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*Prayer Changes Things*



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# The Carolinian

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## STATE NEWS BRIEFS

### NORTH CAROLINA GOP ANNOUNCE PLANS TO VOTE ON NEW HOUSE MAP AMID NATIONWIDE REDISTRICTING BATTLE

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP) — North Carolina Republican legislative leaders announced plans Monday to vote next week on redrawing the state’s U.S. House district map, with a likely aim to secure another GOP seat within already right-leaning boundaries.

The move comes amid an emerging mid-decade battle nationally between Republicans and Democrats seeking advantage in the way U.S. House districts are drawn in several states for the 2026 session.

North Carolina Republicans already created a map in 2023 that resulted in GOP candidates winning 10 of the state’s 14 U.S. House seats in 2024. That division compared to the 7-7 seat split between Democrats and the GOP under the map used in 2022.

Now only one of the state’s House district’s -- the 1st District currently represented by Democratic Rep. Don Davis -- is considered a swing district and could be targeted by the GOP for an 11th seat. Davis won a second term last year by less than 2 percentage points, so shifting slightly portions of the district covering nearly 20 northeastern counties could help a Republican candidate in a strong GOP year.

A news release from the state’s Republican legislators said their planned action “follows President Donald Trump’s call urging legislatures across the country to take action to nullify Democrat redistricting efforts.”

Trump kickstarted the redistricting battle this summer by calling upon Republican-led Texas to reshape its U.S. House districts so that the GOP could win more seats in next year’s elections.

As Texas redrew its districts to give Republicans a shot at winning five more seats, Democrats in California reciprocated by passing their own redistricting plan aimed at helping Democrats win five additional seats. Then lawmakers in Republican-led Missouri approved revised U.S. House districts intended to help Republicans win an additional seat.

The new Texas map faces a legal challenge. The California map still needs voter approval in a Nov. 4 election to take effect. And the Missouri map faces both court challenges and an initiative petition campaign seeking to force a statewide referendum on it.

### GREENVILLE GYM LINKED TO MEASLES CASE AS OUTBREAK SPREADS IN SOUTH CAROLINA

SPARTANBURG COUNTY, S.C. — Health officials in South Carolina announced that at least one case in Greenville County was connected to a local gym, as the number of cases in the state continues to grow.

Here is the latest information from the S.C. Department of Public Health (DPH) as of Tuesday, Oct. 14:

The S.C. Department of Public Health (DPH) is updating the number of confirmed measles cases in 2025 in South Carolina to 16 since July and 12 that are directly linked to an ongoing Spartanburg County outbreak.

The five new cases are the result of individuals who were exposed in previously identified school settings and have been quarantining at home. Because they were quarantining before they became infectious, no additional exposures occurred with these new cases.

DPH is identifying Crunch Fitness’ location at 1332 S. Pleasantburg Drive in Greenville, S.C., as the source of a child’s exposure on Sept. 30 that was previously reported. DPH is asking anyone who was at that location on that day only between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. to see their healthcare provider if they believe they may have been exposed.

- As of 5 p.m. Monday, no new students from Global Academy or Fairforest Elementary have been excluded from school activities, and the number of students quarantining at home at those schools is now down to 139 following further investigations into potential exposures.

- DPH’s 2025 Measles Outbreak Page has been updated to include a link to the latest 45-day school reports that include school attendance figures, grades served and vaccination percentage for elementary and secondary schools statewide.

- Later this week, a release will be sent identifying locations in the Upstate where a DPH Mobile Health Unit will be offering measles vaccinations for interested community members.

- The number of cases we are seeing is evidence of unrecognized community transmission, which does not respect county lines or school zones.

Timeline of South Carolina measles cases:

- The first two cases in South Carolina were reported in Spartanburg County in July.

- A third case was reported on Sept. 8 in the Upstate.

- A fourth case was reported on Sept. 26 in the Upstate.

- On Oct. 2, DPH confirmed an official measles outbreak in the Upstate. An outbreak is defined as three or more cases of the same infectious disease linked to a common exposure.

- On Oct. 7, DPH confirmed the 9th and 10th cases in Spartanburg County.

- On Oct. 7, DPH launched a website to keep the public updated on cases.

- On Oct. 8, DPH confirmed two cases in Spartanburg County involved two schools.

- On Oct. 9, DPH confirmed a child in Greenville County has measles.

- Oct. 14: DPH confirmed 16 cases since July and 12 that are directly linked to an ongoing Spartanburg County outbreak. They also announced that Crunch Fitness’ location at 1332 S. Pleasantburg Drive in Greenville, S.C., as the source of a child’s exposure on Sept. 30 that was previously reported. DPH is asking anyone who was at that location on that day only between 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. to see their healthcare provider if they believe they may have been exposed.

The department said some cases are travel-related exposures or close contacts of known cases. Other cases have no identified source, suggesting that measles is circulating in the community and could spread further.

## There's No Time Like Fair Time!

RALEIGH — It’s time for the N.C. State Fair with its agricultural exhibits and competitions, thrilling rides, arts and crafts, giant pumpkins and fabulous foods. The annual October tradition has been a part of many family memories for generations, proving that “There’s no time like Fair time.”

This year, the Fair runs Oct. 16-26 at the State Fairgrounds in Raleigh

and visitors can expect to find plenty of their favorites along with some new and creative foods, new attractions and entertainment, and new rides.

The State Fair is partnering with Duke Energy to celebrate the 20th Anniversary of Military Appreciation Day. Thanks to Duke Energy’s sponsorship, military personnel, with proof of identification, plus one guest

will gain free entry into the fair on Wednesday, Oct. 22.

Activities saluting the service of military men and women will be held throughout the day, with events kicking off at 10 a.m. with a parade through the fairgrounds, followed by performances by the 440th Army Band at 10:45 and 11:15 a.m. and at 12:30, 3:30 and 5:30 p.m. A Military

Uniform Revue will be presented at 2:30 p.m. by the N.C. Department of Cultural and Natural Resources.

“The State Fair continues to offer military members and a guest discounted admission of \$8 every other day of the fair,” said Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler. “Military Ap-

(See *NC STATE FAIR*, P. 2)

## Supreme Court to hear GOP challenge to Voting Rights Act over Black Repr.

WASHINGTON (AP) — A Republican attack on a core provision of the Voting Rights Act that is designed to protect racial minorities comes to the Supreme Court this week, more than a decade after the justices knocked out another pillar of the 60-year-old law.

In arguments Wednesday, lawyers for Louisiana and the Trump administration will try to persuade the justices to wipe away the state’s second majority Black congressional district and make it much harder, if not impossible, to take account of race in redistricting.

“Race-based redistricting is fundamentally contrary to our Constitution,” Louisiana Attorney General Elizabeth Murrill wrote in the state’s Supreme Court filing.

A mid-decade battle over congressional redistricting already is playing out across the nation, after President Donald Trump began urging Texas and other Republican-controlled states to redraw their lines to make it easier for the GOP to hold its narrow majority in the House of Representatives. A ruling for Louisiana could intensify that effort and spill over to state legislative and local districts.

The conservative-dominated court, which just two years ago



ended affirmative action in college admissions, could be receptive. At the center of the legal fight is Chief Justice John Roberts, who has long had the landmark civil rights law in his sights, from his time as a young lawyer in the Reagan-era Justice Department to his current job.

“It is a sordid business, this divvying us up by race,” Roberts wrote in a dissenting opinion in 2006 in his first major voting rights case as

chief justice.

In 2013, Roberts wrote for the majority in gutting the landmark law’s requirement that states and local governments with a history of discrimination, mostly in the South, get approval before making any election-related changes.

“Our country has changed, and while any racial discrimination in voting is too much, Congress must ensure that the legislation it passes

to remedy that problem speaks to current conditions,” Roberts wrote.

The challenged provision relies on current conditions

Challenges under the provision known as Section 2 of the voting rights law must be able to show current racially polarized voting and an inability of minority populations to elect candidates of their choosing, among other factors.

“Race is still very much a factor in current voting patterns in the state of Louisiana. It’s true in many places in the country,” said Sarah Brannon, deputy director of the American Civil Liberties Union’s Voting Rights Project.

The Louisiana case got to this point only after Black voters and civil rights groups sued and won lower court rulings striking down the first congressional map drawn by the state’s GOP-controlled Legislature after the 2020 census. That map created just one Black majority district among six House seats in a state that is one-third Black.

Louisiana appealed to the Supreme Court but eventually added a second majority Black district after the justices’ 5-4 ruling in 2023 that

(See *SUPREME COURT*, P. 2)



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SUPREME COURT

Continued from page 1

found a likely violation of the Voting Rights Act in a similar case over Alabama’s congressional map.

Roberts and Justice Brett Kavanaugh joined their three more liberal colleagues in the Alabama outcome. Roberts rejected what he described as “Alabama’s attempt to remake our section 2 jurisprudence anew.”

That might have settled things, but a group of white voters complained that race, not politics, was the predominant factor driving the new Louisiana map. A three-judge court agreed, leading to the current high court case.

Instead of deciding the case in June, the justices asked the parties to answer a potentially big question: “Whether the state’s intentional creation of a second majority-minority congressional district violates the Fourteenth or Fifteenth Amendments to the U. S. Constitution.”

Those amendments, adopted in the aftermath of the Civil War, were intended to bring about political equality for Black Americans and gave Congress the authority to take all necessary steps. Nearly a century later, Congress passed the Voting Rights Act of 1965, called the crown jewel of the civil rights era, to finally put an end to persistent efforts to prevent Black people from voting in the former states of the Confederacy.

A second round of arguments is rare at the Supreme Court

The call for new arguments sometimes presages a major change by the high court. The Citizens United decision in 2010 that led to dramatic increases in independent spending in U.S. elections came after it was argued a second time.

“It does feel to me a little bit like Citizens United in that, if you recall the way Citizens United unfolded, it was initially a narrow First Amendment challenge,” said Donald Verrilli, who served as the Obama administration’s top Supreme Court lawyer and defended the voting rights law in the 2013 case.

Among the possible outcomes in the Louisiana case, Verrilli said, is one in which a majority holds that the need for courts to step into redistricting cases, absent intentional discrimination, has essentially expired. Kavanaugh raised the issue briefly two years ago.

Medicaid Funding Debated By Committee

By Jordan Meadows

Staff Writer

A new piece of legislation, Senate Bill 403, is under consideration this week in the North Carolina General Assembly, aiming to address critical gaps in Medicaid funding left by the 2023-2025 state budget, given that the NC General Assembly has not yet passed the final 2025-27 budget.

If approved, SB403 would inject an additional \$192 million into Medicaid, bringing the total program funding to \$792 million for fiscal year 2026—still short of the \$819 million annually requested by the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS).

This effort comes in response to widespread concern following the passage of House Bill 125 in September, which allocated just \$600 million annually for Medicaid for 2026 and 2027. With federal COVID-19 relief funds, such as those provided by the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), no longer available to supplement shortfalls, NCDHHS has warned that it will be forced to cut \$319 million from operations. This includes potential rate cuts to service providers — a move that could impact thousands of North Carolinians



who rely on Medicaid services.

Senate Bill 403 also introduces several structural and administrative changes aimed at improving efficiency and accountability.

Personnel reductions: A targeted elimination of a vacant position at DHHS and a 5% cut in vacant positions across other gubernatorial state agencies. Coverage adjustments: Medicaid would no longer cover GLP-1 drugs for weight loss purposes, although coverage would continue for medically necessary, federally mandated uses.

It will also include oversight of redeterminations: The State Auditor would be directed to examine the redetermination processes for both Medicaid and SNAP to reduce backlogs. New standards for timeliness and accuracy would be established, along with an enforcement mecha-

nism to ensure county-level compliance. And Medicaid redeterminations would also be added under the oversight scope of Rylan’s Law, a 2017 law providing a blueprint to create statewide capacity over social services and child welfare programs. During Tuesday’s Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Health and Human Services, co-chaired by Rep. Potts (R-Davidson), state officials shed light on the growing strain faced by NCDHHS and its affiliated agencies.

Karen Burkes, Deputy Secretary for Facilities and Licensure, and DHHS COO Stephanie Olson testified to worsening vacancy rates and budget limitations that are affecting service delivery.

The Division of Health Services Regulation (DHSR) reported a 12% increase in its vacancy rate over the

past year, with higher rates particularly in mental health services. The department is the highest in terms of lapsed salaries, money that is budgeted for positions that remain unfilled.

Burkes revealed that in many cases, it takes months for new hires to go from their first interview to their first day on the job—a delay that leads recent graduates to accept faster offers elsewhere. Background checks and procedural steps have contributed to these delays. To help mitigate the problem, officials are considering offering more flexible work schedules and increasing the number of applicants onboarded at once.

“There is a baked-in slush fund,” Rep. Reeder (R-Pitt) said during the meeting, referring to how DHHS uses lapsed salary funds for other operational costs. Reeder pressed the department to provide transparency on how those funds are being spent, with DHHS agreeing to deliver a detailed list.

The budget proposed for FY26 falls about \$2.5 million short of what the department says it needs, further exacerbating resource constraints.

Broughton Hospital was cited

(See **MEDICAID DEBATED.**, P. 5)

N.C. State Fair—CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

preciation Day is our way of thanking the nation’s armed forces and their families for the sacrifices they have made to preserve our safety and freedom.”

Two new ticket packages are being offered this year – the Bright Lights and Boots Package, which includes an adult Fair admission ticket, plus a ticket to the rodeo, which is new in 2025 and part of the N.C. State Fair Horse Show lineup. And, the Sip-pin’ Spirits Package that includes an adult admission ticket, plus a cocktail voucher for the N.C. Stillhouse, which features craft cocktails by North Carolina distilleries.

New entertainment this year includes a Wild West-style roping and knife-throwing show by cowboy and World Fastest Draw Champion Andy Rotz; the Conjurer Fortune Machine, a live interactive “Zoltar” style fortune experience (think the Tom Hanks movie “Big”); and the return of Cast in Bronze, an engaging Carillon musical performance.

Rotz’s high energy show features plenty of trick roping, fire, gun slinging and hold-your-breath moments. You won’t want to miss this dynamic show.

The Conjurer Fortune Machine is a nod to the Zoltar-style automaton fortune machine that dispenses cards with a fortune. With the Conjurer Fortune Machine, fairgoers will press a button to activate the real live Conjurer who offers funny insights and advice before handing out a souvenir fortune card with an inspiring message.

Cast in Bronze, a popular and unique Carillon musical performance that enchanted audiences in the fair’s Flower Show gardens in 2022, makes its return to Heritage Circle for daily shows.

Charlie St. Cyr-Paul brings the traveling musical instrument featuring 35 cast bronze bells to life, performing a mix of popular music, classic rock and movie soundtracks.

Powers Great American Midway will again provide the fairground’s midway rides, which includes a tri-fecta of thrilling pendulum rides in addition to many fairgoer favorites like the Crazy Mouse roller coaster, the nostalgic Scrambler and the classic Flying Bob.

The Colossus thrill ride by the Netherlands-based KMG ride company balances eight riders each on

opposite ends of a giant pendulum, before looping around 360 degrees. This ride features a state-of-the-art LED light show coupled with three-axis movement, which unleashes multi-directional spins, turns and rolls with the exhilarating swinging motion.

