with donations from billionaire friends including Oprah Winfrey and George Soros, but has been mired in controversy since its inception.

As Daily Mail revealed this week, the 19-acre facility, due to open in next year, has come under fire from residents, community leaders, and

even onetime supporters who now say the massive development is gentrifying the neighborhood, increasing rent, and displacing the very people it was meant to serve.

The center was initially slated to open in 2021, was pushed back to 2024 and is now set to open in April 2026. Workers at the center have blamed policies and lengthy DEI sessions for the delay.

'It's a philosophy difference,' Brooks told the Daily Mail while showing off the three-story construction site.

'They're focusing on outcomes. We're focusing on opportunity.'

Pressed to explain, Brooks was blunt.

'They think everything has to be equal,' he said. 'We know things are never equal. But we can create opportunities for people to live the American dream.'

'We focus more on color and being woke. That's not what we do.'

'I guarantee you this center will

transform more lives than the Obama Center ever could.'

In the meantime, Brooks is taking to the road next month on a trip he knows will be arduous - but necessary, since money from big sponsors or donors don't go to black conservatives like him.

'Millions of dollars went to organizations like Black Lives Matter and the Obama center but organizations like ours, we have to be creative, because we don't depend on government,' Brooks said.

'We're not depending on woke philosophies and white guilt. We have to work hard and roll up our sleeves.'

'I'm walking across America to raise awareness about what's going on here and to raise the funds we need to finish this center debt-free,' he said.

'Also to build a private school for boys from single-parent homes below the poverty line, and to create an endowment so we never have to depend on government.'

He hopes to plant similar Project

HOOD centers across the country.

The original launched in 2000 when Brooks and his team found a torn-up skating rink called Route 66 that had been used for skating and raves. They bought the building and renovated it for \$5million.

'Just because you're Black, you don't have to be a victim,' Brooks said. 'You can create opportunities for yourself, your family, your neighborhood.'

'You don't have to wait on government or some politician to save the day - because they're not going to.'

Project HOOD already employs more than 150 people, including locals learning trades.

It has a charter school for 15 to 21-year-olds who have been kicked out of Chicago public schools and offers mentoring and counseling, a wellness component and a violence prevention team.

Unlike at the Obama Presidential Center construction site, there is no

(See CHICAGO PASTOR P. 9)

Omega Kappa Omega Chapter Hosts Second Annual Dinner on Blanc, Supporting Scholarship & Service

By Ms Jheri Worldwide

Staff Writer

Dunn, North Carolina - This past weekend, the Omega Kappa Omega chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. hosted their second annual Dinner on Blanc in Dunn, North Carolina. The event brought together a diverse group of individuals, all contributing to the organization's mission of scholarship and service.

Attendees, representing all of the Divine Nine Greek fraternities and sororities, as well as numerous area institutions, filled the evening with smiles and beautiful faces in chic white summer attire. The gathering included professionals from various fields, such as doctors, lawyers, and educators, who joined together for an inspiring and memorable evening. The Dinner on Blanc continues to be a key event for the Omega Kappa Omega chapter, fostering community and raising funds to support the impactful initiatives of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Incorporated.



Wake Board Approves Land Transfer To Wake Tech C.C.

The Wake County Board of Commissioners voted to approve the transfer of more than 12 acres of county-owned property to Wake Technical Community College and WakeMed Health & Hospitals.

This move paves the way for major expansions to Wake Tech's health sciences campus and WakeMed's main campus. It will finalize agreements between the County, Wake Tech and WakeMed to bring a shared vision for a future Health and Education District to life. This district will integrate health care, public health, education and community services in one area of Raleigh to better serve residents.

"This collaboration is a model for how local government, higher education and health care systems can work together to improve community health and wellbeing," said Susan Evans, chair of the Wake County Board of Commissioners. "By planning together, we're creating a district that removes barriers to care and education for years to come."

As part of the plan:
• Wake Tech will receive 7.78 acres from Wake County. This represents the land on which Wake Tech currently is located. WakeMed will

provide six acres to Wake Tech, primarily to support the construction of a new 106,000-square-foot health sciences simulation hospital and a new parking deck, as well as space for future classroom buildings.

• WakeMed will receive 5.14 acres from Wake County to prepare for campus upgrades as part of the shared district Master Plan. The property, which currently includes a public health building and parking lot, is located at 10 Sunnybrook Road.

Wake Tech and WakeMed will cover the cost of constructing and maintaining a new road extension which will connect the campuses and improve access. The transferred properties will be permanently dedicated to educational or community hospital use.

"This land transfer is the catalyst for a new era of healthcare training in Wake County," said Wake Tech President Dr. Scott Ralls. "It paves the way for a new state-of-the-art simulation hospital that will equip more healthcare professionals and allows for future opportunities to serve our growing communities."

Health and Education District
Wake County, Wake Tech and WakeMed began working on a long-

range master plan for the area in 2022, and in 2023 signed a Memorandum of Understanding to coordinate development and support a shared vision. The City of Raleigh approved a rezoning for the area to a Campus Master Plan district in October 2024.

Wake County is also nearing completion of its new Public Health Center within the district, which will expand access to essential health and human services.

"The rewards from this forward thinking, public-private partnership positions all three organizations to maximize the available real estate to achieve the highest and best use for Wake Tech, WakeMed, the Health & Education District and our entire community," said WakeMed President & CEO Donald Gintzig.

Under state law, the property transfer to WakeMed will take place at least 10 days after a public notice is issued. Transfers to Wake Tech are expected in early fall 2025, with WakeMed's transfer following shortly afterward. Construction of the new facilities is set to begin soon after, marking the first major milestone in the creation of the Health and Education District.

Happy Birthday, Social Security: Benefits May Expire in 7 Years

WASHINGTON - President Donald Trump signed a proclamation celebrating the 90th anniversary of Social Security on Thursday, though he offered no plans for avoiding insolvency and a steep drop-off in benefits within the next decade.

Trump, who campaigned on "saving" the income stabilization program for America's seniors, said during an appearance in the Oval Office that Republicans would keep the program going.

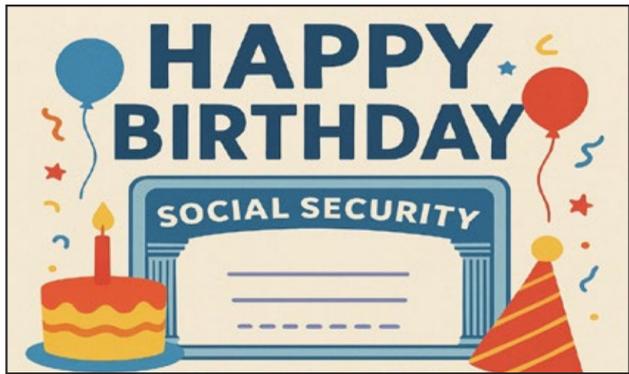
But neither Trump, nor Republican leaders in Congress, have advanced legislation that would avoid a decrease in Social Security benefits in 2033, or begun to seriously address the issue.

"In the campaign I made a sacred pledge to our seniors that I would always protect Social Security and under this administration we're keeping that promise and strengthening Social Security for generations to come," Trump said. "You keep hearing stories that in six years, seven years, Social Security will be gone. And it will be if the Democrats ever get involved because they don't know what they're doing."

"But it's going to be around a long time with us. Very much, you'll be surprised to hear some of the numbers."

'One big, beautiful' law speeds up fund depletion

The latest Social Security trustees report, released earlier this year, shows that without changes the Old-Age and Survivors Insurance trust fund will no longer be able to pay full benefits starting in 2033.



"At that time, the fund's reserves will become depleted and continuing program income will be sufficient to pay 77 percent of total scheduled benefits," the report states.

Republicans' "big, beautiful" law will, however, speed up that timeline.

Karen Glenn, chief actuary for the Social Security Administration, wrote in a letter released earlier this month that the lower tax rates in the GOP law will reduce the amount of revenue flowing into the trust fund.

When combined with "increased program cost" associated with the new law, Glenn wrote "the reserve depletion date for the OASI Trust Fund is accelerated from the first quarter of 2033 to the fourth quarter of 2032."

Bipartisanship needed
Republicans cannot restructure Social Security on their own and will

need to negotiate with Democrats in the years to come if lawmakers want to avoid insolvency.

The budget reconciliation process, which GOP lawmakers used to pass their "big, beautiful bill," cannot be used to address Social Security, making bipartisanship the only path to avoiding a decline in benefits for America's retirees.

The Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget wrote in a post published Thursday that "solutions are needed soon to prevent insolvency and the statutorily required benefit cut."

Without a new law to address the financial struggles facing the program, CRFB wrote, a "typical couple retiring just after insolvency will face an \$18,400 cut in annual benefits."

President Franklin Delano Roosevelt signed the law enacting Social Security on Aug. 14, 1935.



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Controversial Mixed-Use Development Near Smoky Hollow Approved

By Jordan Meadows

Staff Writer

Last week, Raleigh's Planning Commission unanimously approved a controversial rezoning request that would allow the West at Peace development—a proposed 30-story mixed-use tower near Smoky Hollow—to move forward.

The development, backed by Raleigh Development Company, aims to bring over 900 residential units, retail space, restaurants, and an urban plaza to a 2.6-acre site located at the intersection of Peace and West Streets, across from the downtown Publix.

The site, currently zoned for up to 12 stories, would be divided into two zones: Zone 1, the northern section, capped at 25 stories; and Zone 2, permitted up to 30 stories. The proposal also includes a \$1.2 million contribution to the city's affordable housing fund, which would be triggered upon the sale of the

500th unit. Due to the inflated costs of building affordable housing by the City of Raleigh nearly \$300,000 each, therefore only about 3-6 affordable housing would come of the \$1.2 million investment.

On Monday evening, city officials, developers, and residents gathered for a joint development meeting at the Halifax Community Center to discuss the proposal and the rezoning needed for the project to proceed. The meeting drew a standing-room-only crowd, including Mayor Janet Cowell and City Council member Jane Harrison, who represents the district where the project could be built.

Attendees were invited to express their thoughts and concerns directly to city staff and the developers.

Among the speakers was Roy Attridge, a vocal opponent of the project and founder of the advocacy group Raleigh Neighbors United, which has coordinated a petition signed by over 1,400 residents opposing the

rezoning.

Many residents voiced strong concerns about the impact the high-rise could have on downtown affordability, neighborhood character, and quality of life. Several questioned whether the developer's \$1.2 million affordable housing pledge was sufficient, given the scale of the project.

Others feared the new building could cast long shadows over nearby homes in the historic Glenwood-Brooklyn neighborhood, just 240 feet away from the proposed site.

City Planner Matthew Klem, lawyer Jason Barron from Morningstar Law Group (representing Raleigh Development Company), and Roy

Attride each presented to the crowd and answered questions. Barron argued the development fits the city's long-term vision for denser, transit-friendly growth and said such projects are vital to Raleigh's future.

"From a big picture planning perspective, these are the places where you want to put people. It's

where you want to put your future residents," he explained. Supporters like Larry Miller, president of the Glenwood South Neighborhood Collaborative, also backed the proposal, highlighting the site's proximity to transit, businesses, and bike infrastructure as reasons to build upward instead of outward.

Freezes Fed Loans For M&F — CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the fund and to reduce any future funding. Take race out of it."

Sill's added that M&F Bank is in business to help small businesses of all colors, and by doing so, it helps create much needed jobs in the community. So denying CDFI funding does little to help that cause.

He adds that M&F Bank is now facing a lot of competition from larger banks in its markets, so that adds to the challenge of providing competitive services.

