



Dedicated to the Spirit and Service of God

RALEIGH, N.C.

THURSDAY DECEMBER 4 - DECEMBER 10, 2025

VOL. 86, NO. 6

Does It Seem Like Everyone Around You Is Getting Sick?

You've probably noticed more sniffles, coughs and "Can't come into work today" texts than usual. It's that time of year again—the season of passing colds and unexpected viruses. But what exactly is going around right now and how can you protect yourself? Viruses love to spread where people gather, whether it's the office, the gym, or even your own home.

But don't worry; a little knowledge and a few precautions can go a long way toward keeping you healthy. Let's learn about the viruses currently making their rounds and how you can stay one step ahead.

Common viruses affecting adults this season.

When it comes to viruses, each season has its culprits. Right now, you're likely hearing about these

common offenders:

Influenza (the flu): The flu strikes every year, but some seasons bring more severe strains. Symptoms include fever, body aches, fatigue and cough.

COVID-19: While it's no longer the overwhelming threat it once was, COVID-19 is still circulating. Variants continue to pop up, so it's important to stay informed and up to

date on vaccinations.

RSV (Respiratory Syncytial Virus): Though often associated with children, RSV can also cause cold-like symptoms in adults. Older adults and those with weakened immune systems may experience more severe complications.

The common cold: Rhinoviruses, which cause most colds, are as persistent as ever. They thrive in crowded spaces and during colder months.

Stomach bugs (norovirus): These highly contagious viruses spread quickly in shared spaces, causing nausea, vomiting and diarrhea.

Knowing what viruses are going around can help you stay safe, especially if you're around people who might get sick easily, like older adults or young kids.

Symptoms of circulating viruses: When to be concerned.

Not all colds are the same. Knowing the difference between a mild cold and something more serious can help you take better care of yourself.

Mild symptoms: A sore throat, runny nose, or slight cough usually signals a cold or mild viral infection. Rest, hydration and over-the-counter remedies often do the trick.

Moderate symptoms: Fever, fatigue, or a persistent cough may point to the flu, RSV, or COVID-19. Testing and medical advice can help determine the next steps.

Severe symptoms: Difficulty breathing, chest pain, confusion, or prolonged high fever are red flags. These symptoms may indicate complications from the flu, RSV, or even pneumonia. Seek immediate medical attention if you experience any of

these.

If you're not sure if your symptoms are serious, don't be afraid to talk to a doctor. Getting help early can stop problems from getting worse and help you feel better.

What is the "quad-demic"?

You might have heard the term "quad-demic" this season. It means that four big viruses—COVID-19, the flu, RSV, and norovirus—are spreading at the same time.

This has made it harder for hospitals to keep up with so many sick people.

Each virus causes different symptoms, but having all of them happening at once is making things even tougher. Doctors also note that it's unusual for norovirus to be spreading at the same time as the respiratory viruses.

Here's a quick breakdown of what's happening:

COVID-19: Cases remain elevated, with many emergency departments seeing significant patient numbers.

Influenza: Flu activity has been labeled as "high" nationwide, contributing to long ER wait times.

RSV: This virus, which mainly

affects the very young and older adults, is also at "very high" levels, filling pediatric units and ICUs.

Norovirus: Known for causing stomach illness, it's seeing an unusual spike this season, with over 90 outbreaks reported in a single week.

Adding to the concern, flu, COVID-19 and RSV vaccination rates remain lower than expected.

For example, only 43.4% of adults have received a flu shot and just 22.8% are updated with the latest COVID-19 vaccine. Vaccines are one of the best ways to protect against severe illness, but without widespread coverage, these viruses continue to spread more easily.

Staying healthy: Simple steps to reduce your risk.

Stay current with available vaccines, especially for flu, COVID-19 and RSV.

Practice good hygiene, like washing hands frequently and avoiding touching your face.

Wear masks in crowded indoor spaces to limit exposure.

Opt for virtual visits or urgent care centers for mild symptoms to help reduce strain on hospitals.



How Southern Colleges Are Shaking Up The 'Plumbing' Of Higher Education

NC Newsline – When six Southern public university systems this summer formed a new accreditation agency, the move shook the national evaluation model that higher education has relied on for decades.

The news wasn't unexpected: It arrived a few months after President Donald Trump issued an executive order in April overhauling the nation's accreditation system by, among other things, barring accreditors from using college diversity mandates. It also came after U.S. Secretary of Education Linda McMahon in May made it easier for universities to switch accreditors.

The accreditation process, often bureaucratic, cumbersome and time consuming, is critical to the survival of institutions of higher education. Colleges and their individual departments must undergo outside reviews — usually every few years — to prove that they meet certain educational and financial standards. If a school is not accredited, its students cannot receive federal aid such as Pell grants and student loans.

Some accreditation agencies acknowledge the process needs to evolve. But critics say the Trump administration is reshaping accreditation for political reasons, and risks undermining the legitimacy of the degrees colleges and universities award to students.

Trump said during his campaign that he would wield college accredi-



tation as a "secret weapon" to root out DEI and other "woke" ideas from higher education. He has made good on that pledge.

Over the summer, for example, the administration sent letters to the accreditors of both Columbia and Harvard universities, alleging that the schools had violated federal civil rights law, and thus their accreditation rules, by failing to prevent the harassment of Jewish students after Hamas' Oct. 7, 2023, terror attack on Israel.

The administration's antipathy toward DEI has prompted some accreditors to remove diversity requirements. The Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business, for instance, removed diversity and inclusion language from its guiding principles earlier this year. Under White House pressure, the American Bar Association this year suspended enforcement of its DEI standards for its accreditation of law schools and has extended that suspension into next year.

But state legislatures laid the groundwork for public university accreditation changes even before Trump returned to the White House.

In 2022, Florida enacted a law requiring the state's public institutions to switch accreditors every cycle — usually every few years — forcing them to move away from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges, known as SACSCOC.

North Carolina followed suit in 2023, with a law prohibiting the 16 universities within the University of North Carolina system and the state's community colleges from receiving accreditation from the same agency for consecutive cycles.

Then, the consortium of six Southern university systems this summer launched its new accreditation agency, called the Commission for Public Higher Education. The participating states include Florida and North Carolina, along with Georgia, South Carolina, Tennessee and Texas.

Florida Republican Gov. Ron DeSantis said in a news release that the commission will "break the ideological stronghold" that other accreditation agencies have on higher education. Speaking at Florida Atlantic University, he said the new organization will "upend the monopoly of the woke accreditation cartels."

(See **SOUTHERN COLLEGES**, P. 2)



FEDERAL JUDGES SQUELCH CHALLENGE TO NEW NC CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT MAP

Carolina Public Press – North Carolina's recently redrawn 2025 congressional district map appears likely to stand for the 2026 midterm elections. A panel of federal judges ruled Wednesday, siding with Republican legislators by rejecting a challenge to the map, which made the First Congressional District a safer bet for Republicans in 2026.

The ruling comes a week after the same panel of judges dismissed claims that 2023 legislative and congressional maps illegally discriminated against Black and Latino voters. Thus far, that ruling has not been appealed. If it is, it will go straight to the U.S. Supreme Court. The same goes for any appeals to the judges' ruling Wednesday over the 2025 maps.

Republican-appointed Judges Richard Myers, Thomas Schroeder and Allison Rushing were not persuaded by any of the arguments against the 2025 map.

While they conceded that the new map would make it less likely for Black voters in northeastern North Carolina's First and Third Congressional districts to elect their preferred candidates, they said that wasn't enough to strike the map down.

Race and partisan preference are highly correlated in those congressional districts, they wrote. Since partisan gerrymandering is allowed, the plaintiffs have to prove an intent to discriminate based on race, not just a discriminatory effect.

(See **CONGRESSIONAL MAPS**, P. 7)

'TIS THE SEASON FOR FILING. NC MIDTERM ELECTION CYCLE GETS UNDERWAY DEC. 1

WUNC – Barring any last-minute legal snafus, North Carolina is a week away from the official start of the 2026 elections — the candidate filing period.

From Dec. 1 to Dec. 19, candidates running for a spot in Congress, the state legislature, courts and various local offices must file documentation with election boards in order to appear on the ballot.

Here's What You Need To Know

Why is candidate filing so early?
 The 2025 municipal elections are barely in the rearview mirror, so it may seem a bit premature to already be talking about the 2026 elections. But election administration is a year-long process, and it takes a good deal of work to prepare.

Absentee voting for the 2026 primary election begins Jan. 12. Before then, elections administrators have to provide time for any candidate challenges, publish election notices in local newspapers and prepare absentee ballots with the correct candidate names.

Who is eligible to run?
 Candidate filing requirements differ across contests, but generally anyone running for office has to be a registered North Carolina voter and at least 21 years old by the general election.

In most races, candidates have to live in the district they seek to represent. One exception to that is the U.S. House, where prospective candidates can technically live anywhere in the state.

That may prove relevant in 2026, as Democratic U.S. Rep. Don Davis must decide whether to run for office in the First District, where he currently serves, or the Third District, where he now technically lives after state Republicans drew him out of his district.

Some offices have additional requirements. Judicial and district attorney candidates must be authorized to practice law in North Carolina. U.S. Senate candidates must be at least 30 and have been a U.S. citizen for at least nine years, while U.S. House candidates must be at least 25 and have been a citizen for seven years.

(See **NC MIDTERM ELECTIONS**, P. 2)

FATE OF J.W. LIGON MIDDLE SCHOOL BUILDING STILL IN QUESTION

By Karl Cameron

Special To The Carolinian

The J.W. Ligon Middle School Building Listening Session held Monday, Nov. 24th at the Southeast Raleigh YMCA on Rock Quarry Road in Raleigh, left attendees with more questions about what would the fate of the building be. District 4 Representative Toshiba Rice laid out the agenda for the evening, asking for one representative from the tables throughout the room to give their observations about J. W. Ligon Senior/Junior High School. This was followed by a historical overview presented by Community Historian Carmen Cauthen, and an explanation of the issues by J.W. Ligon Middle School Principal Dr. Darren Williams.

Dr. Williams went through a laundry list of issues that the current facility has including; the property is undersized by 7-acres, the building is also undersized by 32,000 sq. ft., 82% of the classrooms are undersized, the gym-

(See **J.W. LIGON BUILDING** P. 2)

African Nations Push For Recognition of Colonial Crimes and Reparations

ALGIERS, Algeria (AP) – African leaders pushed Sunday to have colonial-era crimes recognized, criminalized and addressed through reparations.

At a conference in Algiers, diplomats and leaders convened to advance an African Union resolution passed at a meeting earlier this year calling for justice and reparations for victims of colonialism.

In his opening speech, Algerian

Foreign Minister Ahmed Attaf said Algeria's experience under French rule underscored the need to seek compensation and reclaim stolen property.

A legal framework, he added, would ensure restitution is seen as "neither a gift nor a favor."

"Africa is entitled to demand the official and explicit recognition of the crimes committed against its peoples during the colonial period, an indis-

pensable first step toward addressing the consequences of that era, for which African countries and peoples continue to pay a heavy price in terms of exclusion, marginalization and backwardness," Attaf said.

International conventions and statutes accepted by a majority of countries have outlawed practices including slavery, torture and apartheid. The United Nations Charter prohibits the seizure of territory by

force but does not explicitly reference colonialism.

That absence was central to the African Union's February summit, where leaders discussed a proposal to develop a unified position on reparations and formally define colonization as a crime against humanity.

The economic cost of colonialism

(See **REPARATIONS**, P. 2)



Check Out The Carolinian's Digital News Broadcast On



NC MIDTERM ELECTIONS

Continued from page 1

Local and county races have their own individualized criteria that potential candidates should check before filing.

Former convicted felons may run for office if their rights of citizenship have been restored, with the exception of sheriff elections.

Current felons may not seek elected office unless it's a federal office, such as the U.S. House or Senate.

How does candidate filing work?

Running for office takes a fair bit of organization. At candidate filing, prospective office seekers need to first fill out a Notice of Candidacy.

Candidates must list:

- Which office they're running for;
- How they want their name to appear on the ballot;
- Their campaign phone number and email address;
- Their residential address; and
- Whether they've been convicted of a felony (if so, they must fill out a document providing more details).

In partisan contests, candidates sign a pledge choosing which primary election they want to be a part of and affirming that they have been registered with that party for at least three months. They must also promise not to run as a write-in candidate in the general election if they lose the primary.

Various parts of the documentation need to be notarized. Before candidates are officially in the race, the county elections director or the chairman or secretary of the State Board of Elections must observe the candidate signing the notice of candidacy.

Candidates running for national offices, state offices, superior court judge, district court judge or district attorney file their notices of candidacy with the State Board of Elections. Candidates running for the state legislature and other county and local offices file them with their county board of elections.

This happens in person at predetermined locations.

Candidates pay to run. The price depends on the office, but generally amounts to 1% of the office's base salary. For example, candidates for U.S. House will pay \$1,740 in filing fees, while state legislative candidates have to cough up \$139.51.

Since candidates have to meet regular campaign finance reporting requirements, they also must set up a candidate committee and list a treasurer who lives in North Carolina. These treasurers will oversee the tracking of campaign contributions and spending throughout the election cycle.

Candidates may act as their own treasurers. All treasurers have to attend a State Board of Elections training within three months of their appointment. However, treasurers for federal committees don't have to complete training.

Can candidates use nicknames on the ballot?

No, you can't go by George (Da Bomb) Smith on the ballot, sorry. The State Board of Elections has a laundry list of name rules candidates must abide by to ensure elections are conducted professionally and fairly.

Naturally, candidates may use their given first and last name on the ballot with no issues. But they may also use a nickname, provided they can attest they've gone by that nickname for at least five years, and the elections board decides the nickname does not "mislead voters or unduly advertise the candidacy."

Candidates may use their middle names as their first name on the ballot without taking extra steps. However, they may not shorten their names — from David to Dave, for example — without a nickname affidavit.

No fancy titles allowed, like Dr., Hon. General or Judge. The only titles allowed are Mr., Mrs., Miss and Ms., and the only suffixes permitted are those indicating familial succession (Jr. or III, e.g.).

If they like, candidates may abbreviate using the first letter of their first and/or middle names, but last names cannot be shortened.

Hyphenated last names are OK, as long as that's how the candidate's name is listed on their voter registration records.

What's next in the process?

After candidate filing, North Carolinians eligible to vote in the candidate's race have 10 business days to challenge that candidate's eligibility. This cycle, that's Jan. 8, 2026.

By mid-January, counties have to publish election notices in local newspapers. Absentee voting begins Jan. 12 for the March 3 primary election.

Looking a bit further ahead, the first campaign finance deadline is Jan. 30, 2026. That will include contributions and expenditures through the end of 2025.

Feb. 6 is the voter registration deadline for the primary, as well as the last day to challenge the eligibility of specific voters to cast a ballot. Early voting will be Feb. 12-28.

How do candidate challenges work?

Every year, at least a few candidate challenges reach the State Board of Elections. Typically, they involve whether a candidate actually lives in the district they seek to represent, but they can also revolve around any other eligibility requirement.

Challengers must submit a verified affidavit based on "reasonable suspicion or belief" that the candidate does not meet the qualifications for office. Any eligible voter who lives in the district may challenge a candidate, but filling out a fraudulent challenge is a Class 1 felony.

Which state and federal offices are up for election in '26?

The midterms are set to be a busy cycle for North Carolinians. Republican U.S. Sen. Thom Tillis is not running for reelection, and the race for his replacement is already off to an expensive start. North Carolina's 14 U.S. House seats are also on the ballot, with all incumbents announcing their intentions to run for reelection.

Each of North Carolina's 120 state House and 50 state Senate seats are up for grabs.

Over in the judicial branch, Democratic State Supreme Court Justice Anita Earls will attempt to keep her seat against her Republican challenger, State Rep. Sarah Stevens. Three of the North Carolina Court of Appeals' 15 seats are up for reelection.

Southern Colleges — CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"We care about student achievement; we care about measurable outcomes; we care about efficiency; we care about pursuing truth; we care about preparing our students to be citizens of our republic," DeSantis said.

Jan Friis, senior vice president for government affairs at the Council for Higher Education Accreditation, which represents accrediting agencies, said the century-old system is in the midst of its most significant changes since the federal government tied accreditation to student aid after World War II.

"If the student picks a school that's not accredited by a recognized accreditor, they can't spend any federal aid there," Friis said. "Accreditation has become the 'good housekeeping seal of approval.'"

What's next for the new accreditor Dan Harrison, who is leading the startup phase of the Commission for Public Higher Education, described accreditation as "the plumbing of the whole higher ed infrastructure."

"It's not dramatic. It's not meant to be partisan. But it's critical to how schools function," said Harrison, who is the University of North Carolina System's vice president for academic affairs.

Though the founding schools of the new commission are all in the South, Harrison said, he expects accreditation to shift away from the long-standing geography-based model. In the past, universities in the South were accredited by SACSCOC simply because of location. In the future, he said, public universities across the country might instead be grouped together because they share similar governance structures, funding constraints and

oversight.

"In 2025, if you were designing accreditation from scratch, you wouldn't build it around geography," Harrison said. "Public universities have more in common with each other across states than they do with private or for-profit institutions in their own backyard."

