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In California ‘Renovictions’ Are Completely Legal

By Karen Garcia

LA Times

The Los Angeles City Council is inching closer to permanently protecting renters from “renovictions.”

On July 1, the City Council unanimously voted to amend a rule that granted landlords the ability to evict tenants in order to take on a substantial remodel or renovation of their property.

Under the current “just cause” ordinance, a substantial remodel that would allow a landlord to evict tenants includes structural, mechanical or plumbing work.

The approved amendment will prevent landlords from using a substantial remodel as a legal reason to evict their tenants, unless they get a Government Agency Order.

A Government Agency Order happens when a local government agency, including the Los Angeles Housing Department, Los Angeles Building and Safety, the Los Angeles County Health Department or the Los Angeles Fire Department, gives a landlord an order to vacate or abate a unit based on the need to address housing code violations.

What is a ‘renoviction’?

Tenant rights groups say some landlords will use a renovation as an excuse to evict tenants, only to charge higher rents to a whole new set of tenants after the renovation. This is called a “renoviction.”

“To make it clear, what we’re doing today is we’re denying renovictions, but we’re also creating a clear

pathway to renovations that works for both tenants and the landlords,” said Councilmember Bob Blumenfeld, an advocate of the proposed policy whose district includes Canoga Park, Reseda, Tarzana and Woodland Hills.

The decision comes four months after the council voted in favor of an interim ordinance with the same goal: preventing landlords from using “just cause” to evict tenants when implementing a remodel.

The temporary protection lasted only until Aug. 1 because the city has been exploring permanent legislation for several months.

In addition to the amendment, the city has instructed the Los Angeles Housing Department and the city attorney to create rules for relocation during the remodel and amend penalties for violators of the proposed ordinance.

“We want to have a clear pathway for legitimate renovations not renovictions,” Blumenfeld said.

What will be required of landlords during a substantial remodel

In 90 days, the Los Angeles Housing Department will bring forth a proposal to the City Council to consider which will include what is required of a landlord if a tenant must be relocated during a remodel.

The proposal will provide rules for:

How landlords will pay their renter a mutually agreed upon monetary amount for relocation.

How landlords will provide comparable or better housing for dis-



placed tenants for the duration of a renovation. In this scenario, the landlord will be required to pay all relocation expenses and pay rent for the temporary housing.

How the tenant will continue to pay their landlord their monthly rent payment prior to a required relocation. The payments made will cover the time the renter is living in temporary housing during the relocation time period.

How the tenant will return to their original unit with any new rent increase not to exceed the 10% allow-

able by state law.

What about penalties for landlords who use renovations to evict tenants?

The proposal will also include an updated penalty for violators of three times compensatory damages including mental or emotional distress, reasonable attorney’s fees and civil penalties of up to \$10,000 but not less than \$2,000 per violation, according to the city’s report. Additional penalties could be added per violation if a tenant is older than 65 or is disabled.



NORTH CAROLINA HITS RECORD GRADUATION RATE, EQUITY GAPS PERSIST IN NEW STATE DATA

By Jordan Meadows

Staff Writer

The North Carolina Department of Public Instruction released new data last week on student graduation rates, test scores, and grade-level proficiency across the state. Gains remain uneven across regions and demographics, and officials are calling for more targeted support and reform.

State Superintendent of Public Instruction Maurice “Mo” Green presented the 2024–2025 school year data to the State Board of Education last week, highlighting that nearly 88% of high school students graduated within four years—the highest four-year cohort graduation rate in state history.

In addition to graduation milestones, North Carolina students performed better on 12 out of 15 standardized tests in math and reading. These results mark a three-year high in most tested subjects. The average ACT score for 11th graders improved slightly to 18.2.

“These results from the 24-25 school year certainly demonstrate resilience, dedication, and progress for our students and educators across the state,” Green said. “These results, I believe, represent more than just mere numbers; they represent thousands of students who are better prepared for their next phase in life.”

Despite the improvements, the overall percentage of students considered

(See **NC GRADUATION RATE** P. 2)

JUDGE OKS SETTLEMENT IN NORTH CAROLINA VOTER REGISTRATION LAWSUIT BY JUSTICE DEPARTMENT

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP) — A federal judge on Monday approved a plan to settle a lawsuit filed by President Donald Trump’s Justice Department that demanded North Carolina election officials accumulate identification numbers lacking on the records of more than 100,000 registered voters.

U.S. District Judge Richard Myers signed the proposed consent agreement filed a few days ago by lawyers for the department’s Civil Rights Division and the State Board of Elections. They said would it ensure the state’s compliance with federal law and avoid an expensive trial.

The May 27 lawsuit accused the state board of violating the Help America Vote Act by failing to ensure registration records were accurate for federal elections. The state board already initiated a “Registration Repair Project” in mid-July, asking that 103,000 registered voters supply missing numerical identifiers. There are close to 7.6 million registered voters in North Carolina, where statewide elections are often closely contested.

Federal and North Carolina laws have directed that since 2004 election officials request registrants provide a voter’s driver’s license number or the last four digits of their Social Security number. For about a decade, however, the state’s registration form failed to make clear voters were supposed to provide a number if they had one, resulting in records that indicate numerical IDs have never been provided.

A previous edition of the state board, in which Democrats held a majority, updated the form but declined to contact people statewide to request numbers in time for the 2024 elections. The lack of numerical IDs surfaced in litigation filed by the Republican Party in 2024 and in challenges to results in a state Supreme Court race.

The board flipped to a Republican majority in early May and the lawsuit was filed soon after. It cited, in part, Trump’s broad executive order on elections in March that it said was designed to “guard against illegal voting, unlawful discrimination, and other forms of fraud, error, or suspicion.”

Through public requests and mailings, the registrants in the pool already have fallen below 80,900 as voters provide information. The agreement requires another round of letters be sent by mid-December to registrants who have not responded, and for the board to provide plan updates to DOJ into 2027.

“The complaint was asking for nothing more than what we were already preparing to do, which was to look internally for this information at the same time that we were reaching out to the voters themselves to provide the information,” new board Executive Director Sam Hayes told reporters Monday after a board meeting. “So we’re on a path to do that now.”

People who remain on the list must vote provisionally the next time they cast a ballot and are being asked to provide an ID number at the polls. Low-

(See **VOTER REGISTRATION LAWSUIT** P. 2)

‘We Are Not Losers Yet’; Cosby Talks Prison Life, NBC, and Media Erasure

By Stacy M. Brown

Black Press USA

Bill Cosby said his widely criticized admonition that young Black men should “pull their pants up” was less about fashion and more about a system that profits from negative images of African Americans.

“But what was it they used to say? They not only did that, but what got a lot of attention was the shoes, the untied laces, and then the pants down around the crack. And if this is the attention, then it’s something put towards you like they would put drugs into the neighborhood. They

would lace the marijuana. They are putting us under siege,” Cosby said during a candid interview on Black Press USA’s “Let It Be Known.” He tied those images directly to incarceration. “No prisoners had or were allowed to have their pants around the crack. No prisoners were allowed at Phoenix to go around with untied shoelaces,” he said. “So, I just felt this was a move by people who didn’t want to be tied up to have a picture. They would rather have a picture of a youth doing nothing, not studying, and having his pants lowered.” The remarks came in Cosby’s first wide-ranging interview about his prison

experience, the long-standing NBC rumor, the media’s portrayal of his life, and the erasure of Black history.

Refusing to Sign Away Innocence

Cosby, famously known as “America’s Dad,” served nearly three years at Pennsylvania’s SCI Phoenix following a 2018 conviction on an aggravated indecent assault charge. In June 2021, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court ruled that his trial and conviction were illegal, ordered his release, and barred any retrial. He said prosecutors offered him a way out — if he admitted guilt. “My lawyer came to me and said, the district attorney is offering you to sign a paper saying you did it, and that you would be, you wouldn’t have to do prison time,” Cosby stated. “And I told my lawyer to continue with the trial, don’t stop the trial. I wasn’t signing any papers or anything.” Even in prison, Cosby said, the same deal was dangled before him. “Sign the paper and go to these classes, and then we will let you go,” he said. “Well, my signature would be in a sealed envelope, and nobody could open it. So anyway, it was all set up from way in the beginning.”

Life at Phoenix

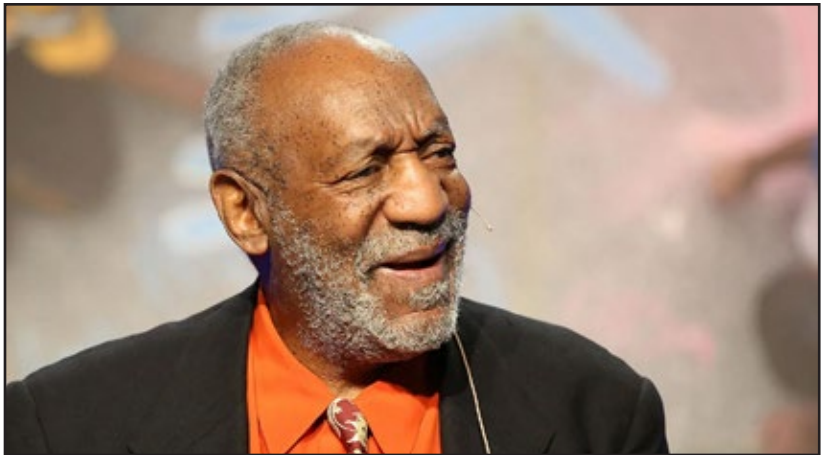
Cosby recalled his first hours inside. “When I entered Phoenix for the first time, I could not see,” he

said. “And there were regulations such as taking off your clothes and switching to other things, and then the search for some things that you might have.” He said he was kept alone at first. “I was by myself except for a guard or two around the area,” he said. Later, he was moved onto a unit with “convicts who really and truly had done some things like murder, rape, and et cetera, et cetera.” He described the food as barely edible. “It was just that the food was so salty, and it was just that the food appeared from, if you fixed it or it could be written how it’s fixed, it wouldn’t be healthy for human consumption,” he said. Inside, Cosby also became a speaker at peer programs like “Mann Up” and “Men of Valor.” Because the men talked so much about their faith and reverence of Jesus Christ, Cosby said, “As you leave this prison, whatever you go out and become... make Jesus smile.”

The Release

Cosby described being asleep in his cell when word came. “A resident... said, Mr. Cosby, Mr. Cosby, you have to wake up. You can go home. You can go home,” he said. A white female officer with the rank of major came to push his wheelchair

(See **COSBY**, P. 6)



Courage & Conviction: Honoring The Life Of Major General Joseph McNeil

By: Jheri Hardaway (formally Ms. Jheri Worldwide)

Staff Writer

Long Island, NY - The world is mourning the passing of Major General Joseph A. McNeil, a true American revolutionary whose actions helped ignite the Civil Rights Movement. As one of the Greensboro Four, McNeil’s legacy is defined by his unwavering courage and a deep-seated belief in justice. His life, from a humble upbringing to a distinguished military career, was a testament to the power of conviction and the importance of standing up for what is right.

I had the honor of sitting down with Major General McNeil on several occasions. Each time was illuminating providing a glimpse into the man behind the movement. McNeil’s journey began in Wilmington, North Carolina, but his family’s search for work amid the great migration took them north to Harlem, New York. It was there, amidst the vibrant intellectual and cultural scene, that he was exposed to radical thought and saw firsthand the power of collective action. He recounted listening to orators on street corners including Malcolm X, an experience that shaped his social consciousness and taught him to question the status quo. His



first act of protest came long before the Greensboro sit-ins, when he and other high school students boycotted a Pepsi plant in New York over discriminatory hiring practices. This early experience taught him the value of resistance and the importance of taking personal responsibility for one’s actions.

Major General McNeil’s path led him to North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University, a place he held dear to his heart. He

spoke with pride about his time in school, where he and his fellow students were taught “how to think, not what to think.” He recalled his competitive but friendly relationship with fellow student and civil rights icon Jesse Jackson, and shared a laugh about their student days, living off-campus with eggs in the window for a refrigerator.

On February 1, 1960, McNeil and three of his fellow Aggies—Franklin McCain, Ezell Blair Jr. (later Jibreel

Khazan), and David Richmond—made the collective decision to sit down at the whites-only lunch counter at Woolworth’s in Greensboro, NC. McNeil explained that while many people had talked about sit-ins, he and his friends felt it was time for action. This brave, personal decision was a pivotal moment in American history, sparking a movement that would spread across the nation. He spoke about the critical support from the president of NC A&T at the time, Dr. Warmoth T. Gibbs, who, when pressured by the state governor to stop the student protests, famously said, “I talk to these kids, but they don’t listen to me. Plus, we teach them how to think not what to think.” This institutional support, though not always direct, gave the students the cover they needed to continue their efforts.

McNeil was a man who was willing to risk everything for his beliefs. He recalled being arrested for trespassing just two weeks before his graduation, a risk that could have cost him his Air Force commission and his degree. But he knew he was not alone in his thinking. The sight of thousands of students and community members flooding the streets in support filled him with a sense of

(See **GEN. JOSEPH MCNEIL**, P. 7)

What Charlotte's Day Laborers Can Teach Us About Work, Trust

By Julian Berger, Michael
Graff

WFAE

He arrives around 8:30 a.m., 65 years old, eight months sober and wearing a T-shirt that reads, “NOPE: Not going to happen.”