"The second biggest challenge for us is talent, hiring and retaining top



talent. And then the third thing is just keeping pace with technology. Those large scale banks have significant technology budgets. We've made a significant investment in [new technologies] to make sure we are staying abreast with how to be able to generate and close more loans, just like large scale banks.

Sills added that as a community bank, it can afford to take the time to better work with loan applicants to help them better qualify for a loan. Larger banks can't do that, Sills said.



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Health and Wellness

North Carolina State Employee And Teacher Reps Say Health Insurance Increases Will Hurt Worker Retention

NC Newsline – The board overseeing the health insurance plan for North Carolina workers and retirees voted Friday to raise most enrollees' premiums to help cover a deficit that has grown to \$507 million this year.

State Treasurer Brad Briner, whose office oversees the health plan, said no one wants to increase premiums but the hikes are needed to remedy the plan's financial instability.

The insurance plan has been relying on cash reserves to pay bills because it has been paying out more than it has taken in. The reserves are running low.

State employee and teacher representatives told the board that low wages and higher insurance premiums will push workers out of their jobs and make it even harder to fill vacancies.

While premiums are increasing, state employees and teachers are not guaranteed raises this year. Republicans in the state House and Senate have not agreed on a comprehensive budget that includes state employee and teacher raises.

"We know that the State Health Plan has financial challenges, but this board's responsibility is not to balance the budget on the backs of the people who work with our kids every single day," said Bryan Proffitt, vice president of the NC Association of Educators. "Your job is to protect the health and well-being of people who serve this state."

The board should demand more funding from legislators, Proffitt said, because they should not have a "free pass" to underfund schools and benefits.

Ardis Watkins, executive director of the State Employee Association of

North Carolina, blamed the health-care industry for high prices.

"This health plan had been an ATM for the corporate health care machine," she said.

Without raises and with inflation, state employees are already falling behind, Watkins said.

In May, the health plan trustees voted to increase enrollees' out of pocket costs.

Cherry Hospital employee Charles Owens told the board that the psychiatric hospital in Goldsboro is understaffed, forcing workers to endure 12- and 16-hour shifts.

"A steady paycheck and a decent health care benefit were the last things that were assisting us in getting new hires and retaining permanent staff," he said. Health plan trustees should have waited to know the size of employee raises before saddling them with higher insurance costs, Owens said.

The health plan has not increased premiums in seven years.

The plan sets up four salary tiers. Employees who make \$50,000 or less and insure only themselves un-



der the basic plan will see increases of \$10 per month to \$35. Workers in the top tier who make more than \$90,000 will pay \$80 in premiums for comparable coverage.

Premiums will be reduced for enrollees who include their children in their insurance plans.

Adding more insured children will help improve the plan and help sin-

gle parents, said Health Plan executive administrator Tom Friedman.

Briner said he was faced with the health plan deficit when he took office this year. He placed the responsibility on former state Treasurer Dale Folwell, though he did not mention Folwell by name.

"We're here because of the short-sighted decisions of my predecessor," Briner said. "Premiums were frozen for years, and members were made to believe they could be that way forever. The plan was actually spending more money than it took in each and every year. That meant cash reserves through the plan were being used to keep prices stable rather than doing the hard work with providers and making adjustments to get better services and lower prices for our members."

A plan developed under Folwell called the Clear Pricing Project was intended to save the health plan money. It ended up being a financial drain.

Folwell wanted to peg health plan medical costs to Medicare reimbursement rates. The legislature didn't go along, so the program remained vol-

untary.

Both Briner and Friedman praised legislators for including \$150 million in the stop-gap budget the General Assembly passed last month to help close the deficit.

Without that infusion, premiums would have gone much higher, Friedman said.

But in an interview with NC Newsline Friday, Folwell blamed the legislature for the health plan's money problems.

The General Assembly did not properly fund the plan, have the courage to take on the "healthcare cartel," or get rid of a law called certificate of need, Folwell said. Under the certificate of need law, some kinds of providers need state permission to set up shop or offer certain services.

Folwell was elected treasurer in 2016 and was in office until January of this year.

"Raising premiums on state employees is the direct result of the General Assembly not funding the plan or doing its job," Folwell said. "That's true yesterday, it's true today, and it's going to be true tomorrow."

NC PREMIUMS RISING FAST

Continued from page 1

The median salary for state agency employees was about \$57,000, according to state Department of Human Resources' June data.

Premiums will drop for employees who make \$90,000 and less if they opt for insurance coverage for themselves and their children. Reducing premiums for dependent coverage has been a long-time State Health Plan goal.

This year, premiums for state employees and their children are \$218 a month under the basic plan. Premiums for comparable coverage will drop to \$185 a month for employees who make less than \$50,000.

Breast cancer screening techniques that go beyond standard mammography, such as MRIs and ultrasound, will be free.

State employees said earlier this year that increases would come as a hard blow because the low premiums are seen as a balance to low wages.

While health insurance costs are rising for state employees, they are not guaranteed raises this year. House and Senate Republicans have not agreed on a comprehensive state budget for the fiscal year that started July 1 that would include state employee and teacher raises.

The health insurance plan overhaul has been a multi-step process that will continue after Friday's vote.

In May, the trustees voted to raise out-of-pocket costs in the form of increased deductibles and copays for some medical care.

Last month, state Treasurer Brad Briner announced active members and their families covered under the health plan will be able to receive certain surgeries at no cost through a network organized by the company Lantern.

The health plan is continuing to work to lower surgical costs for enrollees. It is negotiating with health systems to lower prices for specific surgeries in exchange for being designated as preferred locations for treatment.

"It's a substantial overhaul," Friedman said. "Historically, the state health plan has been every member can have access to any provider with the same cost sharing across the board. We're going in a different direction in trying to align member incentives with provider incentives with the plan incentives, and really using market forces to try to drive better prices for our members for higher quality care."



THE GOLDEN YEARS

By Judykay Jefferson

VANITY VS. SELF-ESTEEM

Let's talk about mirrors. Not the kind hanging in your bathroom, but the ones we carry inside – the ones shaped by memory, culture, and experience. For many of us, especially those who've lived long enough to see beauty standards twist and turn like a church fan on a hot Sunday, the question of vanity versus self-esteem isn't just philosophical – it's personal.

Vanity gets a bad rap. It's often painted as shallow, selfish, even sinful. But let's be honest: who among us hasn't admired a fresh haircut, a sharp outfit, or the way our skin glows after a good night's sleep and a dab of cocoa butter? There's nothing wrong with wanting to look good. In fact, for many older folks, men and women, looking good has long been a form of resistance – a way to claim dignity in a world that didn't always offer it freely.

But vanity, when it becomes the only lens through which we see ourselves, can be a trap. It whispers that our worth is tied to youth, to smooth skin, to the approval of others. And that's where self-esteem steps in – not as a rival, but as a deeper truth.

This is also the place where I get confused these days. I have lived long enough to celebrate a broader, more inclusive, more natural beauty standard where women are no longer celebrated for looking like pubescent boys: hipless, curve-less, 2 dimensional characters. Where skin no longer had to be pale and life-less. Where the rich hues of the melanin-blessed were appreciated and imitated (it's said imitation is the highest form of flattery). I watched as social media fought back with 'fat-girl summer,' encouraging full figured women to be free from shame and flaunt their stuff with cropped tops exposing the rolls we have attempted to obscure for as long as I have lived. I remember my mother saying to waist-less, fluffy me, "just find a dress that hangs from your shoulders." On the other hand, she didn't care how short it was. Go figure.

As there became more and more of me, I struggled to find clothing that was age and size appropriate. Do you remember when Catherine's, flagship retailer for plus-size clothing, was Catherine's Stout Shop? How depressing was that?

At some point, the men's version was the Big and Tall Shop. That's another whole story. I watched a couple of generations of women and men carrying more than average girth, relegated to ugly, tent-like clothing like covering fat in flowered polyester would make others forget it's there.

That wasn't good for anyone's self-esteem or mental health. Now I ask myself, has the pendulum swung too far in the other direction and become stuck? Don't get me wrong, I'm all for body positivity. My heart says, "wear what you want" but my 72-yr-old brain says, "too much flesh showing."

I'm not here to judge anyone's choices. We have our own aesthetics, our own taste preferences. I am saying that the way we present ourselves should speak to who we are, not who the TikTok content creators say we should be. I'm all for not succumbing to pressure from anyone about what works for you. That's where self-esteem comes in.

Self-esteem is quiet. It doesn't need applause. It's the voice that says, "I'm enough," even when the mirror shows lumps, rolls, wrinkles, scars, or other scars of a life lived fully. It's built over time – through struggle, triumph, heart-break, and healing. For many of our contemporaries, self-esteem has been forged in fire: through segregation, through loss, through raising children on faith and determination. It's not flashy, but it's powerful.

And let's not forget self-esteem isn't just personal – it's communal. When we uplift each other, complement each other, and remind one another of our worth, we're building something stronger than any cosmetic fix can offer. We're building legacy.

- Here are some takeaways:
- Dress for joy, not judgement
- Speak kindly to yourself
- Celebrate aging
- Teach the young with a loving heart and an open mind

Next time you catch a reflection of yourself, smile. You are present, you are beautiful, and you are powerful.

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Arts & Culture

Taylorstown Part 2 - New Hotel With Conditional Approval

By Ms Jheri Worldwide

Staff Writer

Taylorstown, NC — Periodically, we are blessed with experiences that elevate our thinking, our consciousness, and the way we interact with the people in the world around us. Recently, one of those experiences occurred in Taylorstown, a historically Black town adjacent to Pinehurst, North Carolina. In a quasi-judicial hearing that brought together business leaders, attorneys, engineers, and town officials, the Taylorstown Town Council convened to consider a special use permit for a proposed 128-room Residence Inn by Marriott. The project, led by Parks Hospitality Group (PHG), aims to develop a hotel on Murdocksville Road, has spurred significant discussion among council members and the community, with key concerns centering on infrastructure and historic preservation.

The hearing, presided over by Mayor Gaddy and the council, was unlike a typical session. The council's role was to act as judges, evaluating evidence and testimony to determine if the applicant had met the standards outlined in the town's zoning ordinance. Tom Terrell of Fox Rothschild LLP, the attorney representing PHG, set the tone by clarifying the legal burden for the applicant. He stated that the company was not required to "convince" the council but rather to provide "competent, material, and substantial" evidence that the project complies with the town's standards.

Seth Mason, a development manager for PHG, presented a detailed overview of the project, which they have internally dubbed the "Taylorstown Hotel." The presentation highlighted the company's local roots in Raleigh and its long-term strategy of building and managing properties. The proposed hotel would be an extended-stay Residence Inn, featuring kitchens in all suites and amenities like a pool and meeting spaces. Mason also unveiled two architectural options, one modern and one more regional, noting that the company would agree to a condition of adopting the town's preferred design. Several experts testified on behalf of the applicant to address specific ordinance standards.



Civil engineer Samuel Nye and architect Bill Zaron explained how the project's design and site plan align with the surrounding commercial area. Both Zaron and Nye testified that the project would comply with all North Carolina building, fire, and health codes. PHG President Shaunak Patel detailed the company's strict safety protocols for hotel operations, including security measures and regular inspections. The most extensive testimony revolved around utilities. Nye confirmed that the site had adequate water capacity from a 12-inch main on Murdocksville Road. He also detailed a plan to manage all stormwater on-site with a wet detention basin, meaning no connection to the town's stormwater system would be needed.

The hearing took an unexpected turn with the introduction of new information regarding the proposed sewer connection. A draft memo dated June 3rd from an engineering firm, provided to the town council

just hours before the hearing, raised questions about the integrity and ownership of an existing eight-inch sewer line on an adjacent property, the very line PHG planned to tap into.

