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# The Carolinian

N.C.'s Twice-Weekly African-American Owned Newspaper

\$1.00



RALEIGH, N.C.

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 27 - DECEMBER 3, 2025

VOL. 86, NO. 5



Dedicated to the Spirit  
and Service of God

## Thanksgiving Has Become The Beginning Of Christmas

Walden—You know the drill. After a day of feasting and football, you head out for the late-night or early-morning opening of your favorite store, its amazing deals advertised on the windows, fellow shoppers gathering at the doors. It's Black Friday, the best time of the year to save a bundle. But how did the tradition get started? Why is it called Black Friday? And how important is it to businesses?

Back in the late 1800s, many stores sponsored Thanksgiving parades. At the end of the parades, the stores opened their doors and the holiday shopping season commenced. While it's impossible to pin down the exact year this tradition began, by the beginning of the 20th century, it was common for retailers to start their holiday-season sales as soon as Thanksgiving ended.

Thanksgiving used to be celebrated on the last Thursday of November. But when a five-Thursday November rolled around in 1939, busi-

ness leaders asked President Franklin D. Roosevelt to move the holiday back a week so the holiday shopping season could start earlier. Roosevelt agreed and, after several years of confusion, Americans settled in to celebrating Thanksgiving on the fourth Thursday in November, ensuring retailers can always start their holiday sales before December.

You may have heard that the "black" in Black Friday refers to the day's power to push retailers "into the black," a reference to the black ink used on handwritten ledgers to denote profit. This story, however, was concocted by retailers to make the name sound more favorable. The real origin of the Black Friday moniker comes from Philadelphia, where the Army-Navy football game is played on the Saturday following Thanksgiving every year. In the 1950s, '60s, and '70s, the game brought in hordes of people, most of whom arrived on Friday. This caused a major headache for the police, who

had to deal with all kinds of mischief and mayhem. It was such a pain, they began referring to the day as Black Friday. Retailers in Philadelphia, who typically saw a sales spike from all the people in town, started calling the day Black Friday as well. In the 1980s, the name went national, shedding its less-than-glamorous origins and adopting the myth of black ink.

When was the first Thanksgiving? According to the Smithsonian, the Thanksgiving holiday is long believed to be rooted in the Pilgrim's Thanksgiving Feast of 1621, but that was not actually the first such feast to be held in North America.

In fact, "the first Thanksgiving service known to be held by Europeans in North America occurred on May 27, 1578."

And long before that, the Smithsonian reports "native peoples sought to insure a good harvest with dances and rituals such as the Green Corn Dance of the Cherokees."

Still, when it comes to the U.S. holiday, many relate it back to November 1621.

That's when "the newly arrived Pilgrims and the Wampanoag Indians gathered at Plymouth for an autumn harvest feast, an event regarded as America's 'first Thanksgiving,'" the History Channel reports.

Still, that feast wasn't called "Thanksgiving."

"For the Pilgrims, the first day that they designated as a 'thanksgiving' was in July of 1623, when they called the thanksgiving in thanks for a rainfall that had saved their harvest," Melanie Kirkpatrick, senior fellow at the Hudson Institute and author of the book "Thanksgiving: The Holiday at the Heart of the American Experience," told the TODAY show.

While modern feasts often feature a turkey and a number of dishes like mashed potatoes, beans and cranberries, what was in the "first" Thanksgiving meal between Pilgrims and members of the Wampanoag

tribe?

According to the writings of William Bradford, a Pilgrim political leader, there was in fact turkey served at the feast, likely alongside other "fowl," but the true heart of the meal actually came from gifts brought by the Wampanoag members in attendance.

"It's really important to acknowledge the contributions, the generosity, of the Wampanoag who were present. As one of the writings says, they brought with them five deer and that would have been enough to feed everybody for a few days," Kirkpatrick told TODAY.

Other foods likely included in the feast were fruits and vegetables native to the region. That would include things like onions, beans, let-

tuce, spinach, cabbage, carrots and possibly even peas. Corn was likely also served, but not in the way many expect it now.

"In those days, the corn would have been removed from the cob and turned into cornmeal, which was then boiled and pounded into a thick corn mush or porridge that was occasionally sweetened with molasses," according to the History Channel.

Fruit options may have included blueberries, plums, grapes, gooseberries, raspberries, and yes, cranberries, which were used in a variety of ways by Native Americans.

Other foods likely included seafood like lobster and other shellfish, which were plentiful in the region, according to the writings of politician Edward Winslow at the time.

## Descendants Obtain Works Of Enslaved Potter In Landmark Restitution Deal

(AP)—Inside the wide mouth of a stoneware jar, Daisy Whitner's fingertips found a slight rise in the clay — a mark she hoped was a trace left behind by her ancestor, an enslaved potter who shaped the vessel nearly 175 years ago in South Carolina.

Standing in the gallery of the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston last week, Whitner said she felt a quiet connection to her ancestor, David Drake, in that moment.

"I was telling the kids, 'Inside this jar, I'm sure I'm feeling his tears, sweat drops off his face, his arms,'" said 86-year-old Whitner, a Washington, D.C., resident and a retired account manager for The Washington Post.

The jar is one of two returned to Drake's family as part of a historic agreement this month between

Drake's descendants and the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston, one of the institutions that holds pieces of his work.

The vessels are among hundreds of surviving works by "Dave the Potter," an enslaved man who labored in the alkaline-glazed stoneware potteries of Edgefield, South Carolina, in the decades before and during the Civil War. Dave signed many of his jars — and inscribed some with rhyming couplets — an extraordinary and unparalleled assertion of identity and authorship during a time when literacy for enslaved people was criminalized.

The agreement represents what experts say is the first major case of art restitution involving works created by an enslaved person in the U.S. — a process traditionally associ-

ated with families seeking the return of art looted by the Nazis in World War II.

It's also rare: as enslaved people were denied legal personhood and documentation, tracing the ownership or lineage of their works is often impossible.

Children's book author Yaba Baker, Dave's 54-year-old fourth-generation grandson, called the return "a spiritual restoration." Baker, whose first two children's books explore Black history, said the family felt a dual sense of pride and grief. Many Black families, he noted, struggle to trace their ancestry past a few generations; recovering Dave's work gave them back a piece of themselves.

After the museum returned the pots to the family, they sold one back so people can continue to learn from

Dave's legacy. The other is on lease to the museum, at least temporarily. The MFA Boston said it wouldn't disclose how much it paid.

"We don't want to hide them away in our house. We want other people to be inspired by it," Baker said. "We want people to know that this person, Dave the Potter, who was told he was nothing but a tool to be used, realized he had humanity. He deserved his own name on his pots. He deserved to write poetry. He deserved to know who he was."

Laboring in the pottery yards in the South Carolina heat, Dave etched his name next to the date — July 12, 1834 — on a clay jar that would be sold by his owner and used to store pork and beef rations for enslaved

(See **ENSLAVED POTTER**, P. 3)

## Auditor Boliek Details Shortfalls & Delays In The Hurricane Response Subcommittee

By Jordan Meadows

Staff Writer

At a recent meeting of the North Carolina General Assembly's Governmental Operations Subcommittee on Hurricane Response and Recovery, lawmakers received a sweeping review of the state's hurricane recovery efforts, anchored by a detailed presentation from State Auditor Dave Boliek.

The hearing highlighted years of mismanagement inside the North Carolina Office of Recovery and Resiliency (NCORR), the agency created in the aftermath of Hurricanes Matthew and Florence to help families rebuild.

The session began with a note of positive audit news, as East Carolina University received a clean report following its review by the State Auditor's Office. Legislators also acknowledged the \$380 million recently allocated to ECU by the NCGA, but attention quickly shifted to NCORR and the state's beleaguered recovery programs.

Following catastrophic flood-



ing from Matthew and Florence, Governor Roy Cooper established NCORR. The agency was charged with managing federal HUD funding through CDBG-DR and CDBG-MIT grants, along with additional money from the State Disaster Recovery Acts of 2017 and 2018 and the Storm Recovery Act of 2019. Since its creation in 2018, NCORR has managed over \$1 billion, directing its flagship program to provide "financial and

logistical support for eligible homeowners on repairs, construction, replacement or elevation." In total, 11,654 families applied for assistance, but only 3,522 projects have been completed, leaving "thousands of disaster survivors with hardships." Auditor Boliek told the subcommittee that his team began scrutinizing NCORR earlier this year.

"We started looking at NCORR in the early Spring of 2025, I brought in

some experienced accountants and brought our team together. The folks I brought in to take a look at it said it was the worst government program they'd ever seen," Boliek said.

According to his findings, NCORR had such poor record-keeping that "the inability to produce a relevant and reliable data source of financial statement or position, you just couldn't do it with NCORR." He also highlighted severe deficiencies in contract management, noting that "there was a real lack of contractual metrics and key performance indicators in contracts when NCORR was first stood up," and that invoices were often paid without verification that work had actually been completed.

Boliek dramatically presented five full cardboard boxes of paper, pointing to excessive local, state, and federal regulatory requirements:

"This is a bureaucratic malaise that we've got to solve moving forward, because we're going to have disasters in the future," he said.

The ReBuild NC Homeowner

(See **SHORTFALLS**, P. 4)



### BARBER AND NC CLERGY CONDEMN HEALTH CARE CUTS, URGE LEGISLATORS TO RETURN TO RALEIGH

Bishop William Barber, North Carolina faith leaders and dozens of activists gathered at the N.C. General Assembly Monday to symbolically eulogize the thousands of people that they believe will die as a result of cuts to Medicaid and other social safety net programs.

Barber said communities are just now beginning to feel the impact of cuts from the Trump administration's One Big Beautiful Bill Act, which he has dubbed the "Big, Ugly, Deadly, Destructive Bill." He said the refusal to extend Affordable Care Act (ACA) tax credits could result in 51,000 American lives lost annually.

"Later this week, we will be releasing an open letter to every member of the General Assembly, demanding that every member put down partisan politics and pick up humanity," said Barber.

Barber said he wants lawmakers to return to Raleigh for an emergency session to address ongoing state cuts to Medicaid and to urge Congress to pass the enhanced ACA subsidies that are set to expire on December 31, 2025.

Barber said the cuts to Medicaid, the loss of the health care tax credits, and the withholding of SNAP benefits during the federal government shutdown are all examples of "policy violence" inflicted on the most vulnerable.

Nikki Williams came to downtown Raleigh Monday to take part in the symbolic eulogy, with the hope state legislators would understand the importance of strengthening the social safety net.

"I personally receive Medicaid, and without Medicaid, I can't receive pain management. I can't go to the dentist," explained Williams. "I appreciate financial assistance, but it doesn't cover everything."

Pushing a rollator with a sign that read "Save Our Healthcare," Williams shared that she has already heard from friends who have seen their monthly health insurance premiums double without the subsidies in place.

Williams believes those who may find themselves uninsured in the new year will simply turn to the emergency room for primary care. Those with insurance may find themselves paying more to offset the cost of the uninsured.

"Then that means everybody's fees [cost] going up, so that the doctors can get paid," said Williams.

It may be a legislative long shot to expect lawmakers to address the Medicaid funding gap before the end of the year, but Williams remains ever hope-

(See **HEALTH CARE CUTS**, P. 2)



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## HEALTH CARE CUTS

Continued from page 1

ful. "It's not about having the funds to do it. It's about not having the willingness to do it," Williams said. "And they should be ashamed because their people should come first. Their people put them in office. It's their responsibility to protect them."

North Carolina has cut payments to Medicaid providers from 3% to 10% this fall. Democratic Governor Josh Stein says those cuts are necessary because state lawmakers failed to fully fund the program. Stein has called on state House and Senate leaders to return to Raleigh and address the funding shortfall.

Republican state lawmakers say those cuts were premature and politically motivated. Both the House and Senate have separately approved plans to fully fund the Medicaid program, but have shown little willingness to reach a compromise that would end a months-long standoff. Earlier this month, Republican legislative leaders refused Stein's call to hold a special session.

# Police embrace social workers to help field rising calls tied to homelessness, mental illness

By Rachel Crumpler

NC Health News

Chris Hatton oversees a 15-officer police force in a small western North Carolina town in Jackson County — a place where he says many calls to 911 aren't really police matters at all.

A "suspicious" person loitering. Someone yelling in the street. A person rummaging through a dumpster. Someone in a mental health crisis threatening self-harm.

"So many of our police calls every single day are not crime-related," said Hatton, chief of the Sylva Police Department since August 2019. He's been in law enforcement for nearly 30 years. "That's not just here, that's everywhere. It's social issues."

Across the state and nation, law enforcement officers are stretched thinner and thinner responding to situations rooted in homelessness, poverty, substance use and mental health challenges — problems they aren't trained to address and can't

arrest their way out of.

Hatton said officers respond, stabilize someone as best as they can and then move on — often only to encounter the same person later because the underlying problem remains untouched.

"Police officers really have one tool, and that's jail," Hatton said. "That's part of our system, but there are a lot of people that we interact with that do not need to go to jail."

Data shows that close to half of people in jails have a mental illness, and nearly two-thirds have a substance use disorder.

Since October 2021, officers at the Sylva Police Department have had another tool: a department social worker who brings a different skill set and can respond with officers to situations when that's what's needed. The social worker follows up afterward to connect people to needed community resources and services, with the goal of addressing the root issues driving the police calls.

Since the Community Care program launched in partnership with Western Carolina University, Hatton says it has reshaped how his department functions and how the community is served.

"Whether we like it or not, social issues are a police issue," Hatton said. "It's not our job, but it's nobody else's job either. This is a gap — a gap that controls my whole day. I'm going to get those calls. They're going to happen every day, and if that's going to be 50 percent of our calls in a day, I can't ignore that. None of us can."

