



Dedicated to the Spirit and Service of God

RALEIGH, N.C.

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This Is Native American Heritage Month

On Friday, November 21, and Saturday, November 22, 2025 from 11 a.m.-4 p.m., the North Carolina Commission of Indian Affairs and the North Carolina American Indian Commission will host the 30th Annual American Indian Heritage Celebration.

While the North Carolina Museum of History is closed for renovation, the 2025 festival will take place at the NC Museum of Art, 2110 Blue Ridge Road in Raleigh.

At the start of the 1900s, people began working to set aside a special day to recognize the important contributions of the first Americans to the growth of the United States. Over time, that effort expanded, and today an entire month is dedicated to honoring those contributions. In 1990, President George H. W. Bush signed a resolution that officially made November "National American Indian Heritage Month." Since 1994, U.S. presidents have continued to issue similar proclamations each year, sometimes using different names such as "Native American Heritage Month" or "National American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage Month."

American Indian Heritage Month



is celebrated each year to honor the rich cultures, traditions, and accomplishments of American Indian people. Throughout November, many events take place across the country, including powwows, cultural exhibitions, storytelling, art displays, drum circles, and

community gatherings. Schools, universities, and museums also hold programs to help people learn more about American Indian history and culture. The month encourages both Native and non-Native people to better understand, appreciate, and respect the tradi-

tions of America's first peoples. In North Carolina, the Governor's Office issues an annual proclamation, and the North Carolina Museum of History in Raleigh hosts the American Indian Heritage Celebration to recognize and honor the state's American Indian communities.



RALEIGH COUNCIL GREENLIGHTS FIRST PHASE OF FAYETTEVILLE STREET REVITALIZATION

By: Jordan Meadows

Staff Writer

The Raleigh City Council's Economic Development and Innovation Committee voted last Tuesday to approve the first phase of the long-anticipated Fayetteville Street "streetscape" plan, marking a major step toward reshaping one of downtown Raleigh's most iconic corridors.

The overall project will be completed in two main phases, each expected to cost over \$3 million, with potential for expenses to climb as much as 25% higher as designs are finalized.

The first phase, now partially approved, focuses on redesigning portions of Fayetteville Street between City Plaza and the 100 block east side, including removing granite walkways and planters to expand pedestrian space; upgrading street lighting, pavement, and public art installations; replacing benches, chess tables, and waste receptacles, with costs nearing \$200,000 per block; and introducing more seating, greenery, and shade structures to support outdoor business activity and comfort.

Deputy Planning and Development Director Ken Bowers described the project as an investment in both functionality and experience.

"This is not just Raleigh's Main Street, but arguably North Carolina's Main Street as the state capital," Bowers said. "We want a vibrant public realm full of people enjoying themselves and going about their business—both day and night."

At the heart of the revitalization effort is City Plaza, the city's primary gathering space and the site of numerous festivals and community events throughout the year. Short-term improvements totaling roughly \$1 million will be implemented using existing city resources. These changes are designed to show visible progress while additional funding is secured for larger construction phases.

Committee members also discussed plans for a permanent outdoor performance stage near City Plaza, estimated at \$1.65 million, that would host small concerts and community events. The discussion included details about stage shading, design, and size to ensure the project addressed multiple needs—comfort, function, and aesthetics.

Recent improvements have already addressed some community concerns. Earlier this year, the city installed new "bigger-than-umbrellas" shade structures to help counter extreme summer heat. Pavement temperatures on City Plaza reached 123°F in August 2025.

"During the hot weather months, the lack of shade on the plaza has been a deterrent," Bowers noted. "We're hoping these new structures will encourage people to come down, enjoy the shade, and have lunch or gather outdoors." A top public request driving the redesign has been more space for outdoor dining. Under the current layout, restaurants only have about four feet of sidewalk seating area—barely enough for a small table. The new plan doubles that space to eight feet.

"You see cranes in the sky. You see construction. You see bulldozers. This is all positive," Cowell said. "We are investing to increase prosperity in this area," Mayor Janet Cowell said.

Council Member Mitchell Silver (District A), who also serves on the Growth and Natural Resources Committee, underscored the need for flexible funding categories rather than locking funds into narrowly defined projects.

"This approach gives us the ability to adapt as costs or priorities change," Silver said.

Art will also play a defining role in the project. Committee members discussed installing evergreen public artworks—durable pieces that celebrate Raleigh's identity as the City of Oaks and aid visitors in wayfinding.

Jonathan Lambert-Melton, At-Large Council Member and Vice-Chair of the Transportation and Transit Committee, added that all artistic features should be "practical, cost-effective, and inviting."

With the first phase now approved, Raleigh is officially moving forward on one of its most visible downtown investments in recent years. Committee Chair Jonathan Lambert-Melton summarized the moment as a milestone for the city's growth and creativity:

"This plan is about creating a downtown where art, business, and community are in the open air. Fayetteville Street should reflect the energy and ambition of Raleigh itself."

The full City Council will review funding allocations for the second phase in upcoming sessions, likely to take place in 2026. Meanwhile, design work and early construction for the approved first phase are expected to begin in the coming months.

What Federal Reserve Rate Cuts Mean

NEW YORK (AP) — The Federal Reserve cut its benchmark interest rate by a quarter point Wednesday for the second time since September. Before that, it had gone nine months without a cut.

The federal funds rate is the rate at which banks borrow and lend to one another. While the rates consumers pay to borrow money aren't directly linked to this rate, shifts affect what you pay for credit cards, auto loans, mortgages, and other financial products.

"While the full economic impact

of such a move will unfold over time, early indicators suggest that even modest rate cuts can have meaningful consequences for consumer behavior and financial health," said Michele Raneri, vice president and head of U.S. research at credit reporting agency TransUnion.

The Fed has two goals when it sets the rate: one, to manage prices for goods and services, and two, to encourage full employment. Typically, the Fed might increase the rate to try to bring down inflation and decrease it to encourage faster eco-

nomie growth and increase hiring. The challenge now is that inflation is higher than the Fed's 2% target but the job market has been weak. The government shutdown has also prevented the collection and release of data the Fed relies on to monitor the health of the economy.

Still, the Fed has projected it will cut rates once more before the end of the year.

Here's what to know: Interest on savings accounts won't be as appealing

For savers, falling interest rates

will slowly erode attractive yields currently on offer with certificates of deposit (CDs) and high-yield savings accounts.

Three of the top five high yield savings accounts had rate cuts after the last Fed rate cut in September, according to Ken Tumin, founder of DepositAccounts.com, while two of the big five banks (Ally and Discover/Capital One) cut their savings account rates. The top rates for high yield savings account right now be-

(See **FED RATE CUTS** P. 2)

The Military's Diversity Rises Out Of Recruitment Targets, Not 'Woke' Goals

THE CONVERSATION - Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth and President Donald Trump addressed hundreds of military leaders at Marine Corps Base Quantico in Virginia in late September 2025.

Before the meeting, journalists speculated about which urgent issues might require such a costly and unusual gathering, to which the assembled military leaders had been summoned from across the globe.

Rather than a major shift in national security strategy, a loyalty oath or mass firing, Hegseth and Trump railed against what they see as the military's primary enemy: diversity.

Hegseth claimed the Department of Defense became "the woke department" infected by "toxic political garbage" and the "insane fallacy that our diversity is our strength."

Trump argued that the military "went, in a way, woke" and called for armed forces that would "not be politically correct." Hegseth similarly called for a shift in military thinking about diversity saying, "No more identity months, DEI offices, dudes in dresses. ... As I've said before and will say again, we are done with that shit."

Having spent years studying the U.S. military and writing a book on diversity and military recruiting, the speeches made clear to me that Hegseth and Trump fundamentally misunderstand military diversity. Both men see it as a symptom of "woke" culture rather than as a long-standing practice driven by the very nature and history of the all-volunteer force.

Embracing diversity During times of war and between 1948 and 1973, the U.S. military drafted enlistees to fill the ranks. After years of debate, the draft was ended and the U.S. established an all-volunteer force in 1973.

The demographic makeup of the military quickly changed as more



Black Americans and women chose to join the military. In a 2007 study of representation in the military, scholars found that Black Americans had been overrepresented in the military for much of the span of the all-volunteer force. And the percentage of Latino service members more than doubled from the late 1980s to the 2000s.

Additionally, Latino service members made up 25% of new enlistees in 2022.

While women remain underrepresented in the military compared with the U.S. population, the shift to the all-volunteer force led to a steady increase in women's military participation. Women made up 3% of military personnel in 1973 and 17% in 2022.

The military would not have been able to meet personnel needs and recruitment goals without the disproportionate representation of women, Black Americans, and Latino service members during this post-draft period.

The U.S. military embraced this diversity long before the influence of "woke" politics and diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives that Hegs-

eth and Trump claim have undermined the institution.

That embracement has helped the military enlist between 128,000 and 190,000 new service members annually since the 1990s, even though some armed forces, especially the Army, have struggled to meet their recruiting goals in the past few years.

Expanding the scope To fully understand how the military became one of the most diverse American institutions, you need to go back to the foundations of the all-volunteer force.

The primary challenge the military faced in the implementation of the all-volunteer force was how to persuade young Americans to enlist. Large budgets were set aside for advertising, and military branches worked with advertisers to reach potential recruits.

One of the first steps advertisers took in the mid-1970s was to identify "vulnerable target groups." These groups were targeted based on propensity — the likelihood that an individual would serve regardless of their desire to do so.

The likelihood of service increased

when people felt they had little opportunity outside of the military — whether that meant financial struggles or an inability to afford higher education.

Based on ideas of recruit quality and the traits the military sees as best suited to success in the ranks, the military has mostly desired to recruit straight and white young men. But these people were more likely to have opportunities outside of the military. So, military leaders had to expand the scope of potential recruits to reach out to groups previously excluded — namely, Black Americans, other people of color and women.

When Hegseth talks about "fixing decades of decay" in a department gone "woke," and when Trump argues that the military will now be "all based on merit," they both fail to understand military diversity.

The military didn't become diverse because it went "woke" or abandoned a merit-based system of promotions.

Military diversity resulted from the exploitative nature of military recruiting. In the all-volunteer force, the most easily persuaded recruits are those in most need of opportunities they can't find in the civilian world. The very logic behind an all-volunteer force means that the military can't fill their ranks with white men alone.

Central casting Hegseth and Trump, additionally, have framed their criticism of the military with an obsessive focus on looks.

Hegseth criticized the "bad look" of the current military, saying "it's tiring to look out at combat formations, or really any formations, and see fat troops." He also railed against "an era of unprofessional appearance" indicated by "beards, long hair and superficial individual expression."



Check Out The Carolinian's Digital News Broadcast On YouTube @thecarolinian

Election Day Results

DURHAM COUNTY

TOWN OF CHAPEL HILL MAYOR: Jess Anderson
 TOWN OF CHAPEL HILL TOWN COUNCIL: Camille Berry
 CITY OF DURHAM MAYOR: Leonardo (Leo) Williams
 CITY OF DURHAM CITY COUNCIL WARD I: Matt Kopac
 CITY OF DURHAM CITY COUNCIL WARD II: Shanetta Burris
 CITY OF DURHAM CITY COUNCIL WARD III: Chelsea Cook
 TOWN OF MORRISVILLE MAYOR: Satish Garimella
 TOWN OF MORRISVILLE TOWN COUNCIL AT-LARGE: Harrison Kesling
 TOWN OF MORRISVILLE TOWN COUNCIL DISTRICT 02: Jashi Abhirajan
 TOWN OF MORRISVILLE TOWN COUNCIL DISTRICT 04: Vicki Scroggins-Johnson

EDGEcombe COUNTY

TOWN OF CONETOE COMMISSIONER: Shenika Knight
 TOWN OF CONETOE COMMISSIONER: Koka Paramore
 TOWN OF MACCLESFIELD MAYOR: Michael Speight
 TOWN OF MACCLESFIELD COMMISSIONER: Write-In (Miscellaneous)***
 TOWN OF PINETOPS COMMISSIONER: Barbara J. Taylor
 TOWN OF PRINCEVILLE MAYOR: Bobbie D. Jones
 TOWN OF PRINCEVILLE COMMISSIONER WARD 03: JoeRoam Myrick
 TOWN OF PRINCEVILLE COMMISSIONER WARD 04: Maxine Hinton
 CITY OF ROCKY MOUNT CITY COUNCIL WARD 03: Charles (Verb) Roberson
 TOWN OF SHARPSBURG MAYOR: David Pride
 TOWN OF SHARPSBURG BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS: Beverly Davis
 TOWN OF TARBORO MAYOR: Tate Mayo
 TOWN OF TARBORO TOWN COUNCIL WARD 01: Othar Woodard
 TOWN OF TARBORO TOWN COUNCIL WARD 03: Steve Burnette
 TOWN OF TARBORO TOWN COUNCIL WARD 05: Mears Pitt
 TOWN OF TARBORO TOWN COUNCIL WARD 07: Sabrina Pettaway Bynum
 TOWN OF WHITAKERS BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS: Doris Lindsey
 HALIFAX COUNTY
 TOWN OF ENFIELD MAYOR: W. Mondale Robinson
 TOWN OF ENFIELD TOWN COMMISSIONER DISTRICT A: Bobby Whitaker
 TOWN OF ENFIELD TOWN COMMISSIONER DISTRICT B: Patterson Wilson
 TOWN OF HOBGOOD MAYOR: Write-In (Miscellaneous)***
 TOWN OF LITTLETON MAYOR: Heidi Hogan
 TOWN OF LITTLETON TOWN COMMISSIONER: Write-In (Miscellaneous)****
 CITY OF ROANOKE RAPIDS MAYOR: Emery G. Doughtie

(See **ELECTION DAY RESULTS** P. 2)

ELECTION DAY RESULTS

Continued from page 1

CITY OF ROANOKE RAPIDS CITY COUNCIL DISTRICT 01 : Curt Strickland
 CITY OF ROANOKE RAPIDS CITY COUNCIL DISTRICT 02 : Andy Jackson
 TOWN OF SCOTLAND NECK MAYOR: Leroy D. Powell
 TOWN OF SCOTLAND NECK TOWN COMMISSIONER: Marcus E. Morris
 TOWN OF WELDON MAYOR: Hugh C. Credle
 TOWN OF WELDON TOWN COMMISSIONER: Doris W. Garner
 ROANOKE RAPIDS GRADED SCHOOL BOARD OF EDUCATION: Jim Whitmire
 ROANOKE RAPIDS SANITARY DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Jon Baker
 TOWN OF BAILEY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS: Dillon Bisette
 TOWN OF CASTALIA MAYOR: James Edward Alston
 TOWN OF CASTALIA BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS: Sadie Atkinson
 TOWN OF DORTCHES MAYOR: Jackie B. Vick
 TOWN OF DORTCHES BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS: Bruce Smith
 TOWN OF MIDDLESEX MAYOR: Luther (LuHarvey) Lewis, Jr.
 TOWN OF MIDDLESEX BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS: Barry A. Cameron

FED RATE CUTS

Continued from page 1

main around 4.46% to 4.6%. Those are still better than the trends of recent years, and a good option for consumers who want to earn a return on money they may want to access in the near-term. A high yield savings account generally has a much higher annual percentage yield than a traditional savings account. The national average for traditional savings accounts is currently 0.63%, according to Bankrate.

There may be a few accounts with returns of about 4% through the end of 2025, according to Tumin, but the Fed cuts will filter down to these offerings, lowering the average yields as they do.

A cut will impact mortgages gradually. For prospective homebuyers, the market has already priced in the rate cut. "Mortgage rates, in particular, have responded swiftly," said Raneri. "Just in the past week, they fell to their lowest level in over a year. While mortgage rates don't always move in lockstep with the Fed's target rate — often pricing in anticipated future cuts, the continued easing of monetary policy may well push rates even lower."

Bankrate financial analyst Stephen Kates said a declining interest rate environment will provide some relief for borrowers over time.

"Whether it's a homeowner with a 7% mortgage or a recent graduate hoping to refinance student loans and credit card debt, lower rates can ease the burden on many indebted households by opening opportunities to refinance or consolidate," he said.

Auto loans are not expected to decline soon. Americans have faced steeper auto loan rates over the last three years after the Fed raised its benchmark interest rate starting in early 2022. Those are not expected to decline anytime soon. While a cut will contribute to eventual relief, it might be slow in arriving, analysts say.

"If the auto market starts to freeze up and people aren't buying cars, then we may see lending margins start to shrink, but auto loan rates don't move in lockstep with the Fed rate," Kates said.

Prices for new cars remain at historically high levels, not adjusting for inflation.

Generally speaking, an auto loan annual percentage rate can run from about 4% to 30%. Bankrate's most recent weekly survey found that average auto loan interest rates are currently at 7.10% on a 60-month new car loan.