The Flip Side is another pendulum-style ride that also takes thrill seekers to new heights. Four rows of seats face outward at the bottom of the pendulum arm that swings riders high into the sky, while each row can roll riders upside down and the seats rotate in a circle.

And finally, Powers Great American Midways is adding Kamikaze, the two-armed ride that sends both arms in opposite directions until both enclosed carts at the base of the arms meet with riders upside down at the peak of the ride.

Food is the No. 1 reason people say they come to the N.C. State Fair and this year’s lineup of new foods will not disappoint. The actual list of new foods will be announced closer to fair time, but we can share that there will be over 50 new foods making their debut at the State Fair. Follow the N.C. State Fair on Facebook and Instagram

for updates on new foods in 2025.

Agriculture at the State Fair North Carolina agriculture will be on full display at the Fair in the Got to Be NC Pavilion, which features around 40 North Carolina food vendors, sampling and selling local food products. Discover the delicious taste of products Grown.Caught.Raisee. Made in North Carolina.

Be sure to check out one of the livestock and horse shows held daily during the Fair. Shows are held in the AgriSupply Expo Center, Jim Graham Building and the Hunt Horse Complex. In addition, the annual Sale of Champions – an auction of the top junior livestock champion animals – will be held Sunday, Oct. 26, at 2 p.m. in the Graham Building.

The giant watermelon and pumpkin competitors always draw lots of interest. Fairgoers can see the winners, plus other giant vegetables on display in the AgriSupply Expo Center.

Special days Another agriculture highlight is the featured Farm Family of the Day sponsored by Tractor Supply Company. Every day the fair will celebrate a farm family for their contributions to the state’s No. 1 industry, agriculture.

‘Ashamed to be a Spartan.’ Strong Reactions To UNC-Greensboro Police Altercation

Carolina Public Press—A physical altercation between three UNC-Greensboro Police officers and a man and woman during a Monday traffic stop is drawing criticism from UNGC students and civil rights groups. Video footage of the incident shows officers grabbing and cursing at a man during the arrest and kneeling on top of the woman.

A report of the incident obtained by Carolina Public Press names the man as Quentin Thomas, 24, of Greensboro, and the woman as Alisia Rea, 22, of Charlotte.

Thomas and Rea are both Black. The officers who initially approached Thomas for his vehicle being stopped in a turn lane are Latino, and a third officer who arrived during Thomas’ arrest is white. The UNGC chapter of the NAACP released a statement on the altercation criticizing UNGC Police who they say “brutalized two Black Greensboro residents.”

UNGC released a statement acknowledging at least one of the individuals arrested is a student at the university. “The University is aware of a campus incident involving a student and law enforcement that has raised concerns in our community,” UNGC said in a statement posted on social media Thursday.

“While we cannot comment on ongoing legal matters, our priority is

the safety and well-being of our students. Support is available through the Division of Student Affairs for those with questions or concerns.”

In the video, a female officer who is listed in the incident report as Officer Rebecca Galicia, a police trainee, says Thomas was initially pulled over for being stopped in a turn lane, though records show he was ultimately arrested for a revoked driver’s license and “resist, delay or obstruction” in addition to stopping on a highway.

Rea, who filmed several minutes of the altercation and arrests, was arrested for assault on a public official and issued a trespass warning according to the incident report, despite officers saying in the video she was being arrested for interfering with their investigation.

How UNGC incident happened The start of the video posted to social media shows a male officer, who can be identified by his nametag as UNGC Police Officer Cristian Ortiz but is not named in the incident report, attempting to grab Thomas out of the driver’s seat of his vehicle. Thomas told Ortiz to let go of him so he could step out of the car.

Ortiz let go of Thomas, and Thomas repeatedly asked the officers to back up from the driver’s side so he could step out. Ortiz shouted at



Ortiz, telling him to, “Get out of the f—ing car right now, man!”

“Can you back up?” Thomas said in the video. “I do not feel safe getting out of the car with you guys hovering over me right now.”

A third officer, whose nametag is blurry in the video and is not listed in the incident report but has been identified as UNGC Police Sgt. Braxton Hiatt in social media posts, then arrived on the scene and said Thomas was under arrest. Hiatt is seen removing his stun-gun device

and pointing it at Thomas through the open car door, moments after arriving.

Ortiz pulled Thomas out of the driver’s seat and began restraining him. As Thomas had his hands behind his back against the side of the vehicle, Hiatt told Thomas he was about to be “tased.” Thomas expressed he did not know what he was doing to be tased for or why he was being arrested.

(See **UNGC POLICE ALTER.**, P. 7)

Arthur M. Blank Family Fund Is Donating \$50M to Historically Black Atlanta Colleges

ATLANTA (AP) — The Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation announced a \$50 million donation to Atlanta’s historically Black colleges and universities on Monday, aiming to close financial aid gaps that might otherwise prevent students from completing their degrees.

The money will support nearly 10,000 students with “gap scholarships” if they are approaching graduation in good academic standing and have exhausted all other sources of financial support. The aim is to raise graduation rates at Clark Atlanta University, Morehouse College, Morris Brown College and Spelman College, according to the foundation’s announcement.

“These grants are a material investment in hope,” said Fay Twersky,

the foundation’s president.

The 10-year commitment comes days after the Trump administration said it would redirect nearly \$500 million in federal funding toward HBCUs and tribal colleges as a one-time investment. A similar amount would be cut from colleges with large enrollments of Hispanics and other minorities, amid other moves to eliminate programs that promote diversity in higher education.

Arthur Blank’s net worth has grown to more than \$11 billion, according to the Forbes List, since he retired as co-founder of The Home Depot in 2001 and became owner of the city’s professional football and soccer teams, the Atlanta Falcons and Atlanta United.

Blank committed to giving at least

half his wealth away by signing the Giving Pledge, and his family foundation has donated more than \$1.5 billion to date, philanthropy evident in hospitals, schools, museums, stadiums and the arts.

This donation is the foundation’s biggest yet to HBCUs in Georgia, following such previous gifts as \$10 million to Spelman College for an innovation lab and \$6 million to refurbish athletic fields at Clark Atlanta, Albany State, Miles College and Savannah State.

It’s money well spent, since Atlanta’s HBCUs contribute \$1 billion in annual economic impact to the region, and HBCUs outperform all other institutions in moving students from the lowest 40% of household income to the top 60%, the founda-

tion statement said.

“Our hope is that by helping more students earn their degrees, launch successful careers and become alumni who give back, we are investing in a cycle of opportunity that benefits young people and their families in Atlanta and communities across the nation for years to come,” the foundation said.

Leaders of the four schools praised the foundation for meeting a critical need.

“This monumental investment will empower our students to remain focused on their academic studies and ensure that their talent, ambition, hard work, and integrity, not financial hardship, will determine their futures,” said Dr. F. DuBois Bowman, the president of Morehouse College.



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# You Don't Have A Business Strategy Problem, You Have A Story Telling Problem, Argues CPA Bret Pacheco

ASHEVILLE, N.C.--Bret Pacheco, a CPA known for his holistic approach to financial advising, will be a featured speaker at The Owner's Edge, an event for entrepreneurs hosted by industry-recognized coach Steve Bendzak of Equity Catapult. Pacheco's talk will introduce a counter-intuitive premise: that the most significant challenges in a business are often rooted in the owner's unexamined life experiences.

Pacheco argues that every business leader is operating from a personal narrative, often composed in early life, that dictates their decisions. Citing research from studies like the "Gradient of Childhood Self-Control," Pacheco will demonstrate how early development has a long-lasting impact on adult leadership. For example, children with lower self-control are three times more likely to face credit and money

management problems as adults.

"Every business plays a song that its owner began writing as a child," explains Pacheco. "Our approach to risk, trust, and planning often takes shape long before we realize it. When you understand your own story, you can build a business that truly reflects your purpose and your legacy."

At the event, Pacheco will guide attendees through his proprietary "Story Expander" framework. The process helps owners gain clarity on their past formative environment and present patterns to intentionally design their future. By understanding their own journey, entrepreneurs can make disciplined, intentional decisions about their company's structure, systems, and financial planning instead of reactive ones. The ultimate goal is to build a business that supports what Pacheco calls "The 4 Pillars of Pur-

poseful Freedom": Time, Money, Health and Relationships.

Steve Bendzak, host of The Owner's Edge, added, "To achieve last-

ing growth, leaders need the right tools. Bret's approach provides the most essential tool: an understanding of how your own story

double their value.

SNAP participants can visit the manager's booth to swipe their benefits card, and the market matches the amount — up to \$50 — by issuing tokens that can be used to purchase any SNAP-eligible food, market manager Kathy Newsom said.

"They can buy meat, eggs, any sorts of produce [or] prepared foods if they're cold," Newsom said.

While the U.S. Department of Agriculture reimburses the amount spent through SNAP, Corner Market must raise separate funds — through grants, community donations and fre-

quent fundraisers — to cover the cost of the match, Newsom said.

"We have to raise about \$50,000 a year to match the amount of demand that comes into our market."

Market regular Dianne, 67, who preferred to use only her first name, said she appreciates that the market offers a discreet, respectful way for SNAP users to shop without stigma.

"Shopping at the market is a win for all of us," she said. "We need the vendors, and the vendors need us."

But cuts to the SNAP program

Bozeman, Montana on October 23, 2025. Tickets are available at [www.equitycatapult.com/the-owners-edge](http://www.equitycatapult.com/the-owners-edge).

embedded in the One Big Beautiful Bill Act recently passed by Congress threaten to jeopardize access to farmers markets for millions of Americans like Dianne. In 2024, nearly 42 million people — about 12 percent of the U.S. population — received SNAP benefits each month, according to USDA data.

Because of the OBBBA, those benefits are due to shrink, with consumers and farmers taking the hits.

(See **NC FARMERS, SNAP**, P. 8)



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# Health and Wellness

## Meeting Tackles Racial Gaps in Black Reproductive Health

By Jordan Meadows

Staff Writer

A community meeting titled ‘Fertility and Reproductive Health in the Black Community’, held at the Wake County Public Library in Raleigh last Tuesday, brought together healthcare professionals, advocates, scholars, and community members to address an increasingly urgent public health crisis: the disparities in fertility and maternal health outcomes experienced by Black women in North Carolina and across the United States.

The meeting was a collaboration between the Black Pearls Society, Wake County Government, and the Wake Area Health Education Center, and the London Women’s Health Clinic, aiming to provide education and support.

A study conducted between 2014 and 2019 by the NIH revealed that the prevalence of gynecological conditions such as uterine fibroids and tubal damage disproportionately affects Black women. Black patients reported a significantly higher rate of tubal factor infertility—31%—compared to the national average of 18%. Uterine fibroids, in particular, can block fertilization or impede sperm from reaching the egg, often going undiagnosed or untreated for years.

The average age at which Black women begin fertility treatment is also higher than the national average by about one year—a critical delay given that fertility declines with age. For single Black patients, that starting point is even later, often around age 38. These delays are frequently attributed to a lack of health insurance, healthcare access, family support, and persistent cultural stigma around infertility and reproductive health in communities of color.

“Lots of women, especially in the Black community, encounter pain or struggle with conception but wait too long to seek help,” one speaker noted. “They may not have support systems,



insurance, or even know what’s wrong. By the time they come in, the clock has already been ticking.”

Treatment for infertility typically starts with diagnostic procedures such as a pelvic ultrasound and blood tests. Interventions range from lifestyle changes and timed intercourse to more advanced options like intrauterine insemination (IUI), egg freezing, in vitro fertilization (IVF), and, when necessary, the use of donor gametes or surrogacy.

To address the emotional toll and isolation of fertility struggles, groups like the Black Women’s Fertility Group have emerged, offering community education and support to Black women navigating these challenges.

Dr. Arthi Thangavel, a fertility specialist and Clinical Director at the Cambridge branch of the London Women’s Health Clinic, joined the meeting virtually from the UK in honor of Black History Month, which is observed in October in the United Kingdom. She emphasized the need for global cooperation and understanding around racial disparities in reproductive health.

“We are seeing similar patterns across the Atlantic,” she said. “It’s not isolated to one country—it’s a structural

issue that transcends borders.”

Deena Hayes-Greene, co-founder of the Black Pearls Society, offered a stark reminder of the broader implications.

“The ability to reach your first birthday tells us something about the climate for Black well-being, period. Babies are dying. Mothers are dying. Resourced or not, something in this environment says that being Black is bad for your health.”



Black women in the United States face maternal mortality rates three to four times higher than non-Hispanic White women. In North Carolina, that disparity is even more pronounced. From 2020 to 2022, Black women accounted for 43% of pregnancy-related deaths in the state despite making up just 22% of the population.

A recent report found that 39.1% of Black women received late or no prenatal care, compared to 23.9% of

White women. Nearly 9% of Black women of childbearing age in North Carolina lacked health insurance as of late 2023, although Medicaid expansion may help alleviate that—if it remains funded amid ongoing political gridlock.

“We are doing a better job as a society to talk about understanding the impact of systems and structures,” said Dr. Stephanie Baker, co-chair of the conference and Associate Profes-

sor of Public Health at Elon University.

Governor Josh Stein proclaimed April 3, 2025, as Black Maternal Health Week in North Carolina, a symbolic step toward addressing the crisis. State lawmakers are currently debating Senate Bill 838, known as the “MOMnibus” bill. The legislation would provide \$5 million for initiatives, including implicit bias training for healthcare providers, funding for perinatal education, and improved data collection on maternal mortality causes.

The urgency is underscored by data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), which shows the U.S. maternal mortality rate in 2021 reached 32.9 deaths per 100,000 live births, up from 20.1 in 2019. In North Carolina, the figure was even more dire—44 deaths per 100,000. More than 80% of these deaths were preventable.

The crisis doesn’t end with mothers. North Carolina ranks 10th worst in the nation for infant mortality. Black babies are more than twice as likely to die before their first birthday as White babies. In some rural counties, especially in the northeast and southeast regions of the state, maternity care is almost nonexistent.

### MEDICAID DEBATED

Continued from page 2

an example of underutilized resources. Some beds have never been filled, and a significant number of positions remain frozen or unfilled. Rep. Blackwell (R-Burke) questioned whether these positions were being left open due to the inability to fill them or deliberate strategic decisions. He pressed for clearer data on how many nurses are needed statewide.

Burkes responded that the state is trying to recruit from local colleges, universities, and neighboring states—especially in border areas—but that despite salary increases, the problem has “slowly become worse.” She added that student loan forgiveness is one incentive being offered to attract new hires.

Olson, when questioned by Sen. Waddell (D-Mecklenburg) about recruiting efforts at HBCUs, confirmed that DHHS has made such efforts and denied that diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) policies have affected hiring outcomes.

As legislators weigh Senate Bill 403, they are confronted with not only a financial shortfall but also deep-rooted operational challenges in North Carolina’s healthcare infrastructure. While American Rescue Plan Appropriations (ARPA) funding provided temporary relief and enabled innovations like monthly public webinars and a centralized bed registry, the cutting of aid has left significant gaps.

Meanwhile, universities like Fayetteville State University are being lauded as examples of institutions successfully creating pathways into the healthcare workforce, especially for students from underrepresented backgrounds.



