

Yes, This Is Who We Are

America's 250-Year History Of Political Violence

The Conversation—The day after conservative activist Charlie Kirk was shot and killed while speaking at Utah Valley University, commentators repeated a familiar refrain: “This isn’t who we are as Americans.”

Others similarly weighed in. Whoopi Goldberg on “The View” declared that Americans solve political disagreements peacefully: “This is not the way we do it.”

Yet other awful episodes come immediately to mind: President John F. Kennedy was shot and killed on Nov. 22, 1963. More recently, on June 14, 2025, Melissa Hortman, speaker emerita of the Minnesota House of Representatives, was shot and killed at her home, along with her husband and their golden retriever.

As a historian of the early republic, I believe that seeing this violence in America as distinct “episodes” is wrong.

Instead, they reflect a recurrent pattern.

American politics has long personalized its violence. Time and again, history’s advance has been imagined to depend on silencing or destroying

a single figure – the rival who becomes the ultimate, despicable foe.

Hence, to claim that such shootings betray “who we are” is to forget that the U.S. was founded upon – and has long been sustained by – this very form of political violence.

The years of the American Revolution were incubated in violence. One abominable practice used on political adversaries was tarring and feathering. It was a punishment imported from Europe and popularized by the Sons of Liberty in the late 1760s, Colonial activists who resisted British rule.

In seaport towns such as Boston and New York, mobs stripped political enemies, usually suspected loyalists – supporters of British rule – or officials representing the king, smeared them with hot tar, rolled them in feathers, and paraded them through the streets.

The effects on bodies were devastating. As the tar was peeled away, flesh came off in strips. People would survive the punishment, but they would carry the scars for the rest of their life.

By the late 1770s, the Revolution

in what is known as the Middle Colonies had become a brutal civil war. In New York and New Jersey, patriot militias, loyalist partisans and British regulars raided across county lines, targeting farms and neighbors. When patriot forces captured loyalist irregulars – often called “Tories” or “refugees” – they frequently treated them not as prisoners of war but as traitors, executing them swiftly, usually by hanging.

In September 1779, six loyalists were caught near Hackensack, New Jersey. They were hanged without trial by patriot militia. Similarly, in October 1779, two suspected Tory spies captured in the Hudson Highlands were shot on the spot, their execution justified as punishment for treason.

To patriots, these killings were deterrence; to loyalists, they were murder. Either way, they were unmistakably political, eliminating enemies whose “crime” was allegiance to the wrong side.

Even after independence, the workings of American politics remained grounded in a logic of violence toward adversaries.

For national leaders, the pistol duel was not just about honor. It normalized a political culture where gunfire itself was treated as part of the debate.

The most famous duel, of course, was Aaron Burr’s killing of Alexander Hamilton in 1804. But scores of lesser-known confrontations dotted the decade before it.

In 1798, Henry Brockholst Livingston – later a U.S. Supreme Court justice – killed James Jones in a duel. Far from discredited, he was deemed to have acted honorably. In the early republic, even homicide could be absorbed into politics when cloaked in ritual. Ironically, Livingston had survived an assassination attempt in 1785.

In 1802, another shameful spectacle unfolded: New York Democratic-Republicans DeWitt Clinton and John Swartwout faced off in Weehawken, New Jersey. They fired at least five rounds before their seconds intervened, leaving both men wounded. In this case, the clash had nothing to do with political principle; Clinton and Swartwout were Republicans. It was a patronage

squabble that still erupted into gunfire, showing how normalized armed violence was in settling disputes.

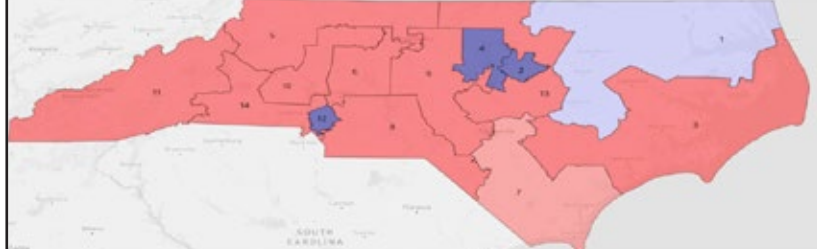
It is tempting to dismiss political violence as a leftover from some “primitive” or “frontier” stage of American history, when politicians and their supporters supposedly lacked restraint or higher moral standards. But that is not the case.

From before the Revolution onward, physical punishment or even killing were ways to enforce belonging, to mark the boundary between insiders and outsiders, and to decide who had the right to govern.

Violence has never been a distortion in American politics. It has been one of its recurring features, not an aberration but a persistent force,



Drawing The Line: How Partisan Maps Are Shaping N.C.'s Political Landscape



By **Jordan Meadows** Staff Writer

North Carolina has long been at the center of national debates over gerrymandering. Despite regularly electing Democrats to statewide offices, Republicans have consistently secured a disproportionate share of congressional and legislative seats.

The Cook Political Report, for example, projects Republicans will safely win 10 out of 14 House seats in 2026—a result many observers attribute not to voter preference but to the drawing of electoral maps.

Gerrymandering, the deliberate manipulation of electoral district boundaries to benefit a particular political party, has played a defining role in shaping North Carolina’s political landscape. In North Carolina, the state legislature—currently controlled by Republicans—draws both its own districts and the state’s congressional map. Legal and political developments over the last several years have significantly limited the ability of courts to challenge these maps, especially when claims are based on partisan advantage rather than racial discrimination.

The current legal landscape was shaped by several major court decisions. In *Rucho v. Common Cause* (2019), the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that partisan gerrymandering claims are nonjusticiable in federal court, meaning such cases cannot be decided by the judiciary. Though the Court acknowledged that excessive partisan gerrymandering was “incompatible with democratic principles,” it concluded that the issue must be addressed by Congress or state governments.

At the state level, the North Carolina Supreme Court initially found partisan gerrymandering to be unconstitutional in *Harper v. Hall*. However, after a shift in the court’s ideological composition following the 2022 elections, that ruling was overturned in April 2023. The court’s new Republican majority determined that partisan gerrymandering was a political question not subject to judicial review, aligning state law with the precedent set by *Rucho*.

With partisan gerrymandering effectively immune from legal challenge in North Carolina, some have turned their focus to racial gerrymandering, which remains justiciable under the U.S. Constitution and the Voting Rights Act. Plaintiffs in *Williams v. Hall*—a consolidated lawsuit brought by the NAACP, Common Cause, and others—are currently challenging North Carolina’s 2023 congressional, State House, and State Senate maps. They argue that the districts were drawn to dilute the voting power of Black communities, particularly in urban centers like Greensboro, Winston-Salem, and Wilmington, as well as in rural areas known as the Black Belt.

The trial in *Williams* concluded on July 9, 2025, featuring testimony from Black community leaders who stated that the new maps divided historically unified communities. Plaintiffs contend that these divisions amount to racial gerrymandering. The maps, however, will remain in effect for the 2024 election regardless of the court’s ruling.

Defending the maps, Republican lawmakers argue they were drawn using traditional redistricting principles and partisan considerations—not racial ones. Under current legal standards, plaintiffs must “disentangle” race from partisanship to prove a map was racially discriminatory, a high evidentiary bar established in recent rulings such as *Alexander v. South Carolina State Conference of the NAACP* and earlier cases like *Miller v. Johnson* and *Shaw v. Reno*. Courts also presume that legislatures act in good faith unless proven otherwise, making direct or circumstantial evidence of racial intent essential and difficult to obtain.

Data from recent elections shows that more than 80% of Black voters in the state support Democratic candidates. This makes it challenging to determine whether the intent behind redistricting is racial or purely political, especially when partisanship and race align closely.

Additionally, critics have pointed to the racial and gender composition of the state legislature as evidence of the impact of gerrymandering. While the Democratic caucus is majority-minority and majority-female, the Republican caucus is 98% white and 87% male.

Gerrymandering affects both the state and national levels of governance. In 2024, Democrats won 51% of the statewide vote for the House but secured only 41% of the seats. In the State Senate, Republicans hold 12% more seats

Leandro Revisited In NC State Budget

NC Newsline—With North Carolina lawmakers still negotiating the state budget, a public forum on Thursday highlighted the state’s long-running Leandro case, a nearly three-decade legal battle over equitable education funding.

Speaking at the forum organized by the advocacy group Public Schools First NC, state Supreme Court Justice Anita Earls discussed the history of the case, which began in 1994 when parents and school districts in low-wealth counties sued the state. They argued their students were being denied the state constitution’s guarantee of a “sound basic education.”

The state Supreme Court affirmed that right in 1997 and found that North Carolina had failed to meet its obligation, particularly for at-risk students. Since then, the case has moved through years of court rulings, compliance hearings, and disputes over funding plans.

Earls, who was elected to the state’s highest court in 2018, told the audience she could only discuss the case’s public record, not ongoing proceedings. She read directly from her dissent in a 2022 decision, where she criticized the court’s majority for stepping back from ordering the state to fund a comprehensive remedial plan.



“Not only is it true that justice delayed is justice denied, but denying adequate educational opportunities entails enormous losses, both in dollars and in human potential

to the state and its citizens,” Earls read from her dissent. “If our court cannot or will not enforce state constitutional rights, those rights do not exist. The constitution is not worth the paper it is written on, and our oath as judicial officers to uphold the Constitution is a meaningless charade.”

The General Assembly adjourned in late July with no comprehensive deal on the two-year spending plan, passing a resolution to meet only one day a month until the 2026 short session begins in April. Lawmakers have been deadlocked since early summer over tax cuts and spending priorities. That means months could pass before school districts have clarity on the state’s spending priorities for education.

Democratic leaders in the legislature and education groups have called on lawmakers to return to Raleigh to pass a full budget. They argue the state needs more than incremental fixes to address increasing enrollment, aging school facilities, and teacher workforce challenges.

The audience on Thursday also heard from education advocates who connected the case to current classroom struggles. Public Schools First NC have highlighted how Leandro funding could expand pre-K programs, hire more teachers and reduce class sizes.

The Leandro case remains pending before the state Supreme Court, which last heard arguments in February 2024.

N.C.'s Next Generation Of Scientists Fear Careers Are Going 'Up In Smoke'

NC Newsline—Justin Fraser, an honors student at NC A&T State University and an aspiring doctor, gained research experience at Duke University, working in a laboratory investigating a therapy for Parkinson’s Disease.

Fraser was also connected to a neurologist at Duke, kindling his interest in neuroscience.

The Summer Scholars Program in Genomic Science and Medicine at Duke University that gave Fraser those opportunities lost what was left of a \$540,000 National Institutes of Health grant this year, one of dozens of academic programs at private and public universities across the country to lose federal funding for efforts to help increase diversity in medicine and biological sciences.

In addition to working in labs, participants in the Duke scholars program created poster presentations of the lab work and explained their research to audiences, familiar exercises for scientists attending professional conferences.

Duke’s program focused on college students who had completed their first or second year, Fraser said, and offered him an opportunity that’s now been closed for others.

“Freshmen and sophomores won’t be able to get their own foot in the door,” he said.

About 5% of doctors in the United States are Black, according to 2023 data from the Association of American Medical Colleges, while about 14.4 % of the U.S. population identified as Black that year, according to the Pew Research Center.

In 2024, 6.6% of the doctorates in STEM awarded to Americans or naturalized citizens were earned by Black researchers.

While more than 19% of the population was Hispanic/Latino in 2023, about 6.5% of the medical doctors were Latino. Latino scientists earned 10% of the research doctoral degrees awarded that year in science, technology, engineering and math.

As it targets diversity and equity, the Trump administration has ended

funding for projects that encourage a diverse STEM workforce, research by early-career scientists, and research about health disparities, HIV, mental health, and nutrition.

Programs at Duke, Stanford University, Hampton University, Washington University, and others lost federal money for programs aimed at increasing diversity in genomic research, according to a list of canceled grants obtained by U.S. Rep. Deborah Ross (D-Raleigh).

U-RISE was among the formerly federally funded programs supporting undergraduates who aspired to earn advanced degrees in biomedical research. The acronym stands for Undergraduate Research Training Initiative for Student Enhancement.

UNC-Pembroke, the state’s Historically American Indian University, was one of the UNC campuses that had its U-RISE grant canceled.

U-RISE operated at UNC-Pembroke for about 18 years before the grant money was abruptly cut off this spring, said Robert Poage, a bi-

ology professor.

In the last year of funding, UNC-Pembroke matched eight students with faculty researchers, according to an online description. Its goals were to increase the number of students that applied for and entered STEM doctoral programs, provide them with a “rigorous research experience,” and prepare them to be successful scientists.

In summers, students worked in labs off campus at institutions such as Yale University, Stanford, East Carolina University, and UNC-Chapel Hill, Poage said. Students had an opportunity to do research with UNC-Pembroke faculty for two years.

The grant paid for student travel to conferences, lab supplies, and other expenses, he said. U-RISE also put together a like-minded group of students who went through training together and supported one another.

Faculty members were excited to



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Business & Finance

Economists Clash Over Effectiveness Of “No Tax on Tips”

By Jordan Meadows

Staff Writer

In July 2025, President Donald Trump signed the “Opportunity for a Big, Beautiful Bill” (OB BB) into law — a sweeping legislative package that included the widely discussed “No Tax on Tips Act.”

The provision, passed unanimously in the Senate (100-0), marks a rare moment of bipartisan agreement and delivers a long-promised tax break to America’s tipped workers. For many of the nearly 4 million U.S. workers who rely on tips to survive — approximately 1 in every 40 workers — the new law could mean more money in their pockets.

The “No Tax on Tips” provision is structured as a temporary federal income tax deduction that applies only from 2025 through 2028. It allows eligible workers to deduct up to \$25,000 in reported tip income annually from their federal taxable income.

This deduction phases out starting at \$150,000 in modified adjusted gross income (MAGI) for single filers and \$300,000 for married couples filing jointly. The deduction fully disappears at \$400,000



and \$550,000, respectively. Importantly, this tax break does not cover payroll taxes — meaning workers will still owe Social Security and Medicare taxes on their tips — nor does it affect state income tax obligations, which vary by state.