The Commission for Public Higher Education opened with an initial cohort capped at 10 institutions within the first six states. Harrison said that based on the interest, the group could have accepted 15 to 20.

"I thought we'd be at six or seven. We reached 10 quickly and across a wider range of institutions than expected," he said. "We already have an applicant outside the founding systems. That's well ahead of where I thought we would be."

That early interest, he said, reflects frustration among public institutions around finances. In particular, public universities are mandated to undergo audits from the state, but also feel burdened by audits required by accreditors.

"Public universities already undergo multiple audits and state budget oversight," he said. "Then accreditation requires them to do the same work again. It feels like reinventing the wheel and it pulls faculty and staff away from teaching and research."

Harrison estimates it will take five to seven years for the new accreditor to be fully up and running, and that institutions will need to maintain dual accreditation to avoid risking Pell Grants and federal loans.

The commission is busy assembling peer review teams made up primarily of current and former public university leaders such as

governing board members, system chancellors, provosts, chief financial officers, deans and faculty. In contrast to regional accreditors, which typically draw reviewers from both public and private institutions, the new commission is prioritizing reviewers from public universities.

"Ultimately, we want to be a true nationwide accreditor," Harrison said. "Not a regional one. Not a partisan one. Just one that is organized around sector and peer expertise."

While the creation of a public university accreditor is new, the concept of sector-specific accreditation exists in other parts of higher education, including for two-year colleges.

Mac Powell, president of the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, said that tailoring accreditation to a sector can make the peer-review model more meaningful, because reviewers can identify with similar challenges. He said reviewers have been moving away from measuring resources and bureaucratic compliance toward assessing what students actually get out of their education.

"The big shift was moving from counting inputs to asking, 'Did students actually learn what we said they would learn?'" said Powell, whose organization accredits 138 colleges across Arizona, California, New York and the Pacific.

The most important metric all accreditation models should value is how they transition their students into the workforce, he said.

"Every accreditor today is paying much more attention to retention, persistence, transfer, career outcomes and return on investment," Powell said. "It's becoming less about how many books are in the

library and more about whether students can find a pathway to the middle class."

The institution evolves Stephen Pruitt is in his first year as the president of SACSCOC, the accreditation organization that the half-dozen Southern state university systems just left. Pruitt, a Georgia native, jokes that his "Southern accent and front-porch style" has helped him break down the importance of accreditation to just about anyone.

In simple terms, he said, accreditation is the system that makes college degrees real. But he feels he has to clarify a misconception about the role of accreditation agencies like SACSCOC.

"There's this myth that I'm sitting in Atlanta deciding if institutions are good or not," he said. "That's not how American accreditation works. Your peers evaluate you. People who do the same work you do."

At the same time, Pruitt isn't dismissing the concerns that prompted states such as Florida and North Carolina to explore alternatives to SACSCOC. According to Pruitt, institutions have long raised concerns about slow turnaround times, redundant paperwork and standards that have not always adapted quickly to the evolving landscape in higher education.

"Some of the frustration is real. Institutions want less redundancy and more responsiveness. Competition isn't something we're afraid of," he said. "We're doing a full audit of our processes. We have to be more contemporary. Faster approvals, more flexibility, more transparency. Accreditation shouldn't just be the stick. It should be the carrot too."

Brockman Blames Alleged Victim For His "Ruined" Life In Handwritten Letter

By Cash Michaels

Contributing Writer



In an extremely emotional five-paragraph handwritten letter addressing charges that he allegedly sexually abused a 15-year-old male teenager last summer, Cecil Brockman, former six-term Democratic NC House member from High Point wrote, "My life has already been ruined. The career and legacy that I have work (sic) so hard for, always trying to do the right thing taken in a instant because someone lied to me."

In the November 4th missive, written prior to being released from jail on bail to the restricted custody of his mother, Brockman, 41, opined about the coming legal trials and tribulations he will soon be facing after being arrested in October on two counts of statutory rape, and two counts of taking indecent liberties with a minor under the age of 16.

"Why should I pay the ultimate price because someone wanted to grow up too fast? Why should I bare (sic) the entirety of consequence for another person's lie?" Brockman rhetorically asked, before ultimately blaming the minor child he was allegedly involved with for most of his legal troubles.

"I keep trying to think of the red flags," Brockman, who served in the

on him, but his family.

"My grandfather, the only one I have left, is in his 80's. My mother, aunts and uncles are all in there (sic) mid 60s. I want to be there for them and spend as much time with them as possible. I spent all of my 30's in public service. The thought of spending the rest of my life or 12 years in prison is unimaginable. Especially when I was the one that was lied to."

Finally, Brockman shares how tough the whole legal ordeal has been for him so far.

"This amount of cruelty is unbearable (sic). I keep waking up and it's a reality that I cannot change. I am so devastated, constantly hurt and sad. I do not know what to do. Praying God loves me and heals me."

According to electronic evidence presented in court by Guilford County District Attorney Avery Crump, Brockman met the alleged juvenile victim by a dating app online last May, right before the alleged minor victim turned 15 the following month in June.

Brockman allegedly went to Atlanta to live with the minor, and both then moved to High Point in August.

The alleged relationship was unknown until, on October 5th, Brockman reportedly called 911 saying that the teenager had gone missing, and he was trying to track the child via a tracking app known as Life360. The

Davidson County Sheriff's Dept. initially responded, but eventually contacted the High Point Police, which ultimately got the SBI involved because Brockman was a state representative.

It was after the alleged juvenile victim was finally located, and the teen's cellphone was recovered and examined, that 14 sexually explicit videos of "certain acts" allegedly involving Brockman, were discovered.

The alleged acts were reportedly from August 15th, according to arrest warrants.

Brockman was arrested on October 8th. The investigation is ongoing, with additional charges possible, according to D.A. Crump.

Since then, the Guilford County Democratic Party has voted to appoint a High Point city councilwoman to fill out the rest of Brockman's term in office. This happened after Brockman resigned in writing, amid calls from top Democrats, including Gov. Josh Stein, to do so.

The resignation also took place hours after Republican House Speaker Destin Hall announced that he had selected House members for a bi-partisan committee assigned to examine the charges against Brockman, and recommend his removal if warranted.

Brockman is next expected in court is January 16.

Crimes And Reparations — CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

in Africa is believed to be staggering, with some estimates putting the cost of plunder in the trillions. European powers extracted natural resources often through brutal methods, amassing vast profits from gold, rubber, diamonds and other minerals, while leaving local populations

impoverished.

African states have in recent years intensified demands for the return of looted artifacts still housed in European museums today.

Attaf said it was no mistake that the conference was held in Algeria, a country that suffered some of the

most brutal forms of French colonial rule and fought a bloody war to win its independence.

Its impact was far-reaching: Nearly a million European settlers held greater political, economic and social privileges, even though Algeria was legally part of France and its men

were conscripted in World War II. Hundreds of thousands died in the country's revolution, during which French forces tortured detainees, disappeared suspects and devastated villages as part of a counterinsurgency strategy to maintain their grip on power.

J.W. Ligon Building — CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

nasium and cafeteria are undersized, safety and accessibility are an issue, the school has no security vestibule, the chair lift and elevator systems are antiquated, the stairwells are narrow, the carpool lane is undersized, there is one teacher workroom and one teachers lounge, which serves 100 staff members, ceiling leaks, Heating & Air Conditioning System challenges.

District 4 Representative Rice then began going from table to table, getting input from the community, interested persons, and J.W. Ligon Alumni in attendance. The spokesperson at one table, a Junior High parent, expressed gratefulness for the legacy of the school, citing the incredible teachers, who were trailblazers in Ligon's history, stating "they were incredible career long educators." Other comments from the tables that Ms. Rice visited included the excellence in sports where Ligon historically was known for through the years even though the trophy case housing those awards is now gone. Another reference was made to the fact that the speaker's great grandmother went to the Senior High School, and this was a source of pride for her family.

At this point in the meeting local

community activists began to stand and be heard. Octavia Rainey has a concern about transparency. "How many that are here tonight were involved in this process?" Daniel Coleman stated, "We don't have enough data to address the question of whether to renovate or rebuild."

At that time Urban Development Consultant took the floor, and stated for the record, "Ligon shouldn't be torn down." And furthermore that their should have been more transparency at the outset of the process. He went on to say that his job was to gather information about the process, which at this point has three possibilities; (1) To renovate and preserve the building as it is. (2) Rebuild exactly were the current building sits, or (3) To flip the site, and rebuild where the football field is currently located.

Community activist Dwight Spencer said, "This meeting deserves clarity and honesty. We need clear and straightforward answers. Furthermore, Ms. Rice, what happens next? Regular communication is needed. What is the best place to meet, not here, for others not her tonight to be involved?"

Wake County Public School Superintendent, Dr. Robert Taylor, then

took the microphone, and said, "No decision has been made." Five people on the School Board will have to agree on the fate of the Ligon Middle School Building. Dr. Taylor went on to say that there would be additional listening sessions scheduled on Jan. 8th and Jan 17, 2026. He further stated that District 4 Representative Rice was not in a position to answer specific questions about the building, and that was the staff's responsibility.

Dr. Taylor also went on to say that on Jan. 31st and February 7th or 8th 2026 that he would like to meet with J.W. Ligon Alumni of Classes of the 60s, 70s, 80s, and 90s to determine, "How we honor the Ligon Legacy. He further stated, "You will know when I know", and that Listening Session information will be posted on a website. He went on to say, "I absolutely equivocally understand. As a group gets older how do we keep the legacy alive."

Octavia Rainey questioned, "When do we look at Historic Preservation. With Crosby-Garfield School the ball was dropped. You all need to mind your own business. While we're doing all of this talking, please put this on the list for the Ligon Building."

J.W. Ligon Alumni President re-

leased the following statement after the Listening Session: "The Ligon Middle Magnet School is scheduled for rehab or tear down, and rebuild on the current site, or to build a new complex on the lower athletic field. Each option has a unique set of benefits and challenges, which need to be explored side by side in order to arrive at the best long term solution for students, parents, faculty, and the community, while preserving the legacy of this historic institution."

"These considerations need to be discussed in the coming listening sessions so that reasonable people can understand, and make meaningful, and informed contributions to the process."

"(1) Will cost estimates and timelines for each option be discussed in the coming Listening Sessions? (2) Is there a plan for temporary student assignment if needed? (3) How do we include the history and cultural significance of the school in each option? (4) Will community members be allowed, and scheduled to speak in favor of, or against an option during these Listening Sessions, if they so desire?, and (5) What criteria will be used to determine which option will prevail?"

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

PublisherAdria 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

The Publisher is not responsible for the return of unsolicited news, pictures or advertising copy unless necessary postage accompanies the copy.

Opinions expressed by columnists in this newspaper do not necessarily represent the policy of the newspaper.

Phone: 919-834-5558

e-mail: info@caro.news

www.caro.news

Facebook: TheCaroNews

Twitter: @TheCaroNews

To SUBSCRIBE To The Carolinian

call us at

919-834-5558

or visit us online at

www.CARO.news



Business & Finance

When Formal Systems Stop Working, Neighbors Turn To Each Other In An Older Concept Called 'Mutual Aid'

NEW YORK (AP) — "Times are tough. We take care of us."

In early November, Kashish Ali posted those words to her Instagram story as part of a yearslong practice she's had to fundraise for food and drop it off at community fridges in Atlanta, where she's from, and now in New York, where she lives. Ali, who is 32 and a first generation Pakistani immigrant, estimated that her friends and family have trusted her with thousands of dollars over the past couple of years.

For her, it's a practice of giving back and creating connection. It's also part of a growing interest in grassroots efforts to meet community needs that many call "mutual aid." Often, mutual aid just comes down to neighbors helping neighbors, and as many face high prices, cuts to government programs and political uncertainty, organizers say interest has swelled. Donating effort or time to mutual aid organizing is also another way to mark GivingTuesday, which falls on Dec. 2 this year, and has become a major day to support nonprofits.

Ali first noticed a fridge on the street outside of a brewery in Atlanta in 2021 and got in touch with



the organizers via social media. She completed a brief volunteer orientation, joined a group text chat and then posted on her Instagram that she would buy and drop off groceries.

"I ended up raising \$700 in like three to four hours, which was insane," she said.

Now, Ali doesn't think of her grocery runs as volunteering but rather

as a habit engrained in her life that directly connects to those around her. She said when she starts putting granola bars, fruit or yogurt into a fridge, people immediately come around to look, chat and grab something to eat.

Afterwards, Ali posts her grocery receipts and photos of the filled fridge to her Instagram account.

"What I noticed was a lot of my friends and family and coworkers and colleagues, they all want to get involved. They want to give back," she said. "But sometimes donating your cash or money to whatever organization, you don't really see what happens with it per se, especially not immediately. So this was a way to get almost instant gratification."

Many see mutual aid as operating differently than traditional nonprofits.

One of the principles of mutual aid is that it welcomes everyone. There's no need to show an ID or prove income or residency, and most often, the organizers of these types of very local projects are all volunteers. Organizers are also often recipients, with many groups seeking to remove the distinction entirely between those who give help and those who need it.

The low barriers to entry and lack of hierarchy are also part of what

distinguishes this approach from the work of nonprofits, organizers said. A mantra of mutual aid is, "solidarity not charity."

Interest in mutual aid organizing often spikes in response to crises, like the COVID-19 pandemic and now, economic and political uncertainty under the second Trump administration.

Aaron Fernando, who works as an organizer for Shareable, which publishes resources about mutual aid and cooperatives, said they saw huge interest in the Mutual Aid 101 webinars they launched earlier this year. Some 1,100 people attended the first one, up from around 70 attendees at a typical webinar.

"It just is and continues to be a disempowering and scary time for a lot of populations," said Fernando, which he said encourages people to seek new options to find resources and keep their communities safe.

In good times, he said most people don't concern themselves with mutual aid, but there are always people on the margins who are meeting their needs through these types of exchanges. Those small mutual aid projects can grow when disruptions hit.

"Once things go south, those sys-

tems, even though they're just like rickety scaffolding, they get built up a little bit, and then, they can catch people if communities have them," he said.

Finding free stuff and building local capacity

Yoly Nuñez has been organizing food distributions and exchanges of clothes and household items with the Collective Focus Resource Hub in Brooklyn since the outbreak of the pandemic. Formerly a merchandiser in fashion, Nuñez and her fellow organizers specialize at finding free stuff.

Her group started hearing from friends working in the service industry about which restaurants were throwing food away. Now, they have arrangements with Trader Joe's and Wegmans to pick up food that would otherwise go to waste. They put produce and prepared foods in community fridges outside their Brooklyn storefront and it's taken almost immediately.

"We thought, we need to organize and see how we could help each other," Nuñez said. "And that's literally the whole thought process behind it is like, we're scared and we need to huddle in and help each other."

She said people now reach out to them frequently to ask how to start their own mutual aid projects, which she encourages.

"Usually, we want people to branch off and make their own groups because if we all have groups, it just makes us stronger," she said.

Collective Focus decided to incorporate as a tax-exempt nonprofit in part to afford to rent their space. But they make decisions collectively and rely extensively on volunteers, though they do pay some staff members, including Georgina Edmonds, who has lived in the neighborhood for more than 30 years.

At a recent food distribution where they were handing out lentils, tofu, carrots, potatoes, onions, cabbage and apples, Edmonds said the group empowers its member to make decisions and shape the direction of their work. For example, she wants to start a project with a community garden nearby to grow medicinal herbs from seeds.

"In the beginning, I found myself deferring a lot to everybody else until someone called it to my attention," she said. "It's like, 'You know, you don't have to keep asking, you can just do it.'"

Here's Why Everyone's Talking About A 'K-shaped' Economy

WASHINGTON (AP) — From corporate executives to Wall Street analysts to Federal Reserve officials, references to the "K-shaped economy" are rapidly proliferating.

So what does it mean? Simply put, the upper part of the K refers to higher-income Americans seeing their incomes and wealth rise while the bottom part points to lower-income households struggling with weaker income gains and steep prices.

A big reason the term is popping up so often is that it helps explain an unusually muddled and convoluted period for the U.S. economy. Growth appears solid, yet hiring is sluggish and the unemployment rate has ticked up. Overall consumer spending is still rising, but Americans are less confident. AI-related data center construction is soaring while factories are laying off workers and home sales are weak. And the stock market still hovers near record highs even as wage growth is slowing.

It also captures ongoing concerns around affordability, which is much more of a concern for middle and lower-income households. Persistent inflation has received renewed political attention after voter anger over costly rents, groceries, and imported goods helped Democrats win several high-profile elections last month.

"Those at the bottom are living with the cumulative impacts of price inflation," said Peter Atwater, an economics professor at William & Mary in Virginia. "At the same time, those at the top are benefiting from the cumulative impact of asset inflation."

Here are some things to know about the K-shaped economy:

NOT AN L, U OR V

Atwater actually popularized the label "K-shaped economy" during the pandemic after seeing it crop up on social media. Other economists were discussing different letters to describe how the COVID recession in 2020 could play out: Would it be a V-shaped recovery, meaning a sharp decline and then rapid bounce-back? Or would it be U-shaped, meaning a more gradual



rebound? Or, worse, L-shaped: A recession followed by extended stagnation.

