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Dedicated to the Spirit RALEIGH, N.C. and Service of God

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Retail Store Closures About 6,000 In First Half Of 2025

6,000 store closings announced in the first half of this year or about 123.7 million square feet of vacated retail space, according to Coresight

closures have outpaced store openings nearly twofold, with 3,960 new store locations announced occupying 74.5 million of retail square feet in the first six months of this year.

The retail analysis firm said retail

Coresight predicted roughly 15,000 retail locations would shutter for the full year, with around 5,800 new store openings, and the industry is on pace to come close to that prediction as of the start of July.

Coresight now reports that approximately 5,800 new retail stores will open in 2025, leaving an expected loss of about 9,200 store locations by the end of the year, with annual sales rising 3.3% in the U.S. and online sales soaring 8.3% from a year

Rising debt, higher interest rates,

scape continues to shift with roughly nounced and planned by the Trump by two-thirds compared to a year administration are adding to the woes with more bankruptcies and private equity takeovers.

In June, Plano, Texas-based home goods retailer At Home and pharmacy chain Rite Aid each filed for bankruptcy protection with store closures also announced as part of their reorganization strategies. At Home, privately owned, said it plans to shutter 27 of its stores this year, citing higher prices from tariffs. Rite Aid will shutter 489 stores accounting for an estimated 6.7 million square footage of retail space.

Coresight CEO Deborah Weinswig said the latest retail casualties pushed the retail closure square footage above 120 million square feet. Weinswig said this is not the end of physical retail but more of a right-sizing given the increase in online retail over the past few years.

She said the U.S. retail sector is in a period of high real estate churn amid structural shifts in the industry and increased inflationary costs as more retail business gravitates continue to hurt retailers in the post- online. Coresight reports as of July

ago, while store openings were flat against the same period.

Retail bankruptcies total 15 so far this year, which is down from the 26 reported in the year-ago period. Coresight reports that bankruptcies have driven closures of five of the 10 retailers closing the most stores in the first half of 2025.

Joann, Party City, Big Lots, Rite Aid and Forever 21 are the five retailers shuttering the most stores this year, due to bankruptcy. Joann closed 800 stores as the company dissolved under its bankruptcy filing in early 2025. Big Lots announced plans to close 340 locations in its bankruptcy proceedings and failed sale to Nexus Capital. The discount closeout chain later announced that around 200 locations were being acquired by Variety Wholesalers and would reopen under the Ollie's banner beginning in April.

Party City was another large casualty this year, following its bankruptcy proceedings in March, with approximately 800 stores being shut-

Talk Business—The retail land- pandemic era. This year, tariffs an- 4 that U.S. store closures were up tered. In May, Rite Aid announced by the end of 2026. that about 1,000 stores would close as it winds down its business operations following two bankruptcies since 2023. Teen apparel retailer Forever 21 announced the closure of all 354 leased locations this year following its March Chapter 11 bankruptcy filing. The mall retailer cited competitive pressures and shifting shopping habits away from malls as the primary reasons for its financial

Kohl's said it plans to shutter 27 of its under-performing locations as it restructures under new corporate leadership. Kroger will shutter 60 of its underperforming stores in Georgia, Illinois, Texas and Virginia starting in June.

Macy's plans to close 65 stores this year, while convenience giant 7-Eleven plans to shutter 444 of its 13,000 North American stores this year. Walgreens plans to close 2,150 locations between 2025 and 2027, roughly 25% of its U.S. stores. Advance Auto Parts announced plans to shutter 523 of its corporate-owned stores and two distribution centers

Women's apparel retailer Torrid said it will close 189 stores before the end of the year. Torrid CEO Lisa Harper said 70% of the retailer's demand comes from online sales, and the company is transforming to a more digitally-led business requiring

Earlier this year, Liberated Brands, behind Volcom, Quicksilver, Spyder and Roxy filed Chapter 11 bankruptcy and the closures of all of its 350 corporate-owned stores,

(See RETAIL STORE, P. 3)



WAKE TECH AND WILLIAM PEACE UNIVERSITY ANNOUNCE **NEW PATHWAYS PROGRAM**

By Ms Jheri Worldwide

In a significant move to make four-year degrees more accessible, Wake Technical Community College and William Peace University have launched a new transfer partnership called "Peace Pathways." The program, which took effect in August 2025, guarantees admission for Wake Tech graduates and offers a substantially reduced tuition rate. This new agreement aims to streamline the process for students to transfer from a two-year degree to a four-year bachelor's degree. For students who complete an Associate in Arts, Associate in Science, or specific Associate in Applied Science degrees, the program guarantees a seamless transition with no application fee.

The partnership also addresses a major concern for students: the high cost of a four-year degree. Under the Peace Pathways program, tuition is set at a significantly lower rate, making a private university education a more affordable option. For in-person classes, tuition is \$10,000 per year, and for online courses, it is \$290 per credit hour. This is a substantial saving compared to the typical tuition of nearly \$35,000 per year for a full-time student. The program also guarantees that graduates with specific degrees, such as Criminal Justice, can complete their bachelor's degree in as little as

Leaders from both institutions highlighted the shared commitment to providing affordable education and creating opportunities for students to 'ladder up" to an advanced degree. For Wake Tech students, this means a clearer, more affordable path to a bachelor's degree and the peace of mind that comes with a guaranteed transfer and a fixed, reduced tuition rate. It's an opportunity that can help them achieve their academic and career dreams without the burden of significant student debt.

College Grads Are Now Jobless At About The Same Rate As Non-Grads

By Monique Danao

For decades, Americans viewed a college degree as the surest path to a stable and high-paying job. However, new data challenges that belief, especially for young Gen Z men.

Recent numbers from the Federal Reserve show that the unemployment rate for male college grads between ages 22 and 27 is now roughly the same as for their peers who didn't attend college.

According to the Federal Reserve, the unemployment rate among recent college graduates stands at 4.8% as of June 2025. While that's still lower than the 7.4% unemployment rate among all young adults — male or female — aged 22-27, going to college no longer provides the same level of advantage it once did particularly for men.

A Financial Times report says the number for young male grads' unemployment is even higher, and rose from 5% to 7% in the past year.

While the unemployment rate for college grads is similar to numbers from 2010, it's a dramatic shift in advantage college grads once held. At that time, the unemployment rate



for degree holders - an 8% differ-

Meanwhile, women appear to be benefiting more from their degrees. Only 4% of young college-educated women are unemployed — a full 3 percentage points lower than their male counterparts. One possible reason? Industry choices.

Healthcare and social assistance

health care jobs will have nearly 1.9 million openings projected each

In contrast, young men may be struggling in part because they tend to be pickier, holding out for dream roles that align with their aspirations or perceived status.

Women tend to be more flexible in accepting job offers, even if they're - sectors that tend to attract more not perfectly aligned with their cafor non-college-educated young men hovered above 15%, compared to 7% women — are booming. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, recruitment firm Bentley Lewis, told

Fortune. "Men, on the other hand, often hold out for roles that align more closely with their ideal career path."

This career idealism, coupled with a challenging job market, may be contributing to the high number of Gen Z men classified as NEET not in education, employment, or training. Today, about 11% of young people fall into this category.

(See COLLEGE GRADS, P. 2)

Inside NC Tourism: Helene Impact, Emotional Appeals, & Social Media

By Galen Bacharier

NC Newsline

Earlier this year, Wit Tuttell and his colleagues at North Carolina's Visit NC tourism office were carefully watching a key metric in their monthly surveys: how many tourists weren't coming to the mountains because they thought they weren't

North Carolina had for months been blasting out marketing under a campaign designed to bring business back to the area after Hurricane Helene. "The best way for us to get back is for you to come back," ads pleaded to potential visitors.

Finally, a survey showed less than 10% of people sharing that sentiment a key watermark. Visit NC pivoted and launched a new campaign: "Rediscover the Unforgettable.

"We want people to remember what a great experience going to the North Carolina mountains was,' Tuttell told NC Newsline in an interview. "We want them to feel like they can rediscover that. Now is the time they can go back out there."

In the first full year since the deadliest storm in North Carolina history, tourism has been overall "sluggish," Tuttell said. He estimated that to



date, 2025 spending was "about on par" or "down anywhere from 1-3%" from 2024.

That's not solely because of the Helene recovery or a slowdown in visitors to the mountains. But those concerns have added yet another layer to a complex tourism landscape, increasingly driven by social media chatter and an uncertain economic

North Carolina's tourism office has responded with almost \$14 million in custom advertising campaigns over the past year. They've relied on data to adjust "delicate" messaging, luring visitors back while tapping a network of influencers to boost the region across social channels.

Now, even in a "softening" market

for leisure travel, Tuttell said, North Carolina as a whole is "faring better

How VisitNC has pitched the mountains in the year since Helene

Just weeks after Helene flooded western North Carolina, some storefronts and communities - if they were able — opened back up for business. It wasn't a choice so much as a necessity, in a region so heavily driven by tourism.

Visit NC's first post-Helene tourism campaign was a cautious one, urging visitors to return and spend money in communities that needed it. But they were careful "not to over-

"It wasn't going to be the typical mountain vacation," Tuttell said. "People felt that they wanted to help, but they didn't want to interfere. So we had to get the message across that going there wasn't going to in-

Those early months of advertising were targeted as much at in-state residents as visitors from across the country. That was by design: The state wanted to remind North Carolinians of their fondness for the region - and that their neighbors needed their help.

"We sort of played on their heart-

(See INSIDE NC TOURISM, P. 2)

ELECTIONS' ATTACK ON SUNDAY VOTING

RALEIGH, NC -The NAACP North Carolina State Conference condemns in the strongest terms the State Board of Elections' decision to allow counties to eliminate Sunday voting, calling it a direct attack on Black voters and

Sunday voting—especially the Souls to the Polls efforts led by Black churches—has long been a cornerstone of voter participation in North Carolina. Stripping away this opportunity is nothing short of voter suppression targeting Black communities.

"This is not about costs or convenience. It is about disenfranchising Black voters," said NAACP North Carolina President Deborah Dicks Maxwell. "The courts have already ruled that North Carolina lawmakers intentionally discriminated against Black voters 'with almost surgical precision' when they attempted to cut Sunday voting in the past. This decision is a shameful return to those unconstitutional tactics. We will not stand by while our voting rights are dismantled."

NAACP North Carolina Political Action Chair Marcus Bass added: "Sunday voting has given countless North Carolinians—especially working people and Black families—the chance to cast their ballots without having to choose between their paycheck and their participation in democracy. This decision is a deliberate effort to silence our community's voice. The NAACP will fight this attack in every arena necessary: in the courts, in the legislature, at the ballot box, and in the streets."

The NAACP North Carolina reaffirms its unwavering commitment to protecting and expanding access to the ballot box. We call on all North Carolinians to join us in demanding that Sunday voting be preserved statewide.

Democracy is strongest when every voice is heard.

CITY OF RALEIGH DRAFT ANNUAL REPORT TO HUD AVAILABLE FOR COMMENT

The City of Raleigh's Draft Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER, for the period from July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025) is available for public comment from September 8th - 23, 2025. This report summarizes how the City used federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), HOME, Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG), CARES Act and local funding to carry out its housing and community development programs from 7/1/24 - 6/30/25. The draft CA-PER is available by e-mail, on the City website, and from the Community and Small Business Development Division, 421 Fayetteville St. Suite 1200, Raleigh, NC 27601

Accommodations for disabled or non-English speaking residents will be made available upon request. The City offers interpreter services in other languages, including American Sign Language, at no cost to the speaker. The public has until September 23rd, 2025, to review and submit written comments. Comments may be sent to cd.info@raleighnc.gov, or to Community and Small Business Development, P.O. Box 590, Raleigh, NC 27602. To request a copy, call (919) 996-4330.

Thousands March On Wall Street Demanding Economic Justice

after Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. delivered his "I Have a Dream" speech, thousands poured into Lower Manhattan on Thursday, linking arms and voices in what was billed as the largest demonstration of its kind since Donald Trump returned to the

Led by Rev. Al Sharpton and the National Action Network, the March on Wall Street drew national civil rights leaders, clergy, activists, and elected officials, all demanding economic justice, equity, and fair opportunity at a time when diversity, equity, and inclusion programs have been dismantled by the Trump administration. The march began at Foley Square, paused at the African Burial Ground National Monument, and wound its way down Broadway to Whitehall Street. Participants significant, but in the back of mind, march, we continue to speak out, spanned generations and professions – labor unions, fraternities is, that 62 years after Dad delivered dom, justice, equality, and equity," and sororities, educators, and teens that dream for our nation and world Chavis said. "Thus, we join the Rev.

NNPA-Sixty-two years to the day rights secured in the 1960s and to in," King said. "And the goal is to push back against what they see as find ways to move this nation forthe biggest transfer of wealth in U.S.

Newark Mayor Ras Baraka, who was arrested earlier this year while protesting ICE, challenged fellow municipal leaders to act. "We are here because our ancestors demand that we be here, because the times demand that we be here, because every mayor in every city in America should be rising up right now as Donald Trump tries to send the National Guard into our communities — we are here as they create the biggest transference of wealth this country has ever seen," Baraka declared. The presence of Martin Luther King III and Andrea Waters King underscored the continuity of I am thinking about how sad this - all united by the call to defend that we are in the position we are Al Sharpton and the National Ac-

ward around economic inequality.' King also posted on social media: "We were proud to join @NationalAction and my good friend, @ TheRevAl, for the #MarchOnWall-Street. On the 62nd anniversary of the #MarchOnWashington and in the financial capital of the world, we marched for economic justice and

fair opportunities for ALL. Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis Jr., president and CEO of the National Newspaper Publishers Association, stood with Rev. Dr. Boise Kimber, president of the National Baptist Convention USA Inc., marking the moment's deep historical ties. "It marked 62 years after the historic 1963 March on Washington for Jobs the movement. "It's extraordinarily and Freedom, and we continue to and we continue to demand free-



Rev. Dr. Boise Kimber and Rev. Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis Jr. at the March on Wall Street, New York City, Aug. 28, 2025.

stood together, shoulder to shoulder, of America under the auspices of the is alive," Sharpton told the crowd.

tion Network in the March on Wall at the March on Wall Street. I was Street. The Rev. Boise Kimber and I pleased to represent the Black Press

NNPA. In the words of publisherleader Frederick Douglass, 'Freedom is a constant struggle.

Rev. Dr. Christopher Davis, General Secretary at the National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc., drove home the financial realities confronting communities of faith. "I don't care the size of your church," Davis said. "Whether you have 10,000 members or 10 members, you can't do ministry without money, so we have to be concerned about the economic plight of the people that fill our pews." Among those addressing the crowd were Michael Eric Dyson, Benjamin Crump, Melanie Campbell, Maya Wiley, and others, each pointing to the urgency of resisting what they described as attacks on democracy, workers, and Black communities. "It means we continue the movement 62 years later, marching on Wall Street, raising the issues of income inequity, DEI, and the takeover of cities with Black mayors. The dream

16th Annual African American Cultural Celebration & Festival

By Jordan Meadows

Staff Writer

This past Labor Day weekend. downtown Raleigh was transformed into a celebration of heritage, creativity, and community during the 16th Annual African American Cultural Festival (AACF) of Raleigh and Wake County.

attendees, the free, family-friendly event stretched across Fayetteville Street and Hargett Street and em-

Festival organizer Pam Thompson Smith explained the inspiration behind the theme, saying, "When you come out here, there's all kinds of rhythm. It's not just in the drums, it's in the food, it's in the celebra-

The festival offered a multisensory experience that blended visual, Drawing an estimated 50,000 performance, and culinary arts into a dynamic showcase of African American culture. Visitors browsed

dashikis, artwork, and soulful food.

Enthusiasts praised the diverse offerings, ethnic crafts, and the event's warm, welcoming atmosphere. Among the many talented visual artists was "Mellow," who described his work as a reflection of motivation and the essence of African American history and identity.

Live entertainment was a major highlight, with performances across two stages, including national recording artists Blackstreet, DJs Brito the role of district court judges. Sunday morning offered a spiritually uplifting moment with the "Church Without Walls" service led by Wake Chapel Church, uniting the community in worship on the main stage.

The AACF also placed a strong emphasis on creativity and hands-on engagement with a variety of inter-

panel discussion calling attention active art activities throughout the festival grounds. Children and adults able, and local service organizations alike participated in projects like the tie-dye tent, chalk art walls, puppetry workshops, mural painting, and theater workshops. These interactive spaces encouraged exploration, storytelling, and self-expression, offering festivalgoers of all ages a chance

Free health screenings were availoffered access to vital social resourc-

One of the festival's hallmark programs, the AACF Youth Art Grant Program, continued to support high school students by funding creative projects that bring arts education to



College Grads Are Now Jobless—continued from PAGE 1

setween 2011 and 2022, maie coilege enrollment dropped by 1 million while female enrollment fell by just 200,000, according to the Pew Research Center.