The law applies only to cash tips — though for IRS purposes, “cash” traditionally includes credit card and electronic payments. However, the deduction is limited to tips reported

on IRS forms W-2, 1099, or 4137 and only applies to occupations that customarily received tips before 2025. This is to prevent high-income earners from reclassifying wages as “tips” to claim the benefit.

To prevent abuse, the Treasury Department released an official list of eligible occupations. An early look at this list revealed 68 qualifying job categories ranging from the expected — waiters, bartenders, bellhops — to

the surprising — electricians, HVAC technicians, musicians, content creators, and even self-enrichment instructors.

These categories reflect a wide interpretation of who qualifies as a tipped worker but raise concerns about fairness and administrative feasibility.

According to analysis from the Economic Policy Institute (EPI), between 2.5 and 5.2 million workers could be eligible to claim the deduction. On average, tipped workers would receive about \$1,700 annually in tax savings over the four-year window. However, the top 20% of tipped earners — likely working in high-end restaurants or resorts — would see average tax cuts of \$5,700, while the bottom 20% would receive just \$74, if anything.

That’s because nearly a third of tipped workers make so little that they already owe no federal income tax. The standard deduction alone — \$15,750 for singles and \$31,500 for married couples — means millions of low-wage workers will see no benefit from the tip deduction. The policy inherently favors workers with higher earnings and predictable tipping patterns, leaving behind house-

keepers, baristas, and other workers whose tip income may be small or inconsistent.

In North Carolina, the numbers tell a similar story. A version of the “No Tax on Tips” policy included in the NC House budget would benefit just 2% of households. For most low-income workers, the tax relief would be minimal — under \$200 annually for those receiving up to \$5,000 in tips.

By contrast, if lawmakers raised the state minimum wage to \$18 an hour, many more workers would see an average income increase of \$22,000 per year — a far more impactful solution.

Polls show over 70% of voters favor eliminating federal taxes on tips. But critics warn that this is a classic case of populist policy cloaked in fairness, yet riddled with inefficiencies. There’s no economic rationale, they argue, for taxing one form of income less than another based solely on how it’s received. A waitress earning \$40,000 annually — with \$5,000 in tips — could pay less tax than a grocery clerk or school aide making the same total income, simply because part of her pay comes from tips.

Economists also raise red flags about labor market distortions. If tipping becomes more tax-advantageous, employers may reclassify more jobs as tipped positions, making income less predictable and pushing more risk onto workers. Already, there are concerns that workers like plumbers and landscapers could encourage customers to pay them in “tips” to receive under-the-table tax breaks, inviting potential fraud.

Opponents of the policy argue that if lawmakers truly want to support low-wage workers, there are more effective tools, such as raising the minimum wage, expanding the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) or Child Tax Credit (CTC), or eliminating the sub-minimum wage for tipped workers altogether.

The “No Tax on Tips” deduction is expected to cost the federal government around \$32 billion over 10 years.

The American public’s tax intuitions are clear: 59% say they pay too much in taxes, the highest since 2001, despite actual rates having declined. Only 25% say they would accept higher taxes for more government services.

In Utah, Here’s What A New Black-Owned Bank Will Offer

By Sorina Szakacs

The Salt Lake Tribune

When Jaime and Michael Hansen were in their 20s, their dream was to buy the furniture business where Michael was working.

“We met with these different bankers and they made it sound like it was this difficult, daunting process,” Jaime Hansen said. “It was kind of frustrating to figure out how to navigate everything.”

That changed when they found Traci Flynn, senior loan officer at Holladay Bank & Trust. Today, after three loans for purchases and expansion, the Hansens operate Best Deal Mattress & Furniture from an 18,000-square-foot building in Orem.

“She helped us through every step,” Jaime Hansen said. “When we list the people that were most influential in helping our business succeed, Traci is right there at the top.”

Holladay Bank is now officially Redemption Bank, the first Black-owned financial institution in the Rockies.

Redemption will continue to be flexible when it comes to approving loans for Utah’s small businesses, said West Martin, its chief credit officer — as it expands its lending, transforms its digital presence and reaches out to minority communities that have not had access to or felt comfortable with financial services.

Ashley Bell, CEO of Redemption Holding Company, which purchased Holladay Bank, eventually wants it to serve Americans nationwide. But for now, he said, its focus will be on Utah.

“I think that there are a lot of overlooked communities in Utah that



Jaime and Michael in their furniture store in Orem.

need and deserve to have a bank on their side, that is understanding of their challenges,” Bell said.

“Our biggest segment of our customers is going to be those people who come up with good ideas to serve their communities, to create economic opportunity in those communities and create jobs,” he said. “And our goal is to help them become economically resilient.”

In less than three months, the new bank has approved loans of over \$13 million and almost reached its 12-month deposit projections, said Bruce Jensen, a longtime banker in Utah who is now Redemption’s CEO.

All of Holladay Bank’s staff decided to stay on, Jensen said. Some of the first additional hires are bringing expertise in government-backed loans.

The bank also intends to hire more

diverse employees, he said, “so that people who are minorities will feel like, ‘Hey, we are being able to talk to people who understand us.’ We are trying to represent the ownership of the bank and the vision and hopes that they have, and bringing in people that represent, reflect the social impact goals that we have.”

Expanded lending Jensen said the bank will continue to serve the Holladay community and will keep the products and services it had prior to the change in ownership.

At the same time, “we will differentiate ourselves in providing some additional value to both shareholders and to the public at large,” Jensen said. “We would be expanding what we are doing on the lending side.”

Martin said the bank will add



Ashley Bell

government-guaranteed loans to the bank’s portfolio — like Small Business Administration 7A and 504 loans.

SBA 7A loans are more flexible, allowing business owners to use the loan as working capital, inventory or real estate. The 504 loans are mainly for fixed funding assets, like real estate and equipment.

Redemption is the only Black-owned bank in the country that has an in-house team handling SBA loans, Bell noted at its ribbon-cutting ceremony Wednesday.

Redemption also plans to work with Utah’s Small Business Credit Initiative, a program created by the Governor’s Office of Economic Opportunity.

Investing in mortgages Redemption will focus on commercial banking to start, but will

consider offering consumer loans and residential mortgages in the future, Jensen said. In the meantime, the bank started working with Wall Street companies and invested in LMI loans — low-to-moderate income loans.

Buying those securities, Martin explained, helps serve the communities that depend on the bank’s success; it makes more funding available in the market for new loans to LMI borrowers.

“We have invested \$1.5 million into mortgage-backed securities that are to Salt Lake County residents that fit that LMI definition,” Martin said. “We are in the process of buying another \$1 million of those loans.”

A digital transformation Redemption hired a Utah technology company to expand the bank’s digital platform, adding options like mobile deposit. Customers who don’t live near Holladay will be “able to open accounts seamlessly” online, Jensen said.

“We are also going to be offering an account aggregation element,” Jensen said, so customers “will be able to move their money very easily between our bank and their other institutions.”

A “huge part” of the new digital platform will be the financial literacy portal, which is still in “the formative stage,” he added. The bank has talking to specialists and “all the major universities in the state,” and plans

to offer live-streamed workshops, he said.

The improvements will continue as Redemption morphs into a “more of a national provider” in the future.

A bank for everyone Redemption wants to be inclusive, Jensen said, serving everyone while also building relationships in Utah’s Black and other minority communities.

In the last two years, while Redemption Holding Company was negotiating the acquisition of Holladay Bank, bank officials did outreach. They met with Rep. Sandra Hollins, D-Salt Lake City, and her constituents, talked to pastors of Black churches and started working with the Black Chamber of Commerce.

The bank’s intention, he said, is to create a “symbiotic relationship” with the community. While he wants customers to reach out for financial advice, help and solutions, he also plans to have his team out in the field to talk to people directly.

Minority communities “don’t want us to sit in an ivory tower,” Jensen said. “They want us to come to them and we want to be able to come to them. We want to meet their needs.”

Reaching new residents The bank also reached out to refugees and immigrants, said Ze Min Xiao, president and CEO of the Center for Economic Opportunity & Belonging — a Salt Lake City organization focused on helping those communities.

Trump Admin Boosts HBCU Funding After Other Cuts

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Trump administration is redirecting nearly \$500 million in federal funding toward historically Black colleges and tribal colleges, a one-time investment covered primarily by cuts to other colleges serving large numbers of minority students.

The Education Department announced the funding boost days after cutting \$350 million from other grants, mostly from programs reserved for colleges that have large numbers of Hispanic students. Agency leaders said those grants were unconstitutional because they’re available only to colleges with certain minority enrollment thresholds.

Education Secretary Linda McMahon said the changes will redirect money away from “from ineffective and discriminatory programs toward those which support student success.”

“The Department has carefully scrutinized our federal grants, ensuring that taxpayers are not funding racially discriminatory programs but those programs which promote merit and excellence in education,” McMahon said in a statement.

The department is also redirecting about \$60 million toward funding for charter schools and \$137 million toward American history and civics grants. President Donald Trump in January issued an executive action ordering the agency to repurpose federal money toward charter schools and other school choice initiatives.

It amounts to a one-time federal funding boost of 48% increase for HBCUs and it more than doubles funding for tribal colleges and universities, the department said.

The department is flexing its power to repurpose discretionary funding to match the president’s priorities — made possible through a stopgap funding bill passed by Congress this year that gives the executive branch more authority over spending decisions.

Trump has long called himself a champion of HBCUs. During his first term, Congress added \$250 million a year for HBCUs. This year Trump signed an executive action that pledges an annual White House summit, an advisory board and other support for HBCUs.

The Education Department said the money comes from programs found to be “not in the best interest of students and families.” It previously said the other minority-serving grants would be redirected to programs that do not rely on racial quotas.

Last week’s cuts to the the Hispanic Serving Institution program reversed decades of precedent. Congress created the program in 1998 after finding that Latino students were going to college and graduating at far lower rates than white students. The department also cut several smaller programs for colleges serving certain percentages of Asian American, Black or Native American students.

The cuts drew swift blowback from Democrats, who said those programs have long had bipartisan support and fueled social mobility for working-class Americans.

A July memo from the Justice Department argues that the Hispanic Serving Institution grants are unconstitutional because they’re open only to colleges where a quarter of undergraduates or more are Hispanic. The department declined to defend the program in a suit brought by the state of Tennessee and Students for Fair Admissions, an anti-affirmative action group.

The lawsuit asks a federal judge to halt the grants. Tennessee argued all of its public universities serve Hispanic students but none meet the “arbitrary ethnic threshold” to be eligible for the funding. Those schools miss out on tens of millions of dollars because of discriminatory requirements, the suit said.

BBB Warns of Third Party Airline Booking Scams

RALEIGH, N.C. - Before you book your next flight, be aware of third party airline booking scams. The Better Business Bureau of Eastern Carolinas (BBB) has information to alert you of how these scams work and best ways to avoid them.

How the Scam Works Fraudulent third party booking sites advertise as legitimate businesses to help you get the flight tickets you need. Most commonly, they are contacted after a customer needs to cancel, reschedule or book a different flight. After searching for customer service, they will find a link to a website and number claiming to be affiliated with the airline or third party booking company they used; they call this number and provide financial and personal information. An agreement is then sent over to and signed by the customer. It isn’t until they directly call the airline or discover missing funds that many realize that they have been scammed.

One consumer lost over \$2,000 and shared their experience on BBB Scam Tracker, "After our LOT flight was canceled out of Newark on July 2. I was either given or googled LOT customer service That evening I called and spoke someone about rebooking flights. I decided against booking that evening The following day I called to get a refund on the canceled flight thinking again I was calling a LOT affiliate The rep noted he would need to charge me the cancel fee for the flights but would



refund both the original ticket price and the cancel fee. (that should have been reg flag one) They then sent a receipt email. Not looking closely I didn’t realize it was fake I was never refunded the charged amount and the contact number provide was fake. I am currently disputing the charge with my credit card company."

BBB’s Tips for Booking a Trip

12.5 Percent Of North Carolinians Live In Poverty

RALEIGH — The U.S. Census Bureau released its 2024 American Community Survey (ACS) data, providing the latest picture of poverty, income, and health coverage in North Carolina. The numbers show that 12.5 percent of North Carolinians were living in poverty in 2024, showing no significant change since 2023.

This means more than 1.3 million North Carolinians struggled to make ends meet on less than about \$32,000 a year for a family of four. North Carolina has the 17th highest poverty rate nationwide.

The child poverty rate is higher than overall poverty at 16.2 percent, meaning that over 374,000 children in North Carolina lived in poverty in 2024. Child poverty rates are regularly higher than the overall poverty rate due to a combination of factors, including the high costs of raising children, a lack of work policies supporting employees who are caregivers, and relatively low levels of public spending on children relative to adults and the elderly. North Carolina’s ranking is worse for child poverty, with the 15th highest rate in the nation.

The percent of North Carolinians without health insurance fell to 8.6 percent, down from 9.2 percent in 2023. Medicaid expansion, which went into effect in December 2023, played a major role in reducing the share of North Carolinians without health insurance. North Carolina bucked the national trend, where the unwinding of pandemic-related Medicaid policies led to an increase in uninsured people. But our state’s progress is at risk due to massive Medicaid cuts in the Republican megabill passed in July. Cuts in that bill mean that an estimated 515,000

people are at risk of losing health coverage.

“These data underscore the urgent need for policymakers to act,” said Logan Rockefeller Harris, Research Director at NC Budget & Tax Center. “The federal megabill will roll back health coverage and reduce critical supports like food assistance, while here in North Carolina lawmakers have failed to pass a budget that invests in families. Together, these choices threaten to deepen hardship instead of building opportunity.”

The SBA Orders Lenders To End Practice Of Debanking

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) sent a letter to its network of over 5,000 lenders instructing them to end politicized or unlawful banking practices. Pursuant to Executive Order 14331, “Guaranteeing Fair Banking for All Americans,” SBA is requiring all lenders to stop the practice of Obama- and Biden-era debanking, and to reinstate otherwise qualified customers who were wrongfully denied access to financial services on the basis of political, religious, or ideological beliefs. Lenders who fail to comply with these directives will lose their good standing with the SBA and will be subject to additional punitive measures.