Credit card rate relief could be slow. Interest rates for credit cards are currently at an average of 20.01%, and the Fed's rate cut may be slow to be felt by anyone carrying a large amount of credit card debt. That said, any reduction is positive news.

"While inflation continues to exert pressure on household budgets, rate cuts offer a potential counterbalance by lowering debt servicing costs," Raneri said.

Still, the best thing for anyone carrying a large credit card balance is to prioritize paying down high-interest-rate debt, and to seek to transfer any amounts possible to lower APR cards or negotiate directly with credit card companies for accommodation.

Many School Crossing Guards Face Life-Threatening Dangers On The Job



WASHINGTON — When Anthony Taylor stepped into the crosswalk outside Washington Township High School in Indianapolis one August morning in 2018, he didn't expect his next memory to be waking up in a hospital bed. A car carrying a young boy and his mother struck him as he tried to help students cross safely. Taylor suffered a fractured pelvis and other broken bones but eventually returned to work.

Taylor is one of hundreds of school crossing guards across the country who have been injured or killed by vehicles while trying to protect children. An investigation by The Associated Press and Cox Media Group Television Stations found that over the past decade, hundreds of school crossing guards—many of them retirees—have been struck by cars, and dozens have died.

A comprehensive accounting remains elusive. No federal agency tracks these incidents, and only two states—New Jersey and Massachusetts—collect specific data. Local police reports often classify crossing guards simply as pedestrians, making it impossible to determine the true scale of the problem.

A database compiled by AP and Cox Media Group identified at least 230 crossing guards hit by vehicles across 37 states and Washington, D.C. Nearly three dozen of those cases were fatal.

Minimal Consequences for Drivers

The investigation also revealed that drivers involved in such collisions rarely face serious penalties.

Of the 183 cases where outcomes could be confirmed, nearly half resulted in routine traffic citations such as "failure to yield to a pedestrian." About a quarter of the drivers faced no punishment, and slightly more than a quarter were charged criminally.

Police say factors such as weather, visibility, or perceived negligence influence charging decisions. However, safety experts argue that the lack of accountability and inconsistent laws leave crossing guards vulnerable.

"It's a huge responsibility to step out in front of a vehicle," said Dacia Maisonave, a crossing guard trainer in Florida. "The only thing they really have to protect them is the stop

paddle."

A Deadly, Underreported Job

Crossing guards fall under the same labor category as road construction flaggers, making it difficult to isolate their fatality rate. However, AP's analysis of U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics data found that crossing guards and flaggers rank among the top fifth of the deadliest jobs in America, comparable to power line installers and air transportation workers.

Despite the risk, there are few nationwide safety standards. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration does not record whether crash victims were crossing guards, and OSHA has only a handful of related reports.

New Jersey and Massachusetts stand out for their efforts to improve safety. Following the deaths and injuries of multiple guards, both states have implemented inspection programs and mandatory injury reporting systems. Still, officials admit that without national standards, progress remains limited.

Preventable Tragedies

In Fort Mill, South Carolina, 61-year-old Stanley Brucker was fatally struck while directing traffic at an elementary school. Video captured the moment he was hit by a car that flipped him into the air. The driver was not charged, prompting outrage from fellow guards and Brucker's family, who have since filed a lawsuit against the school district.

Similar cases abound nationwide. James Arthur Holland, a Lexington, Kentucky crossing guard, was killed in 2023 by an uninsured, unlicensed driver. In Gardner, Kansas, 76-year-old Dave Peavy was hit and killed by a car whose driver blamed sunlight glare. No charges were filed.

"The sun was in my eyes" appears repeatedly in police reports reviewed by AP and Cox Media Group.

Calls for Reform

Experts say that stronger safety measures could prevent many of these deaths. Recommendations include installing flashing LED crosswalk systems, adding speed cameras and raised crosswalks, and mandating high-visibility gear for all guards.

(See CROSSING GUARD P. 5)

Mayors Share How They Are Grappling With Housing Has Shaped Their Jobs: 'It Is A Crisis'



PHOTO BY ROSS WILLIAMS/GEORGIA RECORDER

NC NEWSLINE — In U.S. cities big and small, mayors are finding their tenures shaped by housing shortages, and efforts to build more homes, so that people of any income can afford a place to live.

In a series of conversations, mayors of big cities such as Atlanta and Seattle, as well as of midsize Midwest cities like Columbus, Ohio, and Madison, Wisconsin, told Stateline that housing is the No. 1 priority for mayors to tackle.

"Housing is by far one of the most important issues facing every mayor in America. It impacts everything from safety to the workforce to transit," said Columbus Mayor Andrew Ginther, who also is the immediate past president of the U.S. Conference of Mayors. "Mayors are on the front lines of our nation's housing crisis. And it is a crisis."

More than half of mayors in a recent bipartisan survey expect affordability in their cities to decline over the next year, and nearly all say their residents are dissatisfied with current housing costs. The survey was released in June by the U.S. Conference of Mayors, along with the Bipartisan Policy Center and the Capital One Insights Center.

And while a large share of big-city mayors are Democratic, members of both parties are seeking some non-partisan solutions. Republican Mark Shepherd of Clearfield, Utah, and Democrat Rex Richardson of Long Beach, California, are pressing Congress to expand rental assistance and affordable housing programs, while also partnering with business leaders to boost supply. The two mayors help lead a coalition called Mayors and CEOs for U.S. Housing Investment.

Housing is a pivotal issue in next month's mayoral races in Minneapolis, New York City and Seattle.

But even as mayors set ambitious targets, they're often working within narrow lanes of authority. While city halls can zone land, streamline permits and invest local dollars, they can't override state preemption laws or control climbing construction costs and interest rates. In many municipalities, the success and reach of a mayor's housing vision hinges as much on what state lawmakers allow

as on what local voters demand.

At least 30 states have barred cities from enacting rent control. Other factors not related to the push-and-pull of home rule between state and local governments cap how much mayors can influence housing within their borders.

"You have to analyze what you can control and what you can't," Seattle Mayor Bruce Harrell said. "Interest rates, tariffs, the cost of materials — those are conditions we can't fix. What we can do is plan smarter, permit faster and fund what's within our reach."

A fast-growing metro area

Ginther, the Columbus mayor, could talk about housing all day. He told Stateline he can't imagine a mayor in the country who doesn't have housing consistently on their minds.

As Columbus grapples with record growth and rising housing costs, Ginther says the city's biggest challenge isn't political will, it's scale. Columbus needs 200,000 more housing units in the next 10 years to help bring down the cost of rents and ownership, he said.

Ginther, who is serving his second term, recently proposed creating a Division of Housing Stability. He said that mayors need to use the talent in their offices and agencies to tackle different aspects of the housing crisis, from helping residents find an affordable home to enabling them to keep it.

He's also said that city voters' willingness to approve big-dollar bond issues is a "buy-in" that many cities would be fortunate to have.

Since 2019, the city has used \$250 million in bonds to build about 4,000 rental units. Voters are being asked to support another \$500 million housing bond this November, along with other bonds for parks, police and fire, and road paving. More than half the city's residents are renters.

Ginther said it's a part of a \$1.9 billion infrastructure package — combining city, county, state, federal and private resources — to reach the 200,000-unit goal.

"It's ambitious, but if we commit to housing the way we've committed to jobs and workforce development, we'll get it done."

According to census data, the Columbus metropolitan area ranks among the fastest-growing U.S. metros. Meanwhile, the Ohio Housing Finance Agency reports that from 2016 to 2021, the state saw a 38% decline in vacant units available for sale or rent, and during the same period saw a 13% increase in units classified for seasonal, recreational or occasional use, such as short-term rentals.

"The city has created jobs and we have one of the fastest-growing economies in the Midwest, but we didn't build enough housing in previous years to keep up with that. And we have been only doing it a certain way," said Ginther.

He added that the scale of housing issues is bigger than any one jurisdiction.

"We need regional and state partners to step up, too," Ginther said. "I've said I'll do half the [Franklin County] region's housing needs ... but I need my suburban and exurban neighbors to do their part."

(See IT IS A CRISIS P. 11)



ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

The North Carolina Department of Adult Correction has the following contract in Lincoln County out for bid: C- C11750 Lincoln AC installation . The bid opening is scheduled for: Thursday, 11/20/2025 . To obtain the Notice to Bidders, any Pre-Bid Requirements, and any Addenda visit: <https://evp.nc.gov/solicitations/details/?id=e2381dfa-1b8f-f011-b4cc-001dd8062c20>



NCDOT TO HOLD A PUBLIC MEETING REGARDING U.S. 258 IMPROVEMENTS IN EDGECOMBE COUNTY

STIP PROJECT NO. R-5949



The N.C. Department of Transportation is holding a public meeting to discuss the proposed corridor improvements on U.S. 258.

The proposed improvements on U.S. 258 span approximately two miles from its southern intersection with Saint James Street in Tarboro to U.S. 64, with additional intersection improvements proposed at U.S. 258 and Colonial Road (S.R. 1601). The project proposes to add travel lanes, a raised median, other intersection improvements and multimodal accommodations. As part of the project, the overpass bridge on U.S 258/U.S. 64 interchange would be replaced.

The meeting will be held **Wednesday, Nov. 19th, 2025** at the **Edgecombe County Administration Building, 201 Saint Andrew St. in downtown Tarboro**. The public is invited to attend at any time between 5 - 7 p.m. as no formal presentation will be made. NCDOT representatives will be available to answer questions and receive comments. The comments and information received will be taken into consideration as work on the project develops.

The purpose of the meeting is to introduce the project to the public and for the project team to receive feedback on the proposed design.

People may also submit comments by phone at 984-205-6615 project code 9889, email 258improvements@publicinput.com or mail to the project manager at the address shown below by **Dec. 19, 2025**.

By Mail: Lindsay Crocker
 Project Management Unit-Senior Project Manager
 1598 Mail Service Center
 Raleigh, NC 27699

NCDOT will provide auxiliary aids and services under the Americans with Disabilities Act for people who wish to participate in this meeting. Anyone requiring special services should contact Aleksandra Djurkovic, Environmental Analysis Unit, at 1598 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, N.C. 27699-1598, 919-707-6024 or andjurkovic@ncdot.gov as early as possible so arrangements can be made.

Persons who do not speak English, or have a limited ability to read, speak or understand English, may receive interpretive services upon request prior to the meeting by calling 1-800-481-6494.

Aquellas personas que no hablan inglés, o tienen limitaciones para leer, hablar o entender inglés, podrían recibir servicios de interpretación si los solicitan antes de la reunión llamando al 1-800-481-6494.

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Business & Finance

National Supplier Diversity Event Held In Miami Beach



The National Minority Supplier Development Council (NMSDC) is having its largest conference of the year right now. The event is titled, Navigating Our New Economy. Some of the largest corporations in the country have sent their diversity teams to recruit small businesses to join their supply chain.

Promotions for the event exclaimed:

"This year's Annual Conference & Exchange, hosted in vibrant Miami, places us at the epicenter of trans-

formation—where markets meet momentum, and where resilience becomes strategy. With deep commitment, we're bringing together MBE leaders, corporate changemakers, policy influencers, and capital providers to confront the challenges of today and unlock the opportunities of tomorrow."

You would think that an event of this size was just for large minority businesses, but surprisingly it was for businesses large and small. Major corporations need suppliers for all of

the everyday things that we don't associate with their businesses.

For instance, United Airlines had a booth at the conference and they were recruiting for landscapers. Amazon had a booth as well and they were recruiting for everything you could imagine, from janitorial services to catering services. Of course there were other companies looking for partners in manufacturing and software development, but the wide range of opportunities for small business owners were eye-opening.

It was beautiful to see all of those minority businesses, both large and small, come together in one place for one common goal, and that goal was commerce.

There were also a great variety of breakout sessions. Some of them were:

- Collaborations, Joint Ventures, Enterprise Transformation
- AI-Powered Marketing: Leveraging Generative Tools for MBE Growth
- The Currency of Connection: How Trust, Relationships & Personal

Wholeness Build Bankable Businesses

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Events like this should happen frequently and on a local level as well.

There is a regional chapter of this organization called the Carolinas-Virginia Minority Supplier Development Council. You can join this

group for potential business opportunities in the Carolinas and Virginia region.

There are also opportunities a little closer to home. Local Chambers of Commerce are a great place to start your networking journey. If you are new to business, these organizations can help you find your footing in the world of business networking.

In addition, there is always a great opportunity for you to be seen locally by advertising in the pages of *The Carolinian* newspaper!

During Shutdown, Workers Face Delays Getting Unemployment

(AP) For more than two weeks now during the government shutdown, Imelda Avila-Thomas has been trying in vain to get approved for unemployment compensation to help cover essentials such as food and mortgage payments for her family while she's on unpaid furlough from her federal government job.

She kept asking questions and was ultimately sent a hyperlink to upload proof-of-income documents, which she did earlier this week. But Avila-Thomas, who works for the Department of Labor in San Antonio, said the system still deems her ineligible for benefits, saying it cannot verify her wages. She wonders whether someone who might help her has also been furloughed.

A mother of a 12-year-old daughter and local union leader, Avila-Thomas is among the thousands of furloughed federal workers trying to navigate the unemployment system — a sharp increase, but still a fraction of the 670,000-plus furloughed workforce, according to the



Bipartisan Policy Center. The dollar amounts and length of benefits vary by state.

About 26,000 federal workers filed initial claims from Sept. 28 through Oct. 18, according to raw data published by the Department of Labor. Some 3,300 applied in the week that ended days before the Oct. 1 shutdown start.

Furloughed workers have some factors to consider. For instance, if they receive back pay as expected when the shutdown ends, they would need to repay the unemployment aid. For Avila-Thomas, refunding the money later is preferable to taking on debt.

Avila-Thomas has worked at the Labor Department for 16 years. Her

husband is a disabled veteran who works for the Department of Veterans Affairs and is still working with pay, but they have had to cut back on tutoring for their daughter, who has dyslexia, and with one income now, they've gone to a food bank.

"This would cover that — the essential basics," said Avila-Thomas, whose local American Federal of Government Employees covers Labor Department workers in several states. "And yes, in an ideal world, everybody would have six months worth of savings. And the reality is, most of our members are coming to that point where they could no longer pay those regular bills."

She has applied for part-time work and said she isn't looking for a hand-out.

Federal workers' jobless aid relies on states

Unemployment Compensation for Federal Employees relies heavily on state laws and processing.

The specifics vary. Massachusetts has a high-end weekly benefit of

\$1,105 per week for up to 30 weeks. In Mississippi, it's no more than \$235 weekly for up to 26 weeks. Roughly half the states pay less than \$600 a week maximum, according to U.S. Department of Labor numbers.

Not everyone gets the maximum weekly rate. Some states offer fewer than 20 weeks. And the limits can grow in some states when unemployment rates are particularly high.

Around the nation's capital, the maximum weekly payment is \$444 in Washington, D.C., \$430 in Maryland and \$378 in Virginia.

In Texas, where Avila-Thomas lives, the weekly maximum is \$605, for up to 26 weeks.

States normally issue payments within two to three weeks after someone's claim is approved, the Labor Department says. And most states also have an initial "waiting week" for which benefits are not paid upfront. Beneficiaries typically receive money for that week only later, if they exhaust all the weeks they're

allotted, the National Employment Law Project says.

States are responsible for verifying an applicant's job and earnings with their federal employer. But the Department of Labor has warned that the shutdown may delay processing of this information by federal agencies.

Many workers have not received forms normally sent by their employing agencies that are used to verify employment and earnings, according to the National Employment Law Project.

Questions have come up about states' varying requirements that people prove they are job hunting while receiving unemployment checks. The Labor Department has said waivers of the requirement may apply for the furloughed federal workers under state laws, noting they face ethics limits on outside work. And some states have specified that work-search mandates won't apply to these workers, waiving them for several weeks or longer.

Wake County Energy Commission Discusses Waste, Energy Options

By Jordan Meadows

Staff Writer

Last Tuesday morning, the Energy Advisory Commission met at the Wake County Administrative Building. Government officials, engineers, and industry representatives gathered to discuss the future of waste management and energy planning as the county prepares for the eventual capacity limits of the South Wake Landfill.

John Roberson, P.E., Solid Waste Division Director, opened the discussion by presenting findings from the Beyond the South Wake Landfill Study alongside John Boyer, P.E., of CDM Smith, and attorney Gray Styers of Fox Rothschild.

Roberson highlighted that "the South Wake landfill has been a very successful option for the last 25 years, one of the lowest cost landfills in the state." However, with the site projected to reach capacity around 2040, the county must begin long-term planning now. Roberson noted that landfill planning "usually takes upwards of a decade."

