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RALEIGH, N.C.

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 20 - NOVEMBER 26, 2025

VOL. 86, NO. 4

Black Athletes Are Still Making History In '25



BRYCE YOUNG

The No. 1 pick of the 2023 draft, with his ankle heavily taped, passed for a franchise-record 448 yards and three touchdowns. He drove the Panthers in position for the winning field goal in overtime thanks to a short pass that tight end Tommy Tremble turned into 54-yard gain. Young almost single-handedly helped Carolina improve to 6-5 and move a half-game behind the NFC South-leading Tampa Bay Buccaneers (6-4).

In the end, Young topped Cam Newton's single-game Panthers record of 432 passing yards, set in 2011 during a Week 2 game against the Green Bay Packers.

It all kept the Panthers in position for a winning season and a shot at the playoffs for the first time since 2017, the year before owner David Tepper purchased the team.



ANGEL REESE

Angel Reese has made history in several ways, including becoming the first professional athlete to walk the Victoria's Secret Fashion Show runway, setting the WNBA record for the most double-doubles in her first two seasons, and becoming the fastest player to reach 500 points and 500 rebounds. She also holds records for consecutive double-double streaks and consecutive games with 15+ rebounds.

Reese is a former Louisiana State University national champion and NCAA tournament most outstanding player in 2023.

Reese has become one of the most visible figures in women's sports. Her style, outspokenness and social media influence have helped bridge the gap between sports, fashion and pop culture.



JCSU ENDS DROUGHT

In front of over 5000 fans, and filling the Visitors' side, the Johnson C. Smith Golden Bulls defeated the Virginia Union Panthers for the 2025 CIAA Football Championship at Durham County Stadium on November 15, 2025 with a 45-14 score. The victory ended a Fifty-Six year drought of a CIAA Championship Title.

With the Golden Bulls scoring first after an interception and pass into the endzone, JC Smith was able to hold the VA Union Panthers to 14 points due to a tough defense and aggressive offense.

Congratulations to the Johnson C Smith Golden Bulls and their 2025 CIAA Football Championship Title!



LEBRON JAMES

LeBron James made history by starting his 23rd season, becoming the first NBA player ever to do so, surpassing Vince Carter's record. In his season debut, he also moved into sixth place on the all-time three-pointers list and extended his record for consecutive double-digit scoring games.

LeBron put up a double-double of 11 points and 12 assists in his first game back — and his passes looked especially sharp.

In the second quarter, LeBron made the 2,561st regular-season 3-pointer of his career, passing Reggie Miller for sixth place on the NBA's all-time regular-season list.



NOAH LYLES

In 2025, Noah Lyles made history by winning his fourth consecutive world title in the 200m, tying Usain Bolt's record at the World Athletics Championships. He also earned a bronze medal in the 100m and a gold in the 4x100m relay, solidifying his status as a dominant force in sprinting.

The 28-year-old Lyles joins Bolt, the 100m and 200m world record holder, as the only two in history -- man or woman -- to win the 200m on four separate occasions at the world championships.



CALEB WILSON

North Carolina freshman forward Caleb Wilson has made history by becoming the first Tar Heel freshman to score 100 or more points in his first five games since Cole Anthony in the 2019-20 season.

November 19 - Caleb Wilson scored 23 points and grabbed 12 rebounds and sparked a key second-half run in No. 18 North Carolina's 73-61 victory against Navy on Tuesday night in Chapel Hill, N.C.

Durham Senator Hosts NC Medicaid Providers: Funding Crisis Deepens

By Jheri Hardaway

Staff Writer

NC General Assembly - Durham Senator Natalie Murdock held a hearing regarding Medicaid on November 17th. The political standoff over fully funding North Carolina's Medicaid system is pushing healthcare providers to a devastating breaking point, threatening to dismantle critical services for the state's most vulnerable citizens. This stark reality was presented during a recent emergency hearing hosted by Senator Natalie Murdock, where clinic owners and advocates offered emotional, first-hand accounts of the crisis. Representatives Abe Jones and Phil Rubin were also on hand to listen to Medicaid providers.

The hearing highlighted the desperate straits of pediatric therapists and specialized care providers who have not seen a Medicaid rate increase in over 20 years and are now reeling from recent cuts. Senator

Murdock, representing South Durham and Chatham County, a district where a hospital is at risk of closure due to the funding shortfall, opened the discussion with a clear call to action. "I heard from clinics," Senator Murdock stated, "they have not seen a Medicaid rate increase in more than 20 years, while the cost of rent, supplies, wages, and insurance has climbed steadily... Let me be clear, when a family cannot find a provider who will accept Medicaid, that is not just an inconvenience, that is a denial of medically necessary care. The core of the issue is the failure of the General Assembly to fully fund the Medicaid rebates, a process that should align reimbursement rates with the actual cost of care in 2025, not 2003.

Avani Shah, a speech pathologist and owner of Therapy Smarts, testified that the current reimbursement rate is now 9% lower than what it was 21 years ago. "We are not asking for luxuries," Shah pleaded. "We're

only asking for sustainability so that these children can continue to receive the care they deserve."

The financial peril has only been exacerbated by a recent 3% cut to therapy reimbursements, a reduction that has profound, non-numerical consequences. As Kristen DeSana, a pediatric speech-language pathologist, explained: "This cut comes after more than 20 years without a single rate increase... We can't absorb another cut. Small community-based providers like my practice are the backbone of Medicaid services, and we're at risk of disappearing." The hearing was defined by powerful testimonials from families and providers alike, emphasizing that the cuts are a "direct threat to children's access to life-changing care."

Representatives from Mom's Rising shared poignant stories from across the state. They spoke of children relying on Medicaid for critical heart medications, adults with complex disabilities maintaining

dignity in community living, and stroke survivors fighting to go home after two years in a skilled nursing facility. The most emotional plea came from Stephanie Molina, owner of KM Pediatric Therapy, who spoke through tears on behalf of her team and the children who cannot speak for themselves. "We are begging you to stop this," Molina said, her voice heavy with the gravity of the situation. She highlighted the painful irony of her highly educated staff—including those with Master's and PhDs—working "diligently, day in and day out" but reaching a "breaking point." Molina also revealed that many therapists are paid per visit, not salaried, meaning every missed appointment, every cancellation during flu season, and every political delay translates directly into lost income. She shared the shocking reality of full-time therapists having to bartend or look into becoming

(See FUNDING CRISIS, P. 5)



STEIN ANNOUNCES \$1B RARE EARTH MAGNET PLANT IN JOHNSTON COUNTY

The small town of Benson, North Carolina is about to become home to the largest magnet factory in the world outside of China.

Gov. Josh Stein announced Tuesday that North Carolina-based defense contractor Vulcan Elements will open a nearly \$1 billion rare earth magnet plant in Benson, bringing 1,000 jobs to Johnston County. The plant is projected to grow the state's economy by \$2.6 billion over the next 12 years.

The facility will produce advanced neodymium iron boron magnets used in everything from smartphones to AI data centers to military drones. It's the latest round in the manufacturing race between the U.S. and China, as the American government seeks to rebuild a defense industry that can compete on even footing.

According to Vulcan Elements CEO John Maslin, China produces 94 to 98% of the world's supply of rare earth magnets, while the U.S. manufactures less than 1%. That imbalance, he said, could be "weaponized to impair national security."

The facility is certain to transform Benson, with enough workers to make up about a quarter of the town's current population. Its projected average salary of about \$81,900 is roughly one-and-a-half times the average in Johnston County.

And the plant will bring major infrastructure changes with it, with about \$250,000 in anticipated funding for road improvements from the General Assembly. The project will require the state to move nearly \$6 million into its industrial development fund for utility upgrades.

FEDERAL IMMIGRATION RAIDS IN RALEIGH IMPACT ONE OF THE CITY'S LARGEST PROJECTS

One of the first casualties of the U.S. Customs and Border Protection's planned crackdown in the capital city was Raleigh's new City Hall.

The \$260 million building, which will be 17 stories when it's complete, is being built on the site of the city's former police station. Normally the site is buzzing with activity. On Tuesday morning, hours after word of the immigration raids spread, work was at a standstill. Heavy equipment was parked. Workers were scarce.

"Usually you have at least about 200 people on the site," Bob Johnson, one of the few construction workers on the site, told NC Newsline.

He acknowledged that his co-workers were worried about ICE agents. "There's a lot that can't be done. I mean, you have framing, electrical, you have guys working painting, you know, precast," said Johnson. "There's a lot of trades that are not here because of that situation."

Johnson said the fear that the announced immigration raids generated was definitely holding up the work planned for this week.

"Well, we're talking about losing profit. The project itself will be behind schedule because it can cause a chain of events when it comes to other workers and other trades as well," he said.

While federal agents have said the raids are designed to target criminals, Johnson said most of the people he works with on the city hall project are here because they want a better opportunity until they can become legal.

"I definitely don't shun them at all. They're very helpful. They make up half of our workforce. This is a dying trade."

CBP's immigration raids not only affected the massive construction project, but the small food truck that normally provides drinks and meals for the workers. Johnson noted even they stayed away rather than venture into downtown Raleigh.

"And I just feel bad for the families that are dependent on the guys to work the hours," Johnson said.

"You're talking about fathers and brothers being the prime breadwinner for their home."

Johnson said while he supports the overall goal of improving public safety, he would like to see a less disruptive approach, especially in a profession where immigrant workers are needed.

"Heck, if Americans won't or can't do [the work], why not give it to those that's coming in? They're doing a job for us."

The immigration enforcement surge in the Charlotte area has resulted in the arrest of over 130 immigrants in two days. The Department of Homeland Security released a statement listing several detainees it describe as "the worst of the worst criminal illegal aliens."

As the Border Patrol expands its enforcement efforts to Raleigh, Siembra NC said that there was little evidence that the operation conducted in Charlotte was targeting individuals with criminal records.

Federal Agents Expand Border Patrol Crackdown To Raleigh And Durham

By Jordan Meadows

Staff Writer

Federal immigration authorities expanded their presence into Raleigh on Tuesday, intensifying an enforcement surge that began in Charlotte over the weekend and has already produced more than 130 arrests. Raleigh Mayor Janet Cowell confirmed Monday that agents with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and Customs and Border Protection (CBP) "are already in Raleigh" and will be active throughout the week.

City leaders were given little insight into the scope of the federal operation. Cowell said Raleigh Police were neither informed of operational plans nor asked to collaborate—echoing similar reports from Mecklenburg County Sheriff Garry McFadden, who said Charlotte authorities were also left in the dark during the weekend surge.

"As the capital city, it is important to us that everyone who lives, works, plays, and learns in Raleigh feels safe," Cowell said in a statement. "While the Raleigh Police Department is not involved in immigration enforcement, we are committed to protecting our residents and following the law." She emphasized that residents should still call 911 for assistance and that crime in Raleigh remains down year-over-year, urging the public to remain calm.

Gov. Josh Stein criticized the federal approach, urging agents to

focus on violent offenders rather than residents simply "walking down the street, going to church, or putting up Christmas decorations." He condemned what he described as profiling in Charlotte and warned against similar tactics in Raleigh.

Durham Mayor Leo Williams also denounced the strategy, saying, "We denounce any effort that promotes exclusion, incites fear, undermines human rights and compromises safety... Durham does not operate from fear."

Local governments across the Triangle report that DHS and CBP have provided minimal information about arrest priorities, operational duration, or the number of agents involved. As of Tuesday, federal agencies had issued no public statements on their Raleigh plans.

Federal officials argue they are focusing on North Carolina because of "sanctuary policies" limiting cooperation between local law enforcement and ICE. Counties including Wake, Durham, Orange, and Mecklenburg elected sheriffs in 2018 who vowed to curtail certain ICE collaborations. Although state lawmakers later mandated ICE notification in some cases, federal officials continue to label several counties—especially Durham—as sanctuary jurisdictions, a designation local leaders dispute.

Observers note that North Carolina offers the administration a politically strategic backdrop: a closely divided state, Democratic-led urban counties, and less national pushback



than in larger cities such as Chicago or Los Angeles. Republican advocates of the crackdown have pointed to isolated crimes, such as the killing of Iryna Zarutka in Charlotte, as justification.

Beyond Latino immigrant communities, the enforcement surge has also triggered widespread anxiety among South Asian residents in the Research Triangle Park region, many of whom work in high-tech industries and possess valid visas or green cards.

In Morrisville—where nearly half of the more than 30,000 residents are Asian—Mayor Pro Tempore Satish Garimella said the expected arrival of federal agents has created "a lot of panic." Garimella, who immigrated from India and is now a U.S.

citizen, warned that even lawfully present immigrants worry they may be questioned or mistakenly detained.

He is advising residents to carry IDs, passports, immigration documents, and proof of legal status at all times.

With federal agencies silent on their plans and local governments receiving sparse information, uncertainty continues to deepen throughout the Triangle. Immigrant advocacy group Siembra NC reports credible activity planned for Raleigh and Garner, and volunteers are tracking sightings via a statewide map.

Mayor Cowell urged unity and calm, saying, "This is a key moment to reaffirm our commitment to serving all members of our community... Together we are Raleigh Strong."

6 Reasons To Start Your Home Remodel In The Fall, Winter

BPI—While spring and summer are popular for larger-scale construction projects, there are many reasons homeowners opt for a home remodel in fall and winter. Below, discover six advantages to remodeling during the cooler months.

1. Gain Inspiration from Trade Shows

Dozens of building and construction trade shows take place in the United States in the fall and winter seasons.

You can find trade shows specific to

pools and spas, decks and patios, kitchens and bathrooms, or general home renovation. These shows and expos are attended by decorators, designers, suppliers, and other remodeling and building professionals to provide consumers and homeowners with information about the latest trends in building products.

Attending a trade show may seem like a big-time commitment for a home renovation project. But the trade-off is acquiring expert

knowledge and tips for leveling up your forever home or next property flip. In fact, one show in January 2023, hosted by the National Association of the Remodeling Industry and the Madison Area Builders Association, boasts over 45 free seminars.

2. Perform Indoor Work During Spouts of Bad Weather

Depending on where you live, winters may be synonymous with storms. Not to mention, daylight hours are limited when the temperature drops. Despite these unfavorable conditions, you can make great headway on indoor home improvement projects. Consider adding one of these popular features to your home:

- Elevate your kitchen or bathroom with space-saving pocket slider doors

- Add visual interest with shiplap planking

- Bring your old staircase up to code

With the right preparation and building products, you can spruce up your home and add to its value even during the winter.