Town Public Works Director Darrell Price, recognized by the council as an expert in water and sewer systems, provided powerful testimony. Drawing on over 30 years of experience, Price stated that he had personally investigated the line and found numerous manholes with issues like root intrusion and water leakage. He revealed that the town is currently paying for the water that seeps into this problematic line, which feeds into the Lincoln Avenue pump station. Price's testimony suggested a systemic issue with the line's maintenance and ownership, creating a new layer of complexity for the council.

In response, PHG's attorney, Tom Terrell, proposed that the permit could be granted with conditions requiring PHG to ensure that the sewer line meets all specifications, even if it means collaborating with the town and the property owner. Members of the public also voiced their opinions. Adam Cheatham Sr. expressed support for the hotel, provided the infrastructure concerns were properly addressed. Patricia Jacobs inquired about the environmental impact of lawn fertilization, a concern addressed by Samuel Nye, who noted the stormwater basin's ability to filter out some pollutants.

Additional questions were raised around the historic buildings on the property, which PHG plans to demolish.

While not a permit standard, the question resonated with the council. As a result, PHG committed to a condition that would allow the town to participate in a historic study of the site and potentially name parts of the hotel after the area's heritage.

The hearing concluded with the council identifying a number of potential conditions for the special use permit, which included:

1. Sewer Line Compliance: A requirement for the sewer line to meet all engineering and legal standards.
2. Proof of Access: Providing evidence of legal access to the adjacent property's sewer line.
3. Historic Study: Collaboration with the town on a historic study of the site.
4. Job Fairs: Conducting job fairs for Taylorstown residents to be considered first for both construction and hotel operation roles. This condition was suggested by PHG group.

The council deliberated on the

evidence presented. After additional questions and several clarifications, the permit was granted pending the aforementioned conditions. There was a sigh of relief and an air of excitement. The council had mentioned several times that they were not opposed; they were just seeking clarity. The quasi-judicial hearing was an excellent way to ensure everyone who needed or wanted to be aware of what was going on had the opportunity to be informed and ask their questions. This demonstration of collaboration and professionalism was a joy to witness. I am personally interested in the history and hope that PHG honors their commitment to working with the town to investigate the history of the location. PHG owns the land, however the history and the heritage belongs to Taylorstown and its people. We will continue to follow the progress of new construction projects in the historic Taylorstown.

Kappas & Sigmas Team Up For Back-To-School



Dante Machuca of Raleigh patiently gets his hair cut at the Kappa Center as part of the Back to school event held on August 16, 2025. Kappa Alpha Psi and Sigma Gamma Rho Raleigh Chapters coordinated back to school events to distribute backpacks, school supplies, and offered haircuts, sports physicals to students for the upcoming school year.



India Bolden hands off a backpack bundle to Joshua Johnson to give to a student driven up to the Safe Child Center in Raleigh, N.C. on August 16, 2025 as part of the Operation Big Backpack Giveaway.



Aspen Pierce, from Clayton, hands out a backpack with school supplies as her grandmother Carol Taylor watches the students driven up to the Safe Child Center in Raleigh, N.C. on Saturday August 16, 2025 as part of the Operation Big Backpack Giveaway hosted by the Kappa Alpha Psi and Sigma Gamma Rho Raleigh Chapters. Steve Worthy Photos

Elizabeth Cotten: Folk And Blues Legend

By Jordan Meadows

Staff Writer

Elizabeth "Libba" Cotten, born Elizabeth Nevills on January 5, 1893, in Carrboro, North Carolina, emerged as one of the most influential figures in American folk and blues music.

A self-taught, left-handed guitarist, Cotten developed a singular playing style by flipping a right-handed guitar upside down, creating a distinctive technique in which her thumb played the melody and her fingers plucked the bass strings. This unique fingerpicking method became known as "Cotten picking," and it helped define a musical legacy that continues to reverberate across genres.

Growing up in a working-class family, Cotten was the youngest of five children. By the age of eight, she was already playing music, borrowing her brother's banjo despite being forbidden to do so. Her first guitar, a \$3.75 Sears and Roebuck model, was purchased with money she had saved while working as a domestic servant, earning just \$1 a month.

She taught herself to play it in secret, eventually writing songs and mastering a large repertoire of rags and dance tunes. Her most famous composition, "Freight Train," was written in her early teens and was inspired by the sound of trains near her childhood home.

At 17, Cotten married Frank Cotten and soon after gave up playing music for family and church life. The couple had one daughter, Lillie, and spent many years moving between North Carolina, New York City, and Washington, D.C.

A pivotal moment in her story occurred when she helped a lost child,



Peggy Seeger, find her mother, the composer Ruth Crawford Seeger, in a department store. This act led to her employment as a housekeeper for the Seegers, who would later help reintroduce Cotten to music.

Rediscovered in her 60s after decades away from performing, Cotten began playing again, first for the Seeger children and then for wider audiences. Mike Seeger recorded her in the late 1950s, resulting in the landmark album *Folksongs and Instrumentals with Guitar* (1958). The album, which featured "Freight Train," was later recognized by the Library of Congress and added to the National Recording Registry for its cultural, historical, and aesthetic significance.

The recording brought Cotten late-life acclaim. She toured widely, appearing at prestigious venues and festivals such as the Newport and

Philadelphia Folk Festivals, and performed for audiences that included members of Congress and even the Kennedy family.

Her music became a cornerstone of the 1960s folk revival, and her songs were covered by legends such as Bob Dylan, Joan Baez, and Jerry Garcia. The British skiffle movement was also influenced by her work, especially when "Freight Train" was misappropriated and recorded by Chas McDevitt and Nancy Whiskey—ironically helping to spark a youth music movement that included future Beatles members. Thanks to the advocacy of the Seegers, her rights to the song were eventually restored.

Cotten's achievements were recognized with numerous accolades in her later years. She won a Grammy Award in 1985 at the age of 90 for *Elizabeth Cotten Live*, and the year before, she had been named a Na-

tional Heritage Fellow by the National Endowment for the Arts. The Smithsonian Institution declared her a "living treasure." In 1989, she was featured in Brian Lanker's *I Dream a World*, a photographic tribute to Black women who changed America, alongside figures such as Rosa Parks and Oprah Winfrey.

Despite retiring from music for more than two decades, Cotten returned with a resurgence, performing well into her 80s. Her final concert was organized by folk legend Odetta in 1987, shortly before Cotten passed away in Syracuse, New York, at the age of 94. That city had become her final home, made possible by the income she earned through touring and record sales.

In 2022, she was posthumously inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame as an early influence. The Town of Carrboro has taken numerous steps to preserve its memory. They named a park in her honor, created the Elizabeth Cotten Grove, and commissioned a large mural as part of the North Carolina Musicians Murals Project.

Each year on her birthday, January 5, the town celebrates "Elizabeth Cotten Day," complete with community events and performances by her descendants. The Freight Train Blues concert series, co-sponsored by the Music Maker Foundation, continues to honor her musical legacy each spring. A bikeway connecting downtown Carrboro to Chapel Hill has also been named the Libba Cotten Bikeway.

Though her fame came late in life, Elizabeth Cotten's influence is timeless—her music, her spirit, and her "wrong way" guitar playing changed the landscape of American music forever.

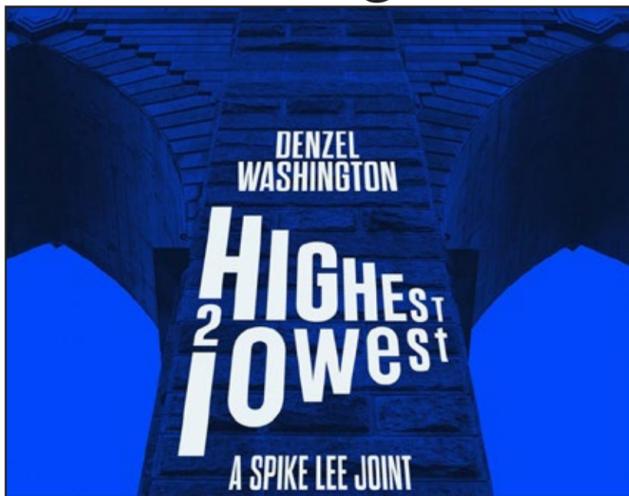
A Film Review Of Highest Two Lowest

By Ms Jheri Worldwide

Staff Writer

Art, action, and a lot of emotion. *Highest to Lowest*, the newest film by Spike Lee, was truly thrilling with outstanding music and visuals. The gorgeous shots of New York City were a backdrop to the captivating acting of Denzel Washington, Jeffrey Wright, and others. The film begins with Denzel on his Dumbo balcony negotiating a deal. With cameos from musicians, athletes, commercial stars, and other familiar faces, every scene is truly a cinematic treat. Lee spared no expense on the fashion and art in the film. With pieces from Pharell's Louis Vuitton Collection, LeBron's Nike line, and many other notable fashion and jewelry houses, there is a lot to look at, many times with Spike Lee's signature camera angles and framing.

The story was engaging, yet the art



was a star of the show. Pieces from Jean-Michel Basquiat, Kehinde Wiley, and many others had their own moments to shine on the screen. One of the most poignant moments of the film featured an enormous Kamala Harris poster, which read "forward." Subtle yet loud, Spike Lee and screenwriter Alan Fox communicated empowering messages employing different mediums throughout the film. This English-language film is a reinterpretation of Akira Kurosawa's 1963 Japanese film *High and Low*, which was itself loosely inspired by Ed McBain's (Evan Hunter) 1959 novel *King's Ransom*. The movie features Denzel Washington, Ilfenesh Hadera, Jeffrey Wright, ASAP Rocky, and marks Ice Spice's film debut. It also represents the first collaboration between Lee and Washington since their 2006 film, *Inside Man*. Coming to Apple TV September 5th, this is a must-see film!



Opportunity Lives In The Pages Of
The Carolinian

Community

NC Central Univ Unveils State's First Immersive Nursing Training Room

By Jordan Meadows

Staff Writer

North Carolina Central University's Department of Nursing broke new ground in health education last Thursday, becoming the first university in North Carolina to implement an immersive interactive training room designed to revolutionize how nursing students train for real-world clinical situations.

Located on the second floor of the nursing building, the new immersive room transports students into high-stakes medical scenarios, including everything from post-operative complications to rural health simulations and mental health challenges. Using ceiling-mounted projectors, the room surrounds students with visuals on three walls, complemented by sensory features such as scent diffusers and fans to simulate environmental conditions.

"There are scent diffusers in there and fans on the ceiling that will pipe in smoke, burning rubber and smells from the environment," said Dr. Tina Scott, Director of Experiential Learning at NCCU.

Whether it's responding to a fiery 14-car pile-up or triaging patients in a virtual hospital, the immersive technology provides hands-on experiences far beyond the classroom.

"Students are immersed in a virtual hospital," Scott said. "They can see a virtual patient in a bed. It's a replica of a hospital setting. It has monitors, a sink. They can also see other nurses. They can see the patient's chart and look up other assessments."

And the experience doesn't stop at visuals and smells—students can interact with virtual patients in real time, practicing therapeutic com-



munication and making clinical decisions under pressure. After each simulation, instructors debrief with students, reviewing their actions to reinforce learning.

"That right there is an experience—or at least an opportunity to have one. They learn how to treat patients," said Dr. Mohammad Ahmed, Dean of the College of Health and Sciences. "It's great to have this, because that's what training nurses is all about: giving them real-world experiences they can learn from once they're out in the field."