A significant portion of the meeting focused on the regional landfill network and its limitations. Currently, seven surrounding counties send their waste to regional facilities—Durham and Orange to Sampson County, and Franklin to Person County, for example.

Of the five regional landfills outside Wake County, four are projected to reach capacity around the same time as Wake's. Only Great Oak in

Randolph County, the newest, is expected to have remaining space. This creates a snowball effect of capacity issues across the region as more municipalities and counties must send their waste to the same landfills, expounding the limitations.

The study aims to determine whether Wake County residents and leadership would support building a regional landfill within the county or pursuing other options, such as waste-to-energy (WTE) technology.

Roberson detailed the county's exploration of waste-to-energy solutions, noting there are about 2,800 facilities worldwide, including 1,000 in Japan, but fewer than 60 in the U.S.

"There's about 60 operating, but none have been built in the US since 1996, except for one in West Palm Beach, Florida, in 2015," Roberson said. He added that such facilities "do not require the same proximity and environmental considerations as landfills," citing successful examples operating in Europe, like England and Copenhagen, without major issues.

While waste-to-energy reduces but does not eliminate waste, it does recover metals and can extend landfill life.

"Part of this option includes keeping the South Wake landfill open with some remaining airspace to accommodate the disposal of the ash," Roberson explained.

However, costs remain a significant factor. Tipping fees—the charge per ton for waste disposal—currently range between \$35 and \$90 at regional facilities such as the East

Carolina landfill in Bertie County. The cost of waste-to-energy plants varies from \$120 to \$200 per ton of daily processing capacity, depending on plant size.

Roberson emphasized that "none of the emerging or alternative technologies demonstrate the ability to process mixed-use municipal solid waste at scale for Wake County." Still, the commission discussed adaptive strategies for changing energy prices, new regulations, and technological innovations.

Energy markets and regulation were also on the agenda. North Carolina remains a vertically integrated regulated energy market, where a single utility—typically Duke Energy—controls generation, transmission, and distribution. The NC Utilities Commission sets the avoided cost rate every two years, which fluctuates based on natural gas prices. The state's Clean Energy and Energy Efficiency Portfolio Standards (CEPS) require utilities to meet mandatory renewable energy targets.

Commission members also discussed how the pending merger of Duke Energy, combined with the surging power demand from AI and data centers, could reshape the energy landscape. Roberson noted that Virginia has reached out to collaborate with Wake County on studying the most cost-effective ways to generate the additional power these centers will require.

Beyond the technical discussions, the meeting also touched on community engagement and inclusion. The

commission proposed using surplus funds to sponsor around 10 students for summer energy programs in partnership with N.C. State University, potentially making it an annual initiative funded through donations.

"We want to make sure, in the selection process, that we are inclusive and diverse, maybe considering underserved communities throughout the county," said Daniel Pate, Director of Engagement for the NC Sustainable Energy Association. Though he was quickly reminded by another member that identity cannot be a factor in the selection process.

U.S. Federal Minimum Wage to Jump to \$10.50 per Hour Starting November 2025

HBCU News – In a significant economic shift for millions of American workers, the U.S. government has officially declared a substantial increase to the federal minimum wage, raising it to \$10.50 per hour, effective November 2, 2025.

This long-awaited adjustment, which represents the first change to the federal minimum wage since 2009, is nearly a 45% increase from the previous rate. The decision was driven by escalating inflation, the rising cost of living, and high labor demand across various sectors.

The primary goal of the increase is to ensure that workers are paid a living wage, enabling them to lead dignified lives and strengthening their economic security.

The new \$10.50 rate will apply not only at the federal level but will also serve as the new floor for most state wages. It is expected to directly impact approximately 60 million American workers whose earnings

currently hover around the minimum wage.

The wage hike applies to all employees—full-time, part-time, and tipped workers—across major sectors, including:

1. Retail stores and supermarkets
2. Food service and restaurant workers
3. Hotel and hospitality sector employees
4. Healthcare assistants and nursing home staff
5. Delivery and warehouse personnel
6. Cleaning, maintenance, and support staff

The push for a minimum wage increase gained momentum as economic reports highlighted a rapidly widening gap between income and expenses for working-class Americans over the past decade.

1. Rent has increased by an average of 40% over the past decade.
2. Food prices are now 25% higher than in 2020.

3. Healthcare costs have risen between 15–20%.

These disparities prompted labor unions and civic organizations to press the government for intervention.

The U.S. Labor Secretary, speaking at a press conference, affirmed the broader economic benefits of the change. "This move will not only strengthen workers' economic security but also boost demand and productivity in the economy," the Secretary said. "When workers have more income, they spend more—which is a positive sign for the country's growth."

While the new federal rate takes effect on November 2, 2025, some states, including California, Washington, New York, and Massachusetts, already maintain higher local minimum wages. Some of these states may introduce additional legislative gains in 2026, further increasing the rate based on local laws.



NCDOT TO HOLD VIRTUAL PUBLIC MEETINGS FOR MULTIMODAL CONNECTED VEHICLE PILOT PROJECT IN WAKE COUNTY

STIP PROJECT NO. HO-0001AA



RALEIGH - The public is invited to a meeting with the N.C. Department of Transportation this month to discuss the pilot project that is exploring the safety benefits of multimodal connected vehicle technology near N.C. State University.

For the project, crews updated road infrastructure, introduced a new mobile app for cyclists, pedestrians and drivers, and used smart transportation systems to evaluate these technologies. The pilot aims to improve safety, mobility and environmental sustainability by boosting bus use and cutting down on car idling with better traffic light timing.

A virtual meeting will be held **6 -7:30 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 17, 2025**. Interested residents can attend the meeting online or by phone to learn more about the pilot, ask questions and talk with NCDOT representatives. There will be a formal presentation beginning promptly at **6 p.m.**

Meeting registration and project details, including a map of the pilot area, can be found on the NCDOT project webpage at <https://publicinput.com/mmcvp-raleigh>.

People may also submit comments by phone, email or mail by **Dec. 12, 2025** by contacting **NCDOT State Signal Equipment Engineer Keith Mims, PE at 919-814-4931; kmmims@ncdot.gov; or 1561 Mail Service Center in Raleigh.**

NCDOT will provide auxiliary aids and services under the Americans with Disabilities Act for disabled people who wish to participate in the virtual meeting. Anyone requiring special services should contact **Jamille Robbins, Environmental Analysis Unit, at 1598 Mail Service Center in Raleigh; 919-707-6085; or jarobbins@ncdot.gov** as early as possible so arrangements can be made.

Persons who do not speak English, or have a limited ability to read, speak or understand English, may receive interpretive services upon request prior to the meeting by calling 1-800-481-6494.

Aquellas personas que no hablan inglés, o tienen limitaciones para leer, hablar o entender inglés, podrían recibir servicios de interpretación si los solicitan antes de la reunión llamando al 1-800-481-6494.

State Leaders Unveil New Health Plan for Small Businesses

By Jordan Meadows

Staff Writer

North Carolina Insurance Commissioner Mike Causey, joined by Gary Salamido, president of the North Carolina Chamber, and Fran Gary, senior vice president of Blue Cross NC, announced the launch of Carolina HealthWorks—a new health insurance initiative designed to help small businesses across the state provide more affordable and predictable health coverage for their employees.

The announcement took place Tuesday afternoon at the N.C. Department of Insurance building in Raleigh.

Carolina HealthWorks operates as a Multiple Employer Welfare Arrangement (MEWA)—a structure that allows small companies to pool their resources to purchase health insurance as a group. In effect, participating small businesses can gain access to the kind of competitive insurance rates typically reserved for large corporations.

“In essence, they’re getting rates like a big company with hundreds

of thousands of employees would get,” Commissioner Mike Causey explained. “These smaller employers are able to get that same benefit.”

The North Carolina Department of Insurance (NCDOI) licenses and regulates MEWAs through its Life and Health Division, which reviews initial and renewal applications and oversees ongoing compliance. Causey thanked state legislators, Attorney General Josh Stein, and the Department of Insurance for their swift approval of the plan, calling the turnaround “a record time of approval.”

“We’re constantly working with the insurance industry to keep insurance rates as low as possible,” Causey said. “That’s hard to do when it comes to health insurance because of skyrocketing costs at hospitals and other healthcare costs. But I see this as a good opportunity.”

According to officials, Carolina HealthWorks will be administered through an NC Chamber Health Trust, with Blue Cross NC serving as the plan administrator.

“This is a new and innovative health plan designed specifically for



small businesses across our state,” said Gary of Blue Cross NC. “We are proud to be chosen by the NC Chamber to administer this plan, and we appreciate the leadership of Commissioner Causey and his team.”

Gary Salamido, president of the NC Chamber, emphasized the importance of the new initiative to the state’s economic backbone:

“Small businesses are the backbone of the North Carolina economy;

yet they face some of the steepest challenges when it comes to affording health coverage for their team,” Salamido said. “With the launch of Carolina HealthWorks, we’re giving small business owners access to affordable, predictable healthcare coverage—something they’ve been needing and asking for a really long time.”

Under the MEWA model, “each company that comes in — their em-

ployees and their covered lives — will all be put into one pool to manage risk and allow us to leverage better rates in the marketplace,” Salamido added. In insurance terms, “covered lives” refers to all individuals enrolled in a health plan—including employees, spouses, and dependents—who are entitled to receive benefits.

To be eligible for Carolina HealthWorks, a business must: Have 2 to 50 eligible employees, be headquartered in North Carolina, and be a member of a participating local chamber or the NC Chamber.

The announcement comes at a time of heightened attention on healthcare costs in North Carolina. Over the last few weeks, Republican lawmakers criticized state health officials for implementing Medicaid provider rate cuts—reductions that took effect October 1 and range from 3% to 10%. Lawmakers say these cuts were unnecessary and unfairly distributed.

“I’m still very upset about the rate cut,” said Sen. Donny Lambeth (R-Forsyth), co-chair of the Joint

Legislative Oversight Committee on Medicaid. “They have the power to hold off on those rate cuts, and in the 12 years I’ve been here, we have never cut rates.”

The N.C. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) defended the cuts, citing a \$368 million budget shortfall driven by rising healthcare costs. Pharmacy spending alone has climbed 8.6% annually, according to DHHS Chief Strategy Officer Julia Lerche.

Despite the broader challenges in healthcare financing, state leaders expressed optimism that Carolina HealthWorks represents a positive step toward affordability and access.

“This plan allows small employers to do better on rates than what they might find through the ACA,” Causey said.

As the program rolls out, Blue Cross NC, the NC Chamber, and the Department of Insurance say they will continue to work together to monitor its performance and ensure regulatory compliance.



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Health and Wellness

Partial Nov SNAP Benefits Could Be Available Next Week

WUNC – With the federal shutdown ongoing, more than 1.3 million North Carolinians who receive federal food assistance could see partial benefits on their EBT cards early next week.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, which oversees the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, said in a court filing Monday that it will exhaust an emergency reserve fund.

Patrick Penn, the deputy under secretary for Food and Nutrition Services, wrote that \$4.65 billion left in the fund would be enough

to pay for 50% of SNAP benefits in November. Once that money is gone, Penn warned, there will be no more funds for new SNAP recipients who sign up in November, food assistance for disasters or other unforeseen events.

In North Carolina, there are 1.34 million people who receive SNAP benefits, including about 580,000 children. Attorney General Jeff Jackson was one of 25 Democratic officials who joined a lawsuit trying to force the Trump Administration to use emergency funds Congress had appropriated for SNAP instead

of foregoing benefits in November.

Friday, a pair of federal judges in Massachusetts and Rhode Island ruled that USDA needs to use the reserves.

In response to Monday's announcement, Jackson said in a statement, "The Agriculture Department has told the court it will use its entire emergency fund over the next month to make 50 percent payments to every SNAP recipient. That will zero out the emergency fund. My office is still reviewing the order to see what else we can do to help, but until this shutdown ends we all need to provide extra support to our local food pantries."

Part of the frustration is that USDA is only offering half of typical benefits. That's because, the agency said, it can't dip into tariff funds that are typically used for child nutrition programs to fully fund SNAP.

While \$300 million of those funds were used to fund the WIC women's and children's nutrition program last month, Penn wrote in the filing that about \$4 billion to make SNAP whole is an entirely different scope and could threaten long-term funding for child nutrition.



ITEMS AT A FOOD DRIVE AT THE ENO RIVER FARMERS MARKET IN HILLSBOROUGH ON NOV. 1, 2025. ELI CHEN / WUNC

Penn wrote, will need to recode their systems to adjust to the new amounts.

"For at least some states, USDA's understanding is that the system changes states must implement to provide the reduced benefit amounts will take anywhere from a few weeks up to several months," Penn wrote in the filing.

North Carolina officials say that is not the case here.

While DHHS was still awaiting formal guidance from USDA as of about 5 p.m., agency officials said they are working as quickly as possible to update its systems.

"At this time, we anticipate that partial November SNAP benefits will begin being added to existing SNAP beneficiaries' EBT cards by early next week," Summer Tonizzo, a DHHS spokeswoman, wrote in a statement.

Food banks also received a boost late last week, even as the SNAP deadline loomed. Friday, Gov. Josh Stein announced the state is giving food banks \$10 million in grants, while private partners are donating another \$8 million.

"We will keep working to keep North Carolinians fed," Stein said in a statement Monday afternoon.

GARNER CHURCH SPONSORS COMMUNITY HEALTH FAIR WITH DIAPER GIVE-AWAY, SHOES FOR SENIORS ... AND A FIRE TRUCK

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 10 AM – 2 PM

Lord of Life Lutheran Church, 2100 Buffalo Rd., Garner

Garner, NC – Lord of Life Lutheran Church will hold a Community Health Fair on Saturday, November 8, from 10 am until 2 pm. The event is open to the public, free of charge, and will be held at the church, 2100 Buffalo Road in Garner, next to Lake Benson Park.

Health care providers and community health agencies will staff 12 stations where participants can receive services such as blood pressure, glucose and Hep C/STD/HIV testing, cancer prevention information, stress management and mental health resources, dental check-ups, and much more. There will also be a prayer station for those seeking pastoral care. Free over-the-counter medications for children will be available for the first 100 participants. There's also a diaper giveaway planned, and the first 50 seniors who come will receive new shoes. The Garner Fire Department is sending a fire truck and will educate kids and adults on fire safety.

Spanish translators are available. A special workshop on Medicare and Medicaid will be offered at 11 am, presented by Blue Cross/Blue Shield staff. More information is available at lolgarner.com/health. The Health Fair is funded, in part, by a community grant from Blue Cross/Blue Shield NC.

"This Health Fair is one of our major outreach events," said Rev. Dr. Wolfgang D. Herz-Lane, Lord of Life's pastor and mission developer. "We are here to serve the community, and we welcome all people without exception." Lord of Life Lutheran Church is a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) which has 2.7 million members and 8,300 congregations and is one of the largest Protestant denominations in the country.

NC'S 1 MILLION ACA ENROLLEES SET TO SEE HIGHER HEALTH CARE

NC NEWSLINE– North Carolinians who plan to buy health insurance through the Affordable Care Act's marketplace are set to see significant cost hikes as the open enrollment period begins Nov. 1.

That increase could soon be twofold. Providers are raising premiums by an average of 28.6% in North Carolina, and the tax credits that significantly lower costs for many enrollees are set to expire at the end of 2025 unless Congress decides to extend them.

Almost 1 million North Carolinians are enrolled in the ACA, which provides federally-approved private health care plans to those without employer-sponsored insurance.

Around one-third (34%) of uninsured North Carolinians are eligible for Medicaid or public coverage, according to Kaiser Family Foundation data. And more than a quarter (28%) are eligible for tax credits, which are set to expire at the end of the year.

Individual rates in North Carolina will increase between 16.88% and 36.4% in 2026, Insurance Commissioner Mike Causey said in a statement Wednesday. Small group rates will increase between 12.66% and 17.5%.

Those hikes exceed national trends: the average proposed premium increase is 20%, according to the Peterson-KFF Health System Tracker. That's the highest rate change requested by providers since 2018, fueled by higher costs of labor, drugs and the uncertain future of tax credits.

"Increased costs in health care as well as the expiration of federal subsidies result in premiums going up for many on the individual market," Causey said. "It's more important than ever to begin researching your health insurance options early."

A spokesperson for the NC Department of Insurance did not respond to inquiries about whether the department was seeing an increase in calls or concerns about rates ahead of open enrollment.

How politics have put ACA tax credits in peril

Providers have raised 2026 rates in part because of the looming expiration of enhanced premium tax credits. Those tax credits, established in 2021, were later extended through the end of this year. They have led to a massive expansion of the ACA marketplace, and drive down costs for many enrollees.

Earlier this year, Congressional Republicans voted to allow the tax credits to sunset on schedule, saying they're too costly to extend.

