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Rev. Jesse Jackson, Civil Rights Icon, Presidential Candidate, Dies At Age 84

By Karen Juanita Carrillo

NY Amsterdam News

Civil Rights icon Rev. Jesse Jackson, Sr., whose career took him from his early collaboration with Martin Luther King to creating the Rainbow/PUSH Coalition to two runs for the presidency and ultimately passing the torch to a new generation died Tuesday according to his family.

"Our father was a servant leader — not only to our family, but to the oppressed, the voiceless, and the overlooked around the world," said the Jackson family in statement. "We shared him with the world, and in return, the world became part of our extended family. His unwavering belief in justice, equality, and love uplifted millions, and we ask you to honor his memory by continuing the fight for the values he lived by."

Rev. Jackson was hospitalized at Chicago's Northwestern Memorial Hospital on Nov. 12, for observation due to Progressive Supranuclear Palsy (PSP), a neurodegenerative disease that was initially mistaken for Parkinson's, according to a Rainbow/PUSH statement. He was diagnosed with PSP during a Mayo Clinic visit in April 2025. There is no current cure for the disease, so his treatment was focused on alleviating his symptoms.

In the early 1960s when young activists were fighting against race-based discrimination Jackson was among them, unaware of the role he would play in the Civil Rights Movement over the next several decades. By the time of his passing, he had lived to see the inauguration of a Black president and his work being done by thousands of people from every background.

Despite a 2017 diagnosis of Parkinson's disease, Jackson slowed down but did not consider himself retired.

As recently as 2024, Jackson was organizing human rights campaigns to address the humanitarian crisis in Gaza, calling for the release of Israeli hostages and Palestinian prisoners, and for an end to the suffering caused by the war in Gaza.

"We are faith leaders and advocates, united in this moment of moral reckoning to affirm the sanctity of all human life," Jackson said at the time during his "Call to Action" summit.

He was also vocal about the 2024 election and the direction politics in America was headed. "We'll win if we vote our numbers, but if we don't, we risk losing our democracy," he told The New Republic in 2023. "Trump wants to pull us back into white supremacy. DeSantis is even worse. He's a Harvard and Yale man.



He knows better. There's something more insidious about that."

A Young Activist

Born in Greenville, S.C., on October 8, 1941, Jesse was the son of Helen Burns, a 17-year-old single mother. She later married Charles Henry Jackson, who adopted Jesse and helped raise him. After attending the University of Illinois on an athletic scholarship for one year, he transferred to North Carolina A&T College (NCAT) in Greensboro. It was there that he began working as a civil rights activist by joining the local chapter of the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE). In July 1960, still a freshman, he joined seven high schoolers to walk into the whites-only Greenville County Public Library, demanding it be desegregated. They were arrested and became known as the "Greenville Eight."

From there, Jackson grew into one of the most prominent young leaders in the movement. By 1965 he had become active in the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC). He had already graduated NCAT and was attending Chicago Theological Seminary. King had called for people to support his voting rights campaign in Selma, Ala., so he drove down to the site with a group of students and participated in the Selma marches which followed "Bloody Sunday". Wanting to bring the push for civil rights back to Chicago, Jackson sought an SCLC staff position and King hired him.

The next year, when King came to Chicago to advocate against discrimination in the north, Jackson took on the role of the SCLC's economic development and empowerment program in Chicago, which became known as Operation Breadbasket. Soon after, he became its national head.

At age 26, he was in Memphis working alongside King on the Poor People's Campaign, when he witnessed King's assassination on the balcony of the Lorraine Motel. Jackson remembered the hours leading up to one of the most monumental moments in American history.

He described King's mood as he prepared to give his famous "I've been to the mountaintop" speech at Mason Temple in Memphis. "He kind of walked back through history, as he had done that earlier that day, but talking about his own family life," Jackson recounted in a 2008 interview with TIME.com. "We had no way of knowing the kind of pressures he was under, that he internalized and simply would not share."

The next day, April 4, 1968, he was with several other aides of King at the Lorraine Motel when shots rang out, killing him. He was tasked with the duty of telling Corretta Scott King that her husband was dead. "Those eight or ten steps to that phone was like a long journey."

Taking Up the Civil Rights Mantle

After King's assassination, he became an ordained Baptist minister and continued advocating for African Americans' access to jobs as head of the SCLC's Operation Breadbasket in Chicago. But conflicts between Jackson and Ralph Abernathy, who had taken over as SCLC president, led to Jackson's resignation.

In 1971, Jackson founded Operation PUSH (People United to Save Humanity) to continue his civil rights work and advocate for economic improvements for the Black community. It succeeded in encouraging companies to hire more Black workers and collaborate more with Black-owned businesses. It was coupled with another project called PUSH-Excel, aimed at bettering educational standards for inner-city students.

More than a decade later, Jackson also famously united a diverse coalition of ethnic, working-class, religious, and regional progressive voters under his "Rainbow Coalition," which he organized in 1984 to deal with the challenges brought by the economy under President Ronald Reagan. This launched his 1984 presidential campaign as a Democrat which he ran with a lack of funds and little support from the Democratic Party. However, to the surprise of many he secured 3 million votes and won five primaries.

Officials did face criticism for re-

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Law Enforcement, Judicial Leaders Push For Reform In A Joint House Meeting

By Jordan Meadows

Staff Writer

A multitude of county district attorneys from across the state gathered Thursday in Raleigh for a joint House meeting to press lawmakers on budget priorities, structural reforms, and law enforcement challenges. Leaders from the State Bureau of Investigation and the North Carolina State Highway Patrol also testified, detailing staffing shortages, technology initiatives, and public safety concerns.

District attorneys told lawmakers that approximately \$180 million is allocated to the DA budget and staffing statewide, with roughly 98% of that funding spent on personnel. They emphasized that DAs are distinct from judges and clerks, noting that unlike other judicial officials, prosecutors are direct parties to cases and bear responsibility for prosecutorial decisions and case management. Currently, district attorneys make up about 22% of the judicial branch.

Seth Banks, a Western North Carolina attorney who serves as president of the North Carolina Conference of District Attorneys and represents the 35th Prosecutorial District, argued that prosecutors should have greater

authority over how legislative resources are used. He said DAs should be able to decide which resources are needed and be responsible for securing those items from the legislature, as well as determine which technologies are necessary to perform their duties and manage caseloads in their respective districts.

The North Carolina Conference of District Attorneys, created as a state agency in 1983, includes every district attorney in the state as a member. Referencing a recent hearing involving Mecklenburg County District Attorney Spencer McFadden in Charlotte, prosecutors sought to clarify their intent regarding proposed changes to the judicial structure.

"We're not seeking to move to the Executive Branch," one reference to McFadden's remarks noted, adding, "DA's should determine how legislative resources provided for prosecution are implemented."

Prosecutors are advocating for statutory changes that would shift certain administrative responsibilities from the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) directly to district attorneys. Under the proposal, the AOC would no longer be responsible for overseeing the prosecutorial process,

a move supporters argue would allow for faster decisions, more effective operations, and less red tape. In the proposed framework, the AOC would continue to control local dollars in each county. The AOC's executive committee is currently made up of nine district attorneys and a director, and proponents said the restructuring would mirror models used in states such as Georgia and Tennessee. Later in the meeting, the head of the State Bureau of Investigation, Roger "Chip" Hawley, reported that the agency has 280 sworn positions and 266 non-sworn positions, and over the past 13 months has cut response times in half. The SBI has revamped its human trafficking unit with the help of a grant from the North Carolina Conference of District Attorneys and Safe Alliance, a Charlotte-based organization. The agency's "Air Wing" doubled its air time in 2025 compared to 2024, assisting in searches for suspects and missing persons and in apprehending perpetrators.

The SBI also highlighted a push toward greater transparency and public engagement through social media. In 2024, the agency recorded fewer than 1 million views across its platforms; in 2025, that number climbed to

25 million. So far in 2026, it has already reached 10.5 million views and gained thousands of new followers. Technology initiatives were also discussed, including a license plate reader pilot program implemented in Raleigh and Richmond County in July 2025. The program includes 111 license plate readers installed across Department of Transportation rights-of-way, with 29 agencies participating. Officials cited one success story in which a vehicle traveling from New Jersey was identified and intercepted within half an hour of crossing the state border, with large amounts of fentanyl found inside.

Law enforcement leaders also described a newly formed vape shop working group that includes at least seven agencies, among them the Department of Agriculture, the Secretary of State's Office, and drug enforcement authorities. The group held its first meeting on Feb. 11 and is examining the regulation of what officials estimate to be between 12,000 and 15,000 vape shops operating statewide.

Officials said they have also met with Florida authorities to collaborate

with Florida authorities to collaborate

with Florida authorities to collaborate

with Florida authorities to collaborate

with Florida authorities to collaborate



Thousands of Moral leaders, Clergy and Impacted people gathered at the North Carolina State Capitol for the "Love Forward Together" Mass Moral Assembly and March. Story on page 2.



ATTORNEY GENERAL JACKSON ANNOUNCES JUDGMENT IN NORTH CAROLINA'S FIRST DISCRIMINATORY TOWING CASE; CLEAR PRECEDENT SET

RALEIGH — Attorney General Jeff Jackson today announced a judgment against David Jewel Satterfield and his Charlotte-based companies, A1 Towing Solutions and Automobile Recovery and Parking Enforcement, for allegations of racially targeting drivers, illegally booting and towing their vehicles, and price gouging.

This judgment, reached by the North Carolina Department of Justice's Consumer Protection Division and Civil Rights Unit, is North Carolina's first in a discriminatory towing case. It will create powerful precedent going forward.

"We had evidence that the defendant broke price gouging laws and engaged in racially targeted towing" said Attorney General Jeff Jackson. "This judgment will force him to pay back the victims and it will set a clear precedent: If you run a towing company that breaks that law, we are going to take you to court, and we're going to stop you."

The Department of Justice sued Satterfield in 2020 for unlawfully booting and towing trucks that were delivering food, water, and other medical sup-

(See **DISCRIMINATORY TOWING CASE**, P. 2)

REPUBLICANS AND NC ELECTIONS BOARD SETTLE FEDERAL VOTER REGISTRATION LAWSUIT

The Republican National Committee has settled a federal lawsuit with the state Board of Elections over missing information on voter registration forms.

Under the settlement filed Monday, the state agreed to continue its Registration Repair project seeking to collect the missing information and to reject registration applications where voters don't supply government ID numbers or check a box indicating they don't have one.

Federal Judge Richard Myers must sign off on the settlement.

In 2024, state and national Republicans sought a court-ordered purge of 225,000 registered voters, claiming their voter registration records did not include either a driver's license number or partial Social Security number. The Democratic National Committee joined the lawsuit on the side of the state board, which then had a Democratic majority.

The lawsuit foreshadowed an effort by Republican Appeals Court Judge Jefferson Griffin to reverse his narrow 2024 loss to Justice Allison Riggs, the Democratic incumbent, in the race for a state Supreme Court seat, in part by throwing out thousands of votes of registrants whose information he claimed was missing.

Myers ended Griffin's six-month attempt to overturn Riggs' victory in May 2025, but the RNC and NCGOP's lawsuit remained unresolved.