The department has access to more than 2,000 training scenarios and now, thanks to new 360-degree camera technology, can also create custom simulations specific to local communities.

The ribbon-cutting ceremony for the immersive room was led by Dr. Yolanda Vanriel, Chair of the Department of Nursing. In her opening

remarks, she expressed gratitude to the department and university leadership, noting the room's distinction as the first of its kind in the state.

"Patience is a virtue, and good things do come to those who wait. We are here where purpose tastes light," Vanriel said.

Following the ceremony, attendees were invited to experience the immersive environment for themselves. Dr. Ahmed guided the interactive portion, demonstrating how each wall responds to touch and movement, with scenarios ranging from hospital settings to street-side emergencies—even international locales like the beaches of Cancun or the streets of Paris. These simulations allow students to gain critical experience responding to medical crises in both clinical and public environments.

The immersive room is just one part of a broader expansion within

NCCU's nursing program. In summer 2024, the department introduced virtual reality (VR) technology using oculus headsets and hand controllers to further enhance simulation training. The program, called vrClinical for Nursing, uses conversational AI to simulate real patient interactions.

"They were able to take care of four patients, and once they put the headsets on, they actually were inside of a hospital setting, they had to prioritize which patients they wanted to see first, and they had to also develop their plan of care," Scott explained. She noted that the experience significantly boosted students' confidence. Now, all students in clinical-focused courses go through the program.

Guests at the event also toured NCCU's in-house teaching hospital, the Clinical Learning Resource Center (CLRC), also known as Eagle General Hospital. This state-of-the-art simulation facility supports skill-building across the entire nursing curriculum—from fundamental skills to advanced adult health, pediatrics, maternity, and mental health. The CLRC includes 14 high-fidelity mannequins and a wide range of partial task trainers, all designed to help students sharpen their clinical reasoning and psychomotor skills.

Established in 1948, the Department of Nursing at NCCU has a long legacy of innovation, beginning with its first public health nursing certificate and later launching an RN to BSN program in 1961. Today, with immersive and AI-driven technologies leading the way, the program continues to evolve—preparing tomorrow's nurses with the tools they need to deliver safe, effective, and compassionate care.



Youth Summit Raises Awareness of STEM Career Opportunities

ROCKY MOUNT—Goal setting and a positive mindset are among the tools essential for success in life, dozens of high school students were told as part of the Youth STEAM Summit held at the Rocky Mount Event Center. In remarks that preceded an interactive workshop with the students, keynote speaker Dr. Kenston J. Griffin, the chief executive officer of Dream Builders Communication Inc. in Huntersville, N.C., challenged them to "embark a journey of self-discovery, recognize your unique gifts, talents and differences, and learn the best practices for leading rather than following."

The STEM-focused conference also provided the students the opportunity to experience mobile labs from North Carolina A&T State University and the University of Mount Olive, and to network with exhibitors that included forestry companies, the Center for Energy Education and state and federal farming and natural resource agencies. The conference, held on August 7th, was hosted by Roanoke Cooperative's nonprofit Sustainable Forestry and Land Retention Project (SFLRP).

The conference is held to better acquaint young people with science, technology, engineering, agriculture and math, including career opportunities in these fields. Including parents, the summit drew more than 100 attendees from throughout eastern North Carolina.

"We greatly appreciate the participation of all those involved at this year's STEAM Summit," said Reba Green-Holley, SFLRP's youth program coordinator. "Throughout the day, the students were highly engaged and asked a lot of really good questions. The feedback we got showed that the conference increased students' interest in pursuing STEM careers and raised their awareness of career opportunities. That's a great outcome."

This year's conference was sponsored by CoBank, Enviva, NC Electric Cooperatives, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service, Roanoke Cooperative and SFLRP. The Land Retention Project was established in 2013 to help North Carolina families — primarily but not exclusively African American — increase the income and asset value of their forestland. The program also encourages forest health, land retention and the opportunity for families to create intergenerational wealth.

Happy 100th Birthday Georgeva Wright

LUMBERTON — Georgeva Gerald Wright, born August 23, 1925, has officially joined the ranks of centenarians, marking 100 years of a life dedicated to education, family, and community.

Born during the Roaring Twenties, Wright has lived through some of the most defining moments of modern history — World War II, the Civil Rights Movement, the fall of the Soviet Union, the rise of the internet, and even the COVID-19 pandemic. Over her lifetime, she witnessed tremendous social change, from women gaining voting rights to the election of the first African American president and vice president.

A lifelong educator, Wright graduated salutatorian from Hilly Branch High School in 1942 at just 16. She went on to earn her bachelor's degree in Elementary Education from Fayetteville Teachers College in 1948, later completing her master's degree at A&T State University. Wright spent 35 years teaching — beginning at Rosenwald High School in Fairmont and later serving Robeson County Public Schools and High Point, NC. She retired in 1982, leaving behind generations of students who remember her lessons in both



academics and character.

Beyond the classroom, Wright has been a devoted community leader. At Hilly Branch Baptist Church, founded by her ancestor Rev. Alexander H. Alexander, she served as choir musician, missionary chairperson, Sunday School teacher, and co-author of the church's first written history. She

also helped establish its first Vacation Bible School. Wright's civic involvement extended to organizations like the Grand Chapter Order of the Eastern Star, the Lumber River Housing Development, and Jack & Jill of America.

Her influence extends deeply into her family's legacy. As a leading con-

tributor to The Thompson-Ashley Family Impact: Celebrating Our Past, Embracing Our Future (2024), she helped preserve genealogical records tracing back to the 1700s and highlighted her family's role in founding the Thompson Institute and several historic Robeson County churches.

Wright's advice remains timeless: educators should "treat all students alike," while students should set clear goals, stay engaged in church and community, and never forget their civic duty to vote.

Known for her love of travel, Wright has journeyed across the U.S. and abroad, visiting Mexico, Canada, France, and Italy. Yet, at her core, she has always been a servant-leader rooted in faith, family, and community.

She is the widow of Booker T. Wright, mother to Andrea Wright Banks-Zuniga and Cynthia Wright-Richard, grandmother to John Wright St. Clair Zuniga and Keith Marshem Richard, and the late Wallace Everett Banks Jr.

As Lumberton celebrates her 100 years, Georgeva Wright stands as a living testament to resilience, service, and the enduring power of education.



NC Eastern Alumni Chapter Of JCSU Awards Scholarship

GOLDSBORO— The North Carolina (NC) Eastern Alumni Chapter of Johnson C Smith University (JCSU), Charlotte, NC awards the Mary B. Chasten scholarship to Charity Highsmith-Lanier. The scholarship in the amount of \$5700 is presented to Charity by the Alumni President, LaVone Hicks and Comatha B. Johnson, Financial Secretary. "It is an honor to present the Mary B. Chasten Scholarship to Charity. She worked hard and exhibited all the criteria to earn it. We are wishing her all the best," stated Mrs. Hicks, president.

Yolanda L. Highsmith, Charity's mother and a JCSU alumni, was also present to witness her daughter receiving the scholarship in support of her daughter's education.

Charity Highsmith-Lanier graduated from Bladen Early College High School, Dublin, NC. She graduated summa cum laude with a GPA 4.34. Along with her diploma, Charity received an Associate Degree in Arts and Science. "We can do all things through Christ who strengthens us," stated Ms. Highsmith. Charity is a freshman at JCSU this fall.

Sports

A Prime Example Of Strong Foundation

By Ms Jheri Worldwide

Staff Writer

Last week, as two of Deion Sanders' sons embarked on their NFL careers, following in their father's legendary footsteps, it was more than just an inspiring moment for sports enthusiasts. It was a powerful testament to the impact of a strong foundation, coupled with unwavering dedication and consistency. One could argue that had Deion Sanders been the preeminent attorney, his sons would undoubtedly have become exceptional legal minds or even judges. The specific field is inconsequential; the enduring message of elevation and excellence has always been at the core of Deion's philosophy, and he has never wavered.

To witness this family's continued ascent offers us all a chance to reflect on our own aspirations for



greatness and how we influence those we care about. While many of us have our own opinions regarding the NFL draft and Deion's transi-

tion from Jackson State University to Colorado State University, it's evident that every decision he's made has ultimately been in the

best interest of his family. There are invaluable lessons to be gleaned from observing their profound connection and love for one another. Importantly, this love has not been portrayed as perfect. Those of us who recall the dawn of the reality TV era might remember a show that openly showcased the family's challenges and their remarkable resilience, even then.

The Sanders family exemplifies that perfection isn't a prerequisite for progress. Deion's children, his primary pride and joy, continue to demonstrate this truth as they navigate the valleys and peaks of the game, not in pursuit of flawless moments, but in a relentless commitment to perseverance. Their journey serves as a powerful reminder that with a solid foundation, dedication, and the courage to push forward despite imperfections, greatness is within reach for all of us.



Beta Lambda Sigma Hosts Operation BigBookBag

The GREATER women of the Beta Lambda Sigma Chapter of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc., in partnership with the Beta Lambda Sigma Charitable Foundation, SAFEchild, and the University of Phoenix, proudly hosted Operation BigBookBag (OBGB) on Saturday, August 16th.

This impactful event provided well over 200 backpacks, school supplies, snacks, and books to scholars and families in Wake County, helping them start the school year prepared for success.

Operation BigBookBag is a national service initiative of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc., which began in 1996 as a way to ensure students across the country have the tools needed to excel in the classroom. Since its inception, sorority chapters nationwide have continued this legacy by equipping young learners with resources that promote academic achievement.

The Beta Lambda Sigma Chapter is proud to continue this tradition of service and educational empowerment in the Raleigh community. Through collaborative partnerships and the dedication of its members, OBGB demonstrates the chapter's commitment to uplifting youth and fostering success for generations to come.



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Church

A Field Guide To 'Accelerationism': White Supremacist Groups Using Violence To Spur Race War And Create Social Chaos

By Art Jipson

The Conversation

A man named Regan Prater was charged with arson for the burning of Highlander Center in New Market, Tennessee, on May 7, 2025. The nonprofit has a long history of involvement in the Civil Rights Movement. The FBI stated in a court document that Prater participated in neo-Nazi Telegram group chats online.

Earlier this year, Brandon Clint Russell, founder of Atomwaffen Division, also known as the National Socialist Resistance Front, a onetime neo-Nazi terrorist organization, according to the Department of Justice, was convicted of conspiracy to damage an energy facility in Baltimore.

In the fall of 2024, a 24-year-old man, Skyler Philippi, targeted the Nashville power grid with an explosive drone. Federal authorities allege that Philippi was motivated by white supremacist ideologies and affiliated with the extremist group the National Alliance.

In my research on right-wing extremism over 30 years, a disturbing pattern has emerged: White supremacists and white nationalists are increasingly willing to use violence targeting critical infrastructure in an effort to destabilize society.

Since the Ku Klux Klan's resurgence in 1915, white supremacists have pushed for white control of society. In particular, white supremacist and neo-Nazi groups have long advocated violence to establish a white ethnostate, a proposed politi-

cal entity or nation-state where residency and citizenship are exclusively limited to whites.

In the past several years, extremists have started using the term "accelerationism" to describe their desire to create social chaos and societal collapse that leads to a race war and the destruction of liberal democratic systems, paving the way for a white ethnostate.