Congressional Democrats, who are in the minority in both chambers, are using the budget continuation bill as leverage to convince Republican lawmakers to change their minds. In the Senate, Democrats are using parliamentary rules to block the passage of the spending bill unless it contains a provision to extend the ACA credits again.

So far, Republicans have refused to negotiate that issue. That's what caused the current federal government shutdown standoff that has now dragged on for a month.

The standoff has fueled political battles around the country, including in North Carolina.

In a news conference Thursday, state Sen. Gale Adcock (D-Wake) said the majority party was "shutting down the government instead of fixing the health care crisis they created."

Republican House Speaker Mike Johnson has called the tax credits "subsidizing bad policy." He said GOP lawmakers "believe in the private sector and the free market and individual providers."

Open enrollment for the Affordable Care Act opens Saturday, Nov. 1 and runs through Jan. 15, 2026. If you sign up by Dec. 15, your coverage will begin on Jan. 1.

CROSSING GUARD

Continued from page 2

Former North Carolina police chief Bence Hoyle suggests harsher penalties for speeding in school zones—up to \$1,000 per infraction—and using license plate recognition systems to track reckless drivers. Others, like Detective Kevin VanFleet in California, argue that more consistent police presence would be the most effective deterrent.

Human Toll and Resilience

Beyond the statistics are stories of loss and endurance. Families of victims often struggle with funeral costs, while survivors face long recoveries and medical bills without benefits.

Ron Ferguson, a crossing guard from Texas, was hit by a truck in 2020, suffering a cracked skull and lasting cognitive issues. "There are times I can see people now that I cannot remember their names," he said.

Despite the dangers, many guards remain dedicated. Social media groups like Crossing Guard Chronicles on TikTok and the National Association of School Crossing Guards on Facebook have become advocacy hubs, pushing for body cameras, better training, and community awareness.

For Anthony Taylor, who nearly lost his life, the mission remains worth it. "I like what I do, and I enjoy being around the public," he said. "That's what made me decide that, hey, I'm going back to finish out what I was there to start."

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Arts & Culture

80 Years On From The Pan-African Congress In Manchester

THE GUARDIAN - On the main road heading south out of Manchester city centre, the excitement and enthusiasm are tangible. Oxford Road has changed a lot since October 1945. While its grand buildings remain, the wartime bombsites and smog are long gone. Much of Chorlton-on-Medlock, the residential area it bisected has been lost to postwar clearances and replaced by university complexes.

But to the young people gathered in the foyer of the Contact Theatre, the events of 80 years ago were full of relevance. The dance show they came to see - See My World: Homage, staged by the choreographers Joe Price and Kieron Simms a fortnight ago - was just one of an unprecedented number of events to celebrate the anniversary of the fifth Pan-African Congress, which took place less than a mile away at the former town hall.

The congress was a seismic moment for Black countries during their fight for independence from colonial rule and helped to shape the destiny of millions. But for years the event was an under-recognised chapter in Manchester's radical history, spurring the late community leader Kath Locke, among others, to campaign for a commemorative plaque outside the building in the 1980s.

Now, against a backdrop of increasing unity between African-Caribbean countries, resurgent anti-Black sentiment and increased awareness of the debt Manchester owes to slavery and colonialism, the congress's message of Black unity as well as political and economic liberation is experiencing a resurgence.

Tunde Adekoya, the artistic director and chief executive of the See My World festival - which celebrates Manchester's pan-Africanist legacy - has been central to the 80th anniversary celebrations, organising a series of seminars, exhibitions and performances.

Adekoya's introduction to the congress came 10 years ago and it has inspired his work ever since. "It was a struggle that resonated with mine, and I decided had to look at ways to continue to develop our communities in the same way (as the congress), creating a festival that would allow people to have these conversations, to look at what betterment would [look] like through events and storytelling, reclaiming narratives and looking at how we develop the next



generation of leaders," he said.

While the legacy of the event continues to resonate within Manchester's arts and activist communities, African and Caribbean politicians are taking steps to fulfil the dreams of the original delegates.

In September, the African Union revealed it was joining forces with Caribbean countries to seek reparations from European colonial powers. The announcement, at the second Caricom-Africa summit in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, came as the regions strengthened their commitment to cooperate on global financial reform, climate action, education, health, trade and cultural exchange.

The Caricom secretary general, Dr Carla Barnett, said the summit was "guided by the pan-African ideals set out by iconic minds from the Caribbean and from Africa, with Marcus Garvey, Patrice Lumumba, George Padmore, Jomo Kenyatta and Kwame Nkrumah among them".

The Jamaican activist Amy Ashwood Garvey, the former wife of the pan-Africanist Marcus Garvey, was a delegate at the 1945 event - which was chaired the African American intellectual William Edward Burghardt Du Bois - alongside Nkrumah, Kenyatta, the Trinidadian journalist Padmore, Dr Hastings Banda, Jaja Wachuku and Obafemi Awolowo.

After independence, Nkrumah, Kenyatta and Banda went on to lead Ghana, Kenya and Malawi, respectively, while Wachuku and Awolowo became statesmen in Nigeria.

Alma La Badie, the Women's Auxiliary air force veteran who campaigned for the rights of Black women and children in the UK, and Len Johnson, the trade unionist and boxer of mixed heritage who grew up in working-class Clayton, east Manchester, were among those who represented Black Britain at the congress.

Dr Shirin Hirsch, a historian at Manchester Metropolitan University (MMU) and at the People's History Museum, said: "The congress was electric, hosting 200 attendants with 87 delegates representing 50 organisations from across the world. Many delegates would return to Africa newly inspired as part of a network of pan-Africanists."

"The hall itself was grand, with handmade posters ... calling for oppressed people of the world to unite; 'freedom for all subject people' was another demand. Karl Marx was quoted - 'Labour in the white skin can never free itself as long as labour in the black skin is branded' - and there was a call for 'Arab and Jews to unite against British imperialism'."

"For Manchester's Black delegates and observers to the congress, we know it was a hugely important event too, with attenders like Len Johnson continuing to organise against racism for decades after."

Ntombizodwa "Zodwa" Nyoni, a writer and lecturer at MMU, played a critical role in building excitement around the anniversary celebrations via her hit play based on the con-

gress, Liberation, shown at the Royal Exchange theatre. She was keen to highlight crucial messages from the pan-Africanism of 1945 for an audience in 2025.

"A lot of [the delegates' concerns] around being anti-racist and thinking about freedom of the press, thinking about all the rights of women - all of those things are really relevant to where we're at today," she said in an interview for a bonus episode of the Guardian's Cotton Capital podcast.

"Today, when we think [about our] activism, a lot of it is happening online. So there's something specific and ... special about what happens when a group of people meet and they say: 'We are going to sit together and plan change.'"

From debates to concerts and exhibitions to literary readings, several institutions in Greater Manchester - including MMU, the Ahmed Iqbal Ullah Race Centre, the Caribbean and African Health Network and the flagship arts venue Factory International - have staged events centred on the Black diaspora that have climaxed in the anniversary month of October, which is also Black History Month in the UK. In Moss Side and Hulme, historical centres of postwar Black life in Manchester, the political festival The World Transformed brought pan-African activists together, adding to the city's rich legacy of Black activism.

The historian Hirsch added: "Manchester during the second world war had this thriving Black community that had settled here before the [Empire] Windrush ship and a later generation joined them."

"Within this community was a very active pan-Africanist network. In fact, the British state had pinpointed Manchester as the centre of the pan-Africanists during the war. The Negro Association in Manchester was a key network, established in 1943 by Dr Peter Milliard, that provided the basis for the Manchester branch of the Pan-African Federation."

"It actively encouraged solidarity with anticolonial struggles, for example: raising money in support of the Nigerian general strike in 1945. On the Negro Association membership lists - on show at the People's History Museum - there are very famous names like Jomo Kenyatta, future president of Kenya, who lived and worked in Manchester for a short time, but there are also many local Black Mancunian members that we still know very little about."

How an Enslaved Man's Self-Defense Sparked a Historic Court Ruling in NC

By Jordan Meadows

Staff Writer

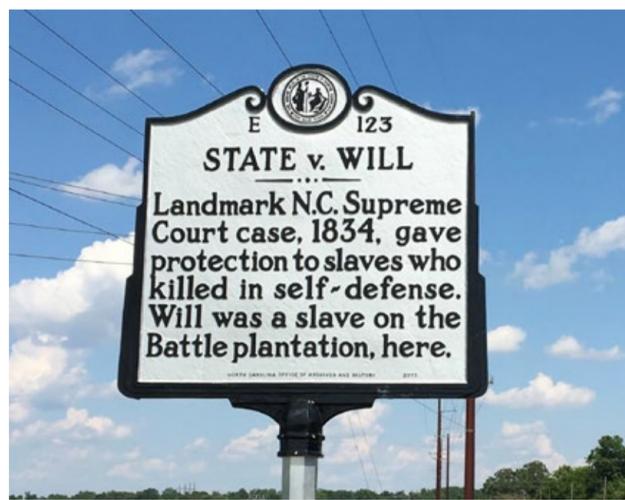
On January 22, 1834, a violent confrontation at the Walnut Creek plantation in Edgecombe County, North Carolina, would lead to one of the most significant legal decisions in the antebellum South.

Will, an enslaved man owned by James S. Battle, became the center of the landmark case *State v. Will*, which challenged the legal framework of slavery and recognized, however narrowly, the moral agency of enslaved people.

The North Carolina Supreme Court's unanimous decision, written by Justice William Gaston, declared that an enslaved person acting in self-defense under extreme provocation could not be convicted of murder, but only of manslaughter. This ruling stood in direct contrast to the earlier *State v. Mann* (1829) decision, which had granted masters absolute and unchallengeable authority over slaves.

The chain of events began with a dispute over a simple farm tool—a hoe. Will had crafted the handle in his own time and considered it his personal possession. When the foreman instructed another slave to use it, an argument erupted. Will, angry at what he saw as an affront to his limited autonomy, broke the handle and left to work at a nearby cotton screw.

The foreman informed Richard Baxter, the overseer, who armed himself with a shotgun and ordered Allen to follow with a whip. Upon confronting him, Baxter ordered Will down from the cotton screw. Will obeyed humbly, but as Baxter advanced, Will attempted to flee. Baxter shot him in the back from



close range, wounding him severely. Despite his injuries, Will managed to escape into the woods, only to be overtaken by Baxter. In the desperate struggle that followed, Will, armed with a knife, inflicted several wounds on Baxter, including a deep gash to his arm that would prove fatal.

The next day, Will returned voluntarily to the plantation, unaware that Baxter had died of blood loss. He was charged with first-degree murder.

The Edgecombe County Superior Court found him guilty and sentenced him to death. His owner, James Battle, believed that Will had acted in self-defense and, in an extraordinary gesture for the time, hired two of North Carolina's most prominent lawyers, Bartholomew Figures Moore and George Wash-

ington Mordecai, to appeal the case. Battle paid Moore an astonishing \$1,000 to ensure that Will received a fair defense.

The appeal reached the North Carolina Supreme Court in December 1834. The defense argued that the law should recognize the humanity of the enslaved and that absolute power over another human being was "irresponsible power." Moore directly challenged Chief Justice Thomas Ruffin's earlier ruling in *State v. Mann*, which had declared that "the power of the master must be absolute, to render the submission of the slave perfect."

Although the court did not overturn *Mann* outright, Justice William Gaston's opinion marked a profound departure. Writing for a unanimous court, Gaston reasoned that Will's act was not one of "diabolical

malice," but of human passion and self-preservation. He declared that it was "instinctive to fly, human to struggle," and that "terror or resentment, the strongest of passions, had given the struggle its fatal issue."

Gaston's opinion openly recognized the enslaved as moral and sentient beings. "The prisoner," he wrote, "is a human being, degraded indeed by slavery, but yet having organs, dimensions, senses, affections, passions, like our own." The court ruled that Will's actions, though unlawful, were not murder. Instead, the killing arose out of "a brief fury" and should be classified as manslaughter. As a result, Will's death sentence was overturned.

He was eventually released and sent to another of Battle's plantations in Mississippi.

In the 1830s, North Carolina was a slaveholding state grappling with its own contradictions. Slaves were both "persons" and "property," their legal status forcing courts to reconcile human rights with economic interests. *State v. Will* did not usher in sweeping reform. Slavery continued for three more decades, and most enslaved people in the South would never see justice in a courtroom. But the case marked an essential moment in North Carolina's legal evolution. Abolitionists and moderate reformers alike praised the decision, and legal scholars later cited it as a precedent for limiting the excesses of masterly power.

In 2016, the N.C. Department of Natural and Cultural Resources (DNCR) installed a historical marker along US 64 Alternate at Dunbar Road, northwest of Tarboro in Edgecombe County, in recognition of the case. The marker stands on the site of the former plantation.

"The central pan-Africanist in Manchester was T Ras Makonnen, who was the real force behind the congress taking place in Manchester. Makonnen set up a whole range of restaurants, bookshops and even a tea shop around the Oxford Road that were able to attract a huge audience because they did not operate a colour bar and welcomed Black GIs and other racialised communities."

"From these ventures, Makonnen was able to finance the congress. His links with the local Labour party, [which] had political control of the city, meant they could secure the large Chorlton-on-Medlock town hall (now an MMU building) as the venue for the congress."

"It is hard, from these media re-

ports, to get a sense of the exhilaration and sense of freedom that Black people must have felt meeting and organising in Manchester. Walking into the town hall for the congress, with the flags of Black nations on display, there must have been a feeling of pride and determination to continue the struggle."

This pride and determination is still felt today. Edna, who came out on a chilly October night to see *Homage* at the Contact Theatre, said: "I was born in Portugal but my origins are from São Tomé and Príncipe. Believing in pan-Africanism means believing in yourself, claiming who you are and always fighting for what matters."



SEE MY WORLD EVENTS UNITE CREATIVES AND ACTIVISTS TO CELEBRATE PAN-AFRICANISM AND ITS LEGACY. PHOTOGRAPH: DANIEL OYEGADE/WXVEI



THE GOLDEN YEARS

By Judykay Jefferson

PURPOSE

I used to think purpose was something you figured out early in life - like a career path or a calling that showed up in your twenties and stuck with you forever. But now, in my senior years, I've come to understand that purpose isn't a one-time discovery. It's a lifelong journey. And more importantly, it's never too late to find it.

I'm speaking to my fellow seasoned souls who've weathered storms, raised families, built communities, and carried the weight of history on our backs. We've done a lot. But doing a lot doesn't always mean we've found our true purpose. Sometimes we've just been surviving. And now, in this chapter of life, we have the chance to thrive.

In the infrequent stretches of time when I wasn't employed daily, I felt a strange emptiness. Since I was twenty years old, my identity has been wrapped up in my job, my friends, my projects. I'm an idea person. Always have been. I can come up with a project for myself that always includes those around me. Some have been great ideas. Other, not so much. I've even had jobs where that ability was my primary focus. For a resume, I would say my strength are conceptualizing and collaborating. In other words, I've always been the ringleader.

Moving from my home of 40 years, Mississippi, to North Carolina, those roles found new life, for a while. When things changed, as they often do, I asked myself, "Who am I now?"

That question led me down a path of reflection. I became a part of a global ministry and joined the outreach team. I pushed myself to do things I thought I was too old to do. I met new people and learned to be a good team member. I volunteered to be a part of a team that cooked breakfast at a local life-changing program. Being in a commercial kitchen, cooking with people I didn't know, on a tight schedule, serving men, women and children as they started their day was all different for me. It changed me. The experience served me so much more than I served them. I felt alive again. I felt useful. I felt like I was walking in purpose.

That's when I realized: purpose isn't always grand or flashy. It's not reserved for the young or the famous. It's found in the quiet moments when your gifts meet someone else's need.

Let me say this loud and clear: it is never too late to find your purpose. If you're still breathing, God's not done with you. Moses was 80 when he led the Israelites out of Egypt. Sarah was 90 when she gave birth to Isaac. Purpose doesn't expire with age - it deepens.

Sometimes we think we've missed our chance. Maybe we didn't pursue that dream, or we let fear hold us back. But purpose isn't a deadline. It's a direction. And you can start walking in it today.

Purpose feels like peace. It feels like alignment. It's when your heart says, "This is what I was made for." Purpose doesn't have to be public. It just has to be real.

What brings me joy? What do people thank me for? What burdens do I feel called to lift?

The answers might point you toward your purpose. Jeremiah 29:11 says, "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

Ephesians 2:10 tells us, "We are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." Purpose isn't something we invent - it's something we uncover. It's already in us, waiting to be activated.

If you're reading this and wondering whether your best days are behind you, let me assure you: they're not. You have wisdom, experience, and a story that someone needs to hear. You have love to give and lessons to teach. You have purpose.