3. Enjoy Better Contractor and Product Availability

The cooler months tend to be the off-season for contractors that consistently stay busy throughout the spring and summer.

This means that you'll likely have no issue finding an available contractor who can focus completely on



your project if you start your home renovation after the holidays. Similarly, getting the building products you love may also be easier since fewer construction and remodeling projects means less stockouts. Make sure to work with a lumberyard that exceeds customer expectations by having quality products readily available and the expertise to help design and build your project.

4. Save Money with Pricing Discounts

Contractors aren't the only ones impacted by the construction off-season in the fall and winter. Many suppliers and distributors also navi-

gate this downtime by offering discounts on appliances, flooring, and other building products in an effort to reduce inventory. Lumberyards can offer lower prices on quality items by partnering with top-tier suppliers that help them lower procurement costs via bulk-buying and other cost saving measures.

5. Receive Permits and Project Approvals Faster

You may need to acquire a permit before taking on home improvement projects involving either major structural changes, plumbing or electrical work. In many cases, government agencies, which also typically expe-

rience a lull in the fall and winter, will be able to grant project approvals quicker during this time of year. Make sure you work with a contractor who obtains the required building permits and inspections.

6. Take Advantage of Incentives for Energy Efficiency

People that have to crank up their AC for most of the year often benefit from lower utility bills during the winter. Residents of northern states, however, who rely on their homes' heating systems to stay comfortable during fall and winter, often see soaring energy costs this time of year.

Fortunately, there are numerous fairly simple home improvement projects you can take on during the transition to winter to improve energy efficiency and save money, including:

- Replacing old exterior doors with more energy-efficient models to improve security and curb appeal

- Replacing windows to increase efficiency and provide superior strength and durability

- Weatherstripping or caulking cracks and gaps in your home's structure to reduce the amount of air that leaks in and out

Not only can these easy renovations benefit your home and your wallet, but you may also be able to receive tax credits and other incentives for your energy efficiency efforts. Explore this interactive map to learn more about the incentives in your state.

The Carolinian

(ISSN 00455873)

1504 New Bern Ave, Raleigh, North Carolina 27610
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 25308
Raleigh, North Carolina 27611

Periodical Postage Paid at Raleigh North Carolina 27611
Warrenton Address: P.O. Box 536
Warrenton, NC 27589

Rocky Mount Address: 120 N Franklin St
Rocky Mount, NC 27804

Postmaster
Send all address changes to:
The Carolinian
1504 New Bern Avenue
Raleigh, NC 27610

PUBLISHED SIX TIMES MONTHLY
SUBSCRIPTION RATES

One Year \$45.00
Payable in advance. Address all communications and make all checks and money orders payable to *The Carolinian*.

Founded by P.R. Jervay, Sr. in 1940
The Carolinian Newspaper, Inc. of Raleigh

Publisher.....Adria Jervay
Sales Consultant.....Paul R. Jervay, Jr.
Circulation Manager.....Andrew Alston
Jervay Agency, National Advertising Representative
www.TheJervayAgency.com

Member:
North Carolina Black Publishers Association
National Newspaper Publishers Association
HUB Certified MWBE

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Workers Turn To 'Polyworking' To Combat Frozen Salaries And Inflation

NEW YORK (AP) — As workers face frozen salaries, inflation and fear of layoffs, some have decided to branch out from their traditional careers. They're taking on side jobs to bring in additional income and provide a backup plan should they find themselves out of work, or adding second, third and sometimes fourth jobs — what some call "polyworking" — to the mix.

Take Katelyn Cusick, 29. She beautifies displays as a visual merchandiser for Patagonia at her full-time job. Then she works a side gig managing social media influencers for a German shoe brand for 10 to 15 hours per week. She also has an Etsy shop where she sells paintings. If that wasn't enough, she ushers at



concerts in the San Francisco Bay Area — a way to see live shows for free.

"Every day is different and every day feels like a new day," Cusick said. "That is ultimately why I started doing all these side hustles, just because I wanted to switch it up. I don't want to just do the same thing every day."

Some are drawn to side jobs because of instability in their workplace, or the perception that they may lose their income. Still others, reluctant to trust one employer to provide a steady job that lasts, are supplementing their main roles with gig work on apps such as Uber and

(See *POLYWORKING*, P. 9)

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Business & Finance

The Knights of Labor: Pioneers of NC's Labor Movement

By Jordan Meadows

Staff Writer

The Knights of Labor (KOL)—founded in 1869 and once the nation's largest labor organization—left an imprint on North Carolina far deeper than their brief period of prominence suggests. At their peak in the 1880s, the Knights expanded from a handful of assemblies in the Raleigh-Durham area to a statewide force stretching from Asheville to the port city of Wilmington.

The first North Carolina assemblies of the Knights of Labor formed in 1884 in the Raleigh-Durham region. Their early success was remarkable. In 1886, John Nichols—a white leader within the organization from Wake County—was elected to Congress, an early sign that labor organizing could shape political power in the South.

Raleigh also became home to the KOL Cooperative Tobacco Company on East Davie Street, a worker-run enterprise that embodied the Knights' vision of cooperative economics.

Unlike many labor organizations of the era, the Knights wel-



comed a broad membership. Skilled and unskilled workers, black and white, men and women were eligible, though in the South segregation often persisted in practice. Still, in North Carolina, the Knights' interracial character became a defining feature—especially in the east.

Between 1887 and 1889, African American farm laborers in northeastern North Carolina joined the Knights in large numbers, eventu-

ally transforming the state assembly into a majority-Black body. The movement's center of gravity shifted toward Edgecombe County, the unofficial heart of the state's "Black Second" Congressional District.

No counties except Wake had more assemblies than Edgecombe and its neighbors Wilson and Pitt. The KOL became both a labor organization and a political engine for rural Black workers seeking economic

bargaining power and political representation.

It was once reported that at New Hope Missionary Baptist Church in Swift Creek Township, about 80 workers had been meeting every Friday night for two months "waiting for someone to organize us." The rural self-organization that sustained the Knights in eastern North Carolina—ordinary Black workers gathering in one of the county's oldest African American churches to build a collective voice.

By 1888, Black assemblies in Edgecombe flexed their political influence. They secured the Republican nomination for Henry P. Cheatham, who became the third Black Congressman from the district. Once elected, Cheatham appointed several African American Knights of Labor leaders as postmasters—positions of both prestige and local power.

The height of the KOL's influence in the region coincided with a rising willingness among rural laborers to challenge economic conditions directly. In 1889, farm workers mounted a three-week strike on cotton plantations in Edgecombe County. The strike did not succeed;

instead, it triggered an exodus of hundreds of workers who left the county for jobs elsewhere.

Still, the Knights maintained enough strength to hold their fifth statewide convocation in Tarboro's Opera House in January 1890. There, delegates endorsed a coalition with the Farmers' Alliance—a partnership that evolved into the Populist Party in 1892. White farmers' shifting allegiance to the Alliance pulled many away from the KOL, but Black Knights remained a grassroots precursor to the Republican-Populist "Fusion" coalition that would sweep North Carolina politics from 1894 to 1898.

Though the Knights of Labor faded, they seeded a tradition of worker activism that resurfaced dramatically in later decades. Tobacco workers—particularly African American women—revived mass organizing in eastern North Carolina during "Operation Dixie" in 1946. Nearly 10,000 "leaf house" workers from Virginia to Lumberton unionized, echoing the interracial, working-class solidarity the KOL had imagined. A 1947 National Labor Relations Board case involving Wilson's

Liggett & Myers stemmery documents these early efforts to secure union representation.

Today, North Carolina has one of the lowest union densities in the country. Yet the North Carolina Labor History Exhibit traces a powerful through-line of organizing, stretching from the Knights of Labor to the Duke Faculty Union in 2016. Along the way stand figures like Ella May Wiggins, murdered during the 1929 Gastonia textile strikes, and Moranda Smith, a formidable 1940s organizer who battled both economic exploitation and Jim Crow segregation.

This history also includes major victories, such as the 2008 Smithfield Foods union win, where 5,000 meatpacking workers secured representation after a long struggle, and the 2003 achievement of 8,000 farm laborers, who won the largest collective bargaining agreement in state history.

From church meetings in Edgecombe County to tobacco warehouses in Wilson, from the Black Second to Operation Dixie, the spirit of the Knights has echoed across generations.

Retailers Are Quietly Changing Their Return Policies: Why You Should Be On The Lookout This Black Friday

The Conversation - 'Tis the season for giving - and that means 'tis the season for shopping. Maybe you'll splurge on a Black Friday or Cyber Monday deal, thinking, "I'll just return it if they don't like it." But before you click "buy," it's worth knowing that many retailers have quietly tightened their return policies in recent years.

As a marketing professor, I study how retailers manage the flood of returns that follow big shopping events like these, and what it reveals about the hidden costs of convenience. Returns might seem like a routine part of doing business, but they're anything but trivial. According to the National Retail Federation, returns cost U.S. retailers almost US\$890 billion each year.

Part of that staggering figure comes from returns fraud, which includes everything from consumers buying and wearing items once before returning them - a practice known as "wardrobing" - to more deceptive acts such as falsely claiming an item never arrived.

Returns also drain resources because they require reverse logistics: shipping, inspecting, restocking and often repackaging items. Many returned products can't be resold at full price or must be liquidated, leading to lost revenue. Processing returns also adds labor and operational expenses that erode profit



margins.

How e-commerce transformed returns

While retailers have offered return options for decades, their use has expanded dramatically in recent years, reflecting how much shopping habits have changed. Before the rise of e-commerce, shopping was a sensory experience: Consumers would touch fabrics, try on clothing and see colors in natural light before buying.

If something didn't work out, customers brought it back to the store, where an associate could quickly inspect and restock it.

Online shopping changed all that.

While e-commerce offers convenience and variety, it removes key sensory cues. You can't feel the material, test the fit or see the true color. The result is uncertainty, and with uncertainty comes higher rates of returns. One analysis by Capital One suggests that the rate for returns is almost three times higher for online purchases than for in-store purchases.

When the COVID-19 pandemic hit, the move toward online shopping went into overdrive. Even hesitant online shoppers had to adapt. To encourage purchases, many retailers introduced or expanded generous return policies. The strategy worked to boost sales, but it also created a culture of returning.

In 2020, returns accounted for 10.6% of total U.S. retail sales, nearly double the prior year, according to the National Retail Federation data. By 2021, that had climbed to 16.6%. Unable to try things on in stores, consumers began ordering multiple sizes or styles, keeping one and sending the rest back. The behavior was rational from a shopper's perspective but devastatingly expensive for retailers.

The high cost of convenience

Most supply chains are designed to move in one direction: from production to consumption. Returns reverse that flow. When merchandise moves backward, it adds layers of

cost and complexity.

In-store returns used to be simple: A customer would take an item back to the store, the retailer would inspect the product, and, if it was in good condition, it would go right back on the shelf. Online returns, however, are far more cumbersome. Products can spend weeks in transit and often can't be resold - by the time they arrive, they may be out of season, obsolete or no longer in their original packaging.

Logistics costs compound the problem. During the pandemic, consumers grew accustomed to free shipping. That means retailers now often pay twice: once to deliver the item and again to retrieve it.

Now, in a post-pandemic world, retailers are trying to strike a balance - maintaining customer goodwill without sacrificing profitability. One solution is to raise prices, but especially today, with inflation in the headlines, shoppers are sensitive to price hikes. The other, more common approach is to tighten return policies.

In practice, that's taken several forms. Some retailers have begun charging small flat fees for returns, even when a customer mails an item back at their own expense. For example, the direct-to-consumer retailer Curvy Sense offers customers unlimited returns and exchanges of an item for an initial \$2.98 price.

Others have shortened their return windows. Over the summer, for example, beauty retailers Sephora and Ulta reduced their return window from 60 days to 30.

Many brands now attach large, conspicuous "do not remove" tags to prevent consumers from wearing items and then sending them back. And increasingly, retailers are offer-

ing store credit rather than cash or credit card refunds, ensuring that returned sales at least stay within their company.

Few retailers advertise these changes prominently. Instead, they appear quietly in the fine print of return policies - policies that are now longer, more specific and far less forgiving than they once were.

Turn Shopping Stress Into Purposeful Gift Giving By Cultivating 'Consumer Wisdom'

The Conversation - Every fall I anticipate the winter holidays with almost childlike joy. I look forward to familiar traditions with friends and family, eggnog in my coffee, and the sense that everyone is feeling a little lighter and more connected.

At the same time, I feel anxious and annoyed by the manufactured sense of urgency around gift giving: the endless searching and second-guessing shaped by advertisers, retailers and cultural expectations.

Don't get me wrong, I mostly love giving - and, yes, receiving - gifts during the holidays. But as a researcher who studies consumer psychology, I see how those same forces, amplified by constant buying opportunities and frictionless online payments, make us especially vulnerable and often unwise this time of year.

Buying behavior, including gift

giving, doesn't just reflect needs and wants but also our values. Frequently, the values we talk about are more akin to aspirational ideals. Our actual values are revealed in the seemingly inconsequential choices we make day after day - including shopping.

The cumulative effects of our spending behaviors carry enormous implications for society, the environment and everyone's well-being - from the purchaser and recipient to people working throughout the supply chain. This makes consumer behavior an especially important place to apply the emerging social science research on wisdom. While wisdom is defined in different ways, it can be understood as seeing decisions through a broader, values-informed perspective and acting in ways that promote well-being.

Defining consumer wisdom Building on some of David's earlier work, I began my own research on consumer wisdom in the summer of 2015, interviewing dozens of people across the U.S. whom others in their communities had identified as models of wisdom. Previous research guided me to settings where I could easily find people who represented different aspects of wisdom: practicality on farms in upstate New

York; environmental stewardship in Portland, Oregon; and community values in Tidewater, Virginia.

I didn't use the term "wisdom," though. It can be intimidating, and people often define it narrowly. Instead, I spoke with people whose peers described them as exemplary decision-makers - people leading lives that considered both the present and the future, and who balanced their needs with others' needs.

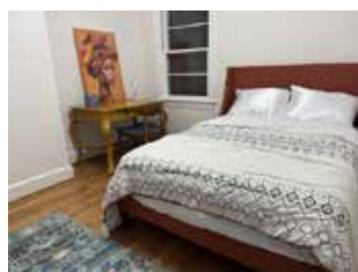
From those conversations, David and I developed a theory of consumer wisdom. With the help of a third co-author, Kelly Haws, we validated this framework through national surveys with thousands of participants, creating the consumer wisdom scale.