“Since the Obama Administration, financial institutions have — both independently and at the direction of federal regulators — weaponized the banking system against Americans who refused to bend the knee to a partisan ideology. Under the leadership of President Donald J. Trump,

whose own family and businesses were debanked, those days are over,” said SBA Administrator Kelly Loeffler. “This Administration is putting an end to the discriminatory debanking practices that have cost too many hardworking Americans their businesses or the opportunity to start one. Access to banking should not be a partisan issue — but far too many confirmed debanking cases have targeted right-leaning businesses, non-profits, and people - including Christian, pro-life, and Second Amendment organizations.

“Any bank that retaliates against otherwise eligible customers on the basis of reputational, religious, ideological, or political beliefs will be held to account,” Loeffler continued. “The SBA is committed to protecting access to financial services for small businesses, and we are grateful to President Trump and other federal regulators for working together to end this wrongful practice.”

Both the Obama and Biden Ad-

ministrations systematically pressured America’s financial institutions to engage in debanking — encouraging them to freeze or close accounts, deny loans, or refuse services to lawful businesses and individuals as a form of political retribution. Until recently, most bank executives never exposed or attempted to stop this coercion — choosing instead to ignore, yield, or join federal regulators in the systemic effort to deny banking services to ideological opponents.

Operation Chokepoint, initiated by President Obama and continued by President Biden, pressured lenders to debank gun manufacturers and other “politically disfavored” but otherwise lawful entities. There are myriad instances of religious and pro-life groups being debanked under the guise of “reputational risk.” Even President Donald J. Trump has been debanked by numerous institutions that refused to accept his deposits or closed his accounts altogether.

Meanwhile, many of these same

financial institutions were also directed to increase services to support favored left-leaning political causes. Under the Biden Administration, the SBA advanced loan programs to favor private sector lending toward

“green energy.” Administrator Loeffler ended the SBA’s “Green Lender Initiative” on Day One — along with the other partisan programs that funneled taxpayer dollars to pick winners and losers at the expense of

qualified small business owners.

Pursuant to Executive Order 14331, the SBA’s letter has required its lenders to take the following ac-

(See **DEBANKING**, P. 11)

12% Live in Poverty—CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

Inequality by race remains a persistent problem tied to discrimination and systemic racism that create barriers to economic opportunity.

The ACS data reflect the Official Poverty Measure (OPM), which provides a limited view of economic well-being. Other measures, such as the Supplemental Poverty Measure (SPM), show the powerful role of policies like tax credits and health coverage expansions in reducing poverty. National data show that the federal Child Tax Credit lifted about 2.4 million children above the poverty line in 2024.

“Elevated poverty rates and racial inequities are not inevitable — they

are the result of policy choices,” said Heba Atwa, Director of Legislative Advocacy at the NC Budget & Tax Center. “North Carolina policymakers can choose to pass a budget that strengthens families and communities, with policies like a state Child Tax Credit, and investments in child care, housing, and schools that would increase well-being across the state, instead of pursuing tax cuts that only benefit the wealthy.”

“Without a state budget that invests in North Carolinians — and with the looming threat of federal cuts in the megabill — families across the state risk falling further behind,” Atwa said.



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Health and Wellness

NC Turns To Mobile Clinics For Substance Use Treatment

By Rachel Crumpler

NC Health News

In 2024, more than 3,000 North Carolinians are estimated to have died from opioid overdose. Since 2000, more than 41,500 people have died from overdoses.

Even as the overdose death rate slowed slightly in the past year, state health officials are still looking for ways to expand access to medications for opioid use disorder.

To reach more people in need of this treatment — and to enter areas of North Carolina that have lacked access — state leaders are turning to a new approach: mobile clinics.

Operating as licensed extensions of existing brick-and-mortar opioid treatment programs, the mobile units can bring medications for opioid use disorder directly to communities — especially in rural and underserved areas where stigma, transportation barriers and lack of providers have stymied people's ability to get care.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has approved three medications to treat opioid use disorder: buprenorphine, methadone and naltrexone. These medications help reduce cravings that people have for drugs and lower the risk of overdose, especially when paired with counseling. But only a fraction of people with opioid use disorder — in North Carolina and across the United States — receive the medications, which are widely considered the best way to address opioid addiction.

Mobile clinics are emerging as a key strategy to help close access gaps across the state.

The state's first mobile clinic,

operated by Morse Clinics, started serving patients in Raleigh in July. The milestone was marked by an Aug. 19 ribbon-cutting ceremony attended by state officials, health providers, people in recovery and first lady Anna Stein, who has identified reducing stigma faced by people with substance use disorders as one of three priority issues she'd like to tackle during her husband's administration.

"Mobile units are an important step to filling unmet needs in our state," Stein said at the event, noting that they can especially help serve harder to access populations, such as people living in rural areas, shelters or jails.

A second mobile unit run by New Season, a national addiction treatment provider with nine clinics in North Carolina, will start serving people in and around Greensboro in the coming weeks.

More are on the way. As many as 10 mobile units could be up and running across North Carolina in the coming months, said Anna Stanley, who oversees North Carolina's programs that provide medications for opioid use disorder across the state.

Six units are being funded by \$3.75 million that the N.C. Department of Health and Human Services received after Hurricane Helene and subsequently provided to Vaya Health, the regional behavioral health care organization that serves western and central North Carolina.

"This mobile OTP [Opioid Treatment Program] right here is symbolic of our commitment to end that stigma in North Carolina by bringing treatment directly to people where they live, work and where they feel safe," Stanley said at the Sept. 10 ribbon-cutting event for the Greensboro mobile unit.

"Mobile units are super exciting because there is the opportunity for them to move and figure out where the need is," she said.

Addressing unmet need

An estimated one in six North Carolinians has a substance use disorder, yet fewer than half of them receive any form of treatment, said Kelly Crosbie, director of the state's Department of Health and Human Services Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Substance Use Services. Even fewer, she said, get medications for opioid use disorder.

State data show an estimated 231,000 North Carolinians older than 12 struggle with opioid use disorder and could benefit from medication-based treatment.

"Methadone and other medications for opioid use disorder save lives," Crosbie said. "They help people maintain long-term recovery to have the lives they were meant to have."

Individual physicians can prescribe buprenorphine and naltrexone from their offices, but methadone — a critical option for many — is only available at the state's 96 Opioid Treatment Programs, which offer ac-



cess to all three FDA-approved medications. These programs are state and federally licensed to provide the medications and other support for treatment and recovery, including counseling, case management and peer support services.

But the treatment programs operate in just 55 of North Carolina's 100 counties, leaving gaps in access and forcing many patients to travel long distances for care.

"[Mobile units] help us reach people who have been historically underserved — our folks that live in rural areas, or folks who do not have access to transportation, or just those who wouldn't feel safe walking into a traditional OTP clinic," Stanley said.

Nothing to be ashamed of

Mobile units help break down barriers to treatment, said Jim Shaheen, chief executive officer of New Season, the company operating North Carolina's second mobile unit. He said he's seen a positive impact from New Season's first mobile clinic in Portland, Oregon, which launched last September — and he expects the same with this latest mobile unit.

At New Season's Greensboro brick-and-mortar clinic, some patients travel 45 minutes or more for care, he said. Neighboring Alamance County lacks an Opioid Treatment Program altogether, leaving what Shaheen says is a clear unmet need.

"There's a whole population of people who are not getting care at all," Shaheen said. "And there is a whole population of people that we see in the clinic that are absent a lot, and the reason they're absent is transportation."



THE
GOLDEN
YEARS

By Judykay Jefferson

Crimes Against Humanity

In the span of a few weeks, we have witnessed two lives extinguished in acts of violence that shook communities and ignited national debate. A 31-year-old conservative activist was fatally shot at a speaking engagement at a Utah university. A 23-year-old Ukrainian refugee living in Charlotte was stabbed to death on a commuter train. The common thread here is the fragility of public safety and the value of life. The bigger issue is the significance of these tragedies as a morality measure of the environment in which we live today. Although we often reserve the term "crimes against humanity" for genocides and wartime atrocities, lives taken in public spaces — one for his political voice, the other for simply existing, we must ask whether our collective silence, our broken systems, and our selective outrage are complicit in something deeper.

Iryna Zarutska came to America to escape war in Ukraine. She worked, attended community college, and was known as an all-around good person. When she boarded the train in Charlotte she was unaware that a man, a repeat offender with documented mental health issues would also board that train and moments later, end her life and walk away.

Charlie Kirk, speaking at Utah Valley University, was assassinated, murdered in broad daylight, before a crowd of people who will never forget that moment, many of whom will remember it not as a political assassination as labeled by Utah Governor Spencer Cox, but as the moment of their greatest vulnerability in a public space.

California Governor Gavin Newsom (Democrat) called the attack on Kirk "disgusting, vile, and reprehensible," and urged Americans to "reject political violence in EVERY form." Another Democrat, Charlotte Mayor Vi Lyles issued a statement saying issues like schizophrenia must be treated with "the same compassion, diligence and commitment as cancer or heart disease." Critics argued she failed to address the suspect's criminal record or the need for justice. The New York Times' delayed coverage of Iryna Zarutska's murder, it was framed as a "firestorm on the right," rather than a tragedy or systemic failure.

In both occurrences, the media framing focusing on partisan politics vs. the human cost is opportunistic and dangerous. When a young woman is murdered on public transit, and the story languishes in obscurity until amplified by social media, we must ask whether our institutions — legal, media, and civic — are truly serving the public.

Unfortunately, these murders are not isolated. They are symptoms of a deeper malaise: a justice system that prioritizes leniency over safety, a media landscape that filters tragedy through ideological, political lenses, and a public square where violence is increasingly normalized.

Here's the elephant in the room: would a refugee from Africa have received the same level of public outrage and sympathy, or would that death have been dismissed as another "urban crime" statistic. There is a continuing debate on whose suffering gets noticed. Whose stories get told? How do race, nationality, and political affiliation shape our collective response to violence?

To call these "crimes against humanity" is not hyperbole. It is a moral imperative. When a refugee is murdered after surviving war, and a public figure is assassinated for speaking, we are witnessing the erosion of basic human dignity. These are not just failures of policy — they are breaches of the social contract we count on as the guiderails for acceptable behavior.

It's time to demand reform. It's time to revisit sentencing laws, investing in mental health interventions, and for each of us to hold media, including social media, accountable for how they, and we frame violence. Can we restore a sense of shared humanity — where outrage is not reserved for political convenience, but for the sanctity of life?

When we fail to protect the vulnerable, when we silence voices through violence, and when we allow systems to perpetuate harm, we're not just witnesses, we're participants.

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Arts & Culture

COR Museum Honors The Raleigh HOF, All-Star Panel

By Jheri Hardaway

Staff Writer

The Friends of the City of Raleigh Museum hosted an Honoring Raleigh Hall of Fame brunch to celebrate an organization that, despite folding during Covid, still aspires for more. To encourage those doing great things and inspire future generations, the Friends of the City of Raleigh Museum are exploring reviving the Raleigh Hall of Fame. This rebirth event began with a cocktail brunch sponsored by Campbell University Law School, North State Bank, Tito’s Vodka, and Raleigh’s very own Empire Eats. The event commenced with mimosas, Bloody Marys, and conversations reminiscing on memories from past Raleigh Hall of Fame ceremonies.

After a wonderful welcome by Robyn Herndon, Director of the City of Raleigh Friends, I was fortunate to host a panel with PBS NC’s David Crabtree, Coach John H. Baker III, and Smedes York of York Properties. Our conversation was wide-ranging, covering the importance of history and sto-

rytelling, and thoughts on name changes, particularly Cameron Village, now known as Village District, which many once knew as Oberlin. This inspiring discussion touched on the impact of nonprofits; David Crabtree aptly called them “air—they’re always around, but you don’t really pay attention to them until you need them.” Coach John Baker spoke in depth about his father and grandfather and their impactful roles in Raleigh’s development. John Baker Senior, the first African-American on the Raleigh police force, joining in December of 1942. Baker Sr., maintained a close relationship with the York family that continues to this day. To unite these men on stage to tell their stories, their family stories, and to witness all they’ve seen was truly inspiring and motivating. As they reminisced about the trials they had overcome, they also reflected on the conclusions they had drawn from their vast years of experience in their respective fields.

The City of Raleigh Museum is truly doing an outstanding job putting together compelling program-

ming with dynamic community members telling stories that need to be discussed. Right now, in North Carolina public schools, students are not allowed to utilize their phones. I find myself in certain circles where people are either all on their phones or not on their phones at all. The honoring Raleigh Hall of Fame brunch was one of those events where people were truly locked in and not on their phones. Not because they couldn’t be—the phones were accessible—but they chose not to be because everyone was so tuned into the conversation. It kind of makes me chuckle that there won’t be much video when these are the types of conversations that people need to hear the most.

As a member of the City of Raleigh Museum Friends Board, I can attest to the fact that the programming here is truly setting this museum apart as one of Raleigh’s most informative and transparent institutions. I have been blessed to meet and interview hundreds of people in our community, and this conversation was truly one of the most game-changing.



The History of NC's Federation of Colored Women’s Clubs

By Jordan Meadows

Staff Writer

In 1909, a group of African American women came together in North Carolina with a shared goal: to uplift Black communities through organized service and leadership. Their effort led to the founding of the North Carolina Federation of Colored Women’s Clubs (NCFWCW)—an organization that, for over a century, has remained devoted to improving the lives of women, youth, and families across the state.

The NCFWCW was born as an outgrowth of the National Association of Colored Women’s Clubs (NACWC), which had been established in 1896 in Washington, D.C.. The national movement was sparked by Josephine St. Pierre Ruffin, who, in 1895, called for a unified organization to represent Black women excluded from the white-dominated women’s clubs of the time.