Don't let age, regret, or doubt hold you back. Start small. Start today. Your purpose might be one conversation away.

And if you've already found it - keep walking in it. Keep shining. Because when we live with purpose, we don't just change our lives. We change the world around us.



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Community

Boundless Optimism Kevin Howell Inaugurated As NC State's 15th Chancellor: A New Era For The Wolfpack

By Jheri Hardaway

Staff Writer

Raleigh, NC – A new chapter officially began for North Carolina State University today as Kevin Howell was formally installed as the 15th Chancellor in a ceremony brimming with pride, tradition, and a forward-looking vision. The atmosphere was electric, a true homecoming for a leader deeply rooted in the Wolfpack spirit. “Boundless optimism” was the theme of the ceremony, and the enthusiasm and energy brought forth by the new chancellor were undeniable. North Carolina State University is in excellent hands! The morning commenced with an invocation that resonated with the university’s “Think and Do” mantra, highlighting NC State’s bedrock role in innovation and its commitment to shaping future leaders. Ed Stack, Chair of the NC State Board of Trustees, formally opened the ceremony, acknowledging the significance of the day not just for the installation of Chancellor Howell, but for stepping into the next chapter of this great institution together. He offered gratitude to distinguished guests, including N.C. Senate President Pro Tempore Phil Berger, NC State Student Body President Isaac Carreno, UNC Board of Governors Chair Wendy Murphy, and many others. A special thanks was extended to the NC State Chorale and the Power Sound of the South band for their uplifting performances, reminding all that a celebration of NC State wouldn’t be complete without their spirit. An interesting moment during the ceremony was when North Carolina State Senator Phil Berger began his

remarks to an empty good morning from the crowd. It truly reflected the political awareness of the NC State community when he prompted a second good morning in hopes of a positive welcome. This did not dim the light of the day, but made the purpose and the need for an innovative and forward-thinking leadership that much more important. Senator Berger lauded NC State’s role as a world-leading public research university and a North Carolina flagship, instrumental in the state’s economic success. He praised Chancellor Howell, an alumnus and “native son,” as a visionary leader with an “unquestioning integrity” and a heart for the people of North Carolina.

N.C. House Representative Dean Arp echoed these sentiments, emphasizing NC State’s leadership in diverse fields and its profound impact on job creation and improving lives. He spoke of Howell as a man “sustained and created for this very moment,” a relentless advocate for the university’s faculty, facilities, and future. Wendy Murphy, Chair of the UNC Board of Governors, highlighted NC State’s enduring mission since its founding in 1887 as a land-grant university, growing from 72 students to the largest university in the Carolinas. She affirmed Howell’s deep understanding of the university’s legacy and his commitment to strengthening partnerships between campus, industry, and the state. Student Body President Isaac Carreno spoke movingly of Chancellor Howell’s journey from a student leader from Shelby to Vice Chancellor and now Chancellor, embodying the saying, “The meaning of life is to find your gift. The purpose of life is to give it away.” Carreno shared



a personal anecdote of Howell’s genuine connection with students, affirming his belief that “anything is possible” at NC State. UNC System President Peter Hans celebrated the installation as a “homecoming” for Kevin Howell, acknowledging his four decades of dedicated service to the state and his gift for building relationships. Hans emphasized NC State’s role as a land-grant tradition, bringing “an academic tower down to earth, where it might do some immediate good,” and praised Howell as the “personification of the NC State story.” The solemn moment of the oath of office was administered by Chief Justice Paul Newby, with Chancellor Howell placing his hand on his personal Bible, held by his wife, Aleta. He was then presented with the traditional medallion, symbolizing the authority and responsibility entrusted to him as the chief steward of this great institution. Chancellor

Howell’s inaugural address demonstrated his profound connection to NC State. He shared that his deep love for the university began the moment he enrolled as an undergraduate student from Shelby, a decision that “changed my life forever.” He expressed immense gratitude to his predecessors, his family, and his “Wolfpack family,” including those who supported him through a kidney transplant 10 years ago. And in true form of a leader, taking the reins of an enduring institution, he began the process of rallying support through funding. In doing so, he laid out his vision for the future. Chancellor Howell articulated an ambitious yet achievable vision for NC State, centered around three key pillars: 1. Unapologetic Pursuit of Groundbreaking Research: He reaffirmed NC State’s role as a leader in discovery, emphasizing the expansion of applied research and creative funding sources. 2. Exceptional Partnerships: Howell

pledged to deepen collaborations with the business community and government to align NC State’s programs with industry needs, fostering a career-ready workforce. He noted NC State’s recognition as a top 10 best-value public university via the Princeton Review. 3. Continued Resource Growth: Emphasizing that “students are our highest priority,” he committed to securing financial strength to ensure affordability and opportunity for future generations. Chancellor Howell highlighted existing initiatives like the “Pack Promise” program, offering guaranteed pathways to an NC State degree for community college students, and the “Engineered in North Carolina” initiative, attracting top-tier faculty and educating the engineers critical to the state’s economy. Howell stressed the importance of NC State’s Centennial Campus as a model for experiential learning and interdisciplinary collaboration, particularly in fields like biotechnology, precision agriculture, AI, and quantum computing. “Our ambition

is centered around seeing further, building deeper, and believing more purposefully than others think possible,” Howell declared. He passionately asserted that NC State’s work “matters,” educating the engineers, farmers, architects, veterinarians, poets, artists, and public servants the world needs. He concluded with a powerful call to action, reminding everyone that while challenges exist, NC State is “better and bolder than ever.” Howell expressed his confidence that in 100 years, the university will be a place “you and I would have never thought possible.” He continued, “NC State is destined to be the best, most impactful land-grant university in the country,” he proclaimed. Chancellor Howell’s installation marks not just a change in leadership, but a renewed commitment to NC State’s foundational mission. With his unwavering dedication and visionary leadership, the Wolfpack is poised to continue its legacy of innovation, education, and service, profoundly impacting North Carolina and beyond. Go Pack!

Raleigh's Black Farmers Hub Celebrates 5 Years



Mathias Bishop Photo

On Saturday, the Black Farmers Hub in Raleigh celebrated its five year anniversary. More than 150 people came out to support and learn from area farmers. There were new farming products introduced and demonstrations on food preservation conducted. The Black Farmers Hub has grown to be an increasingly important part of the southeast Raleigh culture. Demetrius Hunter has created a culinary collaboration that is a trifold of success. He has successfully sustained a business in Southeast Raleigh (1), that provides healthy foods and herbs to the community (2), all while supporting the area farmers. He has also been recognized for his work in several publications. Scalawag magazine wrote: *Hunter, the CEO of Grocers On Wheels and its non-profit arm Southeast Raleigh Vicinity Emerging (S.E.R.V.E.), is continuing his family's 80-year legacy of providing fresh fruits and vegetables and other nutritious foods to elderly and underserved residents in Southeast Raleigh. The work has always been steady, but there has been a marked increase since COVID-19 reached North Carolina.* To learn more about the Black Farmers Hub, visit them at 1409 Cross St in Raleigh or give them a call at (919) 890-5455.

‘We Didn’t Lose, We Learned’: Amazon Union Campaign Expands To Durham

NC Newline – The campaign to unionize Amazon has set its sights on Durham, with Carolina Amazonians United for Solidarity and Empowerment launching an organizing drive outside the company’s RDU5 warehouse on Monday. This represents CAUSE’s second union push in the state, with the first in Garner resulting in an election defeat by a three-to-one margin in February that organizers challenged with the National Labor Relations Board, alleging the company coerced its employees into voting no and violated protections for union organizing. That election complaint remains ongoing.



Around 50 demonstrators rallied in support of the campaign kickoff at the truck entrance of the RDU5 facility on Monday afternoon, handing out union materials to workers finishing their shifts and raising their fists to delivery trucks honking in approval. “I came to tell you we didn’t lose, we learned,” CAUSE President Ryan Brown told supporters. “They thought they had buried us, but all they did was plant us,” Brown said. “And the thing about seeds is that seeds, they will always rise. They rise in Garner, they rise in Raleigh, and Durham, and Winston-Salem, and in Charlotte.” Organizers said the campaign will target four facilities in the Durham area, including the RDU5 warehouse and three others. The union estimates that RDU5 has around 1,000 employees, while the other three each range in the hundreds. “The good thing about Durham is that the facilities are smaller,” CAUSE Secretary Italo Medelius said in an interview. “Bringing all of these facilities together will give people a lot more solidarity to share

strategies, to talk about what’s going on inside these warehouses, so we feel very, very confident that this campaign is going to turn out differently.” A key tenet of the campaign is fairer wages. According to the union campaign, workers start at \$18.50 an hour — less than half of what MIT estimates constitutes a living wage for a single-income family with one child in the Durham area — and caps at \$22 an hour, regardless of experience. At the RDU1 facility in Garner, pay begins at \$18.50 and goes up to \$23.80, Amazon spokesperson Marc Heintzman said in a statement in February. But he added that “pay is not capped” and that the company raises hourly wages every year. Supporters with the Union of Southern Service Workers and other area unions joined Monday’s event in solidarity, as did Durham City Council Member Nate Baker. The

Durham City Council passed a resolution in June that “enthusiastically encourages” Amazon workers in the city to unionize. “The city of Durham stands behind you in this fight!” Baker said to cheers. “What’s your wage? It should be higher. What’s your leave? It should be longer. You deserve better.” Amazon did not immediately respond to a request for comment on the Durham union campaign, but in statements earlier this year during the Garner effort, spokesperson Eileen Hards said the company supports all employees’ right to decide whether to participate in a union. “Our employees have the choice of whether or not to join a union,” Hards said in February. “We believe that both decisions should be equally protected which is why we talk openly, candidly and respectfully about these topics, actively sharing facts with employees so they can use that

information to make an informed decision.” She added that Amazon believes employees will find joining a union unnecessary and “favor opportunities to have their unique voice heard by working directly with our team.” “The fact is, Amazon already offers what many unions are requesting: safe, inclusive workplaces, competitive pay, industry-leading benefits — including health care on day one, pre-paid college tuition, and a 401k with company match — opportunities for career growth, and more,” Hards said. To date, the only successful union campaign at an Amazon warehouse took place in a New York shipping facility in 2022, led by the Amazon Labor Union. No other unions have won recognition by the NLRB to negotiate on behalf of Amazon warehouse employees. Jorge Meza, a worker at the RDU5 facility who volunteered with the union effort, said he’s pleased that the campaign has come to Durham. “I think it’s a really smart move. Durham has a rich history of labor organizing, organizing within intersectional communities here.” Medelius, the union secretary, said part of the learning process from the first campaign was getting an in-depth understanding of the Durham facilities beforehand. That has resulted in a multilingual campaign, with pro-union signs in Spanish, Nepali, and Arabic present at the rally, reflecting the diversity of the warehouse workers. “We feel strong enough inside of all those facilities that if Amazon wants to retaliate, we’re ready to jump in the boxing ring with them,” Medelius said. “We’re here to announce that we’re not going anywhere and we’re going to unionize.”



North Carolina FC's Oalex Anderson (9) takes a shot on goal against Loudoun United's Cole Turner (16) during the first half of their playoff game in Cary, N.C. on November 1, 2025. Anderson's earlier first half goal propelled NCFC to a 1-0 victory and move on in the USL-1 playoffs. NCFC will take on Rhode Island on November 8th. Steve Worthy Photo

Dunn's, 25th Annual Cotton Festival

By Jheri Hardaway

Staff Writer

Dunn, NC - The 25th Annual Cotton Festival, presented by Harnett Health, brought out families and community leaders from around the county and beyond. The Dunn Area Tourism Authority hosted another outstanding Cotton Festival in downtown Dunn, North Carolina. The turnout demonstrated a dramatic growth from previous years. With two stages, a plethora of vendors, and rides for the children, there was plenty to see and do along the downtown corridor of Dunn, North Carolina. The rapid growth apparent at the festival is on par with reports that Harnett County is the fifth-largest growing county in the state. As a bedroom community to Wake and Cumberland counties, and a neighbor of Johnston County, Harnett

County is in a unique position. Close to the capital and Research Triangle Park, yet also a fair distance from Fayetteville’s Fort Bragg, military base, and other installations. With a growing citizenry and ever-increasing opportunities for growth and expansion in the business world, Harnett County is poised for massive development. On most major streets and on many country roads, you’ll see the names of popular home developers advertising homes \$250,000 and up. If this year’s Cotton Fest was any indication of what’s to come, the city of Dunn will need to block off much more of downtown for future cotton festivals! The highlight of this festival was undoubtedly the community camaraderie, but also the trains. Historically, Dunn was built around natural resource trade transported via the train. The train runs all day and night and ran right through



the festival on numerous occasions. Friendly conductors reached out the window and waved to the crowds. Goodness grows in North Caro-

lina, and Harnett County is definitely demonstrating that goodness as it grows and welcomes people from all over the world into the community.



NC Courage's Meredith Speck (25) watches the ball after her shot on goal get pass NY/NJ Gotham goalkeeper Ann-Katrin Berger (30) during the first half of their game in Cary, N.C. on November 2, 2025. The Courage took on NY/NJ in the final regular season game in Cary, N.C. where the Courage won 3-2 in front of a record sell out crowd. Steve Worthy Photo

Church

Rediscovery Of African American Burial Grounds Provides Some Long-Overdue Opportunities For Collective Healing

THE CONVERSATION – In the course of construction work in 2013, the remains of 36 individuals of African descent were uncovered in the heart of downtown Charleston, South Carolina. They had lain hidden for some 200 years in an unmarked 18th-century burial ground.

For more than two centuries, such burial grounds, especially those in the former American slave states, have often been erased or obscured – paved over by parking lots, built upon by highways or private development, or simply left unknown and untended. In recent years, descendant communities in places such as Bethesda, Maryland, Richmond, Virginia, St. Petersburg,

Florida, and Sugarland, Texas, have called for greater recognition and respect for these long-neglected sites.

As a public archaeologist and educator who has spent over a decade working in Charleston, South Carolina, I co-direct the Anson Street African Burial Ground project – the community-led effort to honor and respectfully lay to rest the 36 African ancestors whose remains were uncovered in 2013.

This Charleston project reflects a growing recognition of African American burial grounds as important historical memory sites and unique sources of genealogical information. Yet there is still limited public understanding about

how engaging with these places of sacred rest can promote collective healing, reconciliation and cross-cultural understanding.

Cemeteries obscured by history – Since the British colonial period, racist laws and customs across America prevented enslaved and free people of African descent from using white burial grounds to bury their dead. On plantations, enslavers controlled where and how the enslaved were buried and whether burials could be marked or visited. In cities from Charleston to New York, segregated burial grounds, many now forgotten, were established by local authorities for indigent Black and white people.

Pushed to the margins, people of

African descent maintained burial traditions and used impermanent or specific grave markers such as shells, bottles, clocks or ceramics – items that were culturally meaningful but often invisible or unimportant to white observers. As a result, many of these sites were neither recorded in historical documents nor officially recognized as burial grounds.

From the 1770s, African American churches, benevolent societies and funeral homes sought to establish cemeteries where Black communities could honor the dead with dignity. What began regionally – especially in Charleston and Philadelphia – quickly spread nationally during the 19th century across the American South and North.

In the decades after Reconstruction, and especially during the Jim Crow era, nearly 6 million African Americans moved north and west to escape racial violence and seek better opportunities – an event known as the Great Migration. This

movement often severed ties between families and ancestral burial grounds in the South. As churches and burial societies lost members, many cemeteries fell into disrepair and were officially labeled “abandoned” by local authorities or developers.

In both rural and urban areas, Black burial grounds were often located on less valuable lands, sites that today are increasingly threatened by gentrification, development and the effects of climate change.

The Gullah Geechee, who descend from enslaved Africans from West Africa and still preserve unique cultural traditions in the southeastern U.S., argue these burial sites were never abandoned and that ancestors are still present. This perspective views the dead as actively connected to the living. For them, lacking formally designated cemetery space doesn’t make the sites any less sacred.

A tradition of sacred spaces
For many African Americans,

especially in the South, death during slavery was seen as not merely an ending but a spiritual return – a “homegoing.”

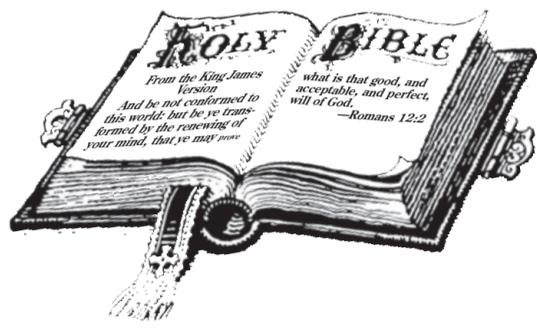
Rooted in West African spiritual worldviews and carried through other traditions in America, the act of burial was often viewed as a release from bondage, a return to the ancestors and a step toward wholeness.