That realization is leading more police departments to explore alternative response programs, including models like the Community Care program, which is run by two Western Carolina University professors who had the vision to bring social workers to rural, smaller agencies. Since starting in Sylva, the program has now partnered with seven more police departments across western North Carolina.

Adding a social worker who can spend time with community members and help address root causes behind frequent police calls has been a "game-changer," Hatton said.

Hatton now considers the position essential; he said he wouldn't do police work without a social worker again.

"It gives the police that prevention piece we've never had," Hatton said. "My career has been heavy on the enforcement side of law enforcement, but this is the coolest thing I've done in my career, and this is also the most impactful. It works."

Embedding social workers

Social workers working alongside police officers isn't a new idea, but interest in these partnerships grew after the killing of George Floyd by a Minneapolis police officer in 2020 and the subsequent widespread calls for police reform.

As agencies nationwide reconsidered their approach, professors Cyndy Caravelis from the Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice and Katy Allen from the Department of Social Work at Western Carolina University began thinking specifically about what could work in small, rural departments with limited resources.

Caravelis said most of the established police social worker programs operated in large urban cities, but many police departments in North Carolina are in rural areas. They needed something different.

Their idea: embed graduate-level social work interns in rural police departments. The model would allow students to earn their required field hours, and officers would gain a new tool at no initial cost. The social workers would spend time delving into the issues that drive police encounters and connecting people to resources and support that might prevent the next 911 call — work officers rarely have time for.

"One thing that we feel really strongly about is we are not in the business of replacing officers with social workers," Caravelis said. "This is a tool we're adding to law enforcement."

Caravelis said that crime is often a symptom of unmet needs. "There is something going on beneath the surface, and if we can kind of help with what that thing is, then the crime goes away."

When Caravelis and Allen approached Hatton with their idea, he welcomed the new approach. He was already watching social needs consume his officers' time and seeing gaps as people just cycled through the system.

Hatton initially envisioned using a social worker primarily for follow-up connections to resources after a police encounter. But his thinking changed when he saw his new social worker in action, responding with police officers. He witnessed the social worker's way of engaging with people in crisis to improve outcomes.

"It absolutely increases efficiency because we spend hours and hours with some of these folks, and I've seen Galadriel do her magic — that's what we call it — and next thing you know, we're not dealing with someone at all anymore," Hatton said.

For this "innovative approach to alternative responder protocols," the Sylva Police Department was named the 2023 North Carolina Law Enforcement Agency of the Year by the North Carolina Police Executives Association.

The model has since spread. Hendersonville Police Chief Blair Myhand has embedded a social worker in his department of 47 sworn officers through the Community Care program. An increasing number of complex encounters, especially mental health crises, pushed Myhand, a veteran in law enforcement who's spent 32 years on the beat and has served as chief since February 2021, to seek out new tools for his officers.

(See **POLICE, SOCIAL WORK**, P. 5)

## 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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# Business & Finance

## Who Wins And Who Loses As The US Retires The Penny

The Conversation – By now, Americans know the strange math of minting: Each penny costs about 4 cents to make. Chances are you have some in a jar, or scattered among pockets, purses and car ashtrays.

As small as it is, the penny punches above its weight culturally. If it ever disappeared, so too might the simple kindness of “take a penny, leave a penny,” alongside timeless classics like penny loafers and the tradition of tossing a penny in a fountain.

But the penny’s days are indeed numbered. The U.S. Mint pressed the last 1-cent coin on Nov. 12, 2025, following a directive from the White House. While pennies will remain legal tender, old ones will gradually be taken out of circulation.

The impact of this change will

reach beyond coin jars. Its ripples will be felt as small, cash-reliant Main Street merchants face another test of adaptability in a system that increasingly favors scale, technology and plastic. It will also be felt by people who rely on cash – often people without bank accounts who have the least room to absorb even tiny shifts in price.

My interest comes from my former lives as the chief financial officer of a large credit union and as a small-business owner. Now, I bridge theory and practice as a professor – or “prac-academic,” as I like to say – studying the challenges facing Main Street businesses.

When the penny goes away, some will win, some will lose – and for some, it’ll be a coin toss.

Heads, they win

The first and most obvious winner is the U.S. government, which will save tens of millions of dollars each year by no longer minting a coin that costs more to make than it’s worth. Ending production seems like an easy call for efficiency’s sake.

Banks and credit unions will likely benefit too. Pennies are disproportionately expensive to handle: Every bag of pennies gets counted, sorted, rolled, verified and shipped back to the Federal Reserve, generating labor and equipment costs that far exceed the coin’s value. Removing the smallest denomination strips out an entire layer of cost and friction from bank operations – savings that scale immediately across thousands of branches.

Another beneficiary, this one hiding in plain sight, is who transports

the cash: the armored-carrier industry. For companies such as Loomis and Brink’s, pennies are heavy, low-value cargo, and a logistical money-loser. Removing penny pickups eliminates one of their most inefficient services, reducing fuel use, labor hours and truck wear.

Large retailers will likely also win. Size and scale make it easier to undertake preparations both big and small, such as reprogramming cash registers and stockpiling pennies to hedge against shortages. Larger companies also have the talent and bandwidth to figure out the true costs and benefits of accepting cash or noncash payments. If most of their transactions are already digital, they could be relatively indifferent to the end of the penny.

Large retailers also negotiate

lower card processing rates, which are the fees merchants must pay to the card companies every time a customer uses a credit or debit card. These rates aren’t uniform: Large chains get discounted pricing based on sales volume, while small businesses face higher costs for identical transactions. It follows that any policy change leading to more people paying with plastic will disproportionately benefit larger retailers.

To be sure, some banks, credit unions and large retailers have expressed concern and surprise at the pace of the change and the lack of guidance from the federal government. But for most, the penny’s end is a minor operational footnote. Online-only businesses operate in this frictionless world as well – no coins, no counting, no issue.

Tails, they lose

For small, Main Street businesses, the penny’s disappearance highlights the structural disadvantages they already face – and I think it will force a reckoning about what types of payments benefit their bottom lines.

As pennies phase out, local businesses are likely to round cash

transactions to the nearest 5 cents, resulting in what economists call a “rounding tax.” Rounding to the nearest nickel could cost businesses and consumers about \$6 million annually, according to researchers with the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond.

And it wouldn’t offer much relief if more shoppers turn to plastic and other noncash payments. That’s because most small merchants lack the negotiating power to lower their card-processing fees.

Card acceptance comes with a layered stack of costs for merchants: interchange fees, network assessments, processor markups, gateway fees, chargeback penalties, terminal rentals and more. Together, these average 2.5% to 3.5% per sale for many small businesses. Also, there are expenses related to adopting the latest, greatest payment methods, and then keeping them updated.

Consider a quick-service restaurant where a typical customer spends \$14. If that customer pays with a credit card and the business pays an

(See *THE PENNY, RETIRED* P. 4)

## Works Of Enslaved Potter — CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

people like him across the region.

He also inscribed the jar, which would likely end up on a cotton plantation in South Carolina, with the couplet:

“Put every bit all between / Surely this jar will hold 14” to mark the jar’s 14-gallon capacity.

The vessel was the first of hundreds, if not thousands, of stoneware jugs and jars made by Dave alongside other enslaved potters over 50 years before and during the Civil War.

Much of Dave’s poetry followed Christian themes. As he aged, he wrote more and explored themes related to his enslavement. One of his most resonant poems was etched into a jar he produced in 1857, around the time scholars believe Dave and his family were separated after being sold to different slave owners.

“I wonder where is all my relation / friendship to all – and every nation”

Multiple Drake descendants said they felt especially moved by Dave’s question about his relations – and that their restitution felt like Dave’s question was finally answered.

It’s unclear what became of the jars after Dave died. The MFA purchased them in 1997 from an art dealer. MFA Boston’s Art of the Americas Chair Ethan Lasser said he thinks they survived mostly from



pure “benign neglect” in South Carolina because they were large and difficult to transport or break.

The MFA has at least two Drake pots, a “Poem Jar” and a “Signed Jar,” both from 1857.

The jar the Drake descendants sold back to the museum is similar to the 1857 pot on which Dave asks about his relations because he uses first-person language that suggests ownership – something that makes it especially powerful, Lasser said.

“Think of this as an enslaved

person, speaking in the first person claiming authorship,” Lasser said.

In the poem, Dave writes: “I made this Jar = cash – / though its called = lucre Trash”.

On more than one pot, Dave writes “and Mark” next to his own name, suggesting he worked on the piece with another enslaved laborer. Oral histories indicate that Dave was disabled after losing a leg, although it’s unclear how, and may have needed help with his ceramic work later in life.

His last surviving jar, made as the

Civil War raged on in 1862, reads: “I made this Jar, all of cross / If you don’t repent, you will be lost”.

Researchers believe Drake died sometime in the 1870s after gaining his freedom in the Civil War. He is accounted for in the 1870 census, but not in the 1880 census.

For the Drake descendants, encountering Dave’s work has been both moving and difficult – a collision of pride in his artistry and grief for the conditions in which he lived.

Yaba Baker, who has a 17-year-old daughter and 13-year-old son, said the experience gave his family something they had never had before: a traceable link.

“I was able to turn to my son and say, ‘This is your lineage.’ Dave the Potter was not only a great artist – he resisted oppressive laws, even though he could have been killed for it,” he said. “That’s what you come from. Before, we didn’t have that link.”

Yaba Baker said he often thinks about the anguish Dave may have felt if, as some historians speculate, the poems on his jars were attempts to signal to family members sold away from him – a common trauma of slavery.

“I can’t imagine not knowing where my own kids are,” Baker said. “Completing that circle is very moving for me.”

## Can N.C. Global TransPark Lift East Kinston Residents Out Of Poverty?

By Greg Childress

NC Newsline

The North Carolina Global TransPark in Kinston was created in the 1990s as an industrial park to bring economic prosperity to a region that had lost more than its fair share of agricultural and manufacturing jobs. But nearly two decades after its launch, the TransPark had not lived up to expectations and was deemed a boondoggle, even by some supporters.

These days, however, the Global TransPark, with a renewed focus on aeronautics and more than 1,800 employees working on site at companies like Spirit AeroSystems and flyExclusive, is bustling with activity. That’s leading many to hope that the TransPark will finally produce the economic outcomes regional leaders and residents were promised.

The park’s growth has been substantial in recent years. Last year, state, federal and local officials broke ground for the U.S. Navy’s Fleet Readiness Center East, C-130 Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul complex that will create more than 400 new jobs and generate \$400 million in new investment for the region. And Lenoir Community College is building a \$25 million Aviation Center of Excellence at the TransPark to offer training in aviation systems and aircraft construction, as well as an aviation academy for high school students.

According to the state’s 2025 State of Aviation report, the TransPark generates \$781 million in economic output, supports nearly 3,000 jobs and contributes \$43.5 million in state and local taxes. The park was created as an independent government agency within the N.C. Department of Transportation.

“I’ve seen us go through some great times and I’ve seen the bad times,” said Mark Pope, president of the N.C. Global TransPark Economic Development Region, which includes Greene, Lenoir and Wayne Counties. “I see us really inching our way back up to being a different community than what we used to be.”

But the park’s rising fortunes aren’t lifting all its neighbors equally.

East Kinston, one of the most economically depressed communities in the state, is about five miles north of the TransPark. From there, Chris Suggs, a city councilman and founder of Kinston Teens, a youth-led nonprofit devoted to community



improvement, is closely monitoring the TransPark’s newfound success.

Suggs worries that residents in some of the county’s poorest communities could be left behind if intentional efforts aren’t made to include them.

“You have this confluence of economic activity in a community where a few miles away, there is one of the poorest neighborhoods in the state,” Suggs said. “I don’t think that’s necessarily a bad thing if our leaders could actually figure out how to connect the two. Right now, neighborhoods like East Kinston and a bunch of rural communities in Lenoir County are disconnected from Global TransPark.”

A main concern, Suggs said, is the lack of adequate public transportation. Without it, he said, residents from low-wealth communities find it difficult to reach the new jobs or the community colleges where training for them takes place.

“If we make those types of investments in our civic and social infrastructure, if we make greater investments in housing so that people are able to take advantage of these jobs ... I think those are some of the positives that can come from the economic boost the Global TransPark is starting to bring to this region,” Suggs said.

Suggs said his colleagues on the city council and members of the Lenoir County Board of Commissioners have “missed the moment” when it comes to investing in quality housing and public transportation. Suggs did not seek reelection. His term on the council ends next month.

Jeremy Stroud, executive director of the Global TransPark, said the

average salary at the TransPark is in the \$75,000 range, compared to \$48,000 for Lenoir County, where Kinston is located.

“Our main function to help the people in Lenoir County and Kinston and the region is to work with private industry to attract more industry to the Global TransPark,” Stroud said. “In doing so, you have more technical jobs available to local residents.”

Stroud and others who spoke to NC Newsline said the path to good-paying jobs at the TransPark is through the public schools and Lenoir Community College, where many TransPark’s employees are trained.

The TransPark has a strong relationship with Lenoir Community College and others in the regions. It also sponsors summer camps for students and offers job shadowing career days to spark interest in the high tech jobs available at the TransPark, Stroud said.

“We try to engage with the local school systems and local community colleges routinely,” Stroud said. “I would say to a student, if you find something you’re passionate in, communicate that with your advisors and with the school systems and with the Global TransPark. We would love to expose those students to those careers.”

Lenoir County Commissioner Preston Harris believes the TransPark can be a catalyst to help lift residents out of poverty. Harris said those efforts must begin as early as elementary school.

Harris noted that high school students also take courses at Lenoir Community College through early college programs. Students can

graduate with an associate’s degree and some have “automatic jobs” with companies in the park, Harris said.

“A few of those companies, they actually have something set up in the schools where they will co-op with students so that while they’re in school and during the summer, they can actually work with those companies,” Harris said.