In response, dozens of local and



regional groups united to form the NACWC, with Mary Church Terrell elected as its first president. Under her leadership, the organization advocated for civil rights, women’s suf-

frage, and the fight against lynching and Jim Crow laws.

Following this example, North Carolina’s own federation was founded by five influential women:

Dr. Charlotte Hawkins Brown, Minnie S. Pearson, Cottie Dancy Moore, Maggie Jones, and Julia M. Warren. The NCFWCW focused its work on moral, social, political, and educational advancement.

Its constitution declared that any club in North Carolina formed “for the purpose of improving the status of women and youth” could join. Clubs from cities, towns, and rural areas across the state rallied under its banner, committed to a mission embodied in the Federation’s powerful motto: “Lifting as We Climb.”

This motto reflected a guiding philosophy—advancing oneself while simultaneously elevating others. It informed the organization’s broad and meaningful work throughout the 20th century and beyond. Member clubs engaged in a wide range of efforts: Raising funds for educational scholarships to support Black youth, creating resources for blind residents, advocating for health awareness, particularly for sickle cell

disease and HIV/AIDS, championing the rights of children, the elderly, and underserved families, and partnering with the NAACP on civil rights efforts across the state

One of the Federation’s landmark achievements came in 1921, when it worked with the North Carolina General Assembly to establish the North Carolina Industrial Home for Colored Girls, also known as the Efland Home for Girls. The institution provided care, shelter, and training for young girls at risk, reflecting the Federation’s commitment to both protection and empowerment.

In 1959, it celebrated its 50th anniversary in Wilson, NC, hosted by the Mary McLeod Bethune Civic Club—an event that honored both the past and ongoing leadership of Black women in North Carolina. Later, in 2016, the NCFWCW hosted the 60th biennial and 120th annual convention of the national organization in Concord, NC, affirming its

continued importance on the national stage.

In partnership with North Carolina Central University, the Federation has preserved historical materials dating from 1949 to 2015, including records, photographs, and personal stories from across the state. These documents provide a vital glimpse into the ways Black women in North Carolina shaped their communities through faith, education, and activism.

In recognition of this enduring legacy, the North Carolina Highway Historical Marker Program honored the Federation in August 2025 with the unveiling of a new marker at Hwy 70 in Sedalia, NC, at the Charlotte Hawkins Brown State Historic Site.

The work of the NCFWCW helped lay the foundation for progress in education, healthcare, civil rights, and social justice in North Carolina—and it continues to inspire new generations.

Rare Portraits of The Enslaved Displayed Together In MS

JACKSON, Miss. (AP) — With powerfully haunting eyes and an enigmatic expression, “Portrait of Frederick,” an enslaved man painted circa 1840, stares out at visitors of the Mississippi Museum of Art. A little further into the museum is Delia, a Black woman dressed in red and wearing a headscarf who bears a similarly unknowable expression. The pair of portraits are the only known preemancipation paintings of enslaved people in Mississippi.

Now, for the first time, they hang together for the public to see. “I was mesmerized by the painting,” museum visitor Staci Williams said. “The colors, the expression. His humanity seemed to jump off of the page.”

The portraits evoke questions about who Frederick and Delia were, why they were painted and what went through their minds as their faces were captured stroke by stroke for generations to see.

“We don’t know, for example, if either of these people had the choice to sit for the portrait. We don’t know if they had the choice of what they were wearing when they were painted,” said Betsy Bradley, the Laurie Hearin McRee director of the museum. “They certainly weren’t allowed to own their own portrait.”

The museum bought “Portrait of Frederick” in partnership with the

Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art in Bentonville, Arkansas. The museums will pass the portrait back and forth, each displaying it for several years at a time.

Bradley said purchasing the portrait brought up complicated feelings. Until emancipation freed him, Frederick was considered property. Now, more than 150 years later, his portrait is property, bought and sold to the highest bidder.

“If it enables us to have important conversations with each other about the human cost of slavery and why it mustn’t ever happen again, then having it in a public place can be meaningful,” Bradley said.

Since the 1860s, “Portrait of Frederick” has been displayed at Longwood, an antebellum mansion in Natchez, Mississippi, that belonged to the family of his enslavers. There, Frederick’s likeness was used to whitewash history.

According to research by the Neal Auction Company, which sold the painting to the Mississippi Museum of Art, tour guides in the 1970s informed the public that Frederick had grown up alongside his enslaver Haller Nutt, and the two were best friends. They claimed Nutt freed Frederick and referred to him by the belittling moniker “Uncle Frederick.” In actuality, Frederick oversaw other slaves on the plantation. He collected



data on field production, analyzed growing conditions and acted as a manager. His role was important, and he and his family may have received better living conditions as a result.

Frederick was about 70 when the Civil War ended. He took the surname Baker and became ordained. Prior to emancipation, Black people were not allowed to marry. Frederick

married at least 69 couples after it became legal.

Less is known about Delia. Her portrait was painted between 1840 and 1849. She appears to be sewing, which leads some to believe she worked inside her enslavers’ home. Delia’s portrait was kept by the descendants of her enslavers until the Mississippi Museum of Art bought it



2019.

Both portraits are unique in that Frederick and Delia are the sole subjects of the works. Oftentimes, Black people were painted alongside white people, likely as a way of underscoring the white person’s wealth.

Frederick is dressed in regal garb — something he likely would not have worn in his everyday role on

the plantation. Both are depicted in a three-quarters composition, which was used for dignified and important subjects.

Upon looking at “Portrait of Frederick,” Williams said she felt a surprising mixture of pride and sadness. “I wonder about what he’s thinking,” Williams mused. “He doesn’t seem to give anything away.”

Tramell Tillman Makes A Historic Win

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Tramell Tillman is the first Black man to win an Emmy for outstanding supporting actor in a drama series for his role in “Severance.”

Tillman spoke backstage Sunday about the “beautiful work” that scores of Black actors have done before him, including the late Andre Braugher and Michael K. Williams.

“I’ve been taken by their work for years and I’ve borrowed from them, so I’m just honored to be in the class,” Tillman said.

Tillman, 40, thanked his mother

in his acceptance speech, who he told reporters backstage “was there for me when no one else was and when no one else could be. There’s nothing like a mother’s love.”

His win brought a total of eight Emmy awards for “Severance,” which led nominations this year with a total of 27 nods. Britt Lower also took home best lead actress in a drama for the show. The Apple TV+ thriller series, centers on an office where workers’ memories are surgically divided between their work and personal lives.

Tillman plays Seth Milchick, the floor manager who is considered one of the show’s main antagonists, given his loyalty to the company, Lumon.

Milchick’s Blackness was integral to the character’s storyline, Tillman said, adding that he hoped to portray the character as “a man that was aware of his race and aware that he was in a place where he was one of few.”

The second season explored “how race folds into the world of Lumon,” he said.

“I never wanted to lose sight of

that and I’m grateful that I was a part of a team that also didn’t want to lose sight of that,” Tillman said.

Tillman studied medicine as an undergrad, before he found his passion for acting, a career that he was told “leads to a dead end.”

“I was actually inspired at Xavier University by so many of my classmates who are now doctors and dentists, how they were pursuing the thing that they’re passionate about, and I said, ‘Well, if they can do that, why can’t I do what I’m passionate about?’” Tillman said.

Wake Co. Invites Residents To Apply For Housing Auth. Board

Applications accepted now through Sept. 26 for open seats

The Wake County Board of Commissioners is expanding the Wake County Housing Authority Board of Commissioners from seven seats to 11 seats. Residents interested in helping shape the future of affordable housing in our community can apply today for one of these new positions.

The Housing Authority Board makes key policy decisions that connect families and individuals with safe, affordable places to live. Adding four new members to the Board will introduce fresh voices and robust skill sets to support the community it serves.

“We seek people who are passionate about housing dignity and have the background to make a difference,” said Commissioner Safiyah Jackson with the Wake County Board of Commissioners. “This is a chance to help shape solutions that directly impact families who need a stable place to call home.”

The County Commission is especially interested in applicants with experience in affordable housing development, finance, or property management; however, anyone with other housing related experience is encouraged to apply.

In addition to the four new seats, two existing seats are currently vacant. Anyone who submits an application will be considered for any of the six available seats.

Applications are due by Sept. 26. Interested residents can learn more and apply here.

The Wake County Commissioners plan to appoint six new Housing Authority Board members in October, and they will receive training and orientation before beginning their service.

While the County Commissioners have no direct governance role with the Housing Authority, it is their responsibility to appoint excellent Housing Authority Board members who will advance the organization’s goals and duties.

An influential harmonica player in both country and blues music, DeFord Bailey was one of the Grand Ole Opry’s most popular early performers and country music’s first African American star.

Born into a farming family in rural Smith County, Tennessee, Bailey lost his mother soon after his birth, and his aunt Barbara and her husband, Clark Odum, became his foster parents. Polio, which struck Bailey at age three, stunted his growth and left his back somewhat bent, but what he lacked in physical stature he made up for in talent and determination. As he later explained to researcher David Morton, he be-



gan learning harmonica as a young child: “My folks didn’t give me no rattler, they gave me a harp.”

The grandson of a fiddler, Bailey grew up in a musical family that played what he called “Black hill-billy music,” a tradition of secular stringband music that drew upon the same core repertoire shared by rural Black and white musicians alike. He also learned songs in church and developed a keen ear for the music he heard around him: the chugging of trains, the baying of hounds chasing foxes, and the sounds of animals on the succession of farms Clark Odum managed in Davidson and Williamson coun-

ties.

Bailey moved to Nashville in 1918 and spent the next six years working odd jobs, including stints as a houseboy, drugstore errand boy, and elevator operator. Meanwhile, he learned jazz, blues, and pop songs from recordings and from live shows he attended in local theaters. In doing so, he became a bridge between the rural folk music of his youth and the modern world of commercial popular music.

A trip to Dad’s Auto Parts to buy parts for his bicycle led to Bailey meeting store owner Fred “Pop”

(See **DEFORD BAILEY**, P. 11)

Community

Local Gov Commission Sept Meeting: Winston-Salem/ Forsyth County Schools, Taylortown Update, And More!

By Jheri Hardaway

Staff Writer

Raleigh, N.C. - From the office of the Local Government Commission (LGC), members cleared the way on September 9th for the state to contract for an outside, independent audit of the Winston-Salem/ Forsyth County Schools. The school system has been cited for financial mismanagement and a \$46 million budget deficit that led to the elimination of 350 positions.

Commission members unanimously passed a resolution at Tuesday's monthly meeting directing LGC Secretary Denise Canada and LGC staff "to work with expediency" with the N.C. Department of Public Instruction staff to hire an outside auditor to assess the school district's substandard financial controls. The resolution states that the LGC will identify "a list of firms qualified to perform a review of the District's internal controls," and assist DPI in developing "the scope of work and agreed-upon procedures for a review of the District's internal controls."

State Treasurer Brad Briner, who chairs the LGC, commended the State Auditor's Office for its investigation and report. As a father of four school-age children, "reading this makes me so angry for the people in Forsyth County who elected a school board who obviously wasn't paying attention" as far back as 2017 and possibly further, Treasurer Briner said. "The abject failure for the students in Forsyth County makes me mad, makes me sad."

Treasurer Briner also sits on the State Board of Education (SBOE),



which voted last week to move forward with the outside, independent audit. Once an auditor is selected, the North Carolina General Statutes require the LGC Secretary's approval of audit contracts.

State Auditor Dave Boliek, a member of the LGC, has said his office confirmed the school district's \$46 million budget deficit, found that the school system "is on the verge of a financial crisis," and identified "severely mismanaged" financial resources and "poor accounting procedures." At Tuesday's meeting he said the school district had no plan to resolve the problems, and he hopes that replacing the district's auditor succeeds in getting its books and processes in order. However, he cautioned his auditing staff could return to the district to perform another financial

review if warranted.

In another high-profile action, LGC members voted to deny the appeals of 11 local government units that are not in compliance with state law for submitting timely audit reports to the LGC. As a result of those appeals being denied, a portion of sales tax distribution will be withheld from those 11 local governments. Commission members granted the appeals of 15 other municipalities, thus avoiding the withholding of a portion of their sales tax. Action was deferred until November's LGC meeting for Speed (Edgecombe County), whose Town Council may vote to dissolve its charter at its October meeting, and Taylortown (Moore County), whose representatives said confidential legal issues fundamental to its appeal could not be discussed

with LGC staff publicly. Local governments were required to submit fiscal year 2024 audit reports by Oct. 31, 2024 — four months after fiscal year 2024 ended. Initially, 118 counties and municipalities did not meet that deadline and were notified in April 2025 that they were not compliant with filing a timely audit. One unit chose not to appeal that notice. But to avoid sales tax withholding, 55 units took corrective action by submitting the 2024 audit report, and another 37 units that had submitted all prior audits except the FY 2024 audit report successfully filed appeals that were granted at the commission's August and September meetings.

In other matters on the agenda, the N.C. Housing Finance Agency (NCHFA) received approval of an application for \$1.25 billion in financing so it can help expand home ownership for low- and moderate-income households. The NCHFA will now issue a series of revenue bonds through 2027. The goal is to provide affordable homeownership through proceeds that would be used to purchase mortgage loans and other obligations to obtain loans at lower interest rates. A portion of the proceeds would refund previously issued bonds. The NCHFA was created by the General Assembly in 1973 to help provide safe, affordable housing opportunities through public funds and private investments. In 2024, NCHFA produced \$2.68 billion in real estate activity, financing 11,920 homes and apartments. Bond activities are a portion of these overall activities. The agency regularly issues debt through the LGC to fund its pro-

gramming.

The LGC is staffed by the Department of State Treasurer (DST) and has a statutory duty to approve most debt issued by units of local government and public authorities in the state. The commission examines whether the amount of money units borrow is adequate and reasonable for proposed projects and confirms the governmental units can reasonably afford to repay the debt. It also monitors the financial well-being of more than 1,100 local government units.

