



# The Smallest Elections Can Produce The Largest Results

It is a common myth that important elections only take place every 2 or 4 years. Local elections often take place every year, and because turnout is lower, your vote can actually make even more of a difference.

America has 19,000 cities, towns, and villages with different governmental structures. But they all elect officials to carry out 3 government functions: Executive, Legislative and Legal. The Mayor or City Manager implements the Executive functions; the City Council or Commissioners implement Legislative; and the District Attorney or City Attorney implement Legal functions.

Understanding these roles and their impact is critical if you want to influence choices that affect you and others in your community. Here’s a brief description for each function, with their core responsibilities.

## THE EXECUTIVE – MAYOR OR CITY MANAGER

The Mayor is the elected Executive, responsible for the city’s daily operations. They appoint and dismiss key department heads, usually including the Chief of Police. Mayors are usually responsible for presenting a yearly budget to the City Council for approval, although the Council may amend it. Either the Mayor of the City Council may introduce new laws, depending on each city’s charter. Together they address issues including land use and development, housing, job programs or incentives, transportation policies, investment in parks or libraries, and how much to cooperate with the Federal government on areas like immigration policy or drug issues.

Many cities, particularly those



west of the Mississippi, have non-elected City Managers who are responsible for their daily functions. They’re usually appointed by the City Council, may report to the Council or the Mayor, and their powers vary greatly. Mayors who also have City Managers have less direct power, and sometimes sit on their City Council.

## THE CITY COUNCIL

City Council members have the final vote in creating laws and approving a city budget. They may develop their own initiatives, as well as responding to the mayor’s proposals, and they approve or reject key department heads. The mayor usually has more power than an individual council member and a council super majority may be required to override a Mayor’s veto of Council approved

legislation. Nevertheless, the council has ultimate say on which laws are passed. Some city charters give their Councilmembers the power to select department heads and even direct control over city departments, or allocations of funding in areas that elect them. In these instances, the government is considered a strong Council government.

## COUNTY EXECUTIVE AND

## COUNTY COMMISSIONER

The County Executive and County Commissioners play similar roles to the Mayor and City Council, but for issues affecting an entire county. Counties have their own revenue sources; similar but not always the same as to those that cities have. For instance a county may not have a business tax but a city may have one.

Generally sales and property tax revenue are divided between the city

and the county. County governments have their own parallel budgets. County Executives and Commissioners generally set rules for broad country- wide programs, like transportation initiatives that connect multiple cities. County government also often serve areas of the country that are not incorporated into a municipal government, for instance with police and fire services.

Some municipalities combine city and county governments into one consolidated entity, having the powers of both city and a county, for instance San Francisco, California; Indianapolis, Indiana; and Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

## DISTRICT ATTORNEY/CITY ATTORNEY

The District Attorney (DA) or City Attorney is the chief law enforcer for your community. They have the authority to investigate and bring issues to trial, prosecute criminal offenses (including making certain offences a lower priority for prosecution, as some have done with low-level drug offenses, like marijuana possession), and make sentencing recommendations. County governments have District Attorneys while Cities have City Attorneys. While either position may be elected or appointed, District Attorneys are more likely to be elected.

County District Attorneys also handle felonies whereas Cities are often limited to misdemeanors.

Because a DA deals with felonies they have a particularly important impact on your community including addressing police brutality and misconduct cases. They may work to

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## How ‘Woke’ Went From An Expression In Black Culture To A Conservative Criticism

(AP)—The expression “stay woke” started out as an affirmation for African Americans.

In the past decade it has been used by some Republicans — and some Democrats — as a pejorative for people thought to be too “politically correct,” another term that took on negative connotations as it gained wider use.

“Woke” has come up in cultural and political firestorms. Eight months into his second term, President Donald Trump pledged to review content at the Smithsonian Institution for being “WOKE” and where “everything discussed is how horrible our Country is, how bad Slavery was.” At the beginning of this year, Texas Gov. Greg Abbott declared in his State of the State address that government would keep “woke agendas” out of universities and K-12 schools, including “woke gender ideologies.”

On Tuesday, Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth said he was ending the “woke” culture in the military, saying the service has been hamstrung by political correctness. He referenced diversity efforts, transgender troops, environmental policies and other disciplinary rules.

“America is no longer woke under President Trump’s leadership. The word ‘woke’ represents radical ideologies that are used (to) divide the American people and harm our



**WEAPONIZING WORDS — During the 2020 election, the Trump campaign was WOKE when they launched the Platinum Plan for Black people in America. By the 2024 election, WOKE was a dirty word that represented the things that were wrong in America.**

country,” Liz Huston, a White House spokesperson, said in a statement.

Here’s where “woke” came from, and how its meaning has evolved:

The history of ‘woke’ “Wokeness” originated decades ago as African American cultural slang for having awareness and enlightenment around racism, injustice, privilege or threats of white supremacist violence.

Several historians trace the idea to a 1923 compilation of speeches and articles by Jamaican-born Black nationalist Marcus Garvey. In one essay, Garvey writes “Wake up Ethiopia! Wake up Africa!” Another reference appears in 1938 in the song, “Scottsboro Boys,” by blues artist Lead Belly, whose real name was Huddie Ledbetter. The tune follows the true story of four Black

youths unjustly convicted by an all-white jury of the rape of two white women (they were later freed). The lyrics warn Black listeners to be careful and “stay woke. Keep your eyes open.”

Gerald McWorter, a professor emeritus of African American studies and of information sciences at University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, says “woke” was about having a voice after hundreds of years of Black suffering going back to the African slave trade.

The phrase also popped up in a 1962 essay by novelist William Melvin Kelley for The New York Times. The headline — “If You’re Woke, You Dig It.” Kelley’s widow and daughter believe he heard the term while walking around their Harlem neighborhood, said Elijah Watson, a pop culture writer and editor who has written about Kelley, who died in 2017.

‘Woke’ reawakening In the 21st century, singer-songwriter Erykah Badu is often credited with reviving the term “woke.” Her song “Master Teacher” on her 2008 album, “New Amerykah: Part One,” includes the refrain “I stay woke.” Badu picked up the phrase from co-writer and producer Georgia Anne Muldrow, who heard it from a saxophone player she collaborated with

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## Southern States Rise Up With Moral Mondays

By **Jordan Meadows**

Staff Writer

In a continuation of a growing national movement for justice and equity, the Moral Monday Movement, led by Rev. Dr. William J. Barber II and Repairers of the Breach, launched a coordinated wave of protests across 12 Southern states this August.

Known as “A Southern Call to Conscience,” these actions aim to hold lawmakers accountable for supporting what organizers are calling the “Big, Bad, Ugly, Deadly, Destructive Budget Bill”—the federal spending plan passed in July 2025 that cuts programs such as Medicaid, SNAP, and rural healthcare, while preserving tax breaks and military increases.

Rev. Barber, who also led a major “Moral Monday” rally and march in Washington, D.C. this past June, denouncing the Republicans’ trillion-dollar “Big Beautiful Bill,” said the stakes couldn’t be higher.

“This is a moral emergency, not a partisan squabble. If Congress will not listen in Washington, we will bring the cries of the people straight to their hometowns, face to face. Lawmakers must reckon with the moral consequences of their choices — not behind closed doors in D.C., but right here among their constituents.”

According to public health re-



searchers cited by the movement, over 800 people die every day from poverty, and the budget cuts are expected to lead to an additional 51,000 deaths annually, especially among children, seniors, rural populations, and people with disabilities.

“Today, we gather because of a single piece of legislation, the so-called ‘One Big, Beautiful Bill Act’ dares to call cruelty ‘beautiful’. Beautiful for whom? Certainly not for our children, our elders, for the millions of neighbors who live in, will be wounded.”

Moral Monday organizers describe

this moment as part of a Third Reconstruction, following in the historical footsteps of the First and Second Reconstructions, and rooted in Moral Fusion Organizing that unites people across lines of race, faith, and class to demand justice.

One of the most striking examples of this protest movement took place in Raleigh, North Carolina, on Monday Morning for a traditional ‘Moral Mondays’ event, where activists rallied against what they deemed wealth redistribution from the poor to the rich, and delivered a casket to the office of Senator Ted Budd. The casket

represented the thousands of North Carolinians — including an estimated 307,000 who are expected to lose Medicaid coverage — whose lives hang in the balance. The action was led by local clergy, low-wage workers, and families directly affected by Medicaid and SNAP cuts. Organizers called on Senator Budd to take responsibility for the life-threatening consequences of the budget bill he supported.

Pastor Joel Simpson of First United Methodist Church in Taylorsville spoke about the personal stories behind those numbers:

“I’ve talked with people whose parents are in nursing homes, parents who are caring for children, and aging parents at home. I’ve spoken with a former law enforcement officer who is now on disability and depends on Medicaid and SNAP, while also caring for aging parents. This budget is a massive harm to poor and low-income people all around NC.”

Rev. Stephens of the Poor People’s Campaign added:

“We’re not just here to protest—we’re here to change the narrative. This isn’t about left or right. It’s about right and wrong,” Stephens continued, “‘And all the while here in North Carolina, they’re leading us into a budget crisis and a permanent

(See **MORAL MONDAYS** P. 2)



## DEADLY SHOOTING IN NORTH CAROLINA WAS ‘HIGHLY PREMEDITATED’ AND LOCATION WAS ‘TARGETED’

SOUTHPORT, N.C. (AP) — A mass shooting that shattered the evening tranquility of a picturesque, seaside town in North Carolina was a “highly premeditated” attack that left three people dead and five injured, police said Sunday. The suspect who allegedly carried out the attack on a waterfront bar was in custody.

Nigel Edge, 40, of Oak Island is accused of opening fire Saturday night from a boat into a crowd gathered at the American Fish Company in Southport, a historic port town about 30 miles (48 kilometers) south of Wilmington, Police Chief Todd Coring said.

At a press conference Sunday, Coring said the location was “targeted,” but he did not elaborate.

Authorities said Edge piloted a small boat close to shore, which was lined with bars and restaurants, stopped briefly and fired. He then sped away.

Roughly half an hour after the shooting, a U.S. Coast Guard crew spotted a person matching the suspect’s description pulling a boat from the water at a public ramp on Oak Island. The person was detained and turned over to Southport police for questioning, officials said.

Edge is charged with three counts of first-degree murder, five counts of attempted first-degree murder and five counts of assault with a deadly weapon. He could face additional charges, Coring said.

The weapon used was an assault rifle, although Coring didn’t specify what kind.

“We understand this suspect identifies as a combat veteran. He self-identifies. Injured in the line of duty is what he’s saying, he suffers from PTSD,” Coring said, referring to post-traumatic stress disorder.

Edge is scheduled to make his first court appearance on Monday, District Attorney Jon David said. He is being held without bond.

Among the five people hospitalized with injuries, at least one “is now clinging for their life,” David said. Some of the victims were vacationers from out of town.

Oak Island Police Chief Charlie Morris said the suspect was known to police as someone “who frequently hung out on our pier,” and that he had filed lawsuits against the town and police department over the last few years. He did not elaborate.

The district attorney said Edge had had “minor contacts” with police in the past “but nothing significant in his past which would give us any indication

(See **SOUTHPORT** P. 2)

## ENBRIDGE GAS MAKES CASE FOR RATE INCREASE BEFORE NC UTILITIES COMMISSION

North Carolina natural gas customers are one step closer to potentially having higher bills.

Enbridge Gas North Carolina is asking for a 12.37% increase to its residential natural gas rates, which it says would result in a \$6.30 increase in the average residential customers’ monthly bill. Last week, the North Carolina Utilities Commission heard expert testimony from Enbridge employees on the need for the increase and from the state’s Public Staff, which represents customers in rate cases.

The proposed adjustment is 13% lower than the inflation rate since 2021, the last time Enbridge, then known as the Public Service Company of North Carolina, had a general rate review. (A utility company can also request to increase or decrease its rates because of changes in fuel prices. These recovery riders, as they are known, do not typically require public hearings.)

Enbridge acquired PSNC in 2023 in a \$14 billion deal from Dominion Energy. According to Enbridge, it has more than 655,000 customers in 28 counties in the North Carolina.

Enbridge Gas filed for the rate review and adjustment on April 1, and the Utilities Commission held public hearings on the request over the summer, including in Asheville, Gastonia and Statesville. Enbridge has requested that the new rates go into effect Nov. 1, if approved.

Enbridge has said the rate increase is needed to recover costs associated with infrastructure investments to provide natural gas service to customers safely. The company is seeking a higher rate of return on common equity.

Michelle Boswell with the Public Staff wrote in her testimony that the utility company could reduce payroll and benefits to control expenses, noting that the company was able to operate with fewer employees during COVID-19.

But Enbridge has noted that it has gained more than 53,000 customers in North Carolina since 2021, and James Spaulding, financial and business services for Enbridge, rebutted Boswell’s testimony.







# Business & Finance

## 2025 NC Affordable Housing Conference Held In Raleigh

By Jordan Meadows

Staff Writer

The 2025 North Carolina Affordable Housing Conference, held Tuesday and Wednesday in Raleigh, brought together housing professionals, advocates, developers, and policymakers from across the state to address the pressing issues impacting affordable housing in North Carolina.

The event kicked off with a keynote address featuring Dr. Jenny Schuetz, Vice President of Infrastructure and Housing at Arnold Ventures. Schuetz, a former senior fellow at Brookings Metro and economist at the Federal Reserve, now leads efforts to reform housing policy to expand supply and affordability nationwide.

In her remarks, Dr. Schuetz emphasized the need to rethink the built environment:

“One is just seizing a wider range of structure types. More than three-quarters of the land in our cities, and even more than in our suburbs, is reserved exclusively for single-family housing. Those are the largest kinds of houses; they take a lot of land, and they're the most expensive kind of structures for people to buy.”

The keynote also touched on the national legislative landscape. Speakers noted that a record number of states are now actively addressing housing through legislation, and that momentum is building at the federal level. Notably, the ROAD to Housing Act (Renewing Opportunity in the American Dream to Housing Act), introduced by Senators Elizabeth Warren (D-MA) and Tim Scott (R-SC), was highlighted as the most significant bipartisan pro-housing supply legislation in decades.

States like California and Texas



were referenced as blueprints—both for what to do and what to avoid. While they’ve made strides in reducing regulatory barriers and zoning restrictions to allow more housing to be built, the process in those states has become deeply politicized and contentious, often marked by clashes between developers, advocacy groups, NIMBY (Not In My Backyard) interests, and entrenched political actors.

Joining Dr. Schuetz in the opening session were David Bennett, President of Centrant Community Capital; Samuel Gunter, Executive Director of the NC Housing Coalition; and Scott Farmer, Executive Director of the NC Housing Finance Agency.