To better prepare the region’s future workforce, Pope said more schools need STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) programs to engage children and to get them “excited about learning how to fix things.”

Pope noted the workplace is changing, and technology and robotics skills are becoming essential to employment.

“That’s why our STEM programs have to be so important in our elementary, our junior high, our high schools,” Pope said. “How do we train and get our kids engaged with what’s being made in their own backyard?”

Pope, the park’s executive director, wants an aviation-focused “academy or charter school” for middle school students near the TransPark that would enroll students from across Eastern North Carolina. He said he’s been talking to a lot of people about how to make that a reality.

“I think that’s another missing piece of the puzzle,” Pope said. “If we had that, it would be a game changer for a lot of these young kids.”

As NC Newsline previously reported, Suggs returned home not long after graduating from UNC Chapel Hill in 2021. He wants more of his peers and the youth coming up now to see Kinston and Lenoir County as an option after graduating high school or college.

“It wasn’t necessarily the easiest thing for me to do,” Suggs said, referring to his decision to return to Kinston. “There are so few of us who went away to college and then came back.”

He said many of those who stayed after high school have struggled to find good jobs and stable housing.

## Do I Have To Pay Off Credit Card Debt That’s Been Sold To A Collector?



YahooFinance—When you fail to repay credit card balances you owe, those unpaid debts are eventually sold to third-party debt collection agencies. This means you no longer owe the credit card company for the balances you racked up, and that your debt has been transferred to debt collectors instead.

But, do you actually have to repay the funds at that point? You can decide you don’t want to repay the debt, and you can even dispute it if you believe it’s not yours. However, failing to repay money you owe can cause considerable harm to your credit score. Debt collectors can also sue you for unpaid credit card bills, which can lead to wage garnishment or money being taken out of your bank account.

Why is credit card debt sold to debt collectors?

Credit card companies may pursue a debt as long as they believe there is a good chance you’re going to pay the bill. Typically, their strategy involves an in-house collection process that aims to get you back on track with repayment. At a certain point (usually 90 to 180 days later) when it is no longer profitable to carry the debt, credit card companies will take steps to get unpaid debts off their books so they can focus on more profitable components of their business.

This is where debt collection comes into play. According to the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB), debt collectors are “a person or company that regularly collects debts owed to others or who has the primary purpose of collecting debts.” These companies can also be called debt collection agencies, debt collection companies or debt buyers, per the CFPB.

Debt collectors typically purchase unpaid debts for a lower price than the amount owed with the goal of getting you to pay enough of the money back so they can turn a profit. Unfortunately, debt collectors are known for being aggressive in their efforts, which can include regular mailings, phone calls and other types of contact.

Do you still have to pay?

Until unpaid credit card debt is paid or ultimately forgiven, it is still owed. However, several factors can impact a debt collector’s ability to collect from you. Here are the two most important:

Statute of limitations

If the debt becomes too old, your state’s statute of limitations on debt may effectively make the debt uncollectable. This doesn’t mean you don’t owe the money. Instead, reaching the statute of limitations threshold means you can’t be taken to court and compelled to pay through a judgment.

This is why debts getting close to this timeline often see ramped up activity from debt collectors. These agencies are well aware of the statute of limitations in your state, and they become anxious about getting repaid as time starts to run out.

Keep in mind

Even if the statute of limitations for debt runs out on amounts you owe, the debt will still remain on your credit report for seven years. This is true even if your state has a statute of limitations under seven years. This will likely be a huge drag on your credit score until the entire timeline has passed, which could impact your ability to borrow money and apply for other services during that time.

Proving it is really your debt

Also be aware that debt collectors can be forced to prove the debt is yours before moving further in the collection process. If you’re being pursued for a debt that is incorrect or money that’s not even owed by you personally, you can formally dispute the debt with the debt collection agency and the credit bureaus.

The CFPB says that disputing the debt in writing within 30 days of receiving information from the debt collector is your best bet. In this case, the debt collector must send you proof that the debt is yours, such as a copy of an unpaid bill. The debt collector is then legally barred from contacting you until they’ve responded with this verification.

Do your rights change if your debt is sold?

If your debt is sold, the law requires that you receive written notice within five days of the collector’s initial attempt to contact you. That debt validation letter must include the amount of the debt, the original creditor and a statement of your right to dispute the debt.

Can overdue credit card debt be forgiven?

There are circumstances where it may be possible to negotiate a debt settlement on your own. You may be able to do this with your credit card company before your debt is sent to collections, or you could negotiate with the debt collector after the fact.

The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) says you may be able to settle your debt for less than you actually owe, and to work out an agreement so you’re not sued for unpaid amounts. However, the agency says to get any agreement you make in writing. Also note that agreements that include late payments or unpaid debt amounts can still remain on your credit reports and harm your credit score in the process.

# Details Shortfalls And Delays In — CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Recovery Program, intended to help homeowners repair or rebuild, instead trapped many applicants in years-long limbo. There were eight steps in the application process, each averaging 100 days, and grant determination alone took an average of 2.5 years. Construction on eligible projects often did not begin for an average of four years. Many families spent 1,400 days in temporary housing, costing \$230,000 per

household, and NCORR spent \$74.4 million on temporary lodging and storage while households waited. Boliek argued that the agency became focused on procedure instead of outcomes. "Management never organized and set NCORR up for success. There was no established plan for distribution of relief dollars. The repairing and rebuilding of homes destroyed by Hurricanes Matthew

and Florence became secondary to process management." NCORR's budgeting failures culminated in a \$297 million shortfall, discovered only after the application period closed in April 2023. NCORR also had a \$28 million discrepancy in expense reporting and spent over \$25 million on the Salesforce tracking system, which ultimately proved ineffective, as only 771 of 11,000 applications had a project end date.

Boliek emphasized that mismanagement—not crime—was to blame. "It was very, very clear there was no theft or fraud involved, it was just mismanagement. It was just setting up a program and throwing money at a situation without sticking to a mission with incremental goals and measurements." The revelations prompted sustained pressure on NCORR leadership. Former Executive Director

Laura Hogshead resigned in late 2024, and the General Assembly subsequently approved multiple additional appropriations—\$50 million followed by \$217 million, totaling \$341.17 million—to allow remaining projects to finish. NCORR reports that 3,924 homes have been completed, 254 are under construction, and 328 projects remain. The program is slated to end in October 2026.

Boliek also proposed reforms for future disasters, urging Governor Josh Stein and the Council of State to create a standing disaster recovery plan rather than forming a new office after each catastrophe. His proposed model, the Sustainable Outcomes for Long-term Impact and Disaster Recovery (SOLID) Partnership, would retain experienced staff, maintain key technology, and enforce clear financial controls.

# Who Loses As The US Retires The Penny — CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

average processing fee of 2.2% plus 10 cents per transaction, each sale incurs about 41 cents in fees. Even low-cost debit cards include fixed per-transaction charges that disproportionately affect businesses when the per-sale average is small. When the average sale is \$10 or less, it barely covers the cost to process it as a card transaction. That said, handling cash also comes at a cost, and it's not always easy to know what's best for busi-

ness. One analysis found that accepting cash costs 53 cents per \$100 of sales, compared with \$1.12 for accepting debit payments using a signature and 81 cents for PIN-based debit. Of course, businesses also should keep in mind that different customers will have different payment preferences. And speaking of customers, those who are most likely to feel the pinch from the end of the penny are people who still rely on cash: older adults,

lower-income households, people without credit cards or bank accounts — either unbanked or underbanked — and people who budget in cash because it provides firmer spending discipline. A few cents added to a grocery total or a convenience store purchase may not matter to someone tapping a rewards credit card, but cash-dependent consumers experience those small increases directly, with no offsetting points, perks or end-of-month cash back. And yes,

prices often end in 99 cents, which get rounded up, not down. So the burden falls disproportionately on those least equipped to absorb even small, cumulative increases. For some, it's a coin toss. Digital-first consumers may barely notice the penny's disappearance. They tap phones, scan QR codes and use payment apps that will still settle to the exact amount. While businesses haven't received final guidance on how to handle payments in the post-penny era, one

option is to price electronic transactions to the cent and round cash transactions to the nearest nickel. If that were widely adopted, digital payments alone would remain precise. Consumers who use cashless payments may believe their choice doesn't affect how they shop, but behavioral research says otherwise. Credit cards reduce the "pain of paying," leading people to spend more — often 10% to 20% more than with

cash. Credit card rewards programs further incentivize card use. In one last nod to the cost of noncash payments, those rewards are funded by higher merchant fees that ultimately translate into higher retail prices. Killing the penny makes economic sense for the government and some businesses, yet it also highlights a deeper truth: Efficiency tends to reward the already efficient. For many, however, even when the change is small, every cent still counts.



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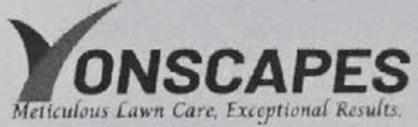


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# Health and Wellness

## NC Reports Cancer Progress And Gaps As New Plan Rolls Out

By Jordan Meadows  
Staff Writer

The North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS) has released the 2025–2030 North Carolina Cancer Plan, outlining an ambitious roadmap to reduce cancer incidence, improve early detection, expand treatment access and support survivors statewide.

With cancer remaining the second leading cause of death in the state, the new five-year plan confronts both the biological and social factors that shape cancer outcomes, with a particular focus on rural and underserved communities that face higher burden.

State Health Director and Chief Medical Officer Dr. Lawrence Greenblatt emphasized the plan's critical role in addressing these challenges.

"The Cancer Plan is a vital tool in our fight against cancer," Greenblatt said. "It outlines clear strategies to reduce risk, improve early

detection, and expand access to care. We urge communities across the state to use this plan to help save lives."

The plan focuses on six cancers that have the greatest impact on North Carolinians: lung, female breast, prostate, colorectal, melanoma skin cancers, and HPV-related cancers. Rural residents and communities of color continue to experience higher cancer incidence and mortality, patterns driven in part by social determinants of health such as access to nutritious food, safe housing, transportation, broadband, health care facilities and preventive care.

Dr. Kimberly McDonald, Chief of the Chronic Disease and Injury Section at NCDHHS stated, "Every North Carolinian deserves the opportunity to live a healthy life. That means investing in the conditions that drive health—like access to nutritious food and preventive care."

Lung cancer—the leading cause of cancer deaths in the United States and responsible for one in five cancer deaths—remains a central focus of the new plan. North Carolina's lung

cancer incidence rate is significantly higher than the national average, with 62.9 cases compared to 53.6 per 100,000 nationwide, according to the American Lung Association. The incidence rate for Black individuals in North Carolina is higher than the national rate for Black populations.

Trends over the past five years show some progress, particularly in early detection. Between 2018 and 2022, early-stage lung cancer diagnosis in North Carolina increased by 10%, partly due to expanded screening efforts following the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force's 2021 guideline changes. These revised recommendations broadened eligibility for low-dose CT screening, particularly benefiting women and Black adults previously excluded under older criteria.

ECU Health, a major partner in improving access, performed 5,274 low-dose CT screenings in 2023 and 6,151 screenings in 2024. The new Screening Saves program, a partnership between ECU Health and the Lung Cancer Initiative, aims to further expand awareness, education and screening accessibility in eastern North Carolina, a region with historically high lung cancer rates.

Despite these improvements, dis-



in access to timely screening and care.

At the county level, lung cancer incidence varies significantly. Onslow, McDowell, Richmond, Yadkin and Tyrrell counties report the highest rates, while Watauga, Polk, Avery, Chatham and Camden show the lowest.

The Cancer Plan's goals highlight a comprehensive push toward reducing risks through healthy behaviors, increasing cancer screenings, improving access to quality treatment, strengthening care coordination and expanding supportive resources for patients and survivors.

Developed by the NCDHHS Division of Public Health's Comprehensive Cancer Control Program, the Cancer Prevention and Control Branch, and the North Carolina Advisory Committee on Cancer Coordination and Control—with leadership from the NC Cancer Leadership Team—the plan reflects a wide network of partnerships across the state.

Dr. Vickie Fowler, Chair of the NC ACCCC, summarized, "Cancer touches nearly every family in North Carolina, and the burden on our communities is profound. The Cancer Plan is more than a document; it's a call to action."

parities persist across diagnosis, treatment and survival. From 2018 to 2022, the age-adjusted lung cancer incidence rate in North Carolina was 71.3 per 100,000 among males and 54.0 among females, with non-Hispanic American Indian populations experiencing the highest rates.

Nearly 99% of cases occurred in individuals aged 45 or older, and

adults aged 65–84 accounted for the largest share of diagnoses. Treatment patterns also reflect inequities: only 16.4% of Black lung cancer patients in North Carolina underwent surgery, compared to 20% of white patients. Early-stage diagnoses are likewise less common among Black individuals (25.4%) than white individuals (28.8%), underscoring gaps

### RALEIGH CHAMBER HEALTHCARE SUMMIT HIGHLIGHTS SHORTAGE OF SKILLED LABOR FOR HOSPITAL CONSTRUCTION



By Jheri Hardaway

Staff Writer

Raleigh, NC — The future of healthcare in the Triangle region was the central topic at the Healthcare Summit 2025, presented by the Greater Raleigh Chamber and a coalition of leading healthcare and business organizations. The event, which took place at the Marbles Kids Museum, brought together experts to discuss how "innovation, development, and leadership are coming together to shape a healthier Triangle region."

While panels explored various topics, a key takeaway from the development discussions was the increasing challenge of finding skilled labor for new hospital and clinic construction. A representative from one of the area's prominent construction firms highlighted a major pinch point: the scarcity of available electricians. The builder noted that a significant number of skilled electricians in the region are currently employed building the area's booming data centers, creating a competitive drain on the labor pool needed for critical healthcare infrastructure projects. This shortage threatens to slow down the development and expansion of essential medical facilities required to meet the Triangle's rapid population growth. The issue underscored the complex intersection of economic development and healthcare capacity in the region.