In the meantime, the U.S. Justice Department also sued the state board over the same issue of incomplete registrations. Last June, the state board launched the Registration Repair project as a way to settle the DOJ lawsuit. The state settled the Justice Department lawsuit last year.

When the effort to collect information began last summer, about 103,000 people were on the list of voters with missing information. About 70,000 people remain on the list.

The DNC issued a statement celebrating Monday's settlement as a victory for North Carolina voters.

NCCU LAW ALUMNUS APPOINTED FIRST BLACK COUNTY ATTORNEY IN A VIRGINIA COUNTY

North Carolina Central University School of Law alumnus Hassan Kingsberry '04 has been appointed as the first Black county attorney for Prince George County, Virginia, marking a historic milestone for the county.

Kingsberry brings extensive experience in municipal government and public service, consistently delivering thoughtful legal counsel, leadership and tangible results for the communities he serves.

"I've never set out to make history," Kingsberry said. "My mom just taught me to love God, serve my family and community well, and defy any odds coming from poverty and socio-economic disadvantages. My paternal grandfather taught me to work hard at whatever I do and provide well for my wife and children. I'm thankful for my legal education at NCCU School of Law and I'm proud to carry the legacy of service and advocacy wherever I am."

With this appointment, Kingsberry joins the growing ranks of Legal Eagles leading and serving communities across the region and the nation.

NCCU School of Law remains committed to preparing practice-ready attorneys who lead with purpose, advance justice and strengthen the communities they serve. NCCU Law Alumnus Appointed First Black County Attorney in a Virginia County.

TOWN OF WENDELL ANNOUNCES IT DIRECTOR

The Town of Wendell is excited to announce Gregory Kipyego as the organization's first Information Technology (IT) Director.

Kipyego, whose tenure as Director began Jan. 12, 2026, has previously served several years as both a specialist and a manager within the IT Department, and has a wealth of knowledge from within the information technology sector. He brings more than eight years of progressive experience in technology and cybersecurity across municipal and enterprise environments.

DISCRIMINATORY TOWING CASE

Continued from page 1

plies during the pandemic, and then charging upwards of \$4,000 for release of these vehicles. In some cases, the truck driver presented Satterfield with a written parking permit or parked their truck before he installed signs giving notice that their vehicles would be towed, but the defendant still towed their truck and charged them excessively high fees to release it.

Based on information obtained from the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department, which maintains records of all tows within the county, the Department of Justice determined that Satterfield towed vehicles owned by African-Americans at an alarmingly high rate and almost exclusively operated in areas of Charlotte that have a majority African-American population. Further, some African American consumers alleged that Satterfield called them racial epithets and assaulted them when attempting to tow their vehicles. Today's judgment prohibits Satterfield from engaging in any business practice that discriminates on the basis of race or color.

As a result of the judgment, Satterfield, and any current or future towing companies he owns or manages, are prohibited from taking several actions. Drivers whose vehicles were unlawfully towed or who were required to pay excessive prices to get their vehicles back will receive restitution totaling a combined \$30,000. In addition, the defendants:

- Cannot tow vehicles without first getting permission from the owner of the property that the vehicle is on.
- Cannot charge excessive amounts for towing.
- Cannot put boots on commercial vehicles – like the trucks used to deliver food and water during the pandemic.
- Cannot threaten vehicle owners/drivers.
- Cannot tow vehicles from private lots unless the lots are clearly marked with signs.
- Cannot hold onto commercial cargo obtained through a nonconsensual tow.
- Cannot charge separately for towing and impounding the separate parts of a tractor-trailer.
- Cannot boot a vehicle while the driver is in it without first informing the driver or giving the driver a chance to move the vehicle.
- Cannot charge DMV filing fees when no such fee is required.
- Cannot require consumers to schedule a time to pick up their vehicle and then charge them for a delay in the pickup caused by the defendant.

If Satterfield violates the terms of this judgment, he will be required to pay the state of North Carolina \$110,000.

NC LAW ENFORCEMENT

Continued from page 1

on strategies to combat cryptocurrency scams that disproportionately target elderly residents nationwide.

The North Carolina State Highway Patrol, however, painted a stark picture of staffing shortages tied to compensation. Highway Patrol Commander Col. Freddy Johnson Jr. told lawmakers that the agency is "bleeding troopers" because its starting and maximum salaries are not competitive with other agencies in the state. In the past six months alone, the number of vacant trooper positions has risen 37%.

Highway Patrol offers a starting salary of \$55,000 for entry-level troopers, while at least 30 other law enforcement agencies offer more. The top salary of \$80,000 also trails at least 30 other agencies, more than half of which offer \$100,000 or more. The Patrol responded to more than 6,000 crashes during two snow storms in the past month and could have used additional personnel, according to Johnson.

The staffing challenges extended beyond public safety: a 700-page report from the State Auditor's Office identified more than 4,500 jobs across state government that have gone unfilled for over a year, with low compensation cited as the most common reason. The vacancies span major agencies, including public safety, health care, transportation, and environmental oversight.

"Senate Republicans are committed to supporting law enforcement by increasing their salaries to ensure our agencies can recruit and retain highly qualified officers," said Lauren Horsch, a spokesperson for Senate Leader Phil Berger.

Bernie Visits Durham

DURHAM — U.S. Sen. Bernie Sanders took the stage to roaring cheers as hundreds of people in the Durham Convention Center rose to their feet.

The independent from Vermont visited the Tar Heel State as part of his Fighting Oligarchy Tour. He spoke in Greensboro on Thursday, addressing wealth inequality and universal healthcare.

But the Durham stop on Friday wasn't just for him to meet more North Carolinians. Sanders took advantage of the opportunity to stump for Nida Allam — a current Durham County commissioner and former state political director for Sanders' 2016 presidential campaign.

Allam is mounting a progressive challenge to incumbent Democratic Congresswoman Valerie Foushee, a fixture in Orange County politics. Foushee, who has represented the district for two terms, was a former state senator and Orange County commissioner.

This year's primary, held on March 3, is a rematch of the 2022 contest. There, Foushee won about 46% of the primary vote in her first congressional term, and Allam placed second with about 37%. Early voting began Feb. 12.

"We are here in Durham today to say loudly and clearly that we believe in democracy, not billionaires buying elections, not an effort to divide us up," Sanders said. "We're going to bring our people together in the fight for economic, racial, social and environmental justice."

Raleigh resident Erica Bodane said she's worried about the political landscape as her five- and two-year-old kids grow up. She told NC Newsline she's spent her life hoping for equality and equal access to resources.

Reverend Jesse Jackson — CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

marks he made in a private conversation that were seen as anti-semitic (which he later apologized for) and also for not distancing himself from Nation of Islam leader Minister Louis Farrakhan. But he was given a platform at that year's Democratic National Convention in San Francisco, in which he was remembered for illustrating the strength of diversity in America.

"America is not like a blanket — one piece of unbroken cloth, the same color, the same texture, the same size," he said. "America is more like a quilt — many patches, many pieces, many colors, many sizes, all woven and held together by a common thread. The white, the His-

panic, the black, the Arab, the Jew, the woman, the native American, the small farmer, the businessperson, the environmentalist, the peace activist, the young, the old, the lesbian, the gay and the disabled make up the American quilt."

In the 1988 Democratic primary, he finished second — winning more votes than then-Senator Al Gore — and won the Michigan primary. In fact, Jackson won primaries and four caucuses in total receiving 6.9 million votes.

Again addressing Democrats at the party's convention, he said:

"I'm often asked, 'Jesse, why do you take on these tough issues? They're not very political. We can't

win that way.'

"If an issue is morally right, it will eventually be political. It may be political and never be right. Fannie Lou Hamer didn't have the most votes in Atlantic City, but her principles have outlasted every delegate who voted to lock her out. Rosa Parks did not have the most votes, but she was morally right. Dr. King didn't have the most votes about the Vietnam War, but he was morally right. If we are principled first, our politics will fall in place."

Jackson's presidential campaigns emphasized racial and economic justice and pressured the Democratic Party to place greater emphasis on addressing issues important to

working-class and low-income voters. But the emphasis after the 1988 campaign began to gradually focus on his activism rather than electoral politics. From 1991 to 1996, Jackson served as shadow senator for Washington D.C. Afterward, he merged the Rainbow Coalition with Operation PUSH to form a new organization called the Rainbow/PUSH Coalition, to address both economic inequity and to protect civil rights.

A Global Figure
Following his impressive presidential campaigns, Jesse Jackson gained international recognition. Some of it at great risk.

(See *JESSE JACKSON*, P. 8)

Thousands Of Moral Leaders, Clergy Gathered For "Love Forward Together"

RALEIGH, N.C. — On Valentine's Day and Frederick Douglass's chosen birthday—thousands of moral, faith, and community leaders gathered for the "Love Forward Together" Mass People's Assembly & Moral March at the North Carolina State Capitol. The rally follows a historic 50-mile, three-day march from Wilson to Raleigh through the recently gerrymandered 1st Congressional district, drawing attention to attempts to diminish the political power of the community. Organizers of the march called for a moral and loving policy agenda that guarantees fair access to the ballot, living wages, affordable health care, and food assistance — especially after deep program cuts following the passage of the "big, deadly, ugly bill."

Led by Bishop William J. Barber II, President & Sr. Lecturer of Repairers of the Breach and Founding Director of the Yale Center for Public Theology and Public Policy, and dozens of advocacy organizations, the mass mobilization marked 156 years since the ratification of the 15th Amendment, and offered seven moral calls to action to activate voter turnout in the state like never before.

Participants in the Mass People's Assembly were invited to:

- Sign up to spend a weekend doing nonpartisan canvassing in District 1 or 3.
 - Sign up to organize voter mobilization in a precinct in Eastern NC.
 - Sign up for a phone bank or a text bank to reach infrequent voters in North Carolina.
 - Sign up to do civic education about the power of infrequent low-income voters through social media.
 - Sign up to host at least two local civic education meetings in your community ahead of November 3.
 - Sign up to host a Souls to the Polls event during early voting and same-day registration.
 - Sign up to make sure everyone in your family is registered to vote, receives voter education, and has a voting plan.
 - Sign up to join online or in-person trainings in moral fusion organizing with Repairers of the Breach.
- "We march because the moral arc does not bend by accident—hands bend it," said Rev. Dr. Hanna R. Broome, Director of Religious Affairs

for Repairers of the Breach. "And today, we are the arc benders—hands joined, hearts steady, love forward together, demanding a justice that reaches everybody."

"We've come here today to say the love in our heart will not let us bow anymore. We cannot bow to their vision of power and we will not," said Bishop William J. Barber II. "When we leave here, we are going back to our communities, and we are going to take love and organize everybody we know. We need love to be victorious."

Steve Schmidt of the Save America Movement addressed the crowd, saying, "We do not come here today to negotiate or to plead for our rights because they do not come from Kristi Noem, President Trump and Pam Bondi, but from a higher power. We are not here to negotiate freedom of speech, the freedom of assembly or the freedom of religion. We are here to declare that we are not indifferent to the suffering of a child on a cold concrete floor in a jail cell, in what amounts to an American concentration camp, we say: No."