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# Arts & Culture

## 103 Years of Wisdom: Matriarch Maddie Evans Jones On Raleigh's Past, Dr. Franklin, And The Power Of Memory

By Jheri Hardaway

Staff Writer

In a city defined by consistent growth, continually named a best place to move and to do business, the remarkable memory of Raleigh natives like Mattie Evans Jones is a priceless anchor to Raleigh's profound past. Born in June of 1922, Mrs. Jones, a cherished matriarch and a lifelong Raleigh resident, recently shared a glimpse into her extraordinary 103 years, a journey that spans the Great Depression, the Jim Crow era, the ascent of the Civil Rights movement, technology booms, all the way up to today. As a journalist for The Carolinian News and a lover of history, I was captivated by her vivid recall, enduring and encouraging spirit, but above all her excitement when talking about people she has met and her dedication to education.

Mrs. Jones's early Raleigh was a world away from the capital city we know today. "It was like the country," she recalls, where "everybody knew everybody else." Economic hardship defined her early life; during the Depression, "people didn't

have much money," with men often earning about a dollar a day. Yet, the cost of living was so incredibly low that "You could go to the store with the dollar and have so many groceries that you hardly carry back home." A core part of life was exercise. Because cars were a rarity, mobility was a testament to one's physical fitness. Mrs. Jones remembers trekking 10 blocks from her home on Edenton Street and Alston Avenue to St. Augustine's College, a walk she did routinely. Her simple prescription for the long life Raleighites enjoyed then? "Everybody was fit."

Mrs. Jones, an avid reader, began her educational journey at St. Monica's. Built in 1930 by the Catholic Diocese of Raleigh, St. Monica's was established for African American students during a time when city schools were still segregated. Led by nuns, this small building, characterized by its spare Gothic detailing, contained four classrooms that accommodated eight elementary grades. With a strong foundation she continued on to Washington High-school, this was the first public high school for African Americans in Raleigh and continued as the only such



school until 1953. Mrs. Jones noted that the African American teachers took personal interest in her success. The building is an example of the Jacobean style popular for school buildings in the 1920s, the school now houses the Washington Gifted and Talented Elementary Magnet

School of the Wake County Public School System. Upon high school graduation Mrs. Jones enrolled at St. Augustine's College, now St. Augustine's University. Tuition was around \$65 a year, and the school offered students a rare chance to make payments over time. As long as they paid by graduation. Originally drawn to Mathematics, Ms. Jones switched her focus due to the discouraging advice of friends. However, she found her calling in History, graduating Cum Laude in 1944. Her experience was profoundly shaped by the legendary historian Dr. John Hope Franklin. As a young man teaching at St. Augustine's, Dr. Franklin inspired a generation. Mrs. Jones describes him as "so smart" and "just full of life," never needing to rely on notes. Crucially, Dr. Franklin taught Black History, a subject deliberately excluded from the curriculum of the time. Mrs. Jones daughter Karen Haynes shared, "Mama said she learned more from Dr. Franklin that year than all her years in school," a profound testament to the power of seeing one's own people in the historical narrative.

Post-graduation, Mrs. Jones brief-

ly taught at an all-black boarding school in Southern Pines, a fascinating institution that provided education to children brought down to NC from "the sidewalks of New York," a noble effort to lift youth out of challenging environments.

Mrs. Jones's memories shine a light on the stark realities of Jim Crow in Raleigh. Black residents, though taxpayers, were excluded from the city's public library. This was particular difficult for Mrs. Jones who still reads a book per week. This critical gap was filled by the pioneering work of Molly Lee, who established the first library for black people on Hargett Street, later named the Richard B. Harrison Library. Similarly, dining out was a humiliating experience. "No public restaurants would accept black people," she states. If service was offered at all, it came "through a hole in the wall" at the back of the building. Ms. Jones was an eyewitness to the transformative power of the sit-in movement, which finally broke the barrier at lunch counters across the South.

Perhaps one of the most chilling recollections is the struggle to secure the deed to her current home, a property where she has lived for an incredible 77 years. The house itself came from a community built for Civil War veterans. When Mrs. Jones and her late husband, John O. Jones Sr, sought to secure the title for the fully-paid-off home in the late 1950s or early 1960s, the white landowner, Mr. Prevost, initially refused to sign the papers over to a black family. It took a second, legally-backed visit, during which Mr. Prevost own son intervened, for the man to finally follow the law and sign the papers. The

moment, as relayed by her daughter, was memorable the man literally cried as he signed the land over to the Black family who had paid in full. Through a City of Raleigh grant program the house was recently beautifully remodeled demonstrating again the evolution of the city.

For over 50 years, Ms. Jones has been a pillar of her church community, teaching Sunday school in the cradle department at First Baptist Church, a congregation that has seen four generations of her family as members. The church itself made history, as it was reportedly the first black church in America to acquire a church bus pictured here from the church archives. Today, Mrs. Jones is the radiant matriarch of a five-generation family: 6 children, 14 grandchildren, 14 great-grandchildren, and 7 great-great-grandchildren—a blessing of 41 descendants and counting. Her advice for those wishing to make it to 103 is simple and profound, first, she does not smoke or drink. Two, exercise, she still rides a stationary bike for 12 to 15 minutes a day. Finally, an avid reader, she is now supplied with large-print books from the state through a program for the blind.

Her greatest gifts, her family, her memory, and her love of story persist. Among her favorite authors, she named James Weldon Johnson, and she concluded our interview by reciting his monumental poem, "The Creation," from memory—a stirring performance that made me so proud to be in her presence, she is a powerful reminder of our deep and rich impact. Mrs. Maddie Evans Jones is not just a Raleigh resident; she is a living archive, and her story is a blueprint for a life well-lived.

## Grammy-Winning R&B Singer, Dies At 51

(AP) D'Angelo, the Grammy-winning R&B singer recognized by his raspy yet smooth voice and for garnering mainstream attention with the shirtless "Untitled (How Does It Feel)" music video, has died. He was 51.

The singer, whose real name was Michael Eugene Archer, died Tuesday after a long bout with cancer, his family said in a statement.

It called him "a shining star of our family and has dimmed his light for us in this life," adding that they are "eternally grateful for the legacy of extraordinarily moving music he leaves behind."

In his music, D'Angelo blended hip-hop grit, emphatic soul and gospel-rooted emotion into a sound that helped spearhead the neo-soul movement of the 1990s. Earlier this year, the Virginia native celebrated the 30th anniversary of his debut studio album "Brown Sugar," a platinum-selling offering that produced signature hits like "Lady" and the title track. The 1995 album earned him multiple Grammy nominations and cemented him as one of R&B's most original new voices.

D'Angelo's sultry vocal style — a mix of raspy texture and church-bred fluidity — set him apart from his peers. That voice became inseparable from the striking visuals of his 2000 single "Untitled (How Does It Feel)." The minimalist, shirt-



less music video became a cultural touchstone, igniting conversations around artistry, sexuality and vulnerability in Black male representation. The song earned him a Grammy for best male R&B vocal performance and propelled his sophomore album "Voodoo," topping the Billboard 200 chart and winning the Grammy for best R&B album.

"I remember hearing your music for the first time... I said to myself damn whoever this is they are anointed," Jaime Foxx said on social media. "Then when I finally got a chance to see you... Like everyone

when they saw the most incredible music video of our time... I was blown away... I thought to myself I have to see this person in concert... I had my chance to see you at the house of blues... You came out and got right down to business... Your voice was silky and flawless... I was graciously envious of your style and your swag..."

Beyond his own catalog, D'Angelo's artistry shined in collaborations. He memorably duetted with Lauryn Hill on the soulful ballad "Nothing Even Matters," a highlight of her landmark 1998 album "The Miseducation of Lauryn Hill." He also contributed to The Roots' 1996 album "Illadelph Halflife" and was part of the supergroup Black Men United, which yielded one song: "I Will Know," which D'Angelo wrote and co-produced, for the film "Jason's Lyric" in 1994.

Years before stepping back from public view, D'Angelo's life and music were closely intertwined with Grammy-nominated R&B singer Angie Stone in the '90s. The pair met while he was finishing "Brown Sugar" and bonded over their shared Southern roots and deep church upbringing. Stone contributed to the album and later collaborated with him on "Everyday," a song from her 1999 debut album, "Black Diamond."

Stone once described D'Angelo as

her "musical soul mate," to The Associated Press in 1999, adding that their working relationship was "like milk and cereal .... Musically, it was magic. It's something that I have not been able to do with any other producer or musician." They had a son together, the artist Swayvo Twain, born Michael Archer Jr.

Stone died earlier this year in a car crash. She was 63.

D'Angelo also has a daughter, Imani Archer, who is also a music artist.

In the years that followed, D'Angelo's life became as defined by absence as by acclaim. After "Voodoo," he withdrew from the spotlight for more than a decade, fueling speculation about personal struggles and creative battles. His long-awaited return came in 2014 with "Black Messiah," credited to D'Angelo and The Vanguard. The urgent and politically charged album that arrived amid nationwide protests and helped usher in a wave of activist music responding to police killings of Black Americans and the rise of the Black Lives Matter movement.

The album debuted at No. 5 on the Billboard 200 chart and won him a Grammy for best R&B album, reaffirming his stature as a generational voice. Its standout single, "Really Love," earned him another Grammy for best R&B song and earned a nomination for record of the year.

## Dr. Myers Innovates With A Children's Book Series: Bridging Math And Literacy



By Jheri Hardaway

Staff Writer

A new and exciting approach to early childhood education is emerging from a Raleigh educator and author, combining the essential skills of reading and mathematics into a single, engaging, colorful children's book series. Local author and former math teacher, Dr. Marrielle Myers, has launched an innovative children's book series designed to spark "math talk" in homes, reinforcing the idea that math is not just a school subject but a natural part of daily life. I recently had the opportunity to speak with Dr. Myers about her debut book, Operation Feed The Ducks (released December 2024), her inspiration, and her vision for the future of math education in the home.

Dr. Myers's inspiration for combining math and reading stems from a desire to empower both children and parents. "I really wrote the book for a few reasons," she explained. "I wanted kids to see how math connects to their hobbies and things they're interested in." She cites her childhood experience of feeding ducks with her father as a

prime example of where real-world math happens. She also recognized a gap in family engagement. While many parents instinctively know to read to their children, they often lack confidence in how to introduce mathematical concepts. By integrating math into a familiar reading activity, she aims to solve this: "If you already spend time reading, let's put some math in a book, so we can start having math talk at home!" This shared experience ensures that children "are coming to school already having some ideas about mathematics."

Ultimately, the core message of the series is motivational: "I wanted children to understand that they already are math people because they do math everyday." Math, she elaborated, is found in "playing games, keeping score in sports, sharing snacks, patterns, and braiding our hair—math is not worksheets in school."

Creating and publishing the book presented unique challenges for Dr. Myers, who chose to pursue the independent route. Beyond the writing itself, she faced the complex tasks of publishing. With the editing, she explained the need to refine

the initial math-focused manuscript to ensure it was also a "warm story for the children," requiring multiple rounds of editing. Finding the right artist who could capture her distinct cultural vision was a challenge. Dr. Myers navigated the logistics and financial risks of having the books printed overseas for cost-efficiency. And finally building trust and relationships to "connect with schools, with community organizations," which she shared is the "ultimate goal."

Stay tuned! Dr. Myers, has planned a series of at least ten books, each focusing on a different early math skill and drawing inspiration from her family's legacy. The next book, The Birthday Countdown, is set to be released in December 2025. This installment will focus on the skill of counting backwards. Beyond that, one of the most anticipated books in the series will involve cooking with her mother. Dr. Myers highlighted the wealth of math found in the kitchen, from measuring ingredients to the skills of halving or doubling recipes for different-sized gatherings. This particular book is not just about math; it is a way to "honor my family and



that legacy."

Dr. Myers's efforts align with a powerful local example of community support for education. Her presentation was hosted by Edna Valentine a member of St. Ambrose Church, which has a 13 year strong partnership with Fuller Elementary School. This partnership, which began when the church met at the school during construction, has evolved into providing crucial support for students and teachers. St. Ambrose volunteers help students during the school day with reading and science projects. St. Ambrose members under the leadership of Pastor Jemonde Taylor facilitate essential charity drives, including providing back-to-school supplies, Thanksgiving baskets, and Christmas Angel Tree gifts. This kind of one-on-one attention and holistic support is invaluable to the success of students and a testament to the community-focused ethos that Dr. Myers is promoting through her innovative book series. Dr. Myers and St. Ambrose Church are examples of the education innovation that Raleigh produces and we look forward to following the success of these ventures.



### WHEN PUBLIC SPACES BECOME BATTLEGROUND

By any measure, the recent wave of deadly violence at public gatherings—from churches to protests, school events to cultural celebrations—is more than a troubling trend. It is a moral emergency. For those of us who have lived through eras of upheaval and transformation, this moment demands not just concern—but courageous leadership.

In the past few months alone, we've witnessed horrific attacks in places once considered sanctuaries. In Minneapolis, a gunman opened fire during a Catholic Mass, killing two children and injuring 21 others. In Michigan, four lives were lost in a gun-and-arson assault on a Mormon church. In Manchester, England, a man rammed his car into worshippers outside a synagogue before stabbing a pedestrian. These are not isolated incidents. They are part of a growing pattern of violence that targets the very spaces where communities gather to heal, worship, and connect.

For African American seniors, this crisis is painfully familiar. Many of us remember the 1963 bombing of the 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham. We know what it means to live under threat simply for gathering in faith or solidarity. And yet, we also know how to respond—with dignity, strategy, and unshakable resolve.

Today's violence is different in some ways. It is more frequent, more unpredictable, and often fueled by extremist ideologies or untreated mental illness. But the core challenge remains: how do we protect our communities without surrendering our right to gather, worship, and celebrate?

As of mid-October 2025, there have been several recent shootings and related violent incidents connected to college and high school homecoming events.

- Fayetteville State University
- Fayetteville, North Carolina: A violent threat prompted a campus lockdown during homecoming week on October 9.
- Mississippi high school homecoming shootings
- Leland and Heidelberg: Multiple shootings occurred in Mississippi over the weekend of October 11, killing six people and injuring many more. Four people were killed and at least 12 injured near a homecoming game for Leland High School. Another two people were killed in a separate shooting in Heidelberg.
- Morgan State University
- Baltimore: Four students and another person were wounded when gunfire erupted outside a crowded homecoming event at Morgan State University in Baltimore, police said, sending students on a dash for cover. There was a mass shooting at Morgan State homecoming in 2023.
- South Carolina State University
- Orangeburg: A shooting during homecoming celebrations around October 5 left three non-students dead.

First, we must name the fear. Many of us now hesitate to attend church, community meetings, or cultural events. That fear is valid—but it must not paralyze us. Instead, it should galvanize us to demand better security, smarter policy, and deeper community vigilance.

Second, we must insist on accountability. Local governments must invest in public safety—not just policing, but mental health services, youth outreach, and violence prevention. Faith institutions must adopt layered security measures, as recommended by experts: perimeter monitoring, trained security teams, and emergency protocols. These are not signs of paranoia—they are acts of love.

Third, we must mentor the next generation. Violence often erupts where guidance is absent. Our young people need elders who will listen, teach, and intervene. Whether it's a pop-up party, a protest, or a school event, they need to know how to stay safe—and how to speak out when something feels wrong.

Fourth, we must reclaim our moral voice. African American elders have always been the conscience of this nation. We marched with Dr. King. We organized voter drives. We built churches and community centers that became lifelines. Now, our voices are needed again—to call out hate, to comfort the grieving, and to remind America that public spaces are sacred.