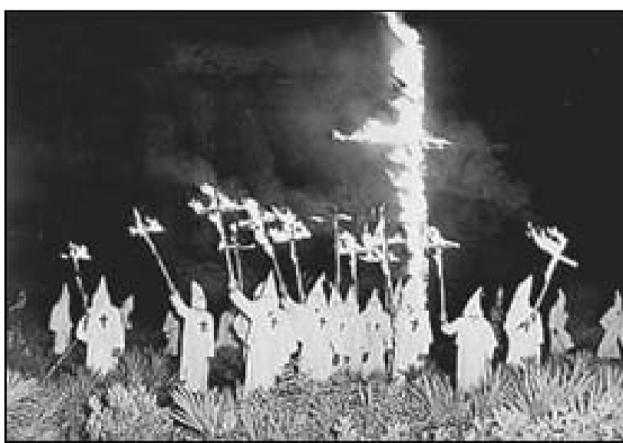
What is accelerationism?

The motivating idea behind accelerationism is that social chaos creates an opportunity for extremists to create a racially or ideologically "pure" future.

Scholars who study extremism have used the term "accelerationism" since the 1980s, but it wasn't widely associated with right-wing extremist violence until the late 2010s. People calling themselves "eco-fascists," for example, often endorse mass violence as a means to reduce population and spark societal collapse.

Accelerationism is often connected to the white replacement theory, a white nationalist conspiracy theory that falsely asserts that there is a deliberate plot to diminish the influence and power of white people by replacing them with nonwhite populations.

While not all extremists who advocate violent confrontation use the label, the calls for violent disruption strive for the same results. Brenton Harrison Tarrant, the Australian white supremacist who perpetrated the Christchurch mosque shootings on March 15, 2019, in New Zealand, labeled an entire section of his online manifesto Destabilization and Accel-



Early KKK rally in Florida. Photo courtesy of the National Archives.

erationism: Tactics for Victory.

This primer provides an overview of some of the key groups that have embraced accelerationist thinking, posing significant threats to public safety, democratic institutions and social cohesion.

The Order

One of the first American groups to embody this ideology was The Order — also known as Brüder Schweigen, or the Silent Brotherhood — which continues to influence newer generations of extremist organizations, both directly and indirectly.

Robert Jay Mathews, who founded The Order in 1983, was inspired by the apocalyptic vision laid out in the novel "The Turner Diaries." The 1978 book by William Luther Pierce

— under the pseudonym Andrew Macdonald — calls for a violent, apocalyptic race war to overthrow the U.S. government and exterminate Jews, nonwhite people and political enemies. Pierce founded the National Alliance — a neo-Nazi, white supremacist organization advocating for a white ethnostate and violent revolution — in 1974.

The call for violent insurrection and radical societal overhaul has since served as a blueprint for white supremacists and right-wing extremists.

The Order believed the U.S. federal government was under the control of Jews and other minority groups, and it aimed to overthrow it to create a white ethnostate. The Order funded its activities through robberies, including US\$3.6 million taken from an armored car near Ukiah, California, on July 19, 1984.

Its criminal and violent actions escalated to murder, most notably the 1984 assassination of Jewish radio host Alan Berg in Denver by Order member Bruce Pierce.

Atomwaffen Division (AWD)

The Atomwaffen Division, one of the most violent neo-Nazi accelerationist groups in the U.S., was officially founded in October 2015 by Brandon Clint Russell, a former Florida National Guardsman.

Russell had been active on a neo-Nazi web forum IronMarch.org since 2014 and announced the group's formation on the site. He used the handle "Odin" to connect with other far-right extremists.

AWD quickly gained notoriety for its violent, neo-Nazi ideology, advocating for a race war and the collapse of the U.S. government through terrorism. The group drew inspiration from the writings of white supremacist James Mason, particularly his collection of essays titled "Siege."

AWD's activities included recruiting members on university campuses and among military personnel, engaging in paramilitary training, and promoting accelerationist violence. The group has been linked to multiple murders and plots in the United States and has inspired offshoots in Europe and other regions.

By 2020, AWD unraveled due to law enforcement pressure, prosecutions and internal splits. Though not fully gone, it effectively stopped operating under its name. Members helped form the National Socialist Order, which continues to promote Mason's "Siege" and violent accelerationism.

Active Club Network

Active clubs are loosely organized, often regional groups of white supremacists and neofascists who combine fitness, combat training and ideology to promote violence and white nationalist goals. Members protest Pride and multicultural events and recruit members through fighting and combat sports. Active clubs and similar extremist networks use a multipronged recruitment strategy, combining online reach via Telegram and other social media with in-

person, fighting-based community-building to attract new members.

Emerging in 2017 from the street-fighting "Rise Above Movement" in Southern California and gaining prominence in the 2020s through the rise of The Active Club Network, or ACN, this movement demonstrated a shift from online-only, far-right groups to groups willing to fight.

Beginning in December 2020, The Active Club Network formed as a loosely affiliated, decentralized web of white supremacist, fascist and accelerationist groups that operate under a shared banner promoting physical training, brotherhood and militant white nationalism.

The Base

Founded around 2018, The Base represents one of the most explicit modern expressions of white nationalist accelerationism: as it is known by members, its "Siege Culture."

Founded by Rinaldo Nazzaro, an American living in Russia who used the name Roman Wolf, the group recruited ex-military and survivalists preparing for collapse through self-sufficiency, aiming to spark a race war. The Base was directly influenced by James Mason's book "Siege."

The Base operates as a decentralized network of cells trained in paramilitary tactics, sabotage and guerrilla warfare. Their online propaganda explicitly calls for violent action to destabilize society.

Its members have been involved in plots to murder anti-fascist activists, poison water supplies, derail trains and attack critical infrastructure. In 2020, multiple members were arrested before they could carry out an armed assault at a pro-gun rally in Richmond, Virginia, where they planned to attack police officers and civilians.

Although several members have been arrested and convicted on a

(See **ACCELERATIONISM** P. 9)

NAACP Mourns The Passing Of Mary E. Perry, Civil Rights Leader

RALEIGH, NC - The NAACP North Carolina State Conference joins the community in mourning the passing of Mary E. Perry, a towering figure in the struggle for civil rights, voting rights, and justice. President Perry dedicated more than four decades of her life to service

as president of the 5467-B NAACP Wendell-Wake County Branch and made history as the first African American to chair the Wake County Democratic Party.

From the earliest days of the civil rights movement through today's continued fight for equity in educa-

tion, healthcare, housing, and democracy, President Perry's leadership reflected courage, conviction, and an unwavering commitment to justice. She endured threats during Jim Crow segregation as she challenged discrimination in Zebulon restaurants, stood on the frontlines of voting rights battles as a plaintiff against discriminatory voter ID laws, and worked tirelessly to empower new generations of activists through the NAACP Youth Council.

Her lifetime of service earned her recognition at every level, including the NAACP's President of the Year Award, the Order of the Long Leaf Pine, and numerous community service honors. She also served faithfully in her church, Pleasant Grove Baptist, where she was a leader for over 70 years.

"President Mary Perry was more than a leader, she was a force of nature whose courage and determination opened doors for countless others," said Deborah Dicks Maxwell, President of the NAACP North Carolina State Conference. "She lived her values every day, inspiring all of us to speak truth to power and to never give up the fight for freedom, justice, and equality. Her passing is a profound loss to our organization and to the entire state of North Carolina."

NAACP North Carolina State Conference extends its deepest condolences to President Perry's family, friends, church, and the community she loved and served so faithfully. We honor her legacy by continuing the work to which she devoted her life: advancing justice and protecting the right to vote.

Fourth Ward Gospel Extravaganza

Sunday August 24, 2025

4:00-7:00 PM

A.J. Fletcher Opera Theater

2 East South Street

Raleigh, NC

Free to the public

We will celebrate and commemorate the three churches, businesses and neighborhood of the Fourth Ward that were lost to "urban renewal" in the 1960s and 70s.

Featuring local singers and church choirs.

Guest speaker Senator Dan Blue.



4TH WARD
WEST SOUTH STREET, RALEIGH, NC

With the burgeoning of Hayti, Cannon Lands, and adjoining tracts, southwest Raleigh—the Fourth Ward—became a dominant district. In 1896, 66% of its 3,200 residents were black, signifying the great percentage of blacks among any of Raleigh's four wards. Politically, the southwest sector as a local force for a quarter of a century. Between 1875 (during were five gerrymandered wards) and 1900, the Fourth Ward consistently elected black aldermen. No other ward could claim such black political influence.

The Carolinian

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Editorials

Life Minus God

By Dani Ross

Special To The Carolinian

No one living today experienced life during America's Wild Wild West. The name is self explanatory. But it is easy enough to image walking into a saloon and having to step over a passed out drunkard on your way in. It was the lawless, Godless Wild Wild West. This era of America's history is long past, but as we know, everything is cyclic. The Wild Wild West of America has returned.

In America we have a very delicate balance of capitalism and socialism. Our public/private partnerships, such as public schools, were put in place to benefit the country. Ignorant people are dangerous people. They are dangerous because they can be easily manipulated or simply discarded.

In 2025 no one should have to step over a passed out drug addict while using a \$300 ticket to attend a sporting event. That statement in itself is an oxymoron. You have NFL teams in cities like Washington DC, Baltimore, Seattle and Philadelphia that have high crime, widespread poverty and homelessness. Why? Each of the NFL football teams brings in well over \$500,000,000.00 in revenue each year. They also cause a financial ripple effect in the businesses around the stadiums, as well as the tax base boost to the city itself. The issue here is not money, its morals.

Religion is a moral governor. It teaches us how to deal with one another and how to respect our fellow man. When you replace morals with the love of money you get lawlessness. It doesn't matter how many police and National Guard members you put on the streets in an effort to protect citizens. The immorality is a mindset. You cannot police that away.

When Americans began to skip church on Sundays in favor of a football game, that should have been a red flag to the community. Church attendance has been on the decline for decades. Once capitalism hit religion it was a wrap! Scandals like sexual abuse in the Catholic Church, the Jim and Tammy Faye Bakker financial fraud and the Jonestown mass murder-suicide debacle shook the faith community at its core. People began to question their leaders, and thus question God.

The pandemic poured gasoline on the fire. Going to church went from a choice to an impossibility. Being completely disconnected from a moral governor altogether was a death knell to the faith based community and to civility. Proverbs 29:18 says, "Where there is no revelation, the people cast off restraint; but blessed is he who keeps the law." Without the constant reminder of God's presence in our lives we tend to cast off restraint; we let go of our morals. We choose ourselves instead of God and love for our fellow man. This is how immorality is spawned.

Just look at the world since 2020. Actually, we can just look at this year alone. Israel is obliterating Palestine and the Palestinian people with no restraint. Russia is on a land grabbing tirade. Drugs are legal to use. Housing is unaffordable, but so are groceries, healthcare and college. Small and large businesses are closing left and right. The US military is having to be deployed on American soil... against Americans! Legislators are fleeing their state to avert legislating. Mother Earth is going through menopause. Humanity is giving itself over to a man-made device. People are changing the gender that God gave them. And... everybody is lying!!!

We used to pray in school. We used to go to church for Bible study on Wednesday and service on Sunday. We used to plan community outreach events. We used to go on missionary trips. We used to read and study the Bible ourselves. We used to try to love our neighbor. We used to have God at the center of our lives.

Life minus God is no life at all. Humanity can not be trusted to care for itself on its own accord. Time has proven that greed, the love of power and ego will create chaos and oppression. There are countless examples of this behavior on every continent across the globe. It cannot be more evident that we need God in our everyday lives. And if you are still not convinced, simply turn on your television and what a 30 minute segment of your local news. If you are not mortified by the constant beratement of negativity, then you may have accepted the new Wild Wild West as the new normal. Not me! I'm sticking with God.

CHICAGO PASTOR

Continued from page 3

focus on DEI (diversity, equity, and inclusion) anywhere at Project HOOD.