Xavier Arellano walks across Wendover Road in east Charlotte, dodging four lanes of traffic, and nodding good morning to his fellow day laborers who gather here each day, hoping for work.

Work has been slow. ICE raids in the spring scared off contractors. Brutal heat in July and steady rain in August spoiled much of the summer landscaping season. Day laborers now find themselves at the ground level of America’s weakening labor market, which in June experienced its first contraction in four years, and which has seen 1.2 million immigrants leave the workforce since January.

Still, each sunrise brings promise. “I always say, ‘It’s going to be a better day,’” Arellano said.

While other people in Charlotte wake up to post on LinkedIn in search of engagement and jobs, the day laborers hope for brake lights. With luck, a truck or moving van will stop and the driver will hold up a few fingers, signaling how many people they need. On a good day, the workers can bring home between \$150 and \$200. On a better day, they might catch two jobs.

To people driving by on their morning commute, the men are familiar silhouettes pacing the side-walks across from Starbucks and Chick-fil-A. But they all have stories and skills and, as we learned in several visits to the site over the course of August, lessons to teach the rest of us about pursuit and purpose.

They are documented and undocumented, husbands and divorcees, dads and uncles. They’re painters, landscapers, sheetrock specialists, roofers, and movers. Some are skilled in one trade, others in another. Most are willing to try anything if the pay’s right. Arellano is one of the few who speaks English, so he plays up his ability to translate.

Sometimes it would be easier not to understand the language. The national immigration rhetoric flies past them at 35 mph. Some drivers give them middle fingers. One regular antagonist shouts each day that ICE is coming for them next. Far more people simply pass by with side eyes and raised windows, afraid to engage at all.

So far, the men say ICE has left them alone, even as raids dominate headlines around the country. A Mecklenburg County sheriff’s deputy sits in a nearby driveway most mornings. The men barely notice the car anymore. Arellano says they have no issues with local law enforcement, as long as they keep the site clean.

Still, contractors are skittish. Trust is falling. Some days the workers will stand here until 3 p.m. before giving up. By Aug. 25, Arellano had made about \$800 in August. He usually tries to bring in about \$1,200 a month.

So this is what he wants you to know, whether you’re a contractor or someone just looking to have some work done: They’re good people, they work hard, and they want jobs, but they don’t want to take them from anybody else.

“If you need help,” he tells us, “this is the spot.”

Day labor stretches back more than a century, from Irish-American immigrant stevedores on docks in the 1900s to modern Latinos outside of home improvement stores. As white-collar jobs grew in the 1990s and 2000s, and as Home Depot, Lowe’s and others raced to win customers with lower prices, contractors turned to day labor to keep costs down, as NPR recently reported.

Charlotte’s first wave of Latinos arrived around the same time, with the construction of what is now Bank of America tower and other downtown projects. In 1990, Latinos made up 1% of Mecklenburg’s population; by 2020, they made up more than 16%. Hispanic people comprise about 15% of Charlotte’s construction workforce, their largest share of any industry, according to Charlotte Works.

Day labor is a jumping-off point for some. They arrived in Charlotte and began their careers here, then scored full-time employment. Others save up and launch their own businesses.

For most, though, this is the career — rising each day, not knowing what the next job will be, or if there will be one. We met some people who’ve been coming to Wendover for more than a decade. The pickup location has changed several times. In the early 2000s, they gathered in the Home Depot lot before the store booted them. They moved across the street to the Habitat for Humanity parking lot, then to KFC, then to a wooded property that became a post office, and finally here.

Most of the men we approached did not want to speak on the record. One man who spoke with us said he’s “working through the process” of getting legal status and has spent thousands of dollars. He’s worried, but said the need to make money outweighs the fear. He says he’d want people driving by to know that they’re not criminals, not a danger. When they recognize a “bad apple” in the group, they remove him. They just want work.

“They self-monitor because they understand that if one of them doesn’t work well or one of them doesn’t deliver or something happens, they will all be affected,” says Jose Hernandez-Paris, the CEO of the Latin American Coalition, which provides wraparound services to the dayworkers and tries to connect them with resources.



Xavier Arellano and Bryant Davis. (Photo: Logan Cyrus)

roe and wants to be a better dad to him. He took him to visit the Statue of Liberty this past Fourth of July.

Arellano says he will pay off his truck this fall, and he doesn’t have as many bills as the others. He comes here for camaraderie. His friends call him George because they say he looks like George Lopez. On one of our visits, he brought a speaker to play music for everybody. On another, he walked over to the grocery store and bought iced tea and snacks for the group.

“What am I going to do at home?” he laughs. “I’d rather come here and say hi to the buddies. And if I get the work, work, and if I don’t, don’t.”

That approach to life — only trying to control what you can control — was a common thread among all the people we talked to. They can’t change laws or hearts, they know, but they can put their best workers forward every day.

One of the sharpest observations came from a man who goes by Deebo. His worn T-shirt had a picture of Marilyn Monroe next to Tupac. Deebo’s real name is Bryant Davis. He’s a 56-year-old Black man who isn’t an immigrant.

A few weeks ago, a truck pulled up looking for workers. The hiring man pointed at Deebo and said he wanted him, not the others. Deebo asked

why, and the guy said that it was too risky to hire immigrants given the raids. Deebo could’ve used the money, he said, but he turned down the offer. He’d rather walk away than take a job because of his skin color.

“You don’t do people like that, man,” Deebo says. “[We’re] all in the world together, man.”

Hernandez-Paris said he saw the day workers’ generosity firsthand during COVID-19, when the Latin American Coalition, through a foundation, provided them with \$250 a week to help through the lockdowns. “They shared the money with others,” he said. “It was really touching to see that.”

Deebo only takes work if he needs it. If his pockets are full, he lets others go first.

“My mama always said, never be greedy,” Deebo said. “God’s starting to get angry, man. All these storms [are] starting to get so strong, little things start happening on this earth. People playing with God. They got so much hate in their heart. I don’t like you because you’re Black. I don’t like you because you’re Puerto Rican. I don’t like you because you’re white.”

“I don’t give a damn what color you is. We’re all human beings. We’re all going to die. You can believe that. I love to see everybody doing good.”

N.C. Lags In Civic Engagement. Gaps In Civics Learning Are Part Of The Problem

By Sarah Michels

Carolina Public Press

On a national stage, North Carolina often serves as a state to watch for its purple and swingy political nature. However, its own citizens are opting out of civic engagement at higher rates than most of the country, according to the 2024 Civic Health Index. Ineffective civics education could be part of the problem.

Independence High School junior April Alonso knows this firsthand. She struck out the first time she tried getting her fellow students at the Charlotte school to pre-register to vote.

For her AP Government & Politics class, Alonso had to do a service project. So, she enlisted a group of friends to walk around the cafeteria at lunchtime and get 16- and 17-year-olds to pre-register.

They could not have been less interested, she said.

“They seemed pretty uncertain,” Alonso said. “It kind of felt like, if I were to make them register to vote, they would go down a drain or something. Like they acted like it was some kind of punishment.”

The second time around, Alonso sweetened the deal. Anyone who pre-registered would get a few pieces of candy. Suddenly, she had buy-in.

Brandon Rivers has also encountered his fair share of seemingly apathetic students in his time as executive director of the Charlotte Democracy Center, a nonpartisan organization focusing on voter education, specifically in marginalized communities.



Rivers spends a lot of time giving classroom presentations on voting policy is key to getting them motivated to vote, Rivers said. Making the lesson interesting is also imperative; he’s competing with students’ phones and friends for attention.

Right now, the distractions and disconnect may be winning. According to the 2024 Civic Health Index, North Carolina lags behind most of the country on several key markers of civic engagement.

Turnout in the 2022 midterm elections and voter registration fell short of the national average. North Carolinians regularly discussed po-

litical and social issues with friends, families and neighbors less often than in most states. In several areas — participation in public meetings, contacting public officials and frequent consumption of political news — the state placed in the bottom 10 in the nation.

While there could be a host of reasons for North Carolina’s relative disengagement, one factor is at the center of it all: civic education, or the lack thereof.

Civic education teaches students how their government works, and

(See *CIVIC LAG*, P. 12)

On October 16, 2025, The Carolinian will publish its 3rd Annual Pastor Appreciation Special Edition. With October designated as Pastor Appreciation Month, this is the perfect opportunity to honor your Church Founders, Ministers, Clergy, and Pastors. This special edition will be included in the newspaper, available for all to see.

Individuals enter the ministry because they feel a calling to serve. While they may understand the pressures they will face intellectually, the reality can be quite overwhelming. Pastors are there during the most stressful and challenging times of our lives—when someone is sick or has passed away, during a divorce, or when tough life choices must be made. Often the first person called, their role as counselors and mentors is invaluable.

A strong church needs a solid foundation, and today, many congregations rely on their ministers to be that rock. Show your appreciation for all that your Pastors do to keep both the congregation and the community strong.

To reserve your ad in the Pastor Appreciation Special Edition, simply scan the QR code, visit caro.news/pastor-appreciation, call (919) 834-5558, or email us at ads@caro.news.

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NC Graduation rate—CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Grade-Level Proficient (GLP) remains at 55% statewide, showing a modest growth of 0.8% over the previous year. Though GLP has risen steadily since the pandemic, the rate of improvement has slowed year-over-year.

Gender disparities persist, with female students outperforming males by about 2 percentage points. Racial gaps are more stark: approximately 30% more white students are GLP than Black students.

College readiness indicators, meanwhile, have slipped. Just over one-third of students are considered ready for college, with every demographic group declining in this metric compared to last year.

Wake County continues to be a strong performer among North Carolina districts. Since 2021, GLP rates in Wake have risen from 55% to 64%, but growth has begun to plateau, with only a 1.4% increase this year.

Still, Wake County Public Schools (WCPSS) outperformed many others: 53% of schools received A or B grades. Math and reading scores improved, with Math 3 seeing a 7.4%

increase—the largest subject gain in the district. The five-year graduation rate reached 93.1%, significantly above the state average.

However, about 36% of Wake students remain below grade level. Equity gaps are also notable: more than 80% of white and Asian students are GLP, compared to just 42% of Black and Hispanic students.

Just next door, Durham County lags behind Wake. Less than half of Durham students are GLP.

The broader North Central Region, which includes counties surrounding Wake County from Chatham to Edgecombe, has seen a 12% improvement in GLP since 2021, reaching 59%. Gains have been strongest in science and math, while reading remains a lagging indicator.

Black students in the region, while still only 40% GLP, have seen steady year-over-year improvement since the pandemic.

In Cleveland County, significant reforms using Marzano’s High Reliability Model led to all four middle schools avoiding low-performing status for the first time in four years.

Three of them met or exceeded growth expectations.

Meanwhile, Nash Early College High School in Nash County received an “A” rating, exceeded growth, posted some of the highest proficiency scores in the district, and celebrated a 100% graduation rate.

The 2024–25 data also showed that 71% of schools met or exceeded growth, up from the previous year. The number of low-performing schools dropped by nearly 50, and those “continually low-performing” dropped by 60. More schools received A, B, or C grades, while D and F grades declined by two percentage points.

However, the current school performance grade system has drawn criticism. Many say it correlates too closely with poverty levels. Superintendent Green plans to form a task force in October to propose changes to the letter-grade system.

Chief Accountability Officer Tammy Howard stated, “We’re anticipating next year, this time, to have results related to that work and that effort” around the “science of read-

ing” reforms now being implemented statewide.

Hurricane Helene disrupted instruction in western North Carolina, leading to federal waivers for 10 schools. These schools will have footnotes on their 2024–25 accountability data.

Green also acknowledged growing interest in using artificial intelligence to support teaching, and praised the General Assembly’s move to limit mobile phone usage in classrooms: “It will allow for more instruction and more teaching and learning to transpire.”

While celebrating this year’s data, Green remains focused on the long term.

“I’m proud of our students and educators who have worked hard to improve these metrics even as we acknowledge that our students are more than test scores,” he said. “While the progress and growth shown in these reports deserve praise, we must continue our work to promote excellence for all students.”

Green has set an ambitious goal: to have the highest graduation rate in the country by 2030.

Business & Finance

Raleigh Hosts 6th Annual NCDOT Summit

By Jordan Meadows
Staff Writer

Last Wednesday and Thursday, the Raleigh Convention Center became a hub of innovation, strategy, and reflection as the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) hosted its sixth annual North Carolina Transportation Summit. The two-day event brought together over 1,000 attendees and 70 vendors, aiming to tackle some of the state's most pressing transportation challenges—from disaster recovery to cutting-edge technology, workforce expansion, and long-term infrastructure planning.

The summit took place at a critical juncture for North Carolina. The western part of the state is nearing the one-year mark since Hurricane Helene devastated infrastructure and communities. NCDOT estimates the storm has cost nearly \$5 billion in recovery efforts, with full recovery projected to take five years.

Governor Josh Stein, opening the summit, offered a message of cautious optimism:

“It is nevertheless astounding to think of the progress that we’ve made in this recovery in just under a year since Helene,” said Stein. “It’s also important that as we have been rebuilding, we’re doing so with resilience in mind. That way, if another storm hits, when another storm hits, Western North Carolina’s roads and bridges can better withstand its impact.”