The Gullah Geechee traditions of coastal South Carolina emphasize ancestral presence, spiritual continuity and the sanctity of the land. In that worldview, with a porous boundary between the living and the dead, proper burial and remembrance are not only cultural imperatives but necessary for community well-being.

It was not until the early 1990s that recognition of rights over ancestral remains and sacred burial grounds began to find a wider audience.

(See REDISCOVERY OF P. 11)

SERMON of the WEEK



God's Got the POWER Sermon by Pastor William Eli Ratcliff

Pastor William Eli Ratcliff was the guest speaker for Overseer Nina Jones Pastor's Anniversary at True Way Holy Church, Durham. Scripture Text: 1 Kings 18:25 – 38 NJKV

Overseer Nina Jones may be a woman, but today I want to liken her to a woman of God who walks in the same Power that stood with the man of God, Elijah, when he confronted Ahab's prophets of Baal. The first thing that I want you to know today is that:

I. God Has the Power to PROVE Himself

Elijah called on God before the prophets of Baal, and fire fell from heaven. Overseer Nina Jones stands in that same faith – I believe she's a woman of God who has seen God prove Himself real - again and again and again and again.

Additionally, I believe that when you trust God wholeheartedly, as Overseer Nina Jones does, God will protect you and provide for you. Furthermore, I believe that when you trust God wholeheartedly, as Overseer Nina Jones does, God will prove His POWER on your behalf.

II. I also want you to know that God has the Power to PROVIDE.

In the referenced sermon text, even when the altar was soaked, HEAVEN... still responded!!! I want you to know today that WHAT the Overseer, Pastor, Elders, Preachers, and Deacons cannot ignite, God can spark instantly. TRUE WAY, all we need today is just a SPARK of God's POWER.

I'm sure over the years, you have seen His provision, as He has blessed you with houses you didn't build, wells you didn't dig, olive trees you didn't plant, and a new church building, because He blessed you to come out of the Old Building. But remember this:

It's not who's in the church but

who has the CHURCH IN THEM. Jesus said, "Upon this Rock I'll build my church." It's His church, and when we recognize that it's His church and not ours, He will give us unadulterated POWER!!!

In this 18th chapter, Elijah was alone and faced a challenge against 450 prophets of Baal to prove whose God was real. And in verse 30 of this Sermonic text, it says, Then Elijah said to all the people, "Come near to me." So, all the people came near to him. And he repaired the altar of the Lord that was broken down. Remember, when Jesus said, "For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them." Overseer Nina, Pastor Darrell, and preachers and Deacons of True Way, I want you to know that if you are going to repair this Ministry, just like all other churches that have been broken down since COVID-19, the first thing we have to do is come together and follow the Leader.

Some may have gone somewhere else since the pandemic. I, too, as a Pastor, have had several members leave, and I'm unsure if they will ever return. But one thing I do know is that there are still some Ahab's and Jezebels out there, and I certainly hope they don't encounter any of them; God forbid, I'm praying for them.

And, True Way, I want to remind you that the God we serve still supplies strength, unity, and love to His people. It's better to rebuild with a few who are humble and possess God's exalting Power than with a whole lot who are just faking.

III. God Has the Power to PREVAIL

Baal failed, the crowd fell silent, but God prevailed. The same God who sent fire for Elijah can light a new fire in you – and He can light a new fire in any church He chooses today, because God's Got the Power! CALL ON HIM!

And I say to you who have consistently stood in the trench, and those of you who are humbly getting back in the trench. Some of you were with Bishop Jones, and now you're with Overseer Nina and Pastor Darrell. Some of you may have been hurt, some may have been misunderstood, some may have had disagreements, but thank God you're still standing in the gap and still standing in the trench. Nobody ever said it would be easy, but I don't believe He bought you this far to leave you. You're not just in the church, but the church has to be in you!

Remember: A pulling mule can't kick, and a kicking mule can't pull. If everyone stays in their lane and pulls together, I believe that every church will recover from the pandemic and continue moving forward.

Today, together let's call on the Power of God to let the fire of the Lord fall, and if there's any division, let Love consume every division, let unity overflow the trench, and let every heart shout together, GOD'S GOT THE POWER!

One thing, Overseer Nina, that I recall from my youth is that our old church buildings didn't have much beauty, but I'm a living witness that they had Power. The old saints sang POWER, POWER LORD...POWER, POWER LORD!

Today, God is leading me to do the same thing that Elijah did, so I call all of you here today who are standing in the trenches for God or any church. I beseech you to come around the altar and stand in the trench, and let's call on the POWER OF GOD! If there has ever been a time when people who know the real God pray, we do need to do it now.

Now, let's prepare our hearts for the altar by reading Mark 11:23-26. Now, you should be ready to preach, sing, pray, forgive, love, and walk in God's Power because He's got it and He wants every believer to have it!

Obituaries

SERENA MARIE PALMER

Serena Marie Birdsell Palmer, lovingly known as “Marie”, was born on September 2, 1924, in Raleigh, North Carolina, to William Sylvester Birdsell and Ida Mae Hunter Adams Birdsell. She peacefully departed this life at her home in Fuquay-Varina, North Carolina, on September 8, 2025, surrounded by love.

Marie lived a long, beautiful life filled with grace, compassion, and a warm spirit that touched everyone she met. She will be remembered for her kindness, laughter, and the gentle strength that she carried through every season of her life.

She leaves to cherish her memory her beloved nieces, Desiree, Kaisha, Celeste, Marcia Glascoe, and Kaylei Page; nephews, Demetrius, Mar-

cus, Eugene, Taron, Tyree Glascoe, Jayden Page, and Rufus S. Becoat, Jr. (Paulette V. Becoat); niece-in-law Ann Adams; step-granddaughter Veronica Towns; and a host of other relatives and friends. She also leaves behind special devoted friends – Senora Woodard, Thomas Harris, Sharon Banks, Clennis Noble, and Lynne Moore – who lovingly stood by her side throughout her journey.

Though her smile is gone forever and her hand we cannot touch, we will forever hold dear the many memories of the one we loved so much. Her memory is our keepsake, which we will never part from. God has her in His keeping, and we have her in our hearts.

Sadly missed, but never forgotten.



Practical Biblical Principles

GROW UP Read: Ephesians 4:11-18

By John L. Caldwell, Pastor
New Jerusalem Baptist Cathedral

As the Spirit of the Lord works within us, we become more and more like Him and reflect His glory even more. Church we were created to become like Christ.

We cannot become like Christ unless we grow spiritually. God wants us to grow up like Christ in every aspect of our lives. We are not meant to remain as children.

At some point in our lives, we begin to realize that we were growing and physically increasing in size. And the knowledge which we accumulated and learned during this time was all of a worldly nature. At this point in our lives the bible defines us a “natural” man/woman. From a spiritual and biblical standpoint this means that we are not saved and have no spiritual discernment by which we are to grow up and to be like Christ (Romans 8:29). In short, we are sinners.

Rick Warren in his book, “The Purpose Driven Life,” states, “Sadly, millions of Christians grow older but never grow up. They are stuck in a perpetual spiritual infancy, remaining in diapers and booties. The reason is that they never intended to grow.” It appears their idea of growth is to just exist.

The Father's goal for us is to mature and develop the characteristics of Jesus Christ. Spiritual growth is not automatic. It takes intentional commitment and decision to grow spiritually (Colossians 2:7).

In short, we were created to become like Christ. From the very beginning, God's plan has been to make you and me like His son, Jesus. This is our destiny and the third purpose in our lives. The first

purpose in our lives is to become saved. The second is to recognize God in our lives, the third is to grow in Christ.

One major challenge which dampens our desire to grow is Christ's command for us to “pick up our cross and follow Him.” Initially growth in Christian spirituality is not easy to follow. There are so many bumps and falls which are part of growing into a Christlike being like Jesus. However, there is help which God has provided for all His children seeking to grow in the spirit. Such help comes in two parts. God, Himself, through His Son Jesus Christ, and The Holy Spirit. It is the Holy Spirit which takes the place of our Lord in the earth while He, Jesus, is absent from us. The Holy Spirit is here to help us grow into a Christlike image.

God's first blessing toward us is found in Genesis 1:26, Then God said, “Let us make human beings in our image and likeness.” In all of God's creation, only human beings, are made in God's image. We must consider this a great privilege and act accordingly. Instead of acting and thinking like the devil.

It can be said that if one makes no commitment to find a goal in life, one will miss God's purpose in their lives. Many are afraid to commit to anything and just drift through life. Others make half-hearted commitments to worldly stuff only to become frustrated, bitter, and disappointed in life.

Being Christlike is the result of making Christlike choices and depending on His spirit to help you fulfill those choices. Such choices may consist of seeking personal salvation, marriage, mission work, and other efforts which will help you into taking on the image of Christ.

One will need to let go of some old habits that are not consistent with God's word and develop new habits which will be consistent with Christlike behavior (Philippians 2:12-13). This verse shows two parts of spiritual growth: “work out” and “work in.” The “work out” is our responsibility and the “work in” is God's role. Spiritual growth is a collaborative effort between you and the Holy Spirit. God's Spirit works with us, not just in us. This verse also tells us not only how to be saved, but also how to grow. It does not tell us to work for our salvation. Jesus has already taken care of our salvation if we have accepted Him as Lord and Savior. In short, we must take our salvation growth seriously.

To be like Christ, we must develop a mind like Christ. God is Spirit so it is natural that we become aware that we are also spiritual in that He, God, blew His breathe of life in us and we became a living soul. When we grow in the Spirit, God's Spirit will imprint and teach us what to think and how to think even when evil is present.

Today many assume that spiritual maturity is measured by the amount of biblical information and doctrine one may know. While knowledge is one measurement of Christian maturity, it isn't the whole story. The Christian life is far more than creeds and convictions; it includes conduct and character. Our deeds must be consistent with our creeds, and our beliefs must be backed up with Christlike behavior.

The core of Jesus' lifestyle is thinking of others and so we must do likewise (Romans 15:2-3). A “slam dunk” for not growing in Christ is not being able to forgive another. Unforgiveness keeps one from growing in Christ and becoming Christlike.



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Editorials

Editorial Policy

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

THE RIGHT'S WAR ON THE POOR HITS A NEW LOW WITH ATTACK ON LEGAL AID

By Rob Schofield

NC Newsline

There is nothing particularly new about conservative American politicians and their allies resisting public efforts to aid Americans in need. Ever since Franklin Roosevelt signed the Social Security Act into law 90 years ago during the depths of the Great Depression, the political right has relentlessly derided and sought to undermine anti-poverty programs of all kinds.

Some of this effort – think of Donald Trump and the brigands on the make with whom he surrounds himself – is just plain old, run-of-the-mill greed. As they see it with crude, near-term accuracy, less money going to aid average Americans leaves more for them to plunder.

For others, the reasoning is weirdly and perversely ideological. This is the self-described “libertarian” crowd that clings stubbornly to the delusional notion that helping average Americans to remain middle class through public structures and systems somehow cultivates indolence and immorality. Think of Ronald Reagan’s fairy tales about “welfare queens” and the efforts of groups like the Heritage Foundation and John Locke Foundation to oppose everything from Medicaid to subsidized school lunches.

Both of these patterns are on stark display right now at the national level in the ongoing effort to decimate the Affordable Care Act and SNAP food assistance.

Meanwhile, here in North Carolina – a place where the legislature’s Republican majority long fought Medicaid expansion tooth and nail and has slashed everything from public education to affordable housing to aid for hurricane victims – the latest target is, of all things, a modest program that funds legal aid programs known as IOLTA.

As NC Newsline’s Brandon Kingdollar reported recently, IOLTA – is an ingenious system devised decades ago and employed across the country in which the separate bank accounts that attorneys long maintained to hold client funds in trust for brief periods (and that did not generate meaningful interest on their own) were instead pooled into a single large account that generates millions of dollars each year for the public purpose of funding legal aid.

It’s an inventive, win-win tactic that helps tackle an outsized societal need without using public tax dollars – the dearth of attorneys available, willing and capable of helping the millions of North Carolinians who need, but cannot afford, civil (as opposed to criminal) legal assistance. Think of women seeking to escape domestic violence, consumers ripped off by loan sharks, tenants illegally locked out of their homes, people with mental and physical disabilities denied services to which they are entitled, and hourly workers wrongfully underpaid by their employers who would, ordinarily, have no chance of finding a lawyer willing to take their cases. Rural “legal deserts” are among the areas that benefit the most.

Unfortunately, for the thousands of people of modest means who benefit from them, IOLTA funding and legal aid programs more generally have always been a bee in the bonnet of the political right. Not only does legal aid for people of low income offend their notions of societal order and “merit,” they do something that makes many conservatives even crazier: they fund lawyers who can occasionally win important legal and policy reforms. Think of a class action suit to validate the rights of a group of underpaid farmworkers or, God forbid, lawyers representing the rights of immigrants facing deportation.

And so it is that Republicans at the North Carolina legislature – with the assent of their most reliable of rubber stamps, state Supreme Court Chief Justice Paul Newby – recently enacted a law to bar the state IOLTA program from making grants during the current fiscal year that commenced July 1.

As a result, millions of dollars that would have gone to support legal aid programs – programs that even under the best of circumstances operate on a shoestring and are able to handle only a tiny fraction of the eligible clients who seek their help – are frozen. The cuts are already having a big and destructive impact. Last month, Legal Aid of North Carolina – one of IOLTA’s biggest grant recipients – announced it was closing offices in two of the state’s neediest communities: Rocky Mount and Pembroke.

In defense of their action, the legislative authors of the funding freeze have dredged up the old chestnut long employed by legal aid opponents that IOLTA funds have been funneled to “leftist groups with leftist ideologies.” It’s the same bogus claim made by those who would defund environmental protection and mental health programs because the professionals they employ tend to – surprise, surprise! – identify with the plight of their clients.

What’s more, as is made plain in a pair of powerful recent letters authored by Supreme Court Justices Anita Earls and Allison Riggs and a coalition of dozens of the state’s most prominent private attorneys, this claim is utterly specious. As the letters explain, IOLTA funding for civil legal aid is a critical component in the construction and maintenance of a well-functioning legal system, and the freeze will do much to undermine that cause.

The bottom line: in a nation in which the yawning gap between the wealthy and everyone else continues to metastasize, the IOLTA freeze is just the latest broadside in a longstanding and hugely destructive war on the poor.



I'M ENERGIZED COME + JOIN ME!

Just so y'all know, in case you don't already: I'm a Democrat and I did not support basing for integration—so you know I'm willing to be transparent. Lol.

If you need to, stop reading now; those facts may trigger you to disbelieve everything I say, and I'll understand. Here's the deal: I'm tired of hearing that Democrats are not doing enough to stop Trump. I'm tired of hearing that Kamala Harris couldn't convince white women, black men, and white men to vote for her because her messaging wasn't strong enough. I know words have energy.

I'm tired of being tired. I don't want to keep saying that. Let me tell you what energizes me. It energizes me to know that the Democrats are not responsible for the shutdown of our government since they don't have the majority in the House and can't persuade Republicans to fix their "ugly" bill that are against democracy. What Democrats can do is stand firm until Republican poll numbers drop so low that it scares them into voting correctly.

I'm energized by the memory of our civics teacher at Ligon, who taught us how our government works. Strange as it may seem, I'm energized by the message Harris gave us. She ran for president and will read her book, and I'm not going to pretend I agree with everything she says. She's already said things I view differently. For example, if she thought Pete would have been the best candidate, why didn't she choose to run with him?

I thought Tim Walsh was a great candidate. I'm energized by the idea that Sister may have wanted to win so badly that she compromised her own wisdom in order to try to win. There's a lesson there. I'm energized by the knowledge that God wants us to face our demons; when we have thought contrary to Him, He will withhold what we say we want to assist us by not giving us a victory that is built on wrong ideas. That would be absolutely wrong.

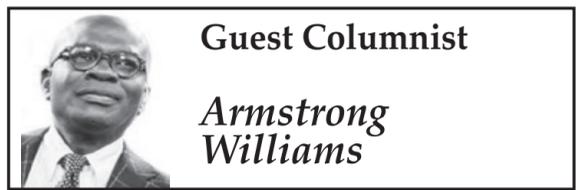
I'm energized by knowing that we shouldn't use drones to kill people based on assumption rather than fact. I'm energized by knowing that tearing down an entire wing of someone else's house to build a ballroom is out of step with Jesus' command to feed the poor, heal the sick, and house the homeless. I don't care who is donating money for it.