Stephanie Watkins-Cruz, Director of Housing Policy at the North Carolina Housing Coalition (NCHC), also played a prominent role at the conference. Since joining NCHC in August

2022, Watkins-Cruz has brought her deep passion for affordable housing, community engagement, and bridging local and state-level strategies. She contributed her policy expertise to several sessions throughout the event, particularly those focused on aligning legislative action with the lived realities of North Carolinians, ensuring that future housing policy remains equitable and responsive.

One of the most anticipated moments of the conference was the panel honoring the 2025 Housing NC Awards winners. Representatives from four award-winning developments shared insights into the challenges they overcame, the creative partnerships they leveraged, and the lessons they learned during their projects. Through a moderated Q&A session, attendees gained valuable perspectives on how these successful

models could inform future housing efforts across the state.

Throughout the two-day event, sessions were designed to address both policy and practice. The Annual Developers Workshop served as a critical touchpoint for developers preparing for the 2026 Qualified Allocation Plan (QAP) and the next round of Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LI-HTC) applications. Another session focused on the Community Reinvestment Act (CRA), offering guidance for community-based organizations on how to engage more effectively with banks, understand CRA-related activities, and develop strong partnerships that drive local investment.

Compliance and regulation were also major themes. The session on "Hot Topics in Housing Credit Compliance" was led by team leads from the NC Housing Finance Agency—Randa McCauley, Tanya Clark, and Chelsea Isaksen—who addressed the agency’s implementation of key federal policies while sharing trends and best practices in multifamily housing compliance.

A session on supportive housing addressed the unique needs of North Carolina’s most vulnerable populations, including individuals experiencing homelessness, those with disabilities, and those with substance use disorders. Panelists outlined strategies for emergency, transitional, and permanent supportive housing, covering the entire development process from funding through construction and operations.

The significance of this conference is underscored by current housing trends in North Carolina: nearly half of the state’s renters and 19% of homeowners are cost-burdened, spending over 30% of their income

## North Carolina Railroad Company Helps Businesses Get Back on Track

RALEIGH, N.C.-- One year after Hurricane Helene, Western North Carolina is rebuilding with help from the North Carolina Railroad Company (NCR). Through its award-winning Back-on-Track Disaster Recovery Program, NCR invested \$8.2 million to support local businesses, restore rail infrastructure and strengthen communities.

"Back-on-Track is more than a grant; it's a commitment to North Carolina's people and economy," said Carl Warren, NCR's president and CEO." Strategic support and swift action helped protect jobs, restore operations and keep supply chains moving."

Premier Magnesia LLC, which was acquired by Raleigh-based heavy building materials provider Martin Marietta in July, received \$3 million to offset transportation costs after Hurricane Helene's flooding damaged its Waynesville, N.C. plant and washed out nearby rail lines. The disruption forced the company

to truck in raw materials at higher costs for seven months. "NCR's support helped stabilize our supply chain during a critical time," said Matt Haynes, senior vice president of manufacturing operations. "It allowed us to keep production moving while rail access was down."

Flooding also hit Sierra Nevada Brewing Company in Fletcher, N.C., destroying its grain offloading system. Two feet of mud and silt covered the building, breached railcars and damaged the rail spur. Sierra Nevada benefited from up to \$900,000 in Back-on-Track funds to repair its spur and cover temporary trucking costs of the malt barley.

"The support was fast, helpful, and arrived exactly when we needed it," said Mandi McKay, chief sustainability & social impact officer at Sierra Nevada Brewing. "It kept our operations intact and helped us support the broader community."

McKay emphasized the shared commitment to rail: "NCR's recov-



ery program ensured rail remained viable—something that aligns directly with our company values."

The Back-on-Track program deliv-

ered essential aid to rail-dependent businesses and short line railroads facing uninsurable losses. Nonprofit economic development organizations also received funds for disaster recovery strategic planning. Citizens benefitted from this impact fund across seven Western North Carolina counties: Buncombe, Haywood, Henderson, Jackson, Swain, Watauga and Wilkes.

In recognition of the program's success, the International Economic Development Council awarded NCR the 2025 Excellence in Economic Development Gold Award. Back-on-Track's innovative approach to disaster relief and long-term economic resilience was highlighted. The program's impact goes beyond infrastructure; it helped communities rebuild, protect jobs and stabilize local economies in a time of crisis.

As the recovery continues, NCR will keep standing with North Carolina communities, every mile forward.

## Great Tropical Vacation Without a Passport

By Steve Worthy

Special To The Carolinian

With the residency of worldwide Latin Star Bad Bunny concluding after a two-month long concert series in Puerto Rico, bringing attention to the island with its rich culture of music, food, and very friendly people for starters, have you ever wondered of visiting the island? It is much easier than you might think! It is a tropical destination.

For starters, it's part of the United States. There is no need to have a passport, but you do need a Real ID to board a plane. No need to worry about currency exchange as they use the US Dollar.

Worried about flights? It's easier than you think to find one. A suggestion would be to use Google Flights if you have access to the internet or a smart phone, and doing a basic search will get you there. Google Flights gives the flights from different airlines and gives options, plus prices. For example, put in the predicted travel dates and Google will return with a list of flights available from different airlines, including many varying prices! Let's say you found the perfect flight date and time. With Google Flights, you can tell it to watch prices and notify you when they rise or fall.

There are also several airports to fly to in Puerto Rico. However, the cheapest and best is to fly into Luis Muñoz Marín International (SJU) in Carolina, PR. All of the major airlines serve this airport and has the most options for flights. Another helpful note is that if there is bad weather, there is a hotel on airport property you can stay in overnight if necessary. Watch weather forecasts as storms can affect flight times.

Now, you have air travel picked out, you will need lodging. Base it, of course, on the length of your stay and lodging needs. Apps like Expedia, Booking.com, Hotels, and even Trivago (for starters) can be used to find great lodg-



ing. Many times, as you have seen in the commercials, you can find varying prices. Also, one may not list in one service but can be found in another. A third option is to contact the hotel directly as it could yield a better price! If you choose to stay in one location, use AirBnB to find a location as there are many across the island with homes and apartments listed.

Personally, with great success, I like Booking.com as it does give a Genius Discount if you use it often. It can yield a 10-20 percent discount or even a room upgrade. Just read the room details before making a decision. Also, their customer service has not failed me when needed.

One thing to remember, there are twenty-three holidays the Island recognizes! This could affect lodging in many

areas as I have experienced in the past. August, for a fact, has no State holidays.

Okay, you have your flight, room, but depending on how you want to visit the island, you will need a rental car. There are no buses or trains to go from one place to another on the island. Granted, if you want to stay in Old San Juan and explore its sites, it's a great walking city but be prepared to climb hills!

If you want to see more than San Juan and its metro area, a rental car is very necessary! With apps such as Booking, Expedia, or even trying the car rental companies directly, you can find the rental vehicle which will fit your needs. I would suggest getting a crossover or a SUV as some roads on the Island can be rough and, you may like riding higher in a vehicle for that added measure of safety. Some rental

agencies are better than others and it comes down to personal preference. Be sure to thoroughly check your car before leaving the rental agency.

Personal experiences with a particular national company renting Jeeps have been bad tires from day one, and a flat spare tire I had to repair. I was given a discount from the company but it should not have been an issue from the start.

Look at the companies in the airport terminal over taking transportation away from the airport to pick a vehicle. Granted, it can be cheaper outside of the airport, BUT if you are in a rush to catch your flight, you would be at the mercy of the van which transports you to the airport if you rent off site.

Get the insurance if offered. Around San Juan Metro, you will think it's similar to driving in New York City! Away from the city its much nicer driving. And, if they offer costs to cover toll roads, take it. The Autopistas (turn-pikes) are toll roads that are similar to interstates in the United States. They do charge, and in the way we do it in North Carolina.

With these items in mind, you can create a memorable vacation whether you stay in Old San Juan, or travel around the Island. Just remember, as you travel, respect the people of Puerto Rico as it is a culture-rich location and people there are very gracious. Finally, and if you are in the rural areas or near water at night, you will hear the coqui (pronounced co-KEY), a small, but endangered frog. Very much a symbol of Puerto Rico and something they are proud of! You cannot miss it! Similar to hearing our frogs and crickets, even cicadas, in North Carolina.

A bit of respect can also help you in creating that trip you will remember for a lifetime. It could prompt a return visit in the future for another adventure!

Next Article, I'll give a basic rundown of attractions to see, just a suggestion, in Puerto Rico.

on housing. At the same time, analysis of 62,710 property listings shows North Carolina homes are approximately 20% below national price averages, with the average home price at \$519,908.

The housing market is also well-balanced: over one-third of homes are listed under \$300,000, creating real opportunity for first-time buyers, while the mid-range and luxury segments remain strong.

This statewide event followed the regional Triangle Affordable Housing

Conference held earlier in April 2025. Longstanding institutions like the NC Housing Finance Agency—responsible for financing more than 321,000 homes totaling \$34.4 billion—and advocacy organizations like the NC Housing Coalition, which continues to advance critical housing legislation and funding tools, the 2025 Affordable Housing Conference reaffirmed the urgent need for multi-sector collaboration to ensure every North Carolinian has a safe, stable, and affordable home.

## 10 Easy Ways To Make Extra Cash In An Hour Or Less

By Daniel Bortz

AARP

Amid growing concerns around inflation, tariff-induced price hikes and economic uncertainty, who couldn't use a few extra bucks?

A little more cash in your pocket here and there adds up, especially for older adults working hard to squirrel away as much as possible for retirement, or for retirees living on a fixed income.

Extra dollars can help you pay off debt sooner, shore up your emergency fund, make budgeting a little easier and accomplish other financial goals — at a time when nearly half of retirees say their retirement expenses are higher than they expected, a 2025 survey by investment management firm Schroders found.

Here are 10 simple things you can do to make cash quickly.

1. Sell unwanted gift cards

Don't let unused gift cards go to waste. If you're not planning to redeem the card, consider selling it at a discount on a marketplace such as CardCash, GiftCash, Gift Card Outlets or GCX. Boomers with unused gift cards, gift vouchers or store credit are sitting on an average value of \$227, and Gen Xers have an untapped \$255 value on average, according to an August 2024 Bankrate survey.

How much you can make: Offers vary, often depending on the retailer, but CardCash and GiftCash say sellers can receive up to 92 percent of a gift card's value. (Note: Some marketplaces don't accept gift cards with expiration dates.)

Tip: Depending on the marketplace, you might be able to trade in your unwanted gift card for one at another retailer, potentially for more than your current card's value.

2. Take paid surveys

Survey websites like Survey Junkie, KashKick, PrizeRebel, Respondent and User Interviews offer cash or points redeemable for gift cards in exchange for participation in polls on a variety of brands and topics. However, you may have to share personal information, such as your age, address and phone number. Read the company's privacy policy carefully before signing up.

How much you can make: Longer surveys typically pay more. In early August, a search on Respondent showed a \$30 payment for taking a 10-minute survey and \$60 for a 30-minute survey in late July.

"In our testing, Survey Junkie had the best reliability and user experience but still paid relatively little on an hourly basis," says Nick Loper, host of The Side Hustle Show, a podcast that explores the world of side gigs. "Respondent and User Interviews pay much more, often \$50 to \$150 per hour, but often require specific industry experience, and it can be harder to get selected for studies."

Tip: "To get the most from these opportunities, sign up for a mix of general survey sites and higher-end research panels; complete your profile in full so you'll be matched with targeted, better-paying surveys; and check daily to spot and prioritize higher-value studies," says Keith Spencer, career expert at FlexJobs, a job search website that specializes in positions that offer flexible hours and work-from-home opportunities.

3. Do small tasks for people in your area

Get paid to perform various tasks for people in your community. You can earn money for waiting in line for someone at a restaurant, concert, sports game or other event through an app like TaskRabbit, InLine4You or Spotblaze; delivering groceries via Instacart, Uber Eats or Grubhub; or helping a person assemble furniture, hang artwork or perform other home tasks through a marketplace like Fixr, Handy, Porch or Thumbtack.

How much you can make: Line-standing fees are typically based on the estimated time you'll need to queue, with TaskRabbit paying \$27 an hour on average. Instacart delivery drivers usually make between \$8 and \$25 an hour, depending on their location. Furniture assemblers on home remodeling marketplace Angi typically charge \$50 to \$150 per piece, depending on the size and complexity of the furniture.

Tip: "TaskRabbit clients choose between a number of freelancers when they're looking for help, so it makes sense to take time to make your profile shine," says Kathy Kristof, founder of SideHusL.com, which reviews and rates moneymaking opportunities. "Take a good selfie. Potentially take before-and-after photos of your work, too."

4. Redeem credit card rewards

Around 1 in 4 boomers and Gen Xers with rewards credit cards have unused rewards, according to a 2023 CreditCards.com survey. That's a missed opportunity, and a risk: A 2023 study by the federal Consumer Financial Protection Bureau found that consumers forfeit hundreds of millions of dollars in credit card rewards each year. Check your credit cards to see how many points, miles or cash back you're sitting on.

How much you can make: Nearly a third of cardholders with unused cash-back rewards have accrued \$100 or more, one LendingTree survey found.

Tip: Read the fine print to see whether your credit card's rewards expire if

(See **10 EASY WAYS TO MAKE EXTRA CASH** P. 4)

## Changing Destinies' New Leadership

By Jheri Hardaway

Staff Writer

Pinehurst, NC - Changing Destinies Ministry is proud to announce that Renee Cassidy has been named Executive Director, effective September 23, 2025. She succeeds Kym Nixon, who will continue her service as President and co-founder of the ministry.

Under Nixon's leadership, Changing Destinies Ministry (CDM) has grown from a vision into a life-changing refuge for survivors of human trafficking. With the support of nearly 450 donors and volunteers, Nixon guided the ministry in opening Rachel's Refuge in March 2025, welcoming its first resident. Over her 13 years of service, she has helped expand programs that now include hundreds of hours of survivor mentorship, vocational and educational support, and trauma-informed care, along with community prevention education reaching thousands across North Carolina.

Nixon will continue to oversee the ministry's strategic vision at the board level while Cassidy steps into day-to-day leadership. "Over the past few years, I have diligently searched for my successor, and I thank God and all of you for being part of this journey," said Nixon. "Renee has the heart, skills, and passion to advance the ministry, and I am confident she will lead with excellence."

Cassidy brings a rich background in education, business, and coaching to her new role. She holds a B.S. in Business Administration, an M.Ed. in Higher Education Administration, and is a Certified Empowerment Coach. Her professional experience includes higher education admissions, corporate leadership, and entrepreneurship. She has also invested years in church and homeschool community service, and currently volunteers at The Village Chapel in Pinehurst.

Her passion for CDM's mission runs deep. "This ministry matters to me because I believe every woman deserves the chance to live in safety, dignity, and freedom," Cassidy shared. "It is an honor to stand with our residents, volunteers, and staff, and to witness transformation in their lives."