NCDOT Secretary Joey Hopkins further outlined the damage and recovery in the first main breakout ses-



sion, reporting that Helene created about 9,400 damage sites, resulting in 1,400 road closures—including 41 interstates and 123 U.S. routes. Today, only 35 closures remain.

One of the most anticipated speakers on Thursday was Paul Tine, the newly appointed DMV Commissioner, who shared plans to overhaul the state's DMV experience. Tine emphasized reducing wait times, increasing staffing, and using advanced technology:

“Our vision is to be like a bank,” he said. “You show up, you might have a 15-minute wait. You have a 15-minute transaction, maybe a 10-minute transaction. You’re on your way.”

Tine revealed the average wait time was 2 hours and 45 minutes—a statistic the DMV only recently became able to track accurately. He noted that new scanners and data systems have already reduced tens of thousands of physical interactions. The DMV also hosted a career fair during the summit to bolster staff-

ing efforts, particularly for driver’s license examiners.

Tine’s panel featured leaders from surrounding states like South Carolina’s Kevin Shwedo, Executive Director of the SCDMV, and Virginia’s Gerald Lackey, Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Commission (WMATC) member, who added that his team has been integrating AI: A standout announcement came from the N.C. Turnpike Authority, which is partnering with Volvo and Mastercard to launch a pilot program allowing drivers to pay highway tolls directly from their car’s infotainment system.

Volvo’s Jim Nichols said the company’s app, built on a Google platform, may soon be available in other vehicles. The program is expected to begin later this year and will make North Carolina the first state in the U.S. to pilot toll payments via in-car infotainment.

Another breakout session, “Solution or Setback? Using AI to Max-

imize Operations and Minimize Spending,” highlighted ongoing debates about the role of artificial intelligence in transportation—focusing on how it might optimize traffic flows or pose long-term challenges.

Raleigh Mayor Janet Cowell addressed the city’s infrastructure challenges and emphasized the need for state and federal partnerships:

“We are investing, but we really need the partnership with the state and the federal government,” said Cowell. “The 50% increase in land values over a short period of time plus inflation meant some of the traditional models of building infrastructure just weren’t working.”

Cowell also touched on projects like bus rapid transit, major highways, and bridges, as well as efforts to attract festivals and sports franchises, including a potential Major League Baseball team.

“Raleigh is going to be one of the finalists on the East Coast at the end of the day,” said Lou Pascucci of MLB Raleigh. “Population radius, census radius, and you look at the population within a certain number of miles, there’s a ton of people here.”

The event featured an array of notable speakers, including:

Marc Finlayson, NC Go!, Chair; Gary J. Salamido, President and CEO of the N.C. Chamber; Chair Anthony Lathrop, N.C. Board of Transportation (Emcee); US Deputy Secretary of Transportation Steven Bradbury; Garner Magnet High School JROTC and Ladies in Red (NCSU) performed the Presentation of Colors and National Anthem, respectively.



HARNETT COUNTY COMMISSIONER MCKOY'S IMPACTFUL AND INFORMATIVE TOWN HALL

By Jheri Hardaway (formerly Ms. Jheri Worldwide)
Staff Writer

Lillington, NC - Harnett County officials addressed growth, taxes, and public services at a town hall hosted by Commissioner Barbara McKoy. This gathering updated residents on key county initiatives and services, addressing a range of topics from property taxes and public health to the challenges of managing a rapid population growth. The event was held in Lillington at the Harnett County Resource Center and Library, inside the commissioners' boardroom.

Harnett County Tax Administrator Christine Wallace provided an update on the upcoming 2026 property reappraisal. She explained that North Carolina law requires counties to reappraise all real property at least once every eight years, and Harnett County is on a four-year cycle. The reappraisal, set for January 1, 2026, will reset property values to their current market value, a process that helps ensure fair and equitable taxation for all citizens. Wallace also highlighted three key tax relief programs: 1. Elderly or Disabled Persons Exclusion: This program offers a tax exemption of \$25,000 or 50% of the property's value (whichever is greater) for citizens who are 65 or older, or are totally and permanently disabled. To qualify, applicants must own and reside in the home and have a gross annual income below the Social Security Administration's set threshold, which is \$37,900 for 2025 and will increase to \$38,800 for 2026. 2. Disabled Veterans Exclusion: Veterans with a 100% service-connected disability can have up to \$45,000 of their property's value excluded from taxes. Spouses of deceased veterans may also be eligible. 3. Payment Plans: The tax department offers flexible payment plans starting in February for residents who wish to make incremental payments on their tax bills. She noted that all tax relief applications are a one-time process and must be submitted between January 1st and June 1st of each year.

Public Health and Services for Seniors was another important topic. Lisa McFadden, Director of the Harnett County Health Department and Division on Aging, detailed the wide array of services her department provides. The Health Department works to prevent illness and promote healthy lifestyles through various divisions, including: Specialists inspect restaurants, school cafeterias, pools, and tattoo establishments to ensure public safety. They also work to prevent groundwater contamination by overseeing the proper function of septic tanks and testing wells. Women, Infants, and Children (WIC): This program provides supplemental foods, nutritional education, and breastfeeding support for pregnant and breastfeeding women and children up to age five. Clinical Services: The department offers immunizations, disease testing and management, and physicals for children, including car seat safety checks. Emergency Preparedness: A dedicated team coordinates with state and federal agencies to prepare for public health threats and natural disasters. The Division on Aging provides essential services for seniors, including Meals on Wheels, in-home aid services, and Medicare counseling. A medicare coordinator encouraged residents to contact her office for a free, personalized comparison of Medicare drug plans, noting that last year, their assistance saved Harnett County residents thousands of dollars.

(See **SOCIALISM**, P. 4)

(See **HARNETT COUNTY**, P. 7)

What Americans Think About Socialism And Capitalism, According To A New Gallup Poll

WASHINGTON (AP) — For years, Republicans have disparaged their political rivals by describing them as socialists. But that may not be the insult it once was for rank-and-file Democrats, who have warmed to socialism and increasingly see “capitalism” as a barb.

A new Gallup poll finds that while U.S. adults overall are more likely to have a positive view of capitalism than socialism, Democrats feel differ-

ently. According to the survey, only 42% of Democrats view capitalism favorably, while 66% have a positive view of socialism.

Capitalism’s image has slipped with U.S. adults overall since 2021, the survey finds, and the results show a gradual but persistent shift in Democrats’ support for the two ideologies over the past 15 years, with socialism rising as capitalism falls. The shifts underscore deep divisions within the

party about whether open support for socialism will hurt Democrats’ ability to reach moderates or galvanize greater support from people who are concerned about issues like the cost of living.

Those tensions were cast into sharp relief earlier this year when Zohran Mamdani, a self-described democratic socialist, won the Democratic primary in the race for New York City mayor, leading some centrist Demo-

crats to worry about his impact on the party’s national brand. Meanwhile, years after independent Sen. Bernie Sanders’ insurgent presidential campaigns put a new face and brand on socialism, Sanders is attracting massive crowds with a “fighting oligarchy” tour pushing Democrats to embrace his ideas as they search for a path back to viability.

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Socialism And Capitalism—CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

The new poll, conducted in August among a sample of 1,094 U.S. adults, shows that both younger and older Democrats have both warmed slightly on socialism since 2010. But Democrats under 50 are much less likely to view capitalism favorably, while the opinions of Democrats ages 50 and older haven't shifted meaningfully, according to Gallup.

Other polls suggest that capitalism's waning popularity reflects a growing sense of economic unfairness, rather than a broader rejection of an economic system. Views of free enterprise remain largely positive, according to the new Gallup poll, but perceptions of big business have soured since 2010.

Capitalism declines in popularity Just over half of U.S. adults, 54%, have a positive view of capitalism, according to the new survey, a slight decline from 61% in 2010. Democrats have driven some of the shift, but favorable opinions of capitalism have fallen among independents as well.

Sanders' rise as a national political figure over the past decade also brought criticism of capitalism into the mainstream. He ran unsuccessfully for the Democratic presidential nomination in 2016 and 2020. He fell short both times but built a devoted movement around his concept of democratic socialism, drawing crowds and engaging voters disaffected with politics with a message of class struggle between workers and elites. Mamdani and other young progressive Democrats, like Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, have drawn on his work.

Young adults generally — but particularly younger Democrats — are much less positive about capitalism than they were 15 years ago. Only 31% of Democrats under 50 have a positive view of capitalism, the new poll found, compared to 54% in 2010.

Other polling has found fundamental differences between Republicans and Democrats about capitalism's fairness.



A 2022 Pew Research Center survey found that only about 2 in 10 Democrats said “gives all people an equal chance to be successful” describes capitalism “extremely” or “very” well, and even fewer said that about “makes sure everyone’s basic needs, such as food, health care, and housing, are met.”

Around half of Republicans said that capitalism gives all people an opportunity to be successful, but fewer said it meets people’s basic needs.

More negative views of big business Big business is also increasingly unpopular, according to the new poll. Only 37% of U.S. adults have a positive image of big business, down from

49% in 2010.

There’s a wide partisan split in views of big business — 17% of Democrats have a positive view, compared to 60% of Republicans — but Republicans’ assessments of big business have become more negative in the past few years.

The vast majority of U.S. adults continue to have a positive view of free enterprise, though, suggesting that many Americans continue to be happy with some elements of the country’s economic system.

Socialism grows more polarizing While capitalism has gotten slightly less popular among Americans overall, views of socialism have remained stable. That’s because while Democrats have warmed somewhat to the idea, Republicans’ opinions of socialism — which were already negative — have curdled even more.

Now, the Gallup poll found that only 14% of Republicans have a positive view of socialism, compared to 66% of Democrats. Positive views of socialism have grown among older and younger Democrats, according to Gallup’s polling.

These changing views present a conundrum for Democratic politicians, who are routinely accused of being “communists” or “socialists,” but have historically tried to pivot away from those characterizations. Now, though, the label is increasingly appealing for their base, which could bolster efforts within the party to embrace the concept of socialism, rather than shying away from it.

The shift was apparent as Sanders and Mamdani held a joint town hall in New York City on Saturday as part of Mamdani’s bid to lead the Democratic stronghold. As Mamdani was delivering his opening remarks, a man with a shirt that read Cuba and a Cuban flag approached the stage, yelling that Mamdani was a Communist. He was removed by security.

“You know that something has changed when it’s not enough to call us democratic socialists anymore,” Mamdani said.



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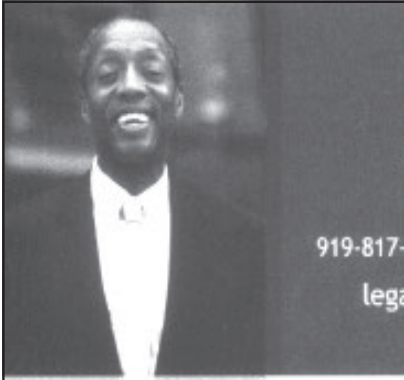
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Health and Wellness

Help Line Gives Pediatricians Crucial Mental Health Info

By Emily Chambliss
NC Health News

In North Carolina, the odds of finding a child psychiatrist depend too often on your ZIP code. Even in urban counties such as Wake or Mecklenburg, families may wait months for an appointment. In much of rural North Carolina, the wait is indefinite: There is simply no one to see.

Sixty-one counties lack a child psychiatrist, according to the UNC Sheps Center for Health System Research. The shortage is not new, but the urgency is. Duke University reported a significant increase in suicide-related hospitalizations for children during the COVID-19 pandemic, with as many as 50 referrals a day to specialty care. The rate has come down some since the spike in 2020, but between 2013 and 2023 (the latest year for complete data) the overall suicide for teens increased by 30 percent.

More than half of North Carolina's 2.6 million children under the age of 19 get their health care from Medicaid, yet only about 150 child psychiatrists statewide see Medicaid patients, said Gary Maslow, a psychiatrist with Duke Health. That size workforce is unable to keep pace with demand.

"The distance between care and your home can be really far, especially the farther you are from the larger cities," Maslow said. "It can leave psychiatric care almost entirely inaccessible for many people in our state."

This means pediatricians and family doctors — often with little mental health training — are faced with the prospect of diagnosing complex conditions and prescribing powerful medications.

The North Carolina Psychiatry Access Line was launched in 2017 to help close that gap. Operated jointly by Duke and UNC schools of medicine with support from the state Department of Health and Human Services, NC-PAL offers a free phone line where pediatricians, family doctors and other providers can consult

directly with behavioral health specialists about their patients.

'Not fumbling anymore'

NC-PAL operates weekdays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Providers call a central number and are first connected with a behavioral health consultant — often a social worker or psychologist — who gathers details about the case. If the issue involves diagnosis or medication, the call is transferred to a child or perinatal psychiatrist.

Maslow, who directs the program, described the approach as "consultation through education." Providers leave the call with practical guidance they can use with future patients.

For pediatricians like Debi Best at Duke Health, that support is reassuring.

"When I call, I walk back into the room with a family and I'm not fumbling anymore," she said. "The parents see that I have a plan, and the relief on their faces — that's the difference NC-PAL makes."