Other affordable housing issues also received affirmative votes, including two requests from the Durham Housing Authority (Durham County), which will issue about \$32.3 million total in conduit revenue bonds for two projects on Old Oxford Road in Durham. Conduit revenue bonds allow for bond proceeds to be loaned to a third party. One application was for \$22 million to be loaned to KB Carver, LLC, a North Carolina company, to acquire, construct and equip a 132-unit low- and moderate-income multifamily housing development to be called Sandy Ridge Station. The second application was for

\$10.25 million in bonds that will be loaned to KB Carver II, LLC, to pay for a portion of the acquisition, construction and equipping costs for a 66-unit, multifamily, low-income rental housing development to be known as Sandy Ridge Villas.

The Raleigh Housing Authority (Wake County) was given a green light to issue \$63 million in conduit revenue bonds. Proceeds will be loaned to Union at Capital, LP, an Indiana limited partnership, to finance a portion of the acquisition, construction and equipping costs of 195 units in a low- and moderate-income multifamily housing development at 3600 Lee Road in Raleigh.

The town of Clayton (Johnston County) received authorization to issue \$14.5 million in conduit revenue bonds to finance a portion of the cost of acquisition, construction and equipping of a 90-unit multifamily residential rental facility to be called Shotwell Apartments, on Mechanical Drive in Clayton. The town of Holly Springs (Wake County) was granted approval to obtain \$22 million in revenue bond anticipation notes for phase 1 of the Utley Creek Water Reclamation Facility.

Two NCCU Students Are Among 18 Candidates For Durham City Council

The five candidates for Durham mayor and the 13 candidates for three city council seats are in the last weeks of their campaign, pitching to voters their ideas on housing affordability, education, public safety and economic development improvements.

Most candidates appeared before an audience of hundreds at Durham's Hayti Heritage Center for a forum co-hosted by The Democratic Women of Durham on Sept. 3.

Mayor Leonardo Williams, seeking his second term, told the audience that leadership requires making tough decisions for Durham.

"Leadership is powered by courage. You don't govern based on fear or to please everyone. You govern for the best interest of the entire community," Williams said.

Leonardo Williams was first elected to the Durham City Council in 2021 before being elected mayor in 2023. The former educator and restaurant owner of Zwelli's Kitchen touts the campaign slogan is "Dur-

ham is dope—because of us," highlighting the role of Durham residents in the city's success.

Williams' opponents—Anjanee Bell, Lloyd Phillips, Pablo Friedmann and Rafiq Zaidi—were also in attendance. Angel Reddick, another mayoral candidate, did not attend.

Housing affordability was a major point of discussion, acknowledging the difficulties many Durham residents face in finding safe, reasonably priced homes. The median rent in Durham is \$1,415, \$170 more than the median rent in North Carolina.

Housing expenses in Durham are about two percent higher than the national average, with monthly costs averaging \$2,231 according to Raleigh Realty.

"Affordable housing is important, but we also need to think about affordable living," Williams said.

"Progress is only good only if there's progress for all," Lloyd Phillips said.

He noted that roughly one in five

homes in Durham are owned by investors. WRAL Techwire reported the same statistic in 2022.

The candidates also discussed ways to improve educational opportunities like afterschool programs and investing in educational opportunities.

"We have more than enough resources in our community for our kids, but we need the political will, the parental will, to make sure they're involved in these programs," Williams said.

Pablo Friedmann, director of Durham Public School's Multilingual Resource Center, said that he acknowledges the severity of issues regarding limited resources.

"I see the day-to-day impacts on a daily basis when families come in and apply and we have to tell them the unfortunate news that they're on the wait list," Friedmann said.

Anjanee Bell, Arts Administrator with the state of North Carolina and an NCCU alumna, said that many after-school and art programs come

with costs that stretch families' budgets. Bell is the daughter of William Bell, Durham's longest-serving mayor and a NCCU board of trustees member.

Friedman said that equitable tax contributions from large property owners could fund more recreational centers and support school childcare programs.

Durham resident Lynn Stewart said that she has recently become more engaged in local politics and wants to take the municipal elections seriously this time.

"I want to see someone who is going to be supportive of a very diverse city," Stewart told Campus Echo.

Durant Long, an undergraduate NCCU student, is running for Durham City Council to represent Ward 3. Long shared emphasized the need for prioritizing citizens when considering housing issues.

"We need to always put the needs of the citizens first. I don't believe that developers have needs," Long said.



GREATER ICEBREAKER FOSTERS CONNECTIONS, BUILDS RELATIONSHIPS

RALEIGH, NC – More than 70 professionals from the Triangle Area gathered in downtown Raleigh for the inaugural GREATER Icebreaker Networking Collective on Wednesday, Sept. 10.

The event was co-hosted by the Beta Lambda Sigma Chapter of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. and the Phi Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. at the WXYZ Lounge. Blood Cancer United and the Wright Village sponsored the event.

This innovative networking experience brought together professionals from diverse industries including finance, IT, education, AI as well as federal and local governments for an evening of introductions, information exchange and relationship building.

Saideh Brown, life stylist and cultural curator, gave a short presentation on how to network for a greater impact and shared other tips and tricks for professional development.

The host chapters thank everyone who supported the event and invite anyone interested in upcoming activities to follow the Phi Lambda and Beta Lambda Sigma chapters on Facebook and on Instagram — philambda_aphia and bls_SGRho.



Business Shower: A Celebration of Bold Beginnings & Brave Next Steps

On Saturday afternoon over a dozen entrepreneurs gathered at Keller Williams Legacy in Apex to network and learn from several keynote speakers. The event was touted as their first-ever Business Shower, which was part celebration, part networking mixer, and part resource fair, designed to uplift, connect, and empower business owners at every stage. Mathias Bishop Photos



Chief Andrews Faces Scrutiny Over Her Comments About Charlie Kirk

By Jordan Meadows

Staff Writer

Durham Police Chief Patrice Andrews is facing scrutiny over a now-deleted social media post she made following the high-profile killing of conservative activist Charlie Kirk.

In a Facebook post published on her personal account, Chief Andrews expressed opinions about Kirk, who was shot and killed last Wednesday during a Turning Point USA event at Utah Valley University.

"I won't stop being outraged at the way this man is being honored by people that I thought I knew," Andrews wrote. "This man, who disguised himself as a Christian, shamed Black women like me, believed that gun violence was necessary to preserve the 2nd amend-

ment, and created a culture of divisiveness through hate speech."

The post, which has since been deleted, referenced a particularly inflammatory comment Kirk made on his podcast earlier this year about Black women and DEI hiring practices.

Andrews continued in her post: "So, at the time of his death, I chose to give him the empathy that he didn't believe in and certainly didn't believe that people like me deserved. But to know many of you STILL support him despite his horrible rhetoric... I cannot."

The Durham Police Department responded to The Carolinian's request for comment by stating:

"The City of Durham is aware of a personal social media post made by Police Chief Patrice Andrews. The

post was made on the Chief's personal account and not on any official City or Police Department platform. We are reviewing the matter to determine whether any City policies were violated."

Mayor Leo Williams spoke out in support of Andrews, emphasizing the complexity of the situation.

"I support her freedom of speech in her personal capacity, like I do those who have reached out and requested her resignation," Williams said in a written statement.

At Monday's city council meeting, Councilmember Nate Baker voiced his support for Andrews:

"I am honored to work in the city with the police chief, whom I believe holds values consistent with the values of Durham," he said.

The controversy surrounding

Chief Andrews arrives amid a broad-based national reckoning over social media conduct and free speech, particularly among public figures and employees, including a Carolina Panthers communications coordinator who was fired on Thursday for allegedly posting an Instagram story saying 'Why are y'all sad? Your man said it was worth it...' with a photo of Kirk. Another example is the part-time instructor at Guilford Technical Community College who was fired for similar comments on Monday.

For now, the City of Durham's review of Andrews' post is ongoing. The outcome could have significant implications not just for Andrews, but for how municipalities across the country approach personal expression by public servants on personal accounts in the age of social media.

Teens With Guns Murder Beloved Roseville Educator Ericka Ruffin

By: Jheri Hardaway

Staff Writer

Former Rolesville High School Principal Ericka Ruffin Lucas, 56, is dead after being shot in Wake Forest. She was not the intended target. Her life was tragically cut short by two members of our community's youth. Principal Lucas opened Rolesville High in 2013, proudly led its first graduating class, and dedicated her life to giving students

a future. She believed every child mattered, which makes the loss of her life that much more unconscionable.

Our community is grieving and intensely saddened by the lack of conversation around this local tragedy. More people should be discussing this senseless loss to the Wake Forest-Roseville and greater triangle community. As an educator, Ericka Ruffin Lucas inspired and directed countless children during their ma-

triculation through Wake County schools. This loss is immense.

Dexter Lamont Mills and his 16-year-old cousin face charges in connection with the shooting of Lucas, who was shot on Aug. 29 at a home on East Nelson Avenue in Wake Forest. The alleged murder weapon was a stolen gun. Lucas died from her injuries approximately a week after the incident. We will continue to monitor this story and offer our prayers to the family.



Church

Dr. Eddie B. Corbett, Sr’s Light Still Shines In Raleigh, NC

By Dr. Kashi Bazemore & Kandaka Immanuel

Sylvia Wiggins, Executive Director of Helping Hand Mission dedicated the hospitality and dining room at The New Bern House in Raleigh, North Carolina in honor of the late Dr. Eddie Bernard Corbett. Now known as 'The Corbett Room,' this space pays tribute to the extraordinary life and legacy of Pastor Eddie Bernard Corbett Sr., of West Hempstead, NY. Pastor Corbett was a servant leader whose generosity and love uplifted the Raleigh, NC Durham, West Hempstead and Brooklyn, NY communities.

Located at 501 New Bern Avenue, in Raleigh, NC, The New Bern House is the cornerstone of Helping Hand Mission’s Transitional Housing Program, designed to provide a temporary home, tools, resources, and opportunities for people experiencing homelessness. The goal is a transformative mission to empower individuals to transition into independent living.

Pastor Eddie Bernard Corbett was very dedicated and supportive of The New Bern House. His generous financial support on behalf of his family and New Life Christian Center of Hempstead, NY made it possible to provide vital services and support to families and individuals in need.

The renaming of the dining room in Pastor Corbett’s honor was far more than a symbolic gesture. It was a recognition of a man whose life exemplified faith in action. The Executive Director, Ms. Sylvia Wiggins shared, “When they first opened the



doors at New Bern, he loved to see people come and eat and be served. All types of people came from all over the place, and they were happy to have a place at the table. The kids were so happy. There was a special seat for dignitaries, but he didn’t want to sit there because he chose to sit with the people. That’s the kind of man he was.”

Being a leader of service was the root of his upbringing that he remained deeply committed to throughout his life. Pastor Corbett was born in Wilmington, NC and then raised by his grandparents Joseph and Pearl (Beatty) Stokes (also of Wilmington, NC) in the Bedford Stuyvesant section of Brooklyn, NY. He was educated in the public schools of District 13. After graduating Boys High School, he used his championship track and field skills to provide him with scholarships for college. After graduating Southern University in Arkansas, he returned back to the public schools of District

13 as a science and health educator at Francis Scott Key JHS 117. He served as an educator and administrator for the New York City Board of Education for over three decades. During his tenure he created after school programs of service like the Medic Cadets, which provided middle school students the opportunity to learn about and explore all areas of the medical sciences. Many of those thousands of students became doctors, nurses, scientists, paramedics, dentists, etc.

Having been raised in and of service to the community through Mount Sinai and then Zion Baptist Church in conjunction with his love of music, marching bands, and having been a professional drummer since the age of 14, he joined forces with other youth leaders and established an afterschool and church youth program that formed the Zion Ambassadors Drum & Bugle Corp. This program gave Brooklyn youth a safe place to socialize, receive academic tutoring, and learn musical instruments along with structure and discipline. Many of those youth used those skills to become ceremony officers for the New York Police Department, play in military marching bands for the United States, and various other forms of professional musicians.

As an Assistant Pastor and founding member of New Life Ministries in Hempstead, NY, (where his wife, Dr. Katherine Corbett serves as the Senior Pastor) he continued his life work of service. You rarely found him in the pulpit or in ministerial garments. He was often in everyday or work clothes cleaning, fixing, helping, and of course, serving. He didn’t need a collar for people to acknowledge him as a minister, they saw it in how he served the people. Especially through his smile, hand shake, hug, listening ear, and words of encouragement. If he saw a need, he just went to work to resolve it. His dedication to feeding families through the

Frank Reilly Sr. Food Pantry at New Life, no matter the weather or pandemic, is a prime example.

In 2004, Pastor Corbett was introduced to the Helping Hand Mission by his daughter, Kandaka Immanuel. “My great-grandmother, Pearl Beatty Stokes, would always tell me that if I needed help to find a Helping Hand Mission. When I relocated to Raleigh to establish a new life, fresh out of the Army, I needed a lot of things to establish my new home. I remembered what my Granny Pearl said and took a chance to see if such a place existed in the yellow pages. I was actually surprised to find that there was indeed a Helping Hand Mission. I was able to get everything I needed for my home and I met and fell in love with Ms. Sylvia and The Mission. My father having the same love for people and service through outreach and the arts as Ms. Sylvia and the Helping Hand Mission team, it was imperative that they meet. And it was love at first sight, if you

will, for my Dad too. Whenever he would come to visit from NY he made it a priority to get to and help support and serve at Helping Hand. I’m grateful he was able to be a part of receiving the honor of the The Corbett Room dedication at New Bern House in the summer of 2024.” recalls Ms. Immanuel.

Now today, The Corbett Room stands as more than just a dining hall. It is a place of connection, nourishment, and reflection. Pastor Corbett’s picture now hangs prominently on the wall—a visual reminder of his life of service and the village-minded love he extended to all who crossed his path.

“He was passionate about helping people who were down and out,” Sylvia Wiggins shared. “He was a servant leader who believed in helping those who were in need. His eyes would light up whenever he visited The New Bern House and saw all the people coming in to eat and receive a helping hand.

Celebrating the Life of Timothy B. Prince

By Jordan Meadows

Staff Writer

Timothy B. Prince, a youth violence prevention specialist and community leader, passed away on September 4, 2025, at the age of 51.