As Executive Director, Cassidy is committed to strengthening programs, expanding community partnerships, and ensuring long-term sustainability. One of her immediate goals is to grow the Resident Enrichment Fund, which provides resources for education, life skills, and meaningful opportunities for residents at Rachel's Refuge.

"Renee's heart for this work, coupled with her leadership experience, makes her the right person to guide CDM into its next chapter," said Nixon. "We are excited for the vision and energy she brings."



# 10 Easy Ways to Make Extra Cash —CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

you don't redeem them within a specific period.

5. Trade in used electronics  
Some retailers offer gift cards or store credit for used gadgets such as laptops, tablets, cellphones, streaming media players, headphones, wireless routers and gaming systems. Costco, Walmart, Amazon, Best Buy, Target, Staples and Sam's Club operate such programs.

How much you can make: The amount you can fetch for a used device depends on its condition and market value. In early August, Walmart's trade-in program was offering up to \$288 for a used iPhone 14, Best Buy was offering \$30 for a used pair of Bose 700 headphones and Costco was offering up to \$450 for a used Samsung Galaxy Tab S10+ 256GB tablet. For some trade-ins on Amazon, the retail giant offers an additional 20 percent discount toward the purchase of a new Amazon device.

Tip: Don't look at just one trade-in

program. "Shop around for the best rate" to find the highest offer for your device, says Julie Ramhold, a senior editor at DealNews, a daily deals website.

6. Test websites and apps  
You can earn money by providing feedback on websites and apps through testing companies like UserTesting, Userlytics and uTest. Businesses use these sites to solicit consumer insights to improve their products or services.

How much you can make: According to job-and-recruiting website Glassdoor, UserTesting testers typically earn \$20 to \$37 an hour, Userlytics testers typically make \$25 to \$38 an hour and uTest testers typically receive \$21 to \$39 an hour.

Tip: Stay informed about new opportunities by signing up for notifications about tests that match your skills and interests.

7. Digitize receipts  
Don't throw out your receipts — you might be able to earn cash or gift

cards by scanning them on an app like CoinOut, Fetch, Ibotta or Receipt Hog. These apps partner with hundreds of stores, including big-box retailers like Walmart, grocery chains like Kroger, warehouse clubs like Costco and home improvement stores like The Home Depot.

How much you can make: Earnings depend on how frequently you shop and scan receipts from participating retailers. Ibotta says its consistent users save an average of \$261 per year; CoinOut's founder says dedicated users can save up to \$200 a year. Some receipt-scanning apps also offer small sign-up bonuses and bonuses for referring new users.

Tip: You're not limited to scanning a receipt on only one app. Depending on the retailer, you may be able to scan a receipt on multiple apps to maximize your rewards.

8. Go mystery shopping  
Retail and market research companies pay people to shop at stores, dine at restaurants, stay at hotels or frequent other businesses and

report on things like customer service, cleanliness and product quality. Some also offer compensation for shopping online. You can find these "mystery shopping" opportunities through companies like BestMark, Confero, IntelliShop, Market Force and Second to None. You can also look for gigs through the Mystery Shopping Professionals Association (MSPA Americas), a trade group.

How much you can make: Mystery shoppers typically earn between \$5 and \$25 per gig. Most companies require mystery shoppers to pay for the product or service themselves and then reimburse them.

Tip: Watch out for mystery shopping job scams, the Federal Trade Commission warns. "For safety, stick to established companies, only communicate through official channels and avoid any 'mystery shopping' offers that ask you to cash checks or send money in advance," says Spencer of FlexJobs.

9. Get paid to play video games  
Love playing games on your smartphone, computer or game console?

Video-game-testing platforms such as Mistplay, InboxDollars, PlaytestCloud and Swagbucks let you earn cash or points that can be redeemed for gift cards, usually in exchange for feedback that developers use to improve gameplay and fix bugs.

How much you can make: Payouts are modest. According to PlaytestCloud, a 15-minute game test typically pays \$9. Some companies also offer sign-up incentives, like InboxDollars' \$5 bonus for new testers, and cash rewards for referring new gamers.

Tip: Play consistently. Mistplay, InboxDollars and Swagbucks allow game testers to unlock extra rewards for streaks, depending on the number of consecutive days played.

10. Transcribe audio and video clips  
You can monetize your listening and typing skills by transcribing audio or video recordings of business and legal proceedings, such as phone calls, conference meetings and courtroom hearings. Companies like Rev, Speechpad, TranscribeMe, Quicktate, CastingWords, GoTranscript, Transcription HUB and SpeakWrite offer freelance transcription opportunities.

How much you can make: Most companies pay freelancers a flat rate for each minute of audio transcribed. Rates vary depending on the employer — for example, Speechpad transcriptionists get paid between \$0.25 and \$1 per audio minute, depending on their level of experience; Rev transcriptionists receive \$0.30 to \$1.10 per audio or video minute; and GoTranscript transcriptionists make up to \$1.75 per minute, often depending on the language. Legal transcriptionists typically receive higher rates, earning \$15 to \$40 per audio hour from TranscribeMe.

Tip: "To increase your earnings, focus on improving your typing speed and accuracy, familiarize yourself with different audio formats, and take advantage of any practice tests or training materials the platform offers," Spencer says. "As you start to gain experience, seek out specialized transcription in fields like legal or medical for higher pay."



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# Health and Wellness

## Medicaid Standoff Could Put Healthcare For Many At Risk

By Jaymie Baxley

North Carolina Health News

Efforts to prevent cuts that could significantly lower reimbursement to providers for services for North Carolinians on Medicaid stalled last week amid a three-way standoff between the state’s Senate, House of Representatives and governor. Lawmakers are at odds over dueling proposals to fully fund the state’s Medicaid rebase, an annual budget adjustment that accounts for changes in the number of people enrolled in the government-run health insurance program, and the cost of providing their care.

In July, the General Assembly approved a stopgap “mini budget” that fell \$319 million short of the \$819 million the N.C. Department of Health and Human Services had requested for the rebase. Devdutta Sangvai, secretary of the department, later warned legislative leaders that NC DHHS would be forced to make “painful cuts” with “serious and far-reaching consequences” to adjust for the shortfall.

Providers across the state say those cuts would leave them with little choice but to reduce the number of patients they serve in the Medicaid program, which covers the cost of care for 3.1 million North Carolinians.

The cuts will take effect Wednesday unless the House and Senate reach an agreement or Gov. Josh Stein intervenes.

Impasse on hospital funds The showdown began on Sept. 22, when the Senate passed a bill that would fund the Medicaid rebase and avert the looming cuts.

However, that bill also earmarked more than \$103 million for the construction of a 500-bed children’s hospital in Apex.

Both chambers agreed to set aside \$320 million in funding for the project, a collaboration between UNC Health and Duke Health, in the state’s 2023 budget. But the funds must be re-approved for the 2025 budget.

Members of the House now believe the money would be better spent on more pressing needs.

During an impromptu news conference after his chamber’s working session, Senate leader Phil Berger (R-Eden) defended the decision

to tie funding for the hospital to the rebase. He also accused the House of reneging on the project.

“A deal is a deal, and they agreed to it,” he said. “They need to live up to what the arrangement was. They need to agree to this bill, and then we’ll go ahead and fund Medicaid.”

That didn’t happen. Instead, the House on Sept. 23 unanimously voted in support of a substitute bill that would fund the rebase but removes funding for the hospital.

“As time has moved on, the facts have changed. And so even if there was, you know, some sort of agreement that they feel like needed to be honored, the facts have substantially changed,” House Speaker Destin Hall (R-Granite Falls) said, citing inflation. “They’re not the same as they were back in 2023 because the value of \$1 is not the same as to the Children’s Hospital.”

“We have at least five children’s hospitals in this state. We’ve got three or four really big ones,” he continued. “Obviously, if we felt like the children of this state were not getting health care, we would act. But the fact is, they are getting health care.”

Hall also talked about how the two chambers differed on a multiyear plan to lower taxes in North Carolina that has divided the two Republican-led arms of the General Assembly. The Senate wants to disregard state revenue triggers to push rates lower, while Hall is interested in a more cautious approach.

“The tax triggers no longer make sense,” he said.

Rep. Donny Lambeth (R-Winston-Salem) told NC Health News that the Medicaid funding bill approved by the House was “cleaner” than what the Senate had proposed.

“We don’t have a lot of things in it other than what we have to,” said Lambeth, one of the chairs of the General Assembly’s Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Medicaid. “They want other things commingled in their bill, which we’re not going to take up.”

The House’s version of the bill has been sent to the Senate for a vote, but neither chamber is scheduled to meet again until Oct. 20 — weeks after the cuts take effect.

‘This was their moment’ Addressing a phalanx of TV cameras at Alliance Medical Ministry during a Sept. 25 news conference in Raleigh,



Governor Stein, a Democrat, accused the state legislature of putting politics before people.

“The General Assembly has failed you,” he said. “But it is not too late for them to step up and do the right thing. I’d hoped that the legislature would realize that helping people get the health care they need is more important than grinding their political axes.”

In interviews with NC Health

News, Berger, Lambeth and other lawmakers contended that the cuts could be avoided, or at least postponed, without the legislature’s involvement. They argued that NC DHHS has enough money and could use it to cover the shortfall while the House and Senate work to overcome their impasse once they return to Raleigh in earnest in early 2026 for their biennial “short” session.

“Making provider cuts is solely the choice of the department and how they choose to deal with budget surpluses or budget deficits, perceived or real,” Sen. Ralph Hise (R-Spruce Pines) said.

Rep. Donna McDowell White (R-Clayton) agreed, calling Wednesday’s deadline a “false date.”

“My constituents are very concerned about that, and what I’m telling them is that the money’s there,” said White, a registered nurse who serves on the Medicaid oversight committee. “October 1st should not even be on anybody’s calendar.”

Stein, however, insisted that the department has already stretched its resources to delay the cuts as long as possible.

He said NC DHHS had been cautioning about the possibility of rate cuts since May — “in meetings, in emails, in-person briefings, letters, conversations and press conferences, over and over until we were blue in the face.”

“We put off the cuts for a full quarter of this fiscal year,” Stein said. “We did not institute these cuts in July, in August or September because we knew they were coming back in September. We were as clear

as a ringing bell that this was their moment to solve this problem, and we could put the cuts off till October.”

Further delaying the cuts, he said, will “just increase the pain.”

“The same amount of money is still going to be needed to address the shortfall,” he said. “They’ve had the opportunity to solve this repeatedly. This was their moment. We could not have been more clear; they had to solve this in September. They chose to put their political differences ahead of our people’s health.”

Behind the scenes, officials from NC DHHS have proposed a solution that would allow lawmakers to buy more time.

In anticipation of a stalemate between the House and Senate, the department floated the idea of pulling funds from the state’s Medicaid contingency reserve — a pool of money set aside to cover unexpected costs in the program — to legislative leaders last week.

Neither chamber has moved to pursue that option, although Lambeth said he wasn’t opposed to it.

“We have to be able to at least

(See **MEDICAID** P. 12)

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### MENTAL HEALTH

Continued from page 2

data collected by KFF, a nonpartisan health policy and research organization. “We don’t have cracks in the system, we have chasms,” Caraco said. “And once you fall into that chasm, it’s not easy to come out of that without a lot of support.”

‘Not a casserole illness’

Lately, lawmakers from New York to California have proposed to involuntarily hospitalize people who are homeless, to force them into mental health treatment. The bill passed by North Carolina lawmakers this week also seeks to push more people into involuntary commitments.

But many in the mental health and substance use treatment community argue that forced psychiatric hospitalization does not address severe and complex mental illness, and it doesn’t often yield positive results. These commitments are temporary, and people are often discharged without the community support they need. Coerced treatment can also lead patients to distrust the system and leave them reluctant to seek help the next time.

Bob Ward is a retired attorney who spent a decade representing people in involuntary commitment hearings in Mecklenburg County. Ward said he saw firsthand the lack of treatment and timely care. He said civil commitments of any kind — adult, minor, inpatient or outpatient — are “useless” if the right treatment and supportive services are lacking once the person comes home.

The continuous rise in involuntary commitments — which are intended to be a last resort for someone who is a danger to themselves or others — is a “sure sign of a failed system,” Ward said. A NC Health News investigation found that the number of involuntary commitment petitions filed in county clerk of court offices rose at least 97 percent between 2011 to 2021.

Only a fraction of those people end up making it through the whole commitment process to a psychiatric inpatient bed, according to a May report by Disability Rights NC. Many who work with people experiencing the process say it’s riddled with problems and needs significant reform.

Weaver, the NAMI Charlotte leader, said when it comes to involuntary commitment, it’s “difficult to balance people’s rights with public safety, and it is not against the law to have a mental illness.”

Friends and family also treat mental illness differently than they do other medical issues, Weaver said.

“If you had a loved one with a cancer diagnosis, your friends would rally around you, the casseroles would come, the lawn would get cut and you would have continuing care with a team,” she explained. “When someone in the family has a mental illness, it is not a casserole illness. People don’t come rally around that family, and there is no continuum of care.

“There is no mental health team that follows that person from the beginning, from illness to wellness.”

Weaver said families struggle to find lasting help for their loved ones — a situation that played out in the case of Decarlos Brown, the man accused in the Charlotte stabbing.

Brown’s mother said his mental health had declined significantly after his five-year prison stay. By this summer, he only had bits and pieces of mental health support, and he was homeless.

Lawmakers on both sides of the aisle agree that the system failed Brown. “He was failed because his mother wanted somebody to pick him up, and there was not the willingness on the part of the system to do that,” Republican Senate leader Phil Berger told reporters on Sept. 22. “[Iryna Zarutskaj] was failed because there was a system that would allow someone like that to exhibit the sorts of problematic behaviors without there being any intervention.”

Berger questioned whether inadequate funding for mental health resources was at fault, instead suggesting that people were unwilling to step in with already available resources.

Solutions include support, more options

In response to the killing, mental health experts who spoke to NC Health News highlighted the need for transitional support for people leaving jails, prisons and psychiatric facilities. They also emphasized the need for money for an array of community mental health services that could prevent stays in jails and psychiatric facilities, which are expensive and often the least effective option.

The mental health system is designed to take a faulty approach with limited options, said Caraco, director of Charlotte’s Promise Resource Network.

“You do this, and then you do this, and then you do this. You need a referral. You need an assessment. It is time-limited. You need a diagnosis. You have to comply with medications,” she said. “All of the things that lead people to not being able to engage in anything that feels meaningful.”

There’s a predetermined set of services and options. Either it works for people, or they walk away, she said.



# Arts & Culture

## The African Diaspora Film Festival Returns to Chapel Hill

By Jordan Meadows

Staff Writer

Last Thursday, the Sonja Haynes Stone Center for Research in Black Culture and History at UNC-Chapel Hill hosted an edition of its Diaspora Festival of Black and Independent Film, continuing a tradition that began in 2004.