Retired North Carolina Superior Court Judge Milton "Toby" Fitch told the crowd, "Love declares that no one is property, that every person

belongs, and that every voice has the right to be heard at the ballot box. As early voting opens, we are called to turn out as never before, knowing that when we add our voices together, we exercise a power that no one has the right to take away."

Brandon Ruffin, a member of the Union of Southern Service Workers, underscored the stakes for immigrant workers and families. "This fight is also about who belongs,"

Ruffin said. "My immigrant brothers, sisters and family members are being targeted the most right now. Many of them are being detained. They are not convicted felons, and they are not criminals. They are workers, parents and neighbors."

"When workers stand together across race, immigration status and job title, we shift power," he added. "That's real love in action—and we will win."



Hidden passage linked to Underground Railroad found in New York museum



THE GUARDIAN — A landmark house in Manhattan preserved as a museum to New York's 19th-century history has revealed an even more intriguing secret: its previously unknown status as a refuge for people who escaped slavery before and during the civil war.

The Merchant's House Museum's link to the Underground Railroad, a network of abolitionists who secured the safe passage of enslaved people to freedom, was discovered when archaeologists looked beneath the drawers of a built-in dresser in the wall of a hallway leading to bedrooms on the building's second floor.

They found a small rectangular opening cut into the floorboards, an enclosed space about 2ft by 2ft, and a ladder leading to the ground floor.

Experts told NY1, which first reported the find, that it was an indication that the house, in Man-

hattan's residential NoHo (north of Houston) neighborhood, was probably used as a "safe house" for enslaved people who had fled bondage in the south. They said the space and ladder would have provided an emergency hideout and quick escape.

In the run up to the civil war, gangs of slave hunters, assisted by sympathetic local residents and law enforcement, would seek bounties for capturing people who fled their enslavers authorized by the Fugitive Slave Act of 1850.

"We knew it was here, but didn't really know what we were looking at," Camille Czerkowitz, the museum's curator, told the outlet.

Michael Hiller, a preservation attorney and professor at Pratt Institute, said it was the most remarkable discovery he had seen in more than 30 years. "This is a generational

find. This is the most significant find in historic preservation in my career, and it's very important that we preserve this," he said.

Merchant's House was built in 1832 by a tradesman called Joseph Brewster, and sold three years later to the Tredwell family, who lived there for a century until it became a museum after it was sold at auction.

Architectural historian Patrick Ciccone said the space would have been installed by Brewster, whom he said was almost certainly an abolitionist, and the extent to which the Tredwells were aware of it, or used it, was unclear.

"Being an abolitionist was incredibly rare among white New Yorkers, especially wealthy white New Yorkers," he said. "[Brewster] was the builder of the house, and he was able to make these choices and design it."

The building was recognized as

a National Historic Landmark in 1966, a year after it became the first building designated in the borough of Manhattan under the Landmarks Preservation law. It was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1977.

More recently, it has suffered financial difficulties and faced a fight for its survival, not least from city-approved development plans for an eight-story building on an adjacent vacant lot.

Christopher Marte, a New York councilman, said the building represented a crucial part of the city's history.

"Many New Yorkers forget that we were part of the abolitionist movement, but this is physical evidence of what happened in the south [during] the civil war, and what's happening today," he told NY1.

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Business & Finance

Less Revenue, Fewer Services? NC Has A Tax Conundrum

By Nicole Quick

Carolina Forward

Following a growing national trend, the NC House introduced a bill in April 2025 that would study the state's property tax reduction programs with a goal of reform. NC House Bill 432 would direct the Revenue Law Study Committee to evaluate options to decrease property taxes for low-income elderly and disabled residents and disabled veterans. The study bill passed the House with unanimous support before heading to the Senate. Once there, however, it stalled.

After months with no further progress on the bill, NC House Speaker Destin Hall formed the Select Committee on Property Tax Reduction and Reform in December.

Hall tasked the committee with considering the expansion of existing property tax exemptions, considering whether to alter how home revaluations work and also taking a look at how increased property taxes are impacting local government spending, including whether they are taking on higher levels of debt.

Senator Berger has belatedly formed a parallel committee in the Senate as of Feb. 4.



In their first meeting, on December 17th, the committee reviewed factors that influence home prices, the driving force behind rising property taxes. On the demand side, population growth, particularly the influx of retirees to NC, is outpacing new housing construction. The resulting competition for available homes is causing bidding wars and driving up prices. Low mortgage rates also contribute to demand.

On the supply side, supply chain issues are continuing to drive up prices. The costs that go into creating housing break down into land, labor, materials, and money (interest

on loans, either from banks, investors, or both). While the committee's research specifically mentioned Covid-era supply chain disruptions, they omitted the impact of tariffs on materials and ICE activity on labor.

An April 2025 survey from the NAHB/Wells Fargo Housing Market Index estimates that recent tariffs could increase the cost of the average home by \$10,900. That's in addition to the 34% increase that has occurred since December 2020. According to the National Association of Homebuilders, the U.S. imported \$14 billion of residential construction materials in 2024. That includes

everything from Canadian lumber to steel, aluminum, and durable appliances imported from around the globe.

Likewise, immigration actions taken by ICE are driving up labor costs in the construction market. Approximately 1 in 3 U.S. construction workers is foreign-born. In NC alone, that equates to 60,000 people. Deportations are choking a labor market that is already short-handed, and the effect is not limited to undocumented immigrants. Even those here with work permits or green cards fear detention and are likely to avoid work when ICE is active in their area.

Combined, demand and supply side issues have resulted in NC housing prices that grew faster than the national average and, in 2024, reached 5 times median income.

Unable or unwilling to act to reduce housing costs, which would directly address the underlying cause of rising property taxes, the committee is considering various means of capping property taxes themselves, even as housing prices continue to rise.

Though property taxes are levied by local (municipal and county) governments, and the revenues fund local government budgets, the power

to make laws defining and limiting property taxes is held by the state legislature and outlined in NC General Statute 105, Subchapter II (The Machinery Act). Under The Machinery Act, the General Assembly alone can determine exemptions from home property taxation. For 2026, the exemptions are:

•Elderly or Disabled Exclusion: Excludes 50% or the first \$25,000, whichever is greater, of the appraised value of the home for homeowners who are at least 65 or permanently disabled and whose previous year's income did not exceed \$38,800.

•Disabled Veteran Exclusion: Excludes up to \$45,000 of the appraised value of the permanent residence of a disabled veteran.

•Circuit Breaker Property Tax Deferment: Limits yearly taxes to a percentage of owner's income in the previous year as long as the owner is 65 or older or totally and permanently disabled. Tax limits are 4% for qualified owners with incomes of \$38,000 or less and 5% for qualified owners with incomes between \$38,800 and \$58,200. Taxes over the limitation amount are deferred and remain as a lien on the property that becomes payable with interest

upon the death of the owner, the transfer of the property, or the failure by the owner to use the property as a permanent residence. A Circuit Breaker Deferment may not be used in conjunction with the other two exemptions.

While there is bipartisan support for providing some form of additional property tax break to low-income seniors and disabled veterans, there is also concern about potential decreased revenues for local governments. Currently, NC's personal income tax rate is 3.99% and scheduled to decrease to 2.49% by 2029. Meanwhile, the NC corporate tax rate sits at 2%, and is set to decrease to 0% by 2030. Lower tax revenue at the state level has resulted in reduced state funding of public schools. The state has already been sued for its failure to properly fund public schools. Simultaneously, funding from the federal government has been cancelled or delayed. Many local governments have attempted to supplement their education budgets by increasing property taxes. If property taxes are reduced or capped, then local governments would have no option but to cut services like schools, police, fire, parks, and trash collection.

Nonprofit Kicks Off \$9.25M Electrical Workforce Initiative

NC NEWSLINE – A nonprofit organization is launching a \$9.25 million program in North Carolina to help train electricians across the state.

Gov. Josh Stein and the Siemens Foundation announced Careers Electric on Tuesday, a national initiative kicking off in North Carolina. The investment aims to expand access to electrical training and help students transition to in-demand electrical careers.

Through collaborations with the state, the program plans to train 25,000 North Carolina residents for jobs in the energy and infrastructure sectors in its first 10 years.

As the state's population continues to grow, so does the need for energy.

"Given our state's real need to produce and distribute more power, it is certain that we need more electrical talent," Stein said.

The announcement falls in line



Siemens Foundation CEO David Etwiler said the number of electrical workers retiring from the field each year exceeds the number entering.

"We're partnering with business, education systems and government to build meaningful pathways for well-paying sustainable careers in electrical trades," Etwiler said. "These are meaningful jobs with tremendous benefits and upside potential."

The foundation is the philanthropic branch of German multinational technology company Siemens AG, which employs several thousand workers in North Carolina.

The group's investment includes a statewide partnership with employers and high school pre-apprenticeship programs beginning this summer, Etwiler said. High school students would spend eight weeks training and receive a stipend of \$2,000 each.

At the post-secondary level, Careers Electric is working with Wake Tech Community College to increase enrollment, equipment, and advanced training courses in electrical systems technology, as well as to attract instructors.

The program will also strengthen electrical training programs at 10 additional community colleges

across the state.

"This initiative is perfectly aligned with our system's vision to connect students to high-demand, high-wage jobs, while also filling the talent pipeline for all of our business and industry partners," said Jeff Cox, president of the North Carolina Community College System.

Classifieds

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 2021 Water Line Replacement – Contract No. 7 project for the Town of Lucama which bids on March 3, 2026, at 2:00 PM. Plans and specifications for this project are available at the following locations: T. A. Loving Company; 400 Patetown Road; Goldsboro, NC 27530 * Lucama Town Hall; 111 South Main Street; Lucama, NC 27851 * McDavid Associates, Inc.; 3714 North Main Street; Farmville, NC 27828-0049 * Dodge Data and Analytics website * ConstructConnect website * Construction Journal website * Builders and Contractors Exchange website.

Potential subcontracting opportunities include but are not limited to surveying, hauling, asphalt paving, traffic control, erosion control, seeding, jack & bore, directional drilling, 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.

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 Water System Improvements project for the Town of Pinetops which bids on February 26, 2026, at 2:00 PM. Plans and specifications for this project are available at the following locations: T. A. Loving Company; 400 Patetown Road; Goldsboro, NC 27530 * The Wooten Company; 418 Evans Street, Suite 201; Greenville, NC 27834.

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, jack & bore, directional drilling, dewatering, flatwork, and fencing. 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.

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Yet Another Change At The Top Of DHA

NC NEWSLINE – The Durham Housing Authority's Board of Commissioners has announced that interim CEO Anthony Snell has retired after just 14 months on the job to spend more time with his family.

Snell joined the agency in 2020 as director of real estate. He was named interim CEO in December 2024 following the departure of Anthony Scott, who stepped down after he and the housing authority's board reached the decision "through a collaborative process." Scott served as CEO for 8 1/2 years.

Mayme Webb-Bledsoe, chair of the housing authority's Board of Commissioners, told NC Newsline that Snell's retirement was a "shock to us all."