"There was sort of this land-grab for letters," Atwater said. "To me the letter that made the most sense was K."

Back then, it captured the differing fortunes between white-collar professionals still employed and working at home while stock prices rose, even as massive layoffs at factories, restaurants, and entertainment venues pushed unemployment to nearly 15%.

INEQUALITY PERSISTS

Inequality was somewhat reversed in the aftermath of the pandemic, when businesses offered large raises for blue collar workers as the economy reopened and demand surged. Many companies — restaurants, hotels, entertainment venues — were caught short-staffed and sought to rapidly increase hiring. Lower-income workers saw larger pay gains than higher-paid ones.

In 2023 and 2024, inflation-adjusted wages for the bottom quarter of workers rose at a yearly rate of 3.9%, outpacing the 3.1% gains for the top quarter, according to research by the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis.

"We had that kind of two-year period where the bottom was catching up and that talk of the K-shape went away," Dario Perkins, an economist at TSLombard, said. "And since then, the economy's cooled down again," he added, bringing back K-shape references.

This year, however, inflation-adjusted wage growth has weakened as hiring has fallen, with the drop

more pronounced for lower-income Americans. Their wage growth has plunged to an annual rate of just 1.5%, the Minneapolis Fed found, below that of the highest earning quarter of workers at 2.4%.

Slower income growth has left many lower-income workers less able to spend. Based on data from its credit card and debit card customers, the Bank of America Institute found that spending among higher-income households rose 2.7% in October compared with a year ago, while lower-income groups lagged at just 0.7%.

And a Federal Reserve Bank of Boston study in August found that consumer spending in recent years has been driven by richer households, while lower- and middle-income Americans have piled up more credit card debt even as they've spent less.

BUSINESSES TAKE NOTE

Corporate executives are paying attention and in some cases explicitly adjusting their businesses to account for it. They are seeking ways to sell more high-priced items to the wealthy while also reducing package sizes and taking other steps to target struggling consumers.

Henrique Braun, chief operating officer at Coca-Cola, for example, said in late October that the company is pursuing both "affordability" and "premiumization." It is generating more of its earnings from higher-end products such as its Smartwater and Fairlife filtered milk brands, while at the same time introducing mini cans for those looking to spend less.

"We continue to see divergency

in spending between the income groups," Braun said in a conference call with analysts last month. "The pressure on middle and low-end income consumers is still there."

Sales of first- and business-class tickets have been fueling revenue and profit for Delta Air Lines, its CEO Ed Bastian said in October, while lower-end consumers have been "clearly struggling."

And Best Buy CEO Corie Barry on Tuesday said that the top 40% of all U.S. consumers are driving two-thirds of all consumption.

The remaining 60% are focused on getting the best deals and are more dependent on a healthy job market, she said.

"One of the things we're watching closely is how does employment continue to evolve for particularly that cohort of people who are living more paycheck to paycheck," she added.

AI PLAYS A ROLE

The massive investment in data centers and computing power has also contributed to the K-shaped economy, by lifting share prices for the so-called "Magnificent 7" companies competing to build out AI infrastructure. Yet so far it's not creating many jobs or lifting incomes for those who don't own stocks.

"What we see at the very top is an economy that is sort of self-contained ... between AI, the stock market, the experiences of the wealthy," Atwater said. "And it's largely contained. It doesn't flow through to the bottom."

Driven by big gains for companies like Google, Amazon, Nvidia, and Microsoft, the stock market has risen nearly 15% this year. But the wealthiest 10% of Americans own roughly 87% of the stock market, according to Federal Reserve data. The poorest 50% own just 1.1%.

K-SHAPE COMES WITH CONCERNS

Many economists worry that an economy propelled mostly by the wealthiest isn't sustainable. Perkins notes that should layoffs worsen and unemployment rise, middle- and lower-income Americans could pull back sharply on spending. Revenue for companies like Apple and Ama-

zon would fall. Advertising revenue, which is fueling companies such as Google and Facebook parent Meta, typically plunges in downturns.

Such a cycle could even force the "Mag 7" to pull back on their AI investments and send the economy into recession, he said.

"Then you're talking about the bottom of the K essentially pulling down the top," he added.

Perkins, however, sees a different path as more likely: Many U.S. households will receive larger tax refunds early next year under the Trump administration's budget law. And Trump will likely appoint a new Federal Reserve chair by next May who will be more inclined to cut interest rates. Lower borrowing costs could accelerate growth and wages, though it could also worsen inflation.



APPLE DELAYS RTP HUB, SECURES FOUR-YEAR EXTENSION

By Jordan Meadows

Staff Writer

Apple's long-anticipated Research Triangle Park (RTP) campus has entered another extended holding pattern as North Carolina formally approved the company's request to push back the hiring and investment milestones tied to its incentive package.

The NC Economic Investment Committee voted to grant Apple a four-year extension on the timelines originally established in 2021, effectively restarting an agreement that could ultimately deliver up to \$845 million in tax benefits if the company meets its obligations. Apple had confirmed in 2023 that it had paused construction and sought to renegotiate its deal with the state, noting that although it had added around 600 Raleigh-area employees since 2021, it needed significantly more time before launching major development activities.

Under the original terms, Apple committed to invest \$1 billion in North Carolina over a decade—\$552 million for a new corporate campus in RTP and \$448 million to expand its Catawba County data center—while creating at least 3,000 high-paying jobs averaging \$187,001 annually, a dramatic contrast to Wake County's \$63,966 average wage.

Despite securing one of the state's rare "transformative" Job Investment Grants and purchasing 281 acres in RTP, Apple has yet to begin construction on the new campus. Development plans filed in 2023 outlined an ambitious build-out of three office buildings, supporting structures, and a parking facility totaling roughly 900,000 square feet, later followed by an additional filing describing six buildings, 700,000 square feet of office space, 190,000 square feet of accessory space, and nearly 3,000 parking spots across 41 acres.

In the meantime, Apple is operating out of more than 200,000 square feet of leased office space in Cary as a temporary base for its growing regional workforce. The company says the RTP site will serve as a center for machine learning, artificial intelligence, software engineering, and related fields, complementing its existing 1,100-employee presence across the state. "We are bullish on the future of American innovation, and we're proud to build on our long-standing US investments with this \$500 billion commitment to our country's future," said Apple CEO Tim Cook in a statement from the company.

The newly approved extension delays Apple's hiring obligations until the end of 2027, by which time the company must add 126 positions to remain eligible for incentives, ramping up to 1,719 jobs by the fifth year of the grant and 2,700 by year ten. While the company has not offered a precise construction timeline, observers note that the rapid, unpredictable rise of AI—and the challenge of forecasting its infrastructure demands—has likely informed Apple's decision to delay breaking ground.

Even amid the slowdown in RTP, Apple's broader North Carolina footprint continues to expand. In February 2025, the company announced that its Charlotte-area data center is part of a sweeping new \$500 billion investment plan across the United States. This national initiative includes increased data center capacity not only in North Carolina but also in Iowa, Oregon, Arizona, and Nevada, alongside additional spending on corporate facilities and Apple TV+ content production in those states.

The Greater Raleigh Chamber has issued a statement that says they're "excited that Apple has already made significant hires locally, and that they will be continuing these investments both here and across the country." Apple's marquee RTP project remains on pause, but the company's ongoing statewide investments preserve the long-term vision of a major East Coast engineering hub—albeit on a delayed and uncertain timeline.

Part Of The South of the Border Roadside Attraction On I-95 Is Going Up For Sale

WUNC — Part of the South of the Border roadside attraction — on Interstate 95 on the line between North and South Carolina — has been put up for sale.

The owners are selling 30 acres that include the Pedroland amusement park, the "SOB Convention Center," a motel building, a mini-golf course, vacant land and a former casino. The price is listed at \$2.85 million.

Those parts of the attraction have closed, but South of the Border is keeping its unusual sombrero observation tower, reptile lagoon, souvenir stores and restaurants. The main motel and campground are also still in operation.

Real-estate agent Ken Jackson says he anticipates the buyer will redevelop the site to take advantage of I-95 traffic. The only condition is that the new owner can't sell fireworks, because that's already part of South of the Border.

"We've had a lot of interest from people wanting to do that, but that's the only thing that wouldn't be al-

lowed," he told WUNC.

Jackson says the property for sale could be redeveloped as a hotel or other travel-oriented business. He says while South of the Border has new competition from a Buc-ee's truck stop a few exits deeper into South Carolina near Florence, the location still gets heavy traffic.

"Buc-ee's is the new shiny toy, and it is attractive to travelers as well, but there are plenty of people traveling up and down the interstate, and enough for both businesses," Jackson said.

But he says it's unlikely the new owner would reopen the amusement park. "I'm not sure there's much demand for amusement parks of that size anymore, but it's a great opportunity for someone to go in and build a modern hotel," Jackson said. "It'd be a great place for RV sales or RV service center — anything travel-related, logistics-related."

According to the real-estate listing, the old carousel that remains on the amusement park site won't



be included in the sale.

South of the Border has been a quirky stop for travelers since the 1950s, but it's faced criticism in recent years for its cartoon depiction of a Mexican man in its many billboard ads. They include slogans like "You never sausage a place! You're always a weiner at Pedro's!"

For years, South of the Border included a casino because video poker was legal in South Carolina but illegal in North Carolina. Now, South Carolina has tougher gambling restrictions than its northern neighbor, and there are several gambling parlors a few miles north in the Robeson County town of Rowland.

AI Is Quietly Becoming The Holiday Shopper's Secret Weapon

BUSINESS INSIDER – You may have artificial intelligence to thank for your Christmas gift this year.

From tech to retail, companies are going all in on AI this year, and it looks like consumers are following suit. This holiday season, shoppers are embracing AI to help find and purchase gifts.

New data from Salesforce, which creates AI agents through its Agentforce platform, found that AI agents

drove 17% of the online orders at its retail partners during Cyber Week, the week leading up to and including Cyber Monday in the US. The AI agents helped drive \$13.5 billion in sales during the week.

AI is helping steer customers toward deals and the checkout more broadly. The use of AI – including on platforms like ChatGPT – during Cyber Weekend tripled from 2024, Salesforce said.

These stats signal that retailers' AI investments, ranging from partnering with AI companies to developing their own chatbots, are paying off for Christmas.

"AI helps consumers bypass traditional homepages and go straight to the product pages they're looking for, which increases efficiency for shoppers," Lori Niquette, director of data storytelling at digital analytics company Quantum Metric, said.

For retailers, it represents a significant shift from the strategies they've come to rely on, such as their homepage and social media.

Consumers spent a record \$11.8 billion online on Black Friday, up 9.1% year over year, according to Adobe Analytics, which tracks customer data from websites and apps. Shoppers used chat services to hunt for deals and compare products on the shopping holiday, for example.

The analytics firm found that AI is making the shopping experience more personalized and increasing brand discovery with its product recommendations.

On Black Friday, shoppers who visited US retail sites through an AI chat service were 38% more likely to make a purchase than non-AI traffic sources, Adobe found.

To prepare for the holiday rush, several major retailers have launched

generative AI chatbots or struck new AI partnerships. Target rolled out a festive AI shopping assistant that offers gift suggestions from user input.

Quantum Metric found that shoppers are primarily using AI to find the best deals.

"AI tools aren't changing what consumers buy. Instead, they're transforming how they make those purchasing decisions," Niquette told Business Insider.

HUD Sued To Block Changes To Federal Homeless Housing Program

By Greg Childress

NC Newsline

A coalition of municipal and non-profit organizations has taken legal action to thwart the Trump administration's move to restrict the amount of federal grant money nonprofits can spend on permanent housing and subsidized rents for formerly homeless people.

The lawsuit was filed in the U.S. District Court for the District of Rhode Island. It names the U.S. Department

of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and HUD Secretary Scott Turner as defendants.

The plaintiffs seek a preliminary injunction to stop what they claim are "unlawful restrictions" before they take effect. They contend the Trump administration announced the changes without substantive advanced notice and on a "highly compressed timeline."

At issue are federal Continuum of Care (CoC) grants, which is the largest federal grant program specifi-

cally for assisting people experiencing homelessness. HUD announced last month that it would shift two thirds of the \$3.9 billion program to transitional housing and other short-term interventions for people experiencing homelessness.

The competitive grants are awarded on a two-year cycle. The second year of funding was expected on Jan. 1, 2026. But HUD is now requiring a new competition one year into the funding cycle. The deadline for letters of intent to reapply for the grants was in No-

vember, with formal applications due Jan. 14.

"Communities were given almost no time to adapt before the funding cycle began, creating widespread confusion and threatening critical housing programs at the peak of winter," the plaintiffs said in a news release.

The plaintiffs said the restrictions could force more than 170,000 people into homelessness. Last week, the National Alliance to End Homelessness, a lead plaintiff in the lawsuit, told NC Newsline that nearly 3,000 people in

North Carolina could be pushed into homelessness under the changes to the program. The state could lose \$24 million in funding, the alliance said.

"At a time when we should all be focused on scaling up and improving our most effective programs, this administration is instead focused on tearing them down," said Ann Oliva, CEO of the alliance. "These sudden decisions will cause programs to be totally defunded or go without federal funds for at least five months, and likely longer."

"We know that conservatively, best

case, we will not see awards in our state until the end of May," Liz Carbone with the NC Coalition to End Homelessness told NC Newsline. "The funding delay alone is going to be so deeply painful for our state."

Nonprofits in North Carolina may have to ask state and local governments to step in to fill the gaps. That's likely to be challenging, since the state is currently operating without a new budget, and local governments have long since finalized their budgets for the fiscal year.



Support Small & Local Businesses

Replace your job and earn money at home!

Login at www.jointonyallen.com or call (919) 252-3147 for details to get started.

Lea Funeral Home
 2500 Poole Road
 Raleigh, NC 27610
 (919) 231-1000

"Professional Service With Personal Care"

Call or Visit Us. We also offer Cremation Services & Pre-need Arrangements. You can reserve Our State-of-the-Art Banquet Facilities for your next event

Residential and Commercial Lawn Care

YONSCAPES
 Meticulous Lawn Care, Exceptional Results.

Patrick Yon, Owner
 Mobile 984-268-0457

919-346-3337
yonscapes@gmail.com
www.yonscapes.com

BOX ELECTRIC

Wiring North Carolina One Box At A Time

Website: [HTTPS://Box-Electric.com](https://Box-Electric.com)

Accident & Injury Law

BECTION
 THE BECTION LAW GROUP, PLLC

Automobile Accidents • Truck & Motorcycle Accidents
 Wrongful Death • Slip and Falls
 Real Estate Loan Closings

Elicood Becton, Marcus Becton, Dekhusta Becton Rozier, Taurus Becton

919.856.0414 www.bectonlaw.com

We Only Build Garages and Out-Buildings

Stu Daugherty
 Owner

Visit us at the:
HOME IMPROVEMENT CENTER

4905 Departure Dr.
 Raleigh, N.C. 27616
 (919) 790-1234
 FAX (919) 790-1010
www.carolinacustombuilders.com
carolinacustom@hotmail.com

SERVICES OFFER

Residential and Commercial

Product / Service Description

Burglar alarm
 Camera system

homes
 business
 farms
 school and daycare

ask us about temporarily camera system for construction site.

Thank you for your time.

Rouge3 Communication llc
 PO BOX 132
 Rougemont, NC 27572
 Enquiry for service

ADE JONES
 Attorney at Law

3401 Wendell Boulevard
 Wendell, N.C. 27591

919-817-2714 (office) 919-817-2711 (cell)
legallaffairs@abejoneslaw.com
 Fax: 919-366-6770

LAW OFFICES OF ADE JONES



Jack's Seafood & Soul Food
 LOCALLY OWNED SINCE 1976

Two Locations

1516 New Bern Ave
 Raleigh, NC 27610
 919-755-1551

5416 Rock Quarry Rd
 Raleigh, NC 27610
 919-329-8125

C.F. Smith Memorial Cares

Your Loved One Deserves The Very Best

NO INSURANCE, NO PROBLEM

Services We Offer:
 Affordable Direct Burial
 Special on Direct Cremation
 Affordable Graveside Service
 Special on Funeral Service
 Special on Memorial Service
 Ship-In, Ship-Out & More

WE OFFER SPECIAL PRICING ON CREMATIONS AND FUNERALS

DIRECT CREMATION STARTING AT \$875.00

ASK FOR CRAIG SMITH (FUNERAL DIRECTOR)

Mailing Address:
 P.O. Box # 26572
 Raleigh, NC 27611
 Serving: Wake, Johnston, Harnett, & Durham Counties

CRAIG & DALE SMITH
 919- 698-7739

RBR | Physical Therapy, LLC

revive. boost. rebuild.

"Call us today, start your journey to recovery!"

