





# Thousands March On Wall Street Demanding Economic Justice

NNPA—Sixty-two years to the day 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 White House.

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 spanned generations and professions — labor unions, fraternities and sororities, educators, and teens — all united by the call to defend

rights secured in the 1960s and to push back against what they see as the biggest transfer of wealth in U.S. history.

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 deepest 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 the movement. “It’s extraordinarily significant, but in the back of mind, I am thinking about how sad this is, that 62 years after Dad delivered that dream for our nation and world that we are in the position we are

in,” King said. “And the goal is to find ways to move this nation forward around economic inequality.” King also posted on social media: “We were proud to join @NationalAction and my good friend, @TheRevAl, for the #MarchOnWallStreet. 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 and Freedom, and we continue to march, we continue to speak out, and we continue to demand freedom, justice, equality, and equity,” Chavis said. “Thus, we join the Rev. Al Sharpton and the National Ac-



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

tion Network in the March on Wall Street. The Rev. Boise Kimber and I stood together, shoulder to shoulder,

at the March on Wall Street. I was pleased to represent the Black Press of America under the auspices of the

NNPA. In the words of publisher-leader 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 is alive,” Sharpton told the crowd.

# 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.

Drawing an estimated 50,000 attendees, the free, family-friendly event stretched across Fayetteville Street and Hargett Street and embraced this year’s powerful theme: “Heritage Heartbeat: 16 Years of

Rhythm.”

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 celebration.”

The festival offered a multisensory experience that blended visual, performance, and culinary arts into a dynamic showcase of African American culture. Visitors browsed a bustling vendor marketplace featuring nearly 100 local and national vendors selling handmade jewelry,

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 Brian Dawson and DJ Skilz, and a wide mix of reggae, jazz, and comedy acts.

Standout events included a gospel comedy show featuring Chinnita Morris, a high-energy dancing workout session, and the “Boots on the Ground” community conversation—a

panel discussion calling attention to 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-

active art activities throughout the festival grounds. Children and adults 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 to create and connect.

Free health screenings were available, and local service organizations offered access to vital social resources.

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 underserved communities.



# College Grads Are Now Jobless—CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Facing uncertain prospects and mounting student debt, more Gen Z men are skipping college altogether. Between 2011 and 2022, male college 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%

since 2020, which is equivalent to 871,000 students, according to the National Student Clearinghouse Research 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

that bachelor’s degree holders still earn about 75% more over their lifetimes than those with only a high school diploma.

However, the benefit isn’t universal. The value of a degree varies widely by major, gender, industry, and region. In an era where employ-

ers are increasingly dropping degree requirements, college may no longer be the automatic path to prosperity it once was.

For Gen Z, the challenge is no longer just whether to go to college, but how to make sure that investment pays off.

# Taylortown Welcomes A New Police Chief

By Ms Jheri Worldwide

Staff Writer

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 moments.

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 in good hands.

# 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 Carolina.”

“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 Asheville.

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 influence 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 anniversary.

Tourism officials have, however, been able to count on one prominent person to continue boosting the region: 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 mother-in-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.

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

(AP News) In July North Carolina 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 top.

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 years.

“That minimum wage has been in place since 2009,” Stottlemyer told NC Newswire. “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

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 hour.

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 economic 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 underscores that North Carolina lacks critical workplace protections.



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 illness.

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

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-to-work” 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 employees.

In Oxfam’s companion report on 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.

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 Research (IWPR).

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.

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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# 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 988lifeline.org*

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: mental health.

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 mission.

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 anywhere else.

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

pening in their lives, Winston said.

"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 youth.

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, barbers.



"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 mental health providers," Richardson

said.

Barbershops and churches

That's where Winston and his longtime friend, counselor Rodney Harris, come in. This year alone, he and Harris have trained more than

a dozen barbers in mental health 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 Rocky Mount.

"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 listen."

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 advocacy.

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 trainings, and then they can also of-

fer recruitment," Harris said. That work, he added, includes expanding 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 youth 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 authorization.

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 approval for a long time.

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 pre-market 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."