Interestingly, many young men are pivoting toward skilled trades. Enrollment at two-year public vocational schools has surged by 20% search Center.

Is a degree still worth it? The answer may depend on your

goals. A 2021 survey by the Federal Reserve found that 73% of college graduates felt their education was worth the cost. And data from Georgetown University's Center on Education and the Workforce shows

Facing uncertain prospects and since 2020, which is equivalent to that bachelor's degree holders still However, the benefit isn't uni- ers are increasingly dropping degree. For Gen Z, the challenge is no longer mounting student debt, more Gen Z 871,000 students, according to the earn about 75% more over their life-versal. The value of a degree varies requirements, college may no longer just whether to go to college, but men are skipping college altogether. National Student Clearinghouse Retimes than those with only a high widely by major, gender, industry, be the automatic path to prosperity how to make sure that investment

Taylortown Welcomes A New Police Chief

By Ms Jheri Worldwide

TAYLORTOWN, N.C. - The Taylortown Police Department recently welcomed a new leader, as Chief Daniel Smith was officially sworn in to head the force. While any new appointment marks a new chapter for a town, Chief Smith's leadership is a profound reminder of what it means to serve and protect. Daniel Smith, a native of Southern Pines, has held roles in public safety from patrol officer to lieutenant. He will work closely with acting chief Brandon Phillips as

he transitions into leadership. December 10, 2019, in Lumberton, after pulling an elderly couple from their wrecked minivan on Fayetteville Road, James Locklear suddenly collapsed on the sidewalk from a massive heart attack. Without hesitation, then-Officer Daniel Smith of



the Lumberton Police Department rushed to his side. He performed relentless CPR, a heroic effort that ultimately helped revive James and saved his life. Chief Smith's decisive action, calmness under pressure, and unwavering commitment to preserving a life are qualities that define a true public servant. He is not just an officer; he is a proven hero who has demonstrated his dedication to the community in the most critical of

The residents of Taylortown can be proud to have a leader with not only professional experience but also the profound integrity and courage that Chief Smith embodies. His presence on the force is a testament to the character and strength we hope for in all our community leaders. Join me in offering a heartfelt congratulations to Chief Daniel Smith. Taylortown is

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Inside NC Tourism — CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1 strings with the first few messages," Tuttell said. "Knowing that people love this area, and have an affinity toward it.'

After about six months, they pivoted to "Rediscover the Unforgettable" and blasted out images of Asheville's breweries and restaurants, cycling and rafting in the Smokies and wineries in the High Country. The idea,

Tuttell said, was to shift away from a recovery-focused message to a more inspirational one. When all is said and done, the state is hoping to be able to use their current campaign for the Piedmont and the coast: "For Real, Visit North

"Elsewhere, kids are watching reels on a phone," a narrator says in one ad for the campaign, as a young girl casts a line into the water at the Outer Banks.

Visit NC's western marketing has been paid for almost entirely through money allocated by the legislature across multiple hurricane relief packages. That allowed the agency to shift money for their

"inspirational campaign" to the Piedmont and the coast.

In 2024, 71 counties saw increased visitor spending from the year before, the Department of Commerce announced Wednesday. Among the counties that saw the biggest boosts: those neighboring Helene-impacted counties, where hundreds of workers and volunteers aiding in disaster relief stayed for weeks to months.

Social media tourism - and its pitfalls for western NC

Earlier this summer, tourism officials met with a group of influencers and social media personalities in

Ahead of "leaf season," they're hoping a steady clip of posts on Instagram, TikTok and other platforms will help spur more trips, from both returning and new visitors. Visit NC has formally contracted with a few creators through its advertising agency, while others are considered more informal partners.

But they'll all be competing with a deluge of other posts and chatter, that Tuttell says have made selling a dominant tourism-focused message harder than ever.

"In the past, what we worried about was the Weather Channel sending a team out and Jim Cantore scaring people away on your TV screens," said Tuttell, referencing the now-retired meteorologist who reported from the field during various hurricanes and disasters. "What we really saw with this storm is that there were 1,000 different people on their phones, posting videos to social networks, that had the most influ-

ence on people and visitation. The state saw a dip in sentiment about visiting the mountains around the six-month anniversary of Helene. Tuttell believes that was fueled in part by old videos of flooding and destruction that resurfaced online. And he's expecting a similar dip next month, around the one-year anniver-

Tourism officials have, however, been able to count on one prominent person to continue boosting the re-

gion: Gov. Josh Stein. Stein has made the recovery and

revitalization of the mountains a centerpiece of his first months in office. He's made frequent visits out to impacted communities, shaking hands with local officials and business owners. And he made an appearance on "The Late Show with

Stephen Colbert" in June. "The governor and the First Lady have been the biggest cheerleaders we've had for western North Carolina," Tuttell said. "And boy has it been beneficial."

Stein's office has also leaned into more casual, social media-focused promotions.

One post featured a staffer handing him a disposable camera, before clicking through the images he took while on vacation in western North Carolina. And when Donna Kelce mother of the Kansas City Chiefs' Travis Kelce and soon to be motherin-law to Taylor Swift - posted that she had visited Biltmore Estate in Asheville, Stein chimed in.

"Western NC is open for business (and a wonderful place for a wedding)!" Stein wrote.

Business & Finance

How Does Pres. Trump's plan To End Solar Energy Program Meant For Low-Income Households Affect North Carolina?

By Celeste Gracia

The Trump administration plans to end a clean energy program called Solar for All, a Biden-era initiative that started last year.

In North Carolina, the state Department of Environmental Quality was slated to receive \$156 million to build solar energy and storage system infrastructure for low-income households.

"The solar energy industry employs more than 9,000 people across more than 200 businesses statewide," the agency said in an emailed statement. "The resilience benefits of this program are particularly important in North Carolina after recent extreme weather events. Termination of this program puts economic prosperity and energy security at risk for all North Carolinians."

In a social media post, EPA Ad-

house Gas Reduction Fund, includ- cut back or shut down. ing a \$7 billion program called Solar

ministrator Lee Zeldin said the One for All." As NPR previously reported, All in NC Big Beautiful Bill, passed by Con- Zeldin did not offer details about gress last month, repeals "the Green- how and when the program would be

Benefits and impact of Solar for



The \$156 million in federal funding was allocated to help about 12,000 households across the state. Participating families would be expected to see at least a 20% reduction in home energy bills. "Solar for All would have helped

people have access to clean energy and therefore reduce their energy bills," said Luis Martinez, Southeast Director for Climate and Energy at the Natural Resources Defense Council. "Particularly at a time when ... there is dire need for additional resiliency, weatherization, and distributed energy.'

Distributed energy means events like blackouts can be less likely, as there are fewer houses straining the system. When individual households decrease their reliance on the grid, it increases overall grid resiliency.

Martinez also emphasizes the

cluding creating jobs and stimulating partment of Environmental Quality. local businesses.

'The truth is clean energy is the cheapest, fastest to deploy, fastest growing resource right now," said Martinez. "(The Trump administration) is not going to stop clean energy any more than they can stop the sun from shining.'

LEGAL CHALLENGES TO FOLLOW SOON

Martinez says legal challenges are already ramping up. Environmental advocates and democratic lawmakers disagree with the Trump's administration's claim that the One Big Beautiful Bill repeals the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund.

"We believe that these funds have been appropriated by Congress and legally obligated so that they cannot be clawed back," said Martinez.

The Solar for All funding had already been obligated to organizaentities like the North Carolina De-

ment agencies, such as Veterans Af-

fairs and Internal Revenue Service

among others, to provide identity

verification, according to their web-

The state program called Energize NC was funded through Solar for All. As NPR reports, because the money was considered obligated, grantees argue the Trump administration can't reclaim it now.

In a joint statement, North Carolina Democrats in the U.S House Representatives condemned the move. This includes Representatives Deborah Ross (NC-02), Alma Adams (NC-12), Valerie Foushee (NC-04), and Don Davis (NC-01).

"North Carolina has long been a leader in the clean energy economy, and this Administration's actions over the past seven months are putting billions of dollars in economic investment in our state at risk," said the statement. "We strongly urge you tions, tribal communities and state to reconsider this reckless and illegal

ID.me Tops \$2B Valuation In Fight To Combat AI-Driven Fraud

with a credit facility, led by investment firm Ribbit Capital, valuing the preventing AI-driven fraud. digital identity wallet at over \$2 bil-

its latest funding round, combined with new investor Positive Sum. The funding would be targeted towards WHY IT'S IMPORTANT

Despite macroeconomic uncertain-

Reuters-ID.me said on Wednes- ipation from existing investors Ares rose in 2025 as startups delayed their advances such as AI, digital identity day it had raised \$340 million across Capital and Moonshots Capital, along public offerings amid an abundant capital pool and higher valuations, with strong investor interest in artificial intelligence-driven companies.

CONTEXT As cybercrime exploiting onlin-The Series E round included partic-ties, private venture capital funding eplatform vulnerabilities rises with

verification has become crucial, making companies like ID.me increas-

ID.me is a digital identity wallet that stores and manages personal information and credentials.

unemployment fraud during the pan-

The financing will also help the company expand access to secure and

reusable digital identity, it said.

"Fraud is evolving at the speed of AI—and so are we," said Blake Hall, Founder and CEO of ID.me.

"As AI reshapes the economy and new fraud risks emerge, we believe Seven states credited ID.me with ID.me's digital identity wallet will bepreventing more than \$270 billion in come even more essential in enabling secure connections between large organizations and their users, while also minimizing friction and improving the end-user experience," said John Clark, Ares Management.

Russia And China Ink Deal To Build New Gas Pipeline As They Deepen Energy Ties

Aljazzera-Russia and China have agreed to move forward with a new gas pipeline during Russian President Vladimir Putin's trip to China, Gazprom said, highlighting the growing economic and energy ties between the two nations

Alexei Miller, CEO of Gazprom, the largest energy firm in Russia, confirmed on Tuesday that a "legally binding memorandum" had been signed to develop the pipeline.

The long-planned Power of Siberia 2 could carry an additional 50 billion cubic metres (bcm) of gas annually from Russia's Arctic Yamal fields to China via Mongolia.

Miller added that deliveries through the existing Power of Siberia pipeline from eastern Siberia to China would increase to 44 bcm a year, up from 38 bcm.

The deal would deepen Beijing's energy options while reducing dependence on liquefied natural gas (LNG) imports from the United States.

rne announcement followed nignprofile meetings between Chinese reference to the United States. President Xi Jinping and President Putin during which the Russian leader hailed the "unprecedented ties"



Xi also hosted dozens of world leaders, including Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, for the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit in the Chinese city of Tianjin. The Chinese leader, who touted the security bloc as an alternative to the Western-led international order, urged regional leaders to oppose Cold war mentality

Beijing and Washington have still not agreed to a trade deal despite several rounds of talks.

In an interview with "Scott Jen-

growth we've had on YouTube and

how it's resonated so quickly with so

many people," Garcia Jayaram said.

'We know we're on to something

Philanthropic support of storytell-

ing has been ongoing for decades,

documentary projects. Open Soci-

ety Foundations created the Soros

Documentary Fund in 1996 before

the Sundance Institute took it over in

2002, with the George Soros-backed

nonprofit's continued monetary

support. The Ford Foundation for-

malized its funding plans in 2011,

creating its JustFilms program that

still supports 25-30 documentary

films annually. Earlier this month,

Firelight Media, a New York-based

nonprofit supporting documentary

filmmakers of color, launched the

Firelight Fund, which will offer

directors \$50,000 grants for their

CEO of media strategy firm Brooklyn

Story Lab, says what Elevate Prize

Foundation and others are doing

is different. He says it reflects both

technological improvements that

have lowered the cost of documen-

tary storytelling and the rise of social

media, which allows nonprofits to

But Lance Gould, founder and

nings Radio Show", US President Donald Trump said on Tuesday that he is "not concerned at all" about an axis forming against the US that includes China and Russia.

However, pricing for the new route remains unsettled. Miller said negotiations on costs would be handled separately, a sticking point as Russia seeks to offset the loss of its European gas market, while China is seeking

"Announcements about Power of Siberia 2 are a huge turning point in the geopolitics of energy," said Mi-

chal Meidan, head of China Energy Research at the Oxford Institute for Energy Studies, speaking to Reuters. "The message is: China is no longer even pretending to comply with US sanctions or care about what the West thinks. And it's not alone."

China has already received liquefied natural gas shipments from Russia's sanctioned Arctic LNG 2 project, signalling its readiness to defy West-

Trade between Moscow and Beijing surged to \$240bn in 2023, underscoring their deepening partnership since Russia's 2022 invasion of Ukraine.

Kremlin officials said 22 agreements were signed during Putin's ongoing trip, including a strategic cooperation pact between Gazprom and China National Petroleum Corporation, though no details were

"The big deal is finally under way," said Kirill Babaev of Moscow's China and Contemporary Asia Institute, speaking to Reuters. "Political negotiations are over, and now commercial tasks will bring results, with the blessing of leaders from Russia, Mongolia, and China."

RETAIL STORE

Continued from page 1

blaming fast fashion competition, inflation and high interest rates for its fi-Dollar General has announced plans to close 96 of its stores and 45 of

the PopShelf locations. The dollar store chain said despite the closures of underperforming stores it still planned to open 575 new stores this year and remodel more than 4,000 locations. Many of the retail store closures are a result of declining store traffic as

more consumers respond to inflation by reducing spending. There also are more consumers turning to online shopping especially for apparel, accessories and household items. The winner is not merely Amazon but increased competition from Temu and Shein marketplaces and social commerce outlets like TikTok. Coresight said that as Temu and Shein continue to ramp up general mer-

chandise categories like automotive, home, and pet, general merchandise retailers could feel pinched. Weinswig said a growing preference among consumers to shop online to find the cheapest deals took a toll on brickand-mortar retailers in 2024. She said retailers unable to adapt their supply chains and implement technology to cut costs were significantly impacted. "We continue to see a trend of consumers opting for the path of least resis-

tance. Not only do they want the best prices, but they also have no patience for stores that are constantly disorganized, out of stock, and that deliver poor customer service," she added. Coresight said Shein and Temu wield a combined \$100 billion business,

pressuring retailers and marketplaces across a number of global markets. including the U.S., for the balance of 2025.

Nonprofits Face A Tough Funding Landscape

MIAMI (AP) - Cindy Eggleton has always believed in the power of a

But the CEO and co-founder of Brilliant Cities, a Detroit-based early childhood development nonprofit that supports learning in underserved communities, never expected someone to tell hers. And definitely not in a sleek documentary with a slick soundtrack and plenty of images of other Detroit institutions, such as General Motors, Diana Ross, and the historic Fox Theatre.

"It's never been about me," said Eggleton, adding that participating in the "Nevertheless: The Women Changing the World" documentary series on YouTube was her way of honoring her late mother, Geraldine, who inspired her to speak out and help others in their community.

However, as they face an increasingly uncertain funding landscape, nonprofits are focusing more on storytelling in outreach to donors - both big and small - and raising mostly through donors funding production values for videos and

Storytelling is how we're able to draw people in and get them to connect to a deeper truth about themselves or about the world or a problem that needs to be solved," said Elevate Prize Foundation CEO Carolina Garcia Jayaram. "It's connecting those issues back to you as a human and not saying, 'Well, that's their problem. That's all the way over there.' The story allows it to be

Elevate Prize Foundation launches its own storytelling arm

The foundation launched the production house Elevate Studios earlier this year to tell more of those stories, Garcia Jayaram said. "Nevertheless: The Women Changing the World," Elevate Studios' first series, has already generated more than 3 million views on YouTube and will debut its

second season in the fall of 2026. "It's been incredible to see the

"Being able to tell your story well is paramount," said Gould, whose firm works with nonprofits to help them produce their own story-driven content. "But storytelling is not only about reaching viewers, it's also about having the right message for the right viewers.

He suggests that nonprofits connect their work to larger initiatives like the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals — an ambitious list of 17 efforts from eliminating extreme poverty and hunger to guaranteeing every child a quality secondary education by 2030 - to attract more attention and support.

How storytelling can strengthen

Gould, who was previously executive editor of The Huffington Post and editor in chief of The Boston Phoenix, said "everyone can be their own media company at this point."