This is not just about safety. It's about legacy. What kind of world are we leaving behind? Will our grandchildren inherit a society where gathering is a risk, or a right? Will they remember us as fearful, or as faithful?

Let us be clear: we are not powerless. We are seasoned. We are strategic. And we are still here.

So let us gather—with wisdom and vigilance. Let us worship—with eyes open and hearts strong. Let us speak—with the authority of lived experience. And let us demand a future where public spaces are not battlegrounds, but sanctuaries.

Because if we don't lead now, who will?



# Community

## Federal Cuts Threaten N.C. School Lunches, Farmers And Advocates Say

NC Newsline – North Carolina state and local leaders gathered Monday at Oak Grove Elementary School in Raleigh to call on the General Assembly to fund the state’s Farm to School program, warning that federal cuts could threaten student nutrition and local farmers.

The event, held during National School Lunch Week and Farm to School Month, featured state Sen. Jay Chaudhuri (D-Wake) and other speakers, including Wake County Public Schools Superintendent Robert Taylor.

Chaudhuri called on the General Assembly to provide \$2.5 million for the Farm to School program and \$1.9 million for the Sun Bucks summer food program to replace part of the \$12.5 million eliminated by the Trump administration.

“We legislators in North Carolina must decide how we are going to respond and what we are going to prioritize, and I can’t think of any more deserving of our support than putting fresh North Carolina-grown foods on the plates of North Carolina students,” said Chaudhuri.

The Farm to School program, run by the N.C. Department of Agriculture and the Department of Public Instruction, connects more than 80 school districts with local farmers, delivering over 75,000 cases of North Carolina-grown fruits and vegetables each year.

Wake County Public Schools is one of many districts benefiting from



SEN. JAY CHAUDHURI (D-WAKE) JOINED ADVOCATES TO TALK ABOUT SCHOOL MEAL FUNDING.

the program. Superintendent Taylor said the requested funding would not only expand healthy meals for students but also ease the financial strain on families.

“When we have these kinds of programs that can relieve that amount of pressure on the family budget,” Taylor said, “it is a very small investment that will impact economic development.”

Taylor said the program has expanded from 12 to 41 schools that are taking part in the Community

Eligibility Program, which provides free meals to students. “A 10 percent reduction in federal funding could wipe out meal programs in 33 schools,” he warned.

The Farm to School program was also intended to benefit local farmers by giving them a reliable market for their produce.

“What makes our Farm to School program so unique is that 100% of every dollar we spend goes towards supporting the schools, the farms, and the communities,” said Tommy

Wheeler, founder of Tidewater Grain Company in Pamlico County.

“It’s much of an economic development program as it is an assistance program for our kids and our future youth,” added Wheeler, who sells his rice to school districts including Wake County Public School System.

According to the N.C. Department of Health and Human Services, one in six children in the state faces food insecurity, about 394,000 children statewide.

Rachel Candaso, the 2025 NC Teacher of the Year, is an educator in Pitt County. She said she sees the impact of school nutrition programs firsthand in her classroom. “We know that a hungry student can’t focus on equations or essays when they’re hungry for food. The fresh, healthy food that we provide students at school, it helps them be ready to learn,” said Candaso.

Chaudhuri said he anticipates bipartisan support, describing the request as “narrow and reasonable,” and centered on helping children and strengthening local economies.

“I’m trying to stay optimistic that the leadership in both chambers will see the benefit of doing so,” Chaudhuri said.

Although the funding is contained in the House budget, the Senate’s spending plan does not include the money. The state is still operating without a final budget, three months after the fiscal year started.



SHAW RUNS AWAY WITH THE WIN

DURHAM, N.C. – The Shaw University Bears staged an impressive comeback to defeat Winston-Salem State University 20–13 in a thrilling CIAA regular season matchup on October 11, 2025, at Durham County Memorial Stadium.

The Bears overcame an early deficit with a strong second-half performance led by quarterback Alexander Marsh (10), who showcased both grit and mobility throughout the game. In the first half, Marsh battled through tight coverage, breaking tackles—including a key grapple from WSSU defensive back Terrell Chance (20)—to move the chains and set the tone for Shaw’s offensive persistence.

Running back Fabian Diggs (22) added momentum on the ground, breaking free for a long first down that reignited the Bears’ drive. Defensively, Craig Morton III (32) made his presence felt early, halting a WSSU kickoff return by taking down Sean Walker (80) for a loss of yards.

As the first half drew to a close, Marsh led Shaw down the field and capped off the drive with a decisive touchdown run, earning congratulations from his teammates as the Bears closed the gap before halftime. By the fourth quarter, Shaw’s defense tightened, and the offense capitalized on key opportunities to secure the 20–13 victory.

With the win, Shaw improves its standing in the CIAA, demonstrating resilience and teamwork in one of the most competitive matchups of the season.

Photos by Steve Worthy

## NC HBCUs Among Several Nationwide Working to Enhance Homecoming Safety

WUNC– As homecoming season approaches, several Historically Black Colleges and Universities across the nation plan to implement new protocols to ensure safe campus celebrations.

Many HBCUs have stated that these changes are in response to a series of violent incidents during recent homecomings. That includes universities in North Carolina.

Last year, four people were shot and injured at an off-campus North Carolina Central University homecoming celebration.

In an effort to prevent a repeat incident, university officials announced that they plan to enforce a campus curfew on October 25, their homecoming game day.

The curfew will begin at 7 p.m. However, the university asks that loud music be stopped by 6:30 p.m. After 7, all campus buildings will be safeguarded and closed to visitors.

Similarly, Winston-Salem State University is ending campus operations earlier during its homecoming weekend, October 16 and 17. According to the university’s website, campus will close by 8 p.m. through the duration of the weekend.

“We can’t prevent everything but



WINSTON-SALEM STATE UNIVERSITY

I do think we can put forth our best foot to show that we’re committed to doing everything we can to keep the campus safe,” said WSSU’s chancellor, Bonita J. Brown in an August alumni town hall meeting.

Safety officials at North Carolina A&T State University say the campus

will not officially close at a set time, however, other safety measures will be put into place on Saturday, the university’s homecoming game day.

In 2022, two people died and four people were injured after a shooting at a N.C. A&T homecoming party. Since the incident, N.C. A&T safety

officials have tried to be extra precautionous when creating homecoming safety plans.

“We have looked at all our homecomings for the last few years. We made very detailed, very comprehensive plans as it relates to safety,” said Robert Hassell, the university police chief.

Hassell said N.C. A&T plans to seriously expand law enforcement presence on the campus and surrounding areas during campus activities.

“We’ll have anywhere from fifteen to twenty plus outside agencies assisting us with our staffing needs,” said Hassell.

“You know, we’re expecting crowds, you know, fifty, sixty, seventy thousand plus. That’s a lot of individuals that’ll be here on campus so we need to make sure that we have enough personnel to be spread out throughout all the campus, throughout all the activities so that we can be able to cover that safely.”

The university plans to partner with the Greensboro Police Department, Guilford County Sheriff’s Department, and other security agencies from neighboring areas like Durham, High Point, and Apex.



## First Baptist Church Welcomes Pastor Bouie



By Jheri Hardaway

Staff Writer

In North Carolina and throughout the south, it is hard to travel a mile without passing by a house of worship. They are plentiful and citizens have a vast amount of choices when deciding where they would like to pray and build community. There are several churches that stand out as pillars of the community and undoubtedly First Baptist Church located 101 South Wilmington St. stands tall among the options. A pillar of the Raleigh community for more than 217 years this past weekend the church installed the 11th pastor in their significant history. This was a celebration of history, legacy, and togetherness, as Reverend Darien C. Bouie and his family were welcomed and honored by all. From church and community members to elected officials and leaders of local institutions the church was overflowing with love and encouragement. Clergy from across the nation laid hands on Rev. Bouie and shared inspiring and insightful words charging the church and the new pastor to uphold their roles to continue the legacy of the historic church and to “do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with our God.”

One of the most tender moments came from outgoing pastor to Revered Dr. Dumas Harshaw Jr, who was celebrated for his “faithful encouragement.” One of the speakers, Reverend Shalmon Radford artfully noted that it was, “good to see a baton being passed not thrown, poor transitions are an issue in our community.” This powerful point was appreciated by the audience as it was noted that Reverend Bouie is the youngest minister in the history of First Baptist Church. One of the goals noted is to encourage more young people to attend and engage with the church and this installation is a significant step in the right direction.

Reverend Darian C. Bouie, M.Div., he is a dynamic preacher, visionary leader, and now the youngest Senior Pastor of First Baptist Church in Raleigh, North Carolina. His ministry is centered on conviction, the transformative power of the Gospel, equipping people, and building bridges between faith, family, and community.

Pastor Bouie’s educational journey includes a Bachelor of Arts in Religion from Morehouse College, where he was a Chaplain’s Assistant and played on the golf team winning three SIAC Championships. He earned his Master of Divinity (M.Div.) from George W. Truett Theological Seminary at Baylor University and is currently pursuing his Doctor of Ministry (D.Min.) degree at United Theological Seminary. His ministry experience includes serving in numerous roles under the leadership of Elder Kenneth A. Duke at New Jerusalem Primitive Baptist Church, including Youth and College Pastor and Assistant Pastor. Prior to his current call, he served as the Senior Pastor of Progressive Baptist Church in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Pastor Bouie is a proud member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., the Morehouse College Alumni Association, and the NAACP. He is also a Level I certified coach for The First Tee. Pastor Bouie is deeply devoted to his family. He and his inspiring wife, Tyfany Bouie M.Ed., are the proud parents of three children: Parker, Savannah, and Maverick. Raleigh welcomes Pastor Bouie and family and look forward to his “commitment to building bridges between faith, family, and community.”

## UNCG Police Alter. —CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

The video continues to show Thomas being put in the police car. Rea, the woman filming the interaction, asked officers whether they read Thomas his rights. Hiatt responded, “You watch too much TV. Mind your business.”

“Miranda rights apply only before officers begin a custodial interroga-

tion,” a UNCG spokesperson later told CPP. “Without both ‘custody’ and ‘interrogation’ Miranda warnings are not applicable. Custody means a situation where a reasonable person would not feel free to leave. Interrogation refers to direct questioning.”

Ortiz then told Rea he needed her

name because she was interfering with the officers’ investigation. Rea did not give her name and asked for Ortiz’ badge number. She moved off the street onto the sidewalk, where Ortiz followed her to continue asking for her name.

After Rea asked for Ortiz’s badge number multiple times, he respond-

ed officers do not have them. The UNCG spokesperson confirmed to CPP that UNCG Police do not have badge numbers. After Rea not providing her name, Ortiz said, “You’re going to jail, too.” As Rea began walking away, officers followed her and told her to stop. All three officers can be seen attempting to restrain her.

Rea fell to the ground after struggling to break their grasp and is seen on her stomach on the sidewalk as officers proceeded with the arrest. Additional footage filmed by a bystander shows all three officers on top of Rea. She asked the officers several times to remove their hands from her neck.

Ortiz, Galicia, Hiatt and Rea did not respond to requests for comment before publication. Thomas could not be reached at this time.

Criticisms circulate

The NAACP’s UNCG chapter released a statement on social media regarding the arrests saying Thomas and Rea are enduring severe emotional distress and psychological trauma from the events.

“UNCG PD are supposed to protect and serve students, now, to the Black community on campus they are their biggest danger,” the statement read.

“The UNCG NAACP is working with the victims of this harrowing incident to ensure all the correct steps are being taken. The UNCG NAACP stand firmly against police brutality and any actions that comprise the safety and dignity of students on or near our campus.”

A post on a subreddit dedicated to Greensboro regarding UNCG’s statement sparked conversation, with some showing support for Thomas and Rea and others criticizing Thomas for not getting out of the car sooner.

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# Business & Finance

## Lawmakers Weigh ‘Work & Save’ To Narrow N.C. Gap

NC Health News - For some North Carolinians, the road to retirement is anything but even.

While some workers can count on employer-backed savings plans, nearly half of North Carolinians will be left navigating the path to their golden years without a map, according to an AARP analysis.

The AARP Policy Institute found that in 2020, over 48 percent of North Carolina's private sector employees — roughly 1,823,000 people — were employed by a business that does not offer any type of retirement plan.

A proposal to help people save for retirement that's before the General Assembly could help bridge that gap by giving hundreds of thousands of uncovered workers a clearer path toward financial security in their later years.

"It is a great way to not only save the state money, but really push for a kind of self-reliance, and encourage folks to create that culture of saving," said Chris Brandenburg, North Carolina AARP manager of state and federal advocacy.

A 2021 Employee Benefit Research Institute study found that about 82 percent of employees with access to a retirement plan had more than \$25,000 in total savings and investments, and 63 percent had \$100,000 or more. However, only 28 percent of those without access to such a plan had over \$25,000 saved, and only 9 percent had \$100,000 or

more.

House Bill 79 would provide the pathway to access through a public-private partnership retirement savings program. The "Work and Save" program would allow those who opt in to save directly through a payroll deduction before they even see their paycheck. Participation would be optional and free for small businesses, employees and even self-employed workers.

How it works, according to the bill:

- Each participant's savings go into an individual retirement account (IRA) created under the program.
- By default, it's a Roth IRA, though participants can later choose a traditional IRA instead.
- Contributions are deposited directly from payroll into the employee's IRA.
- The money is professionally managed through private-sector investment managers selected by the North Carolina Small Business Retirement Savings Program Board.
- The funds are held in a trust, separate from the state's general fund. The state, employers and the Board have no ownership of participant contributions or earnings — those belong entirely to the individual account holder.

The bill received a favorable response when presented by bill-sponsor and then-Rep. Jarrod Lowery (R-Lumberton) to a committee at the General Assembly in Raleigh in

late June. But it has a long way to go before becoming law.

Lowery announced his resignation from the North Carolina General Assembly on the House floor on Sept. 23. The former member has taken a role with the U.S. Department of Interior, and his brother, John Lowery, has been recommended to serve the remainder of the term.

Down the path of other 'Work and Saves'

During the hearing of the House Committee on Pensions and Retirement, few questions were raised, but one of them was about other states doing this sort of program.

It turns out 17 have enacted an auto-IRA program, and 11 of those are up and running. The first, Oregon Saves, launched in 2017. The application of the program is working differently in some states, according to AARP.

Oregon Saves enrolled nearly 118,000 people from more than 21,000 businesses, who saved collectively \$200 million through the program in 2023, according to a news release by the state.

Across multiple state programs, the total assets in auto-IRA or state-automated savings plans have passed \$2 billion as of mid-2025, according to the Center for Retirement Initiatives.

The center found that automatic enrollment tends to increase saving behavior among those who would otherwise not opt in, and that opt-



outs are relatively low when the process is automatic.

North Carolina's program would be opt-in, making it different from the 17 states that have programs in place. Therefore, it's hard to compare what program participation and savings could be in North Carolina.

"I think this is just tremendously good public policy," said Rep. Phil Rubin (D-Raleigh) during the committee hearing. He then asked whether it could be up and running before the proposed date of July 1, 2027.

Lowery answered that the date had

been chosen to give enough time for a public awareness campaign, to get a board in place to oversee it and for creating the actual system to begin taking contributions.

The bill was passed on to the House Committee on Insurance on June 25, but there's been no movement on the bill since.