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# Arts & Culture

## How Anna Julia Cooper Shaped American Thought

By **Jordan Meadows**  
*Staff Writer*

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 her life.

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 liberation.

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 Negro 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 international 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. When the D.C. Board of Education refused to grant the school degree-granting status, she appealed to the NAACP, which denied her request. 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 attribution.

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 cause of a race or a sect, a party or a class – it is the cause of humankind, the very birthright of humanity."

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

By **Dr. Cheryl D. Miller**  
*PRINT*



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 extension of the brand tenets of Ralph Lauren's timeless seaside 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 Lauren's Design With Intent division, was a co-architect of the Oak Bluffs vision. Douglas brought 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 African American Heritage Trail, the Martha's Vineyard Museum, and 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 empowered with budget, access, authorship, and mentorship within one of the world's most iconic fashion houses.

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 University fraternity men: the com-

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 reckoning—this 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 forward.

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 cultural symbols without proper attribution 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, offers a stark example. The "Protect

St. Helena" movement is fighting a 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 challenges. Founded in 1905 by Demus

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 forgotten.



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# Community

## A New Interim President At St. Aug

By Cash Michaels  
*Contributing Writer*

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.

Late Sunday night on its website,

the SAU Board of Trustees announced that Dr. Marcus H. Burgess 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 at Claflin University in South Caro-

lina, his alma mater.

"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," the SAU Board statement continued. "Dr. Peoples brings extensive

academic and administrative experience 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 surprising.

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.



**SERVING THE COMMUNITY**  
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.

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

By Jordan Meadows  
*Staff Writer*

Last week, North Carolina Central University (NCCU) made history by hosting the IAIER x 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 ChatGPT. The summit spotlighted the increasingly vital role of HBCUs in shaping the future of artificial intelligence, education, workforce development, and ethical innovation in technology.



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 quality of life across generations.

In one of the summit's most engaging sessions, Ronnie Chatterji and Representative Zack Hawkins discussed the future of AI policy, exploring how national, state, and local governments can align efforts to ensure AI is developed responsibly and equitably. Chatterji also spoke directly to students, encouraging them to make the most of their college years.

"The greatest advantage students have today is the ability to learn and experiment," he said. "Use your 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 integrity-driven 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-square-foot facility that will serve as a hub for interdisciplinary research and learning.

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.

OpenAI'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 outputs.

## 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. "I 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 handling weaponry, along with a multi-



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 retaining talented people from across the rich fabric of America.

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

By Jordan Meadows  
*Staff Writer*

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, Pickett—still 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 Point.

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-age.

"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."

According to authorities, the vehicle 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



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 ranks—one who doesn't just talk about courage, but lives it.



**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.**



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

# Editorials

## 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 first-hand 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 now-shut-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 dignity.

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 enforcement.

#### 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 primary 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 self-deport.

#### 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.

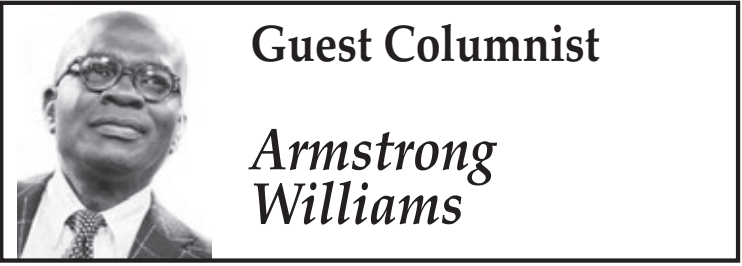
Anyone who abuses or misleads is not a living stone in the temple but a counterfeit representative of God and the Scriptures, becoming a stumbling block and causing others to fall. When you know who you are, you cannot be paid off or shamed into following the crowd. When the issue of healthcare for all 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 reason.

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 that law enforcement will look the other way or concoct excuses for juvenile crime.

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" speak volumes:

"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 psycholog'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, crime-producing 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 promiscuity.

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.



### 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 them.

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 2025.

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 2025.

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 2025.

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, 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.