The scale shows how consumer

(See 'CONSUMER WISDOM,' P. 4)

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N.C. To Offer Residents Help With Online Skills

NC Newsline - North Carolina published statewide digital skills standards last month that identify key knowledge and abilities for residents and will soon launch an online course, joining a number of states that are hoping to strengthen digital literacy.

The North Carolina Digital Skills Standards, published by the state's information technology department, is a framework that can be used to help residents understand basic digital skills. Next, an online learning course will be developed and "digital navigators" will be trained to help residents across the state.

North Carolina's standards focus on six key areas: creating and maintaining an online identity, practicing balanced and cautious technology use, building digital relationships, ensuring internet

safety, understanding online information and developing skills for advanced systems and emerging technology, such as artificial intelligence.

"This is important because it elevates the issue statewide," said Grace Tepper, a senior writing associate at the Benton Institute for Broadband & Society, an Illinois policy group focused on communications and the internet.

"Even if you have access to the internet, there are still many, many ways in which the majority of people are still learning how to use these tools that are available to them," she said. "They just may not be able to access it because of a lack of digital skills."

As online skills have become more necessary for health care, education, banking and more, many states have been building similar

frameworks to help government agencies, school districts, business owners, nonprofit organizations and other groups identify ways to improve digital literacy.

In 2023, New Jersey became the first state to enact legislation requiring information literacy instruction in K-12 schools under the state's Student Learning Standards. And this year, education departments and nonprofit groups in Ohio, Pennsylvania and Texas updated their state guidelines for supporting digital literacy.

In the United States, 92% of jobs definitely or likely require digital skills, according to a 2023 report from the National Skills Coalition, a nonprofit organization that advocates for skills training.

In May, President Donald Trump eliminated Digital Equity Act grants, a federal initiative that was

created under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021. The \$2.75 billion program aimed to close the digital divide by expanding broadband access and supporting computer skills training.

Many states had spent years planning how to use the federal funds, including some proposals to establish statewide digital skills standards, Tepper said. Now, the challenge for each state is figuring out how to keep going on their own, she added.

"A lot of states are implementing their own programs," she said. "They look a lot different - they're not as comprehensive as what they would have done under the Digital Equity Act. But no matter what happens, states will keep working. They've put themselves in good positions to do what they can with what they have."

BBB Celebrates Local Businesses And Encourages Consumers To Join

Thank-a-Business Month is an effort to support our local businesses that make our communities better. Better Business Bureau Serving Eastern Carolinas (BBB) is hitting the road for a multi-day tour of our service area that will be underway this week. BBB encourages consumers to join in on the fun of Thank-a-Business Month by sharing tips on how to show your appreciation. "Businesses are at the foundation of our local communities and their

relationships with consumers are the basis for Better Business Bureau," said Mallory Wojciechowski, CEO and President of BBB. "As we make an effort to show our gratitude, we encourage consumers to do so as well by leaving reviews for their favorite businesses on BBB.org."

BBB Offers the Following Ideas to Show Businesses Gratitude:

1. Leave a customer review. Customer experiences matter to businesses! Leave a customer review on

BBB.org or another online review site to share your customer experience with the business. This can help the business attract new customers and grow its online presence.

2. Refer your family and friends. Is someone you know in need of a new roof? Maybe a friend has been wanting to try a new restaurant. Word of mouth is powerful! Referring and recommending businesses to your family and friends is an easy

and impactful way to encourage others to support a business you love.

3. Connect and engage on social media. Follow your favorite business on social media and like, comment on, and share their content. You can also tag the business in a post sharing your customer experience. Social media engagement can help a business boost its visibility and gain new followers (who may end up being new customers!).

4. Make a purchase. Whether you plan to visit in person or shop online, making a purchase is a direct way to show your support for a business. With the holiday season approaching, get creative and do some of your holiday shopping at your favorite local businesses and retailers. This is a great way to not only support the business but also refer your family and friends!

5. Leave a generous tip. If you want to thank your favorite local coffee

shop or restaurant, consider leaving an extra tip for their employees.

6. Participate in special promotions or events. Is your favorite business hosting an event or running a special promotion? Get involved! Joining in on the fun may encourage others to support the business, too.

7. In the U.S., the Small Business Administration cosponsors Small Business Saturday and has many resources to help small businesses succeed.

'Consumer Wisdom' During The Holidays — CONTINUED FROM PG 3

wisdom is not some lofty ideal but a set of practical habits. Some are about managing money. Some are about goals and personal philosophy, and others are about broader impact.

We have found that six dimensions capture the vast majority of what we would call consumer wisdom:

1. Responsibility: managing resources to support a rewarding yet realistic lifestyle.
2. Purpose: prioritizing spending

that supports personal growth, health and relationships.

3. Perspective: drawing on past experiences and anticipating future consequences.

4. Reasoning: seeking and applying reliable, relevant information; filtering out the noise of advertising and pop culture.

5. Flexibility: being open to alternatives such as borrowing, renting or buying used.

6. Sustainability: spending in ways

that support the buyer's social or environmental goals and values.

These are not abstract traits. They are everyday ways of aligning your spending with your goals, resources and values.

Importantly, people with higher scores on the scale report greater life satisfaction, as well as better health, financial security and sense of meaning in life. These results hold even after accounting for known determinants of well-being, such as job satisfaction and supportive relationships. In other words, consumer wisdom makes a distinctive and underappreciated contribution to well-being.

Putting it in practice

These six dimensions offer a different lens on holiday norms — one that can reframe how to think about gifts.

Interestingly, the English word "gift" traces back to the Old Norse rune gyfu, which means generosity.

It's a reminder that true giving is not about checking boxes on referral, revenue-generating gift guides or yielding to slick promotions or fads. Generosity is about focusing on another person's well-being and our relationship with them.

From the perspective of consumer wisdom, that means asking what will genuinely contribute to the recipient's life. One of the most important dimensions of consumer wisdom is "purpose": the idea that

thoughtful spending can nurture personal growth, health, enjoyment and sense of connection. Out with trendy gadgets, fast fashion and clutter-creating décor or knick-knacks — things that feel exciting in the moment but are quickly forgotten. In with quality headphones, a shared cooking class, a board game, and a workshop or tools to support a hobby — gifts that can spark growth, joy and deeper connection.



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Health and Wellness

Don't let food poisoning crash your Thanksgiving dinner

The Conversation – Thanksgiving is a time for family, friends and feasting. However, amid the joy of gathering and indulging in delicious food, it is essential to keep food safety in mind. Foodborne illnesses can quickly put a damper on your celebrations.

As an immunologist and infectious disease specialist, I study how germs spread – and how to prevent them from doing so. In my courses, I teach my students how to reduce microbial risks, including those tied to activities such as hosting a big Thanksgiving gathering, without becoming germophobes.

Foodborne illnesses sicken 48 million Americans – 1 in 6 people – each year. Holiday meals such as Thanksgiving pose special risks because these spreads often involve large quantities, long prep times, buffet-style serving and mingling guests. Such conditions create many opportunities for germs to spread.

This, in turn, invites a slew of microbial guests such as Salmonella and Clostridium perfringens. Most people recover from infections with foodborne bacteria, but each year around 3,000 Americans die from the illnesses they cause. More routinely, these bugs can cause nausea, vomiting, stomach cramps and diarrhea within hours to a couple

of days after being consumed – which are no fun at a holiday celebration.

Foods most likely to cause holiday illness

Most foodborne illnesses come from raw or undercooked food and foods left in the so-called danger zone of cooking temperature – 40 degrees to 140 degrees Fahrenheit – in which bacteria multiply rapidly. Large-batch cooking without proper reheating or storage as well as cross contamination of foods during preparation can also cause disease.

Not all dishes pose the same risk. Turkey can harbor Salmonella, Campylobacter and Clostridium perfringens. Undercooked turkey remains a leading cause of Thanksgiving-related illness. Raw turkey drippings can also easily spread bacteria onto hands, utensils and counters. And don't forget the stuffing inside the bird. While the turkey may reach a safe internal temperature, the stuffing often does not, making it a higher-risk dish.

Leftovers stored too long, reheated improperly or cooled slowly also bring hazards. If large pieces of roasted turkey aren't divided and cooled quickly, any Clostridium perfringens they contain might have time to produce toxins. This increases the risk of getting sick from snacking on leftovers – even reheated leftovers, since these toxins are not killed by heat.

Indeed, each November and De-

cember outbreaks involving this bacterium spike, often due to encounters with turkey and roast beef leftovers.

Don't wash the turkey! Washing anything makes it cleaner and safer, right? Not necessarily.

Many people think washing their turkey will remove bacteria. However, it's pretty much impossible to wash bacteria off a raw bird, and attempting to do so actually increases cross contamination and your risk of foodborne illness.

Since 2005, federal food safety agencies have advised against washing turkey or chicken. Despite this, a 2020 survey found that 78% of people still reported rinsing their turkey before cooking – often because older recipes or family habits encourage it.

When you rinse raw poultry, water can splash harmful bacteria around your kitchen, contaminating counter tops, utensils and nearby foods. If you do choose to wash turkey, it's critical to immediately clean and disinfect the sink and surrounding area. A 2019 USDA study found that 60% of people who washed their poultry had bacteria in their sink afterward – and 14% had bacteria in the sink even after cleaning it.

Food prep tips for a safe and healthy Thanksgiving

Wash your hands regularly. Before cooking and after touching raw



meat, poultry or eggs, wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Improper handwashing by people handling food is a major source of bacterial contamination with Staphylococcus aureus. This bacterium's toxins are hard to break down, even after cooking or reheating.

Thaw turkey safely. The safest way to thaw a turkey is in the refrigerator. Allow 24 hours per 4-5 pounds. There's also a faster method, which involves submerging the turkey in cold water and changing the water every 30 minutes – but it's not as

safe because it requires constant attention to ensure the water temperature stays below 40 F in order to prevent swift bacteria growth.

Stuff your turkey immediately before cooking it. Stuffing the turkey the night before is risky because it allows bacteria in the stuffing to multiply overnight. The toxins produced by those bacteria do not break down upon cooking, and the interior of the stuffing may not get hot enough to kill those bacteria. The USDA specifically warns against prestuffing. So cook stuffing separately, if possible, or if you prefer it inside the bird, stuff immediately before roasting, making sure it reaches 165 F.

Cook food to the right temperature. A thermometer is your best friend – use it to ensure turkey

and stuffing both reach 165 F. Check casseroles and other dishes too. It's best not to rely on an internal pop-up thermometer, since they can be inaccurate, imprecise and could even malfunction.

Avoid cross contamination. Use separate cutting boards for raw meat, vegetables and bread. Change utensils and plates after handling raw meat before using them for cooked foods.

Keep food at safe temperatures. Serve hot foods immediately, and make sure hot foods are served above 140 F and cold dishes below 40 F to keep them out of the microbial danger zone.

Be cautious with buffet-style serving. Limit food time on the table to two hours or less – longer than that, any bacteria present can double every 20 minutes. Provide dedicated serving utensils, and avoid letting guests serve with utensils they have eaten from.

Be mindful of expiration dates. Don't forget to check dates on food items to make sure that what you are serving isn't expired or left from last Thanksgiving.

Educate guests on food safety. Remind guests to wash their hands before preparing or serving food, and politely discourage double-dipping or tasting directly from communal dishes.

Thanksgiving should be a time of gratitude, not gastrointestinal distress. By following these simple food safety tips, you can help ensure a safe and healthy holiday.

Funding Crisis Deepens — CONTINUED FROM PG 1

real estate agents just to pay their bills. "We don't have the ability to continue to make it work while everyone fights this out behind the scenes," Molina added that she felt additional frustration that, upon her last visit to the General Assembly, legislators smiled and took pictures acting as though her issue was important, but instead chose to focus on redistricting maps instead of the Medicaid funding bill. "My God, what could be more important than this, helping the children who are the most vulnerable?"

The conversation repeatedly pivoted to the fiscal irresponsibility of the state's inaction. Providers, including Tildsley Clifford McManus from Therapy Smarts Inc., stressed that delaying early intervention is a guaranteed way to increase future costs. "If they cannot access therapy now, they will enter the public school system, requiring even more intensive resources funded by tax



dollars," she argued. "Why cut off the service now, only to be significantly paying for it later? It is fiscally irresponsible."

Representative Phil Rubin, a Demo-

crat, confirmed the maddening political gridlock, stating, "The House and the Senate agree that they should fund this and how much. And yet the games have kept it from be-

ing funded."

Senator Murdock closed the hearing by dissecting the sheer scale of the political failure. Out of a \$32 billion state budget, the current gap needed to adequately fund the Medicaid rebates and protect these services is estimated to be around \$250 to \$300 million, an amount equivalent to just 0.006% of the total budget. "We can't cough up \$300 million? It's ridiculous," Senator Murdock said. "We shouldn't be able to sleep comfortably knowing these are parents and children that are needing this care."

The message was unified and unequivocal: "March is too late." Providers are urging citizens to maintain pressure, lest this critical issue "fall out of the news" while vulnerable families wait in the balance.

Study Finds Link Between Flu Risk and Wild Weather

E360 DIGEST —Scientists have found a link between a heightened risk of flu and rapid weather swings that have become increasingly common in recent years due to climate change. The study, published in the journal Environmental Research Letters, examined more than a decade of health and weather data in the United States, mainland China, Italy, and France.

Historically, low temperatures and humidity in the winter were thought to foster the optimum conditions for transmitting the flu virus. But the 2017-2018 flu season was one of the warmest on record, and was also one of the deadliest, with 186 children dying in the U.S., according to the Centers for Disease Control. The fall of 2017 saw wild swings in weather, and scientists at Florida State University and Nanjing University in China

were curious whether those fluctuations were to blame for the severe flu season.

The researchers analyzed surface temperatures, weather patterns, and health records from January 1, 1997 to February 28, 2018, a total of 7,729 days. They found that years with intense weather fluctuations in the autumn months incited the flu, creating a robust patient population early in flu season that continued to grow throughout the winter.