The summit was sponsored by Amazon One Medical, Duke Health, Gallagher, UNC Health, United Healthcare, and Wake Med Health and Hospitals, among others, and featured a morning of engaging panels from nine in the morning to noon. The challenge of securing adequate labor for hospital construction remains a critical issue for leaders dedicated to the development of a healthier Triangle.

### POLICE, SOCIAL WORK

Continued from page 2

He said the tipping point came after a department homicide review showed that a woman shot at a McDonald's by a restaurant employee in October 2023 had multiple interactions with Hendersonville police officers in the days before her death — encounters marked by erratic behavior later linked to schizophrenia.

"People would call, we would interact and we have very limited tools available to us as a police department," Myhand said. "Of course, no one foresaw that she would be shot and killed, but I quickly realized that we just didn't have the tools that we needed to be able to effectively help her out."

After starting with a part-time social work intern from Western Carolina University in August 2024, the department hired its first full-time social worker last month.

"[Police officers are] the first ones to respond because we're always out and about, but we're not always the right tool for the job," Myhand said. "Sometimes we can be sort of a square peg into a round hole."

A social worker, he said, brings a different skill set — knowledge of resources, relationships with providers and a different way to connect with people in crisis.

"If we don't start employing some different tactics, nothing's going to change. We're going to continue to do the same thing over and over again," Myhand said. "And I think that's by definition what insanity is. That's not how we're going to make our community safer."

A different approach

A recent call in Hendersonville illustrates the difference a social worker can make. Officers responded to a request for a welfare check after a woman sent her neighbor alarming text messages about wanting to end her life. The officers tried to talk with her, but she wouldn't engage. At a loss for what else to do, an officer called the new police social worker Cammy Holt to come to the scene.

Holt said when she arrived, she was met with the same initial reluctance from the woman, who was suicidal and just kept uttering, "You can't help me."

Eventually, as Holt kept talking, the woman shared the real issues weighing on her: She had a traumatic brain injury, hadn't eaten in days and felt overwhelmed by a conflict with a family member. Holt de-escalated the situation, provided her with food and immediate support, and in the following days shared additional longer-term resources, such as a meal-delivery program, in-home care and the names of therapists specializing in traumatic brain injuries.

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# Arts & Culture

## Lumbee Reps March on Washington

By Jheri Hardaway

Staff Writer

Washington, DC — The Lumbee Tribal leadership recently traveled to Washington, DC, to lobby for full federal recognition through the Lumbee Fairness Act. Introduced by outgoing Senator Thom Tillis in January of 2025, the Lumbee Fairness Act seeks to make the Tribe and its members eligible for all services and benefits provided by the Federal Government to federally recognized Indian tribes, like education and healthcare. The purpose is for Federal services and benefits to be provided to those members of the Tribe residing in Robeson, Cumberland, Hoke, and Scotland counties in North Carolina, who shall be deemed to be residing on or near an Indian reservation. Section seven of the act mentions, "With respect to land located within the State of North Carolina that is owned by, or held in trust by the United States for the benefit

of, the Tribe, or any dependent Indian community of the Tribe, the State of North Carolina shall exercise jurisdiction over all criminal offenses that are committed; and all civil actions that arise."

According to ABC11, "North Carolina recognized the Lumbee Tribe in 1885, and while Congress did the same in 1956, it did not provide the full federal benefits of other tribes."

"During the 20th century, the Lumbee were among the dozens of victims of the termination era, one of the darkest periods in federal Indian policy. In 1956, Congress passed the Lumbee Act. It acknowledged the Tribe, but cruelly denied them the benefits and the recognition that every other tribe receives. The federal government has since worked to correct the grave injustices of the termination era for nearly every single tribe, except for the Lumbee. Time and again, the Lumbee have proven their case," said Sen. Thom Tillis, who has led efforts on the Lumbee



Fairness Act, a bill co-sponsored by Senator Ted Budd and 18 other Senators. Tillis went on to share, "These days, it's rare to see Republicans and Democrats come together on anything. But when it comes to Lumbee recognition, the support is overwhelming, and it's bipartisan."

Recognition will need to come through legislation, with over

60,000 members of the tribe largely residing in Robeson County; this is a popular issue in North Carolina politics, yet not everyone is on board. There is pushback coming directly from the Native American Community. Ben Barnes, the Chief of the Shawnee Tribe, has stated, "The United Indian Nations of Oklahoma turned to a respected historian and genealogist to examine the record. That research did not attempt to define who the Lumbee are. It simply asked a single question: Can the Lumbees' tribal claims be verified by historical and genealogical evidence? The resounding answer was no."

Known as the "People of the Dark Water," the Lumbee are descendants of multiple tribes from the Siouan, Algonquian, and Iroquoian language families. While the State of North Carolina officially recognized them as a tribe in 1885, the Lumbee have been seeking full federal recognition since 1888. We will keep you updated regarding this issue.



## Tiger Woods Helping To Restore Historic D.C. Golf Course

Reuters— Tiger Woods is lending a helping hand with the renovation of Langston Golf Course in Washington D.C., a White House advisor told Front Office Sports.

Langston Golf Course opened in 1939 along the Anacostia River and was the district's first course specifically built for African Americans. It joins Rock Creek Park Golf and East Potomac Golf Links as historic municipal golf courses in D.C. owned by the National Park Service, which in 2020 handed over operations to the National Links Trust.

Ed Russo, a consultant to President Donald Trump and chairman of the White House Environmental Advisory Task Force, announced the news that he will be working with Woods on the Langston Golf Course.

"I'm responsible for redesigning it and making it better than it ever was," Russo told Front Office Sports last week. "And I'm proud to say that Tiger Woods has agreed to help me do that."

The National Links Trust declined comment to Front Office Sports when asked about Woods' involvement in the project.

Woods, 49, is a 15-time major champion and winner of 82 tournaments on the PGA Tour. He was inducted into the World Golf Hall of Fame in 2021.



By Judykay Jefferson

### LESSONS FROM A LIFE WELL LIVED

In this Thanksgiving season, we hear and talk a lot about gratitude. Many will share the tradition of sharing what they're thankful for around the dinner table. Others will take a more general approach including gratitude for family, friends, and health in pre-meal prayers. The reality is that although each of us has something to be grateful for, the twin companions of gratitude and regret often walk hand-in-hand beside us. They are not enemies, but teachers—reminders of where we've been and guides for where we still might go. For those of us whose lives have spanned eras of struggle and triumph, these two emotions carry a special weight. They speak to the resilience of a people who have endured injustice yet built communities, nurtured families, and passed down wisdom that continues to shape the nation.

Gratitude is more than saying "thank you." It is a posture of the heart, a way of seeing the world that acknowledges blessings even in the midst of hardship. Many elders recall growing up with little material wealth but abundant love. A grandmother's cooking, a father's stern guidance, a neighbor's helping hand—these small acts of kindness formed the foundation of survival and success.

Gratitude reminds us that progress is possible. Think of the generations who fought for civil rights, who marched, prayed, and demanded dignity. Their sacrifices opened doors that once seemed permanently locked. To be grateful is to honor those who paved the way, to recognize that our opportunities today are built on their courage.

Gratitude also means cherishing the everyday gifts: the laughter of grandchildren, the comfort of old friends, the strength of faith. These are treasures that no amount of money can buy. Gratitude allows us to see life not as a series of losses, but as a collection of blessings that continue to unfold.

Yet alongside gratitude, regret often lingers. Regret is the voice that asks, "What if?" What if I had pursued that dream? What if I had spoken up when silence felt safer? What if I had treated someone differently?

For many of us, regret may carry layers of complexity. Some regret opportunities denied by discrimination—jobs not offered, schools not welcoming, neighborhoods closed off. Others regret choices made in response to those barriers: settling for less, holding back ambition, or allowing fear to dictate decisions. Regret left unaddressed can become resentment, staining our present and future with yesterday's shadows.

But regret, like gratitude, can be a teacher. It reminds us of our humanity, our imperfections, and our capacity to grow. Regret can inspire reconciliation—reaching out to mend broken relationships, apologizing for past mistakes, or finally daring to pursue a long-delayed passion. It can also fuel advocacy, motivating elders to speak truth to younger generations about the importance of seizing opportunities and refusing to let injustice define their path.

The challenge, then, is to balance gratitude and regret. Too much regret can lead to bitterness, while too much gratitude without reflection can ignore the lessons of mistakes. Together, they create a fuller picture of life.

Gratitude softens regret, reminding us that even in missed chances, there were blessings. Regret sharpens gratitude, reminding us not to take blessings for granted. For seniors, this balance can be liberating. It allows one to look back honestly, acknowledging both triumphs and failures, while still moving forward with hope.

Perhaps the greatest gift seniors can offer is the wisdom of gratitude and regret to younger generations. Gratitude teaches humility and appreciation; regret teaches caution and courage. Together, they form a legacy of resilience.

Imagine telling a grandchild: "I am grateful for the education I fought to receive, but I regret not pushing harder for the career I wanted. Learn from both." Such honesty equips the next generation to navigate life with eyes wide open, aware of both the blessings and the pitfalls. This level of honesty takes courage and the acknowledgment that human perfection is unattainable, should be unexpected, and is spiritually not required.

As the holiday season approaches, it is a fitting time to reflect on gratitude and regret. Write down what you are thankful for. Name the regrets that still weigh on your heart. Then ask: what can I do with these truths today?

Gratitude may lead you to call an old friend, to thank a mentor, or to savor a quiet moment of prayer. Regret may lead you to apologize, to forgive, or to finally take that trip you've always dreamed of. Both emotions, when embraced, can enrich the years ahead.

Life is not measured only by achievements or failures, but by the wisdom we gain along the way. Gratitude and regret are not opposites; they are partners in the journey. For me, they reflect a history of resilience and a future of possibility.

Let us give thanks for the blessings we have received. Let us learn from the regrets we carry. In doing so, we honor the past, enrich the present, and inspire the future.

## 150 Years: The Oxford Colored Orphanage

By Jordan Meadows

Staff Writer

The Central Children's Home of North Carolina—originally founded as the Grant Colored Asylum—stands as one of the most significant African American child-care institutions in the state.

Its origins trace back to the Reconstruction era, when the emancipation of enslaved people and the decline of the apprenticeship system created a sudden rise in homeless and neglected Black children who lacked safe and reliable care. In 1873, the Oxford Orphans Asylum opened nearby but served only white children, leaving children of color without institutional support.

The need for a separate facility became apparent, and in August 1882 the Colored Orphanage Association was formed in Henderson by members of the Shiloh and Wake Missionary Baptist Associations, inspired by Rev. Dr. Augustus Shepard. With the assistance of Henderson native Henry Plummer Cheatham—an influential African American political leader who later served in Congress—the Association secured congressional funding to establish North Carolina's first orphanage for African American children.

In October 1883, the Association purchased a 23-acre farm just south of Oxford, near Fishing Creek township, for \$1,565 and opened the Grant Colored Asylum as a non-denominational institution dedicated to caring for children deprived of pa-



rental support. From the beginning, the orphanage offered a comprehensive model of care that combined religious, moral, and industrial instruction, providing training in farming, dairying, carpentry, brick-making, barbering, shoe repair, food preparation, laundry, and household skills—preparing its residents for productive, independent adult lives.

Under its first superintendent, Robert L. Shepard, the orphanage established a foundation of structure and opportunity, and Shepard's work was continued by Henry P. Cheatham, who directed the home for 28 years and whose 1934 brick office still stands on the grounds. Over time, the institution underwent several name changes that reflected

its growth and evolving mission: it became The Colored Orphanage Asylum of North Carolina in 1887, The Colored Orphanage of North Carolina in 1927, The Central Orphanage of North Carolina in 1965, and finally the Central Children's Home of North Carolina in 1986.

Its main 1915 building—with Italianate design elements and a striking tower—remains an architectural landmark.

Throughout its history, the home was supported by a broad coalition of churches, civic groups, and fraternal organizations, including the General Baptist State Convention, the Women's Baptist Home and Foreign Missionary Convention, the Prince Hall Grand Lodge, the Grand Chap-

ter Order of Eastern Star, and American Legion affiliates. A 30-member board of directors continues this tradition of community governance.

In 1943, a scholarship fund was established in honor of Robert L. Shepard to help graduates pursue vocational training or college education, further expanding opportunities for the children who passed through its doors. The orphanage also developed close relationships with surrounding communities, including Native American families in Granville County; one notable example involved Cherokee twin boys who were placed at the home and later adopted into the local community.

Today, the Central Children's Home provides family-centered residential care for youth ages 8 to 21 who cannot remain safely at home due to dependency, neglect, or abuse. Its mission emphasizes emotional, social, spiritual, educational, and physical development, as well as preparing young people for independent living and strengthening family functioning whenever possible. The institution continues to serve children from across the state, including the Triangle, Eastern North Carolina, and the region surrounding Henderson and Oxford.

Recognized for its historical importance, the home was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1988, and a North Carolina Highway Historical Marker on Raleigh Street in Oxford commemorates its legacy.

## 2nd Annual Gala Empowers Young Women

By Jheri Hardaway

Staff Writer

Raleigh, NC — The 2nd Biennial S.A.G.E. Gala showcased the greater Raleigh area the greatness in our young girls. The stunning gowns, impactful speakers, and delicious food made for an inspiring atmosphere in NC State's McKimmon Center. S.A.G.E., a non-profit organization, focuses on mentoring adolescent girls who are in underserved communities by providing resources and programs that give social awareness on issues such as teenage pregnancy, domestic violence, human trafficking, and body image, as well as having educational involvement and preparing them for professional and career development.