'We judge people by their character and work ethic,' he said. 'We're not interested in your gender or your color. Will you work? Will you do it with excellence? That's what matters.'

Brooks says his crusade is personal.

'I don't want another generation to be lost and left behind,' he said. 'I want my grandkids to love America, not hate it.'

'I want them judged by the content of their character, not the color of their skin. And I want them to know they can accomplish absolutely anything in this country.'

'We're creating a movement,' he said. 'This is what urban America needs — not another monument.'

ACCELERATIONISM

Continued from page 8

variety of crimes, including conspiracy to commit murder, civil disorder, firearm charges, vandalism and other violent crimes. The Base illustrates a fundamental feature of accelerationism: "leaderless resistance," or a lack of a centralized leadership, which helps it survive and thrive. Its ideology and tactics are spread through online forums dedicated to white supremacist propaganda.

Patriot Front

Founded in 2017 by Thomas Rousseau, Patriot Front is a white supremacist group that emerged from a split with Vanguard America following the Unite the Right rally in Charlottesville, Virginia. Vanguard America was a white supremacist group that opposed multiculturalism and whose members believed America should be an exclusively white nation.

The goals of the organizers of the Unite the Right rally included unifying the American white nationalist movement and opposing the proposed removal of the statue of Robert E. Lee, the general who led the Confederate troops of slave states during the Civil War, from Charlottesville's former Lee Park. The rally sparked a national debate over Confederate iconography, racial violence and white supremacy.

The Patriot Front defines itself as an organization of "American nationalists." According to the Anti-Defamation League, since 2019 the Patriot Front has been responsible for a majority of white supremacist propaganda distributed in the United States, using flyers, posters, stickers, banners and the internet to spread its ideology.

The group frequently participates in localized "flash demonstrations" where it marches near city halls. Such demonstrations have also increasingly made it one of the United States' most visible white supremacist groups. In 2024, Patriot Front held demonstrations on patriotic holidays such as Memorial Day, the Fourth of July and Labor Day.

Although the group claims loyalty to America, the Patriot Front's ultimate goal is to form a new state that advocates for the "descendants of its creators" — namely, white men.

Understanding the motivations and tactics of accelerationist groups and individuals, I believe, is critical to recognizing and countering the dangers they represent.



X@Ramireztoons

michaelpramirez.com

TRUMP, SEND YOUR DEPORTEES TO EUROPE NOT AFRICA

Deal with them in the US; failing that, let the former colonial powers bear the burden they helped create.

Tafi Mhaka

Al Jazeera columnist

On August 5, Rwanda announced it had agreed to accept 250 migrants under the Trump administration's expanding third-country deportation programme.

Speaking from Kigali, government spokesperson Yolande Makolo said Rwanda would retain the right to decide which deportees to admit for "resettlement". Those accepted, she added, would receive training, healthcare, and housing to help them "rebuild their lives".

The programme forms part of President Donald Trump's controversial pledge to carry out "the largest deportation operation in American history."

It also marks the third deportation agreement of its kind on the African continent.

On July 16, the US sent five convicted criminals from Vietnam, Jamaica, Laos, Cuba, and Yemen to Eswatini, formerly known as Swaziland.

Described as "barbaric and violent" and rejected by their countries of origin, they are confined to isolated units at the Matsapha Correctional Complex, near the capital Mbabane, pending eventual repatriation.

Eleven days earlier, on July 5, eight men convicted of murder, sexual assault, and robbery were deported to South Sudan. Reports differ on whether any deportee was South Sudanese.

The deportations have already provoked widespread outrage — from civil society groups in Eswatini, to lawyers in South Sudan, who denounce them as illegal.

South Africa's government has even lodged a formal protest with Eswatini.

Nigeria, meanwhile, has rebuffed US pressure to accept 300 Venezuelans, with Foreign Minister Yusuf Tuggar saying the country already has "enough problems" and "over 230 million people" to care for.

These deals are unfair.

The US is strong-arming others at the expense of vulnerable people.

Trump's established brutality is horrifying. His family separations in 2019 left children terrified and alone, all in the name of policy.

The US is now sending people to Rwanda, Eswatini, and South Sudan — countries already struggling to care for their own citizens.

This truth exposes Trump's Victorian view of Africa: a desolate, irredeemable continent unworthy of respect or equal partnership. His vision echoes a Western tradition, crystallised in Conrad's Heart of Darkness, where Africa is portrayed as "dark" and "primeval" — a land deemed oppressive and violent, its people cast as incapable of understanding, feeling, or compassion.

That is not who we are.

Yes, Africa has challenges.

Nonetheless, we do not turn the marginalised into pawns, nor do we disguise exile as policy. Our humanity is unshakable and beyond reproach.

Today, Uganda hosts about 1.7 million refugees, making it Africa's largest refugee-hosting country. This figure exceeds the combined refugee populations under UNHCR's mandate in the UK, France, and Belgium today.

Europe must assume a far greater share of responsibility for asylum seekers and refugees.

These third-country deportation deals are not credible policy.

They are colonialism reborn.

No self-respecting African leader should ever agree to participate in an organised atrocity — not when Africa still bleeds from the wounds inflicted by the West: Sudan's civil war, civic unrest in the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, environmental devastation in Nigeria's Delta, and the continuing reach of French monetary imperialism through the CFA.

"Uncle Sam" now plans to send both convicted criminals and desperate asylum seekers to Africa's shores, instead of the warships of old. Both groups deserve support at home in the US, with extensive rehabilitation for offenders and safe sanctuary for the vulnerable.

If not, Europe can be the only alternative.

Let the architects of empire face the heat.

Let the wealthy, politically obnoxious allies of Washington carry the burden for once.

Rwanda, Eswatini, and South Sudan are among the poorest nations in the world, with per capita incomes just a tiny fraction of their former colonial rulers in Europe. Expecting them to carry the burden of America's deportees is not only unjust — it is absurd.

A May 2025 study, Unequal Exchange and North-South Relations, undertaken by Gaston Nieves and Thomas Piketty, analysed foreign wealth accumulation over more than two centuries. It shows that by 1914, European powers held net foreign assets approaching 140 percent of GDP, underscoring how colonial transfers, artificially low commodity prices, forced labour, and exploitation fuelled Europe's enrichment.

From Juba to Kigali, colonial plunder still drives global inequality.

A return to the systemic brutalities unleashed after the disastrous Berlin Conference of 1885, when European powers carved up Africa, cannot be accepted.

No matter what officials in Rwanda, South Sudan, or Eswatini claim in public, sending America's cast-offs to Africa is colonial exploitation repackaged for today.

This is not a new strategy.

Beginning in the 19th century, many European colonies were reduced to offshore extraction centres and dumping grounds. France banished convicts and political exiles to territories such as present-day Gabon and Djibouti. Spain used Bioko Island in Equatorial Guinea as a penal settlement for deportees from Cuba.

The US has revived that same imperial entitlement, delivering a fresh blow to both Africa and the Americas. Most irregular migrants in the US come from Venezuela, Mexico, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Haiti — nations scarred by centuries of European colonialism and US imperial interference.

These countries embody the ongoing impact of colonial legacies and geopolitical meddling that propel migration.



DONALD AGAINST DC — KARMA IS COMING

I don't need to ask the question, how can you hate the homeless? Some would say we don't hate them—we fear them. We don't feel safe around them. We don't like looking at them. They are embarrassing to our culture.

They refuse to work, they are crazy, and they might just do anything. So in order for me to feel safe, they must disappear. In order for me to not look at our cities with shame, I must reinvent our "wonderfulness" by being in denial and being blind. Donald Trump, one who calls himself President and the leader of the free world, has flagrantly dismissed the Constitution and the words inscribed on the Statue of Liberty. If he hopes we hold these truths—"Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses"—he instead decides to get rid of any and all who threaten his view of what America should be for him. Don't get it twisted: the stuff he's doing is not for America, but rather for himself in his concealed defense, and he's convincing far too many to agree with him.

I listened to Joe Scarborough and others dance around Donald. They talk about bringing the National Guard and ICE into the city of Washington, D.C., ignoring the truth that the capital city of America is at an all-time low in terms of crime. I heard Joe and his guests speak about feeling safe, shifting away any voice that didn't agree with them. But who doesn't want to feel safe? Oh, how I wish I could be in on Bill's televised conversations.

But because this stuff makes me so mad, I doubt that I could be effective. I just want to ask them a few questions: Do you not hear how alike you are? How can you believe that? If you are a Christian and say these things, have you ever read the Bible? Because to me, you are saying the end justifies the means. On the one hand, you admit this is a smokescreen to cover up his relationship with Epstein and Maxwell, but if it helps you feel safe, if you can gain something from it, you say, "It's alright with me."

This kind of thinking is what has us in this mess in the first place. Do you think MAGA Republicans thought their groceries and essentials would skyrocket in price? No. They voted for him largely to rid the country of people who don't look like them. They think their skin color makes them superior, yet they feel vulnerable if too many melanated people are allowed to come here and populate. They believe their skin color is their safety net in holding their place as the majority race.

They didn't think that when they got flooded out and became homeless, this same man they voted for would deny them funds from FEMA to rebuild. Of course, they also didn't read the 2025 manifesto, because if they had understood it, they would know the words for D.C. were already in the plan. After the smoke clears in minority-led blue cities, the next phase will be in red cities across the country, where statistics show crime is truly highest. If they had been aware, they would know their skin color doesn't save them from higher drug prices, skyrocketing rent, food insecurity, or flooding—because they shipped all the migrant workers away, calling them illegal immigrants and aliens.

They didn't know what the Bible says, even in the Bible Belt, about reaping what you sow. They didn't know that as they judge others, God puts a mirror up to them and shows them their own culpability. Some feel that those of us who are liberal and Christian ought to just pray, have faith, and do nothing. But my Bible speaks differently. Some scriptures that resonate with me are 2 Timothy 1-2, Daniel 2: 1-20, Matthew 7: 1, John 4:7, Ephesians 6:12, and Psalm 10: 2-7. The words that hit me the strongest are these: "I was hungry, and you cut SNAP. I was thirsty, and you defunded clean water. I was sick, and you cut Medicaid. I was a stranger, and you deported me. I was in prison, and you left me there to rot. Whatever you do to the least of these, you do unto me."

Yesterday, as I left church on New Bern Avenue, there was a person sitting on the pavement. As I stopped and talked, I couldn't tell if this was a man or a woman. I asked, "Should I say sir, or madam?" They smiled and said, "Sir." I asked if he needed anything. He said no. I told him I was going to dinner after church, could I give him my plate? He said no. Then he asked, "Is church letting out now?" I said yes, I had just left a little early. I told him he was welcome to come in—the music was good and the sermon was even better. He smiled and said, "Well, thank you for inviting me. I really appreciate it." His hand wasn't out. He didn't ask for a thing. If he did later, that was someone else's suggestion.

In the retelling of this experience, I realized: the soul was telling me it was my job to speak—or could it have been Jesus? This I know is true: removing the homeless from the streets of Washington, D.C. or any other city will not make us safer or transform our cities into attractive places for visitors. Donald needs to know that the homeless cannot simply get up and move. It takes money to do so, and it also takes money to pay fines. Yes, if you put them in jail, they get three meals a day and a bed to sleep in—but why? Homelessness isn't a crime. Across the country, there are those who are building dwellings for the homeless, restaurants closing to regular customers for a day to serve them, and athletes building apartments for them.

And that's good. But why can't the government do more? If Donald can call the National Guard to take over the D.C. police, claiming thugs and criminals are ruling the streets, why didn't he do that on January 6? Why doesn't he pardon the homeless for being homeless? The answer, to me, is this: because he hasn't read the Bible, and he certainly doesn't understand when Jesus tells us to forgive. For he knows not what he does. I forgive him ahead of his understanding—because selfishly, maybe I don't want his karma. And karma is coming for Donald, and for those who agree with him—not because I said it, but because the Bible says so.