Since its inception as a film series, the festival has grown into an essential cultural event, spotlighting stories from across the African diaspora and offering a platform for independent Black filmmakers from around the world. Over the years, it has featured numerous North Carolina and U.S. premieres, with screenings that are cinematic experiences and also critical spaces for dialogue. Each film is followed by engaging Q&A sessions, in-depth commentary, and meaningful discussions with filmmakers, scholars,

and attendees.

“The center is used just as much, if not more, by people who are not African-American,” he said. “The fact that there are classrooms in the building brings departments from the sciences, from the social sciences, to the arts, to linguistics — everybody comes here. We are one of the most heavily used buildings on campus,” said Sonja Haynes Stone Center director Joseph Jordan.

This year’s festival, which will run through November, promises a diverse lineup of about two dozen films selected from more than a hundred submissions worldwide. The screenings remain free and open to the public, held at the Stone Center’s Hitchcock Room (150 South Rd, Chapel Hill).

The campus and community partners—such as the African Studies Center, the Department of African, African-American and Diaspora



Studies (AADS), the Center for the Study of the American South (CSAS), Ngozi Design Collective, the Hayti Heritage Center, and

many others—collaborated to cultivate a rich network of support.

“We’re still trying to fulfill the expectations of the ’70s and ’80s, but

we’re also trying to outdo ourselves every year because that’s the trust that was placed in us,” Jordan said.

The evening began with MERCY, a 15-minute poetic short by Canadian director Philip Szporer, which explores the tension between race, language, and power, drawing from the complex history of enslaved people learning the language of their captors. Kendi King’s From Rodeo to Polo: The First HBCU Polo Team followed, offering an inspiring 9-minute documentary about the formation of the first Black collegiate polo team at Morehouse College and their quest for national certification.

The day continued with Runaway by Donya A.R. Conley, a tense and emotional 10-minute short in which a mother pleads with police over her missing daughter. Chisom Chieke’s Food for the Soul brought a lighter but deeply relatable narrative of cross-cultural love and familial expectations between a Nigerian-American woman and her Black American boyfriend.

Rounding out the evening was Harlem to Harvard by Zuzelin Martin, a 14-minute documentary about teacher Edouard E. Plummer, whose dedication helped over 600 Harlem students access elite boarding schools and transformed countless lives in the process.

“We’re still trying to fulfill the expectations of the ’70s and ’80s, but we’re also trying to outdo ourselves every year because that’s the trust that was placed in us,” Jordan said.

The festival will host a special screening on November 20 in collaboration with the American Indian Center. The featured film, LUMBEEELAND, is a short that explores the impact of drug culture on a Native American community.

## Harnett County NAACP 55th Annual Freedom Fund Banquet

By Jheri Hardaway

Staff Writer

Dunn, NC - The annual Harnett County NAACP 5473B Freedom Fund Banquet, led by chapter president Tony Spears, was elevated by an impassioned address from the cousin of George Floyd, Thomas N. McLaurin, who offered a profound reflection on the five years since his relative's death—a moment that sparked a global movement. Thomas N. McLaurin serves as the Executive Director of the Floyd Family Center for Social Equity. His insights transcend the immediate quest for accountability, charting a clear course toward sustained societal transformation and underscoring a powerful message of collective action rooted in hope and history. Speaking to a packed audience, McLaurin acknowledged the "moment of justice" in the convictions of those involved in George Floyd’s death, including

the bystanding officers. However, he stressed, "even in that moment of justice, we knew that our work was not done. Because while justice can address the past, peace and harmony are about building the future."

A central tenet of the speech was the distinction between protest and progress. "George's death sparked the movement, yes, but more importantly, his death inspired a mission," he asserted. That mission is to "help this nation heal its wounds, confront its truths, and build a better path forward together." He carefully clarified the movement's stance, emphasizing that their focus is not on destruction or animosity toward law enforcement, but on systemic change. "We're not against the police. We are against the abuse of power. We're not enemies of law and order. We are advocates for equal treatment under the law. What we seek is not destruction. What we seek is transformation."



In a stirring segment, the speaker challenged the notion that fundamental change is "impossible." "Unless we try to make change, change will never happen unless we try what some say is impossible. Possible will

never happen," he stated, encouraging the audience to adopt a mindset of relentless possibility, citing Dr. Howard Thurman's quote that something within the human spirit "will not let you give up."

Reflecting on the five-year mark, the speaker gave a candid assessment of the current state of progress, describing it as "very uneven." While acknowledging some legislative steps in police training and accountability in certain states, he lamented that "we still see too many lives cut short, too many systems unchanged, and too many conversations abandoned out of fear or fatigue."

Drawing a historical parallel to the post-mortem of the landmark Brown v. Board of Education decision, the speaker reminded attendees of Justice Thurgood Marshall's regret that they hadn't adequately planned for the opposition's next move. "Just because the battle was won, the war still raged on. That war still rages on today." This historical context served as a crucial warning against complacency.

The lasting tribute to George Floyd, McLaurin insisted, should not be a fixation on the manner of his death, but a commitment to the person he was and the values he stood for. He emphasized George's roots in Eastern North Carolina, noting, "Let us remember George not for the way he died, but for the way he lived."

He shared that George was making a new name for himself by helping others "get up" from their stumbles and falls.

The ultimate goal is not "performative statements," but "policies that save lives, partnerships that bring healing, and a country that truly believes that black lives matter, not just in times of tragedy... but in every aspect of life." Concluding with a powerful call to action, Thomas N. McLaurin implored every individual to look inward and ask: "What will I do to make this world better? Now, don't just say it. Do it. You've got to be about action!" He urged the community to support organizations like the NAACP, to vote, to "draw a straight line to the voting booths," and to "get in the way, get in trouble, necessary trouble, and help redeem the soul of America."

The address served not only as a remembrance but as a forceful mobilization, inspiring the audience to translate lingering pain into purposeful, transformative work for the future. The message was clear: The mission is possible, but only if we all commit to the action required.

## A Staircase In A Small Museum Tells A History Of Abuse And Enslavement

By Susanna Ashton and Mollie Barnes

The Conversation

From the ages of 12 to about 22, Harriet Jacobs lived under the watch of her enslaver, a wealthy physician named James Norcom Sr. During that decade, as Jacobs grew from a child to a young woman, Norcom psychologically and physically terrorized her.

Once, when she was a teenager, he threw her down the stairs of his Edenton, North Carolina house. He swore it would never happen again. But as Jacobs later wrote, “I knew that he would forget his promise.”

Jacobs’ injuries took weeks to heal. Even after they did, she made sure nobody would forget what happened by including this harrowing moment in her 1861 autobiographical novel, “Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl, Written by Herself,” one of the most important testimonies of captivity and survival ever written.

In July 2025, we stumbled across the staircase during a visit to the Museum of Early Southern Decorative Arts in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, an institution known for its preeminent collections of paintings, pottery, furniture and fine exhibits on Southern artisans and early American craft.



We’d gone there to see a table that belonged to a formerly enslaved writer named Samuel “Aleckson” Williams. But our attention was ultimately drawn several rooms away from the table, where we encountered woodwork – including the staircase Jacobs had written about – from the house where Norcom had enslaved her.

As scholars of 19th-century U.S. literature who regularly teach Jacobs’ “Incidents,” we were stunned

to realize that the staircase had survived.

It caught us even more off guard because Jacobs’ life has been receiving a lot of attention from scholars. For decades, Jacobs’ book was read as a work of fiction, if it was even remembered at all. But in recent years, historians have recovered her papers and confirmed a number of biographical details. In 2024, a narrative written by her brother, John Jacobs, was republished.

For us, the experience highlighted the importance of these small, regional museums. The staircase hadn’t originally been salvaged due to its connection to Jacobs. But it had nonetheless been conserved and cared for, which allowed new meanings to slowly emerge.

A daring escape

In 1964, the Jacobs staircase – along with a door, a mantle and paneling – were taken from Norcom’s house in Edenton not because of their connection to Jacobs or her enslaver, but because of their significance to Revolutionary-era craftsmanship.

We weren’t the first to realize the staircase’s connection to Jacobs. Roughly 15 years ago, curator Robert Leath brought it to the attention of Anthony Parent, a history professor at Wake Forest University. Parent publicized the story of these material objects through local outreach and some scholarship.

But like many histories that emerge from unexpected places, the story of the staircase hasn’t gained much traction in broader conversations among Jacobs scholars, much less in popular memory and national history.

Across “Incidents,” Jacobs chronicles many moments of physical and psychological abuse. But the assault on the stairs stands out among the many acts of terror she endured.

“He had pitched me down stairs in a fit of passion,” she writes, “and the injury I received was so serious that I was unable to turn myself in bed for many days.”

Jacobs eventually fled her bondage and exchanged her life in captivity under Norcom for a life of quasi-freedom: She spent seven years hiding in a nearby attic. Eventually she made her way to the North, where she claimed her freedom and published her book.

Rediscovered in the 1970s, Jacobs’ story was so astonishing that some readers doubted its autobiographical accuracy. But historian Jean Yellin was able to verify many aspects of her narrative, including the fact that she had hidden in an attic for seven years.

Yellin’s revelations of Jacobs’ life and work – in addition to the harrowing experiences of other women held in captivity – helped change the way Americans have been able to learn about how women, both enslaved and free, survive coercion and sexual violence.

Hidden in plain sight

At the Museum of Early Southern Decorative Arts, the staircase appears in between two separate galleries. On the wall along the steps to the first landing, a framed photograph of Harriet Jacobs and a framed copy



### PORCH SITTING

Old family traditions, stories, lies, recipes, and the juiciest gossip established the front porch as a vital player in African American history and culture. How many stories have I heard of children gathered around a grandmother's feet with tin pans of greens being cleaned and peas being shelled? I remember sitting on a friend's small porch while she cut the tops off of okra brought back from a recent trip to Arkansas.

Growing up on Chicago's Southside, one of my fondest memories is of sitting on the “stoop” with Mrs. Smith, my Girl Scout leader and neighbor. I could be there for hours, talking about life, Peyton Place, and gossiping about our neighbors. There's a quiet kind of magic that lives on the porch. Not the kind that demands attention, but the kind that waits patiently—like a rocking chair swaying in rhythm with the breeze, or a neighbor's wave across the street. For many seniors, the porch is more than a structure. It's a sanctuary, a stage, a front-row seat to the theater of life.

I've come to believe that porches hold power. Not just architectural charm, but emotional and communal strength. In a world that's speeding up—scrolling, streaming, scheduling—the porch invites us to slow down. To sit. To listen. To be.

As an adult, coming of age in the 1970s in Jackson, Mississippi, I came to realize that a big porch usually meant a big house sitting on a significant piece of land. In Southern cities, these were often older homes, built in the early to mid-20th century. In the country this was often the family home where elders held court, disciplined children as stories were told, and several generations welcomed anyone who walked by. That porch didn't just hold furniture—it held memory.

Porch culture is a form of resistance. It resists isolation by inviting conversation. It resists hurry by embracing stillness. It resists loneliness by offering presence. When we sit on the porch, we're not just watching the world—we're participating in it.

There's research to back this up. Studies show that regular social interaction improves cognitive health, reduces depression, and even extends lifespan. But beyond the science, there's something deeply human about porch time. It's where we notice the cardinal nesting in the dogwood. Where we hear the distant hum of a lawnmower and remember summers past. Where we greet the mail carrier by name and ask about their kids.

For seniors, porches can be a bridge. A place to connect with younger generations, share wisdom, and model the art of conversation. Imagine a grandchild learning to bake cookies, then sitting beside you to talk about their dreams. Or a neighbor dropping off tomatoes and staying for a story about your first job. These moments matter. They build community. They build legacy.

I would love to have a porch where I could invite my next-door neighbor to join me for coffee and homemade cookies; a place of welcome, wisdom, and warmth. The power of the porch isn't just in the wood and nails—it's in the people who gather there. And in a world that often forgets to pause, we can be the ones who remember. With roots in Africa life has been shared on porches since people began living in structures. There's a quiet kind of magic that lives on the porch. Not the kind that demands attention, but the kind that waits patiently—like a rocking chair swaying in rhythm with the breeze, or a neighbor's wave across the hedgerow. For many seniors, the porch is more than a structure. It's a sanctuary, a stage, a front-row seat to the theater of life.

Porches hold more than architectural charm. They hold emotional and communal strength. In a world that's speeding up—scrolling, streaming, scheduling—the porch invites us to slow down. To sit. To listen. To be.

Porch culture is more than nostalgia. It's a form of resistance. It resists isolation by inviting conversation. It resists hurry by embracing stillness. It resists loneliness by offering presence. When we sit on the porch, we're not just watching the world—we're participating in it.

Whether you live in a bungalow, a condo, or a farmhouse, there's a way to create porch moments. Open the door. Pull up a chair. Wave to someone. Ask a question. Share a story.

Because the power of the porch is in the people who gather there. And in a world that often forgets to pause, we can be the ones who remember.

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# Community

## Black SEL Hub Launches in Durham

By Jordan Meadows

Staff Writer

On Thursday morning at Hillside High School, a historically Black high school in Durham, students, educators, and community members came together to unveil the nation's first Black Social Emotional Learning (SEL) Liberation Hub.

Founded by Kristen Hopkins-Vincent after nearly a decade of development, the Black SEL Hub is a prevention-focused space designed to affirm, uplift, and empower Black students through social-emotional learning and liberation.

Hillside High, already a longtime partner with Black SEL through summer programs and initiatives, is now home to this groundbreaking space that seeks to extend SEL beyond the classroom and into the heart of the community. The launch event on September 25—a date that has since been recognized as Black SEL Day in Durham—marked a milestone not only for the school but for the broader national movement of culturally responsive education.

The full-day celebration featured a keynote by Hillside student and Black SEL Club President Gianna Peterson, along with a panel discussion on innovative leadership and grounding,



Hopkins-Vincent, surrounded by community leaders and supporters, cut the ceremonial ribbon to officially open the Hub. "This is not just hard work, it's heart-work," she said. "Today is a commitment... to those who are saying, 'I am a changed lady. I am a strong lady.'"

I am a captain. I am a pioneer for the next generation. And for me,

today personally is a healing for my inner self."

Designed to meet the holistic needs of Black students, the Hub includes a dedicated curriculum and offers targeted support for students facing in-school suspensions, focusing on emotional regulation and self-awareness.

"We need to let them understand that their emotions control every-

thing that they do," Hopkins-Vincent said.

The Black SEL Hub is rooted in six core pillars: Black self-concept, lived civics, inclusion of community stakeholders, civic engagement, critical consciousness, and social responsibility. These principles aim to nurture the resilience, leadership, and brilliance of Black youth while addressing the emotional impact of navigating systemic racism.