DJ DOC of Choice 92.1 and RoyalTea of K97.5 kept the music vibing and the show rolling as we enjoyed celebrating the young ladies of the program past and present, heard a word from the founder Tatiana Cooper, and a special highlight from now-retired social media star Officer Tommy Norman. A panel discussion on the girls' achievements featured Maya Gonzalez, Mackenzie Fennell, Nailah Daley, and Alanna Barbour, followed



by a keynote from area actress and entrepreneur Birgundi Baker. Baker's inspiring message concluded with "I would have never seen the stars if I didn't fall on my back."

S.A.G.E. believes every young girl deserves the opportunity to become the most confident, healthy, and stable version of themselves. S.A.G.E. works to lend a hand to the young women who need one when they don't know who else to turn to.

S.A.G.E. was founded on the principles of Social Awareness, Educational Involvement, and Career and Professional Development in order to uplift girls in need within our local communities. Through various programs that promote health and wellness, S.A.G.E. is committed to providing for those in need.

More than 250 young girls have passed through the program since 2018, with a current waiting list

of 367 hoping to take part in the program. Toni Nelson, Assistant Executive Director, shared during her remarks that, "Society has a way of telling girls what they can't be before they learn what they can." S.A.G.E. stands in the gap to inspire and uplift, and this gala reflected the community impact. The girls in the program have achieved a 100% high school graduation rate and 100% college acceptance. Nelson went on to emphasize, "When we invest in girls, we change outcomes." During the gala \$2,000 in scholarship money was awarded to the girls.

The four-year program is currently being offered to high school girls ages 13-18 at select schools in the Raleigh area. S.A.G.E. is currently accepting volunteer applications to assist with the outreach programs to effectively serve our community. The night was capped with a gender reveal for founder Tatiana Cooper, who will be welcoming a baby boy! The main feedback at the conclusion of the event was, "It was great, it was wonderful, it ended too soon." S.A.G.E. is an incredible organization doing outstanding work. The organization welcomes support through donations and volunteers.

## Boseman Legacy Cemented With New Honor

RollingOut—Chadwick Boseman received a posthumous star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame on Thursday, November 20, more than four years after his death from colon cancer shocked fans and colleagues. His widow, musician Simone Ledward-Boseman, accepted the honor in an emotional ceremony attended by filmmaker Ryan Coogler and actress Viola Davis, both of whom collaborated with Boseman on projects that defined the later years of his career.

The tribute represents a bittersweet recognition for an actor whose star was ascending when illness cut his life short at 43. Boseman died on August 28, 2020, four years after his private colon cancer diagnosis. He never publicly discussed his condition, continuing to work on demanding film projects while undergoing treatment. The revelation of his illness only came through a family statement



announcing his death, leaving the entertainment industry and his admirers stunned by the loss.

Ledward-Boseman's speech at the ceremony emphasized that her late husband's impact extended far beyond his performances on screen. She described him as a spiritual teacher whose faith remained central to his

identity, supported by family and close friends who kept him grounded throughout his rise to fame. According to her remarks, Boseman benefited from a protective team that believed in his vision and colleagues who formed genuine bonds with him rather than merely professional relationships.

The musician, who reportedly be-

gan dating Boseman in 2015, made her first public appearance with him at the 2019 Screen Actors Guild Awards. The couple married in secret, a detail only revealed in the family's announcement of his death. Her presence at the Walk of Fame ceremony highlighted the private life Boseman maintained despite his public prominence, choosing to shield both his relationship and his health struggles from media scrutiny.

In her closing remarks, Ledward-Boseman celebrated the artistic legacy Boseman created through his dedication to craft and his choices of meaningful roles. She acknowledged his skill and devotion while cementing his status as both hero and icon. The tribute emphasized qualities beyond his acting ability, noting how he lived with honor and walked with truth, describing him as brilliant, beautiful and kind in equal measure.

# Community

## The 20th Anniversary Of Enloe High School's Charity Ball

By Jordan Meadows  
Staff Writer

The Enloe Charity Ball is one of the Triangle's most impactful student-run philanthropic traditions.

Founded in 2004 by Rachel Escobar and paused only once, during the COVID year of 2020, the organization has become a defining feature of Enloe High School's culture. Each year, the event is planned, executed, and led entirely by students in Enloe's Student Council, who select a local nonprofit beneficiary, run a months-long fundraising campaign, and culminate their efforts in a county-wide gala where the annual check is revealed.

Over time, those student-driven efforts have raised nearly \$1.9 million for nonprofits such as Haven House Services, Southeast Raleigh Promise, the Autism Society of North Carolina, and CASA.

Current Enloe senior Noe Roark, Vice President of the Enloe Student Union, explained, "Last year we surpassed \$1.8 million in total, and our goal this year is \$200k so we can reach that \$2 million mark—which is super exciting."

This year, on the shared 20th anniversary of both organizations, En-

loe Charity Ball selected Note in the Pocket as its 2025 beneficiary. Note in the Pocket provides high-quality, personalized clothing to homeless and impoverished children across Wake and Durham Counties, with many requests coming from schools within Enloe's own zip code. Demand for its services has grown rapidly—a 70 percent increase in clothing requests over just four years—and the nonprofit now aims to serve 12,000 children and families by 2025.

Funds raised by Enloe students will directly support this expansion, including strengthened school-based clothing delivery, community Pocket Pop Ups, and the organization's growing work in Durham, which clothed more than 1,200 individuals last year.

Note in the Pocket's philosophy centers on anonymity, privacy, and personalization—"Clothing with dignity and love," as its mission states. Children identified as clothing insecure receive carefully prepared packages tailored to their individual needs and preferences, without ever being named. Volunteers sort, size, and quality-check every clothing item, selecting pieces based on details such as favorite colors or characters.



Behind Enloe's contribution to this mission is an intricate student-led structure that few outside the school ever see. The Student Council—about 65 students strong—runs every aspect of the campaign themselves.

Roark credits this entirely youth-driven model for the organization's longevity and impact: "I think the thing that's contributed to the overall success of our organization is the spirit behind it: we have about 65 kids in our student council that do all the work in its entirety. It's all student-led and student-run. When

new students arrive, they realize that the Charity Ball is this immersive experience where you put so much into it for three months."

Each year, seniors train freshmen, ensuring continuity built on enthusiasm and mentorship. Five student leaders—the student body president and four vice presidents—oversee committees in areas like finance, public relations, and logistics, guiding their peers through months of planning. The work happens alongside AP classes, extracurriculars, and college applications, something

Roark noted when comparing ECB to adult-run organizations:

"This is not our jobs. We're students: we're doing college applications, still going to school—all that to manage at the same time."

Fundraising itself becomes a campus-wide tradition, weaving service into student life. Competitions like kickball and chess tournaments, fall retreats, caroling groups, and dozens of small events across the school community both raise money and reinforce the sense that students are building something meaningful to-

gether. These activities, some more than eight years old, have become staples students look forward to each year, strengthening participation and community identity.

"My biggest hope is that the organization can continue—and even ramp up—its commitment to volunteering. That's something so special for an organization to have 70 kids ready to volunteer all the time. For example, with CASA, we actually helped build the furniture that went into the apartments, and we made welcome signs for the apartments," Roark said.

It is this combination of student autonomy and institutional memory that allows the Enloe Charity Ball to have such a lasting impact. Students know that every kickball ticket, every themed event, and every moment spent volunteering connects them to something larger than their school—something that directly uplifts the lives of children and families in their own neighborhoods.

As the organization pushes toward its \$200,000 goal for Note in the Pocket and the milestone of \$2 million raised overall, it continues to demonstrate how much power young people have to transform their communities.

## The Plainness of Black Female Gun Ownership In N. Carolina

CHAPEL HILL, N.C. — Dorrian Wilson grew up around guns.

In her hometown of Franklin, Louisiana, having guns was so common that it wouldn't be unusual for a 5-year-old to receive a rifle on their birthday.

"We hunted, we fished, we grew our own vegetables and guns were not seen as something taboo," Wilson said.

Wilson, who now lives in Charlotte, North Carolina, with her husband, Rob Austin, has an extensive family history of people using guns as a form of protection. Her uncles, she said, used firearms in Franklin to fend off white people who wanted to prevent them from voting in the '50s and '60s.

But her own reason for owning and shooting guns isn't connected to a specific cause.

To Wilson, guns are a necessity. "For me owning a gun is, 'I need shoes so my feet don't get wet, I need gloves if it's cold outside. I carry my gun on the off chance that somebody wants to kill me today,'" Wilson said.

Wilson is a part of the growing number of Black women across America who own guns. The National African-American Gun Association has 30,000 members and 60% of those members are women, according to its website. And during the pandemic, the number of new gun owners grew, with 21% of them being Black and over 50% being women.

But these numbers, and stories written about them, attempt to make Black women a "new" face of gun ownership in America. That ignores



the rich history of Black women with guns and attempts to generalize a demographic full of nuance.

Joy Allen, owner and founder of InHERPiece, a shooting club for Black women and women of color with chapters in Raleigh and Spring Lake, North Carolina, didn't grow up with guns in her immediate home. But she was comfortable around them from an early age because her grandparents owned shotguns.

"Growing up in the city, and once I got out of the house, I was not necessarily a gun fan," Allen said. "And when I had children, I did know I did not want guns in the house while they were younger."

In late 2016, Allen decided she wanted to learn how to shoot as a personal goal. Her children were old enough to be trained responsibly, and it seemed like a way to relieve

stress from her job in clinical research.

"I just wanted to do it as something fun," she said.

After taking her first shot: Allen was "addicted."

"The first time I pulled the trigger it was very therapeutic," Allen said. "I just felt empowered."

Dorrian Wilson's reason for stepping into the world of guns is a bit more direct.

Dorrian Wilson's disassembled firearm is arranged on her kitchen countertop after a demonstration at her apartment in Charlotte, N.C., on September 6, 2022.

The real reason why I carry my gun is to kill men," she said. "I've had instances in my life where guns were pulled on me by men, just trying to get to my apartment. So my number one goal is still safety."

A 2020 Washington Post investigation found that since 2015 Black women have accounted for 20% of the women fatally shot in America and 28% of unarmed deaths, despite only making up 13% of the population overall. And a 2019 report from the Violence Policy Center found that Black women had the highest rate of homicides perpetrated by men.

"So if I post a picture of myself shooting, carrying or something like that, the majority of the responses from women are 'I need to learn how to shoot.' And men, almost 100% of their responses are 'I know not to mess with you,'" Wilson said. "In your predatory mind: you know now that I'm not prey."



Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Beta Phi Chapter's Veteran Pic for 2025

# Influencers Go Viral. You'll Go Local. (And get \$1,000!)

Ready to dive into local issues and help plan for Raleigh's future? We're bringing together a group of residents—selected by lottery—for the Civic Assembly, where neighbors will exchange ideas and recommend real solutions for the city's Next Comprehensive Plan.



Check your mailbox!



LIGON BUILDING FATE LISTENING SESSION HELD—Ms. Toshiba Rice, District 4 Wake County School Board Representative held a Listening Session Monday, Nov. 24th to get community input on the fate of the J.W. Ligon Middle School Building. Although the agenda called for highly structured input presentations, Impromptu points by local community activists influenced the direction of the meeting to the point of just what would be happening to the building. Wake County Public School Superintendent, Dr. Robert P. Taylor (standing) pointed out that no decision has been made, and that listening sessions will continue through Feb. 2026, before the 9-member School Board makes its decision. Staff Photo

## 12th Year Supporting WRAL Coats For The Children

Raleigh, NC — The Beta Lambda Sigma Chapter of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc., together with the Beta Lambda Sigma Charitable Foundation, proudly announces its 12th consecutive year participating in the annual WRAL Coats for the Children Day of Giving, benefitting The Salvation Army. As temperatures drop and winter approaches, the chapter remains steadfast in its commitment to helping keep children across the Triangle warm.

"For many families, a winter coat is more than a necessity - it's security, comfort, and relief," said Celeste Brown, President of the Beta Lambda Sigma Chapter. "We are honored to continue this annual tradition of service and to support children who need us most."

Thousands of children in the region lack proper winter gear, and community support is essential. All proceeds collected by the Beta Lambda Sigma Charitable Foundation go directly to WRAL Coats for the Children.

Tax-deductible donations may be made at <https://www.raleighsgrho.org/blscf>.

Select "Donate" and designate your gift to "Coats for the Children."

Tune In: Join WRAL or visit WRAL.com on December 19 at 6:00 AM as the ladies of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. kick off this year's telethon in support of the campaign.

For more information about Beta Lambda Sigma's community efforts, visit [www.raleighsgrho.org](http://www.raleighsgrho.org).

# Church

## Viola Fletcher, A Tulsa Race Massacre Survivor, Dies At 111

*The Guardian*—Viola Ford Fletcher, who as one of the last survivors of the 1921 Tulsa race massacre in Oklahoma spent her later years seeking justice for the deadly attack by a white mob on the thriving Black community where she lived as a child, has died. She was 111.

Her grandson Ike Howard said on Monday that she died surrounded by family at a Tulsa hospital. Sustained by a strong faith, she raised three children, worked as a welder in a shipyard during the second world war and spent decades caring for families as a housekeeper.

Tulsa's mayor, Monroe Nichols, said the city was mourning her loss. "Mother Fletcher endured more than anyone should, yet she spent her life lighting a path forward with purpose," he said in a statement.

She was seven years old when the two-day attack began on Tulsa's Greenwood district on 31 May 1921 after a local newspaper published a sensationalized report about a Black man accused of assaulting a white woman. As a white mob grew outside the courthouse, Black Tulsans

with guns who hoped to prevent the man's lynching began showing up. White residents responded with overwhelming force. Hundreds of people were killed and homes were burned and looted, leaving about 35 city blocks decimated in the prosperous community known as Black Wall Street.