Prince was born and raised in Raleigh, graduated from Broughton High School in 1992, and later pursued Criminal Justice at Wake Technical Community College. For over 17 years, he worked in customer service and retail, where he developed leadership and communication skills.

In 2015, Prince co-founded Team Truth 919, a nonprofit focused on breaking cycles of violence and offering mentorship, tools, and resources to at-risk youth. The organization was revamped in 2019, and soon after, began working closely with the Raleigh Police Department and other local agencies.

Their events became staples in the community: a 100,000-mask give-



away during the pandemic, a massive food distribution at Southeast Raleigh High School that gave out over 60,000 pounds of food in one

day, and the “100 Men A 100 Suits” event in Nash Park that brought together men for unity, mentorship, and encouragement.

Through Teen Talk Tuesdays at Tarboro Road Community Center and support groups for grieving families, Prince helped countless individuals process trauma and envision a better future.

One of his most impactful efforts was supporting at-risk students at Knightdale High School. The program began with 11 students; four have since graduated, and five more have been promoted. Tim was also involved with Boots on the Ground, Catch the Kite Outreach, and the Truth for Raleigh Campaign Team.

In 2022, he organized the memorial event for 18-year-old Jahar Hill, who was killed in a shooting.

His message to youth was always clear: there’s a better way.

“I think his ultimate message to the youth will be: there’s a better

way. Perseverance, education, and God is the way to success. Stay out of the streets,” said Sean Barts, a close friend of Tim’s for over 40 years. “He’s always had that caring and giving spirit. He didn’t have any enemies anywhere. He had a genuine soul.”

Prince also had a fun side: he loved sneakers and was known for his impressive collection. But more than anything, he loved his family. He was a dedicated husband and father.

At his memorial service held at Popular Springs Christian Church, more than 850 people packed into the building—far beyond its capacity. It was a powerful display of how many lives he touched.

Outside of his community work, for the last five years, Prince had devoted his time to his church. His faith was central to his identity, and his involvement in the church was a passion.

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2025 Man of the Year

Pastor William "Billy" Eli Ratcliff
Honoree
Lincoln Park Holiness Church
Raleigh, NC 27610
Date: August 31, 2025

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Pastor William “Billy” Eli Ratcliff was honored as the BF Corbett Leadership Academy’s 2025 Man of the Year for his unwavering service, leadership, and commitment to uplifting the Raleigh community and inspiring the next generation of young men.

Remembering Mrs. Nurry Turner Johnson



NURRY AND JOHN JOHNSON

Education, from NC Central University. She continued her studies at institutions, including Catholic University, NC Agriculture &

Technical State University, East Carolina University, NC State University, and the University of Denver, always committed to personal

growth and academic excellence.

Mrs. Johnson began her distinguished 37-year career in education at Franklin Co. Training School in Louisburg, NC, serving as both a teacher and librarian. After three years, she returned to her Raleigh roots to work at the Richard B. Harrison Public Library before joining Shaw University. There, she rose from librarian to Assistant Professor of Business Education, guiding students and mentoring colleagues for over 16 years.

In 1973, she joined the Wake County Public School System, where she taught middle school students for 18 years. She was a firm believer in the African proverb, “It takes a village to raise a child,” and she lived this truth fully, uplifting students, advocating for teachers’ rights, and actively participating in the National Education Association, the North Carolina Association of Educators, and the American Business Asso-

(See NURRY JOHNSON, P. 9)

Practical Biblical Principles

SEARCH ME LORD

Read: Psalms 139: 7-15

By John L. Caldwell, Pastor New Jerusalem Baptist Cathedral Paul had just come out of the trouble in the Corinthian church dealing with who baptized who, and who is the lead preacher in the church (1 Corinthians 12:1-13). Paul also had to address the issue of immorality in the Corinthian church (1 Corinthians 5:1-2). These are but a few of the moral issues Paul had to deal with during his stay in Corinth.

It was soon after Paul had his experience with the thorn in his flesh (2 Corinthians 12: 7), did he find it necessary to tell the church that they should examine themselves (2 Corinthians 13:5)?

It challenges my mind when I think of how well king David knew God while he was a little shepherd boy tending his father’s sheep in the fields all alone. This is evident in that David wrote more than seventy-five psalms to God to be sung in the temple. No other king of Israel has ever done such homage and praise to God in this manner.

14).

This is the way all of God’s children should be. That is, having a strong, deep relationship with God. Otherwise, we will find ourselves having wasted our time while here on the earth and this would be a shame. Having the gift of life and not being able to show anything for it. King David was really “into God” so to speak, and he wanted God to be into him. Like you and I should do daily, King David presented himself to God to be examined. David wanted to know from God, whether he, David, was the “real thing” (true Christian) in the sight of Almighty God. David wanted to know if God sees him as a vessel of gold or wood, someone worthy or unworthy to serve Him. Like David, you and I should always want to know our spiritual status before God.

“O Lord, You have searched me and known me. You know my sitting down and my rising up; You understand my thoughts afar off. You comprehend my path and my lying down and are acquainted with all my ways. For there is not a word on my tongue, but behold, O Lord, You, know it altogether.” (Psalms 139:1-4). With God’s Universal Presence and Infinite Knowledge, He knows our every thought, word, Act. Nothing is hidden from Him.

How often do we pray to God and confess that we realize He knows everything about us. Are there things that you don’t want God to know that is in your heart? He already knows what is in our hearts. Yet, for some of us, we still try to hide secrets from

the God who knows everything about us, including those so-called hidden thoughts that we don’t want God to know that we are thinking. It is easier to “come clean with God,” so to speak, more so for us to “come clean” about ourselves at times. The more we confess to God about our shortcomings in ourselves, it will be easier for us to request and desire that He examines us on a daily or timely basis.

“Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence? If I ascend into heaven, You are there; If I make my bed in hell, behold, You are there. If I take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, Even there Your hand shall lead me; And Your right hand shall hold” me. If I say, “Surely the darkness shall fall on me,” even the night shall be light about me,” (Psalms 139:7-11).

What King David is saying to all of us today, we cannot run from God no matter what our circumstances and problems are. God will find us. It will not take long for the “hounds of heaven” to track us down and hold us until the Father arrives to retrieve us. When the doctor examines us, do we not want to know if there is anything wrong with our bodies? When God examines us, do we not want God to tell us what is wrong or right with our souls?

Search me, Lord! Search me! If you find anything that shouldn’t be, take it out and straighten me. I want to be right, I want to be saved, I want to be whole.

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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.

Congress Must Restore IP Protection To Drive US Innovation

By Judge Paul Michel (ret.)

Founding a successful startup has never been easy, but a little-known U.S. Supreme Court ruling has made it even more difficult in recent years by enabling corporations that use startups' patented technology without permission to get off nearly scot-free.

Now, Congress has a chance to set things right. On Feb. 25, Sens. Chris Coons, D-Del., and Tom Cotton, R-Ark., reintroduced the Realizing Engineering, Science, and Technology Opportunities by Restoring Exclusive, or RESTORE, Patent Rights Act, a bipartisan bill that would enable start-ups and other patent holders to block infringers from unlawfully exploiting their patented technology.

For nearly all of our country's history, an injunction — a court order stopping infringers from continuing to use and sell technology without permission — was the standard remedy for patent infringement.

By enforcing exclusive rights as articulated in the U.S. Constitution and patent law, courts upheld the principle that inventors, not usurpers, should control how their technology is used and marketed. It incentivized investment in high-cost, high-risk, high-reward research, and provided startups and small businesses with a fighting chance against entrenched companies, including industry giants.

But the Supreme Court's 2006 decision in eBay Inc. v. MercExchange LLC upended this long-standing principle. The ruling imposed a multifactor balancing test that made it significantly harder, if not impossible, for many inventors and patent holders to obtain an injunction and block unauthorized use, even after proving infringement.

Since the eBay decision, injunction grants in patent infringement cases dropped by more than 65% for operating companies and over 90% for startups, research institutions, or others that do not manufacture products that incorporate the patented technologies.

Patent owners have functionally lost control over the patented innovations they own. The eBay ruling effectively legalized forced patent licensing, stripping inventors of their exclusive rights while letting industry titans and other infringers profit from copied or stolen innovation.

This erosion of patent rights is undermining America's innovation economy. IP-intensive industries contribute over 40% of U.S. GDP and support tens of millions of jobs, according to U.S. Patent and Trademark Office data from 2019. But as patent protections weaken, investment in cutting-edge research slows. Venture capitalists become increasingly hesitant to fund startups and small companies when patents can no longer provide meaningful protection.

The RESTORE Patent Rights Act would fix the problem. The bill would reestablish injunctions as the default remedy for proven patent infringement, just as they were prior to the eBay decision.

By passing the RESTORE Patent Rights Act, Congress would create real consequences for patent copying, deterring large corporate infringers that currently see litigation as just another cost of doing business. The bill would restore confidence in the U.S. patent system, giving startups and inventors the protection they need to take risks and drive technological progress. And it would keep America economically competitive in the race for next-generation technologies.

For nearly two decades, the eBay decision has distorted our innovation ecosystem, rewarding copying over creation and corporate might over individual ingenuity. The RESTORE Patent Rights Act offers an opportunity to correct the course we are on. Congress should not hesitate to take it.

Paul Michel served on the United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit from 1988 to his retirement in 2010, and as its chief judge from 2004 to 2010. He currently serves on the board of the Council for Innovation Promotion.



PUNCHING A HIGHER FLOOR

I had never heard of Charlie Kirk. As a matter of fact, I thought it was another commentator who had been killed—one who was a conservative Republican critical of Donald Trump with a similar name. Then I was introduced through media to a 31-year-old white male with two small children and a wife, who had flown under my radar, and had become a millionaire by going on college campuses basically teaching that America belongs to the white race and that any other race are invaders. He is described as a Christian nationalist, who believed—by his own description—that he was following the teachings of Jesus Christ. At least that's what he believed, because now he's dead.

My immediate thought as I watched the news was how sad this is—that these two small children will probably not remember their father, their mother has lost her husband, and parents and siblings have lost a family member. My second thought was that something was wrong here. Of course, the first speculation was that some left-wing Democrat had done this heinous act, or some immigrant, African American, or other so-called ethnic American. For me, that was ludicrous. If any of those descriptions had fit someone on that campus, they would have been arrested immediately. Then we heard that two suspects had been arrested and released, and that the manhunt was nationwide. Next, we got a video of a male jumping down off the roof of a building and just walking into the woods in describable clothing and an identifiable hat, T-shirt, and backpack with no weapon. It was said that he disassembled the weapon and put it in his backpack, but later it was found in the woods, assembled. Curious, and curiouser—but I'll leave that alone.

Charlie Kirk said some truly horrible things: "It was a mistake to pass the Civil Rights Act in 1964." "Jewish money is ruining American culture." "Gay people should be put to death." "The Second Amendment is worth the cost of some gun deaths." "MLK Jr. was not a good person."

Awful is the only way to describe him. He claimed Black women like Joy Reid, Ketanji Brown Jackson, Sheila Jackson Lee, and Michelle Obama only achieved what they did because of affirmative action, saying they lacked the brainpower to otherwise be taken seriously, and that they stole a white person's slot. Wow, right?

This is 2025, yet someone different is in the White House and his reactions are unlike any I've seen from a President in my lifetime. He said, "Charlie Kirk was a great American," and ordered flags flown at half-mast. What did I expect? He echoes Charlie's sentiments. I'm thinking there must be two different Bibles—one for Christian nationalists and the other, the one I read. I thought being Christian meant modeling our lives after Jesus, taking his words literally, and treating others the way we want to be treated. The rhetoric of Christian nationalism ignores what Jesus says about loving your neighbors, feeding the poor, healing the sick, and so on. Would Charlie and others really think his death—white-on-white crime and gun violence—was a worthy sacrifice for the sake of allowing Americans to carry guns and kill people they dislike? What do they truly believe?

Have they even thought about the character of God, who created human beings with differences, none denoting inferiority or superiority? How do they explain that to themselves? What did Jesus mean when he said to welcome immigrants? Do they think they're working for God when they claim the right to kill people whose behavior or beliefs they dislike? What about God's command not to kill? And "vengeance is mine, says the Lord"? What Bible are they reading that allows them to ignore those words?

For me, to truly believe in God means staying the course. That means praying, but more than that—fellowshipping with others who believe as I do, singing, and most importantly working to actualize the words of Jesus in everyday life. No matter what, it means treating others the way I want to be treated: encouraging children, no matter their mistakes; smiling and speaking to frowning people, even if they don't smile back; working for justice; feeding the hungry and homeless, even if I'm hungry myself. This world is not my home. I refuse to be a military soldier. I will not go kill people I don't know.

Our priorities are woefully wrong. Instead of studying war, we should study each other. Instead of becoming great orators, we need to learn to truly communicate—to understand each other and speak so as to be understood. When are we going to get it? Amassing "stuff" has never saved anyone. Egyptian tombs proved it. No matter how much those pharaohs buried with themselves, they still died, and the treasures remained. Flesh and blood does not inherit heaven. Surely we see this every time we attend a funeral—the person we knew is gone, and their body stays behind.

Finally, let me say this: if you don't understand why the slogan "Black Lives Matter" continues to be shouted from the rooftops, consider this. David Rose, an African American police officer, was killed defending a federal building. I doubt you heard his name. But Charlie Kirk, a man who spewed racist, homophobic, chauvinistic rhetoric, had his body flown on Air Force One, escorted by the Vice President, declared a "great American," scheduled to receive a Presidential Medal of Honor, honored with a congressional moment of silence, and given a funeral attended by Trump.

From the Christian nationalist point of view, when we say "Black Lives Matter," they respond, "No, you don't." So we must lead the way. That is our duty, our purpose here, the reason our souls wear this disguise of skin color, while history is being rewritten.

We don't have time to feel sorry for Charlie Kirk. But we must feel sorry for the violent thoughts and actions that deploy guns as weapons of war. Our war is on a higher level. As Lenny Kravitz said at the Emmys last night: "If the elevator tries to bring you down, go crazy and punch a higher floor."