That's a point Nicole Bronzan, vice president of communications and content for the Council on Foundations, hopes is not lost in the push for more storytelling.

"We don't want people to feel that they have to make big technological investments in order to tell better stories," Bronzan said. "We wouldn't want anyone to feel like they have to have a big fancy studio, but certainly the news that folks are investing in storytelling is great for us and for the whole sector.' In a Council on Foundations

report released last year, " A New Voice for Philanthropy: How Deeper Stories and Clearer Language Can Build Trust," researchers, including Bronzan, reported that people had positive attitudes toward foundations, but most didn't really understand how foundations worked. Bronzan said stories that provide more transparency about how donations are used and how those decisions are made help connect people to a nonprofit and its work.

"If you're telling those stories," she said, "I can only imagine that people will be more inclined to open up their pocketbooks and say, 'Oh, OK, these are causes that need my sup-

Documentary sparks donations So far, that has been the case for Brilliant Cities, which saw an increase in donations after Eggleton's episode debuted on YouTube.

"We have a funder who wants to increase his gift from \$7,000 to \$100,000," said Eggleton, whose nonprofit turns a neighborhood's vacant homes into community centers with family services ranging from tutoring to mental health support groups. She said new donors have also reached out. "It's kind of incred-

Though Brilliant Cities doesn't rely on federal funding for its services, Eggleton said government aid cuts have made a tough funding environment even tougher because the competition for non-governmental donations becomes even tougher.

'Everybody's being told what's being taken away," she said. "People are pulling at grant officers and individuals with stock market gains. I think it's more than the funding, though. I think it's about really recognizing how the world already feels so disconnected and now feels even more so.

Storytelling, Eggleton said, helps reduce that. By focusing on female changemakers, Elevate Studios makes an even stronger point, she said, adding she's been quoting Spanish poet Antonio Machado -There is no path/We make the path by walking" – as she explains the power of the series.

"This is the time that we really do need to figure out how we build empathy through stories and not necessarily saying, 'You're wrong or you're right," she said. "You just show the world what can be and

Balfour Beatty

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A State That's Best For Business Is Also Ranked Worst For Workers

won bragging rights as the Top State for Business in 2025, according to CNBC. But what's best for business may not always be best for those carrying out the work.

To coincide with the Labor Day holiday, Oxfam America released the Best States to Work Index (BSWI), and the Tar Heel state is far from the

Patricia Stottlemyer, senior domestic policy adviser at Oxfam America, notes that North Carolina came in 52nd in its new analysis that examines labor policies in all 50 states as well as D.C. and Puerto Rico.

A key reason is that North Carolina lawmakers have not raised the minimum wage of \$7.25 an hour for 16

"That minimum wage has been in place since 2009," Stottlemyer told NC Newsline. "What that means in North Carolina is that the state minimum wage only covers 18% of what it would [need] to support a family of critical workplace protections.

(AP News) In July North Carolina four. It's woefully inadequate when it comes to enabling families to support themselves.

By comparison, Virginia leads the Southeast region in compensation with a minimum wage of \$12.41 per Stottlemyer said it's a common

misconception that when states support workers, that means bad things for the economy. "That's just not true. Our index actually looks at several metrics of community well-being, including eco-

nomic measures and finds that there's a strong positive correlation between states that have a healthy and robust labor policy landscape. In CNBC's annual business ranking, North Carolina received its lowest marks for quality of life (earning

a C-) and cost of living (earning a C+) - an acknowledgement of the rising cost of living in the state. Beyond compensation, Oxfam un-

derscores that North Carolina lacks



North Carolina does not provide a heat safety standard for outdoor workers, nor does it provide specific protection for warehouse workers, according to Oxfam.

The Heat Policy Innovation Hub at Duke University's Nicholas Institute for Energy, Environment & Sustainability recognizes heat as an escalating crisis with a need for governance to protect workers from heat-related

Workers would also benefit from fixed and fair scheduling. Unpredictable hours can be especially problematic for those whose duties

the elderly, or family members with disabilities.

Leave time is another factor.

"There's no guarantee that workers have access to paid family and medical leave or paid sick leave," notes Stottlemyer.

North Carolina is also held back in this year's index for its "right-towork" laws. The state ranks at the bottom with South Carolina, Georgia, Arkansas, Texas and Utah for having no support for workers organizing, whether by public or private employ-

In Oxfam's companion report on include providing care for children, the best states for working women,

North Carolina is just edged out of the last spot by Mississippi. Again, a lack of paid family leave for working women causes the state's ranking to bottom out.

'Black mothers in particular are disproportionately likely to be heads of their households and breadwinners. So, if they have access to paid leave, they're able to stay in the workforce and juggle their caregiving responsibilities as well," explained Stottlemyer.

State access to paid sick days was a key recommendation in a new report released last week by the N.C. Department of Administration's Council for Women and Youth Involvement.

This report, "Investing in Economic Opportunity for Women in North Carolina," found that while the gender wage gap for women has improved over the last seven years, fewer mothers are in the workforce compared to fathers. And North Carolina women working full-time spent 20 to 26% of their annual income on infant childcare.

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The cost of childcare posed the greatest burden for Latina and Native American women in North Carolina, based on their earnings.

"Today's findings reflect the disparities and discrimination women in North Carolina and across the country continue to face, especially women of color," said Jesseca Boyer, vice president for policy and strategic initiatives at the Institute for Women's Policy

And there is a ripple effect for the next generation.

North Carolina ranks lowest nationally in preschool enrollment for 3-year-olds, and second lowest among Southeastern state for the enrollment of 4-year-olds in preschool.

Research (IWPR).

Oxfam and the Institute for Women's Policy Research come to the same conclusion in their respective reports: North Carolina would greatly benefit from raising the minimum wage, indexed to the cost of living, and by enacting legislation to require employers to provide workers with paid time off for short-term illness or to care for the health of a loved one.

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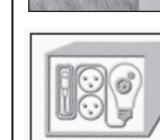


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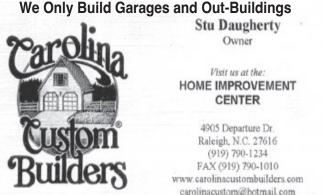
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Health and Wellness

In North Carolina, Our Black Communities Are Meeting The Mental Health Needs Of Youth In Barbershops And Churches

By Ahmed Jallow

NC Newsline

Editors note: This is the first of a series of stories NC Newsline is doing in September for Suicide Prevention Month. If you or someone you know needs help, the national suicide and crisis lifeline in the U.S. is available by calling or texting 988. There is also an online chat at

On a Tuesday afternoon in July, inside The Bar Ber Shop in Raleigh, Reggie Winston, 41, talks about a subject many of his young clients rarely discuss anywhere else: men-

Winston, who is trained in mental health first aid and suicide prevention, remembers battling depression in high school without realizing it. "I had no clue what I was experiencing was depression," he said. It wasn't until he heard someone else's story that he recognized his own, a realization that led him to therapy and, eventually, a

After the COVID-19 pandemic, Winston expanded the community work he'd started years earlier with free blood pressure screenings in his shop. This time, he turned to mental health, founding Grooming Resources and Opportunities, a nonprofit that trains barbers to spot signs of depression, anxiety, and suicidal thoughts.

His method begins with seemingly casual questions when someone climbs into his barber chair. Instead "How are you?" he'll ask, "What time did you wake up? What are your plans today?" As he snips and shapes, his clients reveal pieces of their lives they rarely share any-

Slowly, in the safety of his barber chair, these simple inquiries allow clients to reveal what's really hap-

"Once they get comfortable and start trusting you with their haircut," Winston said, "they start trusting you with their mind and their heart.'

From 2013 to 2022, 377 Black North Carolinians ages 10 to 24 died by suicide, according to data. Nearly 17% of Black high school students said they had seriously considered suicide. Among middle schoolers, more than a third reported the same. The numbers peak at age 24 — and are especially stark for Black girls questioning their sexual orientation, who now report the highest rates of suicide attempts in schools statewide.

'The myth that Black people don't die by suicide has been dangerous,' said Bettie Murchison, a longtime advocate who runs the Village of C.A.R.E. in Wake County. "We've had to fight against that in our families, in our churches, and in our schools. Winston's effort is a key part of North Carolina's response to rising suicide rates among Black youth. This year, the state health department launched the Black Youth Suicide Prevention Action Plan, a five-year initiative that leans on trusted community spaces, including barbershops and churches, to expand support and prevent suicide among Black youth and young adults. Unlike the state's broader suicide-prevention strategy, this plan focuses on the unique needs of Black

Dr. Sonyia Richardson, a UNC Chapel Hill researcher and one of the plan's architects, said it was built on listening sessions with young people and their communities. "This is not a top-down plan," she said. "It's community-led, community-driven, community-implemented.

One of its guiding principles: young people in crisis often turn not to doctors, but to trusted adults in familiar places — coaches, pastors, aunties,



'We're meeting the needs of communities where youth are more likely to seek support. From local YMCAs, churches, and community centers rather than traditional men-

Barbershops and churches

That's where Winston and his longtime friend, counselor Rodney Harris, come in. This year alone, he tal health providers," Richardson and Harris have trained more than trainings, and then they can also of-

a dozen barbers in mental health first aid training. These programs work, he added, includes expanding first aid training. These programs teach them to spot warning signs of mental distress and suicide, as well as how to safely talk with clients about limiting access to firearms and other deadly means. They've trained barbers across Raleigh, Wake Forest and Durham. Soon they'll be in

"Barbers often know more about their clients' lives than anyone else," Harris said. "When a clinician approaches, youth might be skeptical. But when a barber speaks, they lis-

Barbershops have become hubs for this work well beyond North Carolina. The Confess Project, for example, has trained barbers across the country in mental health advo-

What's different with GRO is that they train barbers to become community leaders themselves, Harris said. "What we saw as a gap in the research is to make the barbers trainers and then have them go into the community, offer additional

mental health first aid and counseling on access to lethal means, known as CALM.

The same approach is playing out in churches. Through Murchison's Village of C.A.R.E. program, she trains pastors and faith leaders to act as first responders. "If we can get them to understand this is as much a part of their ministry as teaching the Bible," she said, "we can reach a generation of youth who don't see a therapist as their first line of defense." Building trust beyond the shop

State officials have identified 17 counties in North Carolina that are in urgent need of suicide prevention efforts. These counties, which range from major metropolitan areas like Durham, Wake, and Mecklenburg to smaller, rural communities such as Edgecombe, Halifax and Hoke, have the highest rates of Black vouth suicides and the highest volume of 988 crisis calls. In each of these communities, Black residents make up at least 25% of the population.

Reynolds American Launching New Smokeless Tobacco Products Without FDA Marketing Approval



2Firsts—According to a report from richmond on August 31, 2025, American tobacco companies Altria and Reynolds American are dissatisfied with the delayed approval of new tobacco products by the US FDA. They plan to launch smokeless alternatives without waiting for official FDA marketing au-

Altria and Reynolds both stated that the FDA gained jurisdiction over tobacco and nicotine products in 2009 under federal law, but has not made approval decisions within the legally prescribed time frame. At the same time, these companies pointed out that illegal e-cigarettes, due to their unknown ingredients and candy flavors appealing to young people, are quickly gaining market share, while many companies' legal products have been awaiting ap-

The FDA stated that all new tobacco products must receive approval before being sold in the US market, but as of August 31, only 39 e-cigarette products and 20 nicotine pouch products have been approved. However, Altria's subsidiary Helix plans to launch a new version of "on!" nicotine pouch in North Carolina, Texas, and Florida starting in the fall of 2025.

A spokesperson for Altria revealed that the company submitted a premarket tobacco product application to the FDA in June 2024, and has met all regulatory requirements. They stated that the FDA's approval process is significantly exceeding the statutory 180-day timeline, which is severely impacting the company's market progress for their products.

At the same time, Reynolds plans to launch a new disposable e-cigarette called "Vuse One" in the fourth quarter of 2025 in South Carolina, Florida, and Georgia to advance the process of reducing tobacco harm.

Concerns have been raised by anti-smoking advocates regarding these actions. Smokeless tobacco products are often accused of attracting new customers, and the FDA's efforts to prevent youth smoking seem insufficient. Dave Lemmon of the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids pointed out that moves by companies like Altria and Reynolds appear to be bold introductions of unauthorized products to the market.

AG AGREES WITH FINDINGS OF POSSIBLE COMPLIANCE PROBLEMS AT HCA'S NC HOSPITALS

Carolina Public Press-Attorney General Jeff Jackson agrees with the findings of an independent monitor that HCA may be in violation of its purchase agreement of Mission Health, the dominant hospital system in Western North Carolina.

This marks the most recent step in a process designed to hold HCA — the largest hospital corporation in the nation — accountable here in North Carolina.

For-profit HCA purchased the formerly nonprofit Mission Health for \$1.5 billion in 2019. In allowing the acquisition, the attorney general's office placed key stipulations on the purchase, to which HCA agreed. That \$1.5 billion resulted in the formation of Dogwood Health Trust, which is tasked with monitoring whether HCA abides by those stipulations. It contracts with an independent monitor, currently Affiliated Monitors, to do so.

For the second year running, Dogwood has found potential violations of the terms of the purchase agreement. The central issue is the degradation of emergency and oncology services as a result of staffing shortages.

It's no surprise Jackson agrees with this finding, since that diminished care is the topic of a lawsuit from his very office. It was filed during Gov. Josh Stein's tenure as attorney general, but Jackson stands behind it.

"I know HCA was hopeful that a new attorney general would drop our office's lawsuit," Jackson said in a statement earlier this year. "I am the attorney general, and that's not going to happen.

"HCA broke the promises it made to provide emergency and cancer care services to the people of Western North Carolina. We'll keep fighting for this case as long as it takes to restore the health care HCA promised to provide and western North Carolinians deserve.'



Arts & Culture

How Anna Julia Cooper Shaped American Thought

By Jordan Meadows

Anna Julia Cooper, born into slavery in Raleigh, North Carolina, in 1858, emerged as one of the most influential Black scholars and activists in American history.

The daughter of Hannah Stanley Haywood and likely the enslaver Fabius J. Haywood, Cooper's early life was marked by the inhumanity of slavery. Following emancipation, she joined countless newly freed African Americans seeking education as a path to freedom and dignity.

She enrolled at Saint Augustine Normal and Collegiate Institute in Raleigh, where she immediately took a stand against gender inequality. She organized one of the school's earliest protests, demanding the right to take Latin and Greek courses typically reserved for male students. Her refusal to accept limitations placed on her as a Black woman would become a theme throughout

At Oberlin College, she again faced institutional sexism when she was denied access to "gentlemen's courses." Undeterred, she petitioned for admission and ultimately succeeded, signaling her early understanding that education was a battleground for

In 1892, Cooper published her seminal work, A Voice from the South by a Black Woman of the South. This collection of essays and speeches argued powerfully that the elevation of Black women would lead to the elevation of the entire race. She directly challenged both racism and sexism, emphasizing that Black women's experiences offered critical insights into the intertwined "race problem" and "woman question" -a two birds, one stone deal.

Cooper rebuked Black men who ignored the specific burdens Black women bore and criticized White feminists who abandoned Black suffragists after the Civil War. Cooper made clear that justice for one could not come at the expense of another.

One of her most enduring declarations remains:

"Only the black woman can say... when and where I enter, in the quiet, undisputed dignity of my womanhood...then and there the whole Ne-

gro race enters with me.'

Cooper was a dynamic organizer, educator, and global citizen. She helped found and lead organizations such as the Colored Women's League of Washington, D.C., and the Colored Settlement House. She actively participated in the Phyllis Wheatley YWCA and was part of the executive committee for the First Pan-African



Scurlock Studio Records, Archives Center, National Museum of **American History. Smithsonian Institution**

Conference in 1900. Her internation- NAACP, which denied her request. al travels took her from London to Paris, Germany, and Italy, connecting Black struggles in the U.S. with global movements for justice.

In 1902, she became principal of M Street High School (now Dunbar High School) in Washington, D.C., where she championed rigorous academic standards and rejected the vocational-focused "accommodationist" philosophy popularized by Booker T. Washington. Under her leadership, students gained access to Ivy League and Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

Later, she taught at the Lincoln Institute in Missouri before returning to M Street. In 1925, at the age of 66, she became the fourth Black woman in U.S. history to earn a Ph.D., obtaining her doctorate from the University of Paris, Sorbonne-a staggering achievement for any person of her time, let alone a formerly enslaved Black woman.

Even after retiring from Dunbar High School in 1930, Cooper continued her life's mission by becoming president of Frelinghuysen University, a Washington, D.C.-based institution that offered continuing education to working-class Black adults. refused to grant the school degreegranting status, she appealed to the the very birthright of humanity."