"I could never forget the charred remains of our once-thriving community, the smoke billowing in the air, and the terror-stricken faces of my neighbors," she wrote in her 2023 memoir, *Don't Let Them Bury My Story*.

As her family left in a horse-drawn buggy, her eyes burned from the smoke and ash, she wrote. She described seeing piles of bodies in the streets and watching as a white man shot a Black man in the head, then fired toward her family.

She told the Associated Press in an interview the year her memoir was published that fear of reprisals influenced her years of near-silence about the massacre. She wrote the book with Howard, her grandson, who said he had to persuade her to tell her



story. "We don't want history to repeat itself so we do need to educate people about what happened and try to get people to understand why you need to be made whole, why you need to be repaired," Howard told the AP in 2024. "The generational wealth that was lost, the home, all the be-

longings, everything was lost in one night."

The attack went largely unremembered for decades. In Oklahoma, wider discussions began when the state formed a commission in 1997 to investigate the violence.

Fletcher, who in 2021 testified before Congress about what she went through, joined her younger brother, Hughes Van Ellis, and another massacre survivor, Lessie Benningfield Randle, in a lawsuit seeking reparations. The Oklahoma supreme court dismissed it in June 2024, saying their grievances did not fall within the scope of the state's public nuisance statute.

"For as long as we remain in this lifetime, we will continue to shine a light on one of the darkest days in American history," Fletcher and Randle said in a statement at the time. Van Ellis had died a year earlier, aged 102.

A justice department review, launched under the Emmett Till Unsolved Civil Rights Crime Act and released in January 2025, outlined the massacre's scope and impact. It concluded that federal prosecution may have been possible a century



ago, but there was no longer an avenue to bring a criminal case.

The city has been looking for ways to help descendants of the massacre's victims without giving direct cash payments. Some of the last living survivors, including Fletcher, received donations from groups but have not received any payments from the city or state.

Fletcher, born in Oklahoma on 10 May 1914, spent most of her early years in Greenwood. It was an oasis for Black people during segregation, she wrote in her memoir. Her family had a nice home, she said, and the community had everything from doctors to grocery stores to restaurants and banks.

Forced to flee during the massacre, her family became nomadic, living out of a tent as they worked in the fields as sharecroppers. She didn't finish school beyond the fourth grade.

At the age of 16, she returned to Tulsa, where she got a job cleaning and creating window displays in a department store, she wrote in her memoir. She then met Robert Fletcher and they married and moved to

California. During the second world war, she worked in a Los Angeles shipyard as a welder, she wrote.

She eventually left her husband, who was physically abusive, and gave birth to their son, Robert Ford Fletcher, she wrote. Longing to be closer to her family, she returned to Oklahoma and settled north of Tulsa in Bartlesville.

Fletcher wrote that her faith and the close-knit Black community gave her the support she needed to raise her children. She had another son, James Edward Ford, and a daughter, Debra Stein Ford, from other relationships.

She worked for decades as a housekeeper, doing everything in those homes from cooking to cleaning to caring for children, Howard said. She worked until she was 85.

She eventually returned to Tulsa to live. Howard said his grandmother hoped the move would help in her fight for justice.

Howard said the reaction his grandmother got when she started speaking out was therapeutic for her.

"This whole process has been helpful," Howard said.

## SERMON of the WEEK



**WHEN WE GROW UP**  
Sermon by Dr. Derrick L. Sauls

1 Corinthians 13:11, "When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child; but when I became a man, I put away childish things."

Ironically, Apostle Paul is talking about spiritual maturity. Here we are in 2025, and God's church is still trying to get its footing for spiritual maturity. Let us take a deep dive into the mindset of what Apostle Paul is trying to show us about childhood. There is something to be said about growing up; we all have had to travel that road. There have been times when what we thought was real turned out to be fake, and what we thought was fake turned out to be real.

As a child, he points out how we will grow with immaturity in love and faith, blindly roaming this earth. Yes, as a child, our faith is self-centered, impatient, and easily shaken. It is about knowing what I am going to get for my birthday, for Christmas, and for Easter. Plus, when we go to the grocery store, I know I can pick out the candy. If you do not get what you want, you say things like, "I do not love you anymore, you are not my friend, temper tantrums crank up, and even an utterance of I hate you. We have even seen a display of a child falling on the floor, or worse, hitting a parent.

Those things sound like a child in a world that seems so far away, but I would like to introduce you to the role of a baby Christian. Yes, one can join the church at ninety years of age and can act like they are nine. Then we could have members grow up in the church and forget about Christian maturity. If I do not get to sing, if I do not get the title, if I do not

get recognized, and even if they are looking at me strangely. Suddenly, the Christian pouting takes place, I am not going to church, or I am out of there. I am not talking about Lincoln Park.

It reminds me of the saying, If you stay around the stove long enough, you should heat up. Apostle Paul was onto something that will carry us forward as a church. He pulled back the human emotions and showed that mature faith is rooted in Christ and bears fruit.

As we look around, we see each other at various stages of life, and we wake up each day asking ourselves, "What is next?" When we hear of disgruntled church members, we ask, "What is next?" We attend funeral after funeral, and we ask the question, "What is next?" We hate listening to the radio, watching TV, turning on the cell phone, or viewing social media; it leaves us with a feeling: "What is next?" If we respond as a child and act out, then we are forgetting about growing up spiritually and maturing in Christ. Are we still speaking, thinking, and reasoning like spiritual children?

Apostle Paul gave us a roadmap for the journey, leaving childishness behind and moving toward a mature faith rooted in Christ and bearing fruit. It takes us to Galatians 5:22-23, "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law."

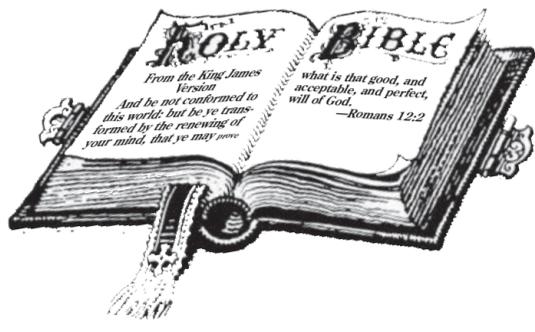
Suddenly, the realization of our life being Christ-centered leads us to follow Christ and view the sacrifice of Calvary along with the unconditional love. Strangely, we begin singing a new song, "I surrender all," that first verse, "All to Jesus I surrender." Peace and tranquility enter

our lives as we endure hardships, trials, and tribulations, yet we stay steadfast and immovable in joy and peace. We entertain God's work daily with patience and kindness, as we become God's best customer service representative. We stay committed to our responsibilities to God's people with pure faithfulness; it is not about us.

The hardest one and we strive daily to uphold is gentleness and goodness (self-control). I find myself having to mutter under my breath, "The devil is a lie." People will try you with self-serving motives, denied promotions, home foreclosure or car repossession, funding cuts, or people just walk away from you. We must examine ourselves daily because the fruits are not optional; they are evidence that we have put away childish things.

As I leave you, remember that spiritual maturity is not measured by age or knowledge, but by the fruit we bear in Christ. You could ask yourself, what is next? It reminds me of the song, "I have been running for Jesus a mighty long time and I'm not tired yet." We grow in grace, we grow in mercy, we grow in faith, we grow in determination to serve Christ. I am further reminded of the fruit in the scripture, Psalm 34:8: "Oh taste and see that the Lord is good." It is an experience to know God and bring forth good fruit; it is time to grow.

We hope you enjoyed this sermon by one of our Associate Ministers, Dr. Derrick L. Sauls. Please visit [www.youtube.com/lincolnparkholinesschurch1913](http://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

**BEING THANKFUL**

Read: Psalm 23

By: John L. Caldwell, Pastor  
New Jerusalem Baptist Cathedral  
Giving thanks and praises to God should be the hallmark of every child of God. Thanksgiving should be daily in practice and not just seasonal. Yet there are Christians who have not learned to be thankful as they should. They take many blessings for granted and only are thankful for the blessings they consider "life changing" and leave the small blessings in the closet, so to speak. Do we bother to thank God for each breath we take?

Paul encourages us to give thanks in everything, literally everything. It appears that for some Christians giving thanks for every little thing would be too much and be a waste of their time. What if the little blessings were never given to you? Apostle Paul meant, "everything," which includes the little things. When we are told not to forsake the assembling of ourselves together in church, this means we come together for the sake of praise and worship and not for entertainment.

When people go to the movies they go and sit down, expecting, with anticipation, waiting for the movie to start so they may be entertained. Some people come to church for the very same reason—they come and sit down in the pew with the expectation of being entertained by the church's choir and the preacher's sermon. This is not true worship.

When God says, "He seeks those who will worship Him in spirit and in truth." He means those that love Him and come to participate with Him in honoring and glorifying Him as God (John 4:23). Praise and worship are twins when it comes to worshipping God.

One will not have truly worshipped God if one has not made an honest attempt to humble themselves before God with "thanks" and ask for His Spirit to enter in your heart and be one with Him in spirit. In short, submitting to God is the first order of business when you come before God in any cir-

cumstances. This is what is called "participating" with God. God invites us to participate with Him and not come before Him to be entertained, which is basically a "one way street." Any event which evokes God's name or presence is considered worship, and we must act accordingly.

God likes to be in collective worship with His people. God also likes to be in the closet with you when you wish to pray privately. There will be no private worship in heaven. The Revelation text indicates that all worship and praise services will be on a collective and unity basis.

Revelation 7:15 gives us a beautiful picture of collective praise and worship before the throne of God. Here the word says we will worship God, day, and night. We are not to interpret this scripture in the wrong way, believing that is all we will do when brought before the Great White Throne. When you put your heart in the true worship mode here upon the earth, being willing to do good every chance you get, praising God every chance you get throughout every waking hour of the day, and you look forward to mission work whenever it calls upon you, you are serving God day and night. In short, you are on call to do God's bidding anytime He calls upon you. This is the way it should be here on the earth, serving God day and night and not just part time.

To thank God, God's children should look forward to worshipping together to express their gratitude. They should have the attitude of gratitude always reflecting on their blessings and acknowledging God's goodness. To do so will lead to a fulfilling life.

Dr. Billy Graham states, "Nothing turns a person into being a bitter, selfish, and dissatisfied person more quickly than an ungrateful heart." Dr. Graham goes on to say, "Ingratitude (I'm thankful) is a sin." Again, giving thanks to God must be and should be the hallmark of the child of God.

God's children must thank Him for all the material blessings they have received during their lifetime. WE

must thank Him for certain people being in our lives, such as our parents, our spouses, our children, our true friends. And don't forget your church if you are in a good one. Thank Him for your trials for these are our "sacrifices of praise" which are required. In other words, we must thank God when trials hurts (Hebrews 13:15).

We must thank God for His Son, Jesus, for saving us and bringing us salvation. We must thank God for sending the Holy Spirit into our lives to help us construct our lives in a way which will be pleasing to God.

Let us not be like the nine selfish men who had leprosy and called out to Jesus, as He passed their way, to heal them. There were ten lepers. Jesus honored their requests and healed all of them and sent them to the priest to be certified as being clean enough to enter social society for the first time in their lives. Were these men truly thankful or were they only concerned about being relieved of their leprosy? They were all collectively healed. As they ran to the priest anticipating, no doubt, the moment they would be pronounced free from the dreaded leprosy only one man, a Samaritan, thought to turn back and give praise and worship to the Son of God, Who, gave them their freedom from the prison of leprosy. All the other nine Jewish men, in a sense, took for granted the Jewish Jesus's healing.

Would you like to have the reputation of having been blessed by God more than once and fail to thank Him? When Jesus told the Samaritan your faith has made you whole, does this mean that the other nine former lepers healing is not complete, and maybe some other discomfort will come upon them?

What about the lame man at the pool of Bethesda? What about the woman who had an issue of blood? What about the man with the withered hand begging outside the temple? What about you when you last called upon the Lord when you needed Him? Did you praise God? How often and how long? Are you still thankful for "old" blessings?



N.C.'s Twice-Weekly African American Newspaper

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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.



## It's Perfectly Okay To Be Pro 2A

Firearms have been a part of United States history from the beginning. From hunting for food and surviving the wild, to wars that established our borders and dominance around the globe.

When the European colonizers established themselves in the northern states, it was required that annually, the men would come together and train in marksmanship and tactics. This would be fortuitous as the new world would need these trained men to form militias to defend itself from the British military.

When the constitution of the United States was drafted, the very first thing written protects five fundamental freedoms: religion, speech, the press, assembly, and the right to petition the government. The successive follow up to prove how important this first amendment is states, "A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed."

Contextually, how can you defend your freedom, religion, your ability to use free speech, inform via the news press, and petition against a government that grows ever close to tyranny, without the ability to bear arms.

There are countless examples of a ruling class turning against its unarmed people. The Nazis systematically confiscated weapons from the population to prevent any armed opposition and consolidate their control, which was a precursor to the brutal oppression and genocide that followed. That is only one example.

Strict gun laws in America are primarily targeted in communities that are dominated by African Americans. Much of the dogma surrounding firearms are saturated with evil intent in TV shows, music and movies. However real life does not match the narrative.

Statistically more firearm owners are law abiding. Many of them never shoot their firearms. Some are heirlooms passed down generationally and tell the story of first hunts, world wars, and even points to how innovation evolved before and during the Industrial Revolution.

Not to romanticize a firearm, at its core, it is a tool for a specific purpose. That purpose is defined by the one holding it. For the sake of this discussion we will say it represents power. The power to do what is up to you. Again, most owners obey the law, but if their life was ever threatened, or the life of their loved ones, or even innocent bystanders within the community, the power to defend life is often the ultimate goal.