Budget ties and savings

While HB79 is on hold, the conversation around it intersects with larger fiscal debates at the General Assembly. Lawmakers haven't yet come to an agreement on a state budget proposal this year, so they passed a so-called mini-budget in June that funds only critical pro-

grams. That limited spending plan left the state's Medicaid program with a shortfall that's unresolved, spurring the state Department of Health and Human Services to cut rates to providers to keep the program solvent.

Even as those Medicaid rate cuts take effect, lawmakers are weighing how to balance immediate spending needs with long-term sustainability.

"This proposal, over 10 years, would save Medicaid a half a billion dollars," said Steven Hahn, North Carolina AARP communications lead.

"That's why it's timely now in this current federal debate as states are going to have to pay more. Where are we gonna get the money? Well, let's try to get people to have enough money that they're not collecting Medicaid."

While helping more North Carolinians save for retirement could, over time, lessen reliance on public assistance programs — it also helps those retirees actually access those "golden years."

"If you're just betting on Social Security — it's not enough to cover housing, medications and travel right now. And that means that something's gonna have to go lacking," Lowery said. "If you're not able to cover the cost of housing, the cost of medication, the cost of travel, you're definitely not gonna be able to enjoy life, the fruits of your labor."

"This is the way to get North Carolinians more prepared for retirement, but also help the state's long term fiscal outlook."

## Michelle Obama’s Girls Opportunity Alliance Pledges \$2.5M For Education

NEW YORK (AP) — Former first lady Michelle Obama is putting new force behind efforts to ensure girls overcome educational barriers in some of the world's most economically disadvantaged areas.

The Obama Foundation's Girls Opportunity Alliance pledged Saturday to rally \$2.5 million for dozens of grassroots groups who advance adolescent girls' education by covering school-related costs, challenging patriarchal practices such as child marriage, counseling survivors of sexual abuse and providing other forms of support.

"These groups are changing the way girls see themselves in their own communities and in our world, helping create the leaders we need for the brighter future we all deserve," Obama said in a video released Oct. 11, the International Day of the Girl. "Because when our girls succeed, we all do."

Nearly three-quarters of the 119 million girls out of school worldwide are of secondary school-age, according to the United Nations Children's Fund. Girls Opportunity Alliance — an outgrowth of an Obama White House initiative

that invested \$1 billion in U.S. government programs promoting adolescent girls' education abroad — launched in 2018 with a focus on helping that population between ages 10-19 graduate.

But the latest announcement comes amid stark warnings from international aid groups that budget cuts will roll back recent progress. UNICEF projects that a 24% drop in wealthy countries' global education funding will push six million girls out of school by the end of next year.

"The need right now, I think more than ever, is crucial," Girls Opportunity Alliance Executive Director Tiffany Drake said. "We were just in Mauritius and we heard it time and time again that organizations need funding. They need support."

Girls Opportunity Alliance's early October convening in Mauritius brought together Asian and African members of its network. The great demands on local leaders doing tireless work with little resources made it, in Drake's view, perhaps the most moving gathering they've hosted.

But Jackie Bomboma, the founder of Young Strong Mothers Foundation in Tanzania, said connecting

with other powerful women there left her encouraged with the knowledge that she's not alone. A recipient of GOA's latest grants, she said the Obama Foundation's endorsement not only brings financial support, but increased trust from the international community and additional channels to get resources.

Growing up without a mother and having survived teenage pregnancy, Bomboma said Obama's example has also instilled confidence in her and the girls she serves. Her nonprofit provides psychological services, vocational training, entrepreneurship skills development and sexual health lessons to hundreds of girls at risk of child marriage, teenage pregnancy and school dropout.

"We call ourselves 'watoto wa Michelle Obama,' which means 'the children of Michelle Obama,'" she said. "So, everyone feels so proud to have such a mother who is very strong, who is very powerful and who is very loving."

The Girls Opportunity Alliance fund is intentionally designed to provide a range of support. Drake said anyone can apply for up to \$50,000. The grant does not sup-

port general operations but instead goes toward a specific project outlined by the recipient.

Once they've joined the network, community leaders have access to monthly training sessions online and in-person gatherings, where they share strategies and learn from larger nongovernmental organizations such as UNICEF and Save the Children.

Girls Opportunity Alliance funds an undisclosed amount and then uses its wide reach to help organizations raise the rest on GoFundMe pages. The campaigns are promoted publicly on its social media accounts and throughout its donor network of celebrities and corporations.

The idea, according to Drake, was to use their "megaphone" to heap additional attention on and garner more support for organizations that often struggle to get by in more remote locations. Girls Opportunity Alliance hopes everyday individuals are inspired to join them.

"We didn't want to just tell people and say, 'Google how you can help,' Drake said. "We wanted to give them a place where they can take action."



### UNCERTAINTY OVER THE ECONOMY AND TARIFFS FORCES MANY RETAILERS TO BE CAUTIOUS ON HOLIDAY HIRING

NEW YORK (AP) — Uncertainty over the economy and tariffs is forcing retailers to pull back or delay plans to hire seasonal workers who pack orders at distribution centers, serve shoppers at stores and build holiday displays during the most important selling season of the year.

American Christmas LLC, which creates elaborate holiday installations for commercial properties such as New York's Rockefeller Center and Radio City Music Hall, plans to hire 220 temporary workers and is ramping up recruitment nearly two months later than usual, CEO Dan Casterella said. Last year, it took on 300 people during its busy period.

The main reason? The company wants to offset its tariff bill, which Casterella expects to be as big as \$1.5 million this year, more than double last year's \$600,000.

"The issue is if you overstaff and then you underperform, it's too late," Casterella said. "I think everyone's more mindful now than ever."

Holiday hiring could fall to 2009 levels

Online behemoth Amazon Inc. said Monday it intends to hire 250,000 full-, part-time and seasonal workers for the crucial shopping period, the same level as a year ago.

But job placement firm Challenger, Gray & Christmas forecasts overall holiday hiring for the last three months of the year will likely fall under 500,000 positions. That's fewer than last year's 543,000 level and also marks the smallest seasonal gain in 16 years when retailers hired 495,800 temporary workers, the firm said.

Among other companies cutting holiday payrolls: Radial, an e-commerce company that powers deliveries for roughly 120 companies like Lands' End and Cole Haan and operates 20 fulfillment sites. It plans to hire 6,500 workers, fewer than last year's 7,000, and is waiting to the last minute to ramp up hiring for some of its clients, chief human resources officer Sabrina Wnorowski, said.

Bath & Body Works, based in Reynoldsburg, Ohio, said it plans to hire 32,000 workers, below the 32,700 a year ago.

"We saw real strong signals that there's been a cooling in the labor market, even beyond what our expectations were in the first nine months of the year," Challenger's senior vice president Andy Challenger said.

Challenger also noted companies are using artificial intelligence bots to replace some workers, particularly those working in call centers. And he's also seeing companies hiring workers closer to when they need them.

Meanwhile, the list of companies staying mum about their specific holiday hiring goals keeps growing. Target Corp., UPS and Macy's are declining to offer figures, a departure from years past.

Holiday hiring: the first clues to what's in store for spending

Retailers' hiring plans mark the first clues to what's in store for the U.S. holiday shopping season and come as the U.S. job market has lost momentum this year, partly because Trump's trade wars have created uncertainty that's paralyzing managers trying to make hiring decisions.

The Labor Department reported in early September that U.S. employers — companies, government agencies and nonprofits — added just 22,000 jobs in August, down from 79,000 in July and well below the 80,000 that economists had expected.

The government shutdown, which started Oct. 1 and has delayed the release of economic reports, could worsen the job picture.

In an attempt to exert more pressure on Democratic lawmakers as the government shutdown continues, the White House budget office said Friday mass firings of federal workers have started.

Analysts will be closely monitoring the shutdown's impact on spending. For now, many retailers say that consumers, while resilient, are selective. Analysts will also be watching how shoppers will react to price increases as a result of high tariff costs in the next few months, experts said.

Given an economic slowdown, holiday spending growth is expected to be smaller than a year ago, according to several forecasts.

Mastercard SpendingPulse, which tracks spending across all payment methods including cash, predicts that holiday sales will be up 3.6% from Nov. 1 through Dec. 24. That compares with a 4.1% increase last year.

Deloitte Services LP forecasts holiday retail sales to be up between 2.9% to 3.4% from Nov. 1 through Jan. 31. That's compares with 4.2% last year.

And Adobe expects U.S. online sales to hit \$253.4 billion from Nov. 1 to Dec. 31, representing a 5.3% growth. That's smaller than last year's 8.7% growth.

A more flexible approach

Companies are increasingly wanting to hire workers closer to when they need them, experts said.

"In today's environment, brands are really looking for us to be agile," Radial's Wnorowski said.

So for some of its clients, Radial will now be hiring two weeks before Thanksgiving weekend, the traditional start for the season, instead of four weeks before the kickoff. Radial is also training holiday hires faster with new technology that's simplifying their tasks. It used to take a couple of days to train a worker, but now it only takes a couple of hours, she said.

## NC Farmers, SNAP —CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

Mixed messages

As concerns mount about the scheduled program cuts, U.S. Health and Human Services Sec. Robert F. Kennedy Jr. has pledged to "Make America Healthy Again."

A statement on the HHS website reads: "Under the leadership of Secretary Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., HHS is taking bold, decisive action to reform America's food, health, and scientific systems to identify the root causes of the chronic disease epidemic and Make America Healthy Again."

Yet in September, the USDA announced it would discontinue its annual Household Food Security Reports, also known as the Food Insecurity Survey — the tool used to measure how many U.S. households struggle to put food on the table. Without the survey, it'll be hard to track how well people are doing in getting access to healthy food.

SNAP is a key federal tool for reducing food insecurity. Without it, millions of Americans would be at greater risk of hunger or be forced to eat cheaper, lower-quality food.

In North Carolina, more than 1.4 million people — across more than 700,000 households — receive SNAP benefits each month. More than 600,000 children, 159,000 adults over 65 and more than 46,000 North Carolina veterans rely on SNAP, according to the state Department of Health and Human Services.

In response to the federal government shutdown, the state health department assured residents that October SNAP benefits would not be affected. The agency encouraged households to continue applying for services and said it will post updates as new information becomes available from the USDA. Those with additional questions are urged to contact their local county department of social services, according to information provided on the agency's webpage.

Mutual benefits

Maggie Funkhouser, the North Caro-



lina Farmers Market Network program coordinator, emphasized the dual purpose of accepting SNAP benefits at farmers markets: expanding food access and supporting the local farm economy.

"[We] estimate that SNAP incentives make up about 20 percent of total sales at farmers markets — and 20 percent is huge," Funkhouser said.

"If incentives get folks into that market to be able to buy highly nutritious, fresh, culturally relevant food — to support our farmers [and] connect them with our consumers who use SNAP — that's the goal," she said.

"We're able to accept SNAP through the farmers market," said Brittany Peters, who with her partner, Richard Raggi, operates Sun and Soil Farm in Madison, about 25 miles from Greensboro. The couple sell fruits, vegetables and flowers at the Corner Market.

"It's a huge deal, because it makes our food more accessible to everybody," Peters said.

That kind of accessibility — and the income it generates — is especially valuable for small farms, many of which operate on tight margins and

face limited funding options.

The support is essential, said Roland McReynolds, executive director of Carolina Farm Stewardship Association, a nonprofit that advocates for sustainable, local and organic food systems. He explained that the federal government — primarily through the USDA and the farm bill that's reauthorized every few years — has historically provided the main safety net for U.S. agriculture. State governments, including North Carolina, rarely step into this role, he said, and when they do, it's typically on an emergency basis, such as providing disaster relief after Hurricane Helene.

With growing budget pressures from programs like Medicaid and SNAP, most states are unlikely to fully absorb the burden if federal support declines.

Still, McReynolds said, the state can play a vital role in the event of future SNAP cuts.

"If the state can step in to provide funding for SNAP Double Up Bucks programs — [that] will absolutely be important for helping a lot of small farms stabilize their revenue into next year," he said.



# 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.

## Private Data Tells the Story Washington Won’t: Jobs Are Disappearing



By Stacy M. Brown

Black Press USA

With the federal government shutdown grinding on, the nation’s economic picture is collapsing into silence and uncertainty. For the first time in decades, there is no official monthly employment report from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics — the same agency many now say can no longer be trusted after the White House moved to control its data release following a weak jobs report earlier this year. In the vacuum, private firms have stepped forward with independent analyses that show the country losing jobs and faith at the same time.

ADP’s National Employment Report found that private-sector employers shed 32,000 jobs in September, reversing the modest gains of the summer. Annual pay for job-stayers rose 4.5 percent, showing that wages are inching up even as hiring slows. “Despite the strong economic growth we saw in the second quarter, this month’s release further validates what we’ve been seeing in the labor market — that U.S. employers have been cautious with hiring,” said Dr. Nela Richardson, ADP’s chief economist. The ADP data showed the heaviest losses in manufacturing, construction, and professional services, with small and medium-sized companies suffering the steepest cuts. The Midwest lost 63,000 jobs, and gains in the West could not offset the slide.

Bank of America’s Institute Employment Report reinforced that picture, finding “a continued cooling of the labor market.” Its data showed a 10 percent year-over-year rise in unemployment payments made to customer accounts, nearly double the most recent increase reported by the government before the shutdown. Lower-income workers continue to trail others, with after-tax wage growth of just 1.4 percent compared with 4.0 percent for higher-income households.

Goldman Sachs produced its own estimate after the Labor Department was forced to halt publication. The investment bank calculated that initial claims for unemployment benefits rose to 224,000 in the week ending September 27, up from 218,000 a week earlier. The number of people receiving benefits slipped slightly to 1.91 million, using state-level data and seasonal adjustments that were pre-released before the shutdown. Reuters reported that the Chicago Federal Reserve used private “real-time” indicators to estimate the national unemployment rate at 4.3 percent, though without federal verification, that figure is uncertain.

Global investment firm Carlyle also stepped in, releasing its own economic indicators drawn from its portfolio of 277 companies and nearly 730,000 employees. Carlyle estimated that U.S. employers added only 17,000 jobs in September and that real private residential construction spending declined 2.5 percent, even as business investment rose 4.8 percent, driven by technology and artificial intelligence projects. “Corporate spending, particularly in technology and AI infrastructure, continues to power growth while household consumption ends the quarter on a high note,” said Jason Thomas, Carlyle’s Head of Global Research and Investment Strategy.

Yet while private analysts fill the gap left by a silenced federal government, the shutdown’s impact on workers and families has become its most defining consequence.

A newly revealed memo from the Office of Management and Budget claims that federal workers forced into furlough during the ongoing shutdown may not receive back pay once the ordeal ends. In open defiance of the law, the administration argues that the 2019 Government Employee Fair Treatment Act does not automatically guarantee wages to workers sent home or ordered to labor without compensation. The government that once promised fairness has now declared that those who serve it may be discarded. This is not confusion. It is control. Mark Paoletta, the administration’s top lawyer at the budget office, wrote that Congress must pass new legislation to authorize those payments. His reasoning is what one former Republican official called “clearly against its intent.” In other words, the government rewrote the law to justify punishing the very people who keep it running.