"The historical flu data from different parts of the world showed that the spread of flu epidemic has been more closely tied to rapid weather variability, implying that the lapsed human immune system in winter caused by rapidly changing weather makes a person more susceptible to flu virus," Zhaohua Wu, an atmospheric scientist at Florida State University and coauthor of the new study, said in a

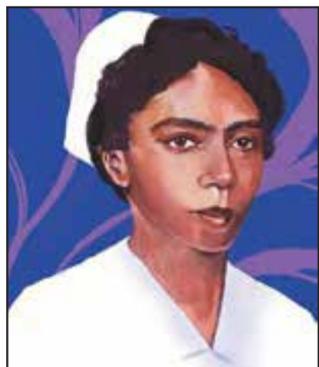
statement.

The international team of researchers said that this trend would only continue to get worse as climate change drives more extreme and variable weather conditions. According to climate models, "rapid weather variability in autumn will continue to strengthen in some regions of northern mid-latitudes in a warming climate, implying that the risk of influenza epidemic may increase 20 percent to 50 percent in some highly populated regions in later 21st century," the study concluded.

Wu and his colleagues said their findings should be included in future flu spread models. "The autumn rapid weather variability and its characteristic change in a warming climate may serve not only as a skillful predictor for spread of flu in the following season but also a good estimator of future flu risk," he said.

'A Forbidden World': The Story Of Charlotte Anne Wynn Pollard

By Dina Weinstein
Richmond Magazine



Peebles, a well-known social justice advocate who died in 2019.

The panel was meant to inform faculty of how their treatment helped Pollard feel both comfortable and uncomfortable, as well as how the school's climate made her feel accepted and rejected. It came as two more Black students were about to enroll and MCV's

segregationist practices threatened the institution's federal funding. Faculty members were leading the effort to deepen their colleagues' understanding of their own prejudices.

"A lot of times, I felt like I was in a no-man's-land," Pollard said in a 1985 recorded interview with a retired School of Nursing faculty member. "I felt that I didn't belong to anybody."

In a 1996 nursing sorority profile, Pollard – who by that time had decades of experience as a psychiatric nurse – answered the article's question succinctly: "I was in a forbidden world during my whole experience."

Pollard was born in Richmond in 1935 to Vivian Wynn and her husband, Richard, a custodian at MCV. An only child, she was pushed by her mother to achieve academically and to participate in their community.

In the 1985 interview, Pollard said that much of her early life revolved around the First African Baptist

(See 'A FORBIDDEN WORLD', P. 6)

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Arts & Culture

Durham's Historic 20 Acres & Community Faces Change

By Aaron Sánchez-Guerra

WUNC

Brenda Bradshaw thought she'd die before anything would ever be done about Fayette Place.

The vacant, city-owned lot on Merrick St. brushing up against the Durham Freeway in the heart of her native Hayti has been an eyesore for thirty years, she said.

For all that time, it's been a sad reminder of what was built and demolished there twice in history — single-family homes and businesses during "urban renewal" of the 1950s and then, the Fayetteville Street public housing complex — and the years since of unfulfilled proposals for its 20 acres.

"We are finally going to get our neighborhood back," said Bradshaw, 79. "It's sad that they too so long to do something."

On Nov. 3, the Durham City Council unanimously supported the Durham Housing Authority's and Development Ventures, Inc.'s plan to fund the first phase of redevelopment for Fayette Place with a \$44 million tax-exempt bond.

Plans for the former Fayette Place

The new housing development is slated to bring 252 affordable garden-style rental units for families earning 30% to 80% of the area median income — though its exact affordability hasn't yet been defined by city officials.

The project will be named The Villages of Hayti and . The city previously awarded the development contracts to the real estate firms Harmony Housing Affordable Development, Gilbane Development Company and F7 International Development.

"Durham Community Partners has made community engagement a cornerstone of The Villages at Hayti project. Efforts have included a series of public meetings and breakout sessions focused on resident experience, homeownership, community programming, preserving history, and economic participation," reads a description on Gilbane Development Company's website.

It's slated to include nine buildings of three and four stories, with 81 one-bedroom, 113 two-bedroom and 58 three-bedroom units, according to the proposed plans.

On Monday evening, the Durham City Council will move forward with securing additional funding



for the project, in this case a loan agreement to provide more than \$17 million for the development's first phase.

City officials previously said in a City Council meeting that the total cost of the full development will be up to \$90 million.

"It makes you think, maybe, life

is worth living," said Bradsher. "Finally, it's finally going to happen."

Since it was reconstructed as a public housing complex in 1967, it was sold to developers, then bought back by the Durham Housing Authority and remained bare since it was demolished around 16 years ago.

Representation of 'promises not

kept'

Henry McKoy, director emeritus of the neighborhood organization Hayti Reborn and former director of the North Carolina Central University School of Business, said Fayette Place is about righting a historic wrong.

McKoy said that by some estimates, around 4,000 homes and 500 businesses were lost during the period of urban renewal, when white government officials demolished parts of Hayti to build NC-14.

"The Hayti community still resonates from a pain of what was lost," said McKoy. "Fayette Place in particular, because it is such a large swath of land. It also was a representation of promises not kept."

There was formerly a promise that houses torn down would be rebuilt, and the city replaced it with a public housing complex instead, he said.

"There was a lot of things that that would not have even been part

of this project if the community had not raised their voices and had not engaged," McKoy said.

Like McKoy, Hayti leader and community advocate Anita Scott Neville of Hayti Reborn said this is good news in the short term, but she remains cautious of the city's promises.

One issue that Neville and McKoy point out is that residents won't be able to own property in the Villages of Hayti. The city's contract with the out-of-town developers includes a 99-year lease. "Fayette Place is the last official parcel of land historically known as Hayti," said Neville. "The vanguard about preservation is to make sure that while there is development, there is also preservation, and that there is legacy building, and that for those who currently live and do business on these sites, that the redevelopment is not pushing them out."

Construction of the first phase is expected to be completed in 2027.

Book Review: Angier North Carolina From An African American Perspective

By Jheri Hardaway

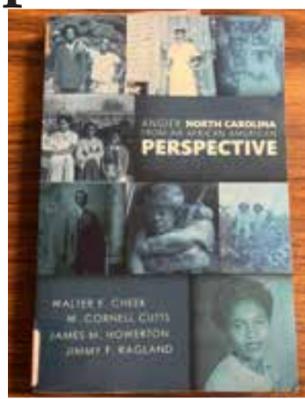
Staff Writer

The best ideas and inspiration are hidden in books; there are a plethora of reasons to read. Perhaps you're seeking information, or entertainment, maybe you're looking for a specific answer to a question, and you don't even need to read the whole book. No matter how you slice it, opening a book is always beneficial. As an educator, I've observed many students and friends say they "can't read." My response is always, "What are you reading?" Perhaps the book wasn't well written, or maybe it's just not suiting the needs that you set out for it to fulfill. Maybe

it's just not a good book. There are all kinds of books published for all kinds of reasons. As a reader, every once in a while, you come across a treasure.

The book I've read most recently that lit my fire was, entitled Angier North Carolina From An African American Perspective. What a treat! Written by Walter E. Cheek, W. Cornell Cutts, James M. Howerton, and Jimmy F. Ragland, this book covered the gamut of my needs as a reader. It was informational, it was entertaining, and it was personally fulfilling to get the background understanding of my community in Harnett County. From businesses to religious institutions, schools, and so many photos,

this book provided insights and inspiration. I think it's a great read for anyone who wants to understand history, specifically North Carolina history, with an understanding of the impact that the African-American population has had on the area. I'd like to see a book in this format for every African American community in America to better understand and articulate our progress and impact on what America is today. I'm so proud of every person mentioned, each of the farmers and businesses. This book made me extremely proud, and I felt encouraged that no matter the challenges of the past, people who look like me persevered and left a legacy worth reading and sharing.



'A Forbidden World' — CONTINUED FROM PG 5

Church located on College and East Broad streets, steps from MCV. "I was born two blocks from that church," she said. "There was a residential area there, and so a lot of the people would come to that church. It seems as though my whole life has been centered a lot right there in that area."

She also recalled the impact of seeing the student nurses from MCV's segregated St. Philip Hospital every Sunday at her church. "Seeing those nurses might have made some impression on me to be a nurse."

Young Charlotte Wynn's achievements were published in local Black newspapers. In 1953, the society pages recorded her teen leadership role at the Richmond branch of the Phyllis Wheatley YWCA, her introduction as a debutante and her straight-A record at Armstrong High School, which came with recognition and numerous scholarships.

Her 1954 high school yearbook was a testament to Pollard's academic strength and leadership skills, as she was voted most studious girl and student government president. Next to her senior portrait, she listed her many accolades and an aspiration to study chemistry.

"She should have been a doctor, but it was the 1950s and she was a Black woman," recalls her son, Donald Pollard Jr., a Comcast executive based in Atlanta.

Pollard's senior year was also one of dramatic social change. Years of legal work by the NAACP fighting against segregation in education culminated in a favorable ruling in the Supreme Court's *Brown v. Board of Education* decision. The Black community in Richmond supported



the fight with rallies and drives for NAACP membership and voter registration.

On April 1, 1954, NAACP chief council Thurgood Marshall gave speeches at Virginia Union University and Virginia State College (now a university) to drive up NAACP membership. The VSC newspaper touted the future Supreme Court justice as the legal champion of many cases, including *Sweatt v. Painter*, a landmark 1950 Supreme Court case in which the University of Texas was ordered to admit an African American student, Heman Sweatt, to its law school. In a unanimous decision, the court found that Texas had violated the equal protection clause of the Fourteenth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution because the supposedly "separate but equal" Black law school was vastly inferior in tangible and intangible aspects to the white law school. The ruling established that separate facilities are inherently unequal, making way for the *Brown v.*

Board decision argued by Marshall.

During Marshall's speeches to the capacity crowds at the schools, he addressed the college-age members of the audience specifically. "We are heading into an integrated society," Marshall was quoted as saying. "Today you must plan to be in competition with everyone, because opportunities are wider and responsibilities are tougher."

Marshall's message was typical of the positively pragmatic tenor printed on the pages of the Richmond Afro-American newspaper about the future for Black students as the Supreme Court decided segregation by race was illegal, even as Virginia leadership resisted mixing races in classrooms.

Headlines from 1954 in the local paper captured the turbulent times, but also set a tone for a positive future with a weekly series on the last gasps of Jim Crow laws in education and reports of schools that were integrating successfully.

One such article, "Va. Medical College has graduated 20 since 1951," explained that "The Medical College of Virginia bowed to the decision of federal courts in accepting its colored students. College officials took the position that the institution was obligated to accept qualified colored students and thought it unwise to refuse admittance to those who could meet entrance requirements." The article, however, doesn't say if the students were openly welcomed.

Journey to MCV After graduating from Armstrong High, Pollard accepted a scholarship to Wheaton College in Norton, Massachusetts, then a small, all-female, Christian school. She stayed for a year, majoring in chemistry with medical aspirations. Wheaton's 1955 yearbook shows that she was the only Black student.

Pollard returned to Richmond in 1955 and studied chemistry for two years at VUU. In a 1985 interview, she said, "Somewhere along the way, I had the idea that I wanted to be a nurse, but I was encouraged to have a baccalaureate degree in nursing." She expressed interest in attending the University of Maryland, but a counselor suggested she save the out-of-state tuition and attend MCV instead.

When Pollard visited the School of Nursing registrar's office to inquire about studying nursing there, the administrator encouraged her to enroll at the St. Philip School of Nursing, which offered a diploma. "And I said, 'No, I want a baccalaureate degree.' She said, 'You're in the right place. Have a seat.' That was the beginning," Pollard remembered. She transferred to MCV in the summer of 1957.

Judge Ashleigh Parker Promotes New Devotional Book

Judge Ashleigh is the author of *From Broken to Brazen: 40-Day Devotional for Healing from Heartbreak, Loss, and Rejection*. Combining her faith, personal experiences,

and passion for empowering others, the book provides practical guidance and spiritual encouragement for individuals navigating difficult seasons of life. Writing the book was a deeply

healing experience for her, and it reflects her commitment to helping others find hope, strength, and purpose in the midst of challenges.

Judge Ashleigh had a book signing

for her devotional, *From Broken to Brazen*, on Saturday November 15th. It was held at Mon Christian Gifts in Crabtree Valley Mall in Raleigh. The event was for her book about healing

form heartbreak, loss and rejection.

Presently, Judge Ashleigh serves as the Lead Child Support Judge in Wake County and one of two Abuse, Neglect, and Dependency Judges. She

is also an Advanced Juvenile Certified Judge. Judge Ashleigh prides herself on being fair and respectful to everyone, knowledgeable of the law, and visible in the community.



Mathias Bishop Photos

Community

A Singing Stream: The Landis Family of Creedmoor, NC

By Jordan Meadows

Staff Writer

The Landis family of Creedmoor, North Carolina, long celebrated in the two-part documentary series *A Singing Stream*, represents one of the most remarkable family histories in the state—an intergenerational story shaped by land, labor, and a musical tradition passed down like an heirloom.

The family story begins with matriarch Bertha Mangum Landis, born in 1898—the same year as the Wilmington Race Riot. Her lifetime would span Reconstruction’s aftermath, the rise of segregation, the Great Depression, the New Deal, the civil rights era, and into the new millennium. Through each chapter, Bertha became the steady center of a sprawling family that would eventually grow from 11 children to nearly 100 descendants.

Her early years were steeped in music. Bertha came from a lineage of shape-note singers, teachers, and church leaders, and she recognized that the man she married, young farmer Coy Landis, also carried what she called “the singing stream.” She passed that legacy directly to their children—eight boys and three girls—by teaching them parts and harmo-



nies at home. While Coy sometimes attempted to silence late-night singing from the rooms overhead, Bertha defended the racket: “Don’t get after them,” she would say. “They may be great musicians someday.”

And they were. The Landis children grew into one of the region’s most beloved gospel lineages, with several of the sons forming the acclaimed quartet The Golden Echoes, known for reverent renditions of clas-

sics like “The Old Rugged Cross” and “Mighty Close to Heaven.” In church choirs, community gatherings, and stages across the state, the Echoes’ voices carried the warmth and discipline instilled by their mother.

Yet behind the music was a struggle for landownership in the Jim Crow South. For years, the Landises lived as tenant farmers, raising tobacco and vegetables for the benefit of white landowners. Coy believed

they could never afford a farm of their own. But in 1938, Bertha read a newspaper article explaining that the newly created Farm Security Administration (FSA) offered loans to help poor families purchase land—and that large families were given preference.

Their application succeeded. Out of more than 300 applicants in the region, ten families—six white and four Black—were selected. The Landises were one of them. They purchased 146 acres for \$1,800, after negotiating the seller down from \$2,000. With financing from the FSA and a modest home built by the Godwin Company, the family moved to the Creedmoor property in 1940. For the first time, they worked the land they owned.