"Things happen and things change and sometimes they're in our control and sometimes they're not," Bledsoe said.

Ashanti Brown, the housing authority's chief operating officer, replaces Snell as the agency's interim CEO. She is the housing authority's third leader since December 2024.

The board announced that it will begin a national search for the agency's next permanent CEO.

Webb-Bledsoe believed Snell



planned to apply for the permanent CEO post.

"There still would have been a national search," she said. "It wasn't like we were going to appoint someone into that role."

Webb-Bledsoe said the search for a permanent CEO could take as long as 18 months.

"We're hoping that it doesn't take that long, but judging by how long it took to hire Anthony [Scott], it took at least that," Bledsoe said.

She said the housing authority is looking for someone to change the agency's culture and to move it to "another level" so that it "functions

successfully."

"With all of the work that we have on our plate, you can't do that without having the right people in place," Webb-Bledsoe said.

The turnover in leadership comes amid challenging times at the housing authority. In June, the City of Durham approved an agency request for a \$1.5 million loan to help cover a revenue shortfall. At the time, more than 1,200 households were behind on rent and more than 100 faced eviction.

Tenants stopped paying rent after the federal Dept. of Housing and Urban Development gave the agency permission to pause evictions during the pandemic. The agency also depleted its reserves after units in the McDougald Terrace public housing community experienced carbon monoxide leaks in 2020. Ordinarily, the reserve fund would be used to cover a shortfall.

Late last year, residents complained that the housing authority did not make repairs in a timely manner. WRAL reported the agency had nearly 2,500 open work orders in November, which was nine times more than the Raleigh Housing Authority.

NCCU Celebrates New Peggy Ward Financial Education Center Opening

By Jordan Meadows

Staff Writer

At North Carolina Central University, a milestone was marked Tuesday morning with the ribbon cutting of the Peggy M. Ward Financial Education Center, a space university leaders say will shape financial futures for generations of students and families across Durham and beyond. The ceremony, held inside the university's new 76,000-square-foot School of Business building, celebrated distinguished alumna Peggy M. Ward, Class of 1974, who's initial 2019 gift established the center and whose decades of leadership and philanthropy have left a lasting mark on the institution. The Business Incubator Suite—home to the Center of Entrepreneurship and Economic Development and now the Peggy Ward Financial Education Center—



sits within a facility that also features a Trading Room with Bloomberg terminals, a Cybersecurity Lab, a Business Innovation Lab equipped with 3D printers and virtual reality

technology, a Behavioral Research Classroom, and the 200-seat Lowe's Auditorium.

Dean Anthony Nelson opened the ceremony by welcoming guests that

included representatives from commercial and financial banks, city of Durham officials, university administrators, faculty, staff, and students. "Your presence here signifies the importance of this initiative."

Nelson called the center "a testament to our commitment to equipping future leaders with the knowledge and skills necessary to navigate the complexities of today's financial landscape," adding that "in a world where financial literacy is more crucial than ever, this center represents our pledge to enhance educational opportunities and empower our students and the community."

He emphasized the School of Business's distinction as the first HBCU with an MBA concentration in wealth management.

Dr. Tiffany Murray, director of the

(See NCCU, PEGGY WARD, P. 4)

NCCU, Peggy Ward Center — CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

Peggy Ward Financial Education Center and a faculty member in the wealth management program, described the center as more than brick and mortar: "It's a commitment, it's a resource, it's an opportunity," she said. "An opportunity for our students to learn not just theory, but application. An opportunity for our community to gain tools that change financial futures. And an opportunity for us to create a generational impact through education."

Murray outlined the center's mission: "to empower NCCU students and the surrounding community through high-quality financial education, resources, and experiential learning opportunities." She added that the center aims to equip participants "with the knowledge and skills to achieve financial wellness, make informed financial decisions, and excel in professional endeavors."

Financial literacy, she stressed, "is not optional — it's essential."

The center will expand undergraduate and graduate coursework, develop a CFP Board-registered certificate program, and offer Securities Indus-



try Essentials exam preparation and voucher support. It also oversees the Peggy Ward Financial Education Center Wealth Management Camp for high school students and works

to provide digital credentialing options in partnership with NCCU's Office of eLearning.

Chancellor Karrie G. Dixon called the moment "truly an honor" as she

addressed the crowd. "All of you know how phenomenal Peggy Ward is," she said. "I've only been here 18 months as your 13th chancellor, but from day one, I heard the name Peggy Ward."

Dixon described Ward's warmth and determination in equal measure. "That smile just warms your heart," she said. "But don't let the smile fool you, because Peggy Ward means business. She has that fire."

Recognizing Ward as a 1974 graduate and lifelong Eagle, Dixon praised her service as former president of the NCCU National Alumni Association and as the first woman elected chair of the NCCU Board of Trustees.

On behalf of Durham Mayor Leonardo Williams, Dixon read a proclamation declaring Feb. 17, 2026, as Peggy Ward Financial Education Day in the City of Durham. The proclamation cited Ward's more than five decades of leadership, her 40-plus-year career in financial services, and her role in providing the initial funding to establish the center in 2019.

A short film tracing Ward's life

journey was shown during the ceremony, beginning in Rich Square, North Carolina, where she grew up as the second of six children. Her mother worked long days in the fields of Northampton County, picking peanuts and cotton, instilling in her children discipline and a belief in "using one's mind, not one's hands, to make a living."

Encouraged by her older brother, Ward entered NCCU in 1970 as a business administration major. She embraced campus life, crossed into Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., in 1972 and graduated in 1974, prepared for a career in business. After five years in corporate America, she joined New York Life Insurance Company at age 27, expecting to stay six months. Instead, it became a career spanning more than four decades. In 1980, she was named Agent of the Year, ranking among the top 5% of life insurance representatives worldwide. She later became president of the Charlotte chapter of the Life Underwriters Association and built a reputation for integrity, mentorship, and leader-

ship.

When Ward took the podium, she reflected on her days as a student. "I left North Carolina Central in 1974, and I only left with two books," she said. "One was my personal finance book, taught by Sophia Brown, and my insurance book, taught by Dr. Fulbright. It's amazing how things have come full circle."

She outlined a broad vision: "As we place emphasis on budgeting, managing and reducing debt, saving and investing, providing protection for our families, our focus will be a bigger picture, which is creating wealth that is to be transferred to the next generations, which will ultimately narrow the racial wealth gap between African Americans and white America."

Closing with scripture, she quoted Proverbs 13:22: "A good man—and I'm going to add, and a good woman—leaves an inheritance to his children's children." She called it "a principle of wisdom, encouraging believers to be stewards of their resources to provide for future generations."



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Health and Wellness

From Sanctuary To Senior Housing, A Reflection Of Shifting Needs

NC HEALTH NEWS – Sunlight pours through stained glass windows onto rows of wooden pews that, on occasion, still hold hymnals. But Milner Memorial Presbyterian Church, where those same windows once illuminated weekly worship, is gone. In its place stands Milner Commons, an affordable housing complex for older adults that is designed to preserve pieces of the church's past while serving a new purpose.

North Carolina faces a deepening affordable housing shortage, with estimates suggesting the state would need to add between 200,000 and more than 700,000 rental and for-sale units to meet demand through 2029, according to a 2024 study commissioned by the NC Chamber Foundation. That strain falls hardest on extremely low-income households — where 73 percent of low-income renters spend more than half their income on housing, said a national analysis. This housing burden leaves little room for other essentials such as food and medical care.

For seniors on fixed incomes, the state's broader housing shortage often translates into fewer options to age safely and independently — a gap that nonprofits are trying to fill through community partnerships.

One of them, Raleigh-based nonprofit DHIC, has worked to create affordable housing opportunities for families, seniors and people with disabilities or transitioning from homelessness through redevelopment or renovation for more than 50 years. That includes the new 156-unit Milner complex in eastern Raleigh inside the Beltline.

The reimaged property, Mil-

ner Commons, is representative of creative partnerships between nonprofit developers and faith-based institutions that have sprung from the growing need for affordable housing as North Carolina's shortage deepens — and older adults are priced out.

New wineskins
Around the world, old churches are finding new uses for their facilities as traditional congregations shrink. Church leaders are having to make challenging decisions about what to do with their properties — converting all or parts of them into cafes, day care centers or homeless shelters — based on community needs.

For many faith leaders, these conversions feel like an extension of their original mission. And providing affordable housing is a prime example.

"I would argue that that commitment to our mission and to the communities that we serve and to our residents is part of the reason that we're seeing so many different faith-based institutions come to us specifically," said Kayla Rosenberg Strampe, DHIC director of enterprise strategy and development.

That's what happened with Milner Memorial Presbyterian Church. Organized in 1923, the church built on the property on New Bern Avenue in 1955. The congregation had its final service in March 2019.

When the congregation began to dwindle in the late 2010s, it was decided that when it was disbanded the property would revert to the Presbytery of New Hope, a Mid-Council of the Presbyterian Church. DHIC and The Presbyterian Homes Inc. (now Brightspire) were work-



Worship service in a Milner Commons. (Credit: Ashley Fredde)

ing together at the time to renovate another former church property, Capital Towers, which became a two-building 297-unit senior apartment community.

That project sparked a partnership and development model that would pave the way for Milner Commons, another former church property transformed into affordable housing.

"For a lot of them, it's a very emotional moment to make the decision to close down a church or any other type of religious institution," Strampe added. "It's not the same as a department store. It's the place where somebody got married, the place where their child was baptized. It's a place they've come for years for community services."

DHIC has grown a portfolio of

almost 4,000 units across Raleigh, Durham and Chapel Hill, and it has communities across nine counties, according to Yolanda Winstead, president and CEO. Preservation, when possible, is also a part of the nonprofit's work.

In some cases, that can be difficult, especially when it comes to affordable housing.

Not every building or every land works out for affordable housing. There are natural and man made aspects to church land that can be really problematic — like a graveyard," Strampe said. For instance, the church and property's namesake, Henry Herman Milner, who endowed the building of the 1955 structure, is buried in the cemetery that's on one corner of the property.

The former church couldn't be converted and required demolition. As a compromise, the stained glass windows and pews were preserved, and the design featured high, vaulted ceilings reminiscent of the church.

"(Churches) are recognizing that the model is changing and that having these underutilized buildings and parcels of land are really problematic for them from a financial perspective. But often they want to

engage in sort of an extension of their own mission in the community," Strampe said. "I think the idea of affordable housing, particularly these days for seniors, which may be because a lot of the congregations are becoming older, I think that's something that resonates with them."

Affordable housing might not be enough

The property features 10 studio units, 122 one-bedroom and one-bath units and 24 two-bedroom and one-bath units. Amenities include common laundry facilities along with laundry hook-ups in each unit, a community lounge, library and game room, a reflection room, tenant storage areas, fitness rooms and a food pantry. Milner Commons rents are priced for individuals with incomes at or below 60 percent of area median income for Wake County.

Part of the nonprofit's mission is to provide infrastructure for health and stability, not simply a roof overhead.

"(We) found it necessary to fully serve the folks that we're providing housing to by coordinating resident services or programming into the communities," Winstead said.