President Trump offered no compassion, only contempt. “It depends on who we’re talking about,” he said when asked if furloughed workers would receive back pay. “There are some people who really don’t deserve to be taken care of, and we’ll take care of them in a different way.” Those words echo not from a leader, but from a ruler measuring human worth as though it were a currency. Across the country, millions now live the consequences of those words. Families of federal workers stare at empty refrigerators — the most recent estimate revealed that more than 49,000 District residents, or 13 percent, are federally employed — and rent notices pile up. CNN reported that many workers will receive smaller paychecks this week, the last they may see until the shutdown ends. What kind of democracy weaponizes hunger against its own citizens?

The administration’s defiance also contradicts its own Office of Personnel Management, which stated that “employees who were furloughed as a result of the lapse will receive retroactive pay for those furlough periods” once the shutdown ends. But this White House does not deal in law; it deals in loyalty. It rewards obedience and punishes dissent. It governs by threat and humiliation. And as the government remains closed and official data suppressed, America’s workers — both public and private — are left to piece together their own picture of a country in economic and moral decline.



LET THERE BE PEACE ON EARTH AND  
LET IT BEGIN WITH YOU

You can call it sour grapes if you want to, and I’ll say have at it. The Bible already taught me that I can’t blame my consciousness on the past mistakes of those who came before me. It can no longer be said that my elders eating sour grapes have set my teeth on edge.

No, I have to study and observe the world for myself. With the help of the Holy Spirit, I have to come to my own conclusions. Because when my spirit finally leaves this world of physicality and confusion, I want to have already let go of wrong ways of thinking, so it will be loosed for me in heaven.

The Bible is more than just a holy book. It is a historical record that helps us understand what wrong thinking leads to. It shows us the leaders who got it right and the regular folks who had to be turned around to find the right path. It is not confusing. It is clear about what is right.

If you read it, it is a great guidebook for recognizing who truly follows the divine and who does not, no matter what they say. History, both biblical and worldly, reveals who is driven by love and who is driven by evil. Words do not matter as much as actions.

I have had moments of disappointment and false highs over my almost 79 years, but I have learned not to get too caught up in either. Until we reach that golden shore, which is for those who follow the golden rule, I know from experience that things can turn on a dime.

Donald Trump went before the Israeli equivalent of Congress, like Parliament, and made a speech. Of course, he could not resist giving himself credit for “peace in the Middle East.” He even took credit for peace in other parts of the world. But he does not realize that peace does not come from lies, jealousy, or bragging.

He might use words like “God” and “spiritual,” but he does not understand that God never gave man the right to vengeance or revenge. The wars and rumors of wars we see now are born from vengeance, control, greed, and the delusion that power comes from killing and domination. That is not God’s word.

Anyone who believes they can dictate who we are or how we live is not of God. We need to stop giving them power over us. We must stand with the God within us, the one who made us His, not the property of anyone else.

Go back and read your Bible, or whatever sacred text you follow, and do not let anyone interpret it for you but the God within. Also, read up on past dictators and tyrants. You will find they all came from unhealed childhood wounds and twisted misunderstandings. Their speeches sound good, but when you look at what they do, their lies are plain.

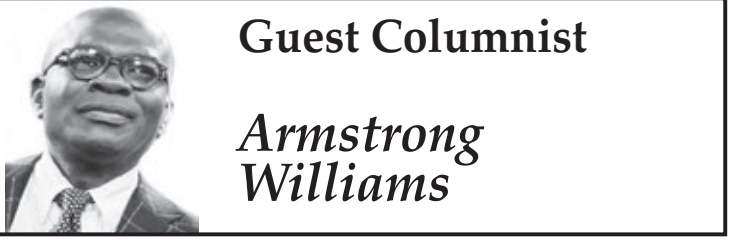
This is nothing new. The Bible already told us about people who “trust in lying words that cannot profit,” who “steal, murder, commit adultery, swear falsely, burn incense to Baal, and walk after other gods whom you do not know,” and then come and stand before God saying, “We are delivered to do all these abominations.” (Jeremiah 7:8–10, KJV)

As my classmate Robert says, if you want to argue, do not argue with me, argue with God.

Donald keeps making speeches full of comparisons between himself, Obama, and Biden. Let it be known that he is so jealous of those two that he cannot let people form their own opinions. He has to convince you that he is better. He hates them because deep down he knows they have qualities he wishes he had but blocked off in himself because of his obsession with power and wealth.

Any man who wages war on his own people, who disrespects the Constitution, who fires those doing their jobs simply because they do not serve his ego, that man does not have peace within himself. So how can he bring peace to the world?

His way will never bring peace. But I will tell you what can. Love. Love your neighbor. Love the people God put in your path. If we all just start there, even if it is only those reading this right now, peace will begin with us and spread to the corners of the world God gave us to influence.



Guest Columnist  
**Armstrong Williams**

THE MYTH OF FALLING CRIME: WHY AMERICANS DON’T TRUST THE NUMBERS

Every election season, mayors and governors step before cameras to boast that crime is down. Charts are waved, statistics cited, and carefully crafted talking points deployed to assure anxious citizens that their streets are safer than ever. Yet when you leave the press conference and walk the sidewalks of Baltimore, Chicago or Los Angeles, the reality feels far different. The gap between official numbers and lived experience is wide enough to swallow public trust whole.

The reason for this disconnect is simple: Most crime never gets reported in the first place. The Baltimore Sun recently highlighted what criminologists have known for decades — about half of all crime in America isn’t captured in police data. Burglaries are only reported 45% of the time. Simple assaults, 37%. Sexual assaults, a shameful 21%. Think about that for a moment: Nearly four out of five sexual assaults never reach the official record. Yet politicians still spin a story that safety is improving.

Why aren’t Americans calling the cops? For many, it’s because they believe the system won’t deliver justice. Victims of property crimes often assume police won’t recover stolen items. Domestic violence

survivors fear financial ruin if their abuser is arrested. Immigrants worry that calling 911 might lead to a knock on the door from Immigration and Customs Enforcement. In cities like Baltimore, there is a deeply rooted stigma against “snitching” that makes reporting crimes socially dangerous. And for those who simply distrust the police, staying silent feels safer than engaging.

Here’s the political problem: Declining reported crime becomes the official narrative, but citizens’ fear of crime continues to climb. Gallup recently noted Americans are near record highs in expressing concern about violent crime. This is not paranoia — it’s the rational conclusion of people who judge their safety not by government reports but by what they see in their neighborhoods, what they hear from friends, and what they experience personally.

The anecdote of Julian and Kristen Mack, attacked in Baltimore by a group of teenagers, is telling. They never called police because they feared the children might be shot. Another former Homeland Security Department official recounted being assaulted in a D.C. coffee shop but choosing not to report it because he believed nothing meaningful would happen to the mentally ill attacker. When even former law enforcement officers don’t bother reporting crime, the legitimacy of the system is in question.

So what happens next? Officials trumpet lower homicides or robberies as proof of progress. They cut ribbons on new community initiatives and point to “data-driven policing” as evidence of reform. But residents quietly arm themselves, avoid walking alone at night, and lose faith in institutions meant to protect them. A society where people stop trusting the guardians of order is a society drifting toward vigilantism.

This is not just a policing issue — it’s a governance issue. A political class eager to tout success selectively leans on crime statistics that do not represent reality. Meanwhile, communities drowning in fear feel gaslit. That disconnect breeds cynicism, disengagement and eventually rage. It is one reason why “law and order” rhetoric resonates so powerfully in American politics. People know something is wrong, even if official numbers deny it.

Rebuilding trust requires a cultural and institutional shift. First, public safety leaders must stop treating crime statistics as political props. Transparency demands acknowledging the limits of reported data and the reasons victims stay silent. Second, cities must address why people don’t report crime — fear of retaliation, distrust of police, and inefficiencies in prosecution. This means deeper community policing, stronger witness protections, and reforms in how cases are handled.

Politicians must stop assuming that fear of crime is just an irrational voter quirk. Fear is a rational response to disorder. If a mother refuses to let her children play outside because drug dealers loiter on the corner, it does not matter if homicides are technically down 12%. Her world is not safe, and no statistic will convince her otherwise.

The lesson here is timeless: Statistics do not govern — trust does. Crime numbers can be massaged, but fear cannot. If Americans no longer believe in the story their leaders are telling them, they will write their own — and it will not be a story kind to those in charge.



**FUNdraising  
Good Times**

By Mel & Pearl Shaw  
Saad & Shaw

NONPROFIT HEROES HIDDEN IN PLAIN SIGHT

We often think of our heroes as athletes, elected officials, entertainers, entrepreneurs, authors, artists, educators, faith leaders, medical professionals, members of the military, and more. But there are non-profit leaders — past and present — who continue to sustain and elevate the quality of our lives in ways we may not be aware of. Let us share with you examples of superheroes who are hiding in plain sight.

First, let’s talk local. In communities across the country, there are countless leaders of food banks, ACLU chapters, community foundations, United Way chapters, health clinics, and low-income housing organizations. These people shop at the same grocery stores that we do. They drive the freeways alongside us and attend their kids’ athletic and academic events. They are invisible superheroes helping ensure there are local services available when we and our neighbors need them.

Nationally, it has been leaders and members of both the NAACP and the National Urban League who have changed the very fabric of American life. They have played critical roles in organizing communities across the country, changing lives, laws, and opportunities for decades. Derrick Johnson serves as the 19th president and CEO of the NAACP, and Marc Morial has served as president of the National Urban League for over 20 years. Both are more committed than ever to defending democracy and civil rights.

Speaking of the NAACP, Marian Wright Edelman directed the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund’s Mississippi office and represented activists during the 1964 Mississippi Freedom Summer. She cared deeply for poor children, founding the Children’s Defense Fund and helping establish Head Start. Generations of children have benefited from her work.

When it comes to advancing education, Dr. Fred Patterson founded the United Negro College Fund (UNCF). Through his efforts, generations of students have received college scholarships, and HBCUs have gained capacity-building resources and dollars. Speaking of resources and dollars, we have to salute Susan Taylor Batten, the president and CEO of ABFE — A Philanthropic Partnership for Black Communities. Working with her board and staff ABFE and its members advocate within philanthropy to drive meaningful and effective financial investments in Black communities.

Now more than ever, Alexis McGill Johnson, president and CEO of Planned Parenthood Federation of America, is changing the lives of women and families. She works to make sure that even in this environment, you and your loved ones can have access to birth control, abortion, and testing for sexually transmitted diseases, among other medical services.



# Classifieds

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA  
COUNTY OF HORRY  
IN THE COURT OF COMMON  
PLEAS FOR THE FIFTEENTH  
JUDICIAL CIRCUIT  
CASE#2025CP2200959  
Jerome Bailey, Plaintiff v.  
Alice Mae Christian, Defendant.  
SUMMONS  
TO THE DEFENDANTS ABOVE  
NAMED:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED  
and required to answer the  
Complaint in this action, a copy  
of which is herewith served upon  
you, and to serve a copy of your  
Answer to the said Complaint on the  
subscriber at 11054 Highway  
707, Murrells Inlet, South Carolina  
29576 within thirty (30) days after  
the service hereof, exclusive of the  
day of such service; and, if you fail  
to appear and defend by filing an  
Answer to the Complaint within the  
time aforesaid, judgment by default  
will be rendered against you for the  
relief demanded in the Complaint.

COMPLAINT  
(Jury Trial Demanded)  
Comes Now the Plaintiff,  
complaining of the Defendant, and  
alleging as follows;

- JURISDICTION
- The Plaintiff, Jerome Bailey, (hereinafter "Plaintiff"), is a citizen and resident of Horry County, South Carolina.
  - Upon information and belief, the Defendant, Alice Mae Christian, (hereinafter, "Defendant") is a citizen and resident of Wake County, North Carolina.
  - The accident at issue in this Complaint occurred in Horry County, South Carolina.
  - Therefore, jurisdiction is proper in Horry County, South Carolina. FOR A FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION (Negligence, Gross Negligence, Negligence Per Se)
  - The Plaintiff realleges all allegations contained herein as if set forth verbatim.
  - That on or about January 14, 2024, Defendant was operating a 2014 model Ford sedan, in Horry County, South Carolina, and struck pedestrain Plaintiff with her vehicle.
  - That Defendant left the scene of the accident after striking Plaintiff.
  - Upon information and belief, Defendant was operating a Ford sedan bearing vehicle identification number (VIN): 1FADP3K25EL285593.
  - As a result of the accident, Plaintiff suffered severe injuries, causing great bodily harm. The actions of Defendant, were negligent, grossly negligent, willful, wanton, and reckless in operating her vehicle in such a manner as to cause Plaintiff harm in one or more of the following particulars to wit:
    - In failing to keep a proper lookout; and/or
    - In failing to keep her vehicle under proper control; and/or
    - In driving too fast for conditions; and/or
    - In operating a vehicle under distraction; and/or
    - In failing to yield right of way; and/or
    - In failing to obey traffic laws and/or signs; and/or
    - In failing to keep a safe distance from Plaintiff; and/or
    - In failing to stay at an acident scene and render aid to Plaintiff; and/or
    - In negligently and carelessly operating Defendant's vehicle at a rate of speed which was improper under the circumstances and conditions then and there existing; and/or
    - In operating Defendant's vehicle in a negligent, grossly negligent, negligent per se, careless, reckless, willful, wanton, and unlawful manner so as to create a dangerous situation; and/or
    - In failing to use that degree of care and caution a reasonably prudent person would exercise under the conditions then and there existing. One or more of which were the direct and proximate cause of injuries and damages sustained by Plaintiff, and all of which were in violation of the statutory and common laws of the State of South

- Carolina.
- That, as a direct and proximate result of the negligence, gross negligence, negligence per se, carelessness, recklessness, willfulness, and wantonness of Defendant, as is set forth more fully above, Plaintiff was injured, has endured pain and suffering, has suffered mentally and emotionally, and has incurred, and will incur, various medical expenses, has incurred property damage, and has otherwise been damaged and injured.
  - That, as a direct and proximate result of the negligence, gross negligence, negligence per se, carelessness, recklessness, willfulness and wantonness of the Defendant, as is set forth more fully above, Plaintiff was jerked, thrown, and slammed to the ground, and, as a result of Defendant's actions, sustained serious and painful personal injuries and property damage.
  - That as a direct and proximate result of the negligence, gross negligence, negligence per se, carelessness, recklessness, willfulness, and wantonness of Defendant, as is set forth more fully above, Plaintiff has been damaged and injured in the following respects:
    - Plaintiff has been required to expend a significant amount of money for his medical care, treatment, and attendant services;
    - Upon information and belief, the nature of Plaintiff's injuries will require Plaintiff to expend a significant amount of money for her medical care, treatment, and attendant services in the future;
    - The pain of Plaintiff's injuries has resulted in Plaintiff's loss of enjoyment of life and change in Plaintiff's personality, all to permanent detriment to Plaintiff's health and physical well-being; and
    - Upon information and belief, Plaintiff was required to expend significant amounts of money to replace and repair property damage caused in the collision.
  - That Defendant's acts and omissions, as is set forth more fully above, show willful misconduct, malice, wantonness, and an entire want of care, raising a presumption of Defendant's conscious indifference to the consequences of such acts and omissions.
  - That, because of the Defendant's acts and omissions and the proximate harm resulting to Plaintiff, Plaintiff should be awarded punitive damages in an amount to be determined by the trier of fact in order to punish and penalize Defendant and to deter Defendant and others from similar behavior.
  - That, upon information and belief, Plaintiff is entitled to judgment against Defendant for actual, compensatory, exemplary, and punitive damages for Plaintiff's personal injuries and property damages set forth herein in an amount that is fair, just, and reasonable under the circumstances, plus whatever costs, interest, and attorney fees that Plaintiff may be entitled to be determined by a jury.
- WHEREFORE, Plaintiff prays for judgment against Defendant for an amount to be ascertained by the jury at the trial of this action as to all damages (punitive and actual), for the costs and disbursements of this action, both pre-judgment and post-judgment interest, and for such other and further relief, in law or in equity, in favor of Plaintiff as this Court may deem just and proper.
- MORRIS LAW, LLC  
Jeffrey D. Morris: SC Bar No.: 102081  
Randerson I. Stephens, Jr.: SC Bar No.: 101868  
Attorneys for Plaintiff  
PO Box 14724  
Surfside Beach, South Carolina 29587  
Tel: 843-232-0944  
Fax: 843-238-1082  
jm@jeffmorrislawfirm.com  
rs@jeffmorrislawfirm.com  
Murrells Inlet, South Carolina  
FILED: September 5, 2025  
10/16, 10/23, and 10/30/2025