That land—its tobacco fields, gardens, hogs, livestock, and eventually a fish pond—became the foundation of the family’s economic independence and the physical heart of their cultural life. In Jim Crow North Carolina, the difference between stepping off the farm and stepping into town was stark. In interviews recorded for the documentary, Landis family members describe the ever-present threat of racial epithets and violence once they left the safety of their enclave. Voting rights were difficult to access,

employment opportunities were limited, and harassment was routine. These pressures drove several of the children, including Fleming Landis, northward—part of a broader Black migration to cities like Akron, Ohio, where industrial jobs offered a measure of security.

Still, the farm was always home. By the 1960s, the Landises had paid off the 35-year loan in just 20 years. By the 1970s, the original acreage had evolved into a small community of houses and mobile homes owned by family members and other Black families to whom Coy sold parcels of land. When Davenport first filmed *A Singing Stream* in the early 1980s, four of Bertha’s children and a grandchild lived within sight of the homeplace. Bertha, then in her 80s, lived in the original farmhouse with her son Truzell, who commuted to Durham for work.

The feature-length documentary that emerged in 1985 became the only film ever made fully chronicling the history of a single African American family. It revealed a deeply grounded household where songs floated through hallways, where conversations around the kitchen table doubled as history lessons, and where faith and tradition were stitched into daily routines. The film captured

scenes of barbecues, home tours, quiet laughter, and unguarded reflection.

When Davenport returned thirty years later to film *A Singing Stream: Reunion*, Bertha had died in 2000 at age 102, and nearly all of her children had passed. Only two—her youngest daughter, Priscilla, and her youngest son, Claude—remained. The house, worn down by time, had been restored by Claude’s daughter Lisa and her husband. New generations had moved across the country, yet the family continued to reunite on the farm every August, as they had since 1934.

Music still binds them. Fleming’s daughters—Karen and Sharon—formed the all-female gospel group Echoes of Heaven, carrying forward the harmonies their grandmother once drilled into a bedroom full of children. For scholars of African American Studies, Southern history, music, and the rural New Deal, the Landis family represents a rare and enduring case study: a Black family that not only secured land during the 1930s but held onto it across generations, turning soil into stability and stability into culture.

In Creedmoor today, the original house stands, the reunions continue, and the singing stream flows on.

The Ebony Anglers Are Breaking The Mold In Sportfishing

By Judaea Ingram

Staff Writer

On a humid July morning in 2020, the docks of Morehead City hummed with pre-tournament excitement. Among the anglers readying their boats stood a team unlike any before — an all-Black, all-female crew from North Carolina, setting out not only to fish, but to make history.

“People weren’t sure what to make of us,” one angler recalled. “By the end of the weekend, they knew exactly who the Ebony Anglers were.”

The team, Gia Peebles, Lesleigh

Mausi, Glenda Turner, and Tiana Davis, didn’t set out to become symbols of representation. What began as a conversation among friends during the pandemic evolved into a mission to challenge perceptions, inspire youth, and claim space in a sport that rarely reflected their faces.

Each member discovered fishing differently. Peebles through her husband, Mausi as a way to stay connected to her late father, Turner through childhood adventures, and Davis seeking a new challenge.

Formed in June 2020, the Ebony Anglers stepped into uncharted

waters. “We went in with a sense of pride, a sense of purpose, and maybe a little bit of pressure,” said Peebles.

Their first competition, just 30 days after forming, ended in victory and launched them into the national spotlight. “When we went viral, we realized this was more than just us putting our rods in the water. We were representing something bigger,” said Mausi.

Sportfishing is often seen as a pastime for older white men with deep pockets and boats. The Ebony Anglers’ arrival changed that image. In sleek embroidered uniforms, they stood out not just for their appearance, but for how they carried themselves.

Their professionalism drew attention from *The New York Times* and *Good Morning America*, but the team focused on impact. Feedback from parents and youth inspired the Ebony Anglers Foundation, which teaches children, particularly youth of color, about fishing, boating, and leadership.

Through programs such as Black Girls Fish and Black Boys Boat, supported by national grants, the team has introduced hundreds of children to boating, fishing and environmental stewardship, often in areas many had never explored before. In 2024, they went global, competing in Barbados and hosting their first international youth fishing camp.

“Few of the kids had imagined making a career of fishing,” Davis

said. “We were there to show them what’s possible.”

The impact they are making extends far beyond what any of them could have imagined five years ago.

Breaking barriers has not been without challenges. Finding charter captains who take them seriously remains difficult. “We don’t look like the typical anglers they’re used to seeing,” said Turner, “so it takes time to build relationships.”

The team’s unity is their greatest strength. They have laughed together, cried together, and weathered tough moments side by side. Through it all, they have built a foundation of trust and accountability. When they are out on the water in rough conditions, they rely on that bond, a connection that has grown into a genuine sisterhood.

Reeling in the fish can be grueling work. Their arms ache, their muscles tremble, and sometimes the urge to give up creeps in. But then they hear their teammates’ voices encouraging them, reminding them that they can do it, and they push through. That is what keeps them going.

Mausi echoed that bond, recalling how the team rallied around her during major surgery in 2023. “Even when I couldn’t be out there, I was cheering them on. That’s a level of sisterhood that goes beyond the boat,” she said.

The Ebony Anglers’ presence in competitive fishing is more than symbolic. They do not show up just to fish; they show up to affirm that they belong in this space. To them, the outdoors are for everyone, and they are determined to claim their

place within it. Their visibility encourages others of color to enter spaces once considered off-limits. Representation matters, but access matters even more. They want the next generation not only to see them, but also to understand how to follow in their footsteps. They look forward to the day when Black men and women are out on the water in greater numbers, chartering, leading, and captaining their own boats.

Now approaching their sixth year, the Ebony Anglers continue competing in regional and international tournaments while expanding community programs. From Morehead City to Barbados, they show that breaking the mold is not just about winning; it is about who gets to cast a line.



Omega Kappa Omega Second Annual Black Business Expo



By Jheri Hardaway

Staff Writer

DUNN, NC - The Omega Kappa Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, recently hosted its highly anticipated 2nd Annual Black Business Expo at Dunn Elementary School, solidifying its commitment to economic empowerment within the local community. This year’s event was a vibrant marketplace teeming with diversity, showcasing a broad spectrum of goods and services provided by Black-owned businesses.

The expo served as a one-stop shop for attendees looking to support and invest locally. The vendors represented a wide range of professional fields, ensuring there

was something for everyone. From certified public accountants offering financial planning expertise to skilled window installers providing home improvement solutions, the variety was immense. Attendees could browse exquisite handcrafted jewelry, discover new literary voices by meeting local authors, and find a host of unique products and services that underscored the entrepreneurial spirit of the area. The event made the act of “shopping local” and “supporting local” both easy and enjoyable, making it a cornerstone event for community commerce.

Beyond the retail and service booths, the expo featured elements of fun and community engagement. Cut My City offered professional haircuts on a donation basis, a

gesture that blended business with philanthropy. A major highlight was the opportunity for attendees to take a \$10 professional photo with Black Santa, creating cherished holiday memories and adding to the festive atmosphere. Guests were treated to an enjoyable backdrop of lively music, delicious food options, and an overall environment that fostered connection and celebration. The overwhelming success and positive feedback from both vendors and attendees underscored the event’s importance. The Omega Kappa Omega Chapter looks forward to continuing this tradition of community building and economic support, with plans already underway for an even bigger and better event next year!

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How The Plymouth Pilgrims Took Over Thanksgiving

THE CONVERSATION – Nine in 10 Americans gather around a table to share food on Thanksgiving. At this polarizing moment, anything that promises to bring Americans together warrants our attention.

But as a historian of religion, I feel obliged to recount how popular interpretations of Thanksgiving also have pulled us apart.

Communal rituals of giving thanks have a longer history in North America, and it was only around the turn of the 20th century that most people in the U.S. came to

associate Thanksgiving with Plymouth “Pilgrims” and generic “Indians” sharing a historic meal.

The emphasis on the Pilgrims’ 1620 landing and 1621 feast erased a great deal of religious history and narrowed conceptions of who belongs in America – at times excluding groups such as Native Americans, Catholics and Jews.

Farming faiths and harvest festivals

The usual Thanksgiving depiction overlooks Indigenous rituals that give thanks, including harvest

festivals.

The Wampanoag, who shared food with the Pilgrims in 1621, continue to celebrate the cranberry harvest, and similar feasts were held long before Columbus sailed and Pilgrims landed.

As I note in my 2025 book, “Religion in the Lands That Became America,” for instance, celebrants gathered for a communal feast in the late 11th century in the 50-acre plaza of Cahokia. That Native city, across the river from present-day St. Louis, was the largest population center

north of Mexico before the American Revolution.

Cahokians and their neighbors came in late summer or early autumn to give deities thanks, smoke ritual tobacco and eat special food – not corn, their dietary staple, but symbolically significant animals such as white swans and white-tailed deer. So, those Cahokians attended a thanks-giving feast five centuries before the Pilgrims’ harvest-time meal. “Days of Thanksgiving”

The usual depiction also de-emphasizes the tradition of officials announcing special “Days of Thanksgiving,” a practice familiar to the Pilgrims and their descendants.

The Pilgrims, who settled in what is now Plymouth, Massachusetts, were separatist Puritans who had denounced the Catholic elements that remained in the Protestant Church of England. They first sought to form their own “purified” church and community in Holland. After about 12 years, many of them moved again, crossing the Atlantic in 1620. The Pilgrims’ colony southeast of Boston was gradually absorbed into Massachusetts Bay Colony, founded in 1630 by a larger group of Puritans who did not split from England’s official church.

As historians have noted, Puritan ministers in Massachusetts’ state-sanctioned Congregational Church didn’t just speak on Sundays. Now and then they also gave special thanksgiving sermons, which expressed gratitude for what the community considered divine interventions, from military victory to epidemic relief.

The practice continued and spread. During the American Revolution, for instance, the Continental Congress declared a Day of Thanksgiving to commemorate the victory at Saratoga in 1777. President James Madison announced Days of Thanksgiving during the War of 1812. Leaders of the United States and the Confederate states did the same during

the Civil War.

This tradition influenced Americans such as Sarah Hale, who called for a national Thanksgiving holiday. A magazine editor and poet best known for “Mary Had a Little Lamb,” she successfully pitched the idea to Abraham Lincoln in 1863.

Harvest feast of 1621

Many Americans’ view of “The First Thanksgiving” resembles the scene depicted in a Jean Ferris painting by that name. Finished around 1915, it is similar to another popular image painted around the same time, Jennie Augusta Brown-scombe’s “The First Thanksgiving at Plymouth.”

Both images distort the historical context and misrepresent Indigenous attendees from the nearby Wampanoag Confederacy. The Native leaders wear headdresses from Plains tribes, and there are too few Indigenous attendees.

Only one eyewitness account survives: a 1621 letter from the Pilgrim Edward Winslow. He reported that the Wampanoag’s leader, Massasoit, brought 90 men. That means, some historians suggest, the shared meal was as much a diplomatic event marking an alliance as an agricultural feast celebrating a harvest.

Ferris’ painting also implies that the English provided the food. Plymouth residents brought “fowl,” as Winslow recalled – probably wild turkey – but the Wampanoag added five killed deer. Even the harvest of “Indian corn” depended on Native aid. Tisquantum or Squanto, the lone survivor of the village that the Pilgrims called Plymouth, had offered lifesaving advice about planting as well as diplomacy.

The image’s cheerful scene also obscures how death had destabilized the area. The Pilgrims lost almost half their group to famine or exposure that first winter. After earlier European contact, however, even larger numbers of the Wampanoag had died in a regional epidemic that

raged between 1616-1619. That’s why the Pilgrims found Squanto’s village abandoned, and why both communities were open to the alliance he brokered.

Pilgrims’ primacy
The Pilgrims were latecomers to the Thanksgiving table. Lincoln’s 1863 proclamation, published in Harper’s Monthly, mentioned “the blessing of fruitful fields,” but not the Pilgrims. Nor were Pilgrims depicted in the magazine’s illustrated follow-up. The page showed town and country, as well as emancipated slaves, celebrating the feast day by praying at “the Union altar.” For years before and after the proclamation, in fact, many Southerners resisted Thanksgiving, which they saw as a Northern, abolitionist holiday.

The Pilgrims’ absence makes sense, since they were not the first Europeans to land on North America’s eastern coast – or to give thanks there. Spanish Catholics had founded St. Augustine in 1565. According to an eyewitness account, the Spanish leader asked a priest to celebrate Mass on Sept. 8, 1565, which Native Americans attended, and “ordered that the Indians be fed.”

Two decades later, an English group had tried and failed to establish a colony on Roanoke Island, North Carolina – including a Jewish engineer. The English had more success when they settled Jamestown, Virginia, in 1607. A commander leading a new group to Virginia was instructed to mark “a day of Thanksgiving to Almighty God” in 1619, two years before the Plymouth meal.

But over the years, Plymouth’s Pilgrims still moved slowly toward the center of the national holiday – and America’s founding narrative.

In 1769, Plymouth residents promoted their town by organizing a “Forefathers’ Day.” In 1820 the Protestant politician Daniel Webster gave a speech commemorating the bicentennial of the landing at Plymouth Rock and praising the Pilgrims’

SERMON of the WEEK



DON'T LET THE GREEN GRASS FOOL YOU Homecoming Sermon – Lincoln Park Holiness Church 2025

By Bishop-Elect William Eli Ratzliff
Text: Genesis 13:8-13

Homecoming is a time to celebrate where God has brought us from, but it is also a time to check ourselves so we don’t repeat the mistakes of those before us. In our Scripture lesson, Lot looked over the land and saw green grass—lush, easy, and beautiful. What he didn’t realize was that the greener grass he wanted was sitting on top of sin, danger, temptation, and destruction. It was like a pretty garden sitting on top of an open septic tank.

Everything that glitters ain’t gold, and today I’m saying: everything that’s green ain’t God. What looks good today can leave you high and dry tomorrow.

Lot removed himself from the place where God blessed him. He walked away from Abraham—his covering, his wisdom, and his accountability. Many people today still confuse freedom with running from guidance. And many young folks—of every age—believe that because they can swipe, tap, and run every gadget better than adults, they know everything. They can operate phones, tablets, computers, and televisions, but they cannot afford the gadgets, batteries, upgrades, or the electricity bill. Let’s teach them early: technology costs, but Jesus is free—and He died to make us free.