THE GOLDEN YEARS

By Judykay Jefferson

THE WEIGHT OF WEIGHTLOSS

If you've turned on the TV lately, you've probably seen commercials for medications like Ozempic, Wegovy, Mounjaro, or Zepbound. These drugs—called GLP-1 medications—have become some of the most talked-about treatments for weight loss in years. At the same time, bariatric surgery, which has helped many people lose large amounts of weight for decades, is still very much in use. I underwent bariatric surgery over a decade ago and have lost give or take 200 pounds. I have been successful because I accepted early on that the surgery changed my body, it didn't change my mind. I have learned that regaining the weight I lost is a real risk that must be mitigated daily. Some days are better than others but all-in-all, I manage to stay within a range that is acceptable for me. Back then, surgery was the only medical option for treating extreme obesity. Now there are drugs that can be injected or taken as pills to aid weight loss.

Bottom line: if you want to lose weight, there is more help than ever.

For African American seniors, who often face higher rates of diabetes, high blood pressure, and heart disease, understanding these options can help us make informed, confident decisions about our health. If you're like me, you have become familiar with the terminology and drug names but don't know much more than that. This may provide a little real-talk clarity. As with anything else, let this information help you come up with questions for your healthcare providers. They, not you or me, are best at evaluating your health and recommending treatments that take into consideration all contributing factors. ASK YOUR DOCTOR!!!

So, here's an overview of current weight loss options:

GLP-1 medications are prescription drugs originally designed for diabetes, but doctors discovered they also help people lose weight. Here are some of the most widely advertised products:

- Ozempic
- Wegovy: proved specifically for weight loss
- Mounjaro:
- Zepbound: approved for weight loss

They help by reducing appetite, slowing digestion, helping the body regulate blood sugar and are usually taken once a week by injection, using a small pen-like device. Many people find the injections easier than expected—more like a click than a shot.

Recently, a pill version of Ozempic—Rybelsus—has become more widely discussed. It works similarly to the injections but must be taken every day, on an empty stomach, with very specific timing.

Some people prefer pills because they feel more familiar. Others prefer injections because they're only once a week and tend to cause fewer stomach issues for some users. The effectiveness can vary from person to person, but in general, the injections have shown stronger weight-loss results in studies.

Doctors typically prescribe GLP-1 medications for people who have a BMI of 30 or higher, or have a BMI of 27 or higher and a weight-related condition like diabetes, high blood pressure, or sleep apnea. Surgery isn't right for everyone, and these drugs may be helpful for people who want a non-surgical option, those who need help controlling appetite, people with early-stage diabetes or prediabetes, and seniors who may not be good candidates for surgery.

GLP-1 drugs usually need to be taken long-term to maintain weight loss. When people stop, some weight often returns.

Bariatric surgery has been around for decades and remains the most effective long-term treatment for severe obesity. The two most common types are gastric sleeve (removing part of the stomach and gastric bypass (rerouting part of the digestive system)

These surgeries help people lose weight by reducing stomach size and changing how the body absorbs food.

Doctors typically recommend surgery for people who have a BMI of 40 or higher or have a BMI of 35 or higher with serious health conditions like diabetes or heart disease. Surgery is often the best option for people who need large, durable weight loss to protect their long-term health.

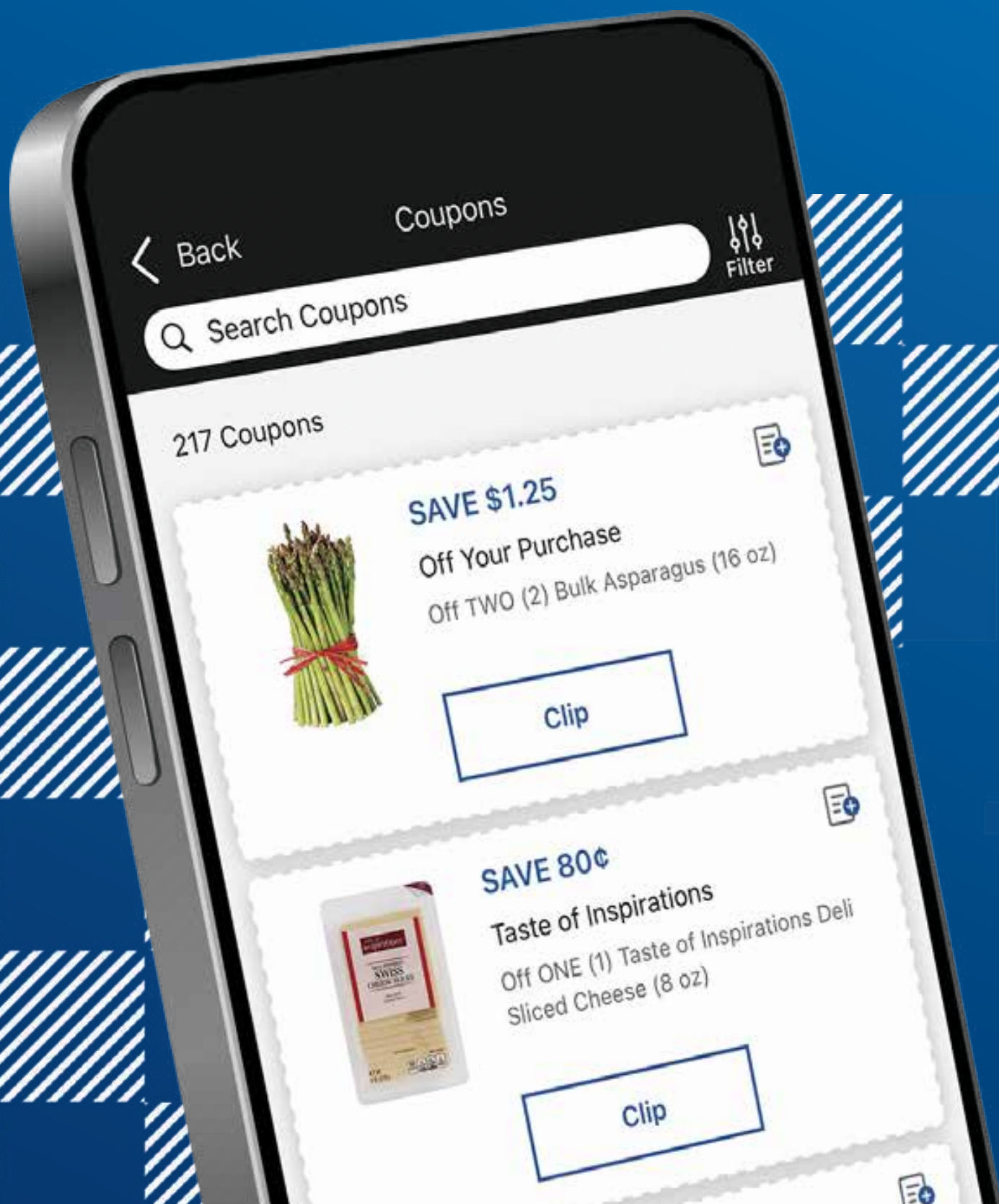
Surgery offers the biggest long-term health payoff for those who need major weight loss. GLP-1s may be better for moderate weight loss. GLP-1s may be better for moderate weight loss, improving severe diabetes quickly, and avoiding surgery.

The reality is, none of these are one and done solutions and all require addressing physical, psychological, and life-style choices for long-term weight loss. If you want to know more, here are some sources that you don't have to be a doctor to understand:

- Mayo Clinic: "Weight-loss medicines"
- Cleveland Clinic: "Bariatric Surgery Overview"
- National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIH): "Prescription Medications for Weight Loss"
- American Society for Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery: "Is Weight-Loss Surgery Right for Me?"

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Arts & Culture

House Renames Press Gallery After Frederick Douglass

WASHINGTON (AP) — The press gallery overlooking the U.S. House chamber has been renamed after the abolitionist, writer and presidential adviser Frederick Douglass in a bipartisan move brokered by Black lawmakers.

The renaming of the press gallery, spearheaded by Rep. Byron Donalds, R-Fla., was conceived over the last year after the congressman said he brainstormed with his staff on ways to commemorate the history of prominent Americans, including Black Americans, across the Capitol.

"When we talk about Frederick Douglass, we are talking about a man who possessed a profound and unshakable faith in Americans, in America's family," Donalds said in remarks celebrating the dedication.

Douglass wrote about congressional proceedings from the chamber during the Civil War. His public speeches and letters to President Abraham Lincoln and northern Republican congressmen helped galvanize support among lawmakers and the public for the abolition of slavery.



"It's an important thing for us to give honor where honor is due. That's a biblical admonition," House Speaker Mike Johnson said during the unveiling of a plaque that now overlooks the entrance to the gallery. "Frederick Douglass is certainly deserving of that honor."

A bipartisan celebration in a di-

vided Washington

Prominent Black conservatives, including activists, faith leaders and senior Trump administration officials, mingled with lawmakers at a ceremony inside the U.S. Capitol. Staffers from the Library of Congress displayed artifacts from Douglass' life.



The celebration, which came during Black History Month and the 100th anniversary of the earliest national observance of Black history, coincided with intense debate over how race, history and democracy are understood in the U.S.

President Donald Trump signed an executive order last year target-

ing the teaching of history in the Smithsonian Institution, which the order claimed had "come under the influence of a divisive, race-centered ideology" that "promoted narratives that portray American and Western values as inherently harmful and oppressive."

Another order signed by the pres-

ident claimed that in U.S. K-12 schools, "innocent children are compelled to adopt identities as either victims or oppressors." Trump ordered federal agencies to develop a comprehensive strategy to end "indoctrination" by teachers who may promote "anti-American, subversive, harmful, and false ideologies on our nation's children."

Critics argued that the orders, with the removal of some public displays by the National Park Service related to race and identity, and the White House's ongoing efforts to end diversity, equity and inclusion programs, represented a whitewashing of history that could ultimately fuel discrimination against minority communities.

But the administration's allies argue that the policies are a corrective to an overly critical narrative about America's past. Black conservatives, in particular, have defended the moves and argued that more positive stories of individual triumph, like Douglass' life story, need to be more widely told.

A Home of History: Inside Wilson's Unique Freeman Round House



By Jordan Meadows

Staff Writer

Opened in 2001, the Oliver Nestus Freeman Round House Museum stands as one of eastern North Carolina's most distinctive historic landmarks, and as a tribute to the life and craftsmanship of Oliver Nestus Freeman.

Born in 1882 as the son of a former slave, Oliver Nestus Freeman like many other African-Americans in Wilson, NC found few opportunities. Educated at the Tuskegee Normal School in Alabama, Freeman returned to Wilson and helped construct a number of houses to help alleviate the shortage of housing for soldiers returning from World War II.

Freeman's contributions to Wilson's architecture and affordable housing efforts were recognized by the naming of Wilson's first housing

redevelopment project—Freeman Place.

The museum's mission is to "preserve, promote and present African-American history, art and culture to all citizens of Wilson and the region in order to increase the awareness, understanding and appreciation of cultural traditions and African-American contributions to society." Fittingly, it operates inside Freeman's most unusual creation: a circular stone dwelling known locally as the Freeman Round House.