RBR PT Specializes in:

- *Functional assessments
- *Strength training
- *Modalities for pain
- *Balance/Stability training
- *Flexibility/Mobility training
- *Home exercise programs

(No physician's referral to get started)
 1300 Corporation Pkwy, ste. B
 Raleigh, NC 27610
 919-917-7729 (office)
 919-400-4178
www.rbrpt.com

\$1.00 OFF

any take-out or dine-in combo order. Must present coupon at time of purchase.

offer exp 12/31/2025

Steven L. Lyons Funeral Home
 "Trust ~ Service ~ Compassion"

1515 New Bern Avenue
 Raleigh, NC 27610
stevenlyonsfuneralhome.com
 (919)831-2596 Phone

Health and Wellness

Raleigh Café Builds Community Through Shared Meals

NC Health News – Since she was a child volunteering at soup kitchens and food pantries with her parents, Maggie Kane has carried a question: “Why was I on this side? Why am I so lucky?”

The invisible line that separated those who served and those who received inspired her to create a space where no one has to stand on either side.

“My work and life passion is working with folks who are experiencing homelessness. I just knew at an early age,” Kane said. “While in college at N.C. State, I started volunteering at a day shelter working with folks on the street and fell in love with folks, and they fell in love with me.”

During her volunteering she began to see the line of separation more glaringly — especially when it came to food.

“I realized that there are great places for people with money and great places for people without money, but there isn’t that space for people to bridge those walls and barriers and see each other as human,” she said.

She then discovered the pay-what-you-can model — where guests can pay the suggested price, pay what they could, contribute to the price of another diner’s meal or volunteer in exchange. She remembered thinking, “If other places can do this, if other towns can do this, we can too.”

So she found the nearest cafe operating with the model, in Boone, and went to visit. F.A.R.M. Cafe, which opened in 2012, welcomed her with open arms, and she returned five or six times to learn more. In 2018, Kane founded Raleigh’s first pay-what-you-can cafe, A Place at the Table, where anyone can come, eat and feel at home.

The café is easy to find at 300 W. Hargett St. in downtown Raleigh, with brightly colored chalk drawings covering the sidewalk out

front. The storefront patio features several pastel blue bistro chairs and a black and white “Open” sign hanging from the front door. The front counter is warmly lit with pendant lights, and the chefs work just beyond.

The dining area brings new meaning to farm-to-table, with murals of sunflowers in summer skies. There are tables of all sizes, each decorated with a small vase filled with flowers.

Not just people on the streets. One of the recommendations Kane first put into action was creating a community advisory board of people with experience of food insecurity and homelessness, and people who work with that population. The community advisory board helped make informed decisions on A Place at the Table’s design and menu.

What took shape was more than a café. It was a place where a hot meal comes with things that are harder to find: dignity, connection and a chance to sit at the same table.

“People really need each other in life. Life is hard in itself, and if we don’t have community in each other, then what do we have?” Kane said. “It’s very easy to only be around the people that look like you, feel like you, touch like or smell like you and are in your same circles, but we learn so much from people who are different than us.”

That connection can help dispel any assumptions made about those experiencing housing or food insecurity, according to Kane.

“Food insecurity, housing insecurity looks like so many things, and it is not just people on the streets,” she said. “We see everyone, and honestly the majority of folks that we see who are food insecure are paycheck to paycheck. They are not living outside. They’re the working poor.”

Looking around the café filled with the hum of conversation and the warm smell of homemade breakfast, Kane took a moment and began to identify different people’s circumstances. From a worker who lost their job at IBM and has aged out of

technology, a student at N.C. State working several jobs to afford school and housing, a painter who spent his whole life building his painting company but can’t afford to live in anything but a rooming house.

The circumstances can vary, she said, but A Place at the Table offers an opportunity for everyone — no matter their economic background — to connect over a shared meal.

“It connects us all. Food is a tool. Food is the one thing that we all have in common, so food is a way for people to connect,” Kane said. “Food builds community and builds relationships. People need food, and we’re at that point. The connection piece — I beg to say that we also need that. But more importantly, people need food.”

Increasing need. That need can be seen in the growing number of people in line for a meal. Before the pandemic, the café saw a 70/30 split among patrons, with 70 percent paying the suggested price and 30 percent paying less or volunteering. It has since flipped, with 75 percent of patrons paying less or volunteering and the remainder paying the suggested price, Kane said.



She contributed some of the change to increased exposure and word of mouth, the rest to growing food insecurity. A Place at the Table has served over 5,000 family meals since 2024, according to its website. Just this month it experienced its busiest week in the almost eight years it’s been open.

“We know a lot of people are going to be hurting. We know a lot of folks that are on SNAP come, but we also know there are a lot of people that don’t come to us because they have

benefits right now,” Kane said.

While benefits were restored in full earlier this month after a confusing back and forth court battle between the Trump administration and several states who sued during the federal government shutdown, more impacts are looming.

The Department of Agriculture has been directing states to implement new guidance as part of President Donald Trump’s One Big Beautiful Bill Act signed into law in July. Some of those changes to SNAP

include the following:

- The upper age limit for those who need to meet work requirements was raised from age 54 to 64 for the first time for able-bodied adults without dependents. This means older adults — who often struggle to find jobs — will need to find employment to qualify.
- Exemption for parents or other family members with a dependent younger than 18 will be changed to be for families with someone under 14 years old.
- Exemptions were also removed for homeless individuals, veterans and young adults who were in foster care when they turned age 18.
- The mounting pressure has prompted Kane and her team to consider two things.

“We are trying to figure out, ‘How do we continue to feed people, not turn people away, but still be here in three years?’” she asked. “And I think that that’s probably what a lot of people are talking about.”

This article first appeared on North Carolina Health News and is republished here under a Creative Commons Attribution-NoDerivatives 4.0 International License.

\$1 Billion Plan To Overhaul NC's Rural Health System



North Carolina is seeking \$1 billion from the federal government for a wide-ranging plan that could reshape rural health care across the state.

The N.C. Department of Health and Human Services hopes to secure the funding through the Rural Health Transformation Program, an initiative created under the One Big Beautiful Bill Act signed by President Donald Trump in July. The program allows states to compete for a share of a \$50 billion pool aimed at improving health outcomes in rural communities.

Devdutta Sangvai, secretary of NC DHHS, submitted the state’s 61-page proposal to the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services on Nov. 3, ahead of a Nov. 6 deadline. Developed with input from more than 400 stakeholders, the state’s plan lays out a broad framework for overhauling rural health delivery through six regional hubs that would coordinate services across North Carolina’s 85 rural counties.

It also calls for major investments in the state’s rural health workforce and introduces payment models designed to stabilize financially distressed hospitals and clinics. Other elements focus on nonmedical factors like food access and transportation — priorities that were central to the state’s promising but now defunct Healthy Opportunities Pilot.

“Our plan reflects North Carolina’s commitment to ensuring that every North Carolinian, no matter where they live, has access to high-quality health care,” Gov. Josh Stein said in a statement. “North Carolina is on the cutting edge of technology and innovation, and our application for the Rural Health Transformation Program shows that we’re ready to continue our leadership in rural health care.”

If CMS approves the application, the state could begin receiving funds as early as this month. The \$1 billion would be distributed in annual payments of \$200 million over five years.

Debra Farrington, the department’s deputy secretary of health, said she is optimistic about the outcome.

“I think North Carolina, being where we are with having the second-largest rural population in the country and way more facilities than some other states, and also having the infrastructure and innovation in place, we feel like we’re deserving of a higher percentage of the dollars compared to some other states,” she said.

New model for coordinating care

The plan’s centerpiece is the creation of six so-called ROOTS hubs. Short for Regional Organizing and Operational Transformation Support, these locally governed networks would be intended to coordinate the major components of the state’s rural health strategy.

Each hub would unite hospitals, primary care practices, behavioral health providers, EMS agencies, local health departments and other partners under a shared regional structure. The goal is to replace the fragmented patchwork of services that rural residents often navigate with a system better able to respond to local needs.

Under the proposal, the hubs would oversee care coordination, data sharing, prevention programs, crisis response and workforce recruitment. They would also help communities secure grant funding, deploy mobile services and build stronger referral pathways between medical providers and social supports like transportation, housing and food assistance.

State officials say the hubs would give rural regions the infrastructure needed to tackle long-standing challenges like provider shortages and high percentages of uninsured residents — and ensure that improvements made with federal dollars endure after the program’s five-year funding window closes.

“We’re hoping that the funding will complement existing funding sources, which is important because this is a time-limited program for only five years,” Farrington said. “We wanted to be careful not to set up something that was not sustainable. These dollars can complement and pay for initiative activities that are not currently covered in existing programs but allow us to expand the capacity of those programs, and that’s certainly our intent.”

FOOD LION FEEDS

Bring joy
to a family’s table when
you buy a holiday box

You can help by purchasing a holiday box or making a cash donation
at your local Food Lion or on [foodlion.com](https://www.foodlion.com).



*From November 5 - December 9, 2025, Food Lion will donate monetary donations made at checkout in-store or online to Feeding America®, \$1.00 helps provide at least 10 meals secured by Feeding America on behalf of local member food banks. Each box purchased will be donated to local food banks within Food Lion’s 10-state footprint. Funds raised could go to support Feeding America® programs that benefit local families. [foodlion.com/feeds](https://www.foodlion.com/feeds)

Arts & Culture

From Bondage to Books: Edward Johnson's Life as a Scholar

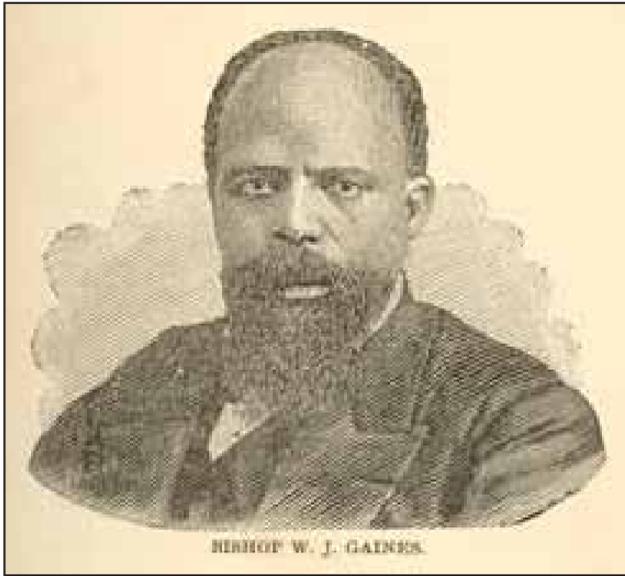
By Jordan Meadows

Staff Writer

Edward Austin Johnson, born enslaved in Raleigh on November 23, 1860, became a leading educator, attorney, author, and political figure whose work shaped public life in Wake County.

Johnson was educated first by Nancy Walton, a free African American woman who also instructed white children from prominent families, and later at a school run by two white New Englanders. After graduating from Washington School for Negroes, he chose to attend Atlanta University in 1878. While studying there beginning in 1879, Johnson taught in rural Houston County, Georgia, and operated a barbershop. By the time he completed his studies in 1883, he was already teaching in the Atlanta public school system and eventually became principal of the Mitchell Street School.

Johnson returned to Raleigh in 1885 to serve as principal of Washington High School, a position he held until 1891. During this period, he helped lead the North Carolina Negro Teachers Association, which advocated for equal schooling for African American students.



Observing the lack of suitable instructional materials on Black history, he wrote *A School History of the Negro Race in America from 1619 to 1890*. Urged by the Raleigh school superintendent, the book was ad-

opted in Black schools in North Carolina and Virginia and went through multiple editions. He later wrote *History of the Negro Soldiers in the Spanish American War in 1899* and the novel *Light Ahead for the Negro*

in 1904.

While working as an educator, Johnson pursued legal studies at Shaw University. He earned his LL.B. in 1891 as the law school's first graduate and joined the faculty in 1893. By 1907 he had become dean of the law department. Alongside his academic work, Johnson practiced law, built a notable real estate portfolio, and served from 1899 to 1906 as assistant to the United States District Attorney for the Eastern District of North Carolina.

In Raleigh, he also served as an alderman from 1897 to 1899 and remained active in Republican politics, attending national conventions in 1892, 1896, and 1900. President Theodore Roosevelt included him as an honorary brigadier general in his inaugural parade. And in 1900 Johnson helped found the National Negro Business League with Booker T. Washington.

In 1907, Johnson moved to Harlem, where he established a successful law practice and continued his political involvement. He was then elected to the New York State Legislature from the 19th Assembly District, becoming the first African American to hold that seat. Even after being declared legally blind around 1920, Johnson continued

writing, publishing *Adam vs. Ape-Man and Ethiopia*. Edward Johnson died on July 25, 1944, after complications from surgery. In his will, he directed that most of his estate—valued

at \$75,000—support the Raleigh School for the Negro Blind, the Congregational Church, Shaw University scholarships, a trust for blind African American youth in Raleigh, and the NAACP.



THE GOLDEN YEARS

By Judykay Jefferson

TIS THE SEASON TO BE CAREFUL!

This year, it seemed like the Thanksgiving dinner took a back seat to the intense online shopping season referred to as "Black Friday." The day after Thanksgiving, merchants large and small put it all on the line in hopes of finishing the day "in the black" (out of debt). This started long before online shopping. Back then, stores were closed on Thanksgiving to allow employees to enjoy the holiday. Bright and early the next morning, often before sun-up, people would gather in mall parking lots and downtown business districts to be a part of the Christmas shopping season.

And then came online shopping. I read that the number of people shopping online for "Black Friday" deals this year significantly surpassed last year. In addition to "Black Friday," we have Small Business Saturday and Cyber-Monday. Although I am an avid online shopper, the thrill of the hunt has been replaced by convenience and unlimited choices. This is the world in which we live. With changes come new opportunities and new dangers.

The holiday season is a time of joy, family gatherings, and giving. Yet it is also the time when scammers and identity thieves are most active, preying on unsuspecting shoppers. Protecting ourselves online is not just about safeguarding money; it is about preserving peace of mind and ensuring that the legacy we've built remains secure.

Older adults are often targeted because scammers assume we are less familiar with technology or more trusting of strangers. They exploit our generosity and our desire to connect with loved ones. African American seniors, in particular, may be vulnerable because we are often deeply involved in community and family networks, making us more likely to respond to messages that appear to come from trusted sources. Identity theft can have devastating consequences: drained bank accounts, ruined credit, and months of stress trying to repair the damage. Online scams can trick us into sending money, sharing personal information, or clicking harmful links. But awareness is the first line of defense.

During the holiday season, scammers get creative. Here are some of the most common traps:

- Fake shopping websites: Fraudsters set up sites that look like legitimate retailers but exist only to steal credit card numbers.
 - Phishing emails and texts: Messages claiming to be from delivery companies, banks, or charities ask you to "verify" information or click a link.
 - Gift card scams: Scammers pressure victims to pay debts or fees with gift cards, which are nearly impossible to trace once used.
 - Charity fraud: Fake charities pop up during the holidays, exploiting our generosity.
 - Social media deals: Ads promising unbelievable discounts often lead to counterfeit products or stolen information.
- Recognizing these patterns can help us pause before acting. Protecting against identity theft and scams requires a mix of caution and technology. Here are key steps seniors can take:
- Shop on trusted websites: Look for "https" in the web address and stick to retailers you know.
 - Use credit cards, not debit cards: Credit cards offer stronger fraud protection.
 - Beware of urgent messages: Scammers often create false urgency—"Act now or lose your package!" Take time to verify.
 - Monitor your accounts: Check bank and credit card statements regularly for unfamiliar charges.
 - Verify charities: Use trusted sites like Charity Navigator before donating.

These steps may sound technical, but they are practical shields against fraud.

Our communities have always thrived on collective wisdom and mutual support. Protecting against scams is no different. Share knowledge with friends, church members, and family. If you receive a suspicious email or call, talk about it. Scammers rely on silence and shame; community conversations break their power. Grandparents and grandchildren can play vital roles by teaching family members about vigilance. At gatherings, younger relatives can help seniors navigate technology safely. This intergenerational exchange strengthens bonds and keeps everyone safer.

Resilience has always been a hallmark of African American life. We have endured challenges far greater than online scams. But resilience does not mean ignoring threats; it means facing them with wisdom and preparation. Take time to review your online habits. Talk with family about safe practices. Report suspicious activity to authorities. Vigilance is not fear—it is empowerment. By staying informed, we protect not only ourselves but also the generations that follow. Our legacy is too precious to be stolen by a scammer's trick.

Let us embrace the season with gratitude, but also with vigilance. In doing so, we honor our past, safeguard our present, and secure our future.

THE CAROLINIAN'S JHERI HARDAWAY FILES FOR NC SENATE DISTRICT 12, VOWING TO PROTECT VOTER INTERESTS

LILLINGTON, NC – Jheri Hardaway officially filed her Notice of Candidacy today with the North Carolina State Board of Elections, formally announcing her bid for the North Carolina State Senate, District 12. Hardaway, a dedicated journalist for *The Carolinian News* and a community event organizer, is challenging three-term Republican incumbent Jim Burgin.

Writer, educator, and current Third Vice Chair of the Harnett County Democratic Party, Hardaway is running on a platform centered on Protecting the Will of the People and the guiding principle: "Putting People First. Period!"