SO BUSY, SO TIRED

As a nonprofit leader — whether as a volunteer or staff — you set the tone for your team. Your tone is communicated through words and actions, and it can motivate or depress others. Ideally, you want to communicate energy, enthusiasm, optimism, and spirit. Being energized is contagious. As a leader, you want to impact your team and donors in a positive way.

Serving as a motivational leader doesn't mean being happy all the time. Things happen, and you want to be honest and upfront; don't try to hide things. But it's also important that you take responsibility for your words and actions. When you are "so busy" and "so tired," there is fallout. Sometimes this is because you are burned out. If this is the case, check out our interview with Cait Donovan: she has lots of guidance relating to burnout.

If your moaning and groaning isn't related to burnout, it could be that you're not organized, aren't working from a plan, or are unable to execute. These words may sound harsh, but they are often an underlying reality, especially for under-resourced organizations and institutions. When you feel pressed to "get the money now," you may not feel you have the time to build your infrastructure and capacity. But when you are doing the best you can — without systems to support you, things can pile up quickly and become overwhelming. When you let that get to you — and aren't working to change things — those you interact with can lose faith. They may interpret your inability to return emails and communications as disinterest. They may think you are taking on too much and may question your leadership. This can compound your challenges, as you both want and need a team.

Moaning and groaning can be misinterpreted by others. They may see you as self-centered. They may feel that you don't value the time and resources they give. It can also be seen as a way to get attention, or to let people know how busy (i.e., important) you are. It could be a habit. Maybe it's part of your culture. As a leader, it could indicate that you aren't focused, that you feel overwhelmed, or that you aren't able to allocate adequate time to fundraising. You can address these. We are all busy adjusting and changing — that's what makes us human. Sure, it might take time, but you and your team are worthy of the change. A constant display of excuses is a turnoff, and that is the last thing you want as a nonprofit leader. God protect America and the world we live in.

NURRY JOHNSON

Continued from page 8

ciation.

Beyond her professional accomplishments, Mrs. Johnson lived a life full of joy, adventure, and community service. She and her devoted husband, John M. Johnson, shared many passions, including tennis, world travel, and competitive ridge, earning the distinguished title of Life Masters in the American Bridge Association. Nurry's travel adventures took her across the globe, to West Africa, Jamaica, Europe, New Zealand, the Holy Land, and beyond.

A dedicated public servant, she gave generously of her time and talents. She served three terms on the City of Raleigh Parks and Recreation and Greenway Advisory Board as a Diamond Lifetime member of Delta Sigma theta Sorority, Inc., and volunteered with the Special Olympics, including during the 1999 World Games. In the early 1970s, she played a pivotal role in the integration of Wake County Public Schools, presenting the country's busing plan in Federal Court, a powerful testament to her commitment to justice and equity.

Faith was the cornerstone of Mrs. Johnson's life. A lifelong and devoted member of Wilson Temple United Methodist Church, she served in nearly every capacity imaginable. Her heart for service radiated in all she did, and she touched countless lives within her church family and far beyond.

She found deep joy in her family and delighted in the company of her husband, daughters, granddaughters, nieces, nephews, and extended "village" of friends, students, and sorors. She enjoyed needlepoint, scrapbooking, Sudoku, and capturing memories through photos and stories. Every holiday, family gathering, or a quiet moment spent with her granddaughters, Taelor and Sydni, was a gift she treasured deeply. In 2008, she was blessed with an Ethiopian granddaughter, Hirut, and they shared a love of family and service through cherished memories.

Mrs. Johnson was preceded in death by her loving husband, John M. Johnson; her brother, Wilbert Lassiter; and he parents, Robert Turner and Vernelle turner. She is survived by her devoted daughters, Mischelle J. Corbin and Kimberley J. Scott; her "bonus son," William M. Peebles "Champ" (Gia); her precious granddaughters, Taelor Scott and Sydni Scott; adopted granddaughter, Hirut G. Kollech (Nahom); cherished nieces, Hope Lassiter, Tiffini Poole (Greg), Shannon Mewton (Paul), and Barbara Hairston (Michael), and nephews, Wilbert Lassiter (Nina), Juan Lassiter, and Shamus Johnson; her canine son, Lord Ashton Demetrius Johnson, along with a host of sorors, students, colleagues, and dear friends.

Her life was a beautiful tapestry of love, leadership, education, and unwavering faith. Mrs. Nurry T. Johnson walked through this world with grace and dignity, always lifting others as she climbed. Her light will forever shine in the lives she touched and the community she deeply loved.



Classifieds

DURHAM COUNTY

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
File Number 25E001099-310

ALL PERSONS, firms and corporations having claims against LYNNISE MICHELLE HAWES, deceased, of Durham County, N.C., are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before 12/18/2025, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This September 18, 2025.

Diann Walker
503 Dunbar St
Durham, NC 27701

9/18, 9/25, 10/2, and 10/9/2025

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Estate Of Brenda Joyce Mcneil
File No. 23E004613-910

All person, firms and corporations having claims against BRENDA JOYCE MCNEIL, deceased, of Wake County, NC, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before December 19, 2025, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 18th day of September, 2025.

Bonnie L. McNeil, Administrator, c/o Blue LLP, 205 Fayetteville St, Suite 300, Raleigh, NC 27601. The Carolinian, 9/18, 9/25, 10/2, and 10/9/2025

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF DOROTHY Y. JENNETTE
File Number 25E001023-310

ALL PERSONS, firms, and corporations having claims against Dorothy Y. Jennette, deceased, of Durham County, N.C., are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before December 19, 2025 or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This 18th day of September 2025, Floyd B. McKissick, III, McKissick & McKissick, 835 N Mangum Street, Durham, NC 27701; The Carolinian, 9/18, 9/25, 10/2, and 10/9/2025

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 Personal Representative, Reuben Tobia Singletary
24 Stonewall Way
Durham, NC 27704

9/4, 9/11, 9/18, and 9/25/2025

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

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

Crystal DeSilva v. Christopher Jamison

To: Christopher Jamison: Take notice that a pleading seeking relief against you has been filed in the

above-entitled action. The nature of the relief being sought against you is as follows: Partition for Partition and to Sell Property. The Petitioner wishes to sell real property for Christoper Jamison has an interest .

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

This the 4th day of September, 2025.

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

9/4, 9/11, 9/18, and 9/25/2025

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

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

THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 1st day of August 2025, as EXECUTOR of the Estate of SHIRLEY VIRGINIA WALKER, Deceased, of Durham County, North Carolina, does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said Estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 28th day of November, 2025 or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said Estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This, the 28th day of August 2025.

Diane Renae Smith, Executor
2555 Chadwick Place
Durham, NC 27704

8/28, 9/4, 9/11, and 9/18/2025

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

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

THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 20th day of August 2025, as EXECUTOR of the Estate of JOHN FRANCIS HEIDLAGE, Deceased, of Durham County, North Carolina, does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said Estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 28th day of November, 2025 or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said Estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This, the 28th day of August 2025.

Joan Frances Walsh, Executor
2600 Croasdaile Farm Parkway
Apt. A 315
Durham, NC 27705

8/28, 9/4, 9/11, and 9/18/2025

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF DURHAM

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

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

This, the 28th day of August 2025.

EDWARD J. FALCONE
Attorney for the Estate of DONNA MCFARLAND ADAMS
120 E. Parrish Street, Suite 200
Durham, North Carolina 27701
(919)682-9273

8/28, 9/4, 9/11, and 9/18/2025

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
File Number 25E001061-310

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

Deborah A Sorrell
5833 Ridgeview Rd.
Durham, NC 27712

IPL0266388

8/28, 9/4, 9/11, and 9/18/2025

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice, Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File Number 24E002600-310

THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 12th day of December 2024, as EXECUTOR of the Estate of DAVID THOMAS PLETCHER, Deceased, of Durham County, North Carolina, does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said Estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 28th day of November, 2025 or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said Estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This, the 28th day of August 2025.

Ashlee Russeau-Pletcher
Executor
1331 Hamlin Rd.
Durham, NC 27704

8/28, 9/4, 9/11, and 9/18/2025

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice, Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File Number 25E001083-310

THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 19th day of August 2025, as CO-EXECUTORS of the Estate of WEN L. BUCHER, Deceased, of Durham County, North Carolina, does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said Estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 28th day of November, 2025 or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said Estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This, the 28th day of August 2025.

Chingna Shaw, Co-Executor
311 Falls Village Dr.
Durham, NC 27703

George Shaw, Co-Executor
123 Colonial Rd.
Great Neck, NY 11021

8/28, 9/4, 9/11, and 9/18/2025

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice, Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File Number 25E001074-310

THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 15th day of August 2025, as ADMINISTRATOR of the Estate of BETTY ROSE DILLARD FREI, Deceased, of Durham County, North Carolina, does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said Estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 28th day of November, 2025 or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said Estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This, the 28th day of August 2025.

Elizabeth Anne Frei, Administrator
706 Frasier St.
Durham, NC 27704

8/28, 9/4, 9/11, and 9/18/2025

WAKE COUNTY

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
WAKE COUNTY

COMPLAINT TO ENFORCE POSSESSORY LIEN ON MOTOR VEHICLE
In The General Court Of Justice
District Court Division
Small Claims
File No. 25CV031993-910

VICTOR CASTILLO, Plaintiff VS. UNKNOWN OWNER VIN NO. 5LVBV12126A012261, Defendant
TO UNKNOWN OWNER: TAKE NOTICE the petitioner has filed with the clerk a petition in proper form indicating that the petitioner has a valid lien against a 2006 HOLMES, ID No. 5LVBV12126A012261 and that the petitioner shall have the right to sell to the highest bidder the motor vehicle listed on October 27, 2025 at WCCH, 316 Fayetteville St., 3rd Floor, Raleigh, NC 27601, at 9:30 a.m. You are required to make a defense to such pleading before such date and time.

This the 18th day of September, 2025.

Victor Castillo, Plaintiff
3944 Haitcock Rd.
Raleigh, NC 27604

9/18, 9/25, and 10/2/2025

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
WAKE COUNTY

NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION
In District Court-Civil Proceedings
File Number 23CV023466-910

CELIA VIVIAN ARAGON CRUZ, Plaintiff VS. PERCY RAPHEAL BROWN, Defendant
TO PERCY RAPHEAL BROWN:

Take notice that is hereby given, that in the hearing for Plaintiff's Motion to Compel on the above referenced matter originally issued August 23, 2023, has been continued. The new hearing date is set for December 3, 2025 at 9:00am, to be held at the Wake County Courthouse, located at 316 Fayetteville St, Raleigh, NC 27601, District Courtroom 2C. This continuance order was issued by the Clerk of Superior Court on September 2, 2025. You are required to make an appearance, and upon your failure to do so the party seeking service against you will apply to the court for the relief sought. This, the 18th day of September, 2025.

9/18, 9/25, and 10/2/2025

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
WAKE COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice, Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File Number 25E003404-910

THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 29th day of August 2025, as ADMINISTRATOR of the Estate of THOMAS AUSTIN OLANDER, Deceased, of Wake County, North Carolina, does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said Estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 5th day of December, 2025 or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said Estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This, the 4th day of September 2025.

Jeffrey Eric Olander, Administrator
501 Driewood Court
Raleigh, NC 27609

9/4, 9/11, 9/18, and 9/25/2025

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
WAKE COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice, Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File Number 25E002720-910

THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 25th day of August 2025, as EXECUTOR of the Estate of KAREN FAITH MERRIS, Deceased, of Wake County, North Carolina, does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said Estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 5th day of December, 2025 or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said Estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This, the 4th day of September 2025.

Mark Douglas Weber, Executor
4901 Silver Fox Lane
Efland, NC 27243

9/4, 9/11, 9/18, and 9/25/2025

NORTH CAROLINA
WAKE COUNTY

NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION
In the General Court of Justice
Superior Court Division
Before The Clerk
FILE NUMBER 25 SP 001372-910

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

Classifieds

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

REQUEST FOR BID

REHAB OF 1801-1807 SUMMERDALE DRIVE

The City of Raleigh will accept sealed, written bids for the rehabilitation of the property located at 1801-1807 Summerdale Drive, Raleigh, NC 27604 until October 17, 2025, at 2:00 p.m. (EST). Bids can be submitted at the City of Raleigh’s Housing and Community Development Department at 421 Fayetteville St, Suite 1200, Raleigh, NC 27601 at which time and place bids will be publicly opened and read aloud for the construction of the Rehab of 1801-1807 Summerdale Drive project.

A mandatory on-site pre-bid meeting will be held on September 22, 2025, at 2:00 p.m. (EST) at 1801-1807 Summerdale Drive, Raleigh, NC 27604. Information is also posted on the North Carolina Electronic Vendor Portal (eVP): <https://www.evp.nc.gov>.

The City reserves the right to reject all bids.