Freeman formed friendships with prominent leaders including Booker T. Washington and George Washington Carver. Around 1910, he settled in Wilson, where Freeman built a modest brick house at 1300 East Nash Street, a home that remained in the family for generations and served as the starting point for a lifetime of craftsmanship.

Freeman identified himself in the



1910 and 1920 censuses as a brick-mason, but his skills extended well beyond brickwork. Over the next four decades, he became Wilson's preeminent brick and stonemason, working in brick, stone and tile. His bold, rough stone foundations, chimneys and columns became a defining feature of many of the city's early 20th-century bungalows. He also created imaginative masonry garden sculptures that still dot local landscapes.

His most famous works, however, were those he built for himself. In the 1920s, he transformed his original brick cottage into a striking stone bungalow, adding textured masonry details and handcrafted elements that showcased his creativity. On the same property, he constructed a nearby rental dwelling to help address housing shortages.

In the 1940s, Freeman completed what would become his signature project: the Freeman Round House.

Built of rough stone and featuring a circular plan divided into wedge-shaped rooms, the house is locally unique. Over time, he added concrete and stone garden sculptures to the grounds, including a whimsical 7-foot dinosaur that remains one of the property's most memorable features.

Freeman's work also extended beyond private homes. After World War II, he helped construct houses to alleviate shortages for returning soldiers. His contributions to affordable housing and to Wilson's architectural landscape were later recognized when the city named its first housing redevelopment project Freeman Place in his honor.

Oliver Nestus Freeman died Sept. 28, 1955, leaving behind a built legacy that blended skill, artistry and service. Decades later, community leaders preserved the Round House as a museum so that his work would not be forgotten.

Exhibit Honors Black Architects And Builders Who Shaped North Carolina

By Jordan Meadows

Staff Writer

At North Carolina Central University's James E. Shepard Memorial Library, a bold banner greets visitors with three simple words: "We Built This."

Beneath it, the exhibit explains, "Many of the historic buildings we revere in North Carolina are credited to their owners. Rarely are the people responsible for the labor and craftsmanship recognized. This exhibit seeks to acknowledge the countless African Americans who built the historic buildings we collectively treasure."

The traveling exhibit, "Profiles of Black Architects and Builders in North Carolina," was created by Preservation North Carolina and is being presented in Durham by Hayti Promise Community Development Corporation and Preservation Durham. It marks the first time NCCU has hosted the exhibit, which is part of the university's Black History Month event series.

Spanning three centuries, the exhibit features more than two dozen profiles of Black architects, builders and craftsmen—from enslaved people whose African construction knowledge shaped early Southern architecture, to post-Civil War tradesmen who built schools and churches, to civic leaders of Durham's Black Wall Street and contemporary design professionals. Through personal stories and historic photographs, it explores pivotal eras including slavery and Reconstruction, the founding of historically Black colleges and universities and Black churches, Jim Crow and segregation, and the rise of



Black civic leaders and professionals.

"The NCCU James E. Shepard Memorial Library is proud to host the 'We Built This' exhibition, a virtual encyclopedia of African American architects and builders whose work has shaped North Carolina's towns, churches, businesses, HBCU campuses, and neighborhoods for generations," said André Vann, university archivist and public history instructor. "Through the design and construction of both public and private spaces, the exhibit honors their skill, creativity, and lasting impact."

Among the figures highlighted is W. Edward Jenkins, a Wake County native who served in World War II and studied architectural engineering at North Carolina A&T State University, Class of 1949. Jenkins became the first Black architect hired by a previously all-white firm in Greensboro and was licensed in North Carolina in 1953. His work includes NCCU's LeRoy T. Walker Physical Education and Recreation

Complex, the Albert L. Turner Law Building, and, in 1977, the contemporary White Rock Baptist Church.

The exhibit also spotlights Julian Francis Abele, chief designer of Duke University's West Campus, including the iconic Duke Chapel. Abele was the first Black graduate of the University of Pennsylvania's School of Design in 1902. One of his early credited works was Cameron Indoor Stadium in 1938. He died 11 years before Duke admitted its first Black student.

Other profiles include William H. Houser, a formerly enslaved man from South Carolina who went on to build facilities such as Carter Hall at Johnson C. Smith University; John Merrick, founder of North Carolina Mutual Life Insurance Company and a pillar of Durham's Black Wall Street; Bishop Henry Beard Delany, who oversaw construction of the campus at Saint Augustine's University; and John Winters, a builder who became the first African American elected to Raleigh's City Council.

The exhibit reaches into the 20th and 21st centuries, highlighting the Rosenwald school-building movement that resulted in more than 800 schools across North Carolina, post-World War II Black builders and pioneers such as Danita Brown, who in 1990 became the first Black woman licensed to practice architecture in North Carolina—one of only 30 Black women licensed in the United States at the time. Brown now serves in national historic preservation leadership roles at the federal level.

The exhibit also explores the role of fraternal organizations and tradesmen in the late 19th century, including Black Freemasons who established 11 lodges across the state by 1873 and formed the North Carolina Industrial Association in 1879 to promote Black economic welfare in the South. The association organized the Colored State Fair from 1879 to 1930, a showcase of Black enterprise and craftsmanship.

Students say the exhibit is already reshaping their understanding of history. Whitaker, a 19-year-old sophomore history major at NCCU, said learning about the builders behind familiar landmarks changed his perspective.

For Black architects and builders working today, the exhibit carries professional and personal significance. Fredrick Davis, a Durham architect and builder of public school facilities, called the history essential. "It brings me great joy to see the pioneers who came before me, and it encourages me to continue in that effort," Davis said. "For centuries, as architects and builders, we have been responsible for highlighting and improving the built environment."



Husband and Wife Team Make History As Culinary Innovators

Dallas-based power couple turns southern heritage, flavor, and vision into a new category of gourmet jam.

DALLAS, TEXAS - Jam Vino, the world's first line of wine-infused gourmet jam, is an example of Black culinary innovation, ownership, and excellence. Founded by Dallas-based husband and wife team Chef Lorious (Lori) Rogers and Shane Rogers, Jam Vino has grown from a bold kitchen concept into a nationally recognized gourmet food brand.

"We're excited to be able to share our family's recipe with the world, and it means so much to us how well our jam has been received. From the Oscars to the Emmys to QVC, we're happy to see families all over the country enjoying it. We're very grateful," says Chef Lorious, the founder and CEO of Jam Vino.

Chef Lorious spent years in her home kitchen perfecting her "Calibama Cooking" style — a blend of her Southern Alabama roots and Northern California upbringing. Starting as a full-time accountant and self-taught chef with an artist's heart, Chef Lorious began sharing her recipes on YouTube and local TV, eventually publishing her first cookbook, Calibama Cooking: Classic & Contemporary Comfort Food. Later, she became a regular guest on Good Morning Texas.

The Birth of A Jam

Jam Vino was born out of pure serendipity during a Williams-Sonoma cooking demonstration when Chef Lori layered her homemade wine-infused jam onto a sample of her family's favorite gourmet grilled cheese sandwich. "People kept coming up to me asking what was in the grilled cheese sandwich," Chef Lorious recalls. "They said, 'I've never tasted anything like this! That's when I knew we had something truly special.'"

From that single demo, a new category of gourmet jam was born. Chef Lorious dove headfirst into the world of consumer packaged goods — sourcing premium fruit, testing recipes, finding co-packers, and navigating the maze of compliance and production. "I wasn't just creating a product," she says. "I was creating a product that represents moments and memories with a gourmet twist."

Chef Lorious's dedication paid off. Jam Vino has since been featured on the nation's top syndicated talk shows (ABC's The View, GMA3), and has also become a favorite among tastemakers and A-list celebrities—having been featured in luxury celebrity gift lounges during the Oscars, Emmys and Rock 'n' Roll Hall of Fame.

Everyday Luxury for Everyday People

A true treat for the palate, Jam Vino is 100% real fruit infused with the rich flavor profile of fine wine. Family-friendly (the alcohol cooks down), Jam Vino has just five all-natural ingredients and is vegan-friendly and gluten-free. Whether paired with a cheese board, layered over pastries, on toast, or stirred into yogurt, Jam Vino offers a luxurious experience and turns everyday moments into a celebration.

The Power of Innovation

As a Black-owned, family-led company, Jam Vino reflects the power of ownership and innovation in the food and beverage industry. The brand stands apart as an example of how Black entrepreneurs continue to shape American food culture through creativity and intention.

This Black History Month, Jam Vino invites consumers, media, and partners to support Black-owned brands that continue to redefine the specialty food space. The couple remains focused on innovation, community engagement, and introducing more people to the luxury that is Jam Vino.

The Jam Vino product line includes three signature flavors: Strawberry Blanc, Blackberry Merlot, and Raspberry Moscato.

Jam Vino products are available nationwide at www.JamVino.com.

Get Out & Just Vote



The Management and Staff of Lea Funeral Home urges everyone to "Get Out & Vote" in the March 3rd NC Primary. Early Voting is in progress now. If your preference is to vote early, go to ncsbe.gov/voting/vote-early-person, to find the Early Voting Site near you. Contributed Photo

Community

Alliance for a Future: Historic Magnolia Avenue School Reborn as Advanced Technology and Training Center

By Jheri Hardaway

Staff Writer

Dunn, NC - February 13th, a crowd gathered for the official ribbon-cutting of the new Advanced Technology and Training Center, marking the culmination of a \$15.5 million regional effort to transform a historic school building into a modern workforce development hub. The center is poised to become a cornerstone for preparing Harnett County residents for high-demand careers in fields like biotech and information technology. The project is the result of a powerful partnership between the I-95/I-40 Crossroads of America Economic Development Alliance, Harnett County, the City of Dunn, and Central Carolina Community College (CCCC). The Alliance contributed \$10 million toward the \$15.5 million cost, with Har-

nett County providing a \$5 million match.

Mayor Elmore of Dunn and Harold Keen, Chairman of the Alliance, were among the speakers highlighting the center's significance. "This historic school has now been transformed into a modern workforce development and training Center," Mayor Elmore stated, emphasizing its design to "support our county by preparing residents for high-demand careers and strengthening industry partnerships." Commissioner Barbara McCoy

The building itself carries a rich history. Nancy Blackman of the Dunn Area Committee of 100 recounted its journey, noting it stood as the Magnolia Avenue Grammar School from 1918 to 1984. After two quiet years, it was reborn in 1987 as a business incubator, supporting the launch of over 170 businesses and



the creation of over 2,000 jobs.

"If these walls could talk, imagine the stories they would share," Blackman said, concluding that the new chapter with the Advanced Technology Training Center stands as a "testimony to what a community can

accomplish when vision meets commitment." The project's true north is regionalism, a theme championed by the Alliance. Harold Keen explained that the coalition was formed to bring higher-paying jobs to the I-95/I-40 corridor, noting that the re-

gion has historically had some of the lowest per-capita incomes.