Nevertheless, she persisted.

Although contemporaries like W.E.B. Du Bois and Frederick Douglass received widespread recognition, many of Cooper's ideas either preceded or paralleled theirs. Her writings on racial identity, double consciousness, and cultural critique offered foundational insights that would later be echoed by more prominently remembered intellectuals-sometimes without proper attri-

Throughout her life, she corresponded with Du Bois in over thirty letters and produced a body of unpublished poetry, journalism, and dramatic work. She died in 1964 at the age of 105, having witnessed more than a century of American transformation.

In 2009, the Anna Julia Cooper Episcopal School was founded in Richmond, Virginia, to honor her legacy; tuition-free and serving middle school students in underserved communities.

Cooper remains the only African American woman quoted in the United States passport. Her words grace pages 24 and 25 of the 2016 edition:

"The cause of freedom is not the When the D.C. Board of Education cause of a race or a sect, a party or a class – it is the cause of humankind,

Ralph Lauren's New Collection Centers The History Of Black Joy And Belonging On Martha's Vineyard, Mass.

By Dr. Cheryl D. Miller

The Polo Ralph Lauren for Oak Bluffs Collection, launched in July 2025, celebrates the historic Black community on Martha's Vineyard. Here, Black families have bought property, vacationed, and found rest and community since the early 20th century, when most beaches were segregated. The collection speaks to the legacy of this Oak Bluffs community, capturing the rich heritage of a mostly hidden story that many Black people know well: generations of African Americans created a safe haven along Martha's Vineyard shoreline.

The launch was accompanied by a YouTube documentary: A Portrait of the American Dream: Oak Bluffs (below). Blending heritage, HBCU style, specifically of Spelman College and Morehouse College, and partnering with The Cottagers, Inc. (a nonprofit of predominantly Black women homeowners on the island), makes the collection more than must-have fashion, but a contribution to cultural preservation and empowerment. The Oak Bluffs Collection is a historical testament to the rich stories of Black joy, excellence,

and belonging on Martha's Vineyard. Ralph Lauren is well known for selling the coastal lifestyle. The Oak Bluffs collection taps into the brand's classic coastal aesthetic, like preppy crispness, nautical elegance, and nostalgia, with the rich cultural heritage of the African American community, including embroidered jackets, quilted coats, and cardigans inspired by HBCU style and Oak Bluffs traditions. Of course, there has been online clapback about the pricing, classism, and elitism. Still, the collection feels like a natural luxury. Elite is elite, no matter the

race, creed, or color! James M. Jeter, a Morehouse alum and Polo Ralph Lauren's first Black creative director, saw the geography of Martha's Vineyard as a competitive coastal community equal to the inspiration gleaned from other New England coastal communities. As creative director, concept design and brand direction at Men's Polo at Ralph Lauren, Jeter collaborated with a remarkable team of Black creatives to bring

this historic collection to life. Dara Douglas, a Spelman alumna and the brand/product lead for Ralph Lauextension of the brand tenets of ren's Design With Intent division, Ralph Lauren's timeless seaside was a co-architect of the Oak Bluffs vision. Douglas prougnt archival depth and cultural clarity to the storytelling. Tuskegee University alumnus Joshua Renfroe, serving as art director, infused the visuals with cinematic authenticity and grace. Behind them stands a cadre of HBCU alumni-designers, brand directors, archivists, stylists, photographers, and marketers-who together shaped the soul of the collection. Their work embodies the power of design as both cultural record and aspirational lifestyle.

The collaboration expands beyond branding to support areas of opportunity, i.e., the Martha's Vineyard the Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History and Culture. Ralph Lauren continues its longstanding partnership with the United Negro Scholarship Fund in supporting scholarships and early talent recruitment.

It is not tokenism. The Oak Bluffs collection is a manifestation of what happens when Black designers are African American Heritage Trail, empowered with budget, access, authe Martha's Vineyard Museum, and thorship, and mentorship within one cultural symbols without proper athouses.

> But, for context and some history, we should go back to 2020. In January of that year, Ralph Lauren was called out by a group of Howard

pany had snagged Greek fraternity symbols and placed them on chinos. Black Twitter and the Howard gents demanded the overpriced pants be removed from the website. They charged the company with cultural appropriation. I did too in my course lectures! Ralph Lauren knew there existed opportunities in the Black elite market, but in 2020, they came at it in the most egregious manner.

Again in October 2022, the brand faced another cultural reckoningthis time from Mexico's First Lady, Beatriz Gutiérrez Müller. She accused Ralph Lauren of plagiarizing Indigenous textile designs from the Contla and Saltillo communities. Ralph Lauren's team apologized, removed the items from sale, and vowed to implement a "credit and collaboration" policy moving for-

There is much to be agitated about with luxury brands like Gucci and Prada trampling over the African American community with a runway of fashion offenses and faux pas. These moments highlight a pattern: the commercial use of marginalized tribution or partnership. This history also makes the Oak Bluffs Collection all the more critical—not just as a campaign, but as a correction. When Ralph Lauren shifted from cultural appropriation to cultural collaboration, it changed the narrative.

The Battle For Heritage: Historic Black Towns Under Threat From Development

By Ms. Jheri Worldwide

Staff Writer

In the heart of the American South, a quiet but urgent battle is unfolding. Historic Black towns, many founded by formerly enslaved people seeking autonomy and community, are facing an existential threat from aggressive real estate development. These communities, rich in history and cultural significance, are being targeted for their valuable land, a process that risks erasing not

only homes but centuries of heritage. The threats are multifaceted, ranging from legal loopholes to economic pressures. The St. Helena Island community in South Carolina, a historic Gullah/Geechee enclave,

proposal for a private, gated golf resort on land protected by a "Cultural Protective Overlay" (CPO) since 1999. Developers have a documented history of using such projects to displace Gullah/Geechee families, who are often forced out by rising property taxes that accompany high-end development. The push to "carve out" land from the CPO sets a dangerous precedent, undermining decades of community-led planning.

This pattern of displacement is a common thread in the stories of these towns. The Carolinian has covered in depth an incorporated town in Moore County, North Carolina, the historically Black town named Taylortown has faced similar chaloffers a stark example. The "Protect lenges. Founded in 1905 by Demus

St. Helena" movement is fighting a Taylor, a formerly enslaved person, to house the Black workforce of the nearby wealthy community of Pinehurst, Taylortown has long fought for its survival. Over the years, the town has faced legal battles against annexation and land seizures. Today, residents work to preserve their history through a local museum and by collecting artifacts and memories.

The struggle is not just about land, but about preserving a way of life. High-end resorts and gated communities often block access to traditional fishing and hunting grounds, disrupt family land ownership, and erode cultural identity. Many of these communities are also fighting a climate paradox, as strong demand for coastal property, even with the risk of rising waters, further fuels development that relies on measures like land elevation and seawalls that can harm the local ecosystem.

The challenges are compounded by legal and administrative loopholes, in the case of St. Helena, a former county administrator initiated a text amendment to the CPO that could have exposed thousands of acres to resort-style development, circumventing public input.

For residents, the fight is a personal one. It is a commitment to safeguarding their unique identity and history against forces that prioritize financial gain over cultural preservation. We must continue to amplify their voices and shed light on these struggles, ensuring that these historic Black towns and the people who built them are not for-



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Community

A New Interim President At St. Aug

Tuesday, September 2nd, was supposed to be the beginning of a promising new chapter for St. Augustine's University (SAU) in Raleigh, with a virtual start to the new academic school year, and a federal court granting a preliminary injunction, allowing the small private HBCU to keep it's accreditation while it mounts its legal case against the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC).

But now, there is more drama for the beleaguered institution.

the SAU Board of Trustees an-nounced that Dr. Marcus H. Bur-"We extend our sin gess had resigned as interim SAU president, effectively August 31st. The board statement indicated that Dr. Burgess actually resigned "for personal reasons" on July 16th, to become effective on August 31st.

Dr. Burgess had served as interim president since December 2023 after Dr. Christine McPhail, SAU's last permanent president, had been fired. Dr. McPhail has since filed a discrimination lawsuit over her termination.

Before coming to SAU in 2023, Dr. Burgess served as vice president for Institutional Advancement the SAU Board statement contin-Late Sunday night on its website, at Claflin University in South Caro- ued. "Dr. Peoples brings extensive

"We extend our sincere gratitude to Dr. Burgess for his leadership and service during a pivotal period in the University's history. His commitment and dedication to the mission of Saint Augustine's University have been deeply valued," the SAU Trustee Board Sunday

night statement noted. Effective immediately, Dr. Verjanis A. Peoples, Interim Provost & Vice President of Academic Affairs of Saint Augustine's University, has assumed administrative responsibilities and will serve in this capacity until further notice,"

perience and will provide steady leadership and continuity during this transition.

Dr. Peoples previously served as dean of Education, Arts and Humanities, and executive vice chancellor for academic affairs at Southern University and A&M College in Baton Rouge, LA.

Though the change in leadership is seemingly sudden, it is not sur-

SAU's Board of Trustees recently changed chairmen, with Brian Boulware stepping down several weeks ago, and Sophie L. Gibson taking over the helm, also bringing along a new vice chairwoman.

NCCU Is The First HBCU To Host National AI Summit With OpenAI

By Jordan Meadows

Last week, North Carolina Central University (NCCU) made history by hosting the IAIER × OpenAI Academy Summit: HBCUs Leading the Future-the first national AI summit ever held at a Historically Black College or University.

Held on NCCU's campus, the event marked a groundbreaking collaboration between NCCU's Institute for Artificial Intelligence and Emerging Research (IAIER) and OpenAI, the creator of Chat-GPT. The summit spotlighted the increasingly vital role of HBCUs in shaping the future of artificial intelligence, education, workforce development, and ethical innovation in technology.

The event brought together a powerful coalition of voices from across academia, government, industry, and the local community.

Among the leaders present were NCCU Chancellor Dr. Karrie G. Dixon, ECSU Chancellor S. Keith Hargrove Sr., Representative Zack Hawkins, Dr. Siobhan Day Grady, and Ronnie Chatterji, Chief Economist at OpenAI and former Acting Deputy Director of the National Economic Council under the Biden administration.

North Carolina Governor Josh Stein contributed remarks via a virtual address, while Durham Mayor Leonardo Williams participated in a panel discussion that connected the summit's mission to the spirit of innovation and resilience embedded in the local com-

ham stands for: inclusive progress and innovation that centers people—gaging sessions, Ronnie Chatterji and purpose," Mayor Williams and Representative Zack Hawkins foot facility that will serve as a hub said. "It's not just about what AI discussed the future of AI policy, can do—but who it can empower."

ing director of IAIER, framed the to ensure AI is developed responsummit's larger purpose by em- sibly and equitably. Chatterji also phasizing that "this partnership spoke directly to students, encourhighlights NCCU's commitment to innovation. Together with Ope- their college years.



nAI, we are breaking barriers and ensuring access to AI's transformative potential.'

The summit featured immersive programming throughout the day, with students from NCCU and other HBCUs-including North Carolina A&T, Shaw University, and Fayetteville State University-participating in hands-on workshops, developer labs, and in-depth discussions on the future of AI, the importance of student voices in innovation, and public-good applications of artificial intelligence.

In a session titled "AI for Older Adults," aging expert Jeffery Rose led a conversation exploring how AI can ethically and effectively support older populations. Drawing on his experience with life-plan communities and age-tech startups, Rose helped illuminate how inclusive AI design can improve "This summit reflects what Dur-quality of life across generations.

In one of the summit's most enexploring how national, state, and Dr. Siobhan Day Grady, found- local governments can align efforts aging them to make the most of

"The greatest advantage students have today is the ability to learn and experiment," he said. "Use vour time in school to explore your interests, discover your strengths, and connect with professors across disciplines. Aligning what you're good at with what you enjoy will set you up for success, whether in AI or another field."

Shantel Riddick, a doctoral student in integrated biosciences, described the experience as transformative.

"It deepened my understanding of AI workflows, enhanced my research, and sparked creativity," she said. "The OpenAI Academy workshop also reinforced integritydriven AI use-skills I'll carry throughout my academic career.'

The integration of AI is being realized through the IAIER, launched in January 2025 and backed by a \$1 million grant from Google.org. The institute is currently developing a 5,000-squarefor interdisciplinary research and

Over its first two years, IAIER aims to engage more than 200 students in innovative AI training rooted in ethics and community impact. The institute's mission is supported by a growing list of

high-profile partners, including OpenAI, Cisco, IBM, FICO, and the Museum of Life + Science. Chancellor Dixon described the investment as "transformative," noting that it will equip students "with the tools and knowledge to lead the AI field while developing technologies that benefit society at large.

Beyond the summit, NCCU students will continue to benefit from a lasting partnership with OpenAI. Through the OpenAI Academy, students have access to a growing catalog of virtual and in-person workshops focused on building AI literacy and practical skills.

In a separate but related initiative, the North Carolina State Treasurer's Office, led by State Treasurer Brad Briner, recently completed a 12-week pilot project with OpenAI. The experiment enabled OpenAI to access publicly available data from state agencies to explore how AI could enhance efficiency and public services.

"What we've learned first and perhaps unsurprisingly, is that this technology saves a material amount of time," said Briner.

Early results showed that the use of ChatGPT helped identify warning signs in financial audits, streamline analysis of financial statements, and even assist with locating unclaimed property. The productivity boost was estimated at around 10% for employees in participating divisions. The best part? The program came at no cost to the state.

"We think partnerships like this are going to show the benefits of technology to serve all humanity, said Chatterji, who previously ran for state treasurer himself.

OpenAl's presence in North Carolina is already making an impact, with an estimated 1.1 million residents-1 in 10 North Carolinians-using ChatGPT weekly. The version used in state operations is even more advanced than the public model, allowing for deeper insights and faster, more accurate



Top Teen, Logan Thomas, and CEO of the non-profit Logan's P.A.L.S., donated back packs to the Walnut Creek Elementary School Backpack Buddies program. The program helps to feed the students over the weekend by supplying them with backpacks filled with staples on Friday.

Raleigh Native Serves Aboard A Navy Warship In Mayport

MAYPORT, Fla. - Petty Officer 3rd Class Niko Lawson, a native of Raleigh, North Carolina, serves aboard USS John Basilone, a U.S. Navy warship operating out of Mayport, Florida.

Lawson graduated from Edward C. Reed High School in 2020.

The skills and values needed to succeed in the Navy are similar to those found in Raleigh.

"The Navy taught me patience," Lawson said. "When faced with daily challenges, patience is important to help me achieve my goals. It takes time to learn new skills and grow in knowledge and character.'

Lawson joined the Navy three years ago. Today, Lawson serves as a culinary specialist.

"I joined the Navy for the educational opportunities," Lawson said. was taught from a young age to never stop learning."

A Navy destroyer, John Basilone, is a multi-mission ship that can operate independently or as part of a larger group of ships at sea. The ship is equipped with Tomahawk missiles, torpedoes, guns and a Phalanx close-in weapons system.

More than 300 sailors serve aboard John Basilone. Their jobs are highly specialized, requiring both dedication and skill. The jobs range from maintaining engines to han-taining talented people from across dling weaponry, along with a multi- the rich fabric of America.



tude of other assignments that keep the ship mission-ready at all times, according to Navy officials.

The U.S. Navy is celebrating its 250th birthday this year. According to Navy officials,

'America is a maritime nation and for 250 years, America's Warfighting Navy has sailed the globe in defense of freedom.'

With 90% of global commerce traveling by sea and access to the internet relying on the security of undersea fiber-optic cables, Navy officials continue to emphasize that the prosperity of the United States is directly linked to recruiting and re-



Ms. Lillie M. Whitaker of Enfield, NC, celebrated her 102nd birthday on August 23, 2025. Lillie served as a Beautician in Enfield for over fifty years. When asked about her longevity, she respectfully attributes her long life to her love and service to God. She also gives honor to her constant praise and love for everyone. Lillie presently resides at The Rocky Mount Rehabilitation Center, Rocky Mount, NC. Sharing in her celebration were her daughter Anna W. Williams, Husband Arthur, Her Granddaughter Onique Jones, Husband Percy. Her precious great grand sons Judah Jones and Shyah Jones. Sisters Geneva Whitaker, Sarah Bryant, and Susie Bundy. Also, sharing were nieces, nephews, and family friends. As the oldest ever living member of our family, there are siblings, other family members and friends acknowledged, but too numerous to name. However, they are in her memory. She has been a life long member of Mt. Calvary Baptist Church, Enfield. Present Pastor Rev. Jimmie Lowe. She served in many ministries through the years. God bless you Sister Lillie. We anticipate celebrating your 103rd.