All power comes with its share of burden. Many non-firearm owners are unaware of the tremendous responsibility that comes with being a firearms owner. For example, when you train for a concealed carry permit, it is explained that if you pull out your firearms, discharge it, and shoot someone, you are going to get arrested and go to jail. You will have to prove without a measure of doubt that your life was going to end unless you used deadly force. You have to prove that you took every measure to de-escalate and walk away before violence of any kind took over.

Let's create a scenario where you really wanted a parking spot and waited patiently for the previous occupant to move. As soon as they pull out, another person swings in and takes the park. If you get out of the car, and begin to argue with this person and a fight breaks out, and you begin to lose the fight and pull out your gun to shoot this person, you will be charged with attempted murder, or murder if the person dies. A parking spot, or getting cut off in traffic is NOT a justifiable excuse to use deadly force.

There is also the connotation of being black and having a firearm on your persons when being addressed by law enforcement. The majority of black legal gun owners follow the law. This means, they take care of the things that keep them under the radar, as all law abiding citizens do. This could be anything from making sure their vehicles are up to specs so not to get pulled over unnecessarily, as well as if they do have to communicate with law enforcement, the conversation remains professional.

Home defense is the most common reason for purchasing a firearm, followed by hunting, and then sport. With home defense, the thought process is, if someone broke into your home, you have no idea what their intentions are once they discover you are aware of them. You may be outnumbered and they may have weapons themselves. If you are unable to reach your phone, the battery is dead, or it may take considerable time that you do not have for law enforcement to show up. You have to decide how to surrender or back yourself into a corner and be prepared to fight for your life. Either way you are at the mercy of the circumstances and time.

The conversation around gun ownership is a broad one and I hope you will tune in as we address the community in regards to this topic. We welcome and encourage your feedback.

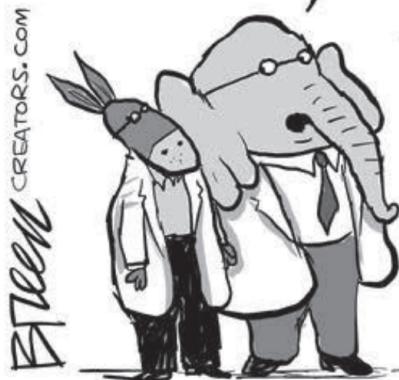
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CLIMATE CHANGE IS THE BIGGEST EXISTENTIAL THREAT TO THE WORLD!!!



Doctors Frankenstein

WHO SAYS WE DON'T WORK TOGETHER?



Guest Columnist

Larry Elder

### BEFORE TRUMP BECAME A 'RACIST'

Trump Derangement Syndrome prevents those who dislike President Donald Trump from giving him credit for virtually anything.

In the first nine months of Trump 2.0, his detractors fail to credit him for: securing the southern border in a matter of weeks; gas prices now at a four-year low; the steep decline in the price of eggs; a stock market hitting record highs, benefiting the nearly half of American adults who invest in the market either directly, via mutual funds or through 401(k)s; income growth exceeding inflation; inflation at 3%, less than the 5% per year average under Biden/Harris; pressuring our NATO partners into increasing their financial commitment when failure to do so provoked complaints by former Presidents Barack Obama and George W. Bush; orchestrating the release of remaining hostages and remains of those seized by Hamas on Oct. 7, 2023; the successful bombings of three of Iran's nuclear facilities; a reduction in crime in Washington, D.C., and in other cities through the deployment or the threat of deployment of the National Guard — and the arrests of violent criminal aliens, causing a reduction in gang-related criminal activity; and other foreign and domestic achievements.

"Those things do not matter to me," said an angry caller to my radio/TV show. "Trump is a bad person. He is a racist who wouldn't rent to people who look like you."

"Did you vote for Joe Biden?" I asked.

"Yes, but what difference does that make?"

This difference is hypocrisy, selective outrage and double standards. Biden lied for over 50 years about his alleged civil rights record. No, he did not engage in desegregating movie theaters and restaurants. No, he was not arrested attempting to visit an imprisoned Nelson Mandela during apartheid South Africa. No, he was not "raised in the black church." If being a "racist" is bad, where does one rank lying about not being one?

For decades, Biden, elected to the Senate in 1972, bragged about his ability to "get things done" with the segregationists in his party. Biden opposed court-ordered busing — as did many blacks and whites — to achieve integration. But note how Biden, at a 1977 Senate Judiciary Committee hearing, framed his opposition: "Unless we do something about this, my children are going to grow up in a jungle, the jungle being a racial jungle with tensions having built so high that it is going to explode at some point."

In 2010, Biden called Sen. Robert Byrd, a former Exalted Cyclops member in the Ku Klux Klan who had recently died, "one of my mentors" and said, "the Senate is a lesser place for his going." About his working relationship with another Southern Democrat racist, Biden said: "I was in a caucus with (Mississippi Sen.) James O. Eastland. He never called me 'boy,' he always called me 'son.'"

Well, glory be!

It wasn't until 2019, during his third campaign for president, that Biden apologized for touting his good graces with his party's racist senators.

As for Trump, the caller referred to the consent decree the Trump Organization agreed to in 1975 — when Trump was in his 20s — with

the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice over allegations of refusing to rent to black would-be renters. The decree did not admit liability, but the Trump Organization — then headed by Trump's father — agreed to change practices. In his 1987 book "The Art of the Deal," Trump said, "What we didn't do was rent to welfare cases, white or black."

Over 20 years after the consent decree, the Rev. Jesse Jackson praised Trump in a 1998 Rainbow Push Coalition event as a "friend" who supported "the under-served communities." Jackson said, "When we opened this Wall Street project ... (Trump) gave us space at 40 Wall Street, which was to make a statement about our having a presence there."

The following year, at another coalition event, Jackson said to Trump, "We need your building skills, your gusto ... for the people on Wall Street to represent diversity."

There you have it, Trump is a racist. The 1975 consent decree stands as Exhibit A.

As for Biden, CNN's Van Jones, who attributed Trump's 2016 victory to "whitelash," tearfully said after Biden dropped out of the 2024 race, "I just know that I love this man, I care about this man."

## FUNdraising Good Times

By Mel & Pearl Shaw Saad & Shaw



### ACCESSING CAPITAL

Saad&Shaw: What are three things small business owners and non-profit leaders need to understand about accessing capital today?

Ron Brooks: First, capital follows readiness. Lenders want to see that you understand your financial story—how money flows through your business or nonprofit, and how you plan to repay or sustain funding. Second, relationships matter more than ever. Build ongoing relationships with mission-aligned lenders, bankers, and Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFIs) before you need the capital. Third, the capital landscape has expanded beyond traditional banks—CDFIs, crowdfunding, impact investors, and loan participation programs now play a major role. The key is knowing which source fits your growth stage and purpose.

Saad&Shaw: What has stayed the same? How should businesses and nonprofits prepare to apply for a loan—years or months in advance?

Brooks: What hasn't changed is the importance of sound financial management and documentation. You still need accurate financial statements, tax returns, and a clear plan for how funds will strengthen your operations. Years before applying, focus on keeping clean books, separating personal and business finances, and maintaining healthy credit. Months before applying, tighten your budget, verify that your reporting is current, and prepare to explain your story with both numbers and narrative. A well-organized borrower is always more fundable.

Saad&Shaw: What size loans does RCC make?

Brooks: River City Capital offers loans typically ranging from \$10,000 to \$250,000, with flexible terms tailored to business and nonprofit borrowers in low- to moderate-income communities. Our sweet spot is often between \$35,000 and \$75,000, where capital can make a measurable difference—whether that's stabilizing cash flow, expanding operations, or funding real-estate improvements.

# Classifieds

## DURHAM COUNTY

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
DURHAM COUNTY

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

File Number 25E001148-310  
THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 20th day of November 2025, as ADMINISTRATOR of the Estate of DARIN PAUL RHEW, 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 27th 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 27th day of November, 2025.

Dwayne Russel Rhow, Administrator  
8807 Camden Park Drive  
Raleigh, NC 27613

11/27, 12/4, 12/11 and 12/18/2025  
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
DURHAM COUNTY

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

File Number 25E000820-310  
THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 19th day of June 2025, as CO-EXECUTORS of the Estate of BERTICE RAY SORRELL, 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 27th 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 27th day of November, 2025.

Debra Gay Sorrell, Co-Executor  
242 Sun Colony Blvd, Unit 104  
Longs, SC 29568

Timothy Russell Sorrell Sr.  
Co-Executor  
4205 Greens Ferry Court  
Wilmington, NC 28409  
11/27, 12/4, 12/11 and 12/18/2025  
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
DURHAM COUNTY

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

File No. 25CV003291-310  
[CHILD CUSTODY PROCEEDING]  
Ana Julia Rodriguez Lanza, Plaintiff v. Carlos Rene Munguia Flores, Defendant.

To Carlos Rene Munguia Flores, the above-named defendant:

TAKE NOTICE that a pleading seeking relief against you have been filed in the above-entitled action. The nature of the relief being sought is as follows: that permanent sole legal custody of Carlos Munguia Rodriguez, born November 19, 2010, and Oscar Munguia Rodriguez, born August 11, 2014, be granted to Ana Julia Rodriguez Lanza.

You are required to make defense to such pleading not later than January 6th, 2026 said date being forty (40) days from the first publication of this notice, and upon your failure to do so the party seeking service against you will apply to the court for the relief sought.

This, the 27th day of November 2025

Kayla Chargois, JusticeMatters, Inc. Attorney for the Plaintiff  
P.O. Box 199 Durham, NC  
(919) 794-7511

11/27, 12/4, and 12/11/2025  
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

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

File Number 25E003728-910  
THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 1st day of October 2025, as ADMINISTRATOR of the Estate of LEVON SCOTT, late of Wake 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 27th 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 27th day of November, 2025.

Kathery L. Jones, Administrator  
505 Poplar Springs Church Rd.  
Raleigh, NC 27603  
11/27, 12/4, 12/11 and 12/18/2025  
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
WAKE COUNTY

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

FILE NO. 25E004276-910  
The undersigned, having qualified as Administrator of the Estate of RICHARD L. CUMMINGS, deceased, late of Wake County, North Carolina, hereby notifies all persons, firms, and corporations having claims against said estate to present them to the undersigned on or before the 27th day of February, 2026, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery.

All persons, firms, and corporations indebted to said estate are requested to make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This, the 27th day of November, 2025.

Wilma M. Johnson Administrator of the Estate of Richard L. Cummings, Deceased

c/o Lawrence J. D'Amelio, III  
Attorney for the Estate  
1834 Pembroke Rd Ste 2  
Greensboro, NC 27408  
Telephone: 336 615 8367  
11/27, 12/4, 12/11 and 12/18/2025  
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,

**WAKE COUNTY**

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 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

**AVERY COUNTY**

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA AVERY COUNTY

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

In the General Court of Justice, Superior Court Division

Before the Clerk

File Number 25E001179-050

THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 20th day of October 2025, as ADMINISTRATOR of the Estate of FREDDY GWYN, late of Avery 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 27th 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 27th day of November, 2025.

David Gwyn, Administrator c/o Edwards Beightol, LLC 714 St. Mary's Street Raleigh, NC 27605

11/27, 12/4, 12/11 and 12/18/2025

**D/M/WBE**

**SUBCONTRACTORS/SUPPLIERS WANTED**

T. A. Loving Company (NC General Contractor License No. 325) is seeking certified DBE, MBE, and WBE subcontractors and suppliers for the Gray's Creek Phase 1 Water Distribution Package 1 project for Gray's Creek Water and Sewer District in Cumberland County which bids on December 2, 2025, at 10:00 AM. Plans and specifications for this project are available at the following locations: T. A. Loving Company; 400 Patetown Road; Goldsboro, NC 27530 \* North Carolina Vendor Portal website.

Potential subcontracting opportunities include but are not limited to surveying, hauling, asphalt paving, striping, traffic control, erosion control, seeding, linework/pipe installation, jack & bore, bypass pumping, and flatwork. Please contact Jeff Price (jprice@taloving.com) if you are interested in submitting a proposal on any portion(s) of this project. Contact via phone 919-734-8400; fax: 919-736-2148; or email. All quotations will be accepted up to the closing time of the bid date. T. A. Loving Company is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer.

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



New South-Right Build-Varnedoe, A Joint Venture



**RDU Terminal 2 Bathroom Refresh Information Session**

**Notice To Contractors: Information Session**

New South Right Build, A Joint Venture in association with Varnedoe Construction, is seeking to gain subcontractor and vendor interest for the RDU Terminal 2 Bathroom Refresh Project. We will be hosting an information session to introduce the project and discuss the scope of work, timeline, expectations, and current project approach.

**Project Description:**

The overall project includes multiple phases of bathroom enhancements. The enhancements are focused on renovating 24 men's, women's, and family bathrooms on the airside of Terminal 2 and do not include the bathrooms in the main ticketing hall.

**Bid Categories Will Include:**

- General Trades
- Demolition
- Millwork
- Acoustical/Specialty Ceilings
- Doors & Hardware
- Terrazzo Flooring
- Floor and Wall Tile
- Toilet Accessories and Partitions
- Fire Alarm
- Fire Protection/Sprinklers
- Electrical
- Plumbing
- HVAC
- Paint
- Final Clean

**Important Items to Note:**

- Location: 1000 Trade Drive, Morrisville, NC 27560 - Raleigh/Durham International Airport
- Date: December 4, 2025
- Time: 2:00pm

Link for virtual attendance:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82389228723?pwd=CqhWA2Wndv4Kaff5RLQbFxiXn2K1.1>

Meeting ID: 823 8922 8723

Passcode: 380879

- Please contact Dayshon Bynum at 919-651-8383, email: [dbynum@rightbuildint.com](mailto:dbynum@rightbuildint.com) or Scott Wolyneec at (919) 683-1701 email: [swolyneec@newsouthconstruction.com](mailto:swolyneec@newsouthconstruction.com) for more information.