An old preacher told a story about how things were before children had all these devices. He said that some years ago, a boy whose parents had no prior training wanted their son to have Educational Advantages, so they pooled their money together and sent this boy away to school. And after the first year, when the boy returned home, he was eager to share with his parents what he had learned in school. That morning, the father went out and killed two ducks. The mother dressed these ducks and baked them real-brownly and called them to dinner. And the boy said to himself, this is my opportunity to let them know what I’ve learned in school. When they were seated at the table, the boy said

Daddy, there are three Ducks in that dish.

The father said no, I didn’t kill but two. The boy said But oh, there are three Ducks in that dish. Then the mother said, my son, I didn’t bake but two. But the boy still insisted there were three Ducks in that dish. And he set out to try to explain. He said, “you see you take a certain portion from this Duck and an equal portion from this Duck and these portions will equal this and this portion will equal that and the more he tried to explain the more confusing the father became, so he just bowed his head and said, oh Gracious Lord, we do humbly thank Thee for what we are about to receive for the nourishment of our bodies for Christ our Redeemer’s sake Amen and he forked up one Duck and put in the mother’s plate and he forked up the other Duck and put in his plate and said, now help yourself to that third Duck!”

Like that young boy, Lot mistook youth for wisdom. He thought that because he could see the grass, he understood the ground. Youth can see far, but wisdom can see through. Lot was smart, but Abraham was wise. Lot saw land, but Abraham saw longevity. Lot saw money, but Abraham saw morality. Lot didn’t see Sodom hiding behind the trees. He didn’t see the wickedness creeping behind the blessing. He didn’t see the danger underneath the beauty. Limited vision leads to limited wisdom. So, I say to you today: Don’t Let the Green Grass Fool You.

There’s a difference between smarts and wisdom. Smarts come from what you learn; wisdom comes from what you live. Smarts come from the classroom; wisdom comes from the crisis.

My dad said his dad told him, “You can get bigger than the outside of the house, but as long as your head is under my roof, you’re going to hear me.” Young people, hear your Pastor: you can have degrees and still make dumb decisions. You can be intelligent and still be immature. You can be smart and still fall for the same trap Lot fell for—thinking that appearance equals destiny.

Abram said, “Lot, go ahead and pick your side, because my blessing ain’t in the grass—it’s in God.”

THE HOMECOMING THEME

1. REMOVING – Be Careful What You Walk Away From

Lot walked away from his covering, and when you leave where God planted you, you disconnect from the Vine. Jesus said, “Without Me you can do nothing.” Many left church and prayer during the pandemic and started chasing greener grass. But some grass is artificial turf—it looks good, but it ain’t real. God is calling His people: “Come back before destruction hits.”

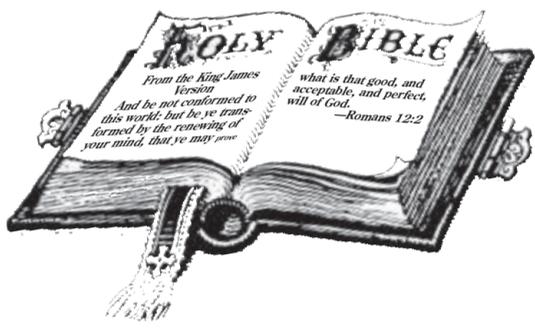
2. RESTORING – “God Can Find You When You Can’t Find Yourself” Before Lot could rebuild, he had to be rescued and restored. Abraham stood in the gap and prayed for him—just like somebody prayed for us. Many are praying for children who are still in the wrong grass, but remember, it takes God to pull them out. We were dead in sin – BUT GOD pulled us out. We were trapped and bound – BUT GOD brought us out. We were lost – BUT GOD lifted us.

3. REBUILDING – “What God Starts, God Finishes.” God is rebuilding Lincoln Park. We’ve survived loss, storms, sickness, and trials—and we’re still here. Baptisms every month, lost souls being saved, families returning, ministries growing. Lot rebuilt after Sodom because God preserved him. Lincoln Park is rebuilding because God preserved us, and His people stayed faithful. To God be the glory!

Young people: don’t let the grass, the crowd, or the culture fool you. Older saints: stand firm like Abraham—steady, prayerful, and loving.

And let me close by saying this: Don’t let the green grass fool you, and don’t let the devil fool you. The devil is a liar, but God is a deliverer. Whatever you need—God’s got it. Deliverance? God’s got it. Restoration? God’s got it. Rebuilding? God’s got it. Remember this: I just wrote this Sermon to tell you what Jesus said, “Repent of your sins and be baptized.”

Please visit www.youtube.com/@lincolnparkholinesschurch1913 to watch this week’s sermon on video. We invite you to Like, Subscribe, and share your comments—we would love to hear from you.



Practical Biblical Principles

LET YOUR TROUBLES TRANSFORM YOU

Read: 2 Corinthians 4:17
By: John L. Caldwell, Pastor

New Jerusalem Baptist Cathedral
God has a purpose for His children in every trial or problem they may encounter. He uses our everyday circumstances to help make us like His Son. It appears that God uses the circumstances in our lives more than the bible to help make us like His Son. In a real sense, God is actively participating in our lives, on a daily basis, whether we realize it or not. This is the unseen and invisible part of our working out our faith. God is doing His part (unseen), and we strive in doing our part to become more like His Son.

However, God’s children must not forget there is an enemy whose lifetime work is to keep us from obtaining the likeness of Christ. God allows this enemy to trouble us as a way of experiencing trials and tribulations in our lives. Yes, God uses the devil in our trials for His purpose. In all cases, God is always in control of our circumstances and the devil. Contrary to popular belief, God only allows the devil to go but so far in opposing His children. God, when He chooses, is able to change our circumstances to create the type of trial He wants us to experience. It is God Who chooses the type of trial along with a particular set of circumstances in our lives to steer us in our spiritual growth. Such spiritual growth will give Him glory and at the end of our trial give us the victory, added strength, and a stronger faith.

The God also can take our everyday circumstances in which we may have introduced trouble into our own lives by sinning, or own ignorance and produce a trial out of it. Regardless, God will still be in control and will have no intention of judging or punishing you because of your ignorance or sin.

A child of God must always have on his/her bucket list a desire to

repent when he/she has realized they have stumbled. One who has sinned and has yet to know Christ in the pardoning of their sins, is truly on their own. This is a rough spot to be in because it gives the devil a straight shot at him/her without them having any spiritual protection.

Jesus warned us that we would have problems in this world. No one is immune to pain or insulated from suffering, and no one gets to go through this life problem-free.

Life can be a series of problems, as the man-servant Job experienced—one problem after another. But Job got through it because God was often silent but always in control of Job’s circumstances. Not all problems are big, but all are significant in God’s growth process for His children.

Peter seems to assure us that problems are normal, of course, we all may not agree with Peter. “Don’t be bewildered or surprised when you go through the fiery trials ahead, for this is no strange, unusual thing that is going to happen to you (1 Peter 4:12). God’s children sometimes have trouble visualizing God drawing then close to Him while under a heavy load in their trials. “The Lord is close to the broken hearted; he rescues those who are crushed in spirit.” (Psalms 34:18).

Worship does not always consist of feel-good praising God. True worship is when one can praise God while experiencing the darkest moment of one’s trial. Remember, Jesus cried out from the cross, “Father why have You forsaken Me.”

Rick Warren in his book “The Purpose Driven Life,” says we truly worship when we cry out to God in prayer with our broken hearts. When we feel abandoned, hope seems to be gone and there seem to be no further options for relief. This is the time to tell God how you really feel down, hopeless, in emotional pain, no faith to hold onto, even your anger and disappointment in Him (God). God will understand. Worship includes

all the above. Job did this and God heard Job’s prayer and anger. And yet, Job came out of his trials like pure gold, so to speak.

The truth of the matter is that we can only identify with Jesus in His suffering when we suffer. Our suffering during our trials is simply “that cross” that Jesus told us to pick up if we are to follow Him. If we are to be more like Jesus, then we must carry our cross until He sets us free from it. No one likes trouble or trials in life. Yet no one can avoid them. So as a child of God we must prepare ourselves for our on-coming trials by praying, studying scriptures, and trusting God.

Like a good tennis player anticipating the ball coming back to him/her from over the net, staying on his/her toes the child of God must be ready to hit the ball in faith and return it back over the net and not be caught flat footed, so to speak. In short, be prepared, working out one’s soul’s salvation.

Rick Warren points out the fact that God could have kept Joseph out of jail, He could have kept Daniel out of the lion’s den, kept Jeremiah from being tossed into a slimy pit, kept Paul from being shipwrecked three times, and kept the three Hebrew boys from being thrown in the blazing furnace—but He didn’t. God let those problems happen, and every one of those persons were drawn closer to God as a result.

Paul states, “We felt doomed to die and saw how powerless we were to help ourselves; but that was good, for then we put everything into God’s hands, Who, alone could save us (Romans 8:5). We can never know that God is all we need until we realize God is all we got.

Regardless of the cause, none of our problems could happen without God’s permission. Everything that happens to a child of God is “Father-protected,” and He intends to use it for the good even when the devil and others mean it for bad (Romans 8:28-29).



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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.

INDIVISIBLE: PART ONE JOBS



By Jheri Hardaway

Staff Writer

When it comes to our Pledge of Allegiance, to me, the most powerful line is, “indivisible with liberty and justice for all.” This line in our current America feels like fake news. We are, unfortunately, to our detriment, decidedly divided. In an attempt to be the change I want to see, I am launching a series called Indivisible. This series will be ideas and suggestions to help us achieve indivisibility and build towards empowering elements that improve our greater good. Similar in nature to Project 2025, Indivisible will be actionable ideas and suggestions that will help elevate the collective consciousness of “we the people.” The goal here is a blueprint for the betterment of our society in a progressive post 45/47 re-United States. It is imperative to bounce back strong and strategic in the face of all that we’ve lost in countless sectors, from federal employment to parks, arts, healthcare, and more. Indivisible stands in the critical gap to inspire and enlighten. My goal is that at least one of these ideas will resonate with you, and upon that common ground, we can move forward towards a more just and United States of America.

Let's start with jobs, Franklin D. Roosevelt took office with a very ambitious plan to mitigate the impacts of the Great Depression. A component of his 100-day plan was the Federal Works Project. This project not only built roads, libraries, and other critical infrastructure, but the FWP also employed able-bodied Americans in a range of jobs from physical labor to arts and culture. We are still reaping the benefits of the FWP when it comes to the roads we drive on, the authors we read, and other projects we’ve come to appreciate over the years. Indivisible suggests that at the conclusion of the current administration, another FWP should be greenlit to give every able American an employment opportunity. Not only will these jobs be suited to the person, but they will also pay competitive living wages. By the government paying citizens competitive wages, private companies will have to do the same; otherwise, people will simply turn to the government if they’re not getting a living wage or a suitable work experience from a private employer. People speak of jobs, but not enough people discuss living-wage jobs. There are a plethora of employment opportunities available with the state accessible online right now. By reimagining the state labor system and targeting citizens to communicate job opportunities in more well-rounded ways, more people can be employed, resulting in tangible improvements to our state and society. Everyone deserves a living-wage employment opportunity.



and not just a sin, but a crime. It is wicked.

It changes a person's view of who they are, of the very body they live in. It hurts them emotionally, socially, and physically. It damages how they see themselves and harms their relationships with others. It is a lifelong struggle. So do not you dare, Megyn, use your twisted perceptions to try to approve or excuse this awful crime.



WICKED FOUR GOOD?

Last night, while looking at the ad for the sequel to the movie Wicked, Brad said, “Isn’t that an oxymoron?” I said, “Well, it depends on how you read it.” Sometimes when we say “for good,” we mean for the positive, the right way, that which blesses. But sometimes we say “for good,” and it means this is the way I am staying, as in, “I am working here until I retire. I am here for good.” It is actually wonderful when it means both: I am staying in this place eternally to do good. I have not seen the first movie, so I doubt that I can decipher what they mean. Whoever chose that title, I would say this: we are living in a decidedly wicked time, but wickedness is not everywhere.

The President of the United States said something last week that led to a lot of responses that had me laughing for a full day every time I thought about it. Donald said something like, “HBCUs would not be successful without Asian students.” There were a series of wonderful responses, but the best one to me was, “Oh, he just said that because a reporter asked him how to spell HBCU, and he did not know the answer.” That was funny to me. My reply was, “Yes, he is not brilliant. But you certainly are.” Donald Trump is not having a good season these days. When a bully is stood up to and his behavior does not create the fear and power he is trying to evoke, he is deflated and looking for any arsenal he can use to puff himself up.

Donald would love to close all universities, especially the HBCUs, for they are successful in educating people not to believe lies. Being a liar does not work for him when people are educated. He is talking to these potential HBCU supporters while saying that he is giving them more money than Obama, foiled by several billionaires, black and white. The more he takes, the more they give. So he says something foolish, suggesting that Black people are not inherently intelligent and need Asian students to make them look successful. Bless his heart. He sees things that are not there and probably does not understand what the words “historically” or “predominantly” mean. As one responder to his comments said, “Has he ever been on an HBCU campus?” I say it does not matter if he has. His view of their success is clouded by his belief that people of color are born inferior. Of course, that is tied to his lack of awareness that God creates us all. Skin color is only one characteristic of human beings.

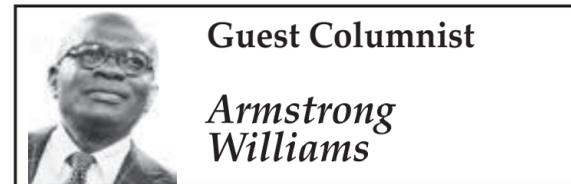
He does not know history, but he fears the strength and resilience of African people, despite their treatment on this planet. When he realizes that these people possess something he does not understand and no one can take away, he reacts with fear, when he should instead feel pity for himself. Enough that he needs to be prayed for. This is a man in turmoil. His desire to destroy what he cannot possess is not working, and his past is catching up with him. Many of his base are still clinging to his lies, but some are not. He says the economy is the best ever, but his base goes to the grocery store. He says Obamacare is bad news, but his base was using it. He says that SNAP was for “welfare queens,” without understanding that the largest group of people on welfare are his white base. So, as the finger he was pointing at others turns back on him, he is struggling for another lie to tell. Here is his latest. He wants to release the Epstein files, but claims his reluctance was that he did not want to expose Bill Clinton, Larry Summers, and other Democrats who were friends with Epstein, while of course naming them. He says he did not want to expose them, but Clinton has already been exposed. His immorality has been documented and was the subject of a very expensive investigation using taxpayers’ dollars. It will not do any good to revisit that. He was impeached, and so were you, Donald, but neither of you were removed from office.