D/M/WBE

SUBCONTRACTORS/SUPPLIERS WANTED

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

Bid Date: 09/23/2025 at 2:00 PM

Project: Replace Bridge #77 Over Fishing Creek in Halifax County (Division 4)

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

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

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

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

TA Loving Company is an Equal Opportunity Employer

DeFord Baily And—CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

Exum, who was fascinated by Baily’s harmonica playing and began featuring him on radio station WDAD once Exum launched the enterprise in mid-September 1925. Here, Bailey met harmonica player and stringband leader Dr. Humphrey Bate, a country doctor from Castalian Springs, Tennessee, who began performing over Nashville’s powerful WSM not long after its October 5, 1925, debut. Within months, Bate persuaded Bailey to come with him one night to appear on the show then called the WSM Barn Dance and then convinced station manager George D. Hay to let Bailey perform without an audition. By June 1926, Bailey was making regular appearances, and Hay soon dubbed him “The Harmonica Wizard.” Bailey was a dazzling performer, whose renditions of “Fox Chase,” “Pan American Blues,” and other tunes became harmonica classics. For the next fifteen years, Bailey remained one of the program’s best loved—and highest paid—stars. One evening in 1927, Hay spontaneously renamed the “WSM Barn Dance” while introducing several

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

How NC University Computer Science Programs Are Adapting To An AI World

Carolina Public Press—The depleted job market for new graduates of computer science has garnered national attention, with Federal Reserve Bank of New York data showing that computer science graduates are among the highest rates of unemployment at 6.1%. The New York Times reported that with major companies like Microsoft and Amazon laying off workers and instead opting to implement artificial intelligence for its coding properties could be the culprit of the bleak market. North Carolina’s top three universities in the Research Triangle all sit in the U.S. News and World Reports’ list of best schools for computer science with Duke University being ranked 25th, UNC-Chapel Hill ranked 27th and NC State University ranked 51st. How are these universities responding to the challenges their students face as they head into the work force? A struggling market Casey Dockery graduated from NC State in 2024 after just three years with a bachelor’s degree in computer science and a minor in graphic communications. He’s been looking for a job in his field for close to 16 months now, and he typically filters for jobs pertaining to web and software development. While he said a remote job would be nice, he’s open to any opportunities in the field. When Dockery was nearing graduation last year, he had already prepared himself for the reality of the market. His fears were unfortunately validated. “Before I started my last semester, I pretty much knew that the job market was going to be really bad,” he said. “So I put in a lot of applications for jobs that I would have liked to have

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

gotten like the web developer positions, but I knew those would be competitive. And it was true, as I never got a single interview for a very long time.” He decided to look for work at companies that didn’t necessarily have computer science positions available at the time but could have some open up later. This strategy would get his foot in the door somewhere adjacent to his desired career in the meantime, he said. He started working as a material handler at a biotech company, where he has stayed for eight months. Shortly after hiring him, the company gutted the IT department and stopped hiring for computer science jobs altogether. Getting an interview is the hardest part, Dockery said. Besides the one needed for his current job, he’s gotten one interview for a computer science job since graduating. He had two referrals for that company, so he felt his chances were better than most. He made it through three rounds of interviews, which took three weeks to complete. In the final round, Dockery felt blindsided by the difficulty of the questions for a job that was supposedly entry-level. “It seemed to me that the requirements for the job position were very light,” Dockery said. “But then whenever I actually got to the final round, they started asking difficult questions — higher than entry-level. And then I even asked the people that work there currently in the position I applied for, and they said that they didn’t even know the answers to those questions.” Dockery decided to study computer science at the age of seven, when he learned his interest in computers was something that could be an actual career, not necessarily because it offered job security or a comfortable

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)

salary. When he started at NC State in 2021, he was constantly validated by his peers who said it would be easy for him to find a job, that he would be set for life. He felt confident in his career path but still worked hard to get an internship while in school, though he wasn’t able to land one. As he began his third year in 2023, the year he was set to graduate, Dockery felt a tone shift. “I realized that it wasn’t going to be easy, because I saw how the computer science job market was,” he said. “Videos on Instagram, like making fun of computer science majors going to be homeless, stuff like that. So yeah, starting out, I definitely thought that it was going to be a lot easier than it was.” AI’s impact on computer science Like many, Dockery believes AI is playing a significant role in the direction the computer science market is heading — specifically the entry-level roles. “It seems like mid-level and seniors especially aren’t as impacted. It seems like it’s not that hard to transition from job to job once you get a little bit of experience,” he said. “Just getting your foot in the door is the most difficult part. And obviously, AI would mostly impact entry-level jobs because it’s the easiest work and it’s the most easily replicated by AI.” Generative AI tools like Chat-GPT are able to write and debug code, some of the most basic requirements of computer scientists. Microsoft’s Copilot, touted by the tech giant as “Your AI Companion,” is specifically designed for writing code and answering coding-related questions. Claude is even more involved, coding even what Dockery called the creative aspects of code, not just the technical. Sarah Heckman, Director of Undergraduate Programs at NC State’s Department of Computer Science, said she thinks of AI as a way to enhance the developer’s experience and

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

increase productivity. Ultimately, the engineer still needs to understand coding and debugging techniques on their own. The most important thing about coding is the creation of value. That’s where the human on the other end of the computer is necessary, because it’s not the code itself that provides value but the way the code is put together. “There’s still that human in the loop because the AI is not going to create it on its own,” she said. “You’re going to have to prompt the AI tool to provide some of that feedback for you and then integrate it into a working system. So enhance, not replace, is the way I like to think of it.” AI can also support software engineering skills through helping the engineer understand the design and explore its requirements. Jian Pei, chair of the computer science department at Duke University, said coding still requires people in order to guide the process and, essentially, make the computer work. But instead of coding line-by-line, AI speeds the process. That’s the most important change overall, and students need to be able to use those tools to their advantage in order to be the most efficient, he said. “We should not abandon the students and say, ‘Oh, hey students, you cannot use AI to do your homework,’” he said. “Instead we should encourage the student to think about what is the best way to use AI tools to help you to do the homework.” Universities adjust Computer scientists see the rapid development of AI as both a challenge and an opportunity, Pei said. While it is true that computer scientists whose sole skill is the traditional form of coding may struggle to find work as AI becomes more prevalent, Pei said AI has other places within the discipline that can create more jobs such as machine learning and data science.

DEBANKING

Continued from page 4

tions by December 5, 2025: Identify any past or current formal or informal policies or practices that require, encourage, or otherwise influence their institution to engage in politicized or unlawful debanking as specified by the Fair Banking Executive Order. Make reasonable efforts to identify and reinstate any previous clients of their institution or any subsidiaries denied service through a politicized or unlawful debanking action in violation of a statutory or regulatory requirement under section 7(a) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636) or any requirement in a Standard Operating Procedures Manual or Policy Notice, and send notice of the reinstatement to the injured party; Identify all potential clients denied access to financial services provided by their institution or any subsidiaries through a politicized or unlawful debanking action in violation of a statutory or regulatory requirement under section 7(a) of the Small Business Act or any requirement in a Standard Operating Procedures Manual or Policy Notice, and provide notice to each otherwise qualified client advising of the denied access and the renewed option to engage in such services previously denied; and Identify all potential clients denied access to payment processing services provided by your institution or any subsidiaries through a politicized or unlawful debanking action in violation of a statutory or regulatory requirement under section 7(a) of the Small Business Act or any requirement in a Standard Operating Procedures Manual or Policy Notice, and provide notice to each victim advising of the denied access and the renewed option to engage in such services previously denied. Lenders must submit a report to the SBA by January 5, 2026, addressing and evidencing their compliance with the above directives to remain in good standing with the agency and avoid punitive measures.

Sports

From The Court To The Page: Stephen Curry’s ‘Shot Ready’

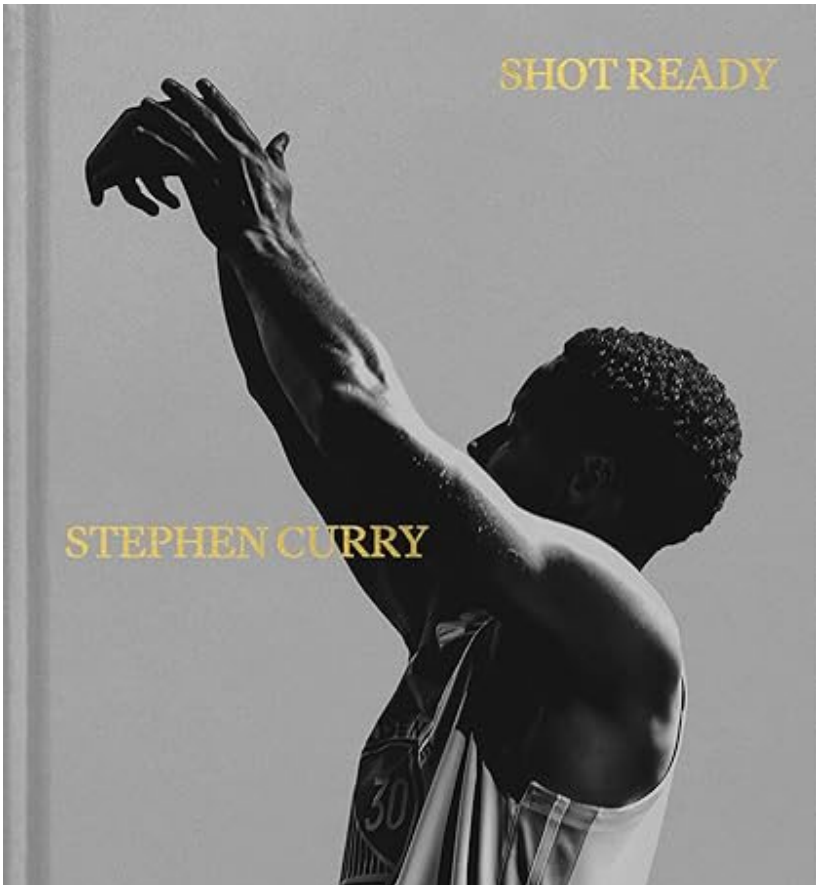
Stephen Curry is going down memory lane, though still has eyes on what’s next.

Curry’s book “Shot Ready” was released this week and the immediate reviews are overwhelmingly positive; Amazon quickly had it ranked among its top 10 current best-sellers and atop its sports book charts.

Over more than 400 pages and with more than 100 photographs, many of them of the behind-the-scenes variety, the Golden State Warriors star guard — a four-time NBA champion, an Olympic gold medalist and the league’s career 3-point leader — said he’s simply trying to give fans a new look inside his mind and at his process.

“We wanted to have something tangible, not just from a sports perspective but from a life perspective and show all the different highs and lows that I’ve been through and what people have instilled in me,” Curry said. “It just made sense, especially while I’m still under the bright lights on the court playing. It’s a moment of reflection but also for me, it’s a moment to motivate me to keep going and get everything else I can out of this game.”

The book is the latest part of



Curry’s burgeoning empire. He has his Curry Brand with Under Armour, has a multimedia company, is now in the bourbon business, recently announced plans for a restaurant, is trying to grow the game of golf by making it more accessible — and has a nonprofit with his wife Ayesha Curry dedicated largely to providing meals and educational opportunities to children in need.

He also plays basketball — which, obviously, remains the main thing as he enters his 17th NBA season and still at the top of his game.

“I think I’m just going deeper into the things that are exciting and I’m passionate about,” Curry said. “Sometimes, it does feel like it’s a lot. But when you get to a project like this or my Underrated golf tour or the bourbon that’s part of just how I get to celebrate life, I’m passionate about sharing all of that with anybody who’ll listen. I feel like it’s going deeper and it’s a part of just being able to extend the platform and the opportunity to things that matter to me.”

Curry said he selected all the photos that went into the book as well and said this week that he still finds himself often just picking one and

looking at it for a couple minutes to go back to whatever moment was captured — trying to remember exactly what he was thinking and doing at the time.

“Success may not always look the

way you expect, but it’s attainable for all of us when the rigor of our preparation and the depth of our belief meet the urgency of the moment,” Curry wrote. “That’s what it means to be shot ready.”



RAMS DOMINATE LINCOLN UNIVERSITY WITH 51-14 VICTORY

WINSTON-SALEM, NC – The Winston-Salem State University Rams put on a show Saturday evening inside Bowman Gray Stadium, cruising past Lincoln University (PA) 51-14. The win moves the Rams to 2-1 on the season and marks their first 50-point performance since 2018.

Quarterback Daylin Lee led the charge with an efficient 15-of-17 passing day for 251 yards and four touchdowns, while also scoring on a one-yard run. JaQuan Kelly added 108 rushing yards, and Noah Marshall sealed the victory with a 57-yard touchdown run. In total, the Rams racked up 499 yards of offense.

Defensively, Evan Powell tallied 12 tackles, while Chancellor Smith snagged an interception and Jaylyn Norris forced a fumble. The Rams defense also contributed a safety in the third quarter to widen the gap and keep momentum firmly in WSSU’s hands.

The Rams struck early with an 83-yard touchdown from Lee to Davontay Deloatch and never looked back, adding scores from Kaleb Washington, Jayden Grimes, and Timothy Ruff II. WSSU returns to action on September 20, hosting Virginia State at 1 p.m. inside Bowman Gray Stadium.

Terence Crawford Upsets Canelo Alvarez With Historic Performance On Netflix

Terence Crawford will go down as one of the greatest fighters in boxing history.

Crawford (42-0, 31 KOs) dethroned Saul “Canelo” Alvarez of his undisputed super middleweight titles by unanimous decision on Saturday night in front of a sellout crowd of 70,482 at Allegiant Stadium in Las Vegas.

Two judges scored the fight 115-113 in favor of Crawford, while a third scorecard read 116-112, also for the Omaha native. Uncrowned’s unofficial scorecard had Crawford a 115-113 winner.

Crawford was already the first male boxer to win undisputed titles in two weight classes in the four-belt era, and on Saturday, he became the first to win undisputed titles in three different divisions. The American great jumped



up 14 pounds and two divisions for his historic victory over the face of boxing, Alvarez (63-3-2, 39 KOs).

“I told y’all, I’m not here just by coincidence,” Crawford said post-fight. “God blessed me. He made this event, and he made this night just for me. I’ve been telling y’all that.”

Crawford, a skilled switch-hitter, fought the contest entirely out of the southpaw stance. Alvarez’s early attacks were targeted at the midsection, while Crawford established his jab and had success with combination punching and counter left hands. Alvarez switched levels effectively to disguise his shots in the early stages of the bout. Alvarez’s power didn’t seem to affect Crawford too much at any stage in the fight, despite Alvarez being the naturally bigger man.



Lottery Funds Build Bright Beginnings.

The North Carolina Education Lottery has raised over \$12 billion to support our schools, staff, and students across the state. Thanks to lottery funds, thousands of children receive a free NC Pre-K education, helping to prepare them to thrive throughout their educational journey.



Visit MovingNCStudentsForward.com or scan the QR code to see how lottery funds have impacted your community. If lottery funds have benefited you or your student, submit your story to be entered for a chance to earn \$2,000!