"Today, I am proud to take this crucial step to represent the people of Harnett, Lee, and NE Sampson Counties," said Jheri Hardaway. "Harnett County is growing and changing, and so should the representation. My campaign, The Committee to Elect Jheri Hardaway, is putting the immediate needs of residents of District 12 first. I am all about the people's business, and our agenda is to push for healthcare for all, investments in schools and education, and living wage jobs; the elements of our society that improve our collective well-being."

Jheri Hardaway, also known as Visionary Jheri or Ms Jheri Worldwide, is focused on people and measurable progress. "My experience as an educator, journalist, and organizer is all about clear communication, critical thinking, and effective execution," Hardaway added. "We need a State Senator who brings vision and hustle to Raleigh, and who will never forget that they work for the people of this district who need opportunity. We are focused on improving our collective well-being and creating space for the new growth alongside our strong roots."

About Jheri Hardaway
Jheri Hardaway is a resident of Dunn, North Carolina, and has been an active, innovative, and motivating member of the community. She writes for *The Carolinian News*, is an adjunct professor. She currently serves as the Third Vice Chair of the Harnett County Democratic Party. Hardaway is running to "Be the change she wants to see in the General Assembly to ensure District 12 has a strong advocate."

Contact: Franklin Lemon Co-Campaign Manager 919-672-0021 contact@JheriForNC.org JheriForNC.org IG @JheriForNC Facebook @ Jheri For North Carolina

Netflix Film Review: Being Eddie

By Jheri Hardaway

Staff Writer

Eddie Murphy is a globally recognized icon, celebrated for his comedic genius and acting prowess that spans from stand-up clubs to Saturday Night Live and the silver screen. In his Netflix special, *Being Eddie*, he reveals a surprisingly grounded personal life, noting that he neither smokes nor drinks. Eddie does spread love, a lot of love. He is the proud father of ten children. As the documentary evolves, Eddie addresses difficult life transitions in



comedic and profound ways. Referencing his parents' relationship, we learned that his dad's life was taken in a crime of passion. His charming and equally hilarious late brother Charlie contributes to the story throughout the film via clips and highlights from the set of the timeless *Chappelle Show*.

The documentary offered a welcome surprise, as Murphy is generally known for his privacy. He truly opened up, allowing his quirky personality to shine, which provided a new level of insight into the various characters he has portrayed

throughout his career. His heartfelt family stories made him incredibly relatable, reinforcing my desire to continue supporting his creative endeavors. Eddie Murphy is a true cultural treasure whose influence on stand-up comedy and film is undeniable and long-lasting. I strongly recommend watching this documentary on Netflix. I guarantee you'll find both laughter and profound reflection as he shares his life journey and the path that led him to his current success. I am a lifelong Eddie Murphy fan.

U.S. Rep. Clyburn Tells Stories Of SC's First 8 Black Congressmen In New Book

SC DAILY GAZETTE — Photographs of the first eight Black congressmen from South Carolina hang on the walls of U.S. Rep. Jim Clyburn's office in Washington, D.C. About a decade ago, a group of visitors pointed to the photos and asked: Who are they?

When Clyburn explained, the visitors told South Carolina's longest-serving representative they thought

he was the first Black congressman elected in the state. Clyburn told his staff perhaps it was time to write a book about the history of the state's Black representatives, himself included.

"The First Eight," which hit shelves Nov. 11, interweaves the achievements and challenges of the state's Black representatives in the post-Civil War 1800s with Clyburn's

own experience during his three decades in Congress, he said.

"People are shocked when I tell them that there were eight African Americans representing South Carolina in Congress before me," Clyburn told the SC Daily Gazette. "They are absolutely flabbergasted when I tell them at one point South Carolina had five members of the House of Representatives, and four of the five

were Black.

"And they are beyond belief when I tell them that there's 95 years between number eight on this list and yours truly, number nine."

U.S. Rep. George Washington Murray left office in 1897. Clyburn was first elected in 1992.

For years, South Carolina's only Democratic congressman worked on the stories strictly as historical accounts. That changed with the Jan. 6, 2021, riot at the U.S. Capitol by a mob attempting to stop Congress from certifying Joe Biden as the next president. The attack only delayed certification by hours.

Clyburn's mind went back to the 1876 governor's race, when the paramilitary Red Shirts who supported Confederate Gen. Wade Hampton used violence and intimidation to keep Black men from voting.

Hampton's victory brought the end of Reconstruction, the post-Civil War period of federal control in the South, as President Rutherford B. Hayes — needing the electoral votes of South Carolina, Florida, and Louisiana to take office — agreed to withdraw federal troops in 1877.

Clyburn decided to draw parallels from the experiences of his predecessors to current events.

"What I decided was, rather than just inform, it needed to be sort of constructive," Clyburn said.

NATION'S FIRST
Clyburn's book begins with Joseph Rainey, the nation's first Black congressman, who represented South Carolina from 1870 to 1879.

Though Rainey was born a slave in Georgetown, his father bought the family's freedom when he was 10 and moved to Charleston, where he was secretly tutored and worked as a barber at the Mills House hotel. After the Civil War, Rainey helped found the state Republican Party. He was also a delegate to the majority-Black convention that wrote South Carolina's 1868 constitution, which allowed the state to rejoin the Union. Rainey won a special election two years later to represent South Carolina's 1st District and was reelected four times, becoming the longest-serving Black congressman during Reconstruction. In 2022, a room in the U.S. Capitol was renamed in his honor.

Clyburn's narrative tells the stories behind each of the eight men.

"FAIR AND HONEST"
Among the others are Robert Smalls, who Clyburn called "the most consequential South Carolinian who ever lived."

Also born into slavery, Smalls hijacked the Confederate supply ship he worked on in 1862 and steered



Candlelight Celebration of Remembrance

Sunday, December 14, 2025

3:00 PM

Lea Funeral Home Chapel

Your friends at Lea Funeral Home invite you to attend a very special Candlelight Celebration of Remembrance that we have planned to help you and your family face the holidays after the loss of a loved one. Also, it will help all of us cope with the loss and sorrow that we have shared both at home and abroad. This is a beautifully inspiring and uplifting celebration of Hope, Healing and Renewal.

The message, music, sharing of memories and fellowship are designed to bring comfort and peace, strength, love and closure in remembering.

*Fellowship and refreshments will follow the celebration.
(Open to the public.)*



Lea Funeral Home
2500 Poole Road
Raleigh N.C., 27610
(919) 231-1000
www.leafuneralhome.com



Community

NC Non-Profits Celebrate Giving Tuesday

By Jordan Meadows

Staff Writer

Nonprofits throughout Cumberland County and the greater Triangle region ramped up efforts to raise support for programs that uplift vulnerable populations in its annual GivingTuesday programs.

In Fayetteville, the Vision Resource Center—the county’s only facility dedicated to serving blind and visually impaired residents—had one of its most important fundraising days of the year. Since 1939, the center has worked to enrich the lives of more than 250 local residents, many of whom live on limited incomes and often feel overlooked.

“It’s going to give us the tools and the opportunity to offer our community more and to offer them the experiences they’ve been wanting to do for so long,” said Maureen Pacheco, the center’s community outreach and engagement specialist.



The organization focuses on increasing independence, reducing isolation, and improving confidence and overall wellness. Through donations, the center acquires specialized tools and resources that help members navigate life with vision loss. To promote physical activity and social en-

agement, the center offers a walking trail, indoor exercise equipment, and a variety of enrichment programs.

This year’s GivingTuesday donations will support program expenses and help purchase sports equipment, art supplies, and nutritious foods. Funding will also assist with trans-

portation and staffing—two critical components of the club’s day-to-day operations.

Youth Ambassadors of Service continues to grow its impact across the region. Since its founding, the organization has reached roughly 2,000 students and aims to engage more than 1,000 this year alone. Youth Ambassadors of Service helps high schoolers design and launch community service projects, connect with nonprofits through internships, and advocate for the nonprofit sector at the state level.

In Raleigh and Durham, for the past eight years, the Big Give Raleigh-Durham chapter has brought together residents, donors, and local nonprofits to celebrate and support community impact. This year, organizers hope to raise \$25,000 to be shared among 15 participating organizations, including: Great Raleigh Clean Up, NC Against Gun Violence, Raleigh Area Land Trust, and the Samaritan Health Center.



PSI PHI CHAPTER ACHIEVEMENT WEEK HONOREES STANDING WITH THEIR AWARDS.

Omega Psi Phi Chapter Holds Achievement Week Activities

WINSTON-SALEM, NC – The Psi Phi Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc. recently concluded a weeklong of activities as part of the fraternity’s International Achievement Week, highlighted by the annual awards banquet.

This year’s theme was “Impactful Service Through Intentional Friendship.” The activities got under way on Veterans Day, November 11, with a breakfast at Golden Corral to honor local veterans. On November 13, it was standing room only at the Achievement Week Awards Banquet at the Mt. Olive Baptist Church Dr. C.E. Gray Sr. Fellowship Hall. Later in the week, Psi Phi brothers volunteered at Samaritan Ministries soup kitchen and homeless shelter, and the week ended with a church service at Union Baptist Church.

“I applaud the brothers of Psi Phi chapter for honoring our founders by enthusiastically participating in the Achievement Week programs,” Basileus Richard Watkins said. “We will take this enthusiasm and apply it throughout the year as we endeavor to create a better community.”

Watkins was presented the award for Omega Man of the Year at the banquet. Other honorees were: Bro. Dr. John Card (Founders); Bro. Andre Crawley (Superior Service); Bro. Richard L. Williams (Citizen of the Year); Bro. Stovell Wade (Manhood); Bro. Dr. Michael Magruder (Scholarship); Bro. Chris Redd (Perseverance); and Bro. Brian McMillan (Uplift).

Awards were also presented by Mu Epsilon chapter of Winston-Salem State University and Lambda Eta chapter of Wake Forest University, as well as to the winner of the International High School Essay Contest.

A highlight of the evening was the appearance of 104-year-old Bro. B. Meeks Briggs who received a standing ovation and partook in several photos with brothers during and after the program.

The keynote speaker was Sixth District KRS Bro. Dr. Tim Hunter who spoke of overcoming life’s challenging when others doubt you. He also presented Bro. Briggs with a fraternity pin. Bro. Linwood Jerald serves as chair of the Achievement Week committee. Bro. Williams was the emcee.



MU EPSILON BASILEUS DEVIN CUNNINGHAM AND MEMBERS OF THE MU EPSILON COURT.



BROTHER DR. TIM HUNTER, THE SIXTH DISTRICT’S KEEPER OF RECORDS AND SEAL, WAS THE BANQUET’S KEYNOTE SPEAKER. PRIOR TO HIS REMARKS, HE GIFTED 104-YEAR-OLD BRO. B. MEEKS BRIGGS WITH A FRATERNITY PIN.

Durham NAACP 49th Freedom Fund Banquet

By Jheri Hardaway

Staff Writer

Durham, NC – The Durham Chapter of the NAACP recently hosted their 49th Annual Freedom Fund banquet at the Durham Hilton near Duke. Attendees were dressed in their Sunday best attire. The event began with an awe-inspiring and moving crowd rendition of “Lift Every Voice and Sing.” While this song is a staple at many NAACP gatherings, it seemed to resonate with particular power this time. Membership Chair Aalayah Sanders even commented on the quality of the singing during her warm welcome. Following this strong opening, the audience heard a series of speeches and heartfelt personal accounts to inspire our collective endurance. It was evident that everyone who took to the stage was genuinely grateful to be there and deeply appreciative of the opportunity to share their message.

“Even as we deal with the ills of our government, where certain people are



trying hard to turn back the hands of time, trying hard to erase our history, and pretending that slavery in some distorted way was good for us. The most egregious of all is that we have folk who look like us supporting the racism and hatred as though they think they are not included in the dis-

mantling of our history. We know, as you do, that there is much to be done, and this is not the time to slack off and become complacent. We have enjoyed a strong working and beneficial relationship with the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of North Carolina, the Durham Committee on

the Affairs of Black People, the Durham Branch of the National Council of Negro Women, ZAF Temple #176, Durham Consistory #218 and we are looking forward for greater things in the future.” This was the message shared by Durham NAACP President B. Angelee Burch Sr.

Joseph W. Burrwell 33rd, Dawn Baxton Esq, and Sheriff Clarence Birkhead were the honorees, and Dr. Xavier D. Burch was the keynote speaker. Dr. Burch’s speech was highlighted with the sentiment that “Knowledge is something that cannot be taken away. Knowledge is the start of freedom for yourself and others. The seen and unseen are the reasons we are here today. This needs to be seen; let the youth see us. Let those who oppose us see us work and see how our actions have worked for us!”

This inspiring event was classy, delicious, and uplifting. Political leaders, business influencers, and all sorts of area organizers were present. Looking forward to attending the 50th anniversary next year!

New Wake County Park Will Bring Walking Trails To Raleigh-Knightdale Border

WUNC – Wake County broke ground at Kellam-Wyatt County Park recently in its latest effort to expand green spaces in the area.

The 59-acre property located near the border of Raleigh and Knightdale will have community and demonstration gardens, nature trails, a renovated farmhouse and educational and recreational programs, among other features.

According to Wake County Parks, Recreation and Open Space director Chris Snow, the main thing community members wanted to see in the new park was walking trails.

“One of the biggest things we hear in almost any survey we do, and this is across the country, is (people want safe) places to walk,” he said. “And so we’re incorporating places to walk.”

The Wake County Board of Commissioners approved the final plans for the park in late 2021, incorporating a public process for community input. TCC Enterprises, Inc., won the construction contract in October, with work on the property expected to conclude in 2027.

Work on the newest park is funded through the 2018 Parks, Greenways, Recreation and Open Space bond.

History of the donation Kellam-Wyatt Farm is a three-generation family property that was originally part of a larger farm.

In 1936, George and Emma Poe



Richardson bought the Gill Farm, which included what is now the Kellam-Wyatt site. The pair later divided the farm among the three daughters and grandchildren.

Starting in 1985, the Richardson daughters and grandchildren started selling sections of the farm to developers, creating the subdivisions that now surround the park. Kellam-Wyatt Farm is the last undeveloped piece of the original property, according to the project’s website.

In 2004, Bob Kellam, one of the Richardsons’ grandchildren, began a Community Supported Agricultural Cooperative on the farm with wife Susan Wyatt and his daughter Leewyn. The family sold organically grown produce on a subscription basis, including multiple different kinds of

fruits and vegetables.

Kellam and Wyatt eventually donated the farm to the City of Oaks Foundation in 2013 with a conservation easement attached, limiting the use of the land to activities that promote conservation values like open space and habitat and watershed protection.

Kellam passed away in 2016, and the conservation easement serves as a way to keep his legacy and vision for the property alive.

In 2017, the City of Oaks Foundation contacted Wake County on behalf of the family. They wanted to donate the land to be used as either a park, nature preserve or agricultural site.

“Susan Wyatt and her late husband Bob Kellam and their daughter wanted to donate to the county for a

park, and so that kind of started the conversation,” Snow said. “Of course, we looked into it, where it was located. Not a lot of county facilities close by. Historic Oak View is our closest county park, and so we were excited to get it again.”

The Wake County Board of Commissioners officially accepted the donation in 2018.

What’s next Kellam-Wyatt Farm is part of fulfilling the Wake County Parks, Recreation and Open Space mission, which states that the county’s goal is “to provide outdoor recreation and educational opportunities while promoting environmental and cultural stewardship through a managed system of parks and open spaces,” according to the project website.

“One thing that we focused on, that Wake County parks focuses on, is the open space, the green space,” Snow said. “We don’t have a lot of active recreation fields. We don’t do gymnasiums or community centers. We really want people to get out, in the out of doors, in nature.”

The county is not stopping with Kellam-Wyatt Farm. According to Snow, Lake Myra will be the next county park. There are also renovations on a number of current parks, including Lake Crabtree County Park, Blue Jay Point County Park and Harris Lake County Park.

New RPD Deputy Chief: Eddie Buffaloe

By Jordan Meadows

Staff Writer

The Raleigh Police Department has announced that Eddie M. Buffaloe, Jr., retired Secretary of the North Carolina Department of Public Safety (NCDPS), will join the agency as Deputy Chief of the Administrative Services Division beginning January 5, 2026.

Buffaloe brings more than three decades of law enforcement, public safety, and administrative experience to Raleigh. As state public safety secretary, he oversaw more than 21,000 sworn and civilian employees as well as 13,000 soldiers and airmen of the North Carolina National Guard. His oversight included juvenile justice and delinquency prevention, Alcohol Law Enforcement, the Office of Violence Prevention, Homeland Security, and Emergency Management, where he worked to guide statewide responses to major events, including Hurricane Helene in 2024.

Buffaloe’s previous leadership roles span city, county, and state govern-

ment. He has served as interim city manager and director of the Elizabeth City Department of Public Safety, police chief, sheriff’s office leader, and correctional officer with the North Carolina Department of Corrections. He is a former president of the North Carolina Association of Chiefs of Police, a ten-year veteran of the North Carolina National Guard, and a law enforcement instructor for the North Carolina Training and Standards Commission.

He was appointed NCDPS secretary in 2021 by then-Governor Roy Cooper. During his tenure, the department faced scrutiny, including a 2024 audit citing insufficient procedures to ensure proper use of Hurricane Florence recovery funds and ongoing issues with the North Carolina Office of Recovery and Resiliency.