Training the existing workforce

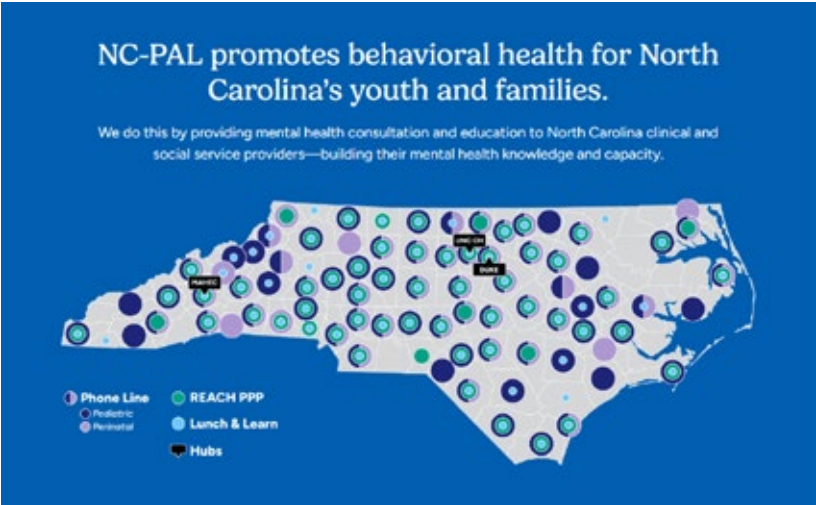
North Carolina medical schools don't have room to train enough psychiatrists to meet demand. Maslow said it would take doubling the workforce just to make a dent, so NC-PAL focuses on strengthening the skills of existing providers.

The program's flagship initiative, the REACH Pediatric Primary Care Program, is a two-and-a-half-day course followed by case calls where participants discuss real patients with psychiatrists. More than 600 providers have completed the training; program leaders aim to reach 1,000 by 2028.

Best, who oversees REACH, said it reshaped her practice.

"It wasn't just theory—it was skills I could take into an exam room," she said. "I felt like I could really serve my patients when they brought me their hardest problems."

NC-PAL also hosts biweekly "Lunch & Learn" webinars on topics like suicide prevention, childhood trauma and medication management that draw hundreds of participants across the state. These smaller sessions are meant to keep providers engaged and reinforce what they've learned in formal training



ings.

"These are the most impactful continuing education sessions I've ever done," Best said. "I leave with tools I can actually take back to my patients the next day."

Program analysts also evaluate whether training changes how providers prescribe medications. That includes looking at whether antidepressants or ADHD medications are being used more appropriately after training.

"We don't just want providers to feel better — we want to know that kids are actually getting better care," Maslow said. "When you look at prescribing patterns before and after training, you can see that shift."

By tracking this data, NC-PAL leaders say that their training can support providers in the moment and lead to measurable improvements in the quality of care families receive.

Closing the rural gap

Despite training and a dedicated

phone line, reaching rural communities is still a challenge for NC-PAL.

Maslow said that while NC-PAL fields thousands of calls, many providers who could benefit from the service don't know it exists.

"It can be hard to get people to call," he said. "We have 250 training slots a year and a phone line open five days a week — we just need more people to use it."

To close that gap, Maslow hired regional consultants who work directly with physicians in underserved areas. In its early years, outreach was simple: Staff drove county to county, doughnuts in hand, just to start conversations in clinics.

The strategy has expanded. Today, NC-PAL partners with Departments of Social Services, schools and child care centers in western and eastern counties. By working through these institutions, the program reaches families who might never hear about it from a doctor's office.

After the remnants of Hurricane Helene tore through Western North Carolina in 2024, NC-PAL shifted resources to the region. Staff set up office hours where teachers, therapists and parents could come in, share what they were experiencing and get immediate support.

"It was a chance for people just to sit down and talk through what they were seeing — in their children and in themselves," Maslow said. "Sometimes the most valuable thing we could do was listen and point them toward the right next step."

Alongside office hours, NC-PAL organized trauma-focused Lunch & Learn sessions. The training aimed to help providers in the region recognize how trauma might appear in children after a disaster and what responses could ease the burden.

"The hurricane was a tremendous trauma — not just for the kids, but for the adults who were supposed to be their helpers," Best said. "Teachers, early-intervention specialists, even parents — they were shaken too. We tried to be present for all of them."

NC-PAL rolled out several initiatives to support hurricane recovery in Western North Carolina. One is a two-hour "CARE" training for school staff, therapists and other adults who work with children. In the sessions, participants learned how to recognize signs of trauma — especially in kids with developmental disabilities, who often process and respond in different ways.



THE
GOLDEN
YEARS

By Judykay Jefferson

HOW MUCH IS TOO MUCH?

We live in a world where enough is not enough, and excess is a coveted way of life. Although there has been some iteration of "all you can eat," in American food culture since the mid-1940s, it wasn't until the 1980s that casual dining restaurants such as Shoney's, The Western Sizzler, and even Pizza Hut offered flat-rate dining for a hot buffet. By the 1990s, anywhere you went there was at least one Chinese food buffet and a Ponderosa Steak House. By the early 2000s, even the Colonel had jumped into the buffet market.

It is important to note that during this time, I was a living, waddling, willing victim of the effects of mass food consumption. I was never a big drinker, nor were my friends. Our gatherings were always around a table filled with good, plentiful food. In Mississippi, even fine dining establishments served larger portions than was common in high-end dining. By the time I moved to North Carolina in 2013, I was closer to 400 than 300 lbs. I required a wheelchair to navigate the airport. For me, more was not better.

How did we get here?

Looking at that time, I see a confluence of lifestyle changes that resulted in a sudden, unnatural increase in both adult and childhood obesity.

Back in the 1970s, the standard dinner plate measured about 9 inches across. It was enough to hold a reasonable serving of protein, vegetables, and starch—often prepared at home, eaten around a table, and portioned with care. Meals were shaped by tradition, not trends. Fast food existed, but it hadn't yet become the dominant force in American dining. A McDonald's hamburger was 3.5 ounces. A soda was 7 ounces. Fries came in a small paper pouch. Today, those same items are often double or triple in size, and the "value meal" has redefined what a normal serving looks like.

The shift began subtly. In the 1980s and 1990s, food companies discovered that larger portions could drive sales without dramatically increasing costs. "Supersize" became a selling point. Restaurants began offering bigger plates, more sides, and bottomless beverages. At home, manufacturers followed suit—producing larger dinnerware, packaging, and even recipe recommendations. A serving of pasta that once filled a cereal bowl now spills over a wide-rimmed dish. The visual cue of a full plate began to override the physiological cue of satiety.

Marketing played a pivotal role. Portion size became associated with generosity, abundance, and value. "More for your money" wasn't just a slogan—it was a cultural shift. Buffets, all-you-can-eat deals, and oversized entrees became symbols of hospitality. In grocery stores, bulk buying and family-sized packaging encouraged overconsumption. Even cookbooks began adjusting their serving sizes upward, subtly nudging home cooks to prepare—and eat—more.

Food culture evolved alongside these changes. The rise of convenience foods, dining out, and multitasking meals meant that people were less likely to measure, pause, or reflect on what they were eating. Meals became faster, larger, and more passive. Instead of savoring, we started grazing. Instead of plating with intention, we began piling. And with larger plates came larger portions—because humans tend to fill the space they're given.

The implications for health have been profound. Studies show that people eat significantly more when served on larger plates, even if they don't feel hungrier. Portion distortion has contributed to rising rates of obesity, diabetes, and heart disease. It's not just what we eat—it's how much. And when "normal" keeps expanding, it's hard to know where moderation begins.

To make the situation worst, medical practitioners' common response to their patients' steadily increasing weight was, "it's time to push back from the table." Really, Ben Casey?

Not only were we eating more; we walked less. New developments didn't include sidewalks. No longer did kids walk or ride bikes to neighborhood schools. Children stopped playing outside. And, if that wasn't enough, public-school funding was cut, often leaving schools without physical education programs.

Still, the challenge remains. Our environment is built for excess. From plate size to portion size, the default setting is "more." Changing that requires more than willpower—it demands a cultural reset. One that values satisfaction over surplus, quality over quantity, and health over habit.

So next time you reach for a plate, consider its size. Consider the portion. Consider the story it tells—not just about what you're eating, but how we've come to eat. Because in the end, portion control isn't just about cutting back. It's about reclaiming balance.

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Arts & Culture

Nazar Fragrances on Crabtree Changes and Cultural Shift

By Jheri Hardaway (formerly Ms. Jheri Worldwide)

Staff Writer

The heart of a community often beats in its small businesses. The Crabtree Valley Mall we knew is no longer. Drastic changes have impacted every element of the customer and retailer experience. For four years, Nazar, a perfume kiosk in the Crabtree Valley Mall, was a pulsating artery of that community. Located in the bustling corridor between popular shoe stores, the kiosk, run by a dedicated local entrepreneur, Terrance Taylor II, Nazar not only sold unique fragrances but also served as a pillar of professionalism and a safe space for customers to explore their personal scent journey. Nazar has been educating the public on scents and selling fragrances for more than six years. Four of those years have been spent as a pillar of the Crabtree Valley Mall community. His kiosk has employed many, trained plenty on professionalism, and created a safe space to explore your personal fragrance.

But the story of Nazar and many other small, independent businesses at Crabtree has taken a difficult turn. In a recent interview, the owner of Nazar shared his perspective on the mall's new ownership and the changes that are reshaping the landscape for small entrepreneurs. "Small businesses are the lifeline," he stated with conviction. "It's more personal when it's one person building something they had a dream of. And when you take that dream and use your power to affect them, the public needs to know that it can really affect everything in your life." The Carolinian learned at 80% of the businesses that were closed were minority owned. An Asian jeweler, a Palestinian embroidery there for 17 years, while majority of the small businesses forced to close were Black owned. The mall's previous management had implemented evolving, and often inconsistent, rules. Rent for similar-sized kiosks varied wildly. Now under new management an array of new rules were introduced seemingly to push



out the very businesses that had built a loyal customer base. Rules like wearing business casual attire, not eating at the kiosk, and most notably, a ban on actively engaging with customers more than three feet away, directly impacted the personal, hands-on style of sales that small businesses like Nazar relied on. The changes are not just about

new rules; they are about a fundamental shift in the mall's identity. Many have described it as a "gentrification" of the mall, where the new owners "want a different type of clientele" and are pushing out the small businesses that built the mall's unique culture. This includes not only Nazar but also other longstanding vendors, such as the "Mag-

ic Stitch" tailor, and a collaborative store called "The Stadium" which featured 25 Black-owned businesses. This move has left many small business owners scrambling, with little notice and no preparation. "Many of those business owners weren't prepared for this," Taylor shared. "Some of them don't have websites, some don't have Google listings. They need that environment to build their clientele." Taylor also emphasized timing of the shift, so close to the holidays, "Many small businesses pay rent all year to make majority of their money during the holidays, to be cut off at this time will devastate many businesses." For Nazar, the experience has been a catalyst for change. The business is going back to its roots, focusing on its community presence through festivals and pop-up events, and expanding its substantial online presence. Nazar's owner's advice to other entrepreneurs facing similar challenges is clear and powerful: brand yourself. "It's all about branding," Taylor advised. "Have a

website. Have a logo. Have an image that people can follow—phone numbers, business cards, email lists, text lists—so wherever you go, a customer can find you. And always plan for the worst." The story of Nazar is a potent reminder of the fragility of small businesses in a changing corporate landscape. It is also a testament to the resilience and innovative spirit of entrepreneurs who refuse to let their dreams be derailed. As Nazar pivots to its new business model, the public has an opportunity to continue to support a pillar of the community, not just a kiosk in a mall. Personally, this story really spoke to me. I've been buying fragrance from Nazar for years. The situation truly highlights the hustle and heart behind small businesses and the importance of supporting local entrepreneurs. The experience of the business owner turning a negative situation into an innovative pivot is something that can inspire us all. Terrance reiterated "Crabtree doesn't stop the flow we are just re-adjusting."

Moses Grandy: From Enslavement to Unrelenting Liberator

By Jordan Meadows

Staff Writer

Moses Grandy was a Black abolitionist, seaman, and author born into slavery around 1786 in Camden County, North Carolina.

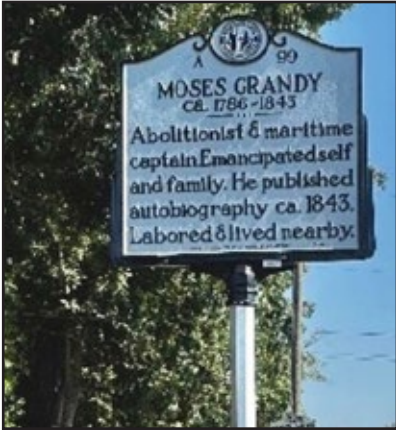
As Grandy recounted in his autobiography, Narrative of the Life of Moses Grandy; Late a Slave in the United States of America, he did not know his exact birth date—a reality for many enslaved people, whose births were rarely recorded.

His first enslaver, Billy Grandy, was a harsh, alcoholic man who shattered Moses' family by selling all of his siblings, despite promising their mother he would not. When she protested, she was flogged. Moses, the only child left with her, watched helplessly as his family was torn apart—a trauma that remained with him for the rest of his life.

At age eight, Moses was passed on to Billy Grandy's son, James Grandy, a boy close to his age and his childhood playmate. By age ten, Moses was being hired out annually to various men, beginning a cycle of abuse, exploitation, and survival. His second temporary master, Jemmy Coates, beat him so severely with a sapling that it broke off in his side. Another man, Enoch Sawyer, starved him so badly that Grandy had to grind cornhusks into flour just to eat.