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 Christopher 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 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 2025.

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 2025.

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

MCFARLAND ADAMS  
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.

Deborah A Sorrell  
5833 Ridgeview Rd.  
Durham, NC 27712  
IPL0266388  
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 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 undersigned.

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

**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 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 2025.

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 2025.

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.

To: 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

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 180  
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  
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
DURHAM COUNTY

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**  
File Number 25E000908-310

Having qualified as Executor of the Estate of LILLIE MAE BURT, deceased, of Durham County, N.C., the undersigned does hereby notify all persons, firms, and corporations having claims against said estate to exhibit them at the office of the attorney for the estate or before the 21st day of November 2025, or this Notice will be pleaded in

bar of their recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. Awanya Rene Davis, Executor, c/o David B. Alexander, Attorney for the estate, The Law Firm of David B. Alexander, P.C., 5003 Southpark Drive, Suite 230, Durham, NC 27713.

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

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**  
In the General Court of Justice,  
Superior Court Division  
Before the Clerk  
File Number 25E001020-310

THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 6th day of August 2025, as ADMINISTRATOR of the Estate of DELORES JOHNSON FORD a/k/a FRANCES DELORES FORD, Deceased, of Durham County, North Carolina, does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said Estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 14th day of November, 2025 or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said Estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This, the 14th day of August 2025.

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

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**  
In the General Court of Justice,  
Superior Court Division  
Before the Clerk  
File Number 25E000834-310

THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 29th day of July 2025, as ADMINISTRATOR of the Estate of TYSON KEITH CHRISTENSEN, Deceased, of Durham County, North Carolina, does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said Estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 14th day of November, 2025 or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said Estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This, the 14th day of August 2025.

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

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**  
In the General Court of Justice,  
Superior Court Division  
Before the Clerk  
File Number 25E001035-310

THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 8th day of August 2025, as EXECUTOR of the Estate of HILDA JOSEPHINE WALKER EPSTEN, Deceased, of Durham County, North Carolina, does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said Estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 14th day of November, 2025 or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said Estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This, the 14th day of August 2025.

Teri Epsten, Executor  
1010 Monmouth Ave.  
Durham, NC 27701  
8/14, 8/21, 8/28, and 9/4/2025

## 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 2025.

Jeffrey Eric Olander, Administrator  
501 Driewood Court  
Raleigh, NC 27609  
9/4, 9/11, 9/18, and 9/25/2025  
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 2025.

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 David E. 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]

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: 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 Johnnie Mosley's marked line South 2 degrees 15 minutes East 100 feet to a state and pointers; thence with said Johnnie 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] **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: 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 Johnnie Mosley's

marked line South 2 degrees 15 minutes East 100 feet to a state and pointers; thence with said Johnnie 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 time.  
This the 21st day of August, 2025.  
JACKSON AUTO SALVAGE INC., Plaintiff  
7120 Poole Road.  
Raleigh, NC 27610  
8/21, 8/28, and 9/4/2025  
**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA WAKE COUNTY**  
**NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION**  
In the General Court of Justice, District Court Division  
**File 25CV014325-910**  
[CHILD CUSTODY PROCEEDING], LIZBETH MARIN LOZANO Plaintiff v., RAFAEL CISNEROS BUSTOS, Defendant, Father of LML born on 10/9/12 and MCM born on 9/19/15. TAKE NOTICE that a pleading has been filed in the above-entitled action. A hearing date of 10/21/25 has been scheduled. The relief sought is an award of legal custody to Plaintiff. You are required to make defense with the Wake County Clerk of Court no later than 9/30/25. Upon your failure to do so, Plaintiff will apply to the Court for the relief sought. This, the 21st day of August 2025. Katherine Moye, Attorney for Plaintiff, P.O. Box 58058, Raleigh, NC, 27658, 919-794-7511. The Carolinian, 8/21, 8/28, 9/4, 2025.  
**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA WAKE COUNTY**  
**NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION**  
**File No. 25CV010903-910**  
PATRICK MEDLIN, PLAINTIFF VS AMY MEDLIN, DEFENDANT  
TO DEFENDANT: TAKE NOTICE that a pleading seeking relief against you has been filed in the above-entitled action, by the Plaintiff herein, the nature which is as follows: COMPLAINT FOR ABSOLUTE DIVORCE. You are required by law to appear and make defense to such pleading no later than 30 days after the first publication of this notice. If you fail to do so, Plaintiff will seek the relief sought herein, and a Judgment for Absolute Divorce may be entered.  
This, the 21st day of August, 2025.  
8/21, 8/28, and 9/4/2025