"We found out very quickly, if you go to Raleigh or you go to Washington and you ask for money as an individual town or individual county, then you're just one of everybody else," Keen said. "But if you go... as a regional effort, then they get to say yes." Keen also cited the regional momentum that led to the creation of the training centers, recalling that the need for a trained workforce was the "real problem" expressed by companies like Bayer (now Grifols) in the early 2000s. He pointed to a recent success: the almost billion-dollar Vulcan Materials project coming to Benson, which aims to hire 1,000 employees within five years with high-salary jobs. "This whole region gets to share in that wonderful thing," he added.

Dr. Lisa Chapman, President of

Central Carolina Community College, confirmed the college's commitment to the new mission. "We have amazing talent in Harnett County. What this facility is going to allow us to do better is help that amazing talent... have the skills that they need and connect them with those businesses and industries that want to be here." She specified that the initial training will target biotech and IT.

The facility is not only a training center but a public resource. It will also house the offices for the Dunn Committee of 100 and the Alliance, and the space includes a boardroom and an auditorium. The Training Center will be available for free to non-profit organizations and for rent to for-profit businesses. Harnett County and the surrounding areas are making great strides in local development and resources for citizens.

National Pan-Hellenic Council Legacy Plaza Honors Founders

UNC - Carolina's National Pan-Hellenic Council Legacy Plaza has been a long time coming for the founders of the first historically Black sororities and fraternities on campus.

"When I arrived on Chapel Hill's campus in 1971, there were no Black Greek letter organizations," says Deborah Wilder, a charter member of the omicron chapter of Delta Sigma Theta. "I've been a proud member of Delta Sigma Theta for 48 years, and this plaza is a way to say, 'We were here, and we made the University better for it.'"

The new plaza celebrates the nine National Pan-Hellenic Council fraternities and sororities at Carolina on the 48th anniversary of their founding. The organizations' commitment to civic engagement, leadership, academics and work to create a sense of belonging has positively impacted campus since 1973.

"By dedicating this plaza, we honor the legacies of Carolina's historically Black fraternities and sororities," said Amy Johnson, vice chancellor for student affairs. "Mem-



bers and alumni of the National Pan-Hellenic Council have helped make Carolina what it is. We thank you and pay tribute to your work."

The UNC NPHC Legacy Plaza is located on South Campus between SASB North and South and consists of nine columns representing each

of the founding Black Greek organizations. The pillars are arranged in chronological order of when the organizations were chartered. An inner circle of pavers and an outer circle of bricks feature the names of donors who made the plaza possible.

"It is such a blessing that we can

celebrate African American excellence because, as far as I'm concerned, that is what our Greek organizations reflect," Board of Trustee Teresa Artis Neal said at the ribbon-cutting ceremony in October. "When we think back to the history of the founding of all of our Greek organizations, they were founded by people who were tremendously courageous, who were leaders, who believed in excellence and, for me, they inspire us each day to continue the legacy that they began."

The founders and those who participated in the fundraising efforts to build the plaza since 2017 hope it will be a space for reflection and remembrance.

"I'm a proud member of Delta Sigma Theta, and I'm glad that we now have a space on campus for myself and my fellow sisters to see and be proud of all that we've accomplished over almost 50 years," Wilder says. "This is a place for NPHC organizations to unite in their efforts to promote their fraternities and sororities while educating students about our history."

The plaza also stands as a location for current NPHC members to ceremonially reveal each new class and gather for events on campus.

"The (NPHC) sororities on campus don't necessarily have a home, a place where they can gather that is specially meant for them like their counterparts that have houses," says Student Affairs Director of Development Zack Hawkins. "This gives them a home for them to share their culture, not only amongst themselves but with the entire campus. This is a safe space for them to have fun, enjoy each other's company and get to know one another."

Students walking past the plaza will have the opportunity to learn about the history of the "Divine Nine," the nine original Black Greek letter organizations and learn about the current organizations.

"This shows that we're committed to diversity, we're committed to students and their cultural experiences, and we're committed to inclusion - all of that is what we espouse at UNC, and so this is living proof that we're living up to our creed," says

Hawkins.

The physical presence of a dedicated space for the sorority and fraternity members to honor their legacy and look to the future is key to raising awareness of the contributions of NPHC members over the last 48 years, says NPHC President and Carolina junior Jordyn Earl.

"I do believe that the plaza will raise a lot of questions and hopefully awareness. When I walked up and saw it for the first time, I was in tears," Earl says. "It was an amazing experience to not only see my legacy, but the legacy of all of NPHC at UNC-Chapel Hill. It's just a huge steppingstone for the entire Black community, to be able to see our legacy and take it all in as one."

The plaza is now completed and open for visitors.

"It's so exciting to all of us who have worked toward this day and wanted a place on campus to honor our history," Wilder says. "This is a long time coming, and I hope everyone who wants to learn more comes to the dedication ceremony to see the plaza and all the names written there."

Decision On The Fate Of J.W. Ligon Coming Soon

By Karl Cameron

Special To The Carolinian

An Analysis

The J.W. Ligon Magnet Middle School Auditorium was the scene Feb. 9th of the Second Listening Session held by the Wake County Public School System to get input on the fate of the Middle School's building. The objective of the meeting, hosted by Wake Co. School Superintendent Dr. Robert Taylor, was to inform members of the Ligon community about the ongoing campus renovation project and to consider community voices in a learning environment created to honor Ligon students of both the past and the future.

At this point throughout the now 4-hours of Listening Sessions there are two distinct view points on how the building should be renovated, or rebuilt. The Magnet Middle School Parents have concerns about the quality of education for their children remaining constant, and not being disrupted throughout the process. Ligon Alumni and the general community have a concern that in the process that the legacy of J.W. Ligon Senior High School can be acknowledged and preserved in a tangible way.

Wake County Public Schools is in a unique position to be able to honor J. W. Ligon Senior/Junior High's history, as well as to continue the stellar magnet school curriculum imparted at the school present day.

There are three options for the Wake County School Board to consider: (1) Renovate the Existing Building, (2) Rebuild on the Existing Site, or (3) Build a New Facility on the school's Ballfield Site. Options 1 and 2 require that the students and staff relocate to a temporary on site mobile campus for the project's duration, while Option 3 allows for students

and staff to continue operating in the current building during construction of a new building on the athletic field. After which the current building would be demolished to create new athletic facilities and an Alumni Pavilion in its place. Each of the three options require that the students remain on site during the construction process.

However, in the course of these Listening Sessions an Option 4 has been suggested for consideration which would be a rebuild on the existing site with a component honoring the rich legacy of the school, and moving students to another location during the construction phase so as to minimize the congestion and noise distraction that could impact the learning process.

Temporarily moving students off site also would alleviate the current automobile congestion at the start and end of the school day from parents and buses dropping off and picking up students. Ligon Middle School has one of the smallest campuses of any middle school in this district Ms. Valerie Scott Johnson, said in her presentation that there had been discussion about St. Augustine's University facilities being a possible alternative site during the time of renovation/construction of the J.W. Ligon Magnet Middle School Building. Even Dr. Taylor said, "the school system is also looking at a remote site in the eastern part of the county."

A number of Listening Session voices spoke on the need for the new structure to be sustainable 50 years into the future, and to be able to enhance the existing magnet school curriculum.

Let's take a moment, and listen to all of what's being said, "A facility that will serve to honor the legacy of the past, and educate students now,

and well into the future." With that view in mind, Dr. Taylor proposed a committee whose mission would be to determine what honoring the legacy of J.W. Ligon Senior/Junior High should look like. Could that committee's scope and composition be expanded to input into what the continuing magnet school curriculum should look like?

Many times the passage of time produces circumstances, which at first glance, many of us are not aware. Although J.W. Ligon Senior High was discontinued as a high school and converted to a magnet middle school; it still carries on a tradition with the magnet middle school curriculum that J.W. Ligon Senior High School was known for in its exploits in music, band, and the arts. Let us remember that J.W. Ligon Senior High School was the focal point for an annual Drama Festival, which incorporated schools from throughout North Carolina.

There is a bar of excellence that those who attended J.W. Ligon Senior High School knows, and those that attend J.W. Ligon Magnet Middle School should know about. The name Ligon sets a standard of excellence that we all should aspire to in education and life. A standard where the teacher/student relationship is so valued that instructors have gone the extra mile in the past to supply learning materials that were not in the school budget, but necessary for student advancement. Additionally, to contribute those extra hours that the school system didn't pay for, but paid off in the advancement of those instructed.

This legacy knowledge is not only invaluable, but motivational. It sets an educational standard that all of us should be proud of, and continue to encourage in our public school system.



Gov. Stein Honors NC Black Farmers During BHM Event

RALEIGH, N.C. - Gov. Josh Stein joined the North Carolina African American Heritage Commission and the Legislative Black Caucus on Tuesday to celebrate Black farmers during Black History Month.

"I am honored to shine a light on the contributions of Black farmers, whose innovation and resilience helped build North Carolina's agricultural economy from the ground up," Stein said. "This year marks 100 years of celebrations during Black History Month and 250 years of

America. We've made great progress in the fight for racial equality, but we must keep working to deliver a North Carolina where all people can thrive."

During the event, Stein inducted four people into the Order of the Long Leaf Pine, one of the state's highest civilian honors, recognizing their contributions to North Carolina agriculture.

"These honorees represent the best of North Carolina through their contributions to agriculture," Stein

said. "I am proud to honor their lasting impact on our farming communities and our state's future."

Order of the Long Leaf Pine honorees:

Phillip Farland - former state director, USDA Farm Service Agency
Timothy Pigford - farmer and civil rights activist

Jason Brown - owner, First Fruits Farm; former UNC and NFL football player

Erin Martin - farmer and owner, Footprints in the Garden



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Church

Jesse Jackson—CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

In 1983, Jackson successfully negotiated with Syrian officials for the release of a captured American navy pilot Lt Robert O Goodman, and several Cuban political prisoners.

Reagan criticized Jackson for interfering with foreign affairs, but he had gained a reputation in international conflict resolution and later went on a diplomatic mission to Lebanon.

In 1988, he met with Hezbollah leaders and engaged them in intensive negotiations to secure the release of nine U.S. hostages. The initiative did not result in the immediate release of the hostages, but it did spawn years of continued negotiations with Middle Eastern factions for negotiations and prisoner swaps.

In 1990, Jackson met with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein and helped negotiate the release of foreign nationals held as "human shields." In 1997, he was appointed by President Bill Clinton and Secretary of State Madeleine Albright as the U.S.'s first-ever special envoy to promote democracy in Africa. "I could not have been special envoy to

Africa until now," Rev. Jackson was quoted as saying in a State Department release. "I'm excited by our Africa policy because it's a source of pride, not shame."

Jackson traveled to Yugoslavia in 1999 to negotiate the release of three U.S. prisoners of war during the Kosovo War. On January 15, 1997, Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday, Rainbow PUSH launched its "Wall Street Project" which works to increase business opportunities for ethnic minorities with corporations. In 2000, President Clinton awarded Jackson the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian honor.

Family controversy and admission In 2001, Jackson publicly admitted to fathering a child resulting from an extramarital affair with Rainbow/PUSH staffer Karin Stanford. However, instead of denying or hiding the situation, he was open about it, stating, "This is no time for evasions, denials or alibis. I fully accept responsibility and I am truly sorry for my actions."