By his teens, Moses was managing ferry crossings in Camden and later working on canal boats. He became part of a labor force that built the Great Dismal Swamp Canal. But this work also marked the beginning of a new chapter: he became a skilled navigator and eventually a captain of freight boats running goods between Elizabeth City, North Carolina, and Norfolk, Virginia.

During this time, Grandy's abil-



earned his freedom on the third attempt.

Fearing re-enslavement, especially after Minner's death, Moses fled to Boston, where he took work in coal yards and later served as a seaman aboard the ship James Murray, earning the same wages as white sailors. With the \$300 he saved, he bought his wife's freedom and continued working to purchase the freedom of his children and grandchildren.

Grandy's personal life was filled with tragedy. His first wife, whom he described as the love of his life, was sold just eight months after their marriage. As he poled a boat down the river, he heard her call out to him—she was a slave being shipped south. He never saw her again.

In total, Grandy had six children, many of whom were sold into slavery. Two daughters eventually bought their own freedom. Moses also sought to purchase the freedom of four grandchildren, whose price totaled \$2,400—a monumental sum in the mid-1800s.

His attempts to track down and liberate his extended family were hindered by the cruel anonymity of slavery. Enslaved people had no legal



surnames, and relatives were often scattered across plantations, towns, and states, impossible to trace.

In 1842, Grandy traveled to London, where he collaborated with George Thompson, a British anti-slavery activist affiliated with William Lloyd Garrison and the New England Anti-Slavery Society. As Grandy was illiterate, he dictated his life story to Thompson, resulting in the publication of his narrative

in 1843. The book served both as an abolitionist tool and a fundraiser to help Grandy purchase the freedom of remaining family members.

The Narrative of the Life of Moses Grandy was reprinted in three American editions in 1844 and widely circulated in the U.S. and Britain. It joined a growing body of slave narratives that provided vital first-hand testimony of slavery's brutality, helping to galvanize the

abolitionist movement. Despite criticism from some contemporaries and modern skeptics, much of Grandy's account—such as the use of salt water on wounds, the separation of families, and harsher treatment after Nat Turner's 1831 revolt—has been corroborated by independent historical sources.

According to a descendant, Grandy saved the equivalent of \$101,000 in today's currency over the course of his life—money he used not for comfort, but to buy freedom for those he loved.

Though little is known of Grandy's final years or death, his impact endures. In 2006, a portion of Virginia State Route 165 was renamed the Moses Grandy Trail in his honor, cementing his place in American history.

In the words of abolitionist George Thompson, those who met Grandy found his "benevolence, affection, kindness of heart, and elasticity of spirit...truly remarkable." And over 180 years later, his voice still speaks—urging us to strive for justice.

Cosby—CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

out. "I said, This is not like driving Miss Daisy. And she said, Who's Miss Daisy?" Cosby recalled. He said as he was wheeled down the corridor, he heard applause from two levels of cells. "It was enough to have all of these fellows clapping," he said.

The NBC Rumor Cosby addressed the decades-old claim that his downfall stemmed from an attempt to buy NBC. "I have no evidence to that effect, and nothing comes up to it," he said. He recounted a Wall Street meeting with financiers that ended in rejection. "The reason for rejecting us for the loan was that they, the people loaning the money, didn't know anything about television," he said. Still, he said, the rumor consumed media attention. "Media was the most egregious because I have never been hassled so much in are you going to buy NBC?" Cosby said. He pointed to an article suggesting he would "hire his friends" if successful. "That gave me an idea of how these people were protecting things from, and I think it was a wink that this fellow was writing about... well, he's going to bring all his Black friends," he said.

Media Erasure and "The Cosby Show"

Cosby said there was a deliberate effort to erase his achievements. "I heard from a source that a person went on TV and said, let nothing good be said about Bill Cosby," he said. "From that point on, every source that I know of in the media only printed negative things." He defended the cultural impact of "The Cosby Show." "Media didn't like the fact that the Huxtables were that," he said. "They said they were rich, which they're not. That's middle income. He's a doctor, she's a lawyer. And they don't have a maid or a butler or anything like that." He recalled a moment when executives



considered removing a small set detail. "It just said, abolish Apartheid," he said of the sign on Theo's door. "And somebody said to me, well, they want to take that sign down. I said, if you do, you can take the show with it."

Wealth, Family, and Health Cosby recalled a conversation with his daughter Erin when she was nine. "She said, Dad, are we wealthy? I said, no, we are rich, but we're not wealthy," he said. "Wealthy people can afford maintenance. Rich people can afford to buy things, but there's still a bill, and when can you pay if you're rich?"

He credited his wife, Camille, for preserving his life and health. "She has continuously said it's what you put in your mouth, and if you eat clean, then your brain will be clean, and your body, and your blood," Cosby stated. "She makes sure that we eat like that, and that's why, at age 88, I'm cancer-free, and I don't have any ailments of forgetting things." When Cosby would call his wife from prison, she remained very protective of her husband of more than 60 years. Camille Cosby understood that every phone call at SCI-Phoenix was recorded, and she refused to allow officials to see any

vulnerability. "Whenever I called her, I just badly wanted to tell her how I felt," Cosby recounted. "And, she would say, 'just be quiet.' She didn't want me to say anything."

The Fight Over Black History Cosby warned against efforts to remove Black history from classrooms and museums. "If you remove those things, you remove the spirit of our achievements," Cosby said. "It's not going to be Wilma Rudolph winning any races there, but Wilma Rudolph, who was born obviously, it was polio that attacked her, and she still was an Olympic champion." He continued, "The spirit of success and the continuation of being told that you are dumb, to be told that you cannot compete on any level with people, with white people. What story are they going to tell? I think they never wanted to pay the slaves, and they never forgave us for that." He also cited Ralph Bunche and the murder of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. among stories that cannot be erased.

A Message to the Black Community Cosby closed the interview with a direct message. "We are not losers yet," he asserted. "Tulsa lost because it was the only city in the United States of America that was bombed from the air."

A Book Review of "The Library in the Woods"

By Karl Cameron

I recently reviewed, "The Library In The Woods" by Calvin Alexander Ramsey, Illustrated by R. Gregory Christie. It is a children's book for ages 7-11, but also a journey back for many adults to a segregation time when libraries for African-Americans were a window to a world of opportunity. I distinctly remember the many times I walked from Davie Street to the Richard B. Harrison Library, then located on Blount Street, partly to fulfill homework assignments, and partly to check out books for my reading enjoyment.

"The Library In The Woods" sparked memories of those days, and the difference having a library available made in my educational and life aspirations. "The Library In The Woods" is vibrantly illustrated by R. Gregory Christie, which moves the reader briskly from page to page. I do recommend this book, not only for ages 7-11, but all ages that would enjoy a walk down their memory's lane from life in the country to life in the city, and a library's influence on all of it.

I enjoyed the book, and recommend it for your book collection. "The Library In the Woods" can be purchased at Barnes & Noble, Bookshop.org, Amazon, and Indie Bookstores.



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For more information and to buy tickets visit our website:
www.cityofraleighmuseum.org

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10:00 - 1:00 PM

Honoring the Raleigh Hall of Fame with a Brunch Reception

at the City of Raleigh Museum

October 18
6:00 - 11:30 PM

1920s Themed Party

TIME WARP 2025
Friends of the City of Raleigh Museum

FEATURING THE SIDECAR SOCIAL CLUB BAND



Community

The Legacy Of John Hunter Continues: Raleigh Hosts Informative Family Reunion

By Jheri Hardaway (formerly Ms. Jheri Worldwide)

Staff Writer

“If you leave home you still need to know where home is” one of the family members mentioned during the presentations of Belle Long and Yvonne Hunter Sanders at Tucker House in downtown Raleigh. The City of Raleigh hosted members of the Hunter family for a follow up to an experience that took place four years ago. On YouTube.com you can find "Roots of Hope: Rediscovering The Legacy of John Hunter." The documentary recounts the historical evolution



of the Dix Park site in Raleigh. Before becoming Dix Hospital, the area was a plantation owned by one of Raleigh's founders, Colonel Theophilus Hunter, and operated by enslaved Africans. In 2017, while researching an exhibit, the City of Raleigh Museum Director Ernest Dollar made a profound discovery in the 1870 census: a formerly enslaved man named John Hunter. The video follows the meticulous and challenging process of uncovering his story and tracing his lineage. This genealogical search revealed an incredible family tree, connecting John Hunter to other significant

figures like his son-in-law, Stewart Ellison, a formerly enslaved man who became a state legislator and renowned builder. The family tree blossomed to include veterans, Tuskegee Airmen, community leaders and so much more. Researchers eventually connected with living descendants residing largely in New York and Washington, DC, who were previously unaware of their deep roots in Raleigh's history.

The documentary culminates in November 2019, when the museum hosted an emotional reunion. The Hunter family descendants toured key historical sites, including the

Spring Hill plantation house and Mount Hope Cemetery, connecting with their ancestors' legacy and meeting newfound relatives. The film is a moving testament to the importance of uncovering and honoring African-American history.

As a follow up to the documentary members of the family reunited in Raleigh this past weekend to connect more dots, share research, and learn about resources and best practices for continuing to uncover family history and legacy. As this story continues to be uncovered and shared we look forward to highlighting our powerful local family stories.



HONORING DEDICATED SERVICE

In recognition of their unwavering commitment and dedication, Beverly Perry and James Malloy are honored for their volunteer service at the Lincoln Park Church Food Distribution Center. Their steadfast efforts have ensured that the hungry and underserved communities of Raleigh, NC, continue to receive nourishment and compassion. Their acts of kindness exemplify the true spirit of service.

Ymca Acquires Land For A New Durham Location



By Eli Chen

WUNC

The YMCA of the Triangle plans to acquire land next to the American Tobacco Campus to build a new downtown Durham facility.

On a 0.79-acre property at the corner of Blackwell and W. Pettigrew Streets, the YMCA plans to build a 65,000-square-foot facility that will feature rooftop terraces with outdoor fitness areas, an indoor pool, a basketball court, an indoor track, group fitness studios, and spaces for youth and family programming. It will also have 80 on-site parking spaces and there are also plans to partner with a healthcare provider to operate a primary care clinic at the location.

The estimated cost of building the new Downtown Durham YMCA is \$46 million. In December 2024, the YMCA signed a letter of intent with CBC Real Estate, the real estate division of Capitol Broadcasting Company, which will be developing the site. According to the project site for the facility, construction is expected to begin in 2027 and doors could open in early 2029.

"The current, aging Downtown Durham Y facility doesn't allow for increased services in downtown Durham." said Bruce Ham, president and chief executive officer of the YMCA of the Triangle in a press release. "This new, convenient location will allow us to partner with even more children, teens, adults and seniors throughout Durham County."

SE Raleigh Development vs. Residents Pt. 5

By Jordan Meadows

Staff Writer

Southeast Raleigh community leader Rev. Isaiah Green has filed a class action lawsuit against Raleigh Mayor Janet Cowell, alleging violations of the 14th and 15th Amendments of the U.S. Constitution—specifically concerning equal protection and voting rights.

Green filed the suit around September 23, 2025, and there are 90 days to serve the summons.

On Tuesday, Green told The Carolinian that Mayor Cowell had requested a 30-day extension, but

he said he would deny the request if possible. Green said that after reaching out to city officials, the state government, the Attorney General's office, the U.S. Department of Justice, the NAACP, and other local advocacy groups, filing the lawsuit was the only remaining option.

The suit arises from complaints by numerous Southeast Raleigh residents about new construction projects and property destruction in communities such as Holiday Estates, and other developments alongside Rock Quarry and Barwell Road.. Residents claim their prop-

erties were damaged and that they received little to no notice about the project plans or processes—nor any opportunity to provide feedback or engage in community discussions regarding liability or the impact of the new construction.

Because the case is a class action, other Southeast Raleigh community members who believe they have been negatively affected by the construction efforts may join the suit. Those interested can contact Rev. Green at 919-772-1798.

Green told The Carolinian last Thursday that no progress has been made over the years in ad-

ressing his repeated complaints. He alleges that these construction projects have been carried out without the knowledge, approval, or input of local residents, and without any assessment of potential damages.

He hopes the case reaches the highest federal court possible, citing suspicions of corruption and collusion within North Carolina's government and law enforcement institutions.

The Wake County Sheriff's Department is responsible for serving the summons to Mayor Cowell within the 90-day window.

Harnett County—CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

McFadden, also serving as an Assistant County Manager, and Commissioner McKoy discussed the challenges and plans for managing the county's rapid growth. Harnett is currently the fifth-fastest-growing county in North Carolina, with a growth rate of about 3% per year. A major focus of the discussion was the lengthy process of building new schools, which can take four to six years. The process involves multiple

- steps:
- The school district identifies the need for a new school.
 - County Commissioners secure funding through local taxes, bonds, or competitive state grants.
 - Architectural design and site surveys are completed.
 - Construction begins, a phase that can take 18-24 months and can be affected by weather or supply

chain issues. The last school built, Northwest Harnett Elementary, took six and a half years to complete. The next two planned schools are currently in the planning phase. In addition to schools, the county is also addressing growth through a new land use plan to guide where commercial, industrial, and housing developments are located, while also protecting agricultural land. Efforts are under-

way to expand water and wastewater capacity and to recruit new retail businesses and industries to the area. County Manager Brent Trout shared that we could expect an announcement in the next six months. This event was truly informative and inspiring. We hope to see more community leaders host open forums and community members voice their opinions and vote.