Army Cadet And Former Enloe HS Star Larry Pickett Jr. Hailed As Hero

By Jordan Meadows

At just 20 years old, former Enloe High School star Larry Pickett Jr., now U.S. Military Academy cadet and Army football player, is being celebrated for an act of real-life heroism that reflects the core values of West Point Military Academy.

On the heels of Army's narrow 30–27 double-overtime loss to Tarleton State on Friday night, Pickettstill just a college sophomore—found himself in a life-or-death situation off the field. In the early hours of Saturday morning, while returning to campus from a family dinner in New York City, Pickett Jr. and his father, Larry Pickett Sr., came upon a burning vehicle that had crashed into a utility pole in Highland Falls, New York, just a few miles from West

Without hesitation, the pair leapt into action.

"It wasn't a lot of thinking, a lot of talking. Just reacting," Pickett Jr. told ABC11.

A video captured by Pickett Jr.'s sister, Lauren, shows the dramatic rescue: the white sedan surrounded by sparking wires and the Pickett men risking their safety to pull the disoriented driver from the wreck-

"We knew that car was about to catch on fire and whoever was in there was going to burn up, and we couldn't just watch and let that happen," Pickett Jr. told The Athletic. "We got out, ran over, jumped over the power line, and opened the door. He still had his seatbelt on."

hicle had smashed into a utility pole around 3.8 miles from West Point, in Fort Montgomery, and was perilously close to bursting into flames. Thanks to the Picketts' quick thinking and bravery, the driver was pulled to safety before the worst



According to authorities, the ve- could occur. First responders arrived soon after and took over care of the injured man, whose condition has not been released.

Pickett Jr., a safety on the Army football team, credited his military training and West Point education for preparing him to act decisively.

"Especially being here at West Point and part of the Army — that being a part of our ethos and who we are," he said. "I don't take it lightly." The rescue has garnered national

attention and high praise from military and athletic leaders alike. Army Secretary Dan Driscoll called Pickett Jr. a model of Army values. The U.S. Military Academy also released a statement saying it was "proud of the heroic actions" taken by both Pickett Jr. and his father.

Already recognized for his athletic ability—Pickett was recently featured in EA Sports College Football 26 and named Army Football's "Skill Worker of the Week"—this moment revealed a deeper testament to his character. As his team prepares for the rest of the season, and as Pickett Jr. continues to grow both as a cadet and a young leader, one thing is clear: the Army has a true hero in its ranksone who doesn't just talk about courage, but lives it.



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Church

Supporting Religious Diversity On Campus Is A Surprising Consensus Among Faculty Across The Red-Blue Divide

Matthew J. Mayhew

Ohio State University

Universities, often perceived as bastions of progressive thought, are increasingly reflecting the broader political polarization gripping the nation.

Faculty members represent a university's core identity and mission. They express the values of the institution in numerous ways, including teaching, mentoring, advising and researching.

In my research into the impact of college on student development and learning, I – and others – have found that faculty are the most important

people influencing student learning, inclusion initiatives, often shortened to institutional type and academic discidevelopment, persistence and degree attainment.

However, no systematic efforts have ever been undertaken to find out how faculty's work is influenced by their understanding of university life and religion – until now.

The Templeton Religion Trust, a charity focused on improving societal well-being through understanding individual well-being, funded a recent national survey my team and I administered to 1,000 faculty members. The survey asked faculty about their perceptions of university life, including free speech and diversity, equity and

The survey results reveal a striking divergence in perspectives on the often divisive issues of free speech and DEI among faculty. Those differences showed up particularly along the red state and blue state divide.

Yet, amid these deep disagreements, a surprising point of bipartisan consensus emerges: faculty members' belief in the importance of religious, spiritual and secular inclusion in diversity ef-

Survey responses represented national trends across various factors, including region, institutional control,

In part of the analysis, we uncovered that the political leanings of a state - how a state voted in the presidential election of 2024 - play a significant role in what faculty perceive about free speech and DEI program-

Even more compelling, significant differences reported by faculty from red versus blue states showed up consistently across gender, race, religion, academic discipline, faculty rank and whether the faculty member was employed at a private or public institution.

In other words, political leanings of a state were strongly associated with faculty perceptions regardless of these other factors.

We asked faculty four questions related to their First Amendment rights, which we presented as: "The First Amendment protects freedom of speech, freedom of religion, freedom of the press, freedom of assembly, and freedom to petition.

Working closely with experts in legal epidemiology, we asked faculty the extent to which they agreed with the following statements: a) the First Amendment is relevant to my job as a faculty member; b) the First Amendment is relevant to my research engagement; c) my institution provides me with my constitutionally mandated First Amendment rights; and d) I am aware of my rights and responsibilities as they relate to the First Amendment of the U.S. Consti-

While awareness of First Amendment rights appears consistent across the board, a notable difference arises in faculty members' perception of institutional protection of those

Faculty in blue states are significantly more likely than those in red states to report that their institutions uphold their constitutionally mandated First Amendment rights. This implies a potential disconnect in how freedoms are experienced and protected, depending on the political leanings of the state where an institu-

The divide deepens when it comes to DEI, defined in the survey as some instances and "diversity, equity, and inclusion" in others.

When compared with faculty in blue states, those in red states are far more inclined to view DEI efforts as "overreach," agreeing with the statements that "diversity programs generally do more harm than good on college and university campuses" and "the promotion of diversity, equity, and inclusion on college and university campuses has gone too far."

Conversely, blue state faculty largely disagree with these assertions. When compared with faculty in red states, those in blue states were more likely to agree that "campus diversity programs support student success," demonstrating a stark ideological chasm on the value and impact of DEI.

This partisan disagreement extends to the very concept of banning DEI programs.

Red state faculty show moderate support for banning DEI, suggesting a belief that current efforts to curtail campus diversity initiatives are, according to survey response options, "well justified."

Blue state faculty overwhelmingly support the continuation of these programs. They gave strong endorsement to the idea that "colleges and universities should continue to offer identity-specific organizations and programming.'

This schism reflects the ongoing national debate about the role and scope of DEI in higher education. Faculty ments of their respective regions.

Amid this significant polarization, a crucial area of common ground emerges: what we call religious, spiritual and secular inclusion.

That's the idea that DEI efforts should include programming and activities designed to help students from all religious, spiritual and secular backgrounds belong and succeed.

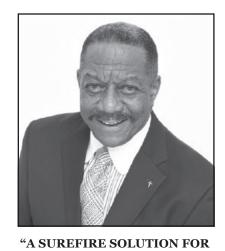
Despite their sharp disagreements on other aspects of DEI, both red state and blue state faculty overwhelmingly agree that "colleges and universities should provide support for students of all religious, secular, and spiritual identities and backgrounds."

And both groups similarly reject the notion that "campuses should not concern themselves with religious, secular and spiritual diversity."

The findings from this survey highlight the complex landscape of faculty opinion in higher education. While significant difficulties remain in reconciling differing views on free speech and DEI, the shared commitment to religious, spiritual and secular inclusion offers a potential path to agree-

By focusing on areas of consensus, institutions can begin to foster more inclusive environments to serve the needs of all students, regardless of their background or beliefs. Understanding these nuanced perspectives is the first step toward building more cohesive, pluralistic and intellectually vibrant academic communities across

SERMON of the WEEK



SEEMINGLY UNSOLVABLE PROBLEMS' Sermon by Pastor William Eli **Ratcliff**

The following is a sermon delivered at the 4th Ward Gospel Extravaganza at the A. J. Fletcher Opera Theatre downtown on August 24. Pastor "Billy" William Eli Ratcliff, accompanied by the Lincoln Park Male Chorus, represented one of the four churches in the 4th Ward.

First, I thank God, acknowledge this podium, and thank Octavia and the planning committee for honoring my grandfather, Bishop Eli Ratcliff, Sr. He may have been a janitor at Washington School in 4th Ward, but more importantly, he was the founder of the Lincoln Park Holiness Church—starting with just 4 or 5 faithful members.

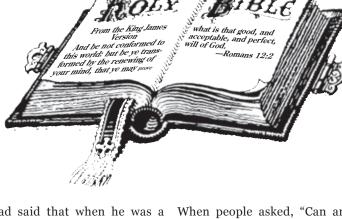
Today, I want to share what he had-and what he passed on, and that was: "A Surefire Solution for Seemingly-Unsolvable Problems"

No. 1 - He Put God First, as shown in the documentary I executive- Despite facing numerous significant produced, "From the Sin of Slavery to winning Souls for Christ, which was released in 2022 and produced by my friend and awesome Journalist Cash Michaels. Mother Clemetine Alston said my grandfather was "a big person and we Ratcliffs should be proud because we come from a great man." Others remembered that little wooden church—no paint, no piano, no drums-just hands, feet, and tambourines!!!

As a boy, I saw saints shouting so hard that dust filled the room. The church didn't have a vacuum cleaner, so back then, the Deacons had to sprinkle water on the carpet before they swept the floor to keep the dust down. (Some of y'all don't know anything about that.) One night, the dust was so thick around the altar that you could hardly see the people shouting. I can imagine that if Nebuchadnezzar had walked in, he might've said, "Behold, I see another one—and HE looks like the Son of God!"

PHONE.

EMAIL_



My dad said that when he was a young boy, living in the 4th Ward, one night a preacher came to my grandfather's door, stepped in, and announced, "Some Deacons and I got together, and I'm going to be the Pastor of Lincoln Park." My dad said that my grandfather calmly sent the kids to their rooms, told his wife Ophelia to go to the bedroom and seconds later, he came out with that old shotgun, and said, "If you ever come to me again and tell me that you or anybody else is going to take over Lincoln Park, you're going to have to deal with me and this shotgun." My dad said that preacher left and they never saw him again!

Do I have any pastors here this evening? If you face a problem that seems unsolvable-don't try that! The statute of limitations has run out on my grandfather, and besides, he's in a better place. But I'm sure if you try what he did, Rico will pick you up, and Willie will house vou. And that goes for me too. Talk about some affordable housing....

challenges as a Pastor at Lincoln Park and a janitor at wasnington High School in the 4th Ward, he still left a lasting legacy!

No. 2 - He Put Faith into Action William Arthur Ward said it best: "Believe while others are doubting. Plan while others are playing. Study while others are sleeping. Decide while others are delaying. Prepare while others are daydreaming. Begin while others are procrastinating. Work while others are wishing. Save while others are wasting. Listen while others are talking. Smile while others are frowning. Commend while others are criticizing. Persist while others are quitting." And let me add, Pray, while some are despitefully misusing you!

Assuredly, my friends, if we want to solve the unsolvable, I recommend that we follow the "boys in the hood"- and I'm not talking about men like LL Cool J, but men like M.M.L.J...Matthew...Mark...Luke... and John!

When people asked, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" God's answer was Jesus! And if God could bring good out of Nazareth, He can bring good out of 4th Ward, Walnut Terrace, or any so-called hood in Ra-

Is there anybody here who can say, "If it had not been for the Lord on my side, where would I be?" Don't be ashamed of where you came from-be grateful. If God brought you out, He can bring somebody else out. I'm glad I still have some hood in me because it won't let me forget where I came from. So, don't worry about what people think or say.

In this present world today, many are worrying about woke policies that are trying to wipe out the black history that tells the TRUE STORY; and yes, we really do need to fight those actions, but I say, do it in the Name of the Lord.

Furthermore, my grandfather had his own woke policies, practices, and procedures too: like, "I WOKE UP this morning with my mind stayed on

How many here today from the 4th Ward can say, this morning when I rose, I didn't have any doubt? The Lord, not the president, but the Lord will take care of me. God is not like man that he should tell a lie, but God always keeps His PROMISES!

God took care of my grandfather, my grandmother, my Daddy, and He's still taking care of my Mama and my family and church family—and He will take care of you! So, let's face all of our seemingly unsolvable problems with faith, put God first, and leave a legacy worth passing down. And as we press on, no matter who you are or where you come from, you can still say, "If I can help somebody as I travel along, if I can cheer somebody with a word or song, THEN MY LIV-ING SHALL NOT and WILL NOT BE IN vain!'

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

IN THE NAME OF JESUS **CHRIST**

Read: Acts 19:11-20 By John L. Caldwell, Pastor

New Jerusalem Baptist Cathedral in the book of Acts, Luke, the physician, gives us a clear and dynamic picture of the Holy Spirit work as He clears the way for the New Testament church to grow. In a sense, the Holy Spirit took no prisoners, nor did He allow anything to get in His way of fostering the growth of the New Testament

If Jesus' command to His disciples to go into all the world and reach the Gospel had not been spearheaded by the Holy Ghost, then the work Jesus did on the cross would have been for nothing (Matthew 28:18-20).

The Holy Spirit is not only a comforter, but He is also a church builder. He now takes the place of our Lord, who has now ascended back to the Father in heaven. None of God's servants could complete his ministry if it were not for the Holy Spirit aiding him or her.

Paul, having come to Ephesus, was led to spend more than 3 years of ministry there. As he entered the city, he met 12 disciples, who had been baptized by John, but had not been indoctrinated in the works of the Holy Spirit. These disciples had been baptized in repentance only and not in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Paul laid hands upon them all and they all received the Holy Spirit, spoke with tongues, and prophesied. With a school room as his headquarters, and speaking publicly from house to work of the Holy Spirit, one can be of Epnesus to its foundations.

Practical Biblical Principles

took place in Los Angeles, California starting on April 9,1906 and continued until sometime in 1915, led by Rev. William J. Seymore, a Black preacher could be compared to what Paul did on Ephesus. Unbelievable physical healings took place during this time. Rev. Seymore gave the Holy Spirit all the credit for such healings. Rev Seymore was eventually barred from many churches because of his views on baptism with the Holy Spirit. The Billy Graham crusades may well be the next event to compare with what Paul did in Ephesus.

All of the above events were the works of the Holy Spirit in action. When the Gospel was unleashed with genuine spiritual reality, there was power- the people at the Ephesus church were genuinely repentant and their changed lives led to revival. It appears there are few revivals today wherein new converts to Christ are identified. As a result, these so-called, new evangelical thrusts are no longer called "revival," but "conventions." This name change is a coverup for the failure to attract new converts to Christ. It is the work of the Holy Spirit to attract new converts through the calling of God, Himself, and not just having a convention without the leading and ever there was an explosion of the the sight of all (Acts 19: 20).

house, day, and night for three years, assured that there will be spiritual maintaining himself by tentmaking, misfits or religious schemers who and with the aid of miracles (Acts would like to get in on the action. 19:11-12), Paul shook the mighty city Such was the situation in Ephesus when Paul was busy working out his The Azusa street revival, which ministry as being led by the Holy

It was common, especially among the Jews, for persons to profess or try to cast out evil spirts. If we resist the devil by faith in Chist, he, the devil will flee from us; but if we think to resist the devil by using the name of Christ, or his works, as a spell or charm, the devil will prevail

This is what happened with Paul as his ministry exploded in the hearts of many unbelievers in Ephesus (Acts 19:11-12). Some of the itinerant Jewish exorcist took it upon themselves to call the name of the Lord Jesus over those who had evil spirits, saying, "We exorcise you by the Jesus whom Paul preaches (Acts

And the evil spirit answered and said, "Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are you?

Then the man in whom the evil spirit was leaped on them, overpowered them, and prevailed against them, so they fled out of the house naked and wounded. This became known to all the Jews and Greeks dwelling in Ephesus; and fear fell on them all. And the name of the Lord Jesus was magnified. Many who believed came confessing and telling their deeds. Also, many of those who had practiced magic bought their seeking of the Holy Spirit. Wher- books together and burned them in



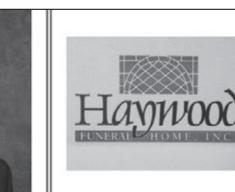
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Editorial Policy

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



Be a conscious buyer: Don't buy property in North Carolina!

By Aaron Parsell

Are you considering buying property in North Carolina? Have you always had a dream of buying a house in the Outer Banks and living or retiring there? Do yourself a favor and just continue to come visit, but whatever you do, DO NOT BUY PROPERTY! But "why?" do you ask? Buried in the fine print of the legal and financial paperwork is a hidden snake in the grass, waiting to pounce on an unsuspecting victim, even if all the research is done and every precautionary measure taken.