Eric Moore, the Black SEL research lead, underscored the importance of this work in helping students and adults alike manage emotions and engage effectively with the world.

"Black SEL gives both youth and adults a framework for how to engage and overcome," he said.

Beyond serving students, the Hub will be a resource for the wider community, hosting workshops, healing circles, and leadership development sessions. Principal Dr. Joshua Mal-lory praised the new space, saying students have already responded positively to Black SEL initiatives and that the Hub represents a significant next step in sustaining that momentum.

Durham Mayor Leonardo Williams issued a proclamation recognizing September 25, 2025, as 'Black SEL Day.'



### HAPPY BIRTHDAY MRS. DOROTHY JONES

On Saturday, September 27th, Dorothy Jones was surrounded by family in celebration of her 83rd birthday. The gathering took place at Angie's Restaurant in Garner. The Carolinian newspaper wishes you a happy 83rd birthday and we look forward to next years celebration as well!



### THE BETA LAMBDA SIGMA CHAPTER JOINS THE TRIANGLE WALK LIKE MADD TO HONOR LIVES LOST AND RAISE AWARENESS

On Saturday, September 27, 2025, members of the Beta Lambda Sigma Chapter of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. joined with the Raleigh Alumni Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc., community members, and advocates at Knightdale Station Park for the annual Triangle Walk Like MADD.

The event, hosted by Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD), is designed to raise awareness about the dangers of impaired driving and to support victims and survivors whose lives have been forever changed by drunk driving.

For the Beta Lambda Sigma Chapter, this walk carried a deeply personal meaning. On April 8, 2018, Soror Lakeatia Daniels-Owens's life was tragically impacted when a drunk driver struck her vehicle. The crash left her severely injured and claimed the life of her husband, Leroy Owens, a member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. Significantly, the day of this year's walk also marked what would have been Soror Daniels-Owens and Brother Owens's 22nd wedding anniversary, underscoring the weight of the loss and the importance of remembering his life.

Members of the Beta Lambda Sigma Chapter and the Raleigh Kappas walked side by side wearing red pins in remembrance of those who lost their lives, uniting as a community committed to change. Together, they emphasized the importance of awareness, advocacy, and prevention in putting an end to drunk and impaired driving.

Through their participation, the Beta Lambda Sigma chapter reaffirmed its commitment to service and social action, demonstrating that the fight against drunk driving is not only about statistics but about protecting lives, families, and futures.

### SHAW UNIVERSITY STUDENT AWARDED NATIONAL BLACK RADIO HALL OF FAME, CHARLOTTE CHAPTER SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

Charlotte, NC—The Charlotte Chapter of the National Black Radio Hall of Fame proudly announces that Jevon Draft, a dedicated Mass Communications student at Shaw university in Raleigh, NC, has been awarded a \$750 NBRHOF, Charlotte Chapter Scholarship.

Mr. Draft was recognized and selected by Titus Burrell, Shaw University Communication Department Chairman.

"This recognition celebrates Jevon's exceptional academic achievements, his commitment to excellence in Mass Communication, and the remarkable accomplishments he has already attained throughout his college career," said Charlotte NBRHOF Chapter President Margaret C. Jones.

"His hard work, determination, and passion reflect the promise and potential of the next generation of leaders who will continue to shape the future of the communication field," added Chapter Vice President Dr. State Alexander.

"We are honored to support Jevon in his educational journey and look forward to witnessing his continued growth and success on this well-deserved achievement with pride and appreciation," Charlotte Chapter President Jones concluded.

Jevon Draft graciously expressed his gratitude for the recognition.

"I want to sincerely thank the National Black Radio Hall of Fame, Charlotte Chapter for awarding me this scholarship. He said in a statement. "Your generosity not only helps support my education but also motivates me to carry forward the legacy of excellence and community impact that you honor". I am truly grateful for this opportunity, and I will work hard to make the most of it!"

Mr. Draft was presented with the scholarship award by NBRHOF Charlotte Chapter members Chris Johnson, President of High Impact Media and Gary Jones, CEO/Founder of Get With The Program Media.

We'd like to thank Shaw President Dr. Paulette Dillard, and Dr. Titus Burrell, Communication Department and Digital Technologies Chairman at Shaw University.

The National Black Radio Hall of Fame (NBRHOF.com) was founded to preserve and celebrate the rich history and groundbreaking achievements of Black radio across the nation. Created in response to the longstanding underrepresentation of Black broadcast personalities, the Hall of Fame shines a spotlight on the voices and contributions that played a pivotal role in shaping the legacy of national Black radio. Its mission is to honor and commemorate these trailblazers, ensuring that their impact is recognized and remembered by future generations.

## With Stores Closing, Durham Senior Facility Fights Hunger For The Needy



By Greg Childress

NC Newsline

At the top of Fayetteville Street in Durham, about a mile from the city's bustling downtown, a Walgreen's has closed. It sits idle in a mostly low-income, historic part of town whose prosperous edges are dotted with expensive, modern apartments and homes.

Not too far from the empty Walgreen's, the former Heritage Square Shopping Center is also idle. All stores are shuttered. The former retail center is surrounded by chain-linked fencing, wrapped tight even as potential customers fill hundreds of new apartments and condos nearby.

Residents in the area depended on the eclectic Food World and a Family Dollar store that operated in the shopping center. When they closed more than a year ago along with the drug store, it created an improbable food desert near a part of Durham that has experienced unrivaled growth and unprecedented prosperity. The store closures combined with federal cuts to safety net programs to ensure low income, elderly people don't go hungry, has local organizations looking for community solutions to keep them fed.

At the 79-unit Veranda at Whitted School on East Umstead Street, the aging residents felt the loss of the stores immediately. The senior housing facility is in a repurposed school that once served Durham's black children. It's a short walk from the Walgreens and the shopping center. Now, the closest grocery store is a mile away, a Compare Foods on University Drive. The next closest option is a Food Lion on Fayetteville Street, nearly two miles away.

Both are long hikes for seniors, many of who do not own cars and some who use walkers. For some tenants, catching a city bus can present a challenge

This month, The Integral Group, the Atlanta-based developer and

owner of the Veranda at Whitted School, partnered with the Durham Housing Authority, CenterWell Primary Care Anywhere and Feed My Sheep of Durham Inc., to create an onsite food pantry to keep residents from having to "choose between a lengthy bus ride and a healthy meal."

"We have some seniors who have more energy than you and me, but we do have some seniors who don't drive, that have health conditions and the easier we can make things for them, the better," Kimberly Williams, a project adviser for the Integral Group, told a reporter on a recent visit.

The food pantry is also a response to federal budget cuts that might impact tenants' ability to feed themselves, Williams said.

"Even if some people might not need the food now, at some point they might," Williams said. "With all of the cuts that are happening with food stamps and Medicaid and possibly SSI [Supplemental Security Income] benefits, I just want them [tenants] to know that it's [food] available."

Meals on Wheels and other agencies deliver food to tenants, Williams said, but those meals are perishable and sometimes go bad before tenants can finish them. It's good to have the food pantry as an option to help sustain residents through the month, she said.

Williams got the idea for the food pantry after seeing a Facebook post about a pantry at J.J. Henderson Towers, a senior housing community operated by Durham Housing Authority.

"At some point, I want to do it [provide food] for the entire community, where if someone off the street needs food, we would set up something on a Saturday in that circle [in front of the building] and allow people to eat," Williams said. "This world is getting tougher."

Williams is still working out the details about how food will be distrib-



uted with Feed My Sheep of Durham, but tenants told NC Newsline that they welcome the food pantry.

"We help each other"

"Oh, it means a lot," said long-time tenant Regina Royster when asked about the pantry. "I've seen people and you can tell they need a little something [food] here and there and we help each other."

The pantry is in an small room that wasn't being used. Several shelving units are filled with cereal, pasta, dried beans and various canned goods. A refrigerator in the corner is nearly empty except for a few bottles of Gatorade and two cases of Ensure that a tenant donated during a reporter's tour of the pantry.

"When I get my nourishments from the VA [Veterans Administration], they can kind of go overboard sometimes," said James Mitchell, 72, an Army veteran. "This [the pantry] gives me an opportunity to share it with the residents."

Mitchell has lived in the Veranda at Whitted School since it opened in 2017, and believes the apartment he occupies was his science classroom when he attended the school in the 1960s. He has a car and can travel to grocery stores but said some of his neighbors cannot.

"It [the closing of the stores] created an inconvenience for most people in my age bracket because we now have to travel," Mitchell said. "We have some who don't have transportation and some who do and we have to travel further out."

Senior hunger a growing problem

Food insecurity among senior citizens is a growing concern for many organizations, particularly as the U.S. population aged 65 and older grows rapidly. The growth is driven by the the Baby Boomer generation. According to Population Reference Bureau, the number of Americans age 65 and older is projected to increase to 82 million by 2050. There are currently more than 61 million people in the U.S. aged 65 or older, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

As the population ages, they will need more health care services and assistance for government agencies and nonprofits that provide food and other necessities to help sustain them.

Amy Akroyd, director of development and communications for Meals on Wheels Wake County, noted that a report released by Feeding America a



few years ago found that the Raleigh metropolitan area ranked high among the nation's other metropolitan areas for senior hunger.

"So, we know that the constituency that we serve has certainly seen an increase in that need because of the way that things are going right now with food prices increasing, with fuel prices increasing," Akroyd said. "Everyone's just stretching their budgets to meet a greater and greater need every day."

Meals on Wheels is 50% funded by the federal government. Program operators across the country were disappointed there was no funding increase to meet growing demand, Akroyd said.

"We were fortunate in that we were continued to be funded, but it was flat funded, so that extra push that we really needed to continue to meet the growing need is not quite there anymore," Akroyd said. "We're relying on our private community of donors, volunteers, supporters to continue to make sure that we can pay for the meals that are so desperately needed by our seniors."

Determining the extent of hunger in America could become more difficult in the wake of a Trump administration decision to end the federal government's annual report on hunger in America.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture recently announced that it is terminating future Household Food Security Reports, calling them "redundant, costly, politicized" that do "nothing more than fear monger."

The 2024 report is scheduled for release Oct. 22. It will be the last under the Trump administration.

The decision to halt the annual hunger report follows the passage of the Trump administration tax cut and spending bill that the Congressional Budget Office estimates will kick 3 million people off of food stamps, which is also known as SNAP benefits.

"When you look at some of the things that are being cut in terms of certain entitlement programs, SNAP has been cut, Medicare, Medicaid, they're [seniors] are facing some tough choices," Akroyd said. "Those are all services that our seniors rely on, so the less services that seniors have in their own day-to-day lives the more they're going to find a need [for food] that we're going to hopefully be able to fill."



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# Church

## Assata Shakur: A Voice Of Struggle, A Legacy Of Love

By Stacy M. Brown

Black Press USA

The passing of Assata Shakur has left a deep void in those who saw her as more than a revolutionary. She was a mother, poet, and symbol of liberation whose life embodied struggle and sacrifice. On Black Press USA's Let It Be Known morning news show, journalist and commentator Thandisizwe Chimurenga spoke about Shakur's death and her legacy. "My heart literally skipped a beat," Chimurenga said. "I have known Assata's daughter and husband for over 30 years. I immediately called to see if it was true. I was so saddened when he said that it was true."

Born JoAnne Byron and once known as JoAnne Chesimard, Shakur became a leading member of the Black Panther Party and the Black Liberation Army. She was targeted by the FBI's COINTEL-



PRO program, convicted under disputed circumstances in 1977, and sentenced to life in prison. In 1979, she escaped and was granted asylum in Cuba, where she remained until her death. "I pur-

posefully refrained from going into journalism mode," Chimurenga said. "The only question I asked was had she been ill. He said, Yes, she had been ill. My heart was broken for them because losing a parent, losing your mother, you are never prepared for that. And I was heartbroken for me, being, as Assata says, an African woman in America, that she was no longer physically here with us."

For Chimurenga, Shakur's exile carried both sorrow and triumph. "I liked knowing that she was physically walking around free in Cuba, away from the clutches of the U.S. government," Chimurenga said. "I was absolutely saddened that I had never taken myself down to Cuba and tried to find her and interview her as a journalist. But at the same time, I was rejoicing in the fact that for close to 50 years, she remained free of the United States criminal injustice system." Her words shaped

generations of activists. "It is our duty to fight for our freedom," Shakur famously stated. "We must love each other and support each other. We have nothing to lose but our chains." That declaration became a chant during protests in Ferguson and in the Black Lives Matter movement.

"She was our warrior queen mother, our sister comrade, our mama," Chimurenga said. "She fought for us. She sacrificed for

us. And her autobiography, infused with poetry, showed us the beauty of a woman the state called a terrorist. She was a beautiful soul who often said we must be weapons of mass construction, creating more beauty in the world because the people running it are destroying it." Reactions to her passing showed the divide in the nation. "America is a white supremacist nation," Chimurenga said. "It was not founded for us.

We were brought here to enrich other people. If we did not believe it before, everything Trump is doing right now is in perfect lockstep with white supremacist principles. And that is how he was able to be reelected twice." Chimurenga said Shakur's memory will always remain tied to her devotion to her people. "Love. Love of Black people. Sacrifice, commitment, and beauty," she remarked. "That is who she was."

## SAU Mourns Historian & Alumnus

Saint Augustine's University (SAU) joins with the global community of scholars, historians, educators, and alumni to mourn the passing of Dr. Quintard Taylor (December 11, 1948 – September 21, 2025), a truly distinguished class of 1969 alumnus whose life's work elevated Black history, expanded access to knowledge, and inspired countless minds.

Dr. Taylor earned his B.A. in American History from Saint Augustine's College (now university) in 1969 before pursuing graduate degrees (M.A., Ph.D.) in history at the University of Minnesota. Over a career spanning decades, he held professorships at institutions such as Washington State University, the University of Oregon, and the University of Washington, where he served as the Scott & Dorothy Bullitt Professor of American History and contributed transformative scholarship on African American experience in the American West.

In 2007, Dr. Taylor founded BlackPast.org, envisioning an un-gated, reliable, and expansive digital resource to preserve and disseminate Black history. Under his leadership,



the site evolved into the world's leading online encyclopedia of African American and global African history, reaching tens of millions of users. His scholarship included acclaimed works such as "The Forging of a Black Community: Seattle's Central District" and "In Search of the Racial Frontier: African Americans in the American West," among many others, that reshaped how historians—and the public—engage with the narrative of Black life in America.

"As a proud alumnus of Saint Augustine's University, Dr. Taylor exemplified the power of education, scholarship, and courageous vision," said Dr. Verjanis A. Peoples, Interim President of SAU. "His tireless commitment to making Black history accessible to all, his intellectual daring, and his love for truth will continue to guide us. We extend our deepest condolences to his family, his many mentees, and the entire BlackPast community."