Federal Tax Credits Spur NC Development

By Greg Childress

NC Newlines

The state's affordable housing needs are getting a boost from federal tax credits, tax-exempt bonds and a state loan program.

The financing will help build and rehab 5,012 privately owned and managed affordable apartments — worth nearly \$1.5 billion — in more than two dozen counties, according to the N.C. Housing Finance Agency.

Of the 50 projects that will benefit from the awards, 4,150 apartments are for families and 862 for seniors. As many as 500 apartments will be targeted for people with disabilities. The majority of the apartments will be new buildings but approximately 420 will be preservation projects.

The projects were chosen from among 74 full applications reviewed by the North Carolina Federal Tax Reform Allocation Committee and selected based on recommendations by the Housing Finance Agency, which administers the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) program. "We're excited with the results for this year and looking forward to another strong cycle next year," Scott Farmer, executive director of the N.C. Housing Finance Agency, said. "We'll just continue to promote affordability. This is housing that's much needed in all of these communities and anything we can do to support additional resources for housing is a good thing."

North Carolina faces a shortage of 322,000 rental units through 2029, according to a recent study — "2024 Housing Supply Gap Analysis, State of North Carolina" — commissioned by N.C. Chamber Foundation, N.C.Home Builders Association and N.C. Realtors. Overall findings show an expected gap of 764,000



A mixed-income housing project under construction in Durham. (Photo by Greg Childress/NC Newline)

total units, including 442,000 units for purchase.

The Low Income Housing Tax Credit program is widely viewed as the nation's best tool for creating and preserving affordable housing. The awards are administered by states' housing finance agencies through a competitive application process. The Internal Revenue Service sets general guidelines for the program.

Workforce Housing program awaits legislative funding

Twenty-eight of the selected properties were awarded \$34.7 million from the Workforce Housing Loan Program, which was established by the N.C. General Assembly in 2014 to encourage development of apartments using the housing credits in low-income counties and to reduce rents in moderate- and high-income counties.

The Workforce Housing Loan Program isn't funded moving forward but Farmer said he hopes lawmakers will fund it before the end of the year.

"Without that, the Workforce Housing Loan Program, it's going to dramatically change where deals will work," Farmer said "That's a critical

resource for doing properties in low- and moderate-income counties. The Workforce Housing Loan Program was really designed to help some of that funding gap to make deals work better in those more rural communities."

Affordable housing advocates also are closely watching state lawmakers to see if funding for program is restored when the General Assembly adopts a state budget for the 2025-2027 biennium. Lawmakers passed a "mini budget" in late July to address critical spending needs.

"We want that funding to be restored," Stephanie Watkins-Cruz, director of housing policy at the N.C. Housing Coalition, said during one of the group's recent housing calls. "We want to make sure that the projects that are part of next year's cycle in North Carolina have the gap financing they need."

The Workforce Housing Loan Program has been funded at \$35 million each of the last two years. Funding uncertainty will likely cause developers to skip over rural counties in favor of more financially feasible areas, Watkins-Cruz said. Nearly every new project approved demonstrated a need for gap financing, she said.



MEMORABLE REUNION—Last Saturday former students from Cathedral School, Lucille Hunter School, Ligon Junior High School, and Sanderson High School met at Kickback Jacks for a memorable reunion. The afternoon was filled with joyful memories and renewed friendships that will last a lifetime. Some of the classmates in attendance were: Sandra Wilder, Barbara Farmer, Randy McMillan, Janice Williams, Ricky Cauthern, Kelvin Burroughs, Harold Lee Hinton, Sherrian Hunter, Chris Morgan, Clarence Sautler, Chris Leach, Shelia Johnson, Benita Williamson, and Anthony "Coat" Hunter. Kelvin Burroughs Photo

MAJOR GENERAL JOSEPH MCNEIL

Continued from page 1

purpose and a profound understanding of the movement's power. It was a "christening," as he put it, that affirmed his faith in collective action.

A true life of service, Major General McNeil's commitment to his purpose continued with a decorated career in the U.S. Air Force, where he became one of the first African American major generals. He saw the military as a place where, for many, it was their "first exposure to white people on an equal basis." He was proud to be part of a force that, while not always perfect, provided integrated opportunities and allowed people from different backgrounds to work together and build trust.

When asked about the state of race relations today, McNeil's wisdom was clear: "Without protest there is no progress." While he emphasized that all lives matter and that true leadership requires treating everyone with respect, he also acknowledged the disproportionate injustices faced by Black lives. He felt hope that younger generations will continue to engage in protest to minimize the efforts of those who try to deter progress.

Major General Joseph McNeil lived a life defined by extraordinary courage, a deep sense of faith, and an abiding love for humanity. He taught us that doing the right thing for its own sake—with "pure integrity"—is a reward in itself. He believed that the courage of others can inspire us all, and that the path to justice is a process of personal epiphanies and unwavering commitment. His legacy is not only in the history books but in the hearts of all who continue the struggle for a more just and equitable world. He will be deeply missed, but his message—that we must always be willing to take a stand and move forward, even in the face of fear—will endure forever. Well done good and faithful servant. We appreciate you.

More States Guarantee Students The Right To School-Day Religious Instruction Off Campus, Possibly North Carolina

NC Newsline

The released time approach may

The organization has been active in expanding its reach and lobbying lawmakers for stronger legislative support. This school year, LifeWise

Supporters had touted the academic credit option as a way to en-

The conservative American Legislative Exchange Council, known as ALEC, in August adopted model leg-

Nearly identical language had already appeared in several state bills, including in North Carolina and West Virginia this year and in Mississippi in 2023. In North Carolina, LifeWise Academy registered with

(See *RELIGION IN SCHOOLS*, P. 9)

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

We can see from the above description of some people's behavior; they would never become a vessel of honor for the Lord.

There are no crowns without crosses. There is no feast without a sacrifice. The bible records Timothy's ministerial success, he got Paul's message. Did we get the message as well, to make of ourselves a vessel of honor for God so that God can use us?

		
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Editorials

Editorial Policy

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

LETTER TO THE EDITOR: TO MY FORMER “TRIANGLE AREA” NEIGHBORS

When the unanimous decision of the Durham City Council made national news this week, it was the first time since the enterprise that I relocated from Pennsylvania to Research Triangle Park opened its doors in March 1980, that I regretted being part of the area’s economic expansion. Although I retired and live three hours west of Durham, it is embarrassing to learn what has become of the struggling small town I first visited in 1979. Founded on the tobacco industry, along with its pride and joy university, Durham was a struggling town forty-five years ago.

In the early 1980s, you could park almost anywhere around the town square in the shadow of the towering CCB bank building at noon, but there were only a couple of places to eat lunch. The downtown area was deserted at night with no restaurants serving dinner. Unfortunately, Durham’s crime reports surpassed those of Raleigh and Chapel Hill. I do not know how the current crime statistics compare among those cities. Still, the crime that made national news and the Durham City Council’s unanimous decision to defy national law and to defend lawbreakers was as shocking as it was embarrassing.

Federal agents went to Durham to arrest an illegal immigrant who was due in court on a felony abuse charge. That “instilled widespread fear and uncertainty,” said Mayor Leo Williams. Really? The contact I once had with an FBI office based in Durham was mutually beneficial and gave me no reason to fear the agents. As the report goes, instead of the city leaders suggesting that those residents seek psychological help, the council unanimously joined and codified the insanity. City departments will “shield city workers against raids and arrests carried out by federal officials.”

Of course, the unspoken but clear message is that anyone who has violated federal law and even committed felonies should apply to work for Durham City. You will be welcomed and protected from possible arrest for violation of federal law and felony charges.

Glenn Harvey, Valdese, NC
Formerly of Raleigh, and former ISA CEO

Chicago's Streets Still Moving to America's Historic Rhythms

By Ben Jealous

I started out this year, 2025, in Chicago, honored to give the Martin Luther King Day address at Reverend Jesse Jackson’s big gathering.

The timing was unforgettable. As I stepped to the podium on the South Side, Donald Trump was taking the oath of office in Washington, D.C. His inaugural speech was a drumbeat for a new era of hostility toward immigrants and people of color. Mine, at that very moment, was a call for Chicago’s Black middle class to choose solidarity with recent immigrants in resisting such hatred and violence.

That juxtaposition has stayed with me, and it came back into focus when I returned to Chicago more recently. This city has always been a stage for America’s great struggles. From the marchers for labor rights at Haymarket in the 1880s, to the rallies for civil rights in the 1960s, to the immigration raids and protests of this year, Chicago has a way of putting our unfinished business right in front of our eyes.

Walking its streets in 2025, I was reminded of the 1920s. Then, too, Chicago was alive with both promise and peril. Jazz poured from clubs in Bronzeville, poetry from the pens of the Harlem Renaissance, and industrial might from the stockyards. But alongside all that creativity came the sting of exclusion — Prohibition raids, gangland violence, and the rise of a Ku Klux Klan that, for a time, had as many members in Indiana as in Mississippi.

A century later, the echoes are unmistakable. Today, Chicago is once again in the headlines as federal agents sweep through immigrant neighborhoods, as protests spill onto Lake Shore Drive, as tensions around race, belonging, and identity bubble to the surface. And just as in the 1920s, the people in the streets are not simply “angry mobs” as the headlines often portray them. They are families fighting to be seen, communities demanding dignity, and young people refusing to inherit a broken status quo.

This is part of a longer American rhythm. Our centuries often rhyme decade by decade. The 1820s, for example, saw Andrew Jackson’s populist movement rise to power. It promised more democracy for white men, but it also unleashed brutal racism. Jackson’s appeal rested on dispossessing Native Americans through forced removal and fanning hostility toward Mexicans and free Black people. That brand of populism was intoxicating for some, but devastating for others. A hundred years later, the 1920s played a similar tune: new cultural freedoms for some, paired with an immigration crackdown and a Klan resurgence. And here we are, in the 2020s, facing our own battles over who truly belongs.

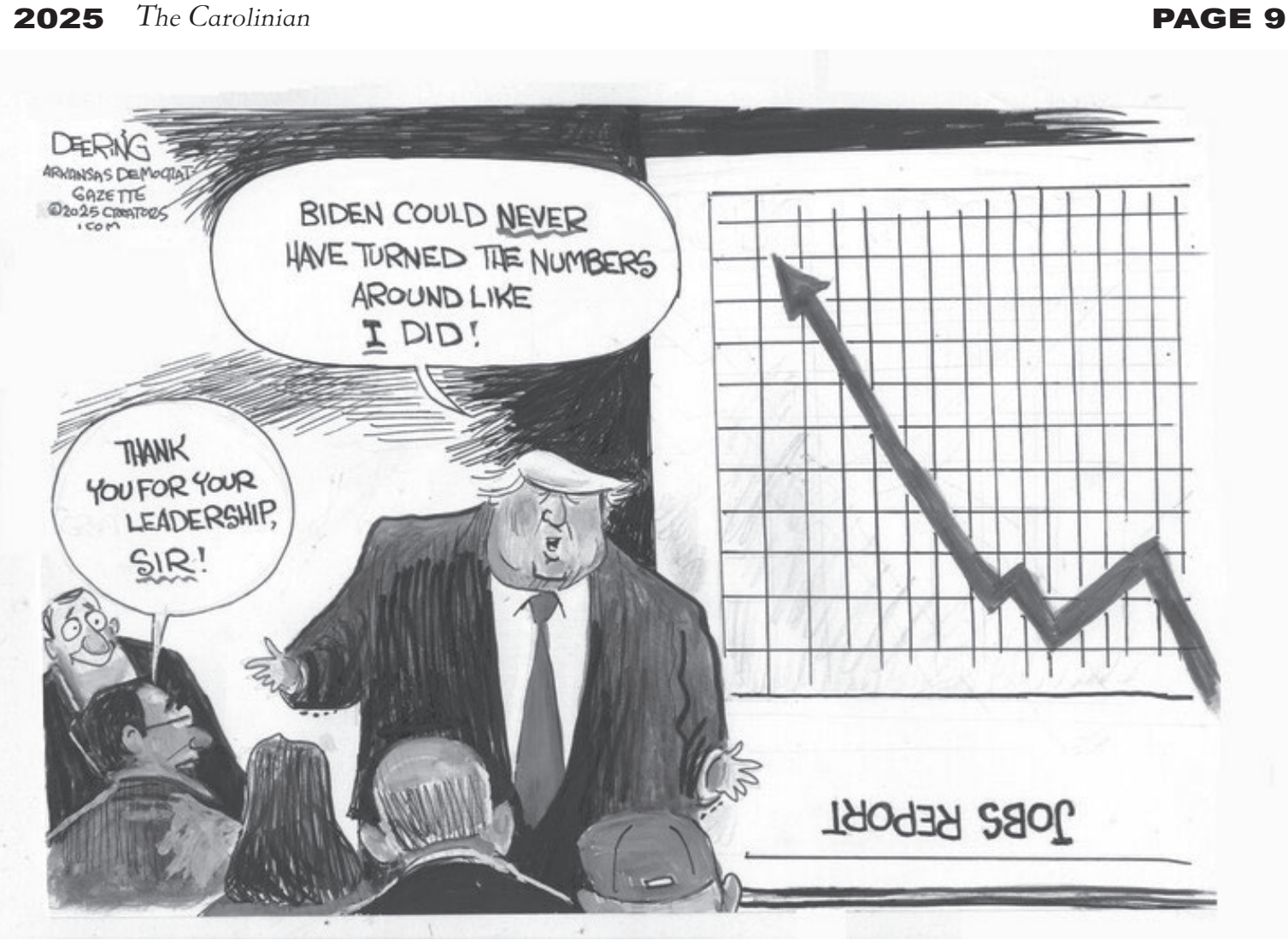
It is tempting to despair — to think the cycle means we are trapped. But history shows something else. The “20s” are turbulent, but they force the country to face its contradictions. The “30s” bring reckonings, the “40s” wars of ideas and arms, the “50s” fresh anxieties, the “60s” bursts of reform. And the “70s”? Oddly enough, the “70s” tend to be the decades when the nation exhales and reimagines itself.