Classifieds

CHATHAM COUNTY

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
CHATHAM COUNTY

NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION
In the General Court of Justice
District Court Division
File Number 25CV000554-180
To: DARWIN JOSE YEPEZ TORREALBA, Defendant.

Take notice that a pleading seeking relief against you has been filed in the above-entitled action. The nature of the relief being sought is for child custody. You are required to make defense to such pleading no later than September 23, 2025 said date being at least forty (40) days from the first publication of this Notice, and upon your failure to do so, the Plaintiff, FRANCIS FABIOLA VERDU OCHOA, will apply to the court located at 40 E Chatham St, Pittsboro, NC 27312 for the relief sought.

This, the 14th day of August, 2025.

Aneta Paval
Paval Law Offices, PLLC
7404 Chapel Hill Rd, Suite M
Raleigh NC 27607
Telephone: (919) 410-6690
8/14, 8/21, and 8/28/2025

DURHAM COUNTY

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

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

File Number 25E001058-310
THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 13th day of August 2025, as ADMINISTRATOR of the Estate of KENNETH DARYL REED, 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 21st 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 21st day of August 2025.

Erica Mack, Administrator
15 Riverstone Drive
Fuquay-Varina, NC 27526
8/21, 8/28, 9/4, and 9/11/2025
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

File Number 25E000941-310
THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 11th day of August, 2025, as Administrator CTA of the ESTATE of PETER HAMMONDS, 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 November 22, 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 August 21, 2025.

SHIRLEY DIEFENBACH,
ADMINISTRATOR CTA
ESTATE OF PETER HAMMONDS
c/o Shirley M. Diefenbach, Attorney
Walker Lambe, PLLC
Post Office Box 51549
Durham, North Carolina 27717
8/21, 8/28, 9/4, and 9/11/2025
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

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

File Number 25E001045-310
THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 12th day of August 2025, as EXECUTOR of the Estate of PEGGY JOYCE CODY, 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 21st 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 21st day of August 2025.

Deborah Cody Marsh, Executor
4000 Branchwood Dr.
Durham, NC 27705
8/21, 8/28, 9/4, and 9/11/2025
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
File Number 25E000908-310

Having qualified as Executor of the Estate of LILLIE MAE BURT, deceased, of Durham County, N.C., the undersigned does hereby notify all persons, firms, and corporations having claims against said estate to exhibit them at the office of the attorney for the estate or before the 21st day of November 2025, or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. Awanya Rene Davis, Executor, c/o David B. Alexander, Attorney for the estate, The Law Firm of David B. Alexander, P.C., 5003 Southpark Drive, Suite 230, Durham, NC 27713.

8/21, 8/28, 9/4, and 9/11/2025
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

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

File Number 25E001020-310
THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 6th day of August 2025, as ADMINISTRATOR of the Estate of DELORES JOHNSON FORD a/k/a FRANCES DELORES FORD, Deceased, of Durham County, North Carolina, does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said Estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 14th day of 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 14th day of August 2025.

Beverly R. J. Harris, Administrator
3020 Sprucewood Dr.
Durham, NC 27707
8/14, 8/21, 8/28, and 9/4/2025
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

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

File Number 25E000834-310
THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 29th day of July 2025, as ADMINISTRATOR of the Estate of TYSON KEITH CHRISTENSEN, Deceased, of Durham County, North Carolina, does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said Estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 14th day of 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 14th day of August 2025.

Darlene M. Christensen,
Administrator
c/o Graham B. Schmidt, Attorney
4141 Parklake Ave. Suite 310
Raleigh, NC 27612
8/14, 8/21, 8/28, and 9/4/2025
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

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

File Number 25E001035-310
THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 8th day of August 2025, as EXECUTOR of the Estate of HILDA JOSEPHINE WALKER EPSTEN, Deceased, of Durham County, North Carolina, does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said Estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 14th day of 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 14th day of August 2025.

Teri Epsten, Executor
1010 Monmouth Ave.
Durham, NC 27701
8/14, 8/21, 8/28, and 9/4/2025
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 LIVENGOOD, 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.
Delilah Cooper Moore, Executor
629 Yorkshire Drive
Cameron, NC 28326
7/31, 8/7, 8/14, and 8/21/2025
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

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

File Number 25E000899-310
THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 12th day of June 2025, as ADMINISTRATOR of the Estate of WALTER JERRY LEWIS ROYAL, Deceased, of Durham County, North Carolina, does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said Estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 31st day of October, 2025 or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said Estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This, the 31st day of July 2025.
Robert Stephan Monks
Attorney For Walter Lacey,
Administrator
6613 Speight Circle
Raleigh, NC 27616
7/31, 8/7, 8/14, and 8/21/2025
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

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

File Number 25E000792-310
THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 12th day of June 2025, as EXECUTOR of the Estate of WILLIS EDWINA PAGE, Deceased, of Durham County, North Carolina, does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said Estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 31st day of October, 2025 or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said Estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This, the 31st day of July 2025.
Sharon D. Beard, Executor
1903 Pear Tree Lane
Durham, NC 27703
7/31, 8/7, 8/14, and 8/21/2025

WAKE COUNTY

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
WAKE COUNTY

COMPLAINT TO ENFORCE POSSESSORY LIEN ON MOTOR VEHICLE

In The General Court Of Justice
District Court Division
Small Claims

File No. 25CV027804-910
JACKSON AUTO SALVAGE INC.,
Plaintiff VS. UNKNOWN VIN:
242676B126062 1966 PONTIAC,
Defendant

TO UNKNOWN OWNER: TAKE NOTICE the petitioner has filed with the clerk a petition in proper form indicating that the petitioner has a valid lien against a 1966 PONTIAC, ID No. 242676B126062 and that the petitioner shall have the right to sell to the highest bidder the motor vehicle listed on September 30, 2025 at WCCH, 316 Fayetteville St., 3rd Floor, Raleigh, NC 27601, at 1:30 p.m. You are required to make a defense to such pleading before such date and time.

This the 21st day of August, 2025.
JACKSON AUTO SALVAGE INC.,
Plaintiff
7120 Poole Road.
Raleigh, NC 27610
8/21, 8/28, and 9/4/2025
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
WAKE COUNTY

NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION
In The General Court Of Justice
District Court Division
File 25CV014325-910

[CHILD CUSTODY PROCEEDING], LIZBETH MARIN LOZANO Plaintiff v., RAFAEL CISNEROS BUSTOS, Defendant, Father of LML born on 10/9/12 and MCM born on 9/19/15. TAKE NOTICE that a pleading has been filed in the above-entitled action. A hearing date of 10/21/25 has been scheduled. The relief sought

is an award of legal custody to Plaintiff. You are required to make defense with the Wake County Clerk of Court no later than 9/30/25. Upon your failure to do so, Plaintiff will apply to the Court for the relief sought. This, the 21st day of August 2025. Katherine Moye, Attorney for Plaintiff, P.O. Box 58058, Raleigh, NC, 27658, 919-794-7511. The Carolinian, 8/21, 8/28, 9/4, 2025.

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
WAKE COUNTY

NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION
File No. 25CV010903-910
PATRICK MEDLIN, PLAINTIFF VS
AMY MEDLIN, 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 21st day of August, 2025.

8/21, 8/28, and 9/4/2025
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
WAKE COUNTY

NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION
In the General Court of Justice,
District Court Division
File No: 25CV002722-910

[CHILD CUSTODY PROCEEDING] HELEN SANCHEZ MONTOYA, Plaintiff v. ISIDORO CARDENAS MORALES, Defendant. To Defendant, father of minor children born to Plaintiff on 1/23/20 and 11/30/22. TAKE NOTICE that a pleading seeking relief against you has been filed in the above-entitled action. A hearing date of 10/7/2025 has been scheduled. The relief sought against you is an award of legal custody to Plaintiff. You are required to make defense with the Wake County Clerk of Court no later than 9/23/2025. Upon your failure to do so, the party seeking relief against you will apply to the Court for the relief sought. This, the 14th day of August 2025. Katherine Moye, Attorney for Plaintiff, P.O. Box 58058, Raleigh, NC, 27658, 919-794-7511, The Carolinian, 8/14, 8/21, 8/28/2025
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
WAKE COUNTY

NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION
In the General Court of Justice,
District Court Division
File No: 25CV009855-910

[CHILD CUSTODY PROCEEDING] SARAH KONATE & IBRAHIM KHOUROMA, Plaintiffs v. MOHAMED DOUMBIA & FATOUMATA KONE, Defendants. To Defendant KONE, mother of M.D. born on 12/12/2012. TAKE NOTICE that a pleading seeking relief against you has been filed in the above-entitled action. A hearing date of 10/7/2025 has been scheduled. The relief sought against you is an award of legal custody of the child to Plaintiffs. You are required to make defense with the Wake County Clerk of Court no later than 9/23/2025. Upon your failure to do so, the party seeking relief against you will apply to the Court for the relief sought. This, the 14th day of August 2025. Katherine Moye, Attorney for Plaintiff, P.O. Box 58058, Raleigh, NC, 27658, 919/794-7511, The Carolinian, 8/14, 8/21, 8/28
NORTH CAROLINA
WAKE COUNTY

NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION
In The General Court Of Justice
District Court Division
File No. 25CV014788-910

RITA MITCHELL, Plaintiff VS.
TIMOTHY WELIME WANJALA,
Defendant

To The 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: The Plaintiff has filed a COMPLAINT FOR JUDGMENT FOR ABSOLUTE DIVORCE. You are required to make defense to such pleading no later than September 16, 2025, forty (40) days from the first date of the 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 7th day of August 2025.
Rita Mitchell, Plaintiff
2120 Breezeway Dr. #107
Raleigh, NC 27614
8/7, 8/14, and 8/21/2025

Classifieds

WAKE COUNTY

**NORTH CAROLINA
WAKE COUNTY
NOTICE OF SERVICE
OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION
In The General Court of Justice
District Court Division
File No. 22CV014645
JOSEPHINE EMMANUEL
OPARAOCHA, Plaintiff VS.
BENSON CHUKWUDI AGU,
Defendant**

To The 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: The Plaintiff has filed a COMPLAINT FOR JUDGMENT FOR ABSOLUTE DIVORCE. You are required to make defense to such pleading no later than September 16, 2025, forty (40) days from the first date of the 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 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

FORECLOSURE

**NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY
NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE
Special Proceedings
No. 25 SP 477**

Trustee: Philip A. Glass
Date of Sale: August 27, 2025
Time of Sale: 3:00 p.m.
Place of Sale: Durham County Courthouse
Description of Property: See Attached Description
Record Owners: Massiel Murga and Bryan Henry, JTWROS
Address of Property: 7709 Grand Lillie Drive
Durham, NC 27712
Deed of Trust:
Book : 9853 Page: 925
Dated: January 27, 2023
Grantors: Massiel Murga a single person, Bryan Henry a single person
Original Beneficiary: State Employees' Credit Union
CONDITIONS OF SALE:

This sale is made subject to all unpaid taxes and superior liens or encumbrances of record and assessments, if any, against the said property, and any recorded leases. This sale is also subject to any applicable county land transfer tax, and the successful third party bidder shall be required to make payment for any such county land transfer tax.