Sorry, Donald, not sorry. The truth of your misbehavior is coming out. You have already bragged about your interest in underage girls and even suggested some inappropriate thoughts about your oldest daughters. You have not been able to hide your disdain for women, and most of us know who you are and who you still are. You are still entrenched in “my way or the highway.” We all see your struggles to be admired for what is not admirable.

Clearly, there are still those who fail to understand and still want to excuse who you are. A really pitiful case is Megyn Kelly. She is a woman and a mother who has a 14-year-old daughter, and she said the following: “He was into the barely legal type. Like, he liked 15-year-old girls. And I realise this is disgusting. I’m definitely not trying to make an excuse for this. I’m just giving you facts — that he wasn’t into, like, 8-year-olds. But he liked the very young teen types that could pass for even younger than they were, but would look legal to a passerby... We have yet to see anybody come forward and say ‘I was under 10. I was under 14 when I first came within his purview.’ You can say that’s a distinction without a difference. I think there is a difference. There’s a difference between a 15-year-old and a 5-year-old, you know?”

I think there is a difference, yes, but here are my words. Megyn, you might need to be hypnotized to discover if there is something in your past that you have repressed, because to take up for a man with a pattern of predatory behavior is alarming. Clearly, you accepted that he did this, and yet you are not sure if Epstein was a predator, even though he confessed. What is going on? Did you not leave Fox News because of sexual harassment by Roger Ailes, for which he was fired?

So words and touches are in your mind not defensible, but assault and sexual violation, including statutory rape against a minor, are somehow defensible? There are reasons why we have laws to protect minors and adults from sexual predators. It really is a bad thing to do, Megyn. These kids cannot protect themselves, so we have a society that must. Five, eight, ten, fourteen, sixteen, and so on, in most states, including Florida where many of these things happened, these ages are protected by law. You are a lawyer, a woman, and a mother. I am shocked. I know that sexual behavior continues to be misunderstood by many, but assault on children or non-consensual sex at any age is a sin



Guest Columnist

Armstrong Williams

WHEN POLITICAL RHETORIC BECOMES A WEAPON

In a recent interview, former House Speaker Nancy Pelosi declared in unequivocal terms that President Donald Trump was “the worst thing on the face of the Earth.” You heard that right. Not a threat to democracy, not a danger to civility, the worst thing on the face of the Earth. It was a statement so hyperbolic that it felt less like political commentary and more like a sermon from a zealot who has mistaken politics for theology.

Such rhetoric isn’t harmless. It corrodes the political imagination of a people already steeped in outrage. It plants in the public mind a simple but dangerous idea: that those who disagree with you aren’t just wrong, they’re evil. From that seed grows justification for all manner of destruction. Words like Pelosi’s don’t remain in the abstract. They trickle down into the cultural bloodstream, where they metabolize into rage, and rage, when sanctified by moral certainty, too often becomes violence.

When someone of Pelosi’s stature frames a political opponent as the embodiment of evil, it sets a moral permission structure. If Trump is “the worst thing” on Earth, then what act wouldn’t be justified to stop him? This is the logic that inspires assassination attempts not only against presidents but against other high-profile figures — from conservative commentators like Charlie Kirk to members of Congress, judges and journalists who deviate from progressive orthodoxy. Once politics becomes moral warfare, the other side must be destroyed, not debated.

Let’s be clear: Trump is a divisive figure. He can be crude, impulsive and often reckless with language himself. But even at his most provocative, he exists within the political domain, and his opponents have every right to criticize his behavior, policies and character. What they do not have the right to do is dehumanize him. Because dehumanization, once normalized, does not end with him. It metastasizes.

The American experiment depends on the belief that we can disagree without seeking one another’s ruin. Once that belief collapses, the republic becomes a battlefield of tribes, not citizens. And right now, that collapse feels increasingly close. The Left sees Trump as an existential threat to democracy. The Right sees the Left as a cabal of totalitarian moralists. Both sides now speak the language of apocalypse.

Pelosi’s comment is not an isolated incident; it’s symptomatic of a larger moral panic among political elites who have lost faith in persuasion and replaced it with demonization. This isn’t politics as usual, it’s politics as exorcism. Every election is now framed as a cosmic struggle between good and evil, and the side that loses is not simply wrong but damned.

The irony is that the same Democrats who decry “political violence” are often those who sanctify the rhetoric that breeds it. You cannot call your opponent a fascist, a racist or “the worst thing on the face of the Earth” and then act surprised when an unstable mind interprets that as a moral call to arms. When the moral legitimacy of violence enters the public square, even implicitly, the result is predictable: chaos justified in the name of virtue.

The United States has survived depressions, wars and assassinations, but what it cannot survive is the collapse of a shared moral language. Once every disagreement becomes a holy war, compromise dies. And when compromise dies, democracy follows.

What’s needed now is not more moral theater but more moral restraint. The true statesman knows that words can either cool or ignite the passions of the age. The responsible politician, whatever their party, should speak as if the nation’s peace depends on it, because it does.

Pelosi may believe she’s defending democracy by condemning Trump as evil incarnate. But in doing so, she risks becoming the very thing she claims to oppose: a figure so blinded by moral outrage that she no longer sees her opponents as fellow citizens. And when that happens, democracy doesn’t just falter, it burns.

POLYWORKING

Continued from page 2

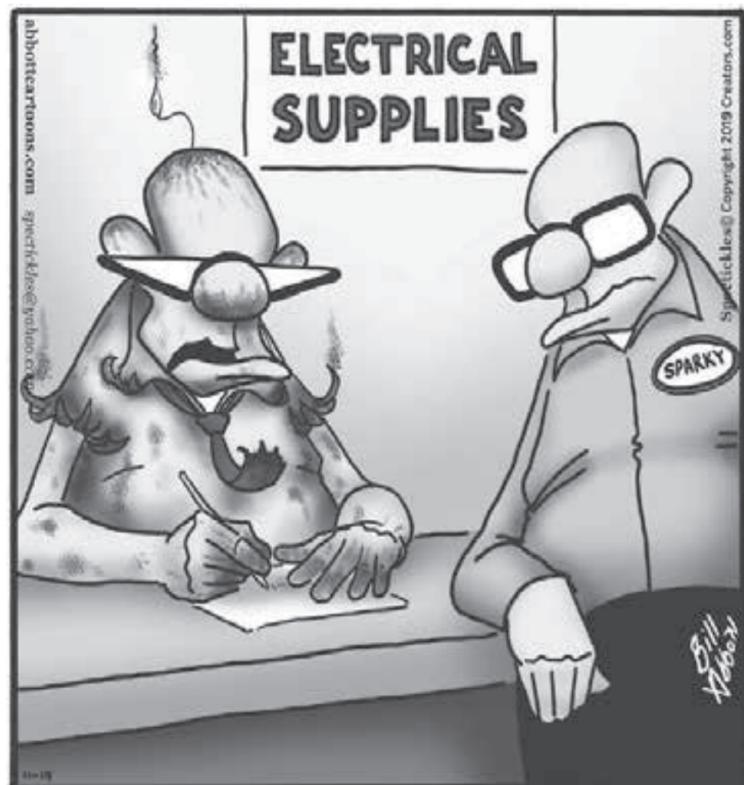
Grubhub.

“We have seen stagnant salaries, we’ve seen inflation, we’ve seen the cost of living overall increasing, even beyond our inflation measures,” said Alexandra Ravenelle, sociologist and gig economy researcher at University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. “So people are looking for ways to supplement and to build themselves a little bit of a safety net.”

Some are creating “portfolio careers” where they work a variety of jobs, each building different valuable skills. In Cusick’s case, side work keeps her social media marketing skills current.

“Rather than having one job that you can have for many, many years and thinking about your career progression as a linear pathway, some people are putting together multiple side hustles based on their skills and interests and making the money work by having multiple revenue streams,” said Elaine Chen, director of the Derby Entrepreneurship Center at Tufts University.

Career experts and those with side jobs share tips on how to get started and what to avoid if you’re considering branching out from your 9-to-5.



“Could you repeat that? First, unplug the lamp and then replace the light socket?”

Classifieds

DURHAM COUNTY

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

File Number 25E001333-310
THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 10th day of November 2025, as Executor of the ESTATE OF WILLIAM JAMES GRAHAM, 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 23rd 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 20th day of November, 2025.

Scott Anthony Mann, Executor
ESTATE OF WILLIAM JAMES GRAHAM, JR.

c/o Shirley Diefenbach, Attorney
Walker Lambe, PLLC
Post Office Box 51549
Durham, North Carolina 27717
11/20, 11/27, 12/4, and 12/11/2025
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File Number 25E001269-310
THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 7th day of November 2025, as Executor of the Estate of JANE ISABELLA AUSTIN, 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 23rd 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 20th day of November, 2025.

Daniel Watson, Executor
c/o Marion Law Office, PLLC
2741 University Drive
Durham, NC 27707
11/20, 11/27, 12/4, and 12/11/2025
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION

In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File Number 25E001412-310
The Undersigned, having qualified as Administrator of the Estate of ROBERT ALFRED HORNE, late of Durham County, North Carolina, hereby wish to notify all persons having claims against the Estate of said deceased to exhibit them to the undersigned at the below listed address on or before the 20th day of February, 2025, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery.

All persons indebted to the Estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned at the below listed address.

This, the 20th day of November, 2025.

Frances Virginia Horne
Administrator
2325 Dawn Trail
Durham, NC 27712
11/20, 11/27, 12/4, and 12/11/2025
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Having qualified as Administrator CTA of the Estate of NINA JEAN EAKER, deceased, of Carillon Living Facility located at 4713 Garrett Rd. Durham, NC 27701, the undersigned does hereby notify all persons, firms, and corporations having claims against the estate of said decedent to exhibit them to the undersigned in care of the attorney for the estate on or before 21th day of February, 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 20th day of November, 2025.

Jeffrey L. Austin
Administrator CTA
Estate of Nina Jean Eaker
500 Westover Dr. #32043
Sanford, NC 27330
11/20, 11/27, 12/4, and 12/11/2025
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File Number 25E001456-310

THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 14th day of November 2025, as Executor of the Estate of STEPHEN SHELLEY PRYE, 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 23rd 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 20th day of November, 2025.
Ellen Marie Wilbur, Executor
2339 Glendale Ave
Durham NC 27704

11/20, 11/27, 12/4, and 12/11/2025
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File Number 25E001390-310
THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 31st day of October 2025, as EXECUTOR of the Estate of DEBORAH RUTH CLARK, 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 13th 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 13th day of November 2025.

Merle Bruce Clark, Executor
7040 Windover Drive
Durham, NC 27712
11/13, 11/20, 11/27, and 12/4/2025
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

File Number 25E001214-310
THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 28th day of October 2025, as Executor of the ESTATE OF RICHARD A. BIGELOW, 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 16th 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 13th day of November, 2025.

Stephen Charles Bigelow, Executor
ESTATE OF RICHARD A. BIGELOW
c/o Jennifer Dalman, Attorney
Walker Lambe, PLLC
Post Office Box 51549
Durham, North Carolina 27717
11/13, 11/20, 11/27, and 12/4/2025
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File Number 25E000727-310
THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 31st day of October 2025, as ADMINISTRATOR of the Estate of WALTER GREGORY MCINTYRE, SR., Deceased, of Durham County, North Carolina, does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said Estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 13th 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 13th day of November 2025.

Cordie Suitt McIntyre, Administrator
1312 North St.
Durham, NC 27701

11/13, 11/20, 11/27, and 12/4/2025
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File Number 25E001364-310
THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 27th day of October 2025, as CO-EXECUTORS of the Estate of JO ANNE M. MOONEY, Deceased, of Durham County, North Carolina, do hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said Estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 13th 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 13th day of November 2025.

Jane Mooney, Co-Executor
50 Pine St. Apt 5S
New York, NY 10005
Richard Mooney, Co-Executor
1604 Woodburn Rd.
Durham, NC 27705
11/13, 11/20, 11/27, and 12/4/2025
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File Number 25E001418-310
THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 13th day of June 2025, as CO-EXECUTORS of the Estate of ELLYN R. EASTERLING, 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 13th 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 13th day of November 2025.

John Wyatt Easterling, Co-Executor
108 Ephesus Church Rd., 410
Chapel Hill, NC 27517
Jeffrey Thomas Easterling,
Co-Executor
609 Aberdeen Dr.
Chapel Hill, NC 27516

11/13, 11/20, 11/27, and 12/4/2025
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File Number 25E001413-310
THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 5th day of November 2025, as EXECUTOR of the Estate of JACQUELINE LEVONNE JENKINS, 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 13th 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 13th day of November 2025.

Stephanie Levonne Johnson
Executor
516 Birch Run Drive
Durham, NC 27712
11/13, 11/20, 11/27, and 12/4/2025
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File Number 25E001115-310
THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 13th day of June 2025, as ADMINISTRATOR of the Estate of CLIFFORD CHARLES MISSEN, 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 13th 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 13th day of November 2025.

David Geoffrey Missen, Executor
c/o Magnolia Legal
3001 Academy Rd, Suite 120
Durham NC 27707
11/13, 11/20, 11/27, and 12/4/2025
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
11/6, 11/13, 11/20, and 11/27/2025
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., 4 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

ORANGE COUNTY

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
ORANGE COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File Number 25E000625-670
THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 8th day of October 2025, as EXECUTOR of the Estate of ALAN LACHLAN DOW, Deceased, of Orange 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 13th 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 13th day of November 2025.

Robert Elliot Dow, Executor
105 Pine Street
Carrboro, NC 27510
11/13, 11/20, 11/27, and 12/4/2025

WAKE COUNTY

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
WAKE COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

25E004111-910
Having qualified as the Limited Personal Representative of the Estate of BARBARA MAE SIMMONS, late of Wake 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 in care of the attorney for the estate, Colin K. Austin, Law Office of Colin K. Austin, PLLC, 128 W. Margaret Lane, Hillsborough, NC 27278, on or before the 13th day of February, 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.
Barbara Gilmour, Executor
Attorney for the Estate:
Colin K. Austin
Law Office of Colin K. Austin
128 W. Margaret Lane
Hillsborough, NC 27278
11/13, 11/20, 11/27, and 12/4/2025
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
WAKE COUNTY

NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION

In the General Court of Justice
District Court Division
File No. 25CV035186-910
To: YAMELIN ZORILLA DE LA ROSA, Defendant.