In the state of North Carolina, there is a massive property easement issue. Now, with the increased strain and demand on housing markets like the Outer Banks, people are being forced to deal with a lawyers who will not properly recuse themselves from potential conflict, that don't want to get involved due to "the affect it will have on professional relationships", and force you to go out of county to find legal representation, driving up travel costs and lawyer fees to fight these issues. When one receives the infamous "we can't help you email", they recommend a lawyer that recommended them in the first place, creating a vicious and frustrating circle in a 10-ring circus.

In the past 4 months of dealing with an easement issue, this writer has reached out to more than a two-dozen law firms, real estate attorneys, and legal representatives to attempt to find support. Bryan Preston, an Intake and Conflicts Supervisor at Ward and Smith, P.A., a Raleigh-based law firm, with multiple satellite offices, has an entire team dedicated to easements says "Our intake team regarding your easement matter is inundated with existing work and unable to bring on new clients at this time." In four months and dozens of calls, referrals, and emails, only two law firms have agreed to take on this case, but none of them are local. The locations of these two law firms? Washington and Pittsboro. For those of you who are not familiar with these two cities, Pittsboro is over three hours from the OBX, while Washington is a two hour drive. Two hours to seek adequate and available legal representation in an easement issue blocking a home from being sold or rented.

All of this is because no one wants to risk exposing the lackluster legal work being performed on the OBX. One lawyer in Raleigh working on "triage" mentions "I can already tell that these titles suffer from the common practices of lawyers who simply use the legal description from a previous deed and don't bother to see how references to prior owners and defined terms affect their current transaction." There is another easement dispute in Camden County where a couple is in an easement battle of their lives, being drained physically and financially now that a court released the county from the lawsuit. They also are having problems finding adequate legal representation after their attorney took ill and was forced to retire. All of this because an HOA is trying to develop the road, harass the current residents, and move in on eminent domain.

Take it from this writer. An inundated easement team, no adequate representation, and a State Bar and Attorney General who do not wish to investigate these practices are all reasons you don't want to put yourselves at the risk of losing your hard-earned money, equity, and property because of poor legal representation in North Carolina. Take it from a firsthand perspective: Do NOT buy property in North Carolina!

FLORIDA'S SECRETIVE IMMIGRATION DETENTION CENTER, EXPLAINED

ACLU-Deep in the Florida Everglades, a new immigration detention facility has appeared almost overnight. It's the latest example of the Trump administration's extreme approach to immigration enforcement, and it's drawing significant, well-deserved outrage.

In just eight days, a former airstrip was converted into a large-scale immigration detention facility that now holds more than 700 detainees. Florida Attorney General James Uthmeier dubbed it "Alligator Alcatraz" to evoke the extreme isolation and cruel conditions of the nowshut-down federal prison — leveraging the Everglades' vibrant wildlife as a potentially lethal barrier to human beings.

While Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis and the Trump administration describe it as a temporary solution, the harsh, inhumane conditions and limited access to legal counsel pose a serious threat to human rights and due process. It is all part of President Donald Trump's broader policy of mass detention and deportation that disregards legal protections and basic human

Below, we explain what you need to know about the cruelly dubbed "Alligator Alcatraz" and what it reveals about the Trump administration's escalating approach to immigration enforce-

The Camp Was Built in Secret and Without Proper Approval

The state of Florida never held a public hearing, obtained full local approval or went through an environmental review process before seizing the county-owned land used for this facility. DeSantis said he was acting in response to a federal request and authorized the project under emergency powers granted by a 2023 executive order. Using these powers, he bypassed laws intended to safeguard public transparency and environmental protection, citing an alleged immigration "emergency" as justification.

Local officials in Collier County, where the facility is located, were reportedly unaware of the site until days before its opening. This group includes the county's planning and zoning director, emergency management director and a commissioner, who only learned about it when DeSantis, Trump and federal officials toured the site.

This facility sets a troubling precedent by pushing the boundaries of state authority in immigration enforcement. It comes at a time when Congress has recently increased funding by billions for ICE detention and deportation efforts, and when the federal government holds pri-

mary responsibility for immigration enforcement. Conditions Inside the Camp Are Dangerous and Inhumane

The first group of detainees arrived at the facility on July 3, and in the short time since, hundreds are now detained in makeshift tents and cages, exposed to extreme heat, mosquitoes and unsanitary conditions, and surrounded by snakes and alligators. Congressional visitors reported cages holding 30 or more individuals at temperatures near 100 degrees. Detainees report minimal and sometimes contaminated food, bug infestations, overflowing toilets and lack of medical care — conditions so severe that they have led the detainees to stage a hunger strike.

Immigrants' Rights Although the facility is promoted as having capacity for up to 3,000 detainees — with Department of Homeland Security officials claiming it could eventually hold 5,000 — it lacks permanent infrastructure. The facility depends on temporary Federal Emergency Management Agency trailers, portable air conditioning units and mobile power and water systems. While government officials have described it as a "low-cost" facility, operating expenses are projected at \$450 million annually, initially paid by Florida taxpayers and later reimbursed by federal agencies. Even officials involved in planning the site acknowledge that the harsh conditions were deliberately designed to encourage undocumented people who are already in America to

People Are Being Denied Legal Access and Due Process

Multiple lawyers reported being turned away by armed National Guard and state police officers at the entrance gate. Detainees have no reliable way to make confidential calls to lawyers. Documents shared between attorneys and clients are being reviewed by staff — a direct violation of attorney-client privilege.

DeSantis has requested that National Guard members serve as immigration judges at the facility, expediting deportations and stripping away independent review. The Florida governor describes this as cutting through "bureaucracy," but in reality, it eliminates fair hearings and

replaces impartial judges with political appointees.

These practices violate constitutional rights guaranteed by the First and Fifth Amendments, not only for detainees but for their attorneys. In response, on July 16, the American Civil Liberties Union, the ACLU of Florida and Americans for Immigrant Justice filed a lawsuit, C.M. v. Noem, challenging these violations on behalf of detainees and legal service providers.





WHO WE REALLY ARE AND WHY ARE WE HERE?

If you are a Baptist and attend Sunday school using the standard commentary, then you know where I'm going with this. Yesterday's lesson that ended the quarter explained it all. Read it for yourself: 1 Peter 2:1-12 — As you come to the living Stone, rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to Him.

You also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices to God through Jesus Christ. I interpret that to mean the way of Jesus Christ — how He taught us, told us, and was the example to follow. He is speaking to all people, then and now, including Black people, but not only us. Real history will tell you this

For this reason, there have been lies about our exclusion from the Bible. You cannot enslave those who know who they really are. You cannot assign them to physical servitude because of their bodies, neighborhoods, parents, economic status, or education. If you know who you are and how important you are to the Kingdom, you realize you may be placed here to advocate for others — perhaps for the child next door. Maybe that's why they live beside you. Maybe the way you handle your struggles could inspire someone else who feels hopeless. Perhaps your compassion reminds people that a teenager under 18 is not an adult, no matter what they did, or that a cognitively challenged person should not be treated as one. That puts you in the place of advocacy.

Maybe the fact that you, your daughter, or someone you know had an abortion is what causes you to live by the golden rule. If a group judges someone harshly, perhaps you would stand up and be counted because you remember your priesthood. Being a priest is not a label or destination. It is being a living stone in a spiritual temple - a way of being with people.

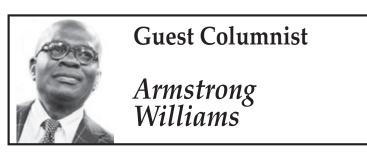
Anyone who abuses or misleads is not a living stone in the temple but a counterfeit representative of God and the Scriptures, ecoming a stumbling block and causing others to fall. When you know who you are, you cannot be paid off or shamed into following the crowd. When the issue of healthcare for all arises, you won't complain about tax dollars spent on others' wellness. You'll remember that your Creator has made you rich in all you have, and His supply is endless.

You'll also notice that there are others with the same purpose. Because your light shines from within, you will be drawn to each other's energy of purpose. Yes, there will be people who don't yet understand who they are and will try to throw you off your path. But they cannot destroy you — no weapon formed against you will prosper. As Thomas Merton said, "We should not be too sure of having found Christ in ourselves until we have found Him also in the part of humanity that is most remote from our own." When you awaken to who you are, you will realize God chose you for a

There is something in you that the world has tried to silence, but heaven refuses to erase. You are not random. You are refined. Talk like it, speak like it, live like it.

You will receive direction along the way. Once you heal from the lies told about who you are, you stop bleeding on people who didn't cut you. Once you grow, you stop shrinking yourself to fit into places you've outgrown. And once you know your worth, you stop offering discounts.

Now run and tell that.



THE DANGEROUS MYTH OF JUVENILE CRIMINAL **INGENUES**

An epidemic of juvenile violent crimes endures. Why? The law presumes juveniles are intellectually and psychologically too immature to appreciate the wrongfulness of their violent ways and deserve leniency. But to borrow from Mr. Bumble in "Oliver Twist," "If the law supposes that, the law is a ass - a idiot.'

Violent juveniles have what Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes Jr. characterized as the "bad man's view of the law." The justice elaborated, "If you want to know the law and nothing else, you must look at it as a bad man, who cares only for the material consequences which such knowledge enables him to predict." From the bad man's vantage point, the law is reduced to "prophecies of what courts will do in fact."

Violent, recidivist juveniles are a crime wave unto themselves. Their recidivism is fueled by law enforcement indulgence: pretrial diversion, rehabilitation fantasies, probation or reform school. They know how to game the system. They migrate to jurisdictions notorious for leniency. Word of mouth among juveniles travels at warp speed. Adult gangs recruit juveniles to do their dirty work, knowing iuvenile crime.

that law enforcement will look the other way or concoct excuses for With all due respect, the U.S. Supreme Court has blundered in constitutionally shielding youths from condign punishment for violent felonies under the Eighth Amendment. Three reasons were advanced to justify the leniency in Miller v. Alabama (2012). First, the ruling

states that children are immature and exhibit an "underdeveloped

sense of responsibility (leading) to recklessness, impulsiveness and heedless risk-taking." But that is not true. Juveniles are quite mature when it comes to evaluating the risk of punishment, just as they know the market price of illicit drugs. They are not ingenues. In law enforcement, better to be feared than loved.

The satirical lyrics from "West Side Story's" "Gee, Officer Krupke"

"Dear kindly Judge, your Honor / My parents treat me rough With all their marijuana / They won't give me a puff / They didn't wanna have me / But somehow I was had / Leapin' lizards, that's why I'm so bad! / Officer Krupke, you're really a square / This boy don't need a judge, he needs an analyst's care! / It's just his neurosis that oughta be cured / He's psychologic'ly disturbed!

Second, the ruling argues that children "are more vulnerable (than adults) to negative influences" and outside pressures, including from their family and peers; they have limited control over their environment and "lack ability to extricate themselves from horrific, crimeproducing settings." But that shortchanges free will. We all can defeat the irresistible by resisting. Many youths do it every day.

Third, the ruling asserts that "a child's character is not as 'well formed' as an adult's; his traits are 'less fixed' and his actions less likely to be 'evidence of irretrievabl(e) deprav(ity).''' That may be true. Thousands of years of experience, however, have demonstrated that the human mind is unable to distinguish between juveniles who are irretrievably lost and those who are not. The safest and fairest course is to impose stiff prison sentences on all who have been convicted of violent felonies. Overdeterrence of criminality is superior to the risk of exposing the innocent to juvenile predation.

What about parents? They need accountability just like their offspring. Procreation is voluntary, not coerced. Adults should refrain from childbearing unless they are willing to take the time and effort to raise children properly by example and instruction. As employers are responsible for the wrongdoing of their employees, parents should be held criminally accountable for the crimes of their children. That will concentrate the mind wonderfully on abstaining from sexual promis-

Innocent children of an irresponsible parent can be put up for adoption or raised by foster parents. Moreover, punishing the parent will arrest the epidemic of mal-parenting and deter future parental irresponsibility.

We do not need to reinvent the wheel to end the juvenile crime wave. The answer has been in plain view from the beginning of time.

FUNdraising Good Times

By Mel & Pearl Shaw Saad & Shaw



BEFORE YOU INVEST YOUR TIME

Asking questions and gaining insights before you commit your time will benefit yourself and the nonprofit. This is especially true if you are considering service as a member of the board, of a committee, or as a fundraising volunteer. Nonprofits are no different from families, businesses, and public agencies. Some are stellar examples of timely and open communication, organization, focus, caring, foresight, and impact. Others are more "dysfunctional" with ingroups and outgroups, withholding of information, lack of organization, and emotional manipulation. See if you can volunteer at a one-time activity or talk with a current volunteer to see what you can learn of the culture. You want to gain a feeling for their style of working. This is the human element, and where volunteers can feel disappointed when their impression of the organization doesn't match up with their actual experience. This can leave you feeling frustrated and leave the nonprofit disappointed and without the volunteer they had hoped would join

There are "practical" things you want to learn about as well. First, do you believe in the cause? If you don't, you need to find another way to give of your time and talents. Do you know the mission, vision, goals of the organization? Do these align with your values? Do you understand their fundraising priorities, both short term and long term? What about the impact they make, their accomplishments and track record? Do you understand their competitors, collaborators, and the ecosystem they are working within? What about their strengths and challenges? Getting an understanding of these practical things will help you understand the nonprofit and perhaps help you understand why they do things the way they do. When you volunteer you typically work with others and at someone else's direction. That means your not the boss. You may have ideas of how things could be done differently, but you want to start your engagement by helping the organization advance their goals - unless you are asked for your opinion.

Here are a few bottom-line things to consider. Is the organization able to deliver on what they promise? What is the status of their financials? How do stakeholders and community members view their work? Have you met staff and board members? Are they legit? Volunteering with a nonprofit organization can be life changing - for you and for others. Do your homework and then jump in! God protect America and the world we live in



Classifieds

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 25E000619-310 THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 8th day of May 2025, as EXECUTOR of the Estate of SHIRLEY ELIZABETH BRADSHAW, 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 5th day of December, 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 4th day of September

Natalyn R. Bradshaw, Executor 531 Uzzle Street

Durham, NC 27713 9/4, 9/11, 9/18, and 9/25/2025 STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA **DURHAM COUNTY**

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

Before the Clerk File Number 25E000960-310

THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 23rd day of July 2025, as ADMINISTRATOR of the Estate of JOE HOWARD BULLOCK, 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 5th day of December, 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 4th day of September

Jokyra Bullock Scott, Administrator 7415 Russell Road Durham, NC 27712 9/4, 9/11, 9/18, and 9/25/2025 STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA **DURHAM COUNTY**

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

File Number 24E002192-310 THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 17th day of June 2025, as ADMINISTRATOR of the Estate of TIMOTHY JAMIL HINTON, 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 5th day of December, 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 4th day of September 2025.

Tamika Trappiel Hinton Administrator 70 Ashberry Lane Franklinton, NC 27525 9/4, 9/11, 9/18, and 9/25/2025 STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA **DURHAM COUNTY**

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

File Number 25E000773-310 THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 19th day of May 2025, as ADMINISTRATOR of the Estate of SANDRA MARIE MOORE, Deceased, of Durham County, North Carolina, does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said Estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 5th day of December, 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 4th day of September

Wesley R. Moore, Administrator c/o Michael C. Hudson Law Office of Michael C. Hudson 105 E. Center St., Suite B-12 Mebane, NC 27302 9/4, 9/11, 9/18, and 9/25/2025 STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

DURHAM COUNTY NOTICE TO CREDITORS In the General Court of Justice, Superior Court Division

Before the Clerk File Number 25E000582-310 THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 19th day of May 2025, as EXECUTOR of the Estate

of MARIE ALENA SINGLETARY,

Deceased, of Durham County, MCFARLAND ADAMS 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 5th day of December, 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 4th day of September

Daron D. Satterfield, Attorney for Personal Representative, Reuben **Tobia Singletary** 24 Stonewall Way

Durham, NC 27704 9/4, 9/11, 9/18, and 9/25/2025 STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA **DURHAM COUNTY**

NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION In the General Court of Justice, **Superior Court Division**

Before the Clerk File Number 24SP001956-310 Crystal DeSilva v. Christopher Jamison

To: Christopher Jamison: Take notice that a pleading seeking relief against you has been filed in the above-entitled action. The nature of the relief being sought against you is as follows: Partition for Partition and to Sell Property. The Petitioner wishes to sell real property for Christoper Jamison has an interest

You are required to make defense to such pleading not later than 40 days from and upon your failure to do so the party seeking service against you will apply to the court for the relief sought.