The 1770s gave us the American Revolution and the Declaration of Independence, proclaiming that all men are created equal and endowed with inalienable rights — life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. The 1970s saw the end of the Vietnam War, the fall of Jim Crow, and the rise of new movements for women’s rights, environmental protection, and inclusion. If the pattern holds, the 2070s could be the moment when our grandchildren inherit a democracy closer to the promise in our founding documents.

Each American century moves to a similar rhythm. The “20s” are always turbulent — testing our patience and our faith. But they also call forth courage, creativity, and the determination to build something better.

As I tell my son, all the rising generations must do is make sure American democracy survives to the 2070s. After all, in America, the “70s” tend to be much better than the “20s.”

Ben Jealous is professor of practice at the University of Pennsylvania and former national president and CEO of the NAACP.



WHAT IF...EVERYTHING IS PERFECT?

Last week, three people I know passed away. The manner of death was different in each case, and they were all different people. All, in some way, were servants. One was an artist, desirous of teaching others about his Puerto Rican culture and connecting it to the African experience. He was a dancer and a drummer, and I never saw him in anything other than African garb. Another was a woman who cared for her profoundly disabled son for 57 years.

She was also a teacher who had taught in the Upward Bound program until she had to fully dedicate herself to her son. The third was a classmate and member of my church whose life was filled with dedication both inside and outside of the church. She provided transportation for at least two people I know of and worked tirelessly, without complaint. Hers was the most surprising death of all, for there was no indication that anything was wrong. One person’s body eventually could not sustain her soul because of illness. Another died as the result of a horrific car accident she did not cause. Two of them seemed content to keep living, but one often said she did not want to be here without her son and wanted to die.

A few days before the accident, she told me she had a dream in which she was with her father, who had passed away many years ago, and she was so happy she could not contain herself. She said the dream was so profound that she knew it had meaning, but she could not understand it—especially because someone else appeared in the dream whom she did not expect. She often spoke about wanting to die, almost incessantly. I told her what I still believe is true: you should change your words, because you can attract what you say.

Others keep asking, “Why did this happen? It feels so wrong.” I understand those questions because I ask them myself from time to time. A friend has been listening to a podcast twice a week from someone she admires. Last week that person asked, “If everything is such, what if everything is perfect—just as it is supposed to be?”

Shakespeare seemed to think so; he is quoted as saying, “The world is a stage and we are all actors upon it.” I once read a book about people who lost their lives in the horrific events of 9/11. The author sensed there was something deeper and went about interviewing families and selecting stories. Throughout the book there were stories of premonitions, dreams, and visitations of those who died—some going as far back as childhood.

The Bible tells the story of Job, who lived a life of horrific suffering, but there was a backstory of cause and effect. As I worked with children and their families, I often saw purpose in their being together. In my own life, I see perfection in the family I was born into on all sides—perfectly suited for my journey. Every child I have had, regardless of differences, has been a great teacher. My daughter even said to me, “Stop trying to change me. I’m exactly the way I’m supposed to be.”

I remember as a small child thinking, “I’m here to do something, but I’ve forgotten what it is.” What if everything is the way it is supposed to be? What if this time we are living in carries perfection beneath it? What if Donald Trump was supposed to be president? What if the outrageous words he speaks are words we are meant to hear? His latest comments about children in Baltimore being born city criminals may be meant as a perfect reflection of the wicked ways we have dismissed our children and failed in our responsibility to them.

Isn’t it interesting that Wes Moore is the perfect man to respond, and that Maryland citizens made him governor so that he has this platform? What if Obama’s healthcare program, though fought against by many so-called leaders, was given so that we would recognize that the illnesses of the poor are the illnesses of all, and that we must fight for each other?

What if a man like Fauci was put on the scene to counter a man like Robert Kennedy? What if the whole point is for us, as a society, nation, and world, to learn what is right and to refuse to go along with what is wrong? What if we are learning not to compromise with evil?

What if trouble perfects us? It is clear to me that we have been in a good place, but not a perfect place. Some of us have been working hard for good, but not all. Sometimes people have to lose and suffer to wake up and learn that what they sow, they will also reap. Programs like Head Start, Upward Bound, Medicare, Social Security, and Medicaid have been enhancers of life.

What is happening now may be an attempt to destroy lives, but perhaps the perfection is that we needed to become more grateful for the blessings we’ve had, so that we will stand up and be counted in safeguarding them. At least, it is worth considering.

WORKING TOWARD AN EQUALITY ROOTED IN GODLY BROTHERHOOD

By Jessica Johnson

The 62nd anniversary of the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom passed kind of quietly on Aug. 28. The Rev. Al Sharpton led a protest march through Manhattan’s Financial District in an attempt to influence businesses and corporations not to end their diversity, equity and inclusion policies. He continued to push for the boycott of stores that have eliminated their DEI programs and urged support for retailers that have kept their diversity initiatives. Those who marched with Sharpton believe that fighting against the DEI backlash from President Donald Trump’s administration is crucial in keeping Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s dream alive.

Equity and equality were central themes in King’s “I Have a Dream” speech during the March on Washington, as he spoke passionately

about the stronghold of poverty among Blacks in Southern states, the bitterness of division and distrust sown by racial segregation, and the immoral laws to keep Blacks disenfranchised. Although we are two generations removed from King’s moving plea to the nation, we are seeing some of those old, hard-fought battles he mentioned reemerge. Today, it is interesting to note the current perceptions of some Americans regarding discrimination in a time when King hoped, and many thought, we would be much better off.

The Pew Research Center published two studies in May that evaluated how some Americans regard the discrimination specific ethnic groups face and how views of race and policing have changed since the murder of George Floyd in 2020. In the first study, in which 3,589 of those surveyed responded out of a sample size of 4,036, 74% believed African Americans still face some discrimination. Seventy-two percent concurred with this viewpoint for Hispanics; 66% for Asians. When breaking these responses down along partisan lines, it was found that Republicans were more likely than Democrats to say that White people, men and those who identify as religious “experience a lot of or some discrimination.” Drawing on a sample size of 5,097 adults, two key findings of the second study showed that African Americans are the most likely to say that more attention needs to be paid to racial issues and that they “remain doubtful about the likelihood of racial equality.” To have these sentiments in 2025 is somewhat discouraging, considering all the tremendous sacrifices King and those who worked closely with him made in their dauntless fight for social justice during the 1960s.

With the primary focus on DEI in the present social justice movements, I believe it is critical to remember that the core of King’s vision for equality was rooted in Godly brotherhood. One of King’s lesser-known quotes is, “Segregation is a blatant denial of the unity which we all have in Christ Jesus.” King knew that we would not make substantial progress if we continued to view each other through the discordant lens of race. In his “I Have a Dream” speech, King refers to “the solid rock of brotherhood,” urging the nation’s leaders “to make justice a reality for all of God’s children,” and he mentions “the table of brotherhood,” expressing his desire for the former sons of slaves and slaveowners being able to dwell together without any lingering animosity. In discussions on DEI in higher education, corporate America and other professional fields, we often hear that everyone deserves the opportunity to have a seat at the table. This is undoubtedly true, but if we are not treating each other with the genuine love and compassion that God shows, there will always be unfairness and a lack of access. King’s dream for equality and access, which he shared with those who marched to Washington in the blistering heat that August in 1963 and those who watched via television at home, was rooted in a longing for spiritual maturity and growth. He knew that our hearts needed to be transformed by Christ in a way that would supersede the capabilities of the legislation he was tirelessly working to bring to pass. We are unfortunately not there yet, even though we are 57 years removed from the end of the civil rights movement.

Dr. Jessica A. Johnson is a lecturer in the English department at Ohio State University’s Lima campus.

RELIGION IN SCHOOLS

Continued from page 8



educational decisions” and ensure “parents are in the driver’s seat when it comes to their kids’ education.”

An Indiana law lets high school students leave school for religious instruction each week for an amount of time equal to one elective course. Ohio, Oklahoma, South Carolina and Tennessee laws allow students to earn elective credit for released time religious instruction, though it cannot replace a “core curriculum” class. School boards can set standards for when such programs qualify for credit.

LifeWise operates in each of those states. Ten Commandment displays Jury, of LifeWise Academy, said her organization wants off-campus religious options for public school students to be available in all 50 states.

“It’s important to note this is an option, and parents are the ultimate decision-makers in enrollment,” she said.

“We would love to see every student in the United States have the option to attend a program like LifeWise if they want to and if their parents want them to.”

A lack of parental choice might be what trips up state efforts to post the Ten Commandments in classrooms.

After Louisiana last year became the first state in recent decades to require that the Ten Commandments, a central tenet of the Judeo-Christian tradition, be displayed in school classrooms, bills followed in at least 15 other states. Two states — Arkansas and Texas — enacted laws.

But for now, courts have blocked the mandates in all three states. In Texas, U.S. District Judge Fred Biery warned the displays “are likely to pressure [children] into religious observance” and undermine parents’ rights.

In Arkansas, U.S. District Judge Timothy Brooks called the state’s requirement to post a specific version of the Ten Commandments “plainly unconstitutional.”

The law “is not neutral with respect to religion,” he wrote. “By design, and on its face, the statute mandates the display of expressly religious scripture in every public-school classroom and library.”

He also noted that the law “requires that a specific version of that scripture be used, one that the uncontroverted evidence in this case shows is associated with Protestantism and is exclusionary of other faiths.”

Classifieds

DURHAM COUNTY

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
File Number 25E001106-310

The undersigned, Prince L. Thompson, having duly qualified as Administrator of the Estate of **DEBORAH R. THOMPSON**, deceased, late of Durham County, North Carolina, hereby notifies all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the Estate to present them to the undersigned in care of Ronald G. Coulter, Attorney for the Estate, 3400 Croasdaile Dr., Ste 205, Durham, NC 27705, on or before December 15, 2025 or it will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons and legal entities indebted to the Estate will please make immediate payment. This the 11th day of September, 2025.

Prince L. Thompson, Administrator
C/O Ronald G. Coulter, Attorney
3400 Croasdaile Drive Ste 205
Durham, NC 27705
1-919-246-5775

9/11, 9/18, 9/25, and 10/2/2025
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File Number 24E002521-310

THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 2nd day of December 2024, as ADMINISTRATOR of the Estate of **ASHLEY NICOLE HANNAH**, 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 12th 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 11th day of September 2025.

Janie Nelson, Administrator
1204 Fidelity Drive
Durham, NC 27703

9/11, 9/18, 9/25, and 10/2/2025
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File Number 25E001128-310

THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 27th day of August 2025, as EXECUTOR of the Estate of **JANIE DELORES MCLEAN**, 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 12th 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 11th day of September 2025.

Darvlyn McLean, Executor
2202 Magnolia Tree Lane
Durham, NC 27703

9/11, 9/18, 9/25, and 10/2/2025
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
File Number 25E001031-310

ALL PERSONS, firms and corporations having claims against Wanda O'Shinski Moore a/k/a Wanda Henriette Moore, deceased, of Durham County, N.C., are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before 12-12-2025, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This 9-11-2025.

Mark H. Webbink, Executor of the Estate of Wanda O'Shinski Moore a/k/a Wanda Henriette Moore c/o Lori M. Bernstein, Attorney at Law 2726 Croasdaile Dr. Suite 202 Durham, North Carolina 27705 9/11, 9/18, 9/25, and 10/2/2025 STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
ESTATE OF David Bradley Hull
Estate File No. 25E000801-310

All persons, firms and corporations having claims against David Bradley Hull, deceased, of Durham County, North Carolina, are notified to present their claims to Roy D. Hull and Lynn M. Hull, Co-Executors, at 105 Hampshire Place, Chapel Hill, North Carolina 27516, on or before the 11th day of December, 2025 (which date is three months after the day of the first publication of this notice), or this notice will be pleaded

in bar of their recovery. Debtors of the Decedent are requested to make immediate payment to the Executor/Administrator named above.

This the 11th day of September, 2025.

Roy D. Hull and Lynn M. Hull
Co-Executors of the Estate of
David Bradley Hull
Alexander J. Palme
Averett Family Law
Attorneys for the Estate
101 Conner Drive, STE 402
Chapel Hill, NC 27514

9/11, 9/18, 9/25, and 10/2/2025
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File Number 25E000993-310

THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 3rd day of September 2025, as ADMINISTRATOR of the Estate of **NANCY GALLUP SCHAEFER**, 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 12th 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 11th day of September 2025.