## 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 AI/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. & reqs. & 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 U.S.C. §§ 2000d to 2000d-4) and the Regulations, hereby notifies all bidders that it will affirmatively ensure that any contract entered into pursuant to 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:

<b>Coastal Division Contact:</b>	<b>Contract ID: C205040</b> Katy Oliver, koliver@barnhillcontracting.com, at 910-526-0649, in our Jacksonville Office located at 229 Center St, Jacksonville, NC 28546.
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<b>Pre-Bid Meeting:</b>	<b>Tuesday September 2nd,2025, at 11:00 AM in the Jacksonville Office.</b>
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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.
- Plans and specifications are available at:
  - NC DOT <https://connect.ncdot.gov/letting/Pages/Central.aspx>
  - Plans may also be viewed in our offices. Please call for an appointment.
- 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 mulching.
- 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 U.S.C. §§ 2000d to 2000d-4) and the Regulations, hereby notifies all bidders that it will affirmatively ensure that any contract entered into pursuant to 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 office.

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](mailto: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 office.

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

Please contact Justin E. Hill at our office as soon as possible if you are interested in submitting a proposal on any portion(s) of this project. Quotes may be emailed to Justin E. Hill - [jehill@taloving.com](mailto: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 ENGINEER 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](http://www.construction.com))

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

Construction Journal, 400 SW 7<sup>th</sup> Street, Stuart, FL 34994  
(View online at [www.ConstructionJournal.com](http://www.ConstructionJournal.com))

Builders & Contractors Exchange, Inc., 1118 Azalea Garden Road, Norfolk, VA 235025612  
(View online at [www.bceva.com](http://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 bidding.

September 5, 2025

Heidi G. Hogan  
Mayor

Town of Littleton



# Sports

## Surfing Against So. California’s Tide Of Segregation

By Justin Housman

Surfer.com

For the past six years or so, on the first Saturday in June, dozens of inner-city 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 body-surf 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 neighborhoods.

So, he hopped on his surfboard and paddled 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 shoulder-sapping to do that once, let alone to make the paddle, then surf long point waves at Malibu, only to make the 12-mile 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 through—it’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 there, and started giving him rides to and from the point. Gabaldon stood

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 big-wave 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, escape the rampant racism of Southern California.

## 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 skateboarding.



"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 Santiago, X Games skateboard street

gold medalists Ryan Decenzo and Pamela Rosa and silver medalist Samarra 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 said.

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 six-figure 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 year.

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 in the future.

"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 skateboarding."



## 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 racing series is finished.

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 chunk of payouts.

NASCAR last September, after more than two years of contentious negotiations, presented teams with its final offer on charter extensions; 13 organizations 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 portion of the season they were chartered.

The teams also have appealed to have the chartered status reinstated, but 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 countered Tuesday the threat still exists “because of the risk of breach claims from their irreplaceable drivers and loss of sponsors in the absence of charter rights.”



## 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 Williams.

“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 against her.

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 question 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 caper 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 year 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 Ford said.

Howard is 10th on the NBA’s all-

time rebounding list, 13th on the list 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 the hall in Springfield, Massachu-

setts, to call.

“It was absolutely ridiculous that 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 way.”

## Belichick's Tarheels Pummeled By TCU In Debut

Chapel Hill, N.C. — North Carolina’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 status.

"We played competitively but then just couldn't sustain it," Belichick said

in the familiar low tone from his NFL 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

debut, only to see the Horned Frogs 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 sustainable."

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

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.