This the 4th day of September, 2025. Daron D. Satterfield

Satterfield Law, PLLC 307 Meadowlands Drive, Suite 101 Hillsborough, NC 27278 (984) 229-8584 (919) 287-2696 fax

9/4, 9/11, 9/18, and 9/25/2025 STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA **DURHAM COUNTY**

NOTICE TO CREDITORS In the General Court of Justice, **Superior Court Division** Before the Clerk File Number 25E000936-310

THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 1st day of August 2025, as EXECUTOR of the Estate of SHIRLEY VIRGINIA WALKER, 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 28th day of to exhibit them to the undersigned November, 2025 or this Notice will on or before the 28th day of be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said be pleaded in bar of their recovery. Estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This, the 28th day of August

Diane Renae Smith, Executor 2555 Chadwick Place Durham, NC 27704 8/28, 9/4, 9/11, and 9/18/2025 STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA **DURHAM COUNTY**

NOTICE TO CREDITORS In the General Court of Justice, Superior Court Division **Before the Clerk** File Number 25E001094-310

THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 20th day of August 2025, as EXECUTOR of the Estate of JOHN FRANCIS HEIDLAGE, 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 28th 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 28th day of August

Joan Frances Walsh, Executor 2600 Croasdaile Farm Parkway

Apt. A 315 Durham, NC 27705 8/28, 9/4, 9/11, and 9/18/2025 STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

COUNTY OF DURHAM NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Having qualified as Administrator of the Estate of DONNA MCFARLAND ADAMS, deceased, this is to notify all persons, firms, and corporations having claims against the Estate of DONNA MCFARLAND ADAMS to present them to the undersigned on or before the 28th day of November, 2025, or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery.

All persons indebted to said Estate, please make immediate payment.

This, the 28th day of August 2025. **EDWARD J. FALCONE**

Attorney for the Estate of DONNA

120 E. Parrish Street, Suite 200 Durham, North Carolina 27701 (919)682-9273 8/28, 9/4, 9/11, and 9/18/2025 STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

DURHAM COUNTY NOTICE TO CREDITORS

File Number 25E001061-310 ALL PERSONS, firms and corporations having claims against PEGGY W SORRELL, deceased, of Durham County, N.C., are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before (11/27/2025), or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This August 28, 2025.

5833 Ridgeview Rd. Durham, NC 27712 IPL0266388 8/28, 9/4, 9/11, and 9/18/2025 STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

Deborah A Sorrell

DURHAM COUNTY

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

File Number 24E002600-310 THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 12th day of December 2024, as EXECUTOR of the Estate of DAVID THOMAS PLETCHER, 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 28th 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

This, the 28th day of August

2025. Ashlee Russeau-Pletcher Executor 1331 Hamlin Rd. Durham, NC 27704 8/28, 9/4, 9/11, and 9/18/2025 STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA **DURHAM COUNTY**

undersigned.

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

File Number 25E001083-310 THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 19th day of August 2025, as CO-EXECUTORS of the Estate of WEN L. BUCHER, Deceased, of Durham County, North Carolina, does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said Estate November, 2025 or this Notice will All persons indebted to said Estate will please make immediate

payment to the undersigned. This, the 28th day of August

Chingna Shaw, Co-Executor 311 Falls Village Dr. Durham, NC 27703 George Shaw, Co-Executor 123 Colonial Rd. Great Neck, NY 11021 8/28, 9/4, 9/11, and 9/18/2025 STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

DURHAM COUNTY

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

Before the Clerk

File Number 25E001074-310 THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 15th day of August 2025, as ADMINISTRATOR of the Estate of BETTY ROSE DILLARD FREI, 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 28th 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 28th day of August Elizabeth Anne Frei, Administrator

706 Frasier St. Durham, NC 27704 8/28, 9/4, 9/11, and 9/18/2025 **NORTH CAROLINA DURHAM COUNTY**

NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION In the General Court of Justice **Superior Court Division Before of** Clerk

File No. 25SP000622-310 James Hill and Andrew Milton

Hill Petitioners, v. Gilbert Branche, Dolores Landry , Hazel Hill, Sidney Womack, Andrea Searcy, Virginia Doe, The Estate of Judith V. Womack, The Estate of Samuel Leroy Bigelow a/k/a Samuel Leroy Mathews Bigelow Respondents.

Landry, Hazel Hill, Sidney Womack, Andrea Searcy, Virginia Doe, The Estate of Judith V. Womack, The Estate of Samuel Leroy Bigelow a/k/a Samuel Leroy Mathews Bigelow

Take notice that a Petition for Release of Surplus Funds has been filed in the above action. The nature of the relief being sought is as follows: Petitioners are seeking release of surplus funds resulting from foreclosure of the certain property known as 3609 Sugar Tree Place, Durham, NC 27713.

You are required to make a response to such pleading no later than the 7th day of October, 2025, which is 40 days from the first publication of this notice. Upon your failure to file a pleading by the above date, the party seeking service against you will apply the Court for the relief sought.

This the 26th day of August, 2025.

Ruth M. Allen The Walls Law Group 5511 Capital Center Drive, Suite

Raleigh, NC 27606 Phone: 919.647.9599 DATES OF PUBLICATION: 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 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

DURHAM COUNTY NOTICE TO CREDITORS File Number 25E000908-310

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

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, To: Gilbert Branche, Dolores or this Notice will be pleaded in

the decedent are asked to make 501 Driewood Court immediate payment. Awanya Raleigh, NC 27609 Rene Davis, Executor, c/o David 9/4, 9/11, 9/18, and 9/25/2025 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

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

WAKE COUNTY

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA WAKE COUNTY **NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

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

File Number 25E003404-910 THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 29th day of August 2025, as ADMINISTRATOR of the Estate of THOMAS AUSTIN OLANDER, 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 5th day of December, 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 4th day of September

bar of their recovery. Debtors of Jeffrey Eric Olander, Administrator STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA WAKE COUNTY

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

File Number 25E002720-910 THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 25th day of August 2025, as EXECUTOR of the Estate of KAREN FAITH MERRIS, 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 5th day of December, 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 4th day of September

Mark Douglas Weber, Executor 4901 Silver Fox Lane Efland, NC 27243 9/4, 9/11, 9/18, and 9/25/2025 **NORTH CAROLINA** WAKE COUNTY

NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION In the General Court of Justice **Superior Court Division Before The Clerk**

FILE NUMBER 25 SP 001372-910

Toynette Page Ogden, et.al, Petitioners, v. Joseph Laster, et.al, Respondents. TO: ERIN WADE: TAKE NOTICE that a partition proceeding has been commenced against you and has been filed in the above-entitled action. The nature of the relief being sought is as follows: partition by sale of the approximate one (1) acre tract of real property in Apex, Wake County, North Carolina which is more particularly described as follows: BEGINNING at a point in the center of Highway #55, between Apex and Holly Springs said point being David E. Page' corner, and runs thence with said Page's line North 87 degrees West 465 feet to a state and pointers; thence with Johnie Mosley's marked line South 2 degrees 15 minutes East 100 feet to a state and pointers; thence with said Johnie Mosley's marked line South 87 degrees East 461 feet to the center of said highway #55; thence with said highway 100 feet to the point of beginning, and containing one acre, more or less and being a part of lands as conveyed by deeds recorded in Book 977, page 243, and book 1020, page 517, Wake County Registry. LESS AND EXCEPT: That portion of the property conveyed in Deed Book 1115, Page 355, Wake County Registry. You are required to make defense to such pleading not later than the 14th of October, 2025, said date being 40 days from the first publication of this notice, and upon your failure to do so, the party seeking service against you will apply to the court for the relief sought. This the 4th day of September, 2025. THE FRANCIS LAW FIRM, PLLC, Attorneys for Respondents By: Whitney M. Mitchell (State Bar No. 52821) 215

WAKE COUNTY **NOTICE OF SERVICE OF** PROCESS BY PUBLICATION In the General Court of Justice **Superior Court Division**

Before The Clerk

FILE NUMBER 25 SP 001372-910

East North Street, Raleigh, North

Carolina 27601 Telephone: (919)

828-0801 Facsimile: (919) 828-0804

[The Carolinian]: [September 4,

September 11 and September 18]

NORTH CAROLINA

Toynette Page Ogden, et.al, Petitioners, v. Joseph Laster, et.al, Respondents. TO: SHANNON WADE: TAKE NOTICE that a partition proceeding has been commenced against you and has been filed in the above-entitled action. The nature of the relief being sought is as follows: partition by sale of the approximate one (1) acre tract of real property in Apex, Wake County, North Carolina which is more particularly described as follows: BEGINNING at a point in the center of Highway #55, between Apex and Holly Springs said point being David E. Page' corner, and runs thence with said Page's line North 87 degrees West 465 feet to a state and pointers; thence with Johnie Mosley's marked line South 2 degrees 15 minutes East 100 feet to a state and pointers; thence with said Johnie Mosley's marked line South

87 degrees East 461 feet to the

center of said highway #55; thence

with said highway 100 feet to the

point of beginning, and containing

one acre, more or less and being

Classifieds

WAKE COUNTY

a part of lands as conveyed by deeds recorded in Book 977, page 243, and book 1020, page 517, Wake County Registry. LESS AND EXCEPT: That portion of the property conveyed in Deed Book 1115, Page 355, Wake County Registry. You are required to make defense to such pleading not later than the 14th of October, 2025, said date being 40 days from the first publication of this notice, and upon your failure to do so, the party seeking service against you will apply to the court for the relief sought. This the 4th day of September, 2025. THE FRANCIS LAW FIRM, PLLC, Attorneys for Respondents By: Whitney M. Mitchell (State Bar No. 52821) 215 East North Street, Raleigh, North Carolina 27601 Telephone: (919) 828-0801 Facsimile: (919) 828-0804 [The Carolinian]: [September 4, September 11 and September 18] **NORTH CAROLINA WAKE COUNTY**

NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION In the General Court of Justice **Superior Court Division Before The Clerk**

FILE NUMBER 25 SP 001372-910 Toynette Page Ogden, et.al, Petitioners, v. Joseph Laster, et.al, Respondents. TO: JAMES RAY CLAY, JR.: TAKE NOTICE that a partition proceeding has been commenced against you and has been filed in the above-entitled action. The nature of the relief being sought is as follows: partition by sale of the approximate one (1) acre tract of real property in Apex, Wake County, North Carolina which is more particularly described as follows: BEGINNING at a point in the center of Highway #55, between Apex and Holly Springs said point being David E. Page' corner, and runs thence with said Page's line North 87 degrees West 465 feet to a state and pointers; thence with Johnie Mosley's marked line South 2 degrees 15 minutes East 100 feet to a state and pointers; thence with said Johnie Mosley's marked line South 87 degrees East 461 feet to the center of said highway #55; thence with said highway 100 feet to the point of beginning, and containing one acre, more or less and being a part of lands as conveyed by deeds recorded in Book 977, page 243, and book 1020, page 517. Wake County Registry, LESS AND EXCEPT: That portion of the property conveyed in Deed Book 1115, Page 355, Wake County Registry. You are required to make defense to such pleading not later than the 14th of October, 2025, said date being 40 days from the first publication of this notice, and upon your failure to do so, the party seeking service against you will apply to the court for the relief sought. This the 4th day of September, 2025. THE FRANCIS LAW FIRM, PLLC, Attorneys for Respondents By: Whitney M. Mitchell (State Bar No. 52821) 215 East North Street, Raleigh, North Carolina 27601 Telephone: (919) 828-0801 Facsimile: (919) 828-0804 [The Carolinian]: [September 4, September 11 and September 18]

WAKE COUNTY NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION In the General Court of Justice **Superior Court Division**

NORTH CAROLINA

Before The Clerk FILE NUMBER 25 SP 001372-910 Toynette Page Ogden, et.al, Petitioners, v. Joseph Laster, et.al, Respondents. TO: MICHELLE CLAY WARD: TAKE NOTICE that a partition proceeding has been commenced against you and has been filed in the above-entitled action. The nature of the relief being sought is as follows: partition by sale of the approximate one (1) acre tract of real property in Apex, Wake County, North Carolina which is more particularly described as follows: BEGINNING at a point in the center of Highway #55, between Apex and Holly Springs said point being David E. Page' corner, and runs thence with said

Page's line North 87 degrees West

465 feet to a state and pointers;

thence with Johnie Mosley's

marked line South 2 degrees 15 minutes East 100 feet to a state and pointers; thence with said Johnie Mosley's marked line South 87 degrees East 461 feet to the center of said highway #55; thence with said highway 100 feet to the point of beginning, and containing one acre, more or less and being a part of lands as conveyed by deeds recorded in Book 977, page 243, and book 1020, page 517, Wake County Registry. LESS AND EXCEPT: That portion of the property conveyed in Deed Book 1115, Page 355, Wake County Registry. You are required to make defense to such pleading not later than the 14th of October, 2025, said date being 40 days from the first publication of this notice, and upon your failure to do so, the party seeking service against you will apply to the court for the relief sought. This the 4th day of September, 2025. THE FRANCIS LAW FIRM, PLLC, Attorneys for Respondents By: Whitney M. Mitchell (State Bar No. 52821) 215 East North Street, Raleigh, North Carolina 27601 Telephone: (919) 828-0801 Facsimile: (919) 828-0804 [The Carolinian]: [September 4, September 11 and September 18] 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

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, DEFENDENT 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

BUYING CASSETTE TAPES

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

SENIOR MANAGER WANTED

Senior Manager, Digital Automation, restor3d, Inc., Durham, North Carolina Responsible for leading the Al/Automation software development team which focuses on developing & delivering software products for use in digital design of restor3d patient specific implants & instruments. Req. BS degree (or equiv foreign degree) in Computer Science, IT, Engineering Management, or closely related field & 5 yr exp as Systems Engineer; or a MS degree (or equiv foreign degree) in same & 3 yr exp in same. Hybrid position - 1 day/wk in office in Durham, NC, 4 days/ wk at home. For full job descr. & regs. & apply at https://www. restor3d.com/company/careers/ under "Senior Manager, Digital Automation"

ATTENTION: MBE's & WBE's

BID REQUEST-BARNHILL CONTRACTING COMPANY

Attention MBEs & WBEs-Barnhill Contracting Company is requesting bids from any interested firms for the following project: NCDOT Contract: #DA00652 Chowan & Perquimans County - Milling, Resurfacing, Shoulder Reconstruction, Guardrail & Pavement Markings on Secondary Roads in Chowan & Perquimans County.. Pre-Bid Meeting is on Thursday, September 4th, 2025 at 10:00 AM. This meeting will be held virtually utilizing conference call and online meeting tools. Please contact Jimmy Spivey at the number below for meeting details. This project bids on September 17th, 2025 and includes opportunities on, but not limited to Hauling, Traffic Control, Erosion Control, Pavement Markings, Milling and Guardrail.. Bids are due to James Spivey no later than 12:00 P.M. on Tuesday September 16th, 2025.

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

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

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

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

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

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

Contact:

Coastal Division Contract ID: C205040

Katy Oliver, koliver@ barnhillcontracting.com, at 910-526-0649, in our Jacksonville Office located at 229 Center St, Jacksonville, NC 28546.

Pre-Bid Meeting:

Tuesday September 2nd,2025, at 11:00 AM in the Jacksonville Office.

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

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

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

NC General Contractors Lic. # 3194

Attn: Tom Shannon

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

D/M/WBE

SUBCONTRACTORS/SUPPLIERS WANTED

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

Bid Date: 09/16/2025 at 2:00 PM

Project: Replace Bridge #24 Over Cashie River in Bertie County (Division 1)

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

Potential subcontracting opportunities include but are not

limited to surveying, demolition, clearing and grubbing, hauling, asphalt paving, striping, traffic control, earthwork, erosion control, seeding, linework/pipe installation, directional drilling, concrete forms, and concrete rebar. Please contact Justin E. Hill at our office as soon as possible if you are interested in submitting a proposal on any

portion(s) of this project. Quotes may be emailed to Justin E. Hill - jehill@taloving.com. All quotations will be accepted up to the bid closing time of the bid date. Our address, phone number, and fax number is as follows.