We celebrate Dr. Taylor's legacy—not only as a historian but as a mentor, storyteller, and bridge between generations. He remained deeply committed to illuminating untold narratives and elevating the voices of often-marginalized figures in historical discourse. His life reminds us that knowledge and memory are bridges to justice and empowerment. SAU encourages the university and broader communities to honor Dr. Taylor's memory by visiting BlackPast.org, reflecting on his writings, and supporting efforts to sustain access to Black history education. May his legacy continue to bless future historians, students, and readers worldwide.

## St. Paul A.M.E. Church Unveils Historic Marker and New Location

By Jheri Hardaway

Staff Writer

Raleigh, NC – September 29, 2025, one hundred and sixty years to the day after a pivotal gathering that shaped the future of African Americans in North Carolina, St. Paul African Methodist Episcopal Church hosted a moving ceremony to unveil a "upgraded" historic marker in a new, rightful location next to the church. The event, attended by former Governor and US Senate Candidate Roy Cooper, Secretary of State Elaine Marshall, State Senator Dan Blue, and many others, brought together community members to reflect on the legacy of the 1865 Freedmen's Convention and celebrate its enduring impact. The original marker, H-109, had been erected in 2004 on Hillsborough Street. However, a successful petition led to its relocation to the very grounds where the convention took place, in front of St. Paul A.M.E. Church at 402 West Edenton St. The new marker now bears the name of the church and the years 1865 and 1866, solidifying its historical connection to this sacred ground.

The ceremony began with a powerful address that transported attendees back to September 29, 1865. St. Paul Historian Melody Hunter-Pillion painted a vivid picture of the 160 African American men from eastern North Carolina who assembled at the church, "ready... with a great intellectual capacity, with definitive plans for themselves

and their families." These delegates, some literate, others not, converged with a shared vision: to secure constitutional rights – the right to testify in court, to vote in elections, and to serve on a jury. The speaker emphasized the profound faith that guided these newly freed people. "Our God who will, and who had delivered them from bondage, would see them through in the next phase of their journey," Hunter-Pillion proclaimed. Attendees were urged to imagine the scene: people charting their future, supported by the St. Paul community.

The crucial role of the St. Paul congregation in facilitating this historic convention was highlighted. The church, which began as an offshoot of the Edenton Street Methodist Church, was built on land purchased with their assistance. The women of St. Paul, including Narcisa Ellison, were recognized for their tireless efforts in preparing meals, raising funds for the convention, and supporting educational initiatives at a time when reading and writing were forbidden to their people. Ellison, an "incredible foundress" for the church and community, was also the wife of Stewart Ellison, a Wake County delegate who later became construction manager for the church's first building.

While the 1865 proceedings took place at this site, it was in St. Paul's first wooden structure. An 1866 Chicago Church Newspaper article described it as "a plain, white church with a floor of foundation for about



300 persons, and a gallery accommodation for about 100 more." A striking detail was the "large, elegant, and light like plaster of Paris bust of Mr. Lincoln." This initial building, moved by torchlight in 1853 by enslaved St. Paul members, symbolized their immense pride and determination. The convention's resolutions were read aloud, a powerful reminder of the fundamental rights sought: education, care for the elderly, family protection, assistance in reuniting families separated by slavery, the right to work for fair wages, the right to vote, the right to self-defense, and the deletion of racially discriminatory laws. These resolutions were formally presented to the Constitutional Convention and

(See **AME** P. 12)

### IT'S NOT HOW YOU START... BUT HOW YOU FINISH

By Pastor William E. Ratcliff  
Over the past couple of weeks, my wife and I enjoyed watching the 2025 World Athletics Championships in Tokyo. We witnessed athletes who came from behind to win gold. That picture captures the heart of this Sermon of the Week.

Our Holy Convocation 2025 theme for this year reminds us that although Jesus endured the cross, He finished seated in a place of honor beside God's throne. Scripture calls Him the Author and Finisher of our faith. Aren't you glad He finished what He started? It's Not How You Start... but How You Finish.

In Luke 4:17–18, Jesus began His ministry in His hometown synagogue. They handed Him the scroll of Isaiah, and He declared: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because He hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; He hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, to preach the acceptable year of the Lord."

Notice the word because. Jesus said, "I'm not here by accident—I'm here on purpose and with a purpose." Many of us didn't start in the best place. Many TRUEVINE churches started poor, weak, and even rejected. But hear me: it's not how we start, it's how we finish.

Jesus was in danger as a baby from Herod, in the temple as a boy, in His first Sermon, and ultimately on the cross. Yet danger didn't stop Him. Rejection didn't stop Him. Why? Because He knew—it's not how you start, it's how you finish.

1. Jesus Had a Purpose  
You can look strong on the outside, but if you don't know your God-given purpose, you're headed for disaster. Jesus said in John 15:16, "You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last."

Purpose is about producing fruit. That's why Jesus cursed the fig tree that appeared alive but bore no fruit. It was all leaves and no fruit.

### NO VISION, WHAT THEN?

Read: **Proverbs 26:1-8**  
By John L. Caldwell, Pastor  
New Jerusalem Baptist Cathedral  
Where there is no vision, the people perish (Proverbs 29:18 - kjv). For many years, this proverb has been misinterpreted. What this line implies is if one does not have plans or future plans to follow, he or she may soon become defunct as a person or organization. And many have taken just that meaning from this text. Let's unpack the accurate truth of this scripture.

However, the word "vision" does not refer to one's ability to formulate future goals and plans. The accurate interpretation of this word "vision" really means what the prophet of God really does. Here it is a synonym and refers to the prophetic visions, revelations which comes from the word of God. Here in this context "vision" means the message which comes from God. To put "vision" in a more simple and accurate term here, Any and all revelations which comes from God.

There were times when Israel was very disobedient, God withheld His prophetic word from them. Israel endured times when God was silent.

Too many look holy, talk holy, even "church" holy—but where is the fruit? Is the Gospel being preached?

Paul confronted Peter in Galatians 2 because he wasn't walking in the truth of the Gospel. He reminded him—and us—that salvation is not by law but by grace through faith. Purpose kept Jesus focused, and that same purpose must keep us focused as well.

The writer of Hebrews tells us: "Lay aside every weight and the sin that so easily entangles us, and run with patience the race set before us." Stay in your lane, stay focused, and run your race.

Jesus declared His purpose clearly: to preach the Gospel. That Gospel is salvation, redemption, eternal life, forgiveness, healing, and a renewed relationship with God.

2. Jesus Had the Anointing  
Jesus didn't just have purpose—He had power. "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because He hath anointed me."

There's a difference between talent and anointing. Talent entertains, but the anointing breaks yokes.

Some look like preachers, sound like preachers, even dress like preachers—but without the anointing, it's just performance. With the anointing, chains are broken, lives are healed, and souls are saved.

I've got degrees, certifications, and I studied at three HBCUs. But let me testify—the anointing doesn't come from degrees, titles, or papers. The anointing only comes from God!

3. Jesus Faced Rejection  
Jesus' first Sermon ended in rejection. His people asked, "Isn't this Joseph's son?" They couldn't see past His background. But rejection wasn't the end—it was redirection. When Nazareth pushed Him out, He preached somewhere else.

Too often, we stop when people stop clapping. But rejection isn't the end. Some will roll stones away for you; others will throw stones at you. Either way, keep preaching, keep praising, keep praying—because rejection is not the end.

You may start small or misunderstood, but if you walk in purpose and live in power, you will finish strong. That's why Paul could declare: "I have fought a good fight, I have

## Practical Biblical Principles

When the prophet Samuel was a young boy, "In those days the word of the Lord was rare." (1 Samuel 3:1). For all the times Israel rejected the Word, God sent a famine on the earth; not a famine, of food and water, but an even more damaging famine: a famine of the word of God (Amos 8:12).

Besides "vision," a second key word has been misunderstood in this verse: the word "perish." This word does not refer to the perishing of the churches who are inactive and may be spiritually dying. Nor does it mean the perishing of the unevangelized heathen who will die in their sin if someone does not reach them in time.

The word "perish" (KJV) means "to cast off all restraints." This word also means where the word of God is silent or silenced in the hearts of the people, it clearly warns the results of not having the word will be terrifying. Here the population will become ungovernable as they cast aside all that is decent and civil and allow their naked appetites to take over (Exodus 32:25).

While Moses was absent for a mere forty days on MT. Sinai receiving the Law of God, the people began

finished my course, I have kept the faith."

4. Jesus Had Power  
Jesus lived with power. He ate with tax collectors, loved the broken, healed the sick, and freed the oppressed. And that same power is still at work in us today.

Our General Mothers prayed it: "Father, I stretch my hand to thee" and "Come on in, Lord." When we open wide and let Him in, His power works in our lives.

God has power to turn: Pimps into preachers - Drunks into deacons - Divas into believers - Liars into truth tellers - Drug Addicts into Praising Addicts - Gamblers into givers and Tricksters into tithers. Is there anybody here that's reading this Sermon who knows God is able?

He's able to make the godless righteous, the weak strong, the carnal holy, the foolish wise and the wicked noble. The old church used to sing: "Power, power, Lord—we need more power!"

When we let God in, His power brings us in, keeps us in, and gives us strength to keep pressing forward.

He can make the resentful forgiving, the worldly spiritual and the guilty innocent. He can make the miserable happy and the dying alive. Does anybody here know—He's able?

Can any of you, like me, who can say, "I came to Jesus just as I was—worn, wounded, and sad. But I found in Him a resting place, and He made me glad.

In closing, there was a time when I was on my way to hell and enjoying the trip. But one Sunday, February 28, 1993, I said, "I'll take Jesus for mine!" You may have been lied on, talked about, or misunderstood. But keep running your race.

Perhaps you started off poorly, but you can finish with promise. Maybe you started in sin, but you can finish in salvation. Perhaps you started broken, but you can finish healed. It's not how you start—it's how you finish!

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



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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.

## STATEMENT OF APPREHENSION

MY STATEMENT OF APPREHENSION CONCERNING SIGNING OF ON THE RELEASE OF MY 2014 BENTLEY FLYING SUR 12 FROM ROLLS ROYCE OF RALEIGH is hinged to the story of the service that was required on a return to the dealership for a replacement and repair of an exploded battery and module that had been sent in for installation on Wednesday, April 23, 2025.

The return for replacement was April 28, 2025. The need for replacement was represented by the vehicle’s locking up, and the battery’s module that was replaced is the part that Carlos gave to us, showing that the connector overheated to the point of melting.

On April 25th, the care was in drive mode when we (my husband and I) were overcome by a ghastly fume that permeated the car and further expelled to the outside of the vehicle. We were confronted with the windows malfunctioning. We did finally get the windows down. We were horrified, and to this day, we’re horrified at the swiftness and the extent of the powerful fumes affect.

Because of the horrible mystery, we stopped in less than a mile, while fumes were still evident outside the vehicle. We stopped at a friend’s house to tell and show the evidence. We were at a loss to know that a vapor was still coming out of a vent located in the trunk.

On Saturday, April 26, 2025, we attempted to use the key fob to enter the vehicle. The alarm system went off, the dashboard went hay-wire.

On Monday, April 28, 2025 Rolls Royce dispatched a two truck to deliver the vehicle for diagnostic testing and replacement. In the late afternoon, we met with Carlos, after I requested the rendering of the module that was the culprit, per the dastardly actions that we were subjected to. Carlos has given me much explanation per Bentleys. I thank him for all of his diligence. (Friday May 2, 2025)

After the diagnostic test, test drive to the tune of 94 miles for up to specs satisfaction, the remaining problem was the terrible odor remaining. The supposed to be solution to that problem was for a “GUY”, to come to hose away the terrifically residual scent.

a. The car was going to be ready for pickup last Friday afternoon, May 2, 2025, but “GUY” was stuck at another location.

b. Was going to be super hosed to relieve the terrible scent on late afternoon (Monday, May 5, 2025) with a call back from Carlos at 5:00 p.m., that didn’t happen.

This whole scenario of time has been taxing and harrowing. There is nothing to minimalize that physical experience that we’ve been subjected to.

May 7, 2025, Carlos called to say the vehicle is ready for pick-up. My apprehension; what guarantee do I have that this won’t be a tag along problem from the fumes? The definition of the word fumes carries the weight that it does. In this instance, we were just before being overtaken to the point of succumbing. We don’t need anyone else to experience the actuality. We lived that!

My disgust is the dismissal attitude from management human. Carlos explained what he could. I expressed that I feel the vehicle possesses potential to be a tag along problem and the same subjection of dismissal attitude for our pain and suffering.

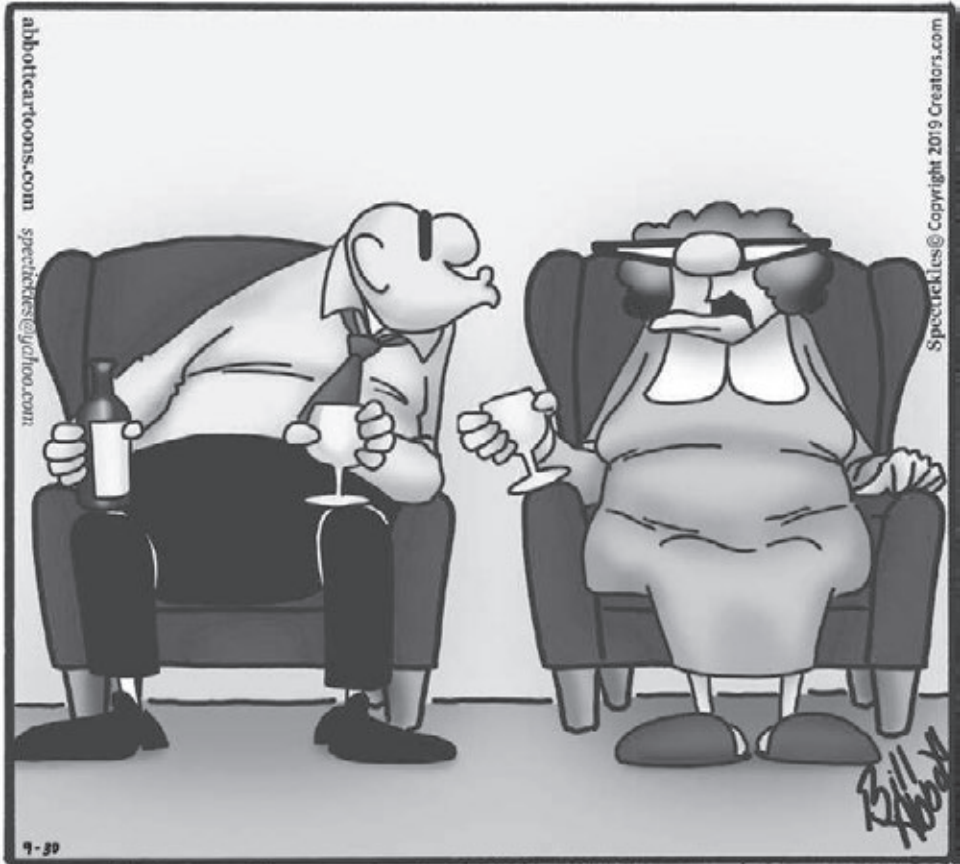
Management has said absolutely nothing to us. My attempts to reach Westgate motors were futilized by my calls being blocked. My phone’s contact list can support my number of calls to Westgate for further introspect concerning our complaint. These calls I made very shortly after speaking to Carlos, just before 1:00 p.m. (May 7, 2025).