Take notice that a pleading seeking relief against you has been filed in the above-entitled action. The nature of the relief being sought is for divorce. You are required to make defense to such pleading no later than December 23, 2025 said date being at least forty (40) days from the first publication of this Notice, and upon your failure to do so, the Plaintiff, CARLOS EDILBERTO FLORES BENITEZ, will apply to the court located at 316 Fayetteville St, Raleigh NC 27601 for the relief sought.

This, the 13th day of November, 2025

Aneta Paval
Paval Law Offices, PLLC
7404 Chapel Hill Rd
Suite M
Raleigh NC 27607
Telephone: (919) 410-6690
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 No. 25CV022052-910
To: WANDER JOSE POLANCO LIRANZO, Defendant.

Take notice that a pleading seeking relief against you has been filed in the above-entitled action. The nature of the relief being sought is for Divorce. You are required to make defense to such pleading no later than December 13, 2025 said date being at least forty (30) days from the first publication of this Notice, and upon your failure to do so, the Plaintiff, JESSICA DE JESUS FERNANDEZ, will apply to the court located at 316 Fayetteville St, Raleigh NC 27601 for the relief sought.

This, the 13th day of November, 2025

Jessica De Jesus Fernandez
Plaintiff
3030 Spanish Court Apt. 15
Raleigh, NC 27607
11/13, 11/20, and 11/27/2025
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
WAKE COUNTY

NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION

In the District Court
File No. 24CV02169-910
To: Sasi Sravanki Dhanekula

Take notice that a pleading seeking relief against you has been filed in the above-entitled action. The nature of the relief being sought is as follows: Plaintiff/ Husband, Mahesh Minnakanti, is seeking an absolute divorce and equitable distribution from Defendant/Wife, Sasi Sravanki Dhanekula.

You are required to make defense to such pleading not later than December 24, 2025, which is forty (40) days from the first publication of this notice. Upon your failure to do so the party seeking service against you will apply to the court for the relief sought.

You are advised to IMMEDIATELY contact the Clerk of Court of Wake County, North Carolina at (919) 792-4000, to obtain further information about this case, including a copy of the filed pleadings and the date(s) and time(s) of scheduled hearings.
Kisha Patel, Attorney for Plaintiff,
Mahesh Minnakanti
174 S. South Street, Suite 301,
Gastonia, NC 28052
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

WAKE COUNTY

File No. 25CV026510-910
 FATIMA AOUAS, Plaintiff vs.
 OTHMANE BELKACEM, Defendant
 TO DEFENDANT: TAKE NOTICE that a pleading seeking relief against you has been filed in the above-entitled action, by the Plaintiff herein, the nature which is as follows: COMPLAINT FOR CHILD CUSTODY/VISITATION.

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

This, the 13th day of November, 2025.

Fatima Aouas, Plaintiff
 110 Riding Ridge Rd.
 Fuquay-Varina, NC 27526
 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 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.

William M. Freeman III, Executor
 6721 Six Forks Road Apt. 1A
 Raleigh, NC 27615
 11/6, 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 CARCAMO, 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

FORECLOSURE

NORTH CAROLINA DURHAM COUNTY
 Special Proceedings No. 25 SP 281
 Substitute Trustee: Philip A. Glass
NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE
 Date of Sale: November 26, 2025
 Time of Sale: 2:30 p.m.
 Place of Sale: Durham County Courthouse
 Description of Property: See Attached Description
 Record Owners: Aaron J. Woodard
 Address of Property: 892 Saratoga Drive Durham, NC 27704
 Deed of Trust: Book : 9830 Page: 981
 Dated: December 7, 2022
 Grantors: Aaron J. Woodard an unmarried person
 Original Beneficiary: State Employees' Credit Union
CONDITIONS OF SALE:

This sale is made subject to all unpaid taxes and superior liens or encumbrances of record and assessments, if any, against the said property, and any recorded leases. This sale is also subject to any applicable county land transfer tax, and the successful third party bidder shall be required to make payment for any such county land transfer tax.

The property to be offered pursuant to this Notice of Sale is being offered for sale "AS IS, WHERE IS." THERE ARE NO REPRESENTATIONS OR WARRANTIES relating to the title or to any physical, environmental, health or safety conditions existing in, on, at or relating to the property being offered for sale, and any and all responsibilities or liabilities arising out of or in any way relating to any such condition are expressly disclaimed.

A cash deposit of 5% of the purchase price will be required at the time of the sale. Remote bidding will not be accepted pursuant to North Carolina General Statutes Section 45-21.25 (a). Credit bids on behalf of the Noteholder will be accepted. Any successful bidder shall be required to tender the full balance of the purchase price so bid in cash or certified check at the time the Substitute Trustee tenders to him a deed for the property or attempts to tender such deed, and should said successful bidder fail to pay the full balance purchase price so bid at that time, he shall remain liable on his bid as provided for in North Carolina General Statutes Section 45-21.30 (d) and (e). This sale will be held open ten (10) days for upset bids as required by law.

Residential real property with less than 15 rental units, including single-family residential real property: an order for possession of the property may be issued pursuant to G.S. 45-21.29 in favor of the purchaser and against the party or parties in possession by the clerk of superior court of the county in which the property is sold. Any person who occupies the property pursuant to a rental agreement entered into or renewed on or after October 1, 2007, may, after receiving notice of sale, terminate the rental agreement by providing written notice of termination to the landlord, to be effective on a date stated in the notice that is at least 10 days, but not more than 90 days, after the sale date contained in the notice of sale, provided that the mortgagor has not cured the default at the time the tenant provides the notice of termination. Upon termination of a rental agreement, the tenant is liable for rent due under the rental agreement prorated to the effective date of the termination.

Dated: 9/11/2025
 Philip A. Glass, Substitute Trustee
 Novell, Glass & Haskell, L.L.P.
 Posted on 9/11/2025
 Exhibit A
 BEING all of Lot 41 as shown on that plat entitled "The Villages at Independence Park, The Lafayette Phase III Subdivision," dated January 30, 2018, prepared by ECLS Global, Inc. and recorded in Plat Book 198, Page 262, Durham County Registry.
 Subject to easements, restrictions and rights of way of record, and utility lines and rights of way in existence over, under or upon the above-described property.
 PIN: 0833-47-2677
 Property Address: 892 Saratoga Dr. Durham, NC 27704
 November 13 and 20, 2025

FORECLOSURE

NORTH CAROLINA DURHAM COUNTY
 Special Proceedings No. 25 SP 737
 Substitute Trustee: Philip A. Glass
NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE
 Date of Sale: November 26, 2025
 Time of Sale: 2:30 p.m.
 Place of Sale: Durham County Courthouse
 Description of Property: See Attached Description
 Record Owners: Angela Carpenter and Daryl S. Anderson, JTWROS
 Address of Property: 116 Eastern Teal Drive Durham, NC 27704
 Deed of Trust: Book : 8485 Page: 516
 Dated: August 9, 2018
 Grantors: Angela Carpenter and Daryl S. Anderson
 Original Beneficiary: State Employees' Credit Union
CONDITIONS OF SALE:

This sale is made subject to all unpaid taxes and superior liens or encumbrances of record and assessments, if any, against the said property, and any recorded leases. This sale is also subject to any applicable county land transfer tax, and the successful third party bidder shall be required to make payment for any such county land transfer tax.

The property to be offered pursuant to this Notice of Sale is being offered for sale "AS IS, WHERE IS." THERE ARE NO REPRESENTATIONS OR WARRANTIES relating to the title or to any physical, environmental, health or safety conditions existing in, on, at or relating to the property being offered for sale, and any and all responsibilities or liabilities arising out of or in any way relating to any such condition are expressly disclaimed.

A cash deposit of 5% of the purchase price will be required at the time of the sale. Remote bidding will not be accepted pursuant to North Carolina General Statutes Section 45-21.25 (a). Credit bids on behalf of the Noteholder will be accepted. Any successful bidder shall be required to tender the full balance of the purchase price so bid in cash or certified check at the time the Substitute Trustee tenders to him a deed for the property or attempts to tender such deed, and should said successful bidder fail to pay the full balance purchase price so bid at that time, he shall remain liable on his bid as provided for in North Carolina General Statutes Section 45-21.30 (d) and (e). This sale will be held open ten (10) days for upset bids as required by law.

Residential real property with less than 15 rental units, including single-family residential real property: an order for possession of the property may be issued pursuant to G.S. 45-21.29 in favor of the purchaser and against the party or parties in possession by the clerk of superior court of the county in which the property is sold. Any person who occupies the property pursuant to a rental agreement entered into or renewed on or after October 1, 2007, may, after receiving notice of sale, terminate the rental agreement by providing written notice of termination to the landlord, to be effective on a date stated in the notice that is at least 10 days, but not more than 90 days, after the sale date contained in the notice of sale, provided that the mortgagor has not cured the default at the time the tenant provides the notice of termination. Upon termination of a rental agreement, the tenant is liable for rent due under the rental agreement prorated to the effective date of the termination.

Dated: October 29, 2025
 Philip A. Glass, Substitute Trustee
 Novell, Glass & Haskell, L.L.P.
 Posted on October 29, 2025
 Exhibit A
 BEING all of Lot 20 in Cardinal Oaks Subdivision, Phase 2 as shown on plat recorded in Plat Book 197, Pages 303-305, Durham County Registry.
 Subject to easements, restrictions and rights of way of record, and utility lines and rights of way in existence over, under or upon the above-described property.
 PIN: 0852-55-0554
 Property Address: 116 Eastern Teal Dr. Durham, NC 27704
 November 13 and 20, 2025

Classifieds



ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

The North Carolina Department of Adult Correction has the following contract in Wayne County out for bid:C- C11831 Marion FA Replacement. The bid opening is scheduled for: Tuesday, 12/16/2025. To obtain the Notice to Bidders, any Pre-Bid Requirements, and any Addenda visit:

<https://evp.nc.gov/solicitations/details/?id=6e335cdd-52c5-f011-bbd3-001dd808434611/3/24 - 12/1/24>

WANTED WBE, MBE & DBE BIDS

for the following job:

City of Greenville

Four Oaks Industrial Park Access Road

2026 Street Rehabilitation & Preservation Project

Bid# ENG-2026-002 Pitt Co. Bid Date: Nov. 24th

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

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

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

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

RALEIGH HOUSING AUTHORITY

PROPOSED PHA PLANS AND CAPITAL FUND 5-YEAR ACTION PLAN AVAILABLE FOR REVIEW

The Raleigh Housing Authority (RHA) has developed a draft amendment to its Fiscal Years 2025-2030 5-Year Public Housing Agency (PHA) Plan, a draft of its Annual PHA Plan for Fiscal Year 2026-27, and a draft of its Capital Fund Program 5-Year Action Plan for Fiscal Years 2026-2030 (the "Plan Documents"). These documents are now available for public review and comment in compliance with U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requirements.

The draft Plan Documents can be found on the RHA website, www.rhanc.gov.

Additionally, hard copies will be available for review at RHA's administrative office located at 900 Haynes Street, Raleigh, NC 27604. Copies can also be provided by email upon request.

Written comments may be mailed to Raleigh Housing Authority, Attn: PHA Plan Comments, 900 Haynes Street, Raleigh, NC 27604, or by emailing info@rhanc.gov.

Comments will be accepted from November 24, 2025, through 5:00 PM on January 8, 2026. A public hearing will be held at 900 Haynes Street on Thursday, January 8, 2026, at 5:00 PM, with an option to join via Zoom. Zoom join information will be posted to the RHA website no later than January 2, 2026.

WANTED WBE, MBE & DBE BIDS

for the following job:

Chatham County

Parker's Ridge Park

Chatham Co. Bid Date: December 9th

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

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

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

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

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

WANTED WBE, MBE & DBE BIDS

for the following job:

NCDOT Division 8 Letting

DH00573 Randolph Co. Bid Date: Nov. 25th

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

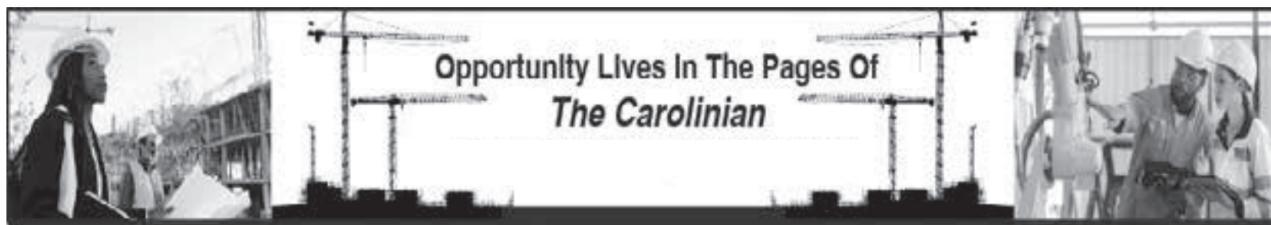
Bids can be emailed to stw.quotes@stwc corp.com

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

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

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

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Sports

The Drought Is Over!

In front of over 5000 fans, and filling the Visitors' side, the Johnson C. Smith Golden Bulls defeated the Virginia Union Panthers for the 2025 CIAA Football Championship at Durham County Stadium on November 15, 2025 with a 45-14 score. The victory ended a Fifty-Six year drought of a CIAA Championship Title.

With the Golden Bulls scoring first after an interception and pass into the endzone, JC Smith was able to hold the VA Union Panthers to 14 points due to a tough defense and aggressive offense.

Former St. Augustine's running back DeAndre Proctor, formerly #17 for St Aug and currently #3 for Johnson C. Smith, scored two touchdowns, and put up 146 yards receiving with a long 58-yard touchdown

run in the third quarter. For his achievements, Proctor was named the Game's Most Valuable Player.

The win gives the Golden Bulls the automatic bid in the NCAA Division II playoffs as a #2 seed in their Super Regional. They will take on Frostburg State at home in Charlotte, N.C. on November 22, 2025. Virginia Union became the #3 seed and if teams win their first-round games, can have a potential rematch in Charlotte on November 29th.

Congratulations to the Johnson C Smith Golden Bulls and their 2025 CIAA Football Championship Title!