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

TA Loving Company is an Equal Opportunity Employer

D/M/WBE

SUBCONTRACTORS/SUPPLIERS WANTED

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

Bid Date: 09/09/2025 at 2:00 PM

Project: Replace Bridge #10 Over Bynum Mill Creek in **Edgecombe County (Division 4)**

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

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

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

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

TA Loving Company is an Equal Opportunity Employer

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Town of Littleton

P.O. Box 87

Littleton, NC 27850

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

The CONTRACT DOCUMENTS may be examined at the following locations:

Littleton Town Hall, 112 East South Main Street, Littleton, NC 27850 McDavid Associates, Inc., 3714 North Main Street, Farmville,

NC 27828-049 Dodge Data and Analytics, 2860 South State Highway 161, Suite 160, #501, Grand Prairie, TX 750527361

(View online at www.construction.com) ConstructConnect, Attn: DPC, 30 Technology Parkway South,

Suite 100, Norcross, GA 30092 (View online at www.constructconnect.com) Construction Journal, 400 SW 7th Street, Stuart, FL 34994

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

(View online at www.bceva.com)

Copies of the CONTRACT DOCUMENTS may be obtained at the office of McDavid Associates, Inc. located at 109 East Walnut Street, P.O. Box 1776, Goldsboro, NC 27533 upon a nonrefundable payment of \$250.00 for each set.

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

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

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

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

September 5, 2025

Heidi G. Hogan Mayor

Town of Littleton

Sports

Surfing Against So. California's Tide Of Segregation

By Justin Housman

For the past six years or so, on the first Saturday in June, dozens of innercity kids venture splashing and laughing into the gentle waist high peaks near California's Santa Monica Pier to get their first taste of surfing. Many of these kids will have never before even visited the beach. What was once perhaps a far-flung and exotic pastime, surfing, for those kids growing up outside the typical beach community, becomes a touchable, livable activity.

Those kids venture to the coast as a celebration of Nick Gabaldon Day, a feel-good memorial first put on in 2013 by the Black Surfer's Collective, in partnership with Heal the Bay, a Southern California environmental group, and L.A. County Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas. The day is about honoring Gabaldon, introducing kids who wouldn't otherwise be exposed to the outdoors, and is a reminder that something as open as the beach was once segregated too.

Gabaldon is often considered the nation's first documented black surfer; whether he was or not is difficult to prove, though he was likely the first black surfer to ride waves at California's legendary Malibu. Gabaldon was born in the Santa Monica area of Los Angeles in 1927. He loved the beach as a kid, and bodysurfed a stretch of beach along Santa Monica's Bay Street, also called "Inkwell Beach," a section of beach that was open to black swimmers when Southern California beaches were still segregated.

For years, while Gabaldon was attending Santa Monica High School, he'd leave from class and head to the beach, the site of a robust community



of black beachgoers, unique to Southern California. He'd swim and bodysurf the waves, and eventually taught himself to ride a surfboard.

Eventually, he caught the eye of local lifeguards who recognized his bodysurfing talent, and he struck up

a friendship. The lifeguards, a couple of white guys named Buzzy Trent and Pete Peterson, were budding surf stars, and indeed became titans of the sport during California surfing's golden age of the postwar years. They were also regular surfers up the coast at Malibu, at the time considered the world's best surfing wave.

At some point in 1949, Trent invited Gabaldon to come ride the pointbreak waves of Malibu. This was a vastly different proposition than it would be today. Gabaldon, at this point a student at Santa Monica City College, didn't own a car and didn't have an easy way to access beaches to his north. Walking was an option, but even though segregation had ended formally along the beaches, he wouldn't have been welcome strolling across the sand at beaches fronting all-white neighborpaddled from Santa Monica. 12 miles, each way, to surf the fabled 'Bu.

'What better way to access the beach if you weren't 100 percent welcome to walk across the sand?" said Richard Yelland, director of 12 Miles North, a documentary about Gabaldon's life (watch, below).

12 miles is a brutal distance to paddle, however. It would be shouldersapping to do that once, let alone to make the paddle, then surf long point waves at Malibu, only to make the 12mile return trip. That Gabaldon was willing to endure that is both a telling indication of how unwelcome he would have been in most of the communities he'd have walked throughit's also telling how good the surf is at Malibu.

That summer of 1949, for nearly a month, Gabaldon made this 24-mile round-trip paddle daily. Eventually, the white surfers at Malibu realized what he was going through to surf and from the point. Gabaldon stood ern California.

So, he hopped on his surfboard and out not only because of his color in a sea of whiteness, but also because the dude could surf.

'Race wasn't really an issue at Malibu," said Ricky Grigg, a legendary bigwave surfer, who as a teenager surfed the break with Gabaldon. "Nick was perhaps considered more like a Hawaiian than anything else. Everyone liked him. And he was a pretty smooth surfer, too."

For two years, Gabaldon was a regular face at Malibu in the summer months when south swells roll into the sand-bottomed point broken by Malibu Lagoon. (Malibu, by the way, comes from the Chumash-the indigenous population of the area, who called the point "Himaliwu" which translates as something like "loud surf.") Each time the swell would show, Gabaldon would hitch a ride with one of his white friends, drive through areas still so unfriendly to black people he couldn't walk through them, and, for a few hours at a time, there, and started giving him rides to escape the rampant racism of South-

Gary Payton II Gets Into The Action Game As Skateboard League Founder

ESPN-NBA free agent Gary Payton II is launching a professional skateboard league, joining a growing movement of athlete-led leagues aimed at providing year-round relevance to Olympic and action sports.

The Skate Board Association, a coed, six-team street skateboard league, plans to hold its inaugural 10-game season next summer in Big Bear Lake, California. Payton, who last played for the Golden State Warriors, told ESPN he founded the league with partners Royce Campbell and Sheldon Lewis because of his childhood love for skate-

'Growing up, I always wanted to be a skateboarder. The skate park was right next to the basketball court," he said. "I'd skate there with my friends and they'd skate the park and I'd hoop.'

When his partners proposed the league, "I was like, 'Why hasn't there been a professional league like the NFL, NBA or NHL for skateboarding?" Payton said. "'Let's change the sports game and the skateboard game.'

Payton will be director of VIP relations and an owner of one of the league's six teams, which will each feature six athletes -- three women and three men -- plus reserves and coaches. Men and women will receive equal pay.

The league has signed 18 athletes to nonexclusive contracts, including 2020 Olympic silver medalist Kelvin Hoefler, SLS Select Series champion Manny

gold medalists Ryan Decenzo and Pamela Rosa and silver medalist Samarria Brevard.

Bravard said the league structure would alleviate the stress and uncertainty athletes currently face and help them focus on competition. "This is a game changer and will create avenues for us that weren't there before," she

Unlike most skate contests, which pay athletes a prize purse based on how they finish, the SBA will pay athletes salaries and bonuses and give them a share in revenue from merchandise sales. Top draft picks will receive sixfigure salaries, and the lowest picks will earn salaries in the mid five figures.

Payton II said the league plans to sign at least 18 more athletes before its draft in Los Angeles at the end of this

The SBA is the latest in a series of new leagues trying to address the fragmentation of competition in sports like skateboarding and better support top athletes

In March, snowboard star Shaun White launched The Snow League, a multi-stop international halfpipe series for snowboarders and freeskiers. The next month, four-time Olympic gold medalist Michael Johnson's Grand Slam Track league held its first meet in Kingston, Jamaica, but it folded after three months due to financial troubles. The inaugural season of the X Games League, which will see skateboarders and BMX riders compete together on teams, is set to begin next

"I want the skaters to be valued, and to get them the right sponsorships so

care of their families, buy their own crib," Payton said. "If I can change the game for them, that's a win."

The league plans to hold its inaugural six-month season in Big Bear, a mountain town two hours east of L.A., with plans to expand to additional cities

"Big Bear has always been a natural home for altitude training and action sports, and we're excited to welcome the SBA as they set their sights on our mountain community," Visit Big Bear CEO Travis Scott told ESPN.

Payton said he wants to see the SBA expand into an NBA-style league with multiple venues around the country, training facilities and an annual draft combine. "Skaters put more of their body on the line than athletes in most sports other than football," he said. "Why don't they get the same treatment as NBA players when they're taking more risks than we are?'

Payton said he believes other pro athletes will join him as team owners in the new league. "A lot of athletes in football, basketball, they skated growing up and had to put down their boards to play their sport as a professional," he said. "But they still have that feel of wanting to be a skater.

"To be an owner of an SBA skate team is bringing us back to playing Tony Hawk Pro Skater, picking the guys, picking the brands to skate for. So many people have that connection to



Michael Jordan's NASCAR Team Fights For A Charter

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) - Two NASCAR teams, one owned by NBA Hall of Famer Michael Jordan, on Tuesday argued to a federal judge why the organizations still should be issued a preliminary injunction to be recognized as chartered organizations until their antitrust suit against the stock car rac-

The 11-page filing in U.S. District Court for the Western District of North Carolina was in response to NASCAR notifying Judge Kenneth Bell it would not re-distribute any charters to new participants while the case heads toward its Dec. 1 court date. NASCAR's backtrack Friday came one day after an acrimonious hearing that included the disclosure of expletive-laden emails and text messages from Jordan and other high-profile litigants.

23XI Racing, the team owned by Jordan and three-time Daytona 500 winner Denny Hamlin, and Front Row Motorsports, owned by entrepreneur Bob Jenkins, are suing NASCAR over antitrust claims regarding the charter system. A charter is the equivalent of a franchise and guarantees chartered cars both a spot in the 40-car field each week, as well as a significantly larger

NASCAR last September, after more than two years of contentious negotiations, presented teams with its final offer on charter extensions; 13 organization signed the agreements, but 23XI and Front Row refused.

The two teams initially won a preliminary injunction to be recognized as chartered for this season until a jury verdict on the antitrust allegations. That was overturned, and 23XI and FRM are currently competing as "open" teams. NASCAR wants the money back the teams were paid during the por-

tion of the season they were chartered. The teams also have appealed to have the chartered status reinstated, but "It was absolutely ridiculous that NASCAR argued in court last week it has an interested buyer for one of the six charters previously held by 23XI and FRM, and it plans to immediately begin redistributing the charters. NASCAR backtracked after Thursday's hearing, and a ruling on the preliminary injunction is expected to come from Bell this week.

NASCAR maintains that in holding off on redistributing charters, 23XI and FRM are no longer in danger of suffering irreparable harm. The teams



Venus Williams' US Open Ends With A Women's Doubles Loss

NEW YORK (AP) - Venus Williams' first Grand Slam tournament in two years ended on Tuesday when she and Leylah Fernandez lost in the U.S. Open women's doubles quarterfinals to the top-seeded duo of Taylor Townsend and Katerina Siniakova 6-1, 6-2.

When the match finished after 56 minutes in Louis Armstrong Stadium, Williams smiled as she walked to the net to shake hands with Siniakova, then hug Townsend. Thousands of spectators rose to give Williams a standing ovation; Townsend and Siniakova then joined in, applauding for Wil-

"Growing up watching Venus and (her sister) Serena, for me and my sister, it was an inspiration," Townsend told the crowd. "It was an honor to share the court today.'

Siniakova called Williams "a legend" and said it was "a privilege" to play

The 45-year-old Williams earlier exited in the first round of both singles bowing out against Karolina Muchova in three sets — and mixed doubles. She was out of competition for 16 months until returning to play at a tournament in Washington in July. Her most recent major tournament had been

the 2023 U.S. Open. 'What I'm proudest of is it's not easy to come off the bench. It really isn't, and I have never had a layoff that long. It brought new challenges that I wasn't ready for in so many ways. So I'm very proud that I ... stayed myself. I didn't try to play another game. I didn't try to play it safe. I went for it, and that's who I am. I go for it. When you go for it, good things happen," Williams said. "Perhaps I didn't get there this time, but I know who I am, and I know that I can work once I have a little chance.

Dwight Howard Had A Career Like Few Others

All Dwight Howard urges his doubters to do is this: look at the numbers. They tell the story, he insists. He averaged 15.7 points and 11.8 rebounds per game. Only 13 other players in the history of the NBA have posted those for a career.

They all made the Hall of Fame. "So, why not me?" Howard asked. He doesn't have to ask that ques-

tion anymore. Howard — who is still upset, and some would say rightly so, for being left off the NBA's 75th anniversary team that was unveiled nearly four years ago — wasn't snubbed for the top individual honor that can be bestowed upon a player. He goes into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame this weekend. the capper to a career where he was an eight-time All-Star, a five-time rebounding champion, a two-time blocked shots champion and the only player to win defensive player of the vear in three consecutive seasons.

"I'm most proud of the fact that I've had longevity, and I've been able to play as long as I've been able play and stay as healthy as I have," Howard said. "And I want people to say that one thing about me is that I was always going to put my best foot forward, 100% effort. They can say, 'No matter what it is, he's going to put in

everything he has." Howard is one of two dual-enshrinees this weekend; he and Carmelo Anthony are both going into the Hall of Fame for their individual achievements and again as part of



the 2008 U.S. Olympic basketball team dubbed the "Redeem Team" after winning gold at the Beijing Games that summer.

Also entering the Hall this weekend: women's basketball greats Sue Bird, Maya Moore and Sylvia Fowles, Miami Heat managing general partner Micky Arison, longtime NBA referee Dan Crawford and Chicago Bulls coach Billy Donovan - a winner of two NCAA titles when he coached at Florida.

"It's a great class," USA Basketball men's national team director Sean

of blocked shots. He's one of four players with three DPOY awards, behind only four-time winners Dikembe Mutombo, Ben Wallace and Rudy Gobert. And he got his lone NBA ring in 2020, when the Los Angeles Lakers beat the Miami Heat in the bubble finals.

Only one other player — Elvin Hayes — finished his NBA career averaging as many points, rebounds and blocked shots as Howard did. Blocks didn't become an official stat until 1973, but regardless, the numbers showed Howard was a lock for Howard is 10th on the NBA's all- the hall in Springfield, Massachu-

time rebounding list, 13th on the list

setts, to can. he didn't make Top 75," Stan Van Gundy, Howard's longtime coach in Orlando, said when that 75th anniversary team was released.

Howard and Van Gundy didn't always agree. On this point, they're in lockstep.

"I was wondering if I was ever going to get into the Hall of Fame after the Top 75 thing, because it just seemed like, as far as my basketball play, I haven't really received that much respect from my years in the league," Howard said. "It was a little difficult. But then once I got the call, I was like, 'Wow, this is here.'

The 75th anniversary team snub might come up in the speech that Howard is planning to deliver this weekend. If this speech goes like the one he gave earlier this year when he was inducted into the Orlando Magic Hall of Fame — he spent his first eight NBA seasons with the Magic, hardly missing a game after they took him No. 1 overall in the 2004 draft - expect some laughs and some tears. Howard doesn't mind showing his emotions.

The Hall didn't make him wait, either. Howard was voted in during his first year of eligibility.

"It's happening. It's me being in the Hall of Fame, being inducted in the Hall of Fame as player and then being inducted into the Hall of Fame as an Olympian," Howard said. "It's just like a double whammy, but in a good wav.'

Belichick's Tarheels Pummeled By TCU In Debut

Chapel Hill, N.C. — North Caro- in the familiar low tone from his NFL lina's high-point moment in its first game under coach Bill Belichick came early.

A festive pregame atmosphere led to a roar from the crowd at kickoff. And a season-opening drive moved at a crisp pace to the end zone.

After that, well, Monday night's hyped-up debut turned into a romp by TCU - along with a reminder that even an NFL icon with six Super Bowl titles as a head coach can't just magically turn the Tar Heels into winners after decades of also-ran

"We played competitively but then just couldn't sustain it," Belichick said news conferences after the 48-14 loss. "Obviously, we have a lot of work to do. We need to do a better job all the way around — coaching, playing, all three phases of the game.

CBSSports.com's Shehan Jeyarajah points out that, "The NFL is generally a defensive league where teams are close to evenly matched. At the college level, Belichick will come to understand just how big the talent differentials are between the good and bad teams — and he was on the wrong end.'

The blowout put a major damper on a night buzzing with optimism for the 73-year-old Belichick's college

dominate so thoroughly they drove UNC fans to the Kenan Stadium exits by midway through the third quarter.

'It was a great environment tonight," Belichick said. "I mean, the fans were awesome. There was great energy in the stadium. We just didn't do enough to keep it going. We've got to play better for the energy to be

By the end of the game, Kenan was a ghost town and the Tar Heels had given up more points than in any previous opener in their history, according to Sportradar.

It was a jarring result, even amid

debut, only to see the Horned Frogs uncertainty as to exactly what to expect from UNC with roughly 70 new players between transfers and incoming recruits. There were few highlights after that opening drive beyond Kaleb Cost's athletic reeling in of a deflected ball for an interception and quarterback Max Johnson returning in relief from a serious leg injury sustained in last year's opener at Minnesota.

'We're just moving forward, just moving forward," said Cost, offering an unintentional callback to Belichick's famous "We're on to Cincinnati' response to reporters' questions after a blowout loss to the Kansas City Chiefs in 2014.