It gives me goosebumps of righteousness to be on the other side of this discussion. So what does any of this have to do with integration? Well, the idea that integration alone would achieve equality was wrong. There is nothing equal about sending little children across town to attend schools while our tax dollars fund the neighborhood schools where we don't live. In my energized mind, we neglected to appreciate that teachers in segregated schools gave everything they had to teach us so we could succeed. We neglected to see what they did with pencils, papers, used books, and blackboards.

We neglected to recognize that a welcoming classroom achieved much more than a scene where the National Guard had to accompany a child to school to protect them from those who rejected them. Finally, I am energized by the thought that what seems small becomes large when it comes from the Master's hand. Let's get energized by the fact that out of Crosby, Hunters', Legion, and Washington School came thrivers because of those who were educated in HBCUs.

We are a people who largely did not vote for what is going on now. From somewhere inside ourselves, we have common sense. We know that black children are not born less than. We know that children from projects can grow up to head corporations, become doctors and lawyers, or be secretaries and low-wage workers with integrity. We know that parents don't need college degrees for their children to later achieve success. We know much more than those who voted against their own healthcare, Head Start, and SNAP.

It energizes me to know that wrong can never produce right. So stop blaming the people who are standing for what is right for not influencing others to vote for them based on skin color and lies they have been told. Be energized and comforted by the fact that eventually we will all see clearly that wrong cannot stop what is right.



Guest Columnist

Armstrong Williams

THE SHUTDOWN WE NEED

It's fashionable to call the current federal government shutdown a "crisis," to focus on the missed paychecks, delayed services and bureaucratic disarray. But what if this standoff – this uncomfortable pause in government business – is exactly what the country needs right now? What if the dysfunction is finally forcing Washington, and all of us, to look in the mirror?

For too long, both parties have governed as if the laws of arithmetic didn't apply to them. Year after year, Congresses controlled by Republicans and Democrats alike have voted for budgets that plunge us deeper into debt – now a staggering \$38 trillion and counting. Each year, we add another \$1.5 trillion to \$2 trillion in deficits. These aren't emergency measures or wartime expenses. They're routine shortfalls – ordinary overspending that any responsible household, business or local government would never tolerate.

If a private company managed its books the way Washington manages ours, it would have long ago gone bankrupt. In truth, the United States already has – just not officially. We've papered over insolvency

with borrowed money, low interest rates and a political culture addicted to spending beyond its means. But reality always catches up, and ours is beginning to.

The cost of servicing the debt – just paying interest – is now consuming a historic share of federal spending. Hundreds of billions of dollars each year go not to defense or education or infrastructure but simply to keep up with our past excesses. That's money that could fund programs we all agree are essential – such as SNAP benefits, which millions of low-income Americans rely on and which may soon run dry during this very shutdown.

We are literally borrowing money to pay interest on money we already borrowed. That is not sustainable. It is financial quicksand, and the longer we avoid confronting it, the deeper we sink.

That's why, uncomfortable as it is, this fight is healthy. It's the fever that signals the infection is finally being recognized. For years, Washington has operated on the illusion that fiscal restraint is optional – that we can endlessly defer the reckoning. But the shutdown is forcing clarity. It's exposing the fault lines, the contradictions and, ultimately, the moral bankruptcy that underlies our fiscal one.

Yes, air traffic controllers deserve to be paid. Yes, federal workers in Maryland should not bear the brunt of political stalemate. But those hardships, as painful as they are, are minuscule compared to what's coming if we continue down this road. When interest payments alone begin to crowd out defense, infrastructure, and basic safety-net spending – when creditors begin to question the value of the dollar – the pain will be far more widespread and far more permanent.

The real crisis isn't the shutdown – it's the decades of moral cowardice that made it inevitable. Both parties share the blame. Republicans have cut taxes without cutting spending. Democrats have expanded entitlements without paying for them. Each side has defended its own priorities, and neither has had the courage to say what must be said: We can't have everything.

And Americans aren't innocent in this. We demand balanced budgets in principle but cheer for every new subsidy, every program that benefits us personally. We balance our own checkbooks while expecting the federal government to spend without limit. We want the benefits of a welfare state without the costs of one. Prior generations would have rightly called that moral weakness.

What we're facing now is not just a budgetary challenge – it's a moral one. A country that refuses to live within its means has lost something fundamental: its discipline, its honesty, its sense of responsibility to future generations. The national debt is not an abstract figure; it is the accumulated record of our moral failure to govern ourselves.

So let the debate continue. Let Congress face the arithmetic it has long ignored. This shutdown, frustrating as it is, may finally be the spark we need to begin a national reckoning with the truth: We are broke, and it is our own doing.

We will not fix this in one budget cycle or even one administration. It will take years of painful choices, shared sacrifice and political courage that has been absent for decades. But the sooner both parties – and the American people – accept that reality, the sooner the long road to solvency and sanity can begin.

Because the American experiment has never been sustained by money alone. It has endured through character – and that, at long last, is what must be restored.

GOVERNMENT SHUT DOWN AND NO SPEND NOVEMBER: DOLLARS NOT MAKING SENSE

By Jheri Hardaway

Staff Writer

Many Americans are hungry and fed up at the same time. As of November 2024, the U.S. federal government employed just over 3 million civilian employees. This figure includes about 600,000 postal workers but does not include active-duty military personnel, who are counted separately. An estimated 670,000 to 750,000 federal employees have been furloughed due to the ongoing government shutdown. Around 670,000 are officially furloughed, while another 730,000 are working without pay. In total, about 1.4 million federal employees have missed a full paycheck, according to the Bipartisan Policy Center.

The ongoing government shutdown persists as Democrats advocate for affordable healthcare and Republicans refuse to negotiate, citing unsubstantiated claims that undocumented immigrants would receive such benefits. While Republicans label it the "Democrat shutdown" and Democrats attribute it to "Trump's shutdown," the American populace commonly refers to it as the "government shutdown." The critical question now facing the American people is how to respond to this deadlock.

My household is observing No Spend November. This practice is defined by avoiding nonessential shopping for an entire month. Things like monthly bills are allowed, but online shopping and falling victim to social media advertisements are prohibited. With corporations like Target and Amazon, the intention is not to punish the companies but to prioritize how we as Americans engage with big business. Many employees of the mentioned companies do not make a living wage, which creates the need to work multiple jobs. What better way to wake up the leadership than to encourage them to think about their bottom line, as We The People must monitor ours with a fine-tooth comb.

A few steps to help with No Spend November can be found on NDT-VPProfit.com. First, determine what is essential, what you really need. Second, deal with social temptations; instead of window shopping, go outside for a walk. Don't put yourself in spending situations unnecessarily. Third, avoid the online ads, select show less or uninterested on ads that continue to reappear. Fourth, find free entertainment by exploring local groups that interest you. A quick social media search or newspaper reading will reveal local events and highlight groups doing impactful things in the area. Step outside and be with like-minded people, build community. Finally, make sure you track your progress. How much do you usually spend in a month? Keep a note of how many days you were able to spend \$0. Seeing success can be motivating.

America has a problem. America is in a place we've never seen before. The time has come to reevaluate how we spend and determine what is most important. No Spend November is an outstanding way to begin to sort out what is wanted versus what is needed in our daily budgets.



Classifieds

STATE OF WISCONSIN, CIRCUIT COURT, BROWN COUNTY

Case No. 25SC4619
Capital Credit Union, Plaintiff, v. Jennifer A. Topel, Defendant.
PUBLICATION SUMMONS AND NOTICE
TO: Jennifer A. Topel
4831 Smith Creek Parkway, #1203
Raleigh, NC 27612

You are hereby notified that a Small Claims action has been filed against you by Capital Credit Union in the Circuit Court for Brown County, Wisconsin. A copy of the claim has been sent to your last known address listed above.

The lawsuit will be heard as follows:

Date: November 26, 2025
Time: 1:15 p.m.

Location:
Brown County Courthouse
100 S. Jefferson Street
Green Bay, WI 54301
Telephone: (920) 448-4155

If you do not appear at the hearing, the Court may enter judgment against you in favor of the Plaintiff. A judgment awarding money may become a lien against any real estate you own now or in the future and may also be enforced by garnishment or seizure of property.

You may have the option to file a written Answer with the Clerk of Court before the hearing date instead of appearing in person. A copy of your Answer must be sent to the Plaintiff at the address below.

This, 28th day of October, 2025.
Plaintiff's Attorney:
Attorney John R. Petitjean
Hinkfuss, Sichel, Petitjean & Wieting, S.C.
125 S. Jefferson Street, Suite 101
Green Bay, WI 54301
Phone: (920) 432-7716
Email: mail@hspwlaw.com
11/6

DURHAM COUNTY

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

FILE NUMBER 25E001382-310
All persons, firms, and corporations having claims against the Estate of PATRICIA DUKE BECK, deceased, of Durham County, North Carolina, are notified to present the same to the undersigned on or before February 1, 2026, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery.

All persons indebted to the estate are requested to make immediate payment.

This the November 6, 2025.

James Monroe Beck, Jr.
Administrator
902 Johnston Court
Mebane, NC 27302
11/6, 11/13, 11/20, and 11/27/2025
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk

File Number 25E000484-310
THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 5th day of May 2025, as CO-ADMINISTRATORS of the Estate of TRAVIS S. BARBER, 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 6th day of February, 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 6th day of November 2025.

Danielle L. H. Barber & Scott W. Barber, Co-Administrators
3317 Rt. 98
Varysburg, NY 14167
11/6, 11/13, 11/20, and 11/27/2025
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk

File Number 25E001370-310
THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 29th day of October 2025, as EXECUTOR of the Estate of SUSHILA KHARE JAIN, 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 6th day of February, 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 6th day of November

2025.

Dinesh Jain, Executor
c/o Monroe, Wallace, Morden & Sherrill, P.A.
3225 Blue Ridge Road, Suite 117
Raleigh, NC 27612
11/6, 11/13, 11/20, and 11/27/2025
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 30th day of October, 2025, as Executor of the ESTATE OF NANCY D. MEYER, also known as NANCY DAVIS MEYER, Deceased, does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said Estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before February 9, 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 6th day of November, 2025.

Jennifer Dalman, Executor
ESTATE OF NANCY D. MEYER
AKA NANCY DAVIS MEYER
240 Leigh Farm Road, Suite 100
Durham, North Carolina 27707
11/6, 11/13, 11/20, and 11/27/2025
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

The undersigned, Pierre Osei-Owusu, having duly qualified as Administrator of the Estate of PETER OWUSU PREKO, 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 February 6, 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 6th day of November, 2025.

Pierre Osei-Owusu, Administrator
C/O Ronald G. Coulter, Attorney
3400 Croasdaile Drive Ste 205
Durham, NC 27705
1-919-246-5775

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF DURHAM

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 21st day of October, 2025, as Executor of the Estate of NELLIE CATHERINE HUNT, also known as NELLIE CATHERINE RILEY HUNT, Deceased, does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said Estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before January 31st, 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 30th day of October, 2025.

Andrea Gayle Hunt Tart, Executor
ESTATE OF NELLIE CATHERINE HUNT AKA NELLIE CATHERINE RILEY HUNT
c/o Jennifer Dalman, Attorney
Walker Lambe, PLLC
240 Leigh Farm Road, Suite 100
Durham, North Carolina 27707
10/30, 11/6, 11/13, and 11/20/2025
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk

File Number 25E001216-310
THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 23rd day of October 2025, as ADMINISTRATOR of the Estate of LAURA FRANCES AIRHEART TERRY, 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 30th 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 30th day of October 2025.

Frances Patricia Terry Byrd, Administrator, c/o Richard F. Prentis, Jr., a Consultant Pl., Durham, NC 27707
10/30, 11/6, 11/13, and 11/20/2025
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

FILE NUMBER 25E001340-310
All persons, firms, and corporations having claims against the Estate of JAMES MONROE BECK, deceased, of Durham County, North Carolina, are notified to present the same

to the undersigned on or before February 1, 2026, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery.

All persons indebted to the estate are requested to make immediate payment.

This the October 27, 2025.

James Monroe Beck, Jr.
Administrator
902 Johnston Court
Mebane, NC 27302
10/30, 11/6, 11/13, and 11/20/2025
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk

File Number 25E001145-310
THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 22nd day of October 2025, as ADMINISTRATOR CTA of the Estate of LOUIS LIVERMORE SAWYER, 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 30th 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 30th day of October 2025.

Lillian Livermore, Administrator CTA
107 S. Edenborough Street
Red Springs, NC 28377
10/30, 11/6, 11/13, and 11/20/2025
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Having qualified as Personal Representative of the Estate of ESTHER LOUISE MOUSSETTE (25E001101-310), late of Durham County, North Carolina, the undersigned does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the estate of said decedent to exhibit them to the undersigned at PO Box 40, Hampstead, NC 28443 on or before January 27, 2026 or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms and corporations indebted to the said estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This the 23rd day of October, 2025.

Diana Jayne Luck, Personal Representative
c/o Shingleton Law, PLLC
PO Box 40
Hampstead, NC 28443

10/23, 10/30, 11/6, and 11/13/2025
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk

File Number 25E000802-310
THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 16th day of June 2025, as ADMINISTRATOR of the Estate of PEARL ELOZ MCGILL, 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 24th 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 23rd day of October 2025.

Christopher Wayne McGill
Administrator
1110 Sweet Gale Drive
Durham, NC 27704
10/23, 10/30, 11/6, and 11/13/2025
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk

File Number 25E001284-310
THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 7th day of October 2025, as EXECUTOR of the Estate of RICHARD ALAN YENOFF, 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 24th 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 23rd day of October 2025.

Elliot Irwin Klayman, Executor
8148 Avenida Navidad, #41
San Diego, CA 92122
10/23, 10/30, 11/6, and 11/13/2025
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

WAKE COUNTY

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA WAKE COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk

File Number 25E001542-910
THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 11th day of September 2025, as EXECUTOR of the Estate of JOHNNY MARYLAND PETTIFORD, 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 6th day of February, 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 6th day of November 2025.
o11/6, 11/13, 11/20, and 11/27/2025
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA WAKE COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk

File Number 23E002457-910
THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 3rd day of May 2023, as ADMINISTRATOR of the Estate of YUK CHIU PHILIP YEUNG, 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 6th day of February, 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 6th day of November 2025.

Siu Sum Chan, Administrator
c/o Law Office of Fiona Wang, PLLC
135 Parkway Office Ct., Suite 205
Cary, NC 27518
11/6, 11/13, 11/20, and 11/27/2025
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA WAKE COUNTY

NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION

In the General Court of Justice,
District Court Division,

File #25CV019531-910 [CHILD CUSTODY PROCEEDING] Plaintiff MIRIAN VALLECILLO DISCUA v. JORGE AVILA VELASQUEZ and CARMEN VALLECILLO DISCUA, Defendants, parents of G.F.A.V. born 2/22/2010.

File #25CV019535-910 [CHILD CUSTODY PROCEEDING], Plaintiff MIRIAN VALLECILLO DISCUA v. JORGE GALEANO CARGAMO, Defendant, father of B.A.G.V. born 10/16/2010.

TAKE NOTICE that a pleading seeking relief against you has been filed in the above-entitled action. A hearing date of 2/26/26 has been scheduled. The relief sought is an award of child custody to Plaintiff. You are required to make defense with the Wake County Clerk of Court no later than 12/12/2025 (40 days from first publication). Upon your failure to do so, Plaintiff will apply to the Court for the relief sought. Katherine Moye, Attorney for Plaintiff, P.O. Box 58058, Raleigh, NC, 27658, 919-794-7511. The Carolinian; 11/6, 11/13, and 11/20/2025 \STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA WAKE COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk

File Number 25E003430-910
THE UNDERSIGNED, having

qualified on the 12th day of September 2025, as EXECUTOR of the Estate of MICHAEL WILLIAM FAIRLEY, 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 30th 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 30th day of October 2025.

Lashawn McLamb, Executor
2000 Gilliam Lane
Raleigh, NC 27610

10/30, 11/6, 11/13, and 11/20/2025
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA WAKE COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk

File Number 25E003893-910
THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 6th day of October 2025, as ADMINISTRATOR of the Estate of ALICE HART BALL A/K/A ALICE HART PARTIN-BALL A/K/A ALICE HART PARTIN BALL, 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 24th 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 23rd day of October 2025.

Jammy Angela Ball, Administrator
2304 Dorety Place
Raleigh, NC 27604
10/23, 10/30, 11/6, and 11/13/2025

WARREN COUNTY

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA WARREN COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

All persons, firms and corporations having claims against STEWART K. SUTTON, DECEASED, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before January 21, 2025, or this notice along with the appropriate general statute will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors the deceased are asked to make immediate payment. This the 23rd day of October, 2025. All correspondence should be to the Estate of Stewart K. Sutton, c/o William W. Browning, Attorney, 120 E. Main Street, Durham, NC 27701.
10/23, 10/30, 11/6, and 11/13/2025.