Points: The vehicle, a 2014 Bentley Flying Spur 12, is currently owned and insured by Kayolyn Person. Since personnel picked this vehicle up from our residence on May 22, 2025, it has remained at Rolls Royce of Raleigh, location Capital Boulevard. The horrific experience in the vehicle makes us too fearful to ever drive it again. We don’t know who would be able to trust that this vehicle can be marked customer saleable.

Our expressed words to Mr. Peter Coleman seemed to find resonation until he dropped off the map for communication. That action has added much salt to the wound. The definition of Thermal Runaway, and the next potential is to define death threatening.

As acknowledged by Mr. Coleman, we have not been pugnacious. Both of us are seeking mental health therapy to help cope with the onset and the aftermath. This writing is after 5 months and 1 week. To be dismissed by owner of Westgate Cars is unconscionable.

Thermal Runaway is an incident where one exothermal process triggers other processes, finally resulting in an uncontrollable increase in temperature. This can result in the destruction of the battery, or in severe cases also fire.



“Yes, love is blind. But I’m not.  
More wine.”



### FUNdraising Good Times

By Mel & Pearl Shaw  
Saad & Shaw

**THE SECRET SELF-CARE INGREDIENT**

Are you sad or are you depressed? Yes, there is a difference. Having the blues, being down, and feeling “not OK” are part of life. Depression is something different. Like it or not, its recommended that you reach out for help when you are experiencing depression – even if that’s the last thing you feel like doing. Here’s the catch: how do you know the difference?

We checked with the Center for Disease Control’s website to gain some insight. Symptoms of depression include feeling sad, empty, or hopeless often or all the time; not wanting to do activities that used to be fun; weight gain or loss, or changes in appetite; sleep changes; feeling irritable, easily frustrated, or restless; lack of energy or feeling tired; feeling worthless or overly guilty; trouble concentrating, remembering things, or making decisions; and/or thinking about suicide or hurting yourself. The CDC – and so many healthcare professionals – recommend you talk with your healthcare provider if these continue for two weeks or more, interfere with daily activities, or cause significant distress.

COVID and its aftermath increased awareness of depression and the importance of getting help. But what about those feelings of sadness that come and go, the feelings of isolation, and the increasing feelings of helplessness, given the changes that are happening all around us? More and more people are wondering, “How did things get like this?” Too often, we hear, “the answer is complex.” It is, and so is “the cure.” We recommend a self-care combo: slow down, eat better, rest, exercise, journal, take a walk, talk to a friend, and volunteer with a nonprofit. This last part is the overlooked self-care “special sauce.” Reaching out to others and becoming involved with something bigger than ourselves helps us feel better and increases our sense of connection. If you volunteer for a project or organization on a regular basis, you may find yourself looking forward to upcoming meetings or events. You might reflect – with a smile – on a past experience. You may make a new friend or two.

### A Different Voice

By Dorothy Shaw Thompson

**A LYING DYING NATION**

Before I get started, I want to tell you about a living, breathing angel in my life. A few months ago, that angel gave me \$20 and a card close to the anniversary month of my pet, Najee. As you asked, I shared it with my family this weekend.

I received a pot of colors, and I want to thank you so much. Just in case my angel doesn’t read these articles, you never know—you might be talking to my angel.

Narrative: Our nation is not dying despite the title above. As long as there are angels spreading random acts of kindness, there is still a world waiting to be awakened. Still, there are too many people, corporations, ads, and politicians who choose the way of lies—and too many of us who believe and spread them.

As I consider the scripture that tells us to pray and cease our wicked ways so that God may heal our land, I wonder if lies, and believing them, are some of the wicked ways we must address. Why do we lie? Let’s face it, in some ways we all have—and perhaps still do. Would any one of us truly want to be defined as a liar? I don’t think so. So perhaps the question of why we lie is important in helping us stop.

Here are my thoughts and answers. Perhaps you have more, and I’d love it if you’d share them with me.

I’ll start with a small example. Since I was a child, my mother told me: “Dorothy, tell the truth, but you don’t have to tell everything.” I remember thinking, but what’s not to tell? So I went around telling the truth as best as I could—and often found myself getting into trouble (LOL).

So I think one reason we lie is because we don’t want to cause trouble for ourselves or others. I have a friend with dementia or Alzheimer’s. She still remembers me, but often forgets how to use the phone. From time to time, she’ll ask her daughter to call me. She leads our conversations, and after asking me a question, I sometimes don’t know how to answer. Her daughter and I agreed not to tell her upsetting things.

She often asks me how my mother and sister are, because she was close to both of them. I usually say, “They’re doing fine.” One time, out of habit, I even asked her how her mother was doing—though she had passed away many years earlier. I could have smacked myself for doing so. She gave me a puzzled pause and finally said, “I think she’s doing fine, but I haven’t heard from her in a long time.”

My heart clenched, and I promised myself that I would not lie to her again. The next time we talked, she asked about my mother and sister, and I told her the truth. I avoided asking about her mother. She responded, “Well, I felt so, and I think my mother is too.” I realized she wasn’t so much speaking facts as she was seeking clarity.

Later, she asked me about another friend who had died five years earlier. Despite my determination to tell the truth, I wasn’t prepared. She asked if I had spoken to her lately. I answered, “It’s been a while, but she’s doing fine,” even adding, “She’s probably just busy.” True, but not true. A “pure and true lie,” as the old folks used to say. Before we got off the phone, she said, “I wondered if she was still here. Wasn’t she sick a while back?”

That made me feel awful. I called her daughter and said, “I can’t do this. We have to answer her questions truthfully—or at least I do.” Another reason we lie is because we’re unprepared. Thank God, we came up with a plan. For another friend she often asks about, I’ll show her a funeral program. Since that friend died during COVID and there wasn’t a program, I’m going to make one up just for her, so she can have clarity.

We do this all the time because sometimes we have no plan to tell the truth. We lie because we think it’s easier—but it isn’t. The truth will set us free.

This is just another chance for me to step away from wicked ways so God can heal the land we all want healed. We are a lying world. But we are not getting away with it.

We have a president who might best be described as “liar-in-chief,” and his minions—some who believe his lies, others who know better but repeat them anyway. He is delusional if he believes what he says. Those who follow him do so because they want power, riches, to win elections, or because of fear, racism, and ignorance.

He knows that Democrats, “woke” or “unwoke,” are not the source of the violence we hear about on the news. But when Charlie Kirk was murdered, he blamed the Democrats, and his sycophants did likewise. I was disappointed in the Democrats who supported that resolution about Charlie Kirk. I think they believed they were being compassionate or didn’t want to appear as though they supported violence.

If we want a “non-dying” nation—which is what we’ve had, though still imperfect and better than where we now appear to be headed—we must begin (or continue) to tell the truth. Not just about Donald, the emperor with no clothes, but also in our daily lives—to each other, our children, in church, at work, and wherever we are tempted to lie.

Bon Jovi once said: “If you want people to say kind words when you pass, you should say kind words while you’re alive.”

Let’s be alive and free—by speaking and walking in truth.

### Guest Columnist

## Armstrong Williams

**AOC’S SOCIALIST DREAM COULD BECOME AMERICA’S NIGHTMARE**

Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez’s flirtation with a presidential run is the latest warning sign of just how far the Democratic Party’s leadership has careened off the rails. After crushing defeats in the latest election, moderate Democrats have failed to take matters into their own hands, continuing to kneel to the strength of the far-left wing of their party who champion socialism, divisive class warfare and pipe dreams that seem to have come straight out of fairytales.

While there haven’t yet been any formal statements from the democratic socialist congresswoman, reports based on individuals familiar with her operations have confirmed that her team is actively positioning her for a White House or Senate campaign in 2028.

AOC’s message is abhorrently popular among Democrats, and Zohran Mamdani, the Democratic frontrunner in the New York City mayoral election, is essentially a male equivalent of AOC. He and many other socialists have championed absurd and dangerous policies that would wreck cities, states and our country if they were enacted.

Unfortunately for moderates like New York Sens. Chuck Schumer and Kirsten Gillibrand, AOC, despite her complete failure to accomplish anything of substance in Congress, excels at one thing New York’s current senators do not: getting her message across.

This should frighten Schumer and Gillibrand, as both have faced mounting criticism for their actions and inactions.

While Schumer is very effective at reaching people through the media, he is not nearly as effective at persuading them of his views as AOC is. As Senate minority leader, he struck a compromise with Republicans in March 2025 to avert a government shutdown, even though Democrats have long portrayed Republicans as the sole cause of such crises. In response, Democrats like AOC, backed by the far-left media, rallied the party in calling for Schumer’s resignation. That compromise, reasonable and, in many ways, a demonstration of Schumer’s leadership, was nonetheless viewed as a betrayal of the Democratic Party, or at least AOC’s vision of what the Democratic Party should be.

And of course many New Yorkers have viewed Gillibrand as a sort of low-hanging fruit who has been effectively absent. She’s evidently realized this and has, at least in the past year, come a bit further out of the woodwork to try and establish herself as her next campaign approaches.

AOC would not be planning one of these runs if she didn’t think she had a chance. No doubt her internal polling shows promise, and myriad factors, such as Mamdani’s high likelihood of winning New York City, and the massive, unprecedented ground operation he’s built in the state, particularly among young voters, have created a perfect storm to provide her with a real chance at getting real power.

The problem with democratic socialists is that they push ideas built on the fears and dreams of people across the United States who hope for a better tomorrow. Their message is always resoundingly utopian. Everybody succeeds. Everybody gets what they want. In a perfect world, if these objectives were feasible, it would be difficult to argue against them. But we don’t live in a perfect world. For every utopian ideal of a socialist, there is some major tradeoff that comes with it.

Want free college for everyone? Lower standards, worse educational quality and fewer resources for students who need them most. Want universal health care overnight? Rationed care, longer wait times, worse services and fewer health care breakthroughs.

But fortunately for democratic socialists, they can count on young, naive kids to believe in a better future that can be achieved without great consequence. We all recognize that wherever socialism or communism has been implemented, things have gone horribly wrong, and nations have fallen. We are a country built on capitalism, and we are the strongest in the world because of it. Becoming socialist would not make us better off. It would destroy us.

AOC’s real chance at taking a higher office should be a dire warning for Democrats. While she thrives on slogans and utopian promises that mask a destructive reality that evidently she can’t foresee, her ability to capture attention and mobilize followers gives her far more influence than her thin record of accomplishments deserves.

If Democrats continue to bend to her and the democratic socialist movement she embodies, they risk not only fracturing their party but dragging the country toward policies that would erode the very foundation of American strength. God help us all if she succeeds.



Classifieds

DURHAM COUNTY

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
DURHAM COUNTY

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**  
File No. 25E001030-310

THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 22nd day of September 2025, as Executor of the Estate of DONALD QUNICY FOZARD, SR., Deceased, of Durham County, North Carolina, does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said Estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 3rd day of January, 2026 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 2nd day of October, 2025.

NORA LEE FOZARD, EXECUTOR  
ESTATE OF DONALD QUNICY FOZARD, SR.  
c/o Richard G. Long III, Attorney  
Walker Lambe, PLLC  
Post Office Box 51549  
Durham, North Carolina 27717  
10/2, 10/9, 10/16, and 10/23/2025  
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
DURHAM COUNTY

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**  
Estate Of Heather Heekyoung Cho  
File No. 24E002407-310

THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 24th day of September, 2025, as Executor of the ESTATE OF HEATHER HEEKYOUNG CHO, Deceased, does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said Estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before January 3rd, 2026 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 2nd day of October, 2025.

Chuck C. Cho, Executor  
ESTATE OF HEATHER HEEKYOUNG CHO c/o Shirley M. Diefenbach, Attorney  
Walker Lambe, PLLC  
240 Leigh Farm Road  
Suite 100  
Durham, NC 27707  
10/2, 10/9, 10/16, and 10/23/2025  
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
DURHAM COUNTY

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**  
In the General Court of Justice,  
Superior Court Division  
Before the Clerk  
File Number 25E001247-310

THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 25th day of September 2025, as EXECUTOR of the Estate of ANN WAUGH MURRAY, 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 2nd day of January, 2026 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 2nd day of October 2025.

Kimberly Parks, Executor  
1008 Athena Drive  
Durham, NC 27703  
10/2, 10/9, 10/16, and 10/23/2025  
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
DURHAM COUNTY

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**  
In the General Court of Justice,  
Superior Court Division  
Before the Clerk  
File Number 25E001195-310

THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 12th day of September 2025, as ADMINISTRATOR of the Estate of ALMA STRICKLAND, 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 2nd day of January, 2026 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 2nd day of October 2025.

Sharron Parker, Administrator  
870 County Line Rd.  
Timberlake, NC 27583  
10/2, 10/9, 10/16, and 10/23/2025  
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
DURHAM COUNTY

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**  
In the General Court of Justice,  
Superior Court Division  
Before the Clerk  
File Number 25E001189-310

THE UNDERSIGNED,

having qualified on the 11th day of September 2025, as ADMINISTRATOR of the Estate of CANDY WHITT MCLAIN, 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 2nd day of January, 2026 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 2nd day of October 2025.

Gordon Claudius McLain,  
Administrator  
8913 Roxboro Road  
Bahama, NC 27503  
10/2, 10/9, 10/16, and 10/23/2025  
NORTH CAROLINA  
DURHAM COUNTY

**NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION**  
In The General Court Of Justice  
District Court Division  
File No. 25CV005790-310  
CIVIL SUMMONS

Frank Adu Sarpong, PLAINTIFF Vs. Brittany Nicole Glenn, DEFENDANT

To The Defendant: Take notice that a pleading seeking relief against you has been filed in the above entitled action. The nature of the relief being sought is as follows: The Plaintiff has filed a COMPLAINT FOR JUDGMENT FOR ABSOLUTE DIVORCE. You are required to make defense to such pleading no later than November 3 , 2025, thirty (30) days from the first date of the publication of this Notice, and upon your failure to do so the party seeking service against you will apply to the court for the relief sought.

This, the 2nd day of October 2025.