## DURHAM COUNTY

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
DURHAM COUNTY  
NOTICE TO CREDITORS

The undersigned, Sharon Duncan Tilley, having duly qualified as Executrix of the Estate of DONALD EDWARD TILLEY, 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 January 15, 2026 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 16th day of October, 2025.  
Sharon Duncan Tilley, Executrix  
C/O Ronald G. Coulter, Attorney  
3400 Croasdaile Drive Ste 205  
Durham, NC 27705  
1-919-246-5775

10/16, 10/23, 10/30, and 11/6/2025  
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS  
In the General Court of Justice,  
Superior Court Division  
Before the Clerk  
File Number 24E002494-310  
THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 20th day of November 2024, as ADMINISTRATRIX of the Estate of ROBERT LONG JR., 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 17th 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 16th day of October 2025.  
Vicki Long, Administratrix  
608 Orindo Dr.  
Durham, NC 27713  
10/16, 10/23, 10/30, and 11/6/2025  
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS  
THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 6th day of October, 2025, as Administrator of the Estate of DICK KENT WALT, 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 January 17th, 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 16th of October, 2025.  
SARAH M. COX  
ADMINISTRATOR  
ESTATE OF DICK KENT WALT  
c/o Richard G. Long III, Attorney  
Walker Lambe, PLLC  
Post Office Box 51549  
Durham, North Carolina 27717  
10/16, 10/23, 10/30, and 11/6/2025  
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS  
THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 21st day of August, 2024, as Ancillary Executor of the Estate of DUANE EDWARD PARRISH, Deceased, does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said Estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 17th 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 16th of October, 2025.  
April P. Daley  
Ancillary Executor  
ESTATE OF DUANE EDWARD PARRISH  
c/o Richard G. Long III, Attorney  
Walker Lambe, PLLC  
Post Office Box 51549  
Durham, North Carolina 27717  
10/16, 10/23, 10/30, and 11/6/2025  
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS  
In the General Court of Justice,  
Superior Court Division  
Before the Clerk  
File Number 25E003522-3 10  
THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 17th day of September 2025, as EXECUTOR of the Estate of SUSAN JO ALBERTSON, 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 9th 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 9th day of October 2025.

William A. Albertson, Executor  
1108 Steinbeck Drive  
Durham, NC 27703  
10/9, 10/16, 10/23, and 10/30/2025  
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS  
Estate of Marie Riggsbee Godwin  
FILE NO. 25E001169-310

THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 1st day of October, 2025, as Co-Executors of the Estate of MARIE RIGGSBEE GODWIN, Deceased, do hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said Estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before January 10th, 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 9th day of October, 2025.  
Gus Travis Godwin, III, Co-Executor  
Kevin Thomas Godwin, Co-Executor  
ESTATE OF MARIE RIGGSBEE GODWIN  
c/o E. Jack Walker, Jr., Attorney  
Walker Lambe, PLLC  
PO Box 51549  
Durham, North Carolina 27717  
10/9, 10/16, 10/23, and 10/30/2025  
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS  
In the General Court of Justice,  
Superior Court Division  
Before the Clerk  
File Number 25E000889-310  
THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 2nd day of July 2025, as EXECUTOR of the Estate of SHARON ANNE SKOLNICKI, 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 9th 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 9th day of October 2025.  
Beth A. Weese, Executor  
6719 Hopewell Avenue  
Springfield, VA 22151  
10/9, 10/16, 10/23, and 10/30/2025  
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS  
In the General Court of Justice,  
Superior Court Division  
Before the Clerk  
File Number 25E001268-310  
THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 2nd day of October 2025, as ADMINISTRATOR of the Estate of GERTRUDE ALLEN RITCHIE, 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 9th 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 9th day of October 2025.  
Lloyd W. Allen, Jr., Administrator  
610 Ashe Ave  
Cary, NC 27511  
10/9, 10/16, 10/23, and 10/30/2025  
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS  
In the General Court of Justice,  
Superior Court Division  
Before the Clerk  
File Number 25E001270-310  
THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 2nd day of October 2025, as ADMINISTRATOR of the Estate of TOMMY CHARLES EDWARDS, 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 9th 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 9th day of October 2025.  
Jane P Edwards, Administrator  
1733 Wynne Rd.  
Durham, NC 27713  
10/9, 10/16, 10/23, and 10/30/2025

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS  
The undersigned having qualified as Administrator of the Estate of NAOMI SCHERRYE WILLIAMS, deceased, late of Durham County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the estate to present such claims to the undersigned at 2002 Knight Crossing Road, Durham, NC 27703 on or before the 7th day of January, 2026 or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said Estate, please make immediate payment.  
This the 9th day of October, 2025.  
Kiira Lyons, Administratrix  
2002 Knight Crossing Road  
Durham, NC 27703  
(919) 406-4736  
Dates of Publication:  
October 9, 16, 23, 30, 2025  
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS  
File Number 25E000410-310

THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 2nd day of April, 2025, as Administrator of the ESTATE OF JASON STIRLING GARRARD, Deceased, do hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said Estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before January 10th, 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 9th day of October, 2025.  
Lorraine G. Ragsdale, Administrator  
ESTATE OF JASON STIRLING GARRARD  
c/o Richard G. Long, III  
Walker Lambe, PLLC  
PO Box 51549  
Durham, North Carolina 27717  
10/9, 10/16, 10/23, and 10/30/2025  
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS  
THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 1st day of October, 2025, as Executor of the Estate of FRANCES C. PATTERSON, also known as FRANCES RUBYLEE PATTERSON, Deceased, does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said Estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before January 10th, 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 9th day of October, 2025.  
Hal E. Patterson, Executor  
Estate of Frances C. Patterson Aka Frances Rubylee Patterson  
c/o Jennifer Dalman, Attorney  
Walker Lambe, PLLC  
240 Leigh Farm Road, Suite 100  
Durham, North Carolina 27707  
10/9, 10/16, 10/23, and 10/30/2025  
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE OF SERVICE OF  
PROCESS BY PUBLICATION  
In the General Court of Justice,  
District Court Division  
In re: DOE, 25SP000913-310

TO: The unknown father of a female child to be born on or about December 6, 2025, in Jacksonville, Onslow County, North Carolina. Respondent TAKE NOTICE that a Petition for Adoption was filed on the 23rd day of September 2025 day of October 2025, with the Clerk of Superior Court for Durham County in Durham, North Carolina, in the above-entitled special proceeding. The Petition relates to a female child due to be born on or about December 6, 2025, in Onslow County, North Carolina. The birth mother's name is Abigail Davis. She is a 22-year-old Caucasian woman with strawberry blonde hair and green eyes who is 5'7" tall. The child was conceived on or about mid-March 2025, in Jacksonville, North Carolina. It is the intention of Abigail to place the child for adoption. It is Abigail's belief that your consent to the adoption is not required. If you believe your consent to the adoption of this child is required pursuant to G.S. 48-3-601, you are required to make defense to such pleading no later than forty (40) days after the date of the first publication of this notice which is the 18th of November 2025 exclusive of such date. A copy of your notice must also be sent to the attorney listed below. Upon your failure to do so, the Petitioners will apply to the Court for relief sought in the Petition and the Court will rule that your consent is not required. Any parental rights that you may have

will be terminated upon the entry of the decree of adoption. This, the 9th day of October 2025. Milan T. Pham, Attorney for Petitioners NC Bar # 27599 NicholsonPham PLLC, 113 Broadway Street, Durham, North Carolina 27701.

10/9, 10/16, and 10/23/2025  
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

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# Classifieds

## DURHAM COUNTY

**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

## WAKE COUNTY

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
WAKE COUNTY

**NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION**  
**In the General Court of Justice,**  
**District Court Division**  
**File No. 25CV022291-910**  
Heydi Martinez Hernandez,  
Plaintiff v. Denis Mencia Velasquez,  
Defendant

**TO DEFENDANT: TAKE NOTICE** that a pleading seeking relief against you has been filed in the above-entitled action, by the Plaintiff herein, the nature which is as follows: COMPLAINT FOR CHILD CUSTODY.

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 Child Custody may be entered.

This, the 9th day of October, 2025.  
Heydi Martinez Hernandez, Plaintiff  
313 Roselle Ct. Apt C  
Raleigh, NC 27610  
10/9, 10/16, and 10/23/2025  
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
WAKE COUNTY

**COMPLAINT TO ENFORCE POSSESSORY LIEN ON MOTOR VEHICLE**

**In The General Court Of Justice**  
**District Court Division**  
**Small Claims**

**File No. 25CV035087-910**  
**HARWARD FARM, Plaintiff VS. UNKNOWN VIN: 31847A217782 1963 CHEVROLET, 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 1963 CHEVROLET, ID No. 31847A217782 and that the petitioner shall have the right to sell to the highest bidder the motor vehicle listed on November 18, 2025 at WCCH, 316 Fayetteville St., 3rd Floor, Raleigh, NC 27601, at 1:30 p.m. You are required to make a defense to such pleading before such date and time.

This the 9th day of October, 2025.  
Harward Farm, Plaintiff  
3732 Koomen Lane  
Raleigh, NC 27606  
10/9, 10/16, and 10/23/2025  
NORTH CAROLINA  
WAKE COUNTY

**NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION**  
**In The General Court Of Justice**  
**District Court Division**

**File No. 22CV014645**  
**JOSEPHINE EMMANUEL**  
**OPARAOCHA, Plaintiff VS.**  
**BENSON CHUKWUDI AGU,**  
**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 10, 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 9th day of October 2025.  
Josephine Oparaocha, Plaintiff  
5016 Babbling Brook Drive  
Raleigh, NC 27610  
10/9, 10/16, and 10/23/2025  
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
DURHAM COUNTY

**NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION**  
**In the General Court of Justice,**  
**District Court Division**  
**In re: DOE, 25SP000913-310**

TO: The unknown father of a female child to be born on or about December 6, 2025, in Jacksonville, Onslow County, North Carolina. Respondent TAKE NOTICE that a Petition for Prebirth Determination of Consent was filed on the 23rd day of September 2025 day of October 2025, with the Clerk of Superior Court for Durham County in Durham, North Carolina, in the above-entitled special proceeding. The Petition relates to a female child due to be born on or about December 6, 2025, in Onslow County, North Carolina. The birth mother’s name is Abigail Davis. She is a 22-year-old Caucasian woman with strawberry blonde hair and green eyes who is 5’7” tall. The child was conceived on or about mid-March 2025, in Jacksonville, North Carolina. It is the intention of Abigail to place the child for adoption. It is Abigail’s belief that your consent to the adoption is not required. If you believe your consent to the adoption of this child is required pursuant to G.S. 48-3-601, you are required to make defense to such pleading no later than forty (40) days after the date of the first publication of this notice which is the 18th of November 2025 exclusive of such date. A copy of your notice must also be sent to the attorney listed below. Upon your failure to do so, the Petitioners will apply to the Court for relief sought in the Petition and the Court will rule that your consent is not required. Any parental rights that you may have will be terminated upon the entry of the decree of adoption. This, the 9th day of October 2025. Milan T. Pham, Attorney for Petitioners NC Bar # 27599 NicholsonPham PLLC, 113 Broadway Street, Durham, North Carolina 27701. 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**  
**File No. 25CV007590-910**  
**JAMES IRWIN STREET III,**  
**Plaintiff v. STACI ALLIVIA BYRD,**  
**Defendant**

**TO DEFENDANT: TAKE NOTICE** that a pleading seeking relief against you has been filed in the above-entitled action, by the Plaintiff herein, the nature which is as follows: COMPLAINT FOR CHILD CUSTODY.

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 Child Custody may be entered.

This, the 9th day of October, 2025.  
James Irwin Street III, Plaintiff  
623 Pony Club Circle  
Cary, NC 27519  
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 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 25CV017576-910**  
**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

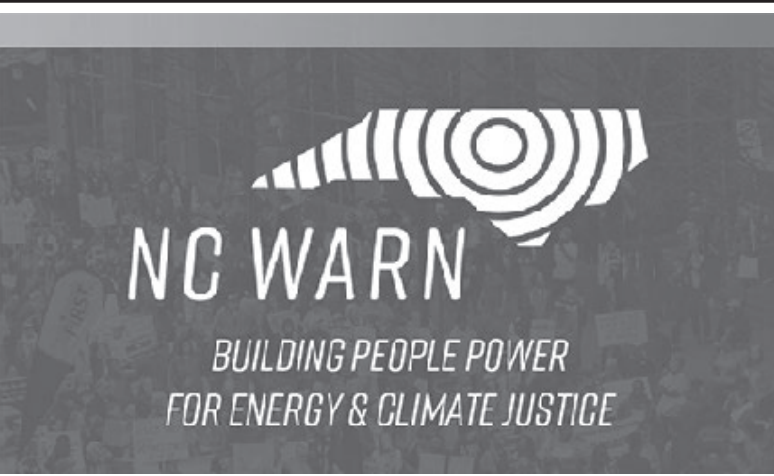
5526 Black Maple Dr.  
Raleigh, NC 27616  
10/2, 10/9, and 10/16/2025  
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
WAKE COUNTY

**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 Hawkshead Rd.  
Wake Forest, NC 27587  
9/25, 10/2, 10/9, and 10/16/2025

## Classifieds



NC WARN is looking to hire an Office Manager. The candidate will have 5+ years of experience in office management. We encourage all to apply, including women, BIPOC, LG-BTQ+. This is a full-time, office-based position.

Compensation is commensurate with experience. Submit salary requirements with your cover letter and resume to ncwarn@ncwarn.org to apply. The deadline for applications is October 31.



## ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

The North Carolina Department of Adult Correction has the following contract in Catawba County out for bid: C- 11787 Catawba CC Air Conditioning Information . The bid opening is scheduled for: Thursday, 11/20/2025 . To obtain the Notice to Bidders, any Pre-Bid Requirements, and any Addenda visit: North Carolina Department of Adult Correction · eVP

## D/M/WBE

### SUBCONTRACTORS/SUPPLIERS WANTED

T. A. Loving Company (NC General Contractor License No. 325) is seeking certified DBE, MBE, and WBE subcontractors and suppliers for the **Little Creek Resource Recovery Facility Rehabilitation & Replacement – Contract No. 1 – EQ Tank No. 2** project for the **City of Raleigh Public Utilities Department** which bids on **November 6, 2025, at 2:00 PM**. Plans and specifications for this project are available at the following locations: T. A. Loving Company; 400 Patetown Road; Goldsboro, NC 27530 \* City of Raleigh Public Utilities Department; One Exchange Plaza, Suite 620; Raleigh, NC 27601 \* Black & Veatch International Company; 175 Regency Woods Place, Suite 200; Cary, NC 27518 \* Dodge Data and Analytics website \* ConstructConnect website \* Construction Journal website \* NC Institute of Minority Economic Development (NCIMED) website.