**FORECLOSURE**

NORTH CAROLINA DURHAM COUNTY

Special Proceedings No. 25 SP 507 Substitute Trustee: Philip A. Glass

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

Date of Sale: December 10, 2025

Time of Sale: 2:30 p.m.

Place of Sale: Durham County Courthouse

Description of Property: See Attached Description

Record Owners: David W. Buie, III

Address of Property: 1405 S. Roxboro Street

Durham, NC 27707

Deed of Trust: Book : 5697 Page: 33

Dated: July 25, 2007

Grantors: David Whitfield Buie, Jr. 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: 9/25/25 PHILIP A. GLASS, SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEE NODELL, GLASS & HASKELL, L.L.P.

**EXHIBIT A**

BEING all of Lot 3, Block C, as per plat and survey recorded in Plat Book 5A, Page 46, 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: 0821-81-0555 Property Address: 1405 S. Roxboro St. Durham, NC 27707 11/27/2025 & 12/4/2025

NORTH CAROLINA DURHAM COUNTY

Special Proceedings No. 25 SP 545 Substitute Trustee: Philip A. Glass

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

Date of Sale: December 10, 2025

Time of Sale: 2:30 p.m.

Place of Sale: Durham County Courthouse

Description of Property: See Attached Description

Record Owners: Quanterio D. Yarborough

Address of Property: 2730 Weldon Terrace

Durham, NC 27703

Deed of Trust: Book : 9772 Page: 321

Dated: August 30, 2022

Grantors: Quanterio D. Yarborough, 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: 9/25/25 Philip A. Glass, Substitute Trustee NodeLL, Glass & Haskell, L.L.P.

**EXHIBIT A**

LYING on the South Side of Weldon Terrace and BEING all of Lot 45 in Section II of Rand Terrace, as per plat and survey thereof on file in the Office of the Register of Deeds of Durham County in Plat Book 36, at Page 17, to which reference is hereby made for a more particular description.

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: 0831912409 Property Address: 2730 Weldon Terrace, Durham, NC 27703 11/27/2025 & 12/4/2025

**ATTENTION:** Beginning on January 1, 2026 the Classified Advertising Rate will increase \$2 per column inch

# Ag Grow Culture

## Black Agrarianism, Herbalism, And The Legacy Of The Tea Room

By Jason Sovodki

Special To The Carolinian

*"We don't just serve tea. We serve memory. We serve healing. We serve revolution in ceramic cups." — Joy Lindsay, Planifolia Plant & Tea Shop*

There is something sacred in the soil. Something older than history books and more fragrant than any written recipe. It pulses under bare feet in freshly turned fields, it simmers in mason jars on stovetops, and it whispers through the leaves of every houseplant lovingly hung in shop windows. For Black folks in the South and beyond, the land has never just been land. It's been archive, altar, inheritance, and insurgency.

This is the root system of Black agrarianism not merely an agricultural identity, but a cultural stance, a spiritual lifeline, and a radical refusal to be disconnected. It is the unbroken tradition of Black farmers and growers tending plots, not only for sustenance, but for sovereignty. And within this tradition, a quieter branch unfurls, Black herbalism, a practice that carries the knowledge of generations who knew how to coax healing from weeds, how to pray with their hands in the dirt, and how to doctor a people when systems refused to.

In the decades following emancipation, Black communities carved sanctuaries from the hostile terrain of Jim Crow America. From bar-

berships and beauty salons to juke joints or jook houses, these spaces were more than businesses, they were breathing rooms. Among them stood the quiet strength of the Black tearoom. These tea rooms were elegant and intentional. Often tucked inside boarding houses, community centers, or converted parlors, they offered Black women a dignified space to host, to serve, and to organize. The lace tablecloths and bone china weren't merely aesthetic; they were armor against the caricatures imposed by white supremacy. Here, Black life was neither spectacle nor subservient. It was sacred.

In these rooms, herbal remedies passed hand to hand like secret code. The mint in the tea was for digestion, yes—but also for calming nerves frayed by daily humiliations. The lemon balm soothed more than the body. It quieted inherited grief. Yes, these were gathering spaces but, also healing grounds.

Our ingredients were the natural world around us even when that world was imposed upon us. Dandelion sprouted from field edges, between fence posts, along the forgotten tree lines, and we gathered it anyway turning what was overlooked into tea, into wine, into healing. Even when the plants were pressed by oppression, they found their way into our medicine cabinets like stubborn hope. And cotton was no exception. It too moved from burden to balm, from symbol of subjugation to



tool of restoration.

Before it was empire's crop, before it blanketed plantations and broke the spines of stolen labor, cotton was kin. A native plant to Africa, held communally by hands that saw it not as capital but as care. It clothed us. We spun it not just for markets, but for mothers, for ceremonies, for the everyday dignity of being seen.

But the soil remembers what was done.

Cotton was turned against us. Under enslavement, it became the measuring stick of profit and pain. Black hands picked it raw, bled into it, built a nation on it. And still—still—our people reached into the same dirt and found medicine.

Because Black folks, enslaved and once enslaved, took a native plant turned toward oppression and



turned it into medicine.

Cotton, root, seed, and bark. A whisper of remedy hidden in the husk of suffering. It was steeped into teas to regulate menstrual cycles, to soothe inflammation, to ease the ache that came from bodies working beyond exhaustion. It held antioxidant, anti-inflammatory, analgesic, diuretic, even cytotoxic power making it one of the most quietly potent healers in the field.

Women knew this. Midwives knew this. They passed it along in hushes and hums, in the pressed hands of daughters and granddaughters. The cotton fields, once sites of domination, became repositories of ancestral wisdom. Where masters saw industry, we saw pharmacopeia. Where history tried to wound us, we made salve.

## NC Is 2nd In US For Projected Farmland Loss

By Torry Nergart

Conservation Easement Manager

If you are an Olympian, coming in second while competing on the global stage against the best the Earth has to offer is quite an achievement. However, if the competition is to see how much of the Earth's surface can be paved and ravaged, coming in second really only means that you were the next worse loser.

So is the State of North Carolina, now ranked the second-most in projected farmland loss, right behind the seemingly more culturally cavalier with its natural resources state, Texas. The projected acres of North Carolina farmland lost by 2040 are around an additional 1,197,300, which is just shy of the same size as the entire state of Delaware, and a bit larger than the state of Rhode Island.

The American Farmland Trust (AFT) has recently published its 'Farms Under Threat 2040' assessment, which calculates this rate of loss based on the "business-as-usual" approach. Drawing from both current statistics and from current policy direction, the AFT can project not just how much but where farmland will be lost in the state. Barring any real, material positive change to farmland protection policy and funding, the state will continue to have low-density unplanned sprawl.



This lets in inefficient transportation patterns, community fragmentation and isolation, and a host of other maladies ranging from disconnection from the natural world to poor public physical and mental health to increased individual tax burdens.

That is, if we as a state continue with current policies (or lack thereof) and with the current rate of farmland loss. Two concurrent approaches can help slow the loss, one being local government taking constructive forethought by adopting small area planning. There are many logistics to account for in small area planning, like impact on roads maintenance and increased school enrollment, that unchecked development

never accounts for but gladly shift those burdens onto existing, strained infrastructures. In the case of farmland, unchecked development does not even account for how all these new people are going to be fed!

And for those of us who have made a real habit of eating, the consequences of farmland loss won't just impact your pocketbook and your portfolios. The past few years have only shown us how vulnerable our society is to even minor fluctuations in supply chains. Ours and any community's resiliency is directly tied to how much local suppliers can buffer against those fluctuations. Land use planning is one of six metrics AFT compares North Carolina to

other states, us ranking below average at 18 out of 100.

A second approach is direct farmland conservation. There's a few statewide efforts, even some federal ones available. Some pay farmers for time-limited soil and water conservation efforts, some restrict the land by deed to only farming use. The overall success of these programs is directly related to the amount of funding they receive. With the latter, there are local solutions as well. It's not unheard of that counties, one including Henderson, to set aside blocks of funding to supplement existing efforts, by paying for related transactional costs such as legal filings and surveys. On this metric, North Carolina ranks below average (scored 27/100) against the other states.

With our state ranking below average on 5 out of 6 metrics, one can see the potential for positive change. Doing nothing, "letting the market sort it out," and other versions of hemming and/or having are burning valuable time, while on the other side of the issue anyone looking for quick cash can readily find it, selling out every subsequent generation to come. And we sure don't hear too often of luxury 5 bedroom second homes being demolished to grow beans, so support farmland conservation now.



## A Community Collaboration Of Farm, Food And Faith

Conetoe, N.C.— On Friday November 21st, representatives from Word Tabernacle in Rocky Mount, NC Department of Agriculture and local farmers throughout eastern North Carolina came together for the community.

The Faith, Food and Farm Collective is spearheaded by Pastor James Gailiard of Word Tabernacle Church. "We had a lot of people coming in that were low income and some that had health issues," Trishonda Robinson explains. "They had issues such as high blood pressure and diabetes, and we wanted to make sure that they were getting food fresh from the farm."

"We have so many farmers. How to we buy directly from our farmers? How do we grow this ecosystem where we are supporting farmers and the people in our area?" These were the questions, Robinson said, that lead to the creation of the Collective.

There were several very generous farmers connected with this initial event: Theresa Shackleford Collins with Shackleford Family Farms out of Snow Hill, NC, Donald Hines with Hines Family Farm in Jacksonville, NC, and Patrick Brown of Brown Family Farms out of Warren County, NC.

The Faith, Food and Farm Collective were able to serve 634 households, 1922 individuals in 9 counties from this one event. Image how many people can be serviced if more communities get behind this initiative.

The Carolinian will be posting a video on Friday that dives deeper into this initiative and the farmers themselves. Find the video on our website [www.CARO.news](http://www.CARO.news)

## N.C. Hemp Stores and Farms Prepare To Fight Federal Ban

NC Newslines—North Carolina hemp business owners and their counterparts across the U.S. are bracing for the ban's impact, with some pursuing advocacy efforts to reverse the ban and others working to pivot to the narrow slice of CBD products that will remain legal.

Hemp and marijuana are both varieties of the cannabis plant, differentiated mainly by the levels of the psychoactive compound THC, with hemp having far less of it. CBD, another chemical produced by the cannabis plant, does not have intoxicating effects by itself but produces a calming effect and has been shown to help treat pain and anxiety.

The ban, which sharply decreases the allowable level of THC in hemp products, passed earlier this week as part of an Agriculture appropriations bill that was paired with the stopgap funding agreement to end the federal government shutdown.

It bars the sale of any hemp product, including CBD products, containing more than 0.4 milligrams of THC per container.

The ban comes after years of lobbying by the marijuana industry and state law enforcement, who argued the hemp industry exploited a loophole to sell products with many of the same effects of marijuana but none of the regulatory oversight. Senators say they never intended to open a recreational hemp market and only desired to enable industrial hemp farming.

The rationale, according to Sen. Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) and other backers of the Agriculture bill is to "keep these dangerous products out of the hands of children while preserving the hemp industry for farmers" by closing the loophole that allows the sale of CBD products with less than 0.3% THC, the threshold originally set by the 2018 Farm Bill he helped pass.

"Unfortunately, companies have exploited a loophole in the 2018 legislation by taking legal amounts of THC from hemp and turning it into intoxicating substances, and then marketing it to children in candy-like packaging and selling it in easily accessible places, like gas stations and convenience stores all across our country," McConnell said Monday.

The rapid shift to prohibition represents a marked change for an industry that has had little to no regulation for the past seven years in many states, including North Carolina.

## Trump Admin Allows More Foreign Ag Workers

NC Newslines—In a tacit admission that U.S. food production requires foreign labor, the Trump administration is making it easier for farmers to employ guest workers from other countries.

At the same time, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) in recent months appears to be refraining from conducting agricultural workplace raids, even as it scours Democratic-led cities for immigrants who are in the country illegally.

"We really haven't seen agriculture targeted with worksite enforcement efforts, and early this year we did," said Julia Gelatt, associate director of U.S. immigration policy at the Migration Policy Institute, a nonpartisan think tank.

The shifts come as many Americans are concerned about the rising cost of food, creating political problems for a president who campaigned on lowering them. Last week, the administration also announced it would lift tariffs on some foreign food products, including bananas, beef, coffee and tomatoes.

To ease labor shortages on farms and ranches, the administration last month made changes to the federal H-2A visa program, which allows employers to hire foreign workers for



temporary agricultural jobs when there aren't enough U.S.-born workers available. Under the new rule, the Department of Homeland Security will approve H-2A visas more quickly.

"Our immigration system has been broken for decades, and we finally have a President who is enforcing the law and prioritizing fixing programs farmers and ranchers rely on to produce the safest and most productive food supply in the world," the U.S. Department of Agriculture said in an

email to Stataline.

But the move to increase the supply of foreign agricultural workers conflicts with a July statement by Agriculture Secretary Brooke Rollins that "the promise to America, to ensure that we have a 100% American workforce, stands."

Rollins also said the administration was committed to the mass deportation of immigrants who are here illegally, but that it would be "strategic so as not to compromise our food supply." Ultimately, she said, the solution would be increased automation of agricultural jobs.

The government has issued about 420,000 H-2A visas for agricultural workers every year since 2023, which amounts to about half of the 812,000 agricultural worker jobs. They are concentrated in states that grow fruits and vegetables as opposed to grains, which are increasingly planted and harvested using machines. The government expects an additional 119,000 visas to be issued under the new rule.

Almost half the H-2A visas in the 2025 fiscal year were in Florida (60,000), Georgia (44,000), California (37,000), Washington



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