The audit found that poor budgeting practices, unreliable data systems, and weak oversight slowed the state’s efforts to help homeowners rebuild after Hurricanes Matthew and Florence, leaving some families in temporary housing for years. NCORR’s



Homeowner Recovery Program was the main culprit, resulting in a \$297 million state bailout to sustain operations.

In his new role in Raleigh, Buffaloe will oversee Professional Standards, the Administrative Services Division, and the Office of the Chief. His role will also support and strengthen the Field Operations Division, Special Operations and Detectives Divisions, and the city’s newly launched Community Impact and Engagement Division.

“We are thrilled to welcome a long-time partner with an extensive background in law enforcement, a proven understanding of emergency management, and a strong commitment to community connections,” City Manager Marchell Adams-David said.

Police Chief Rico Boyce noted that Buffaloe’s “wealth of experience” will benefit residents citywide.

Buffaloe holds a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice Administration from the University of Mount Olive and a Master of Science in Criminal Justice Administration from Grand Canyon University, along with numerous law enforcement and public safety certifications. He also serves as an adjunct professor in the criminal justice departments at North Carolina Wesleyan College and the College of the Albemarle.

“As I retire from state service, my gratitude runs deep, and while one chapter closes, another begins,” Buffaloe said. “I’m thrilled to continue my commitment to public safety in a new capacity, joining the Raleigh Police Department as Deputy Chief.”

CONGRESSIONAL MAP

Continued from page 1

Plaintiffs did not make a “clear showing” of that, the judges ruled. The plaintiffs also failed to convince the panel that a new argument against mid-decade redistricting based on the First Amendment was likely to succeed in the broader lawsuit. Plaintiff attorney Hilary Klein argued at a preliminary hearing that court rulings allowing partisan gerrymandering came about because courts had no good way to draw the line between acceptable and unacceptable use of party data to draw congressional district lines without entering a political realm.

But, those were cases where legislatures were required to redistrict due to a new U.S. Census or a court mandate, while this was not, she argued. The only reason for the 2025 redraw of the congressional districts was for political gain. Klein argued that the very act of “picking up the pen” was unconstitutional without a “legitimate” reason, because it retaliated against voters based on their political choices in the last election.

The judges said they couldn’t quite make the distinction. Despite the First Amendment framing, they wrote that “they are essentially complaints about partisan gerrymandering,” which courts cannot deal with after key state and federal court rulings in recent years.

Even if the ruling is appealed, there won’t be enough time before the candidate filing start date, Dec. 1, to resolve the issue. So, for now, the 2025 North Carolina congressional district map stands.

After the court’s ruling, Senate Leader Phil Berger, R-Rockingham, released a celebratory statement. “President Trump deserves a Congress that will fight for American citizens and move his agenda forward,” he wrote. “Today’s decision thwarts the radical left’s latest attempt to circumvent the will of the people.”

Church

We Are Hardwired To Sing – And It's Good For Us, Too

THE CONVERSATION – On the first Sunday after being named leader of the Catholic Church in May 2025, Pope Leo XIV stood on the balcony of St. Peter's Basilica in Rome and addressed the tens of thousands of people gathered. Invoking tradition, he led the people in noon prayer. But rather than reciting it, as his predecessors generally did, he sang.

In chanting the traditional Regina Caeli, the pope inspired what some have called a rebirth of Gregorian chant, a type of monophonic and unaccompanied singing done in Latin that dates back more than a thousand years.

The Vatican has been at the forefront of that push, launching an online initiative to teach Gregorian chant through short educational tutorials

called "Let's Sing with the Pope." The stated goals of the initiative are to give Catholics worldwide an opportunity to "participate actively in the liturgy" and to "make the rich heritage of Gregorian chant accessible to all."

These goals resonated with me. As a performing artist and scientist of human movement, I spent the past decade developing therapeutic techniques involving singing and dancing to help people with neurological disorders. Much like the pope's initiative, these arts-based therapies require active participation, promote connection, and are accessible to anyone. Indeed, not only is singing a deeply ingrained human cultural activity, research increasingly shows how good it is for us.

The same old song and dance

For 15 years, I worked as a professional dancer and singer. In the course of that career, I became convinced that creating art through movement and song was integral to my well-being. Eventually, I decided to shift gears and study the science underpinning my longtime passion by looking at the benefits of dance for people with Parkinson's disease.

The neurological condition, which affects over 10 million people worldwide, is caused by neuron loss in an area of the brain that is involved in movement and rhythmic processing – the basal ganglia. The disease causes a range of debilitating motor impairments, including walking instability.

Early on in my training, I suggested that people with Parkinson's could improve the rhythm of their steps if they

sang while they walked. Even as we began publishing our initial feasibility studies, people remained skeptical. Wouldn't it be too hard for people with motor impairment to do two things at once?

But my own experience of singing and dancing simultaneously since I was a child suggested it could be innate. While Broadway performers do this at an extremely high level of artistry, singing and dancing are not limited to professionals. We teach children nursery rhymes with gestures; we spontaneously nod our heads to a favorite song; we sway to the beat while singing at a baseball game. Although people with Parkinson's typically struggle to do two tasks at once, perhaps singing and moving were such natural activities that they could reinforce each other rather than distract.

A scientific case for song
Humans are, in effect, hardwired to sing and dance, and we likely evolved to do so. In every known culture, evidence exists of music, singing or chanting. The oldest discovered musical instruments are ivory and bone flutes dating back over 40,000 years. Before people played music, they likely

sang. The discovery of a 60,000-year-old hyoid bone shaped like a modern human's suggests our Neanderthal ancestors could sing.

In "The Descent of Man," Charles Darwin speculated that a musical protolanguage, analogous to birdsong, was driven by sexual selection. Whatever the reason, singing and chanting have been integral parts of spiritual, cultural and healing practices around the world for thousands of years. Chanting practices, in which repetitive sounds are used to induce altered states of consciousness and connect with the spiritual realm, are ancient and diverse in their roots.

Though the evolutionary reasons remain disputed, modern science is increasingly validating what many traditions have long held: Singing and chanting can have profound benefits to physical, mental and social health, with both immediate and long-term effects.

Physically, the act of producing sound can strengthen the lungs and diaphragm and increase the amount of oxygen in the blood. Singing can also lower heart rate and blood pressure, reducing the risk of cardiovascular dis-

eases. Vocalizing can even improve your immune system, as active music participation can increase levels of immunoglobulin A, one of the body's key antibodies to stave off illness.

Singing also improves mood and reduces stress.

Studies have shown that singing lowers cortisol levels, the primary stress hormone, in healthy adults and people with cancer or neurologic disorders. Singing may also rebalance autonomic nervous system activity by stimulating the vagus nerve and improving the body's ability to respond to environmental stresses. Perhaps this is why singing has been called "the world's most accessible stress reliever."

Moreover, chanting may make you aware of your inner states while connecting to something larger. Repetitive chanting, as is common in rosary recitation and yogic mantras, can induce a meditative state, inducing mindfulness and altered states of consciousness. Neuroimaging studies show that chanting activates brainwaves associated with suspension of self-oriented and stress-related thoughts.

Obituaries

MARY LOUISE PICKETT

A native of Elizabeth City, Mary Louise Pickett dedicated her life to educating others and was an accomplished educator in the Wake County School System. She loved quilting, traveling the world, and meeting with friends at church and in the community.

Mrs. Pickett was preceded in death by her husband of 58 years, Henry B. Pickett, Jr. She is survived by her daughter, Sherry Aldridge, and son-in-law Eugene Aldridge of Raleigh; son, Marquis Pickett, and daughter-in-law Ginny Pickett of Jacksonville, FL.; grandsons DeShaun Aldridge of



Raleigh, NC, Marco Pickett of Jacksonville, FL., and Eugene Aldridge of Houston, TX; granddaughter, Bria Pickett of Denver, CO; sister-in-law Helen Hoffer of Spring Lake, NC; brother-in-law Roy Adams, Sr. of Morehead City, NC; and sister-in-law Martha Mills of Morehead City, NC.

Funeral service will be held on Saturday, December 6, 2025, at 12:00 PM at First Cosmopolitan Baptist Church, 1515 Cross Link Road, Raleigh, NC 27610. Visitation precedes the service at 11:00 AM at the church. Interment will follow the service at Carolina Biblical Gardens, 1530 Creech Road, Garner, NC 27529.

SERMON of the WEEK



QUIT MESSING AROUND By Bishop-Elect William "Billy" Eli Ratcliff Scripture Text: Matthew 25:1-13

Jesus' parable of the ten virgins is an earthly story with a heavenly meaning. After meditating on it, I titled today's message "Quit Messing Around." And you don't have to tell your neighbor—tell yourself: "Self! Quit messing around."

Before this parable, the disciples asked Jesus privately about the destruction of the Temple, the signs of His coming, and the end of the world. Knowing His death, resurrection, and ascension were near, Jesus sat on the Mount of Olives and delivered what we call the Olivet Discourse—a warning, a preparation, and a wake-up call about the end times.

Let me say this gently but truthfully: there are other "ends" we ought to worry about besides the one we sometimes sit on. The two most important ends are the end of your life and the end of this world. If you agree, say Amen!

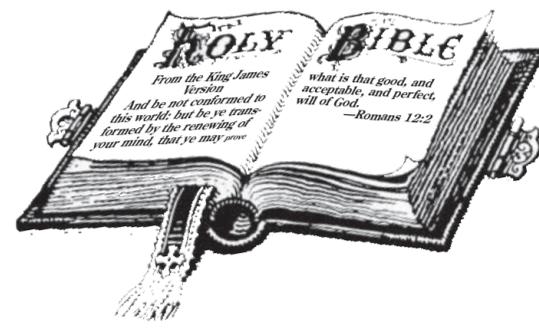
In Matthew 25:1-13, Jesus explains what readiness really looks like. This parable centers around one major theme: WISE CHOICES vs. FOOLISH CHOICES.

1. BE WISE ENOUGH TO PREPARE

One of the first lessons I learned as a 7-year-old Cub Scout was: Be prepared. Preparation separates the wise from the foolish. Jesus said five virgins were wise because they prepared, and five were foolish because they procrastinated. It wasn't about being better—it was about being ready.

Preparation prevents panic; procrastination produces problems. Think back to school days when the teacher gave weeks to complete a paper. Somehow, there was always one classmate who waited until the night before. And let's be honest—we've all made a "Boo Boo" at times. In one area, we're wise, and in another, we're not. Life happens, but readiness is still a choice.

Jesus makes it clear that spiritually there is no mystery about the deadline: "You know not the day nor



the hour." So don't be like the foolish virgins—don't mess around with your oil.

2. BE HONEST ENOUGH TO ADMIT YOUR CONDITION

Confession opens the door, but excuses keep it locked. The foolish virgins didn't just lack oil, they lacked honesty. Instead of admitting, "We weren't prepared," they made excuses. And you know people like that—never wrong, and when they are wrong, they'll explain it, excuse it, or blame somebody else. But Scripture teaches that confession is good for the soul.

The difference between wise and foolish wasn't education or theology—it was choices. Good ones and goofy ones. Some of us have degrees on the wall but can't find the ketchup in the refrigerator. Some are math geniuses but lose their glasses while they're sitting on top of their head!

Here is the truth: You cannot ride on somebody else's faith. I can pray with you, but I cannot give you my oil. I can encourage you, but I cannot give you my relationship with God. Your salvation is yours. Your oil is yours.

This is not Food Lion Rewards. This is not "Buy One Get One Free Faith."

This is not borrowed Wi-Fi from your cousin's house. Your relationship with Jesus must be personal.

David says, "The Lord IS my Shepherd." A doubter says, "I don't need Him." A backslider says, "I used to know Him." A foolish person says, "I'll get right later." But a wise believer says, "The Lord IS mine—today!"

Stop worrying about your family name or what you grew up with. Jesus isn't impressed with last names—He's concerned about your soul. And if Jesus cares about you when you're burdened, lonely, discouraged, or hurting—then it's time out for messing around with the wrong people and the wrong habits. If others want to act foolishly, let them. But you be wise.

3. BE READY ENOUGH TO RECEIVE HIM WHEN HE COMES

Readiness is not optional; it's eternal. Jesus said, "I AM coming back." Not "I might." Not "I'll think about it." We don't know the minute, the

hour, or the circumstance—but we DO know He is coming for the ready, not the reckless.

The old saints sang, "I want to be ready to walk in Jerusalem just like John." And I'm not talking about modern Jerusalem, surrounded by conflict—I'm talking about the New Jerusalem, where the faithful will enter in.

Some folks messed around and didn't vote—and now they're losing rights they thought would always be there. If politicians know messing around can cost a vote, trust me: the devil knows messing around can cost a soul.

Paul said, "When I became a man, I put away foolish things." Meaning—he grew up. He quit messing around. So today I say: Grow up. Wake up. Fill up and Look up—because the Bridegroom is coming.

The foolish knocked, but the door was shut. God is all we have, all we need—but God is not someone to play with.

CLOSING

The five foolish virgins waited until the Bridegroom was pulling into the driveway. "Can we borrow some oil?" No, this isn't AutoZone or Sam's Club, this is Salvation.

When He comes—whether tonight or in 2025—you won't have time to run to the store, charge your lamp, borrow oil, download a Bible app, find your church shoes, rejoin the livestream, or "catch the Wave" on NFIRadio.com.

YOU WILL NOT HAVE TIME to restart a prayer life. You must be ready—right now. David didn't say, "The Lord was my shepherd." David also said, "The Lord IS my light and my salvation...The Lord IS the strength of my life." So quit messing around. Keep your lamp trimmed. Keep your soul clean. Keep your oil full.

And with the Canton Spirituals, let us declare: "I've got to clean up what I messed up—I'm starting my life over again."

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

Practical Biblical Principles

WILL THERE EVER BE PEACE?

Read: Isaiah 40:1-8

By J. L. Caldwell, Pastor

New Jerusalem Baptist Cathedral
Our World is forever experiencing violence. This is nothing new if we consider what our Lord told us in (Matthew 24:6). Excluding this scripture there is still on-going violence. Take America for instance. Studies are still showing the most violent period in America is before the beginning of December through the beginning of March of each year. We are not talking about wars. We are talking about "family and domestic" violence which seems to paint the picture of not having any peace, anywhere. Our home, for all practical purposes, if there is no peace in the home there is no peace in the world, so to speak.

When the Angel of the Lord spoke of peace to the shepherds on that quiet night while tending their sheep, not only was it a startling event for them but also frightening them as well. Why would the angel appear to the lowly shepherds first? Of all of God's people who keep the promise in mind of a coming Messiah, it was the shepherds of the field. Ever since Isaiah's prophecy (700BC) the Jewish shepherds carried the hope and dreams of the coming Messiah throughout the years. This is basically why the Angel came to them first with the announcement of the "tidings of great joy." The Angel's visit to the shepherds was not because they were poor, stinking, outcast and were not allowed to enter the Tabernacle or Temple to worship, but because they were faithful in their expectations of the coming of the Messiah more so than the temple priests were. The shepherds were people of peace. There was basically little or no violence among the shepherds and

their tribes. This was a culture which depended upon each person for survival when out in the field tending sheep. The bible does not record any major incidents, wherein, shepherds have been cited for violence among themselves.

It was a true greeting from the Angel to the shepherds when He greeted them and said "I bring you greetings of great joy, which will also be to all people. The chorus of Angels closed out the Christmas message with the lowly shepherds by saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men!" The main purpose of this angelic message was pure and simple, God declares He is no longer at war with His creation, God is now at peace with any man who wishes to be at peace with Him given man's freewill. God will not force peace on anyone. It must be done by mutual agreement.

God has now put His Son, Jesus, in charge of man's salvation and peace. This is why Jesus states, "That if any man seeks to come to God, He must now come by Me! (John 6:43-45). Jesus did not come to us to pick a fight with us. He came to die for us and to take away our sins so that we can have peace among ourselves, as well as with God. Yes, in the truest sense God declared peace between Himself and man, as He prepared to send Christ among us.

James, the half-brother of our Lord, tells us why there is no peace (James 4:1-5). It is a matter of the heart. If one's heart is not for peace, there will be no peace from that person.

To put it more simply in today's terms, psychologist states, come Christmas time there is that "great expectation" for all to be happy. This is how the season is advertised and that is for everybody to be happy. The reasons given by the commer-

cial interest to be happy is that we eat drink and be merry, we share presents, we travel to meet friends and family, we tell stories about a fat man in a red suit bringing toys to happy and obedient children all over the world by dropping toys down their chimneys at night while they are sleeping.

As long as hearts are evil and the devil is around, there will be no peace. This is why God sent His only Son into the world to us-and that is for Him to first reign in our hearts and bringing peace to each individual, then this will be the beginning of peace in the world, if we spread it. God did not send Jesus here to fight with those who don't care for peace, He sent Jesus to die for us so we may have peace within our own hearts.