Frank Adu Sarpong, Plaintiff  
1600 Discovery Way  
Durham, NC 27703  
10/2, 10/9, and 10/16/2025  
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
DURHAM COUNTY

**NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION**  
In the General Court of Justice,  
District Court Division  
File Number 22CVD000204-310  
KEITH ANTHONY CHARLES V. JASMINE JANAY ANDERSON

Motion to Intervene FILED BY: MARTIN ESTES & NEICHIER ESTES TO: KEITH ANTHONY CHARLES, THE UNDERSIGNED HEREBY MOVES THIS COURT TO: Request Emergency Custody for our granddaughter where she can continue to live with the only sibling she knows and enroll in school. THE UNDERSIGNED HEREBY STATES THAT THE GROUNDS FOR THIS MOTION INCLUDE: The Mother is incarcerated but not sentenced as she is waiting to hear from the Court. Her children need to be in school. THE UNDERSIGNED HEREBY REQUEST THE FOLLOWING RELIEF: To Grant Temporary Emergency Custody to enroll "K.C." in school and allow her to continue to live with brother at her grandparent's home, where she is provided for. NOTICE OF HEARING: Said Motion to Intervene will be heard at the Durham County Courthouse, 510 S. Dillard Street, Durham, NC 27701, Civil Division, Courtroom 6B, October 22, 2025, at 9:00AM. This the 5th day of August 2025. Signed by Interveners; Martin Estes and Neichier Estes, 1101 Donphil Road, Durham, N.C. 27712; 919-602-4722 10/2, 10/9, and 10/16/2025  
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
DURHAM COUNTY

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**  
In the General Court of Justice,  
Superior Court Division  
Before the Clerk  
File Number 25E001186-310

THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 10th day of September 2025, as EXECUTOR of the Estate of MARY ENSLEY WESTMORELAND, 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 26th 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 25th day of September 2025.

Joseph Bryan Westmoreland  
Executor  
3159 Rose of Sharon Road  
Durham, NC 27712  
9/25, 10/2, 10/9, and 10/16/2025  
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
DURHAM COUNTY

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

**Superior Court Division**  
**Before the Clerk**  
File Number 25E001075-310

THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 15th day of August 2025, as ADMINISTRATOR of the Estate of WILLIAM HENRY AMOS, SR., Deceased, of Durham County, North Carolina, does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said Estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 26th 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 25th day of September 2025.

Denise Parker  
Administrator  
401 Archdale Dr #1306  
Durham, NC 27707  
9/25, 10/2, 10/9, and 10/16/2025  
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
DURHAM COUNTY

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**  
File Number 25E001105-310

ALL PERSONS, firms and corporations having claims against Edward Watkins Meeler, deceased, of Durham County, N.C., are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before 12-29-2025, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This 9-23-2025.

Betty E. Meeler, Executor of the Estate of Edward Watkins Meeler c/o Lori M. Bernstein, Attorney at Law  
2726 Croasdaile Dr. Suite 202  
Durham, North Carolina 27705  
For Publication: 9-25, 10-2, 10-9, 10-16-2025  
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

WAKE COUNTY

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
WAKE COUNTY

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**  
In the General Court of Justice,  
Superior Court Division  
Before the Clerk  
File Number 24E001425-910

THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 29th day of August 2025, as ADMINISTRATOR of the Estate of KATINA SHERELL LUCAS, 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 2nd day of January, 2026 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 2nd day of October 2025.

Ronald G. Lucas Jr., Administrator  
5012 White Leaf Court  
Raleigh, NC 27610  
10/2, 10/9, 10/16, and 10/23/2025  
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
WAKE COUNTY

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**  
In the General Court of Justice,  
Superior Court Division  
Before the Clerk  
File Number 25E003670-910

THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 25th day of September 2025, as EXECUTOR of the Estate of LINDA MAXINE BAILEY A/K/A LINDA MAXINE GRUBBS BAILEY A/K/A MAXINE GRUBBS BAILEY A/K/A MAXINE G. BAILEY, 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 2nd day of January, 2026 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 2nd day of October 2025.

Melissa Bailey McLean, Executor  
11210 Dickie Ross Rd  
Charlotte, NC 28277  
10/2, 10/9, 10/16, and 10/23/2025  
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
WAKE COUNTY

**NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION**  
In the General Court of Justice,  
District Court Division  
Small Claims

File Number 25CVO17576-910  
HOAI LAM, Plaintiff Vs. RYAN NGUYEN, Defendant

**TO THE DEFENDANT: A Small Claim Action Has Been Commenced Against You!** You are notified to appear before the magistrate at the WCCH, 316 Fayetteville St., Raleigh, NC 27601, October 23, 2025 at 1:30pm. You will have the opportunity at the trial to defend yourself against the claim stated in the attached complaint. You may file a written answer, making defense to the claim in the office of the Clerk of Superior Court at any time before the time set for trial. If you fail to appear and defend against the proof offered, the magistrate may enter a judgment against you.

This is the 19th of June, 2025.

Hoai Lam, Plaintiff  
2032 Patapsco Dr.  
Apex, NC 27523  
10/2, 10/9, and 10/16/2025  
STATE OF MINNESOTA  
COUNTY OF GOODHUE  
DISTRICT COURT

**FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT JUVENILE DIVISION**  
Court File Number: 25-JV-25-176

In the Matter of the Welfare of the Child of: Michele Leah Knutson and Justin Bragg

Summons and Notice

Transfer of Permanent Legal and Physical Custody Matter (CHP-117)

**NOTICE TO:** Justin Bragg, Above-named parent(s) or legal

custodian(s).

- A Petition to Transfer Permanent Legal and Physical Custody has been filed in the Juvenile Court. This petition asks the court to permanently transfer the parent/guardian's legal and physical custodial rights to a relative.
- This is your notice that this Transfer of Permanent Legal and Physical Custody case is scheduled for an in-person hearing before the Juvenile Court located at 454 West Sixth Street, Red Wing, MN 55066, on November 07, 2025 at 9:00 AM for a Court Trial or as soon after as the case can be heard.
- YOU ARE ORDERED to appear before the Juvenile Court at the scheduled time and date.
- You have a right to be represented by counsel.
- If you fail to appear at the hearing, the Court may still conduct the hearing and grant appropriate relief, including permanently transferring the legal and physical custodial rights of the above-named parent(s) or legal custodian(s) or permanent out-of-home placement of the child(ren).

Dated: September 22, 2025  
Goodhue County  
Court Administration  
454 West Sixth Street  
Red Wing, MN 55066  
651-267-4800  
10/2, 10/9, and 10/16/2025  
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
WAKE COUNTY

**NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION**  
In the General Court of Justice,  
District Court Division  
File No. 24CV031793-910  
AWA MBYE, Plaintiff v. SHERIFF SOHHA, Defendant  
TO DEFENDANT: TAKE NOTICE that a pleading seeking relief against you has been filed in the above-entitled action, by the Plaintiff herein, the nature which is as follows: ABSOLUTE DIVORCE.

You are required by law to appear and make defense to such pleading no later than 30 days after the first publication of this notice. If you fail to do so the Plaintiff will seek the relief sought herein, and a Judgment for Absolute Divorce may be entered.

This, the 2nd day of October, 2025.

Awa Mbye, Plaintiff  
5526 Black Maple Dr.  
Raleigh, NC 27616  
10/2, 10/9, and 10/16/2025

**NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION**  
NORTH CAROLINA  
WAKE COUNTY

**In the General Court of Justice**  
District Court Division  
Case No: 25CV003018-500  
[CHILD CUSTODY PROCEEDING]  
Abigail Perez-Cazarin,  
Plaintiff

v.  
Juan Carlos Villalobos Reyes,  
Defendant.

To Juan Carlos Villalobos Reyes, Please note that a custody action has been filed in respect of the minor children in the previous Court. You must respond within 30 days of the first posting of this notice. Otherwise, the requested reparation may be granted.

This is the 25th day of September 2025.

Adrianna V Ingram  
Vasquez Law Firm PLLC  
612 S Brightleaf Blvd  
Smithfield, North Carolina 27577  
919-989-3000  
9/25, 10/2 and 10/9/2025  
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
WAKE COUNTY

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**  
In the General Court of Justice,  
Superior Court Division  
Before the Clerk  
File Number 25E001934-910

THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 14th day of May 2024, as EXECUTOR of the Estate of FREDERICK MATTHEW VUKOVICH, 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 26th 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 25th day of September 2025.

Nadine Vukovich, Executor  
8033 Hawkshhead Rd.  
Wake Forest, NC 27587  
9/25, 10/2, 10/9, and 10/16/2025  
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
WAKE COUNTY

**COMPLAINT TO ENFORCE**



# Classifieds

## WAKE COUNTY

### 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 Haithcock 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

## 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

## ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS - CDBG PROJECT

Town of Fountain  
6777 West Wilson Street  
Fountain, NC 27829

Separate sealed BIDS for the construction of 2023 Water System Improvements CDBG-I: 22-I-4107 Contract No. 9 - Toddy BPS Improvements will be received by the ENGINEER at Town Hall, 6777 West Wilson Street, Fountain, NC 27829 until 2:00 PM, October 30, 2025, and then at said office publicly opened and read aloud.

The CONTRACT DOCUMENTS may be examined at the following locations:

Fountain Town Hall, 6777 West Wilson Street, Fountain, NC 27829

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

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

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

(View online at [www.constructconnect.com](http://www.constructconnect.com))

Construction Journal, 400 SW 7<sup>th</sup> Street, Stuart, FL 34994

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

(View online at [www.bceva.com](http://www.bceva.com))

Copies of the CONTRACT DOCUMENTS may be obtained at the office of McDavid Associates, Inc. located at 3714 North Main Street, Farmville, NC 27828-0049 upon a nonrefundable payment of \$109.00 for each set.

This project is being funded in whole or in part by the Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG). All Federal CDBG requirements will apply to the contract: BIDDERS on this work will be required to comply with Section 109 and E.O. 11246 which prohibits discrimination in employment regarding race, creed, color, sex, or national origin. BIDDERS must comply with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Davis Bacon Act, Anti-Kickback Act, and Contract Work Hours and Safety Standards Act. The Town of Fountain is committed to and supportive of efforts to effectively maintain and/or increase the use of Small and Minority/Women-Owned Business, Veteran-Owned Business, and Historically Underutilized Businesses (HUB) contract participation for Construction Projects, services (including professional and consulting services) and commodities purchases, AND increase contract participation to offer employment, training and contracting opportunities in accordance with Section 3 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968 (24 C.F.R. Part 135).

No contract may be awarded to any contractor that is debarred, suspended or otherwise ineligible to participate in Federally assisted contracts or programs. Any contract awarded to a prime contractor or subcontractor that is found to be ineligible for award must be terminated immediately. Prior to contract award, prime contractors are to be actively registered, with no exclusions, with SAM.gov and not on NC Debarred Vendors list, to determine eligibility/debarment status.

The total CDBG program is funded with \$2,225,000 in CDBG funds which represent 100% of the total CDBG program costs. The total CDBG funding amount of \$2,225,000 is a governmental disclosure required by the CDBG program and not the proposed construction cost for contracts referenced by this advertisement.

The OWNER reserves the right to reject any and all BIDS. BIDDER shall be properly licensed under Chapter 87, General Statutes of North Carolina. Small, minority, women, Historically Underutilized Business (HUB), and Section 3 (low income) businesses and labor surplus area firms are encouraged to submit BIDS.

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

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

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

A pre-Bid conference will be held at 10:00 AM on October 14, 2025 in Fountain Community Building, 6865 West Wilson Street, Fountain, NC 27829. Prospective BIDDERS are encouraged to attend this pre-bid conference as part of their good faith efforts.

This information is available in Spanish or any other language upon request. Please contact Letha Hines at (252) 749-2999 or at 6777 West Wilson Street, Fountain, NC 27829 for accommodations for this request.

Esta información está disponible en español o en cualquier otro idioma bajo petición. Por favor, póngase en contacto con Letha Hines al (252) 749-2999 o en 6777 West Wilson Street, Fountain, NC 27829 de alojamiento para esta solicitud.

The Fair Housing Act prohibits discrimination in housing based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, family status, and disability.

The OWNER is an EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER.



October 4, 2025

Doris Edwards

Mayor Pro-Tem

Town of Fountain

## WANTED WBE, MBE & DBE BIDS

for the following job:

Town of Fuquay Varina

FY 26 Street Resurfacing Project

Contract: 25-01 Wake Co. Bid Date: Oct. 23rd

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

Bids can be emailed to [stw.quotes@stwcorp.com](mailto:stw.quotes@stwcorp.com)

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

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

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

## WANTED WBE, MBE & DBE BIDS

for the following job:

City of Wilson

Elizabeth Street SCM Project

Project – SRP-SW-ARP-0015 Wilson Co. Bid Date: Oct. 9th

Wilson County Schools

Frederick Douglas Elementary School Phase 2

BCC Project: 12003623 Wilson Co. Bid Date: Oct. 14th

City of Wilson

Elizabeth Street SCM

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

Bids can be emailed to [stw.quotes@stwcorp.com](mailto:stw.quotes@stwcorp.com)

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

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

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## WANTED WBE, MBE & DBE BIDS

for the following job:

Wake Forest Resurfacing

Wake Co. Bid Date: Oct. 13th

NCDOT Central Letting

C204711 Beaufort Co. Bid Date: Oct. 21st

C205092 Pitt Co. Bid Date: Oct. 21st

C205134 Wake Co. Bid Date: Oct. 21st

C205136 Wake Co. Bid Date: Oct. 21st

C205137 Lee Co. Bid Date: Oct. 21st

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

Bids can be emailed to [stw.quotes@stwcorp.com](mailto:stw.quotes@stwcorp.com)

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

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

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# Tina Turner Fans Furious Over Wildly Unflattering Statue

NBC—Tina Turner’s fans seem to agree that a new statue of the late music legend is simply not the best.

The 10-foot-tall bronze statue was unveiled Saturday during the annual Tina Turner Heritage Days celebration in Turner’s hometown of rural Brownsville, Tennessee. It depicts the “What’s Love Got to Do with It” singer, who died in May 2023 at age 83, performing in a mini-skirt and heels while holding a microphone.

Fred Ajanogha, the Atlanta-based sculptor who created the statue, reportedly paid extra attention to capturing the essence of Turner’s hair, which he compared to the “mane of a lion,” according to the Associated Press.

But after the Brownsville Haywood County Chamber of Commerce shared a video on Facebook showing the moment the statue was uncovered near a museum honoring Turner at the West Tennessee Delta Heritage Center, fans began expressing disappointment.

“That statue should have been kicked down after the unveiling. That is a very poor replica of what is supposed to be The Iconic Tina Turner. So Disrespectful!” one wrote beneath the video, while another fan said whoever paid for the statue should “get their money back.”

The statue was also met with criticism on X, with one disappointed Turner fan calling it a “tragedy,” and writing, “She deserves better.”