The property to be offered pursuant to this Notice of Sale is being offered for sale "AS IS, WHERE IS." THERE ARE NO REPRESENTATIONS OR WARRANTIES relating to the title or to any physical, environmental, health or safety conditions existing in, on, at or relating to the property being offered for sale, and any and all responsibilities or liabilities arising out of or in any way relating to any such condition are expressly disclaimed.

A cash deposit of 5% of the purchase price will be required at the time of the sale. Remote bidding will not be accepted pursuant to North Carolina General Statutes Section 45-21.25 (a). Credit bids on behalf of the Noteholder will be accepted. Any successful bidder shall be required to tender the full balance of the purchase price so bid in cash or certified check at the time the Substitute Trustee tenders to him a deed for the property or attempts to tender such deed, and should said successful bidder fail to pay the full balance purchase price so bid at that time, he shall remain liable on his bid as provided for in North Carolina General Statutes Section 45-21.30 (d) and (e). This sale will be held open ten (10) days for upset bids as required by law.

Residential real property with less than 15 rental units, including single-family residential real property: an order for possession of the property may be issued pursuant to G.S. 45-21.29 in favor of the purchaser and against the party or parties in possession by the clerk of superior court of the county in which the property is sold. Any person who occupies the property pursuant to a rental agreement entered into or renewed on or after October 1, 2007, may, after receiving notice of sale, terminate the rental agreement by providing written notice of termination to the landlord, to be effective on a date stated in the notice that is at least 10 days, but not more than 90 days, after the sale date contained in the notice of sale, provided that the mortgagor has not cured the default at the time the tenant provides the notice of termination. Upon termination of a rental agreement, the tenant is liable for rent due under the rental agreement prorated to the effective date of the termination.

Dated: July 23, 2025
Philip A. Glass, Trustee
Nodell, Glass & Haskell, L.L.P.
Posted on July 23, 2025
Exhibit A
Being all of Lot 3, Block A, Carmel Heights, as shown on a plat thereof recorded in Plat Book 80, Page 9, Durham County Registry. TOGETHER with the rights under that Deed of Easement of Access to Well recorded in Book 1056, Page 310, Durham County Registry.

Subject to easements, restrictions and rights of way of record, and utility lines and rights of way in existence over, under or upon the above-described property.
PIN: 0816-71-5502
Property Address: 7709 Grand Lillie Dr. Durham, NC 27712
August 14 & August 21, 2025

DEV OPS ENGINEER AND MULTIPLE OPENINGS

ORIGIN HUBS INC has multiple openings for DEVOPS ENGINEER (Multiple Openings) w/ Masters Deg to Create user stories & track all the tasks rel to dev. Create & imp end-to end CI/CD Lifecycles. TS issues in various env (Dev/Test UAT/Production). Dsgn & dev enterprise cloud capabilities and sols. Wage: \$157248.00. SOFTWARE PROGRAMMER (Multiple Openings) w/ Bachelors Deg to Write clear, efficient, & reusable code as per the spec. Test, debug, ts, & deploy progr. Maint & upgrade existing soft prog. Inv in db dsgn & write SQL queries & stored proc. Wage: \$86570.00. For both positions: Tra & reloc may be req to var unant client locs t'out the US. To Apply: Mail resume to 2500 Gateway Centre Blvd, Suite# 100, Morrisville, NC - 27560 or email to talent@originhubs.com

D/M/WBE

SUBCONTRACTORS/SUPPLIERS WANTED

T. A. Loving Company (NC General Contractor License No. 325) is seeking certified DBE, MBE, and WBE subcontractors and suppliers for The Campus at 587 Water Main Extensions project for the City of Wilson which bids on August 28, 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 Wilson; Operations Center; 1800 Herring Avenue, East; Wilson, NC 27893 * Green Engineering, PLLC; 303 Goldsboro Street, East; Wilson, NC 27893.

Potential subcontracting opportunities include but are not limited to surveying, clearing and grubbing, hauling, asphalt paving, striping, traffic control, erosion control, seeding, linework/pipe installation, jack & bore, directional drilling, bypass pumping, and 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 Grays Creek Water Main Extension project for the Fayetteville Public Works Commission which bids on August 26, 2025, at 3:00 PM. Plans and specifications for this project are available at the following locations: T. A. Loving Company; 400 Patetown Road; Goldsboro, NC 27530 * Fayetteville PWC Procurement website * Fayetteville State University Construction Resource Office website * ConstructConnect website * NC Institute of Minority Economic Development (NCIMED) website.

Potential subcontracting opportunities include but are not limited to surveying, hauling, asphalt paving, striping, traffic control, erosion control, seeding, linework/pipe installation, bypass pumping, and 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.

WANTED WBE, MBE & DBE BIDS

for the following job:

NCDOT Division Eight Letting

DH00592 Randolph Co. Bid Date: August 26th

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

Please contact S. T. Wooten at 252-291-5165, Fax 252-243-0900 no later than 5:00 p.m. the day before the bid date.

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

BUYING CASSETTE TAPES

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

PERMANENTLY CLOSED

In addition to previous notice, please be advised the dermatology and medspa practice of Viva Life LLC (dba Sona), formerly located at 5511 Capital Center Drive, Raleigh, NC 27606 permanently closed as of February 28, 2025.

For medical records, maintained in accordance with state statutes and HIPAA, contact Cariend, medical records custodian, via their website at www.cariend.com/request-records. For questions, contact Cariend by email at request@cariend.com, by phone at 404-991-7080, or by mail at:

Cariend ROI

P.O. Box 1866

Thomasville, GA 31799-1866

For all other matters, call 980-233-3200 or email admin@sonaclosed.com.

DEV OPS ENGINEER (MULTIPLE OPENINGS)

Harbor Hat Inc has multiple openings for DEVOPS ENGINEER (MULTIPLE OPENINGS) w/ Masters Deg to Collab w/ agile dev teams to implmnt CI & deli pipelines. Est arch stndrds & res infra & app sec & perfo concerns. Auto CI & deplo pro. Moni infra & appl avai using moni tools to ensure consi provi, uptime, reg comp, & data prot. Create & manage repositories, as well as build & release pipelines. Wage: \$132080/ annum. AND IT CONSULTANT - SOFTWARE (MULTIPLE OPENINGS) w/ 36 mos exp to Dsgn & implmnt auto CI/CD pipelines for deve, testing, & prod envi. Sup & ensure succ deli of IT projs. Cont to deve & imple agile proj mgmt practices. Test, TS, & res tech issues across envi. Wage: \$131893/ annum. For both positions Travel & reloc may be req'd to var unanticipated client locs throughout the US. To Apply: Mail resume to 2500 Gateway Centre Blvd, Ste# 200, Morrisville, NC - 27560 or email to hr@harborhat.com

D/M/WBE

SUBCONTRACTORS/SUPPLIERS WANTED

T. A. Loving Company (NC General Contractor License No. 325) is seeking certified DBE, MBE, and WBE subcontractors and suppliers for the US 17/Burns Street Sewer Replacement project for Onslow Water and Sewer Authority which bids on August 26, 2025, at 2:00 PM. Plans and specifications for this project are available at the following locations: T. A. Loving Company; 400 Patetown Road; Goldsboro, NC 27530 * Onslow Water and Sewer Authority; 228 Georgetown Road; Jacksonville, NC 28540 * Dodge Data and Analytics website * ConstructConnect website * Hispanic Contractors Association of the Carolinas website * NC Institute of Minority Economic Development (NCIMED) website.

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

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

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 Wastewater Treatment Optimization project for the Town of La Grange which bids on August 19, 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 La Grange; 203 South Center Street; La Grange, NC 28551 * Black & Veatch International Company; 319 North 3rd Street, #202; Wilmington, NC 28401 * Dodge Data and Analytics website * ConstructConnect website.

Potential subcontracting opportunities include but are not limited to surveying, demolition, hauling, asphalt paving, earthwork, erosion control, seeding, electrical, SCADA, dewatering, masonry, roofing, HVAC, roll-up doors, insulation, flatwork, CIPC, concrete forms, concrete rebar, painting, plumbing, and fencing. 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.



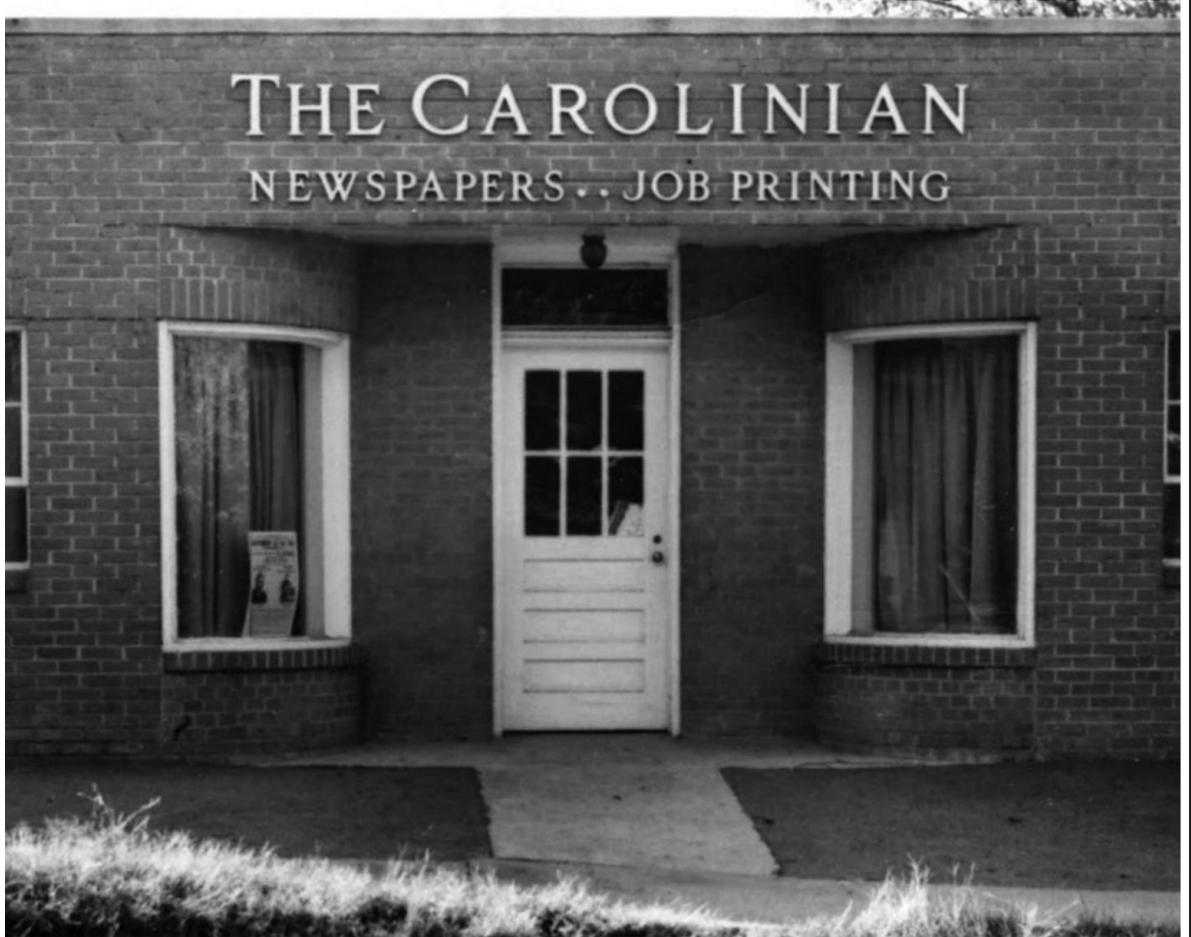
"Tell her I'm not here. Let her prove otherwise."

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 North Carolina's history.

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