At Christmas, when people sense for whatever reason and discover that they will not be happy during the Christmas season, they will rebel with some form of anger, even with violence. This is exactly what the devil wants, no peace, but violence. This is what he wants to violate God's desire for peace and worship during the Christ child's birthday celebration. During the Christmas season, domestic violence, murder, and divorce are but a few of the events which adds up to a "no-peace" Christmas. If the "Son of Peace" comes to us and we kill Him with our sins, what will become of the peace God declared and wished for the world to enjoy?

The shepherds were so happy and chose to exercise peace with God and they carried the good news that the Messiah had arrived on earth just as God had promised from the Old Testament prophets.

Peace and happiness cannot be bought or traded. Peace and happiness are a choice each person will have to make for themselves if there is to be Peace on earth.



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

SUBSCRIBE TODAY

Yes, I Want A 1 Year Subscription For **\$45.00**

Yes, I Want A 2 Year Subscription For **\$75.00**

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

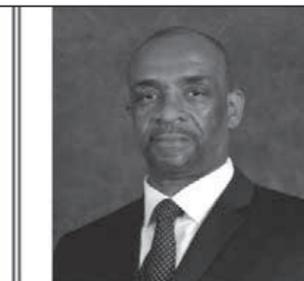
CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____

EMAIL _____

Make checks payable to The Carolinian Newspaper
Mail your subscription form and payment to PO Box 25308 Raleigh, NC 27611





"Our family serving your family for 110 years"

www.haywoodfh.com

2415 S Wilmington Street Raleigh, NC 27603

919-832-2835

Editorials

Editorial Policy

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

INDIVISIBLE: ONE MAN'S TRASH, ANOTHER MAN'S CASH

By Jheri Hardaway

Staff Writer

Nothing worse than driving down a scenic North Carolina highway or back road and seeing litter. With mountains, beaches, and everything in between, there is so much to see. One thing I do not enjoy seeing is trash, discarded appliances, or mattresses. It was not always like this. When I was in school, we read books about the beauty of North Carolina and talked about how terrible littering was. I remember a friend being suspended from school after throwing a pudding cup outside the school bus window. Littering has never been cool, and now it is bringing down our collective property value. We should want more for our roads, communities, and shared spaces. Gene Epstein once said, "Radical change must be implemented by the same people who seek to be the embodiment of that radical change."

My solution is simple, technology is a gift, and we should be using it to uplift and provide transparency for our collective greater good. This is a concept to support government and citizen partnerships for a better North Carolina. People who drive around with dash cameras recording what's going on on the road in front of them are more valuable than society currently appreciates. In efforts to combat littering and pollution on the side of our roadways, I would like to extend 25% of the fees from littering individuals to citizens who catch littering citizens in the act and share the video with the proper authorities. I would suggest that we raise the amount of the violation fee and share it with the citizens as a way of encouraging more collaboration and transparency. Law enforcement cannot do and see everything. Let the people be a bridge towards a better and cleaner North Carolina. Not only will this serve as low-cost economic stimulation for government and citizens, but it will also discourage littering. This is a win-win.

MARTIN COUNTY BROTHERS TAKEN UNLAWFUL ADVANTAGE OF IN A TIMBER WOOD SALE

By: Rev. Isaiah Green, Jr

Six brothers of Martin County/Williamston, N.C., have in my opinion alleged that they have been completely taken the advantage of in a timber wood sale by reason of a breach of contract in which they entered into as a Good Faith Contract prepared by the owner of the timber sale business known as Jeff Braxton who prepared the contract signed by the Black Brothers, in which such drawn up contract had flaws in same that would not be approved of by any reputable law firm who are familiar with contract law.

If you were to point out who is most likely the perpetrator in this case, tried in the Martin County Superior Court, all fingers would point to Jeff Braxton, the owner of the Woodbridge Timber Company.

If 50% of the fault in law errors was pointed toward the Black Brothers, and the other 50% toward Jeff Braxton, who is the creator of the contract and broke his own promise in the contract, in which he devised and agreed to in his hand written signature, and the six Black Brothers also signed the same, Braxton would be the accused.

Secondly, we see that Jeff Braxton legal counsel used a part of the law, referred to as Improper Process Service by the Martin County Sheriff's Department, in which that part of law validated Braxton defense to be exonerated of the accusation of the Breach Of Contract and the Judge in this matter issued an order for the Black Brothers case to be dismissed from court.

You can see that there are things in this matter that violate the Black Brothers U.S.

Constitutional Rights of Equal Protection under the Fourteenth Amendment, and is now pending a denial by the Martin County Superior Court Clerk, denying the Black Brothers the legal rights to secure a copy of their CASE TRANSCRIPT when the same has been requested in a document which is now in the possession of the Superior Court Clerk at Martin County/Williamston, N.C.

The law question at this point is WHY have the Black Brothers been denied this privilege under

US Constitutional Law to retrieve a copy of their court case TRANSCRIPT.

WHY has the Clerk Of The Superior Court at Martin County/Williamston, North Carolina, taken it upon HERSELF to violate the federal laws in opposition to what the Black Brothers are entitled to by the United States Constitutional privileges?

Is such an act overt RACE DISCRIMINATION or is it the North Carolina COURT NORM, to prove a point to the United States Congress, that white RULE in the SOUTH will not be denied, and crippling Black and Brown People is never to be an expected change in North Carolina through the COURT SYSTEM.



HAVING A MORAL COMPASS

As human beings, most of us have a moral compass. These are the values and boundaries that guide how we live. I have seen children with strong moral compasses. One little boy found a toy lost in the street and recognized that another child must have dropped it. He said the child probably did not even know it was gone. It was a doll, and he insisted that his mother help him make a sign and pin the toy to a pole so that the child could return and find it.

I was so glad his mother did exactly that. When he passed by again and both the toy and the sign were gone, he was pleased to know he had helped someone recover something precious. It never occurred to him that someone else might have taken it, because that possibility did not exist within his moral compass. That little boy was three years old at the time, and at seventeen, he is still that way. How did he get there? I do not know. Perhaps he was born with that trait and also had a mother who nurtured it.

The spiritual gift that young man has is called empathy, the ability to imagine what someone else feels by understanding how you would feel in the same situation. Here we have leaders in our country who do not possess such a compass. Some simply cannot put themselves in someone else's position and feel as they do. For this reason, we may be on the precipice of going to war with Venezuela. Reports say that eighty people are dead due to claims that there were boats carrying drugs in the waters near that country. Suddenly, laws have been suspended, justice is being denied, and human life is being devalued.

We now have leaders who require no proof for their beliefs and consider their positions alone enough to justify their decisions. We are in dangerous waters, and not just in the literal sense where vessels are being destroyed with people on board. A young woman is dead because she was in Washington serving as a National Guardsman. Another soldier is in the hospital fighting for his life, a father of five who was brought to this country as a thank you for helping during the war in Afghanistan.

What caused him to go from saving lives to taking lives? No one seems to know. Yet the president's first response was to blame his predecessors for the woman's death. He then decided that the suspect's wife and children should be deported. What did they do? Why are thousands of refugees from Afghanistan now being re-evaluated because of what one man did? Why, when this suspect was vetted and granted asylum under the Trump administration in 2021, is the president placing blame on former President Biden? Why is he refusing to take responsibility for the guardsman being in Washington and for actions under his own administration?

This man entered the United States under Trump's administration, committed no acts of violence until 2025, the first year of Trump's current presidency. In most cases like this, leaders say, "The buck stops with me." But not this president. Why? Because he and many in his administration have no moral compass and no boundaries for what they will say or do to make political points or mislead their supporters.

Donald Trump knows Joe Biden is undergoing treatment for prostate cancer, yet he continues to blame him and others for his own failures, showing an inability to consider even the simplest boundaries

of decency. His inability to see himself as others see him allows him to publicly call women reporters "piggy," "stupid," and "not smart," and to refer to Tim Walz as "retarded." He does not understand that thousands of citizens have family members, neighbors, and friends with cognitive differences. Many of these individuals are his own supporters, who are beginning to recognize the truth about him.

Instead, he bullies, lies, and tries to keep the Epstein files from being disclosed not because he is innocent or because the case is a hoax, or because he is ashamed of his behavior with young girls, but because he lacks a moral compass. There are things most of us simply would not say or do. Most of us want peace and compassion for others. We want to live freely and understand that it is not our job to control other people.

We do not wish harm on others, even if we do not like them. We also accept responsibility for our own mistakes and strive to move forward in a better way. All the religions of the world express a version of the Golden Rule.

For those with no moral compass, that guidance is absent. The moral compass in most of us pushes us to seek good treatment for ourselves and for others.

As we enter the seasons of Christmas, Hanukkah, and Kwanzaa, pray with me that a spiritual boundary will be placed around those who lack moral compasses, so that their harm to the world will be limited and eventually eradicated.

FUNdraising Good Times

By Mel & Pearl Shaw Saad & Shaw

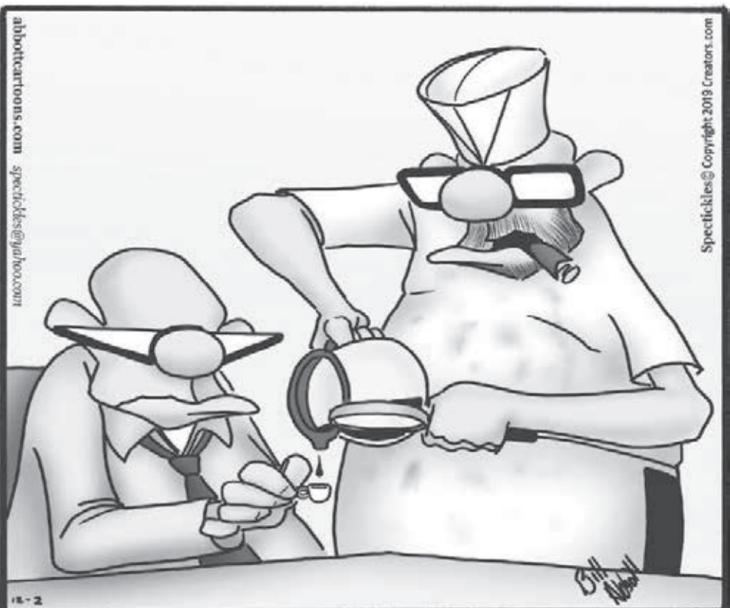


BOARD MEMBERSHIP – ASSET OR LIABILITY?

Nonprofit board members play a critical role in the life of our nonprofits. This is true for those who serve grassroots and emerging organizations, as well as those who serve major institutions such as our HBCUs and national organizations. Sometimes, nonprofit board members are seen as "glamorous." Those not familiar with nonprofit board service may think you are in a role similar to that of a bank trustee or corporate board member. The positions are similar in that both require you to bring your A game to the table. Unlike corporate boards, nonprofit boards don't come with financial rewards. You will be rewarded for the good you do, but you won't get paid.

If you are a nonprofit board member, you know the joys and the hard work. And you know today's environment makes board service – and the survival of our nonprofits – more challenging than ever. With this column, we ask you to reflect on how you live up to your roles and responsibilities. Weigh the following as you consider how you "measure up."

- For your consideration.
- Have you bought into the vision and goals for the organization?
- Are you in sync with leadership?
- Do you attend board meetings on a regular basis?
- What about committee meetings?
- Do you have contacts that can provide grants and resources? Are your contacts active?
- Do you make a meaningful financial contribution each year?
- Do you serve as a fundraiser as well, asking others to join you in giving?



"I see you're taking full advantage of our free refills policy."

Classifieds

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, 2026, 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

CHATHAM COUNTY

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
CHATHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File Number 25E000643-180
THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 26th day of November 2025, as EXECUTOR of the Estate of DONNA LEE MCCORKLE, late of Chatham 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 4th day of March, 2026, 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 4th day of December, 2025.

Molly Jo Swann, Executor
c/o Richard F. Prentis, Jr.
4 Consultant Pl.
Durham, NC 27707
12/4, 12/11, 12/18, and 12/25/2025

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
CHATHAM COUNTY
NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION
In the General Court of Justice
District Court Division
File No. 25CV001255-180

To: HENRY FILANDE ARTICA MATAMOROS, 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 child custody. You are required to make defense to such pleading no later than January 13, 2026 said date being at least forty (40) days from the first publication of this Notice, and upon your failure to do so, the Plaintiff, PAULA ISABEL LEON BENITEZ, will apply to the court located at 40 E Chatham St, Pittsboro, NC 27312 for the relief sought.

This, the 4th day of December, 2025.

Aneta Paval
Paval Law Offices, PLLC
7404 Chapel Hill Rd
Suite M
Raleigh NC 27607
Telephone: (919) 410-6690
12/4, 12/11 and 12/18/2025

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 25E001486-310
THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 24th day of November 2025, as EXECUTOR of the Estate of JACQUELINE LADD, 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 4th day of March, 2026, 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 4th day of December, 2025.

Donald Ladd Jr., Executor
4533 Holloman Rd
Durham, NC 27703
12/4, 12/11, 12/18, and 12/25/2025

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk

File Number 25E001351-310
THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 23rd day of October 2025, as EXECUTOR of the Estate of TONYA MICHELLE MANGUM, 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 4th day of March, 2026, 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 4th day of November, 2025.

Tyressa Mangum-McCormick
Executor
1704 Stargross Drive
Grayson, GA 30017
12/4, 12/11, 12/18, and 12/25/2025

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk

File Number 25E001130-310
THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 1st day of October 2025, as EXECUTOR of the Estate of JEAN COLEMAN PAGE, 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 4th day of March, 2026, 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 4th day of December, 2025.

Roger Dale Page, Executor
4313 Page Road
Morrisville, NC 27560
12/4, 12/11, 12/18, and 12/25/2025

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk

File Number 25E000862-310
THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 10th day of July, 2025, as EXECUTOR of the Estate of DOROTHY LUCILLE ROY-CROFT MOORE, 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 4th day of March, 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 4th day of December, 2025.
Joseph Harold Roycroft, Jr., Executor, c/o Richard F. Prentis, Jr., 4 Consultant Pl., Durham, NC 27707.

12/4, 12/11, 12/18, and 12/25/2025

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY
NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION
In the General Court of Justice
District Court Division

Doe v. John Reed, 25CV006835-310

Mr. Reed:
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: Complaint for Emergency Child Custody, Temporary, and Permanent Child Custody.

You are required to make defense to such pleading not later than January 20, 2026 and upon your failure to do so the party seeking service against you will apply to the court for the relief sought. You may file responsive pleadings with the Durham County Clerk of Court, 510 South Dillard St., Durham, NC 27701.

This the 4th day of December, 2025.

/s/ Mr. Robert L. Schupp,

Attorney for Plaintiff
PO Box 396, Benson, NC 27504
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 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, 2026, 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, 2026, 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 25E001390-310

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 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.

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 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.

WAKE COUNTY

make defense to such pleading no later than January 8, 2026 said date being at least thirty (30) days from the first publication of this Notice, and upon your failure to do so, the Plaintiff, BRENDA EBERT, will apply to the court located at 316 Fayetteville St., Raleigh NC 27601 for the relief sought.

This, the 4th day of December, 2025.

Brenda Ebert, Plaintiff
827 Firebrick Dr.
Cary, NC 27519

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

NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION

In the General Court of Justice
District Court Division
File No. 25CV037179-910

To: ALEX WAIGI KIMANI, 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 January 8, 2026 said date being at least thirty (30) days from the first publication of this Notice, and upon your failure to do so, the Plaintiff, IRENE WANJIKU NJAU, will apply to the court located at 316 Fayetteville

St, Raleigh NC 27601 for the relief sought.

This, the 4th day of December, 2025.

John On Eluwa, Esq.
PO Box 3336
Cary, NC 27519

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 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, 2026, 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

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



ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

The North Carolina Department of Adult Correction has the following contract in Lincoln County out for bid: C- C11750 Lincoln AC installation . The bid opening is scheduled for: Wednesday, 01/14/2026 . To obtain the Notice to Bidders, any Pre-Bid Requirements, and any Addenda visit: <https://evp.nc.gov/solicitations/details/?id=e804b557-77c9-f011-bbd3-001dd80c2969>

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 Southeast Regional WWTP Design-Build Early Works Package 3A Headworks Improvements project for Onslow Water and Sewer Authority which bids on December 11, 2025, at 2:00 PM. Plans and specifications for this project are available at the following location: T. A. Loving Company; 400 Patetown Road; Goldsboro, NC 27530.

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

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

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 Carolina Beach Lake Force Main project for the Town of Carolina Beach which bids on December 11, 2025, at 11:00 AM. Plans and specifications for this project are available at the following locations: T. A. Loving Company; 400 Patetown Road; Goldsboro, NC 27530 * Town of Carolina Beach; 1121 North Lake Park Boulevard; Carolina Beach, NC 28428 (website) * Engineering Services, PA; 1202 Benson Road, Suite 200; Garner, NC 27529.

Potential subcontracting opportunities include but are not limited to surveying, clearing and grubbing, hauling, asphalt paving, striping, traffic control, erosion control, seeding, linework/pipe installation, directional drilling, 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.

Black Congressmen New Book — CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

his family and fellow enslaved crew members to freedom. Piloting past Confederate forts, he delivered the ammunition-laden Planter to the Union.