William S. Schaefer, c/o Richard F. Prentis, Jr., 4 Consultant Pl., Durham, NC 27707

9/11, 9/18, 9/25, and 10/2/2025
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
Tobia Singletary
24 Stonewall Way
Durham, NC 27704

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

**NOTICE OF SERVICE OF
PROCESS BY PUBLICATION**
In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File Number 24SP001956-310

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

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

This the 4th day of September, 2025.

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

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

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

THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 1st day of August 2025, as EXECUTOR of the Estate of **SHIRLEY VIRGINIA WALKER**, Deceased, of Durham County, North Carolina, does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said Estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 28th day of 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 FREL**, 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

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

Classifieds

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: 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 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: 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]

WARREN COUNTY

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
WARREN COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice, Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File Number 16E000257-920
THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 28th day of October 2024, as ADMINISTRATOR CTA of the Estate of ANDY CLEVELAND ROGERS, Deceased, of Warren 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 12th 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 11th day of September 2025.
Sandra Smith, Administrator CTA
275 Sweetbrier Ln.
Boones Mill, VA 24065
9/11, 9/18, 9/25, and 10/2/2025

BUYING CASSETTE TAPES

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

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Income Restrictions Apply

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D/M/WBE

SUBCONTRACTORS/SUPPLIERS WANTED

Pipeline Utilities, Inc. (NC General Contractor License No. 325) is seeking certified DBE, MBE, and WBE subcontractors and suppliers for the Tryon Drive Drainage Improvements project for the City of Fayetteville which bids on September 29, 2025, at 2:00 PM. Plans and specifications for this project are available at the following locations: Pipeline Utilities, Inc.; 2204-F Associate Drive; Raleigh, NC 27603 * City of Fayetteville website: www.fayettevillenc.gov.

Potential subcontracting opportunities include but are not limited to surveying, clearing and grubbing, hauling, asphalt paving, striping, traffic control, erosion control, seeding, sodding, linework/pipe installation, bypass pumping, flatwork, and fencing. Please contact Matt Poole (mpoole@pui-nc.com), Dean Froelich (dfroelich@taloving.com), or Jeff Price (jprice@taloving.com) if you are interested in submitting a proposal on any portion(s) of this project. Contact via phone 919-772-4310 (Pipeline Utilities, Inc. Office) or 919-734-8400 (T. A. Loving Company Office); fax: 919-772-3261; or email. All quotations will be accepted up to the closing time of the bid date. Pipeline Utilities, Inc. is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer.

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

RE-ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Town of Lucama

P.O. Box 127

Lucama, NC 27851

Separate sealed BIDS for the construction of 2019 CWS-RF Sanitary Sewer Improvements Contract No. 6 - Sewer Replacement and Pump Station Rehabilitation will be received by the ENGINEER at the Lucama Town Hall, 111 South Main Street, Lucama, NC 27851 until 2:00 PM Eastern Daylight Time, October 7, 2025, and then at said office publicly opened and read aloud.

The CONTRACT DOCUMENTS may be examined at the following locations:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

A pre-Bid conference will be held at 10:00 AM on September 17, 2025 in the Lucama Town Hall, 111 South Main Street, Lucama, NC 27851. Prospective BIDDERS are encouraged to attend this pre-bid conference as part of their good faith efforts.
September 12, 2025

Matthew Creech
Mayor

Town of Lucama

WANTED WBE, MBE & DBE BIDS

for the following job:

NCDOT Division 6 Letting

DF00522 Columbus Co. Bid Date: September 17th

NCDOT Division 4 Letting

DD00478 Halifax/Nash Co.Bid Date: September 23rd

These projects may involve some or all of the following aspects of construction: construction survey, clear and grub, trucking, drainage, milling, paving, incidental concrete, fence and guardrail, signs, structures, traffic control, utilities, signals, pavement marking, erosion control and seeding.

Bids can be emailed to stw.quotes@stwc corp.com

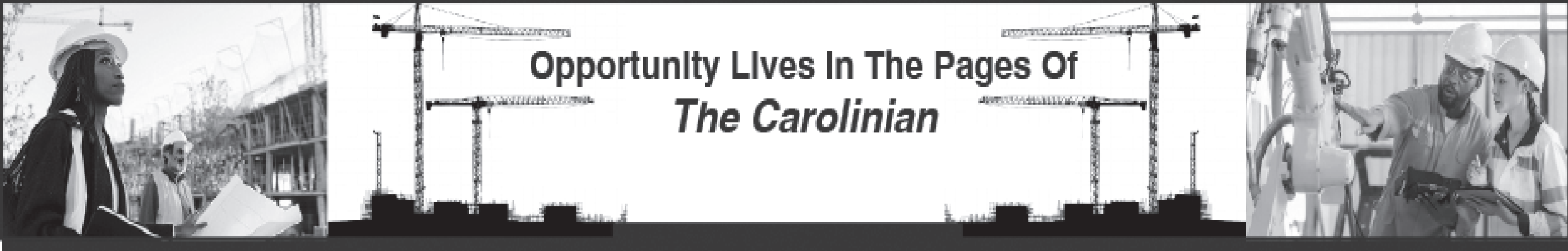
Please contact S. T. Wooten at 252-291-5165,

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

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



“Bear with me as I appraise the diamond in your engagement ring. A single-celled amoeba keeps blocking my view.”



Estate Planning Seen As Survival For Black Families

By Stacy M. Brown

Black Press USA

Constance Carter, the founder of California’s largest independent Black-owned real estate firm and bestselling author, put the spotlight on the basics that protect Black wealth: life insurance, wills, and living trusts. “Estate planning isn’t just paperwork. It’s survival. It’s power. And it’s how we make sure that our children inherit more than just debt,” Carter said during an appearance on Black Press USA’s Let It Be Known. She spoke about how Black families continue to build assets, yet often leave those assets exposed because planning is delayed or skipped. “We are already behind the eight ball when it comes to building wealth,” Carter said. “Historically, we were shut out of opportunities

through redlining, predatory lending, and systemic barriers. Ninety percent of wealth in this country is passed intergenerationally, and 80 percent of that is through real estate. Yet while we are trying to get our piece of the pie, we are not planning to pass it on like other communities.” Carter explained the difference between a will and a living trust, describing a will as instructions that can be contested in probate court. In contrast, a trust provides binding directives that transfer property clearly and efficiently. “A will is just instructions,” she said. “There’s a saying that a will, will be contested. With a trust, these are the directives. This is your legally binding instrument to pass property generationally.” She called on families at every income level to act. Trusts can cost



between \$1,500 and \$3,000, but the protection, she said, is worth it even if there is only one property. To make planning more accessible, she created a \$25 eBook that walks through drafting a living trust, notarization, and state-by-state recording requirements. “I try to make it as simple as possible,” Carter said. “I see problems that Black people face, and I try to find solutions.” For new families, Carter listed life insurance as the first step. “It is a sin before God for you to be having chicken dinners and GoFundMe accounts to bury your loved ones,” she said. “A good man leaves an inheritance for his children and his children’s children.” She added that avoiding conversations about death often leaves families divided. “Two things make people act funny: death and money,” Carter said. Without

beneficiaries and directives, loved ones are left scrambling for account access and arguing over wishes that were never written down. Carter also described her work with the Net 7 Collective, a nationwide and international community of Black women building seven-figure net worths. “When you teach a man, you teach an individual. This is no diss to men, but when you teach a woman, you teach a nation,” she said. “Black women, you give us something, we are going to multiply it.” She dismissed predictions that Black household wealth could hit zero by 2053 if nothing changes. “They did F around and they gave us the internet. They gave us the internet, AI, and we have each other,” Carter said. “Nobody is coming to save us; we have got to be the ones. And the only way we can do it is together.”

Buying A House Before The End Of 2025? What To Know

Yahoo Finance—Thinking about buying a house before the end of the year? Good news: The 2025 housing market is finally looking up after a rocky few years. Mortgage rates have eased from last year’s highs, and in many markets, buyers have more home choices. Housing prices are still high, but the breakneck rate of increases from years past has slowed. If your goal is to buy a home before the end of 2025, here’s what you need to know about rates, prices, and how to make the numbers work in your favor.

Mortgage rates in 2025: Down from recent highs

For many home buyers, mortgage rates are the biggest affordability factor. Thankfully, rates have eased somewhat in 2025 compared to previous years. According to Freddie Mac, 30-year fixed mortgage rates have been hovering in the mid-6% range — down from the 7.79% high in October of 2023.

Where mortgage rates go next is anyone’s guess, but here’s the backdrop. Mortgage rates tend to follow the 10-year Treasury yield, which has hovered in the 4.2% to 4.3% range lately.

If inflation cools or the economy slows, Treasury yields could slip lower, and mortgage rates might follow. If not, rates on both could bounce right back up.

That’s why the best advice isn’t to try timing the market to score a more favorable interest rate. Instead,

shop aggressively. Get quotes from multiple mortgage lenders on the same day, and compare the annual percentage rate (APR) instead of just the advertised rate. Ask about programs like a rate float-down option, which lets you capture a lower rate if rates decrease after you lock in a rate.

To put the numbers in perspective: On a \$350,000 mortgage, the difference between 6.5% and 7% is about \$117 per month on a 30-year fixed-rate mortgage. That may not seem like a lot, but over a 30-year term, it adds up to more than \$40,000 in interest. Locking in at the right moment could save you the cost of a new car.

Housing inventory in 2025: More choices

One of the main issues for buyers in the last few years? The lack of listings. In recent years, seller have stayed put because they didn’t want to give up their low mortgage rates and the affordable monthly payments that accompanied them — a phenomenon called the “rate lock effect.”

Today, that gridlock shows signs of easing.

The National Association of Realtors reported that existing home sales hit a seasonally-adjusted annual pace of 4.01 million in July 2025. More importantly, inventory climbed to 1.55 million homes — a 15.7% increase from July 2024. That works out to about 4.6 months’ sup-

ply, up from 4.0 months a year ago. More supply means buyers have a bit more leverage than they did even 12 months back.

Meanwhile, the new home market is practically brimming. Builders sold at an annual pace of 652,000 in July and had 499,000 homes for

NC Civic Lag—CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

their place in it. If done well, it arms them with the knowledge, confidence and motivation to participate in their local communities, and demonstrates the influence they can have in governmental decision making.

But too often, civic education is pushed to the side to make way for other priorities, and what instruction remains may be watered down to avoid conflict.

This article is the first in Civics Unlearned, a three-part investigative series from Carolina Public Press that explores how, and to what extent, a deprioritization of formal civic education has led to a generation of disengaged and polarized North Carolinians.

This article discusses the problem — civic engagement is relatively low in North Carolina, particularly among youth, and formal civic education doesn’t appear to be doing its part to bolster participation. As a result, public policy only represents

sale — equal to 9.2 months’ supply. That’s a deep backlog compared to the 7.5 months’ supply of July 2024, and builders are motivated to move homes. Translation: You’re more likely to see builder incentives like closing cost credits, interest rate buydowns, or even upgrades thrown

a portion of the populace, and a generation of North Carolinians are growing up unprepared to work with each other and their government to solve community problems.

The second article explores how conflicting priorities and inconsistent delivery have hamstrung quality civic education. The final article suggests ways to bolster civic education and engagement, both within and beyond the formal education system.

‘It’s really just the Wild West’

In 1997, North Carolina public leaders sensed a looming crisis. They worried that North Carolina’s civic education was inadequate, and would lead to a generation of citizens unprepared to lead their communities.

So they worked with the North Carolina Civic Education Consortium, within the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill’s School of Government, to develop a report on the state’s civic health.

The report, published in 2003,

in, giving you more bang for your buck at the closing table.

It’s a far cry from the days when buyers were waiving inspections just to win a bidding war. Now, buyers can take their time, negotiate repairs, or push for help with closing costs — especially if a property has

centered around a phone survey of 800 teens and 800 adults, found that household income was the best predictor of civic engagement. Wealthier adults and students from high-income families were more likely to have worked with others to solve a community issue, discussed political issues at home, contacted public officials and showed interest in voting, among other civic activities.

Two decades later, these patterns persist. White North Carolinians report greater engagement than their Black counterparts in every indicator of civic health besides participation in public meetings. College-educated citizens also surged ahead of citizens with less formal education, and North Carolinians 30 and older reported significantly higher involvement than younger generations.

Education in civics should level the playing field, in theory. But, it isn’t.

been on the market for some time.

Home prices in 2025: High prices but cooled growth

If you’ve been holding off on buying until a housing market crash, you’ll probably have a long wait ahead. Prices haven’t fallen nationally, but the pace of growth is much slower.

North Carolina’s civic education is inconsistently taught, said Burke Middle College civics and personal finance teacher Timothy Barnsback.

“It’s really just the Wild West,” he said. “You have either great civics teachers or not-great civics teachers, and there’s not a whole lot of middle ground. It takes being passionate about it to actually make it a really meaningful course for students.”

Barnsback has been teaching social studies since 2000. He started with middle school, where the curriculum was more about rote knowledge and less about active civic engagement. But now that he teaches high school seniors, he makes an effort to make his instruction more interactive and student-focused.

He doesn’t have to do that. North Carolina’s standards are very flexible — it comes down to how much each individual teacher is willing to invest in their students. Not every teacher has the desire or resources to do so.



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