WANTED WBE, MBE & DBE BIDS

for the following job:

City of Wilson

Hines Street, Lodge Street and Goldsboro Street

Bid# - 2526-17-RA Wilson Co. Bid Date: Nov. 12th

These projects may involve some or all of the following aspects of construction: construction survey, clear and grub, trucking, drainage, milling, paving, incidental concrete, fence and guardrail, signs, structures, traffic control, utilities, signals, pavement marking, erosion control and seeding.
Bids can be emailed to stw.quotes@stwc.com

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

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

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

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VETERANS DAY

HONORING ALL WHO SERVED

2025 Veterans Day Free Meals, Restaurant Deals and Discounts

Looking for Veterans Day restaurant military discounts for 2025? This list will be updated regularly as new discounts come in. Below are the discounts that were available for 2024.

All of the discounts have been confirmed, either through press release or direct communication with the company. Check out all the other discounts being offered this Veterans Day.

Keep in mind that most businesses require proof of military service. Not sure what type of ID you need to prove that you're a veteran? We compiled a list of common types of veteran identification.

Not all franchise locations participate in their national chain's Veterans Day programs -- be sure contact your nearest establishment to make sure they are participating.

To honor members of the military, these restaurants are offering veterans free meals or beverages on or around Veterans Day, November 11.

Another Broken Egg Cafe -- Another Broken Egg Cafe is inviting

veterans, active duty, and retired military personnel to enjoy a complimentary Patriot French Toast topped with strawberries, blueberries, and whipped cream -- paired with Barista House Blend Coffee -- on November 11, for dine-in guests presenting a valid Military ID.

Applebee's -- Veteran and active-duty military receive a free meal from a select menu on November 11 at participating locations. Dine-in only.

Biscuit Belly -- Veterans eat free on November 11 with choice of Bacon Egg & Cheese, Sausage Egg & Cheese, or Chicken Biscuit Sandwich and a hot drip coffee or fountain drink. All locations are participating, dine in only.

Bob Evans -- Veterans and active-duty military get a free meal from a select menu on November 11. Dine-in only.

Bruegger's Bagels -- Veterans and active-duty military get a free hot or iced coffee (any size) on November 11. Guests can enjoy their complimentary coffee in-bakery, through

the mobile app, or online using code FREECOFFEE. No purchase is required.

California Pizza Kitchen -- On November 11, veterans and active-duty service members are invited to enjoy a complimentary entrée and beverage from a special prix fixe menu when dining in at any participating CPK location.

Carolina Ale House -- Veterans and military members get a free half rack rib platter on November 11. Only valid at NC, FL, and TN locations. In-store only.

Chili's -- Veterans and active-duty military members get a free meal on November 11 at all participating restaurants. Available in-restaurant only for select items. Military ID required to redeem offer.

Circle K -- On November 11, veterans get one free medium hot or iced coffee.

Cracker Barrel -- On November 11, veterans and active-duty service members with valid ID get a free Sunrise Pancake Special.

Denny's -- Veterans and active-

duty military personnel receive a free Original Grand Slam on November 11 from 5am to 12pm. Must show valid Military ID or DD214.

Einstein Bros. Bagels -- Veterans and active-duty military get a free hot or iced coffee (any size) on November 11.

Firehouse Subs -- On November 11, active-duty military personnel and veterans can enjoy any size sub and receive a second sub for free with valid military ID.

Golden Corral -- Golden Corral is hosting their Military Appreciation Night on November 11 from 4pm to close. This includes a free "thank you" meal when dining in.

Hooters -- This Veterans Day, Hooters offers a free menu item on November 11. Veterans can choose from 10 Original Wings, Cheeseburger, Buffalo Chicken Sandwich, or Chicken Caesar Salad, free with drink purchase.

In-N-Out Burger -- On November 11, veterans, active-duty military, reserves and National Guard receive a complimentary meal, including any

burger, fries, and beverage on In-N-Out Burger's menu. Present proof of military service.

O'Charley's -- O'Charley's will offer a free entrée to all veterans and active-duty military with valid ID from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on both November 10 and 11. Guests dining in can choose any entrée from the Daily Dinner Deals Menu.

Olive Garden -- On November 11, Olive Garden will offer each veteran and current member of the military who dines in a free entrée from a special menu. Simply show proof of military service.

Outback Steakhouse -- Outback is offering a free Aussie 3-Course Meal with valid military ID when dining in on November 10 and 11 (select entrées only).

Red Robin -- Veterans and active-duty military guests can enjoy a complimentary Red's Big Tavern Burger and Bottomless Side when dining in at participating restaurants on November 11.

Ruby Tuesday -- Ruby Tuesday is offering a free Garden Bar Entrée or Free Garden Bar Add-On on November 11, to veterans (retired and active-duty military with valid ID).

The Changing Profile Of The U.S. Military



Pew Research Center

By Amanda Barroso

Today's active duty military is smaller and more racially and ethnically diverse than in previous generations. The gender dynamics also have changed over the course of the past 50 years, with more women serving in the military -- and as ranking officers -- than ever before.

These demographic changes in the active forces also have been reshaping the profile of the veteran population.

The overall size of the U.S. military has been on a downward trajectory for several decades. Some of the declines in military participation that followed the Cold War and Gulf War were halted with the 9/11 terrorist attacks. Later, conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan increased the overall size of the military.

In 2017, there were roughly 1.34 million men and women serving on active duty. This number is down from a recent high of 1.46 million in 2010 and down substantially from more than 2 million active duty service members in 1990.

In 2017, women represented 16% of the overall active duty force, up from 9% in 1980 and just 1% in 1970.

The percentage of officers who are women has steadily grown since the 1970s. For example, in 1975, 5% of commissioned officers were women, and, by 2017, that share had risen to 18%. By 2023 that number rose again slightly to 18.2%.

A look at the racial and ethnic profile of active duty service members shows that while the majority of the military is non-Hispanic white, black and Hispanic adults represent sizable and growing shares of the armed forces. In 2017, 57% of U.S. servicemembers were white, 16% were black and 16% were Hispanic. Some 4% of all active duty personnel were Asian and an additional 6% identified as "other" or unknown.

The share of racial and ethnic minorities in the military has grown steadily in recent decades. Hispanics, in particular, are the fastest growing minority population in the military -- a shift that aligns with larger demographic trends in the United States.

In 2004, 36% of active duty military were black, Hispanic, Asian or some other racial or ethnic group. Black service members made up about half of all racial and ethnic minorities at that time.

By 2017, the share of active duty military who were non-Hispanic white had fallen, while racial and ethnic minorities made up 43% -- and within that group, blacks dropped from 51% in 2004 to 39% in 2017 just as the share of Hispanics rose from 25% to 36%.

Today's military is comprised of service members who served during a wide range of eras, from World War II to the post-9/11 conflicts. But the share who served in pre-9/11 eras will dwindle in future decades.

In 2015, the largest share of veterans first served during the Vietnam era (33%). Projections from the Department of Veterans Affairs show the waning influence of veterans from the World War II, Korean War and Vietnam eras. By 2045, the largest share of living veterans will have first served in the post-9/11 Gulf War era (35%).

A Brief History Of America's Veterans Day

By Dr. Joy Martinez

Staff Writer

America has been involved in wars large and small since before the actual establishment of the nation. King Philip's War--also known as the First Indian War, the Great Narragansett War or Metacom's Rebellion--took place in southern New England from 1675 to 1676. It was the Native Americans' final stand to avoid recognizing English authority and stop English settlement on their native lands. The war is named after the Wampanoag chief Metacom, later known as Philip or King Philip, who led the 14-month bloody rebellion.

Wars and American involvement in them have changed dramatically over the years. The majority of early American wars were fought on American soil. Twentieth-century wars such as World Wars I and II, by contrast, were fought overseas; few Americans on the homefront saw any type of direct engagement during these.

While the attack on Pearl Harbor during World War II and the attack on the World Trade Center in 2001 resulted in thousands of American deaths, the most recent war fought on American soil was the Civil War, which ended in 1865.

World War I officially ended when the Treaty of Versailles was signed on June 28, 1919. However, the fighting ended about seven months before that when the Allies and Germany put into effect an armistice on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month.

For that reason, Nov. 11, 1918, was largely considered the end of "the war to end all wars" and dubbed Armistice Day. Armistice Day officially received its name through a U.S. Congressional resolution in 1926 as it was officially recognized as the end of the war, and in 1938, it became an official holiday, primarily a day set aside to honor veterans of World War I.

In 1921, an unknown World War



I American soldier was buried in Arlington National Cemetery. Located on a hillside overlooking the Potomac River and the city of Washington, D.C., the site became the focal point of reverence for America's veterans.

Similar ceremonies occurred earlier in England and France, where an unknown soldier was buried in each nation's highest place of honor (in England, Westminster Abbey; in France, the Arc de Triomphe). Each of these memorial gestures were held on November 11, giving universal recognition to the celebrated ending of World War I fighting at 11 a.m., November 11, 1918.

But then World War II and the Korean War happened, so on June 1, 1954, at the urging of veterans service organizations, Congress amended the commemoration yet again

by changing the word "armistice" to "veterans" so the day would honor American veterans of all wars. The first celebration using the term Veterans Day occurred in Birmingham, Ala., in 1947. Raymond Weeks, a World War II veteran, organized "National Veterans Day," which included a parade and other festivities, to honor all veterans.

Each century Americans have been called to arms. There are approximately 19 million U.S. veterans as of this year, according to data from the Department of Veterans Affairs. While there have been wars fought with almost universal popular support, many were subject to intense debate questioning its utility or morality.

Nevertheless, there has always been an unbroken, common thread--the matchless courage of the individuals that protect our freedom through armed service to the nation.

Every war has been distinguished by this selfless sacrifice, and we honor all those men and women who served in the listed conflicts, veterans who will never be forgotten.

1675-1676 King Philip's War
New England Colonies vs. Wampanoag, Narragansett, and Nipmuck peoples.

1689-1697 King William's War
The English Colonies vs. France

1702-1713 Queen Anne's War (War of Spanish Succession)
The English Colonies vs. France

1744-1748 King George's War (War of Austrian Succession)
The French Colonies vs. Great Britain

1756-1763 French and Indian War (Seven Years War)
The French Colonies vs. Great Britain

1759-1761 Cherokee War
English Colonists vs. Cherokee Nation

1775-1783 American Revolution
English Colonists vs. Great Britain

1798-1800 Franco-American Naval War
United States vs. France

1801-1805; 1815 Barbary Wars

United States vs. Morocco, Algiers, Tunis, and Tripoli

1812-1815 War of 1812
United States vs. Great Britain

1813-1814 Creek War
United States vs. Creek Nation

1836 Mexican War of Independence
Texas vs. Mexico

1846-1848 Mexican-American War
United States vs. Mexico

1861-1865 U.S. Civil War
Union vs. Confederacy

1898 Spanish-American War
United States vs. Spain

1914-1918 World War I
Triple Alliance: Germany, Italy, and Austria-Hungary vs. Triple Entente: Britain, France, and Russia. The United States joined on the side of the Triple Entente in 1917

1939-1945 World War II
Axis Powers: Germany, Italy, Japan vs. Major Allied Powers: United States, Great Britain, France, and Russia

1950-1953 Korean War
United States (as part of the United Nations) and South Korea vs. North Korea and Communist China

1960-1975 Vietnam War
United States and South Vietnam vs. North Vietnam

1961 Bay of Pigs Invasion
United States vs. Cuba

1983 Grenada
United States intervention

1989 U.S. Invasion of Panama
United States vs. Panama

1990-1991 Persian Gulf War
United States and Coalition Forces vs. Iraq

1995-1996 Intervention in Bosnia and Herzegovina
United States as part of NATO acted as peacekeepers in former Yugoslavia

2001-2021 Invasion of Afghanistan
United States and Coalition Forces vs. the Taliban regime in Afghanistan to fight terrorism

2003-2011 Invasion of Iraq
United States and Coalition Forces vs. Iraq

... and the list goes on ...

IT IS A CRISIS

Continued from page 2

The squeeze in small cities

In northern Utah's Davis County, Clearfield is proudly the home of Hill Air Force Base. Since the 1940s, a large share of military air force personnel have worked and lived nearby.

But Shepherd, the mayor, says his city -- with about 32,000 people and once the blue-collar "starter home capital" -- has transformed into a market that military families can no longer afford.

"It's scary," Shepherd, a Republican who was elected in 2013, told StateLine. "We used to be where people came for their first homes. Now, four airmen are splitting a two-bedroom apartment."

Despite limited land, Clearfield has permitted or built 4,000 homes in five years, many through denser, vertical development. Shepherd, a longtime real estate agent, is pushing for Utah to expand condominium construction and creative financing tools, including through a new \$300 million state loan program.

"Everybody wants ownership," he said. "If someone wants to buy, we have an obligation to help make that happen."

But he's frank about the political headwinds: resistance to density, neighboring cities blocking townhome projects, and a state legislature eager to preempt local control.

"Density is a swear word for elected officials," Shepherd said. "Some cities just won't build, and when the carrot doesn't work, sometimes you have to bring out the stick."

Shepherd said housing challenges are a constant topic among his peers across the country, especially in communities tied to military installations. As a member of the National League of Cities' Military Communities Council, he regularly exchanges ideas with other mayors facing similar shortages.

"I haven't had one mayor of a military city tell me they're totally fine with housing," he said. "Everywhere, it's the same story. ... The demand is high, the supply is tight, and servicemembers are getting priced out."

Pressure from outside city borders

In Atlanta, one of the economic and cultural hubs of the South, Mayor Andre Dickens has seen the city get some good headlines in its efforts to address housing issues.

Rediscovery of Burial — CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

Inspired by the 1990 Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act that recognized Indigenous rights over ancestral remains, African American communities increasingly asserted their own rights to ethical research, respectful handling and meaningful memorialization, especially during the 1991 New York African Burial Ground project, which reshaped public memory and archaeological ethics.

Discovered during construction in lower Manhattan, the 18th-century burial ground contained the remains of more than 400 enslaved and free Africans. Community advocacy led to the site's protection, descendant-led research, ceremonial reburial and the establishment of a national memorial in 2006.

Since this time, across the U.S. and the Atlantic world, descendant-led ceremonies from Portsmouth, New Hampshire, to Key West, Florida, have restored dignity to ancestral remains.

Meanwhile, efforts to preserve African American burial grounds, including by national scholar organizations and federal lawmakers, continue amid political debates

over how history should be remembered and taught.

What made the Anson Street project unique

In Charleston, the Anson Street African Burial Ground project stands out for the way Gullah Geechee traditions and descendant collaboration shaped every stage of the process -- from scientific study to reinterment.

Launched as a community-led initiative in 2017, the team began by listening. Through regular gatherings, they invited questions about the ancestors' lives and identities, and about their hopes for the reburial, centering Black community voices at every stage. The team combined scientific investigations of ancestry and health while also creating space for spiritual guidance, ceremony and descendant leadership. In doing so, the project became more than a study of the past; it became a communal act of repair and remembrance, reconnecting Charleston's present communities with the ancestors whose stories had long been buried.

Over the next two years, the team wove this commitment into

every aspect of its work: youth art programs, a college course on memorial design, public exhibitions, and school partnerships. One of the most moving moments came from conversations with schoolchildren, who decided that the ancestors should be given names before they were reburied.

That naming ceremony took place in April 2019. The names were conferred by Natalie Washington-Weik, a Yorùbá-Orisa Q sun priestess, a spiritual leader in a West African tradition and an African historian. She described the ritual as an "important step forward in reclaiming the humanity of the deceased people who were most likely forced to travel across the Atlantic Ocean under the terror of other humans -- who saw them merely as animals."

The ancestors were finally reinterred in a powerful public ceremony that reflected their ancestries and West-Central African spiritual traditions.

When pain is acknowledged, healing can occur

The 2019 naming and reinterment ceremonies were not simply

commemorations; they were rituals of remembrance and healing.

Construction for a permanent memorial at the Anson Street site, designed by artist Stephen L. Hayes Jr., has now begun. At its center is a basin fabricated with sacred soil collected from 36 African-descended burial grounds across the Charleston region. From the basin, 36 bronze hands will rise -- cast from living community members whose profiles reflect those of the ancestors. Raised in gestures of prayer, resistance and reverence, these hands link past to present.

Throughout the memorialization process, community members reflected on what it meant to participate in such a project. Many spoke of feeling pride, reverence, joy, sadness and peace. "This conversation makes me feel complete," one participant said.

As Charleston demonstrates, these projects are not only about preserving the past -- they are acts of recognition, respect and reconciliation, helping communities nationwide confront and honor the histories long denied to African-descended peoples.

“My journey has been one of continuous growth and learning.”



Ryan P.
Retail Banking Team Manager
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