Smalls then became the first Black man to pilot ships for the U.S. Navy. He too helped write the state's 1868 constitution, which undid the Black Codes and promised free education for all children and voting rights to all men. His five terms in the U.S. House are especially remarkable when considering he continued to get elected after Reconstruction ended.

He also attended the post-Reconstruction rewriting of the state constitution. As a Black delegate to the mostly white 1895 convention, Smalls pleaded unsuccessfully for a constitution guaranteeing "fair and honest" elections, even while recognizing the purpose of the convention was to disenfranchise Black voters.

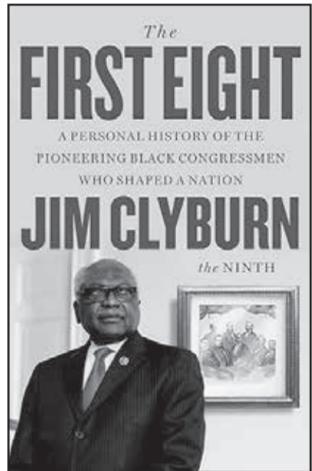
A statue of him is in the works, for placement on the Statehouse grounds.

Although Smalls' story stands out for its heroism, the most interesting story to Clyburn is that of Thomas Miller, the state's seventh Black congressman.

A state legislator before and after his stint in Congress, Miller briefly held the seat previously represented by Smalls after successfully contesting the results of the 1888 election on the grounds that Black voters were prevented from casting ballots. A vote by Congress didn't seat him until September 1890. He lost re-election later that year in another disputed contest.

Miller was raised by two freed slaves, Richard and Mary Ferree Miller. But he had fair skin and claimed both of his biological parents were white. Whether that's true is unknown.

Regardless, Miller presented himself as African American. Born in 1849, Miller moved to Charleston with his parents two years later and



attended schools for free Black children. During the Civil War, he delivered newspapers between Charleston and Savannah, where he spent two weeks in a Union prison camp. He completed his education in the Northeast after the war, graduating from Hudson School north of New York City and Lincoln University in Pennsylvania, which is still a historically Black college.

In 1872, he returned to South Carolina and earned a law degree from the then-integrated University of South Carolina before the end of Reconstruction closed it to Black students.

Like Smalls, Miller was a delegate to the mostly white 1895 convention that rolled back rights in the state constitution. He went on to found what became South Carolina State University, Clyburn's alma mater, and served as its first president from 1896 to 1911. It remained the only public university in South Carolina admitting Black students until 1963. People don't know these stories as well as they should, Clyburn said.

That much is clear in how often people tell him they think he is South Carolina's first Black representative, he said.

He also often sees misunderstandings about what it meant to be a Republican or a Democrat in his predecessors' era, he said. All eight who came before him were Republicans.

Through telling the men's stories, he hopes to correct the record and leave people better informed.

"I'm doing my part with this book to try to fill a gap in the education of people in South Carolina," Clyburn said.

VOTING LINES
Clyburn continues to see echoes of the past in the news. Recently, that's been through calls to redraw congressional maps across the country in efforts to pick up more seats for a single party, he said.

Voting lines must be redrawn after every census to account for population changes, since each U.S. House member is supposed to represent roughly the same number of people. But this year's changes are occurring mid-way through the normal decennial process.

South Carolina has made no moves toward an interim redrawing, especially since a court fight over the state's most recent maps ended just two months ago.

Some ultra-conservative members of the Freedom Caucus have called for redrawing the maps in an effort to replace Clyburn with a Republican in the 6th District, which was gerrymandered after the 1990 census to

create a majority-Black district. Clyburn has represented it ever since. But those proposals are unlikely to gain any traction.

Still, Clyburn likened the attempts nationwide to alter voting maps to the 1895 rewrite of the state constitution that ushered in the Jim Crow-era South.

In addition to South Carolina lacking a single Black congressman for nearly a century, the state Legislature had no Black representation for seven decades. In 1970, voters elected James Felder, Herbert Fielding, and I.S. Leevy Johnson to the state House. The number of Black legislators jumped to 13 four years later, after a lawsuit forced the state to redraw voting lines.

"Are we going to learn from the lessons that I tried to share in this book about what happened in 1877 (at the end of Reconstruction)?" Clyburn said. "Or are we going to sit idly by and allow history to repeat itself?" Despite its warnings about letting history repeat itself, the book ends on a hopeful note, he said.

In the epilogue, Clyburn points to South Carolina's less popular official motto: "prepared in mind and resources." The saying reminds him of one of his favorite Bible verses, Hebrews 11:1: "Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see."

"What that says to me is that just because you do not see success doesn't mean you should not prepare for success," Clyburn said.

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

Ag Grow Culture

A Black Georgia Gullah Geechee Community That Was Uprooted In 1942 Is Still Fighting To Go Back Home

The Guardian — A once thriving Black community along the Georgia coast called Harris Neck is now covered with greenery. During its heyday in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, the area boasted a schoolhouse, general store, firehouse and seafood processing plants, and supported 75 Black households on 2,687 acres. The inhabitants were Gullah Geechee people, the descendants of formerly enslaved west Africans, who remained on the Sea Islands along the south-east US where they retained their distinct creole language and culture following the civil war.

In 1942, though, the community was razed to the ground when the federal government kicked the families off of the land using eminent domain to build an army airfield. For nearly 50 years, the descendants of the Harris Neck community have fought to regain their ancestral land through peaceful protests and lobbying local and federal governments to no avail.

Tyrone Timmons' great grandfather's oyster factory on more than 300 acres of land was one of the casualties during the government takeover. A few years ago, Timmons and his family walked the former oyster factory grounds for the first time in decades. A clearing lined with shrubbery and oak trees with low-hanging limbs led to a bluff that overlooked marshland. It was a profound experience for 52-year-old Timmons, "to be able to just walk on that property," Timmons told the *Guardian*, "to just be able to feel that sense of being home, feeling complete".

Now, as the president of the advocacy group the Direct Descendants of Harris Neck Community (DDHNC), Timmons has continued his family's legacy of watching over the grounds, even if he doesn't live on them himself. Two advocacy organizations composed of descendants — Harris Neck Land Trust established in 2005 and DDHNC started in 2019 — have worked to educate the public and petition the government to return the land.

Ultimately, the Harris Neck Land

Trust wants the federal government to grant the descendant community, composed of thousands of people spread throughout the nation, 500 acres. They plan to open a Gullah Geechee restaurant and to grant plots to descendants, though the land trust believes that only a few dozen families would rebuild on the property. The land trust also plans to create a replica of a homestead that is open to the public, which will consist of a home, garden and live animals, and where descendants will engage in traditional Gullah Geechee practices such as weaving sweetgrass baskets. Additionally, DDHNC is requesting the original school to be rebuilt.

In the meantime, older descendants are working to pass their knowledge to younger generations by hosting annual commemorations of the 1942 diaspora and offering tours of the former sites. DDHNC worked with the US Fish and Wildlife Service to create QR codes on placards stationed near some of the old buildings, which visitors scan to hear the history behind the locations as told by descendants. Brandon Lewis, the DDHNC's vice-president, said he shares the community's story with the youth through social media, with the hope of, "galvanizing everybody so that we move as one unit from the oldest to the youngest".

Throughout the years, the community has made small gains in its efforts to return home. The McIntosh county board of commissioners passed the Harris Neck resolution in 2007 to acknowledge the county's role in taking over Harris Neck nearly 60 years earlier at the behest of the Harris Neck Land Trust. And in 2020, DDHNC secured a memorandum of understanding with the US Fish and Wildlife Service, which has overseen the land since 1962. The memorandum of understanding outlines an agreement between the descendants and the government agency to work together in highlighting the Harris Neck community's impact on the area.

Even though the descendants have garnered a few incremental wins,

they may face challenges from a federal administration that has opposed reparations for Black Americans and racial equity efforts. "With the election of Trump," said Dave Kelly, the Harris Neck Land Trust's former executive director, "there is no chance of victory for us during this administration."

Still, Timmons is hopeful that he will one day see the land returned to his family and other descendants. "We never gave up hope," Timmons said. "Even right now, we have not given up hope of going back home."

"We lost everything" The story of Harris Neck began after the civil war. In 1865, the plantation owner Margaret Ann Harris left in her will more than 2,000 acres of land to Robert Delegal, whom she formerly enslaved. Delegal later sold the land to 75 Gullah Geechee families. By the late 1800s, Harris Neck was a self-sufficient Black community.

"We knew the land, we were farmers and fishermen," said Wilson Moran, who is Gullah Geechee and an adviser for the Harris Neck Land Trust. "We did the crabs, the shrimp, the fish, the horses, the clams, the conch. We did rice, cotton and other agricultural products. So we became quite successful ... we had our own fire station at our own school, and we had our own community."

That all changed during the second world war when the federal government assumed ownership of the land and families were only given a few weeks to move by 27 July 1942. "This was in July, at harvest time," Moran said, "Therefore, we lost everything."

Seventy per cent of the landowners were Black, while about 20% were white. In return for seizing their land, the federal government compensated Black landowners \$26.90 per acre on average, while white landowners were paid \$37.31 per acre, according to a 1985 US Government Accountability Office report. Moran, now 82 years old, was the first to be born to the displaced community after they were forced off the land. He grew up in



a shack two miles away from the original property and recalled hearing stories about his family quickly rebuilding their lives while his mom was pregnant with him. "They almost died," Moran said, "but they survived."

In 1943, shortly after Moran was born, the US army corps of engineers constructed an airfield that was in use for one year. After the land sat unused for several years, the federal government conveyed it to McIntosh county to use it as a public airport. But the county mismanaged the land for more than a decade, resulting in illegal activities including gambling occurring there, according to the Harris Neck Last Trust. For the property's latest iteration, the federal government transferred it to the US Fish and Wildlife Service in 1966, creating the Harris Neck National Wildlife Refuge that remains in operation today.

Throughout Moran's childhood, he heard stories from family members about Harris Neck's zenith and their dream to one day return to the land. But Jim Crow policies were in effect at the time, so the families had little power to resist the government takeover.

Following the civil rights movement in the late 1970s, former members of Harris Neck and their descendants hosted marches and

erected tents on Harris Neck in an attempt to reclaim the property. Timmons recalled visiting the land at five years old in 1979. He watched his father and several other men — Edgar Timmons Jr, Ted Clark, Chris McIntosh Jr, Hercules Anderson — engage in a peaceful sit-in on the property. Federal marshals grabbed his father's arms and dragged him and the other men to the back of a police van, Timmons recalled, and they spent more than 15 days in a Savannah jail.

"My dad was not a criminal," Timmons said. "All he was doing was just sitting in to get noticed, to get heard, to want to go home."

Following the protest, Edgar Timmons Jr and others in a group called the People Organized for Equal Rights filed a motion for the federal government to return Harris Neck in 1980. But a district judge in Georgia ruled against it, stating that only Congress could offer redress.

The People Organized for Equal Rights unsuccessfully attempted to convince Congress to sponsor bills to help return the land to its original owners until the group eventually dissolved with few gains. But the initial movement sparked the creation of the Harris Neck Land Trust two decades later.

Kelly, the Harris Neck Land Trust's former executive director,

was a writer in California in the early 2000s and became involved in the movement when he moved to Georgia to research the Harris Neck community. In 2005, Kelly, Moran, and the Rev Robert Thorpe — one of the original inhabitants of the community — created a trust to represent all 75 families. An advisory board consists of Gullah leaders such as Emory Campbell, and law professor and former Black Panther Party activist Kathleen Cleaver.

Over the years, the Harris Neck Land Trust has researched court documents, federal and county records, located the families who lived on the land until the 1940s and lobbied Congress. The members were encouraged by other restorative justice efforts in recent decades such as the 1988 redress of more than \$1.6bn to more than 80,000 Japanese Americans who were incarcerated during the second world war, and the return of 16,000 acres of land to the Colorado River Indian Tribes in 2005.

Members of the trust testified before a congressional natural resources subcommittee in 2011, but the federal government didn't budge in ceding any of the land back to the descendants. Congress was "deeply entrenched and resistant", Kelly said. "They thought that if they gave us even 10 acres, that it would create a precedent that lots of people would use nationally. People would come out of the woodwork all over the country demanding their land back."

Meanwhile, another advocacy group formed. In 2019, Timmons' aunt, Frances Timmons-Lewis, co-founded DDHNC to recognize the Timmons family's contributions to the former community; her ancestors had employed thousands of Gullah people for their seafood processing plant. "It was a need to hear our side, to hear our story," Timmons-Lewis said, "to shine the light of truth on the accomplishments of my grandfather, my grandmother and others who worked so hard and accomplished so much before the government came in and took that land".

Sports

NASCAR Executive Returns To The Stand In Antitrust Trial

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) — A top NASCAR executive returns to the stand Wednesday for a second day of testimony in the explosive antitrust case that accuses the top motorsport series in the United States of being a monopolistic bully in violation of federal antitrust laws.

NASCAR is being sued by 23XI Racing, owned by Basketball Hall of Famer Michael Jordan and three-time Daytona 500 winner Denny Hamlin, and Front Row Motorsports, which is owned by fast-food franchiser Bob Jenkins. They were the only two organizations out of 15 to refuse to sign agreements last year on new charters, which are NASCAR's version of the franchise model used in other sports.

Front Row and 23XI contend that NASCAR is a monopoly that has handcuffed teams with a no-win revenue model. The charter agreement that took effect this year ended more than two years of bitter negotiations in which neither side budged until NASCAR presented its final offer on the eve of the 2024 playoffs and refused to negotiate any further.

The deal fell short of the requests made by all 15 teams, but 13 teams

still signed under the belief they'd lose their protected status as a charter — which guarantees both entry into every race and a defined share of the purse.

The second day of testimony on Tuesday — which included nearly three hours from Hamlin — turned to Scott Prime, NASCAR executive vice president in charge of strategy. Jeffrey Kessler, attorney for 23XI and Front Row, used Prime's memos and private communications to attempt to show anticompetitive practices.

Among the exhibits shown was NASCAR's fear of a rival stock-car series developing that would resemble the LIV golf league. To stop such a move, communications showed NASCAR executives tried to lock the tracks it competes on into exclusivity clauses that would prohibit them from hosting other events.

Kessler showed an agreement with Las Vegas Motor Speedway in which NASCAR implemented a clause in which the track could not host a rival stock car series for two years after its deal with NASCAR expires.

Kessler also showed communi-



cations between Prime, NASCAR Commissioner Steve Phelps and NASCAR President Steve O'Donnell in which the three expressed frustration with NASCAR chairman Jim France and vice chair Lesa France Kennedy because the owners of the

series refused to offer any concessions in negotiations.

Phelps wrote the current proposal at that time showed "zero wins for the teams," while O'Donnell argued the agreement would set NASCAR back to 1998 while reverting the

series to a "dictatorship, redneck, Southern tiny sport."

Prime defused the deal eventually reached — "from my point of view, where we landed was strong for the two teams" — but Kessler confronted Prime about eight specific points the teams asked for and did not receive.

The teams had asked for the charters to become permanent (they are currently renewable and revocable), for 1/3 of revenue, 33% of new revenue sources, 33% from any increases in media agreements, a voice in governance when it comes to schedule, electrification and new industry initiatives, as well as compensation for its intellectual property.

Kessler listed each of the asks individually in questioning if any of them landed in the final charter agreement, and Prime answered "No" to each one. Prime also said he didn't have knowledge of sanctioning agreements, wasn't familiar with the split between CART and IndyCar that decimated open-wheel racing in the U.S., and distanced himself from many of the contractual agreements.

He apologized for language used

in one of his communications and said it came from frustration over the slow pace of negotiations. One set of texts addressed a meeting, with France Kennedy writing "the teams won't get everything they want, and hopefully we can just meet in the middle."

O'Donnell replied "I just asked for someone in the room to point out how any of our positions are going to grow the sport and position us for a big rights renewal in the future."

Phelps responded: "Productive? Insanity. Zero wins for the teams." He later added a charter proposal draft "must reflect a middle position or we are dead in the water."

Prime called the lack of concessions toward the team "a bold strategy" while O'Donnell indicated "any big sports person" would find NASCAR laughable for its negotiations.

Jordan and Jenkins, as well as Rick Hendrick and Roger Penske — the two most powerful team owners in the United States — are all expected to testify in the trial scheduled to last two weeks. Jenkins said in a pre-trial deposition he's lost \$100 million since starting Front Row in 2004.



Howard Men's Basketball Head Coach Kenny Blakeney gives orders to his team during the first half against Duke of the Brotherhood Run series of games. The Brotherhood Run series involves former Duke players, Kenny Blakeney coaching Howard, and Greg Paulus, head coach at Niagara, taking on Duke with former player Jon Scheyer as current head basketball coach.



Howard guard Bryce Harris (34) drives to the basket against Duke forward Nikolas Khamenia (14) during the second half against Duke of the Brotherhood Run series of games in Durham. Duke Wins 93-56. The Brotherhood Run series involves former Each team played each other and took on Duke for the series.



Duke Men's Basketball head coach Jon Scheyer, left poses with Howard Men's Basketball head coach Kenny Blakeney, with his daughter, and former Duke head Coach Mike Krzyzewski, before the start of their game of The Brotherhood Run in Durham Steve Worthy Photos