Potential subcontracting opportunities include but are not limited to surveying, demolition, , hauling, asphalt paving, earthwork, erosion control, seeding, sodding, electrical, SCA-DA, dewatering, flatwork, CIPC, concrete forms, concrete rebar, and painting. Please contact **Tyler Sutton (tsutton@taloving.com)** if you are interested in submitting a proposal on any portion(s) of this project. Contact via phone 919-734-8400; fax: 919-736-2148; or email. All quotations will be accepted up to the closing time of the bid date. T. A. Loving Company is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer.

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



# Ag Grow Culture

## Trump Cancels UNC Study on Health Impact of Hog Farms

*Inside Climate News*—The Trump administration has canceled a \$417,000 federal grant that would have funded research on the social and economic impacts of biogas production from industrialized swine operations in North Carolina.

Over several years, scientists from RTI International in Durham and the Gillings School of Public Health at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill had planned to continuously monitor the air, and periodically sample rivers, streams, and private drinking water in Duplin and Sampson counties. The study would also have collected health data in the communities.

Duplin and Sampson rank first and second in the nation, respectively, in the number of swine farms, according to a University of Michigan study. They account for 4.2 million hogs on roughly 900 farms, state environmental data shows, a small percentage of which have received state permits to produce biogas.

Census data show tracts near these concentrated animal feeding operations—CAFOs—are predominantly Black, Indigenous, or Latino.

The research is important because swine gas operations are proliferating in North Carolina. Yet there is scant data on the environmental and health effects near these facilities, according to the RTI and UNC-CH scientists.

The community research conducted in Duplin and Sampson counties on the biogas production project was sponsored by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and National Institute of Environmental and Health Sciences (NIEHS).

The biogas study was one of at least 1,700 projects that lost funding earlier this year after the Trump administration terminated \$783 million in grants at NIEHS’ parent agency, the National Institutes of Health. Although it is unclear if the biogas study was singled out for its environmental justice focus, similar projects were targeted.

An EPA spokesperson said the grant, and others like it, were canceled to align with the Trump administration’s mission.

“Maybe the Biden-Harris Admin-

istration shouldn’t have forced their radical agenda of wasteful DEI programs and ‘environmental justice’ preferencing on the EPA’s core mission,” the spokesperson said. “The Trump EPA will continue to work with states, tribes, and communities to support projects that advance the agency’s core mission of protecting human health and the environment.”

The U.S. Supreme Court last month upheld the administration’s cuts by a 5-4 vote. A lower court judge had blocked the cancellations on the grounds that they were discriminatory.

The North Carolina scientists, led by Crystal Lee Pow Jackson, had conducted one round of private well sampling and collected initial air quality data, but had yet to sample near an active swine gas operation when the Trump administration canceled the grant.

“We couldn’t complete the full research, but there is valuable baseline data in this,” said Courtney Woods, an associate professor in UNC-CH’s Department of Environmental Sciences and Engineering. She also leads programs at the university in Environment, Climate and Health and Health Equity and Social Justice.

Swine Gas

Major pork producers tout biogas as a solution to the industry’s methane problem. In 2018, swine manure

emitted 970,000 tons of methane nationally, federal data show, second only to dairy.

Methane is short-lived in the atmosphere, but it inflicts more damage to the climate than carbon dioxide. Over 20 years, methane is 86 times more potent at warming the planet than CO2, which remains in the atmosphere for centuries.

Swine CAFOs generate biogas by capping waste lagoons, capturing the methane they emit, and injecting the gas into a pipeline. Some CAFOs use the gas to power farm operations.

Yet the industry’s position doesn’t account for pipeline leaks. And in North Carolina, swine biogas systems still pump extra feces and urine

into a second open-air lagoon; from there, the waste is sprayed on fields as fertilizer. Fecal contamination can seep into the groundwater and private drinking water wells from the spraying; methane, ammonia, and hydrogen sulfide from the lagoons still enter the air, unabated.

Align RNG, a partnership between Dominion Energy and Smithfield Foods, the world’s largest pork producer, receives swine gas from a half dozen CAFOs in Sampson and Duplin counties, according to state records from 2024. The farms ship their gas through 30 miles of low-pressure pipelines to Align RNG’s upgrading facility near Warsaw, a small town off Interstate 40 in Duplin County.

## How To Cook, Freeze or Pickle Plant Scraps Instead of Throwing Them Away

(AP News) My beets were slow to grow this year, so I bought a bunch at the farmers’ market. I was taken aback when the seller chopped off the vegetable’s foliage and attempted to discard it after handing me a sad sack of leafless roots.

“Wait! I’ll take those, please,” I blurted, catching him just before they hit the trash bin, and explaining that they’re edible. He knew, of course, but said that most customers don’t want them.

There are a lot of tasty and nutritious uses for secondary plant parts that would otherwise be discarded or, at best, added to compost. Waste not, want not!

A zipper bag of ‘scraps’

When I roast beets – homegrown or otherwise – I sauté their greens with olive oil, salt, pepper and garlic for a tasty and nutritious second side dish from the same plant.

Likewise, I have a gallon-size, zipper-top “scraps” bag in the freezer



as they’re needed to produce energy for the growing crop. Scrape each leaf’s surface with a sharp knife to remove any bristles, then rinse, slice and sauté with the peeled, chopped stems. Mature leaves are too thick and prickly for this treatment, but can be used to flavor soups and stews, then removed before serving.

You can also stuff the zucchini leaves with rice and Mediterranean seasonings in place of grape leaves. Go ahead and add chopped meat, too, if you like.

Figs, flowers and watermelon

Fig leaves make a delicious tea-like beverage. Harvest them at the end of the season, just before they turn yellow. Rinse, pat dry, then place them in a food dehydrator, air fryer or oven set to 200 degrees Fahrenheit for several hours, until crispy. Crumble them up, then store them in a glass jar.

Steep a heaping tablespoon in boiling water for 10 minutes, then

strain. You’ll swear you’re drinking a sweetened coconut-vanilla infusion.

And if you’re growing untreated, chemical-free nasturtiums, pansies, violets, roses or borage, elevate your beverages with floral ice cubes! Add a single flower to each compartment of an ice cube tray and fill with water before freezing.

You can also garnish salads with these edible flowers (nasturtiums have a peppery bite; borage is reminiscent of cucumber) or use them to decorate desserts.

And don’t toss those watermelon rinds. They can be pickled. Slice them up, then boil for 5 minutes, drain and set aside. When they’ve cooled, add them to a jar with a boiled (but cooled) solution of water, cider or white vinegar, kosher salt, sugar and allspice (or pickling spices for a savory snack). They’ll be ready to enjoy in a couple of hours and will keep in the refrigerator for a couple of weeks.



By Monica Potts

TNR

Fall is here, the harvest is coming in, but President Donald Trump’s trade war rages on and China won’t buy American farmers’ soybeans. That’s assuming that big farms can even find the labor to bring in their crops, which has been harder in the wake of Trump’s immigration raids, especially on the West Coast. In the eastern Arkansas Delta, the rice capital of the United States, farmers met to pray for government aid the way they might have prayed for rain in years gone by.

In response, Trump’s Agriculture Secretary Brooke Rollins said at a meeting of state departments of agriculture this month that help was possibly on the way. Farmers may get it: It would hardly be the first time Trump bailed them out after wrecking their markets. The fact that it was a tough year for farmers was front of mind at this past weekend’s Farm Aid. Online, pundits and commentators have seemed confused about why farmers overwhelmingly voted for Trump in the first place, treating it as another example of the working class voting against their interests.

But here’s the thing: Farmers aren’t working class. They’re often quite rich, actually. And they knew exactly what they were voting for.

President Jimmy Carter was the last farming president, which is fitting, because he was elected at the end of a steep decline in the number of American farms. The Great Depression reshaped the American landscape. It came with a crash in agricultural markets alongside the Dust Bowl—an ecological disaster that doomed many family farms. There were 6.8 million farms in the country in 1935, and fewer than a third were left by the end of the 1970s. The decline slowed after that, but fewer than two million farms remained in 2024. At the same time, the number of agriculturally dependent rural counties in the U.S. has also declined.

Most of the story of U.S. farming since then has been the rise of big agribusiness. But what about the family farms that remain? They are bigger; and the farmers who own them are wealthier. Families with commercial farms—that is to say those who make above \$350,000 a year and who may actually earn enough through operating their dairies, wineries, or growing what they grow to support their families—had a median wealth of \$3.6 million in 2023, according to the USDA.

Those are the exceptions. But the average farm overall still had \$1,439,138 in wealth. Many of those farmers rely on off-farm income—meaning the families who own them work other jobs—and the land they use for grazing cattle or growing corn is more of a side hustle. The wealth comes from the land and capital investments, and the farm operations themselves often run at a loss, but those households have had higher median incomes than the national median every year since 1988. Many family farm proprietors have already inherited land from their families or otherwise have the money to invest.

Why would people with other jobs try running a small farm if it is more likely to lose money than to make it? There are many different answers: Perhaps their parents ran the farm and they want to continue their legacy, or they are hoping to leave their jobs and run the farm full-time if it ever works out. But another big reason is that using any significant land you have for agriculture comes with tax breaks and subsidies. Farmers might qualify for special considerations if they dedicate the land they already own to farming. If they lose money, the government might make them whole. Without that help, many may lose their farms.

So those farmers praying for government relief are used to it arriving when they need it. They rely on it. And they knew what they were bargaining for with Trump.

Sarah Taber, a farmer who ran for commissioner of agriculture in North Carolina as a Democrat last year, has a YouTube channel where she talks about these issues. In one recent dispatch, she pushed back on the notion that farmers were deceived. Trump campaigned on starting a trade war by raising tariffs, she said. “Everybody knew this was going to happen,” she said in the video. “Everybody in agriculture knew this was going to happen.”

When she spoke to farmers, they pointed to other benefits in electing Trump. Those included ending increased protections for farm labor under the Biden administration and rolling back environmental regulations. Earlier in the year, farmers celebrated some of the tax changes in the budget reconciliation bill, including an estate tax exemption that allows big farms to pass to future generations tax-free. Trump had also promised to mute the effects of his mass deportation scheme on agriculture.

What’s new is that the more destructive components of Trump’s agenda are hitting them now because they weren’t given special consideration, allowing them to try to pull on America’s heart strings as symbols of an agrarian past that is long gone. Arkansas Senator John Boozman is leading the way for a bailout for farmers this year, and some Democrats are promising help too. In her video, Taber expresses some skepticism: When Trump delivered aid before, he was running for reelection. He may be less dependent on keeping farmers in his corner now. “Here in agriculture, I thought we all knew that story about free milk and a cow. And, uh, he’s got the milk,” she said. “He don’t need to buy the cow.”

# Classifieds

### ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

#### WELL NO. 10 CONSTRUCTION AND HMO WATER TREATMENT PLANT IMPROVEMENTS

Town of Black Creek  
P. O. Box 8  
Black Creek, NC 27813

Sealed BIDS for the construction of Carr Road Well # 10 & Water Filtration Plant Building Expansion W/HMO Treatment Equipment Installation, APRA-SLFRF Project # 21.027 containing the following work items to be furnished and installed in the Town of Black Creek, N.C. will be received by the Town of Black Creek at the Town Commissioners Meeting Room, 114 West Center Street, Black Creek, N.C. until 2:00 P.M. Thursday November 13, 2025, and then at said office publicly opened and read aloud.

Construction of Wellhouse structure, 100 Hp submersible pump, raw water transmission line, chlorine structure, expansion of existing water plant building to accommodate new HMO treatment equipment, install HMO Treatment Equipment furnished by Town of Black Creek, yards piping, valves, sedimentation-erosion control, install all necessary telemetry components furnished by the Town of Black Creek at the expanded treatment plant, and new well, to include but not limited to RTU's. CTU, antenna, radios and software for a complete and operational wireless telemetry system interconnecting the existing telemetry with new telemetry improvements, electrical improvements and associated building and site improvements.

The Contract Documents may be examined at the following locations:

Town Hall, 112 West Center Street , Black Creek, NC  
Herring-Sutton & Associates, P.A., 2201 Nash Street NW, Wilson, NC

Copies of the Contract Documents may be obtained at the office of Herring-Sutton & Associates, P.A., Engineers, located at 2201 Nash Street NW, Wilson, NC 27896, 252-291-8887.

A MANDANTORY PRE-BID MEETING will be conducted at 11:00 AM of Tuesday, October 28, 2025, in the Town Board of Commissioners Meeting Room located at 114 West Center Street, Black Creek, North Carolina. **TO BE ELIGIBLE TO BID THIS PORJECT BIDDERS MUST ATTEND THIS MEETING.**

Performance and Payment Bonds in the amount of 100% of the Contract price will be required. Bid Bond, cash, or certified check in the amount of 5% of the BID amount is required with BID.

Please note that this project is funded by ARPA funds and is subject to compliance with all federal requirements associated therewith as set forth in the contract documents.

Owner reserves the right to reject any and/or all bids and to waive informalities.

Small, female, and minority-owned businesses are encouraged to submit bids for the project.

October 13, 2025  
Ralph M. Smith, Jr,  
Mayor  
Town of Black Creek

www.CARO.news

### ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Town of Morehead City  
1100 Bridges Street  
Morehead City, NC 28557

Separate sealed BIDS for the construction of PROJECT SRP-SW-ARP-0018 CONTRACT NO. 128 - CALICO CREEK STORMWATER IMPROVEMENTS will be received by the ENGINEER at the Morehead City Train Depot, 1001 Arendell Street, Morehead City, NC 28557 until 3:00 PM, November 19, 2025, and then at said office publicly opened and read aloud.

The CONTRACT DOCUMENTS may be examined at the following locations:

Morehead City Town Hall, 1100 Bridges Street, Morehead City, NC 28557

McDavid Associates, Inc., 109 East Walnut Street, P.O. Box 1776, Goldsboro, NC 27533-1776

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

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

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

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

Copies of the CONTRACT DOCUMENTS may be obtained at the office of McDavid Associates, Inc. located at 109 East Walnut Street, P.O. Box 1776, Goldsboro, NC 27533-1776 upon a non-refundable payment of \$500.00 for each set.

The OWNER reserves the right to reject any and all BIDS. BIDDER shall be properly licensed under Chapter 87, General Statutes of North Carolina.

Small, minority, women's, and disadvantaged businesses and labor surplus area firms are encouraged to submit BIDS.

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

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

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

A pre-Bid conference will be held at 10:00 AM on November 6, 2025 at the Morehead City Train Depot, 1001 Arendell Street, Morehead City, NC 28557. Prospective BIDDERS are encouraged to attend this pre-bid conference as part of their good faith efforts.

October 19, 2025

Chris Turner  
City Manager  
Town of Morehead City