"As her mother does, I love this

child very much and have assumed responsibility for her emotional and financial support since she was born," Jackson said. "My wife, Jackie, and my children have been made aware of the child and it has been an extremely painful, trying and difficult time for them."

Health Challenges Jackson announced his diagnosis with Parkinson's disease in 2017. He stepped down as president and CEO of the Rainbow/PUSH Coalition in July 2023, after leading the organization for more than 50 years, upon turning 81 years old. He said, though that he was not done. At the 57th annual Rainbow/PUSH convention, that he we was going to "pivot" and still be a force in civil rights.

"I find fulfillment in my work. It's my sense of purpose," he told the Chicago Sun-Times. "I do everything with a sense of purpose."

Rev. Jackson is survived by his wife, Jacqueline Jackson, and their children: Santita, Jesse Jr., Jonathan Luther, Yusef DuBois, and Jacqueline Lavinia. He is also survived by his daughter, Ashley, born to Stanford.

Obituaries

GLORIA SANDERS CUMBO OBITUARY

Gloria Sanders Cumbo, a mother, grandmother, sister, and friend, passed away peacefully on Jan. 30, 2026, at the age of 87 in Raleigh, NC, at the Transition's LifeCare Center.

Born on Nov. 2nd, 1938, in Wake Co, Gloria was the cherished daughter of Wilbert Morris and Annie Mae Sanders. She grew up in the Chavis Heights community. She attended Ligon Senior High School and went on to further her education at North Carolina A&T University in Greensboro, NC. She received the Long Leaf



Pine retirement award for working with the State Probation and Parole Dept. for 30 years.

Gloria was known for her kindness, humor, strength, and generosity. She devoted her life to her family, always ensuring that those she loved felt supported, encouraged, and deeply cared for. She enjoyed reading, writing letters to God, and spending time with family and friends. She brought joy to everyone around her.

Gloria is survived by her son, Wyatt Cumbo Jr. (Krystina), granddaughter, Madison, and sister, Sadie Harris.

Practical Biblical Principles

NO ROCK WILL TAKE MY PLACE

Read: Luke 19:28-40

By John L. Caldwell, Pastor

New Jerusalem Baptist Cathedral Christians must always be aware of the purpose as to why we were created- to praise God. God didn't create us to turn our backs on Him and sin against Him. One can never fully understand God. What is the only English adjective which can describe God in simple human terms- "Creator." God is the God of all "creation." He is the only creator God. There is no other God beside Him who claims to have created this vast universe we live in. God created man and women to be objects of His love. God's love toward us is found in all that He created. God's love toward man is expressed in His creating him. God creates first, then He loves, and not vice versa. If God doesn't create, He has nothing to love.

Job 38:7 says, "When the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy." The occasion for the Angel's rejoicing was called for when God created the world. The Angels were praising and worshipping God for His act of creation. God revealed this Angel praising scene to Job when Job questioned God about his suffering (Job 38:17-8). God revealed this to Job so as to settle him down.

The Bible story ends with "all" of God's creation praising Him. It may be difficult for some to understand the biblical fact that all what God has created, He created for the benefit of man.

The stars, planets and space, the entire cosmic universe were created for man's survival and protection here upon the earth (Colossians 1:16-18). This is what David was speaking about when He said, "The heavens declare the glory of God and the firmament reveals His handiwork" (Psalm 19:1). In short, all things in God's creation will never cease to worship and praise Him throughout time and eternity.

Worship and praise are two of the most powerful spiritual weapons

Christians have at their disposal. Such are to be used in times of trouble, as well as good times. We do not praise God for the bad things but praise Him to keep us through the bad times (Job 14:1).

God showcases His love to us through His creation. Man is a major part of God's creation, which means we were created to worship God also. It is man from which the major source of praise and worship is to be poured out to God. God created man and gave him a voice to praise Him. Everything which has breathe should praise the Lord (Psalm 150:6). If Angels continually praise and worship God, what then is man to do? Praise and worship God as well (Colossians 1:15-17).

Jesus's teachings, healing and feeding miracles, and raising Lazarus from the dead had stirred up a great controversy prior to Him entering Jerusalem for the last time. Jesus took advantage of this controversy and knew it was time to present Himself as the Messiah. He prepared to ride into Jerusalem on a young colt. It was the traditions of kings and great noblemen to ride into a city on a horse. They rode into cities on horses, displaying military and conquering might. Jesus rode on a donkey, a beast of burden and not of war.

All four gospels record different happenings and sayings when Christ rides into Jerusalem on a donkey's colt. Only Luke's gospel records the statement about the "stone crying out" which is our focus today." This statement is metaphorical in nature, such as "pray and the mountain will be removed," the message is very clear- If God's people don't cry out and praise the Creator then the whole of God's creation will cry out and praise Him in some form.

In Luke's account, Jesus began to ride down from the Mount of Olives toward Jerusalem on the young colt, people begin to rejoice, praise Him with a loud voice for all the mighty works they had seen Him perform. The rejoicing people placed their coats and palm leaves on the road as

Jesus continued toward the temple. Palm leaves were symbols of peace for the Jewish people. This was the unspoken "peace" message-waving palm branches- when the Roman government oppressed them.

The Jews hated the Roman occupation of Jerusalem. They saw Jesus as a conquering king coming to overthrow the Romans from Jerusalem. As Jesus rode into Jerusalem, this is what the people were rejoicing about saying, "Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!" This rejoicing included the phrase, "Hosanna in the highest" which means "God save us." However, they were really saying "save us from the Romans; but not from their sins" (Matthew 21:9; Mark 11:9-10).

Matthew's and Luke's recorded responses from Jesus when He was asked by the chief priests and scribes to tell the people to stop praising Him because it was indignant (Matthew 21:15) carries the same meaning. Matthew recorded-"Out of the mouth of babes and nursing infants You have perfected praise.;" Luke recorded "I tell you that if these should keep silent, the stones would immediately cry out." This implies that if man doesn't cry out and praise God, then God's natural creation somehow will.

Man is the only creature created with a voice. A voice that can be in harmony with other voices. No other creature can sing in harmony, but man. Praises in harmony is a sweet smell to God Almighty. We were designed to give God worship. Ps 34:1 declares, "I will bless the Lord at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth."

From the beginning we were designed to give God praise. We were designed to give worship. We were exhorting to worship God in Spirit and in truth continually and always. If we fear to cry out in praise and worship to the Creator God, for all the good He has done, then the rocks will cry out in our place. No, no, no! I cannot allow that. No rock will take my place!!

SERMON of the WEEK



LINCOLN PARK HOLINESS CHURCH YOUTH PRESENT INSPIRING BLACK HISTORY PROGRAM

Submitted by Jamar McKiver

On Sunday, February 15, the youth of Lincoln Park Holiness Church delivered a powerful and educational Black History presentation that celebrated courage, perseverance, and achievement. The program opened with the theme song, "It's Okay to Be Black," setting a tone of pride and empowerment for the congregation.

The young participants portrayed several influential African American trailblazers whose lives and accomplishments have shaped history. Those honored included: Alice Coachman, Bessie Coleman, Ruby Bridges, Mae Jemison, Rebecca Lee Crumpler, Maya Angelou, Eugene James Bullard, Rosa Parks, Samuel Jesse Battle, Mary Fields, and David

Ellsworth Harris.

Each portrayal highlighted the determination and faith that enabled these individuals to overcome barriers and break new ground in athletics, aviation, civil rights, medicine, literature, law enforcement, and military service.

The presentation concluded with the youth lifting their voices in song, "A Testimony," leaving the audience inspired and encouraged.

Following the Black History program, the congregation received a stirring message from guest speaker Evangelist James Waddell. His sermon was based on Mark 4:35-36 (KJV) and centered on the topic, "Chasing the Storm."

Evangelist Waddell challenged the congregation with several key points: You've got to chase the storm. You've got to walk in the midst of the

storm.

If we walk through the storm, it will pass more quickly. I'm going to chase the storm. I'm going to keep on chasing that storm.

Drawing from the biblical account of Jesus calming the storm, Evangelist Waddell encouraged believers not to fear life's challenges but to confront them with faith, trusting that God remains in control.

The service was both a celebration of Black history and a reminder that faith, courage, and perseverance continue to carry communities through every storm.

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.



★ WCPAM EVENT ★

Claim Your Power — Own Your Political Voice

3-Day Civic Experience

Thursdays, February 19 & February 26 — 7:00 PM
Saturday, March 21 — 10:00 AM
Multipurpose Room

- ★ How power flows in U.S. government
- ★ Representation, taxes & accountability
- ★ How to respectfully engage candidates

Dessert Bar on Thursdays
Continental Breakfast & Lunch on Saturday

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\$5 Registration | Register by February 18
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3703 Tryon Road, Raleigh NC 27606

The Carolinian

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Editorials

Editorial Policy

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



BLACK HISTORY HIGHLIGHT: THE EVERLASTING WORDS OF PHILLIS WHEATLEY

By Jheri Hardaway

Staff Writer

No more, America, in mournful strain
Of wrongs, and grievance unredress'd complain,
No longer shalt thou dread the iron chain,
Which wanton Tyranny with lawless hand
Had made, and with it meant t'enslave the land.
Should you, my lord, while you peruse my song,
Wonder from whence my love of Freedom sprung,
Whence flow these wishes for the common good,
By feeling hearts alone best understood,
I, young in life, by seeming cruel fate
Was snatch'd from Afric's fancy'd happy seat:
What pangs excruciating must molest,
What sorrows labour in my parent's breast?
Steel'd was that soul and by no misery mov'd
That from a father seiz'd his babe below'd:
Such, such my case. And can I then but pray
Others may never feel tyrannic sway?

"To The Right Honorable William, Earl of Dartmouth" st. 2-3, Poems on Various Subjects, Religious and Moral (1773).

I first learned of Phillis Wheatley at North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University in my African American literature course with Dr. Pat Bonner. Phillis's life story inspired me as a writer and creative. Wheatley was the first African woman to have her work published and widely read in the soon-to-be United States of America.

Phillis Wheatley's life as a slave is very unique. She came to Boston, MA, on a slave ship (called the Phillis, which inspired her mistress to name her) in 1761 and was educated alongside her master's daughter. This was rare. Together they studied many subjects, including classic Greek and Roman literature, astronomy, and much of the Harvard University curriculum. At this point, the prevailing view throughout the colonies was that Africans were incapable of advanced thought. Within four years, Wheatley published her first poem. Phillis destroyed the senseless notion of African ignorance and mental inferiority. Her intellect inspired opportunities that many slaves did not know to dream of.

In 1773, when she was 21, her first book, Poems on Various Subjects, Religious and Moral, was published. In October of the very same year, she was freed from slavery. One of her biggest fans was George Washington. Washington wrote to Wheatley and even made time to meet with her at his Cambridge headquarters during the American Revolutionary War.

What really struck me, while Phillis was being oppressed by the system of chattel slavery, the colonies were fighting for their freedom from England. The colonist spoke of tyranny from their colonial power and forced an even more diabolical form of tyranny on what Phillis calls the "sable race." Phillis eloquently writes about this injustice. To this day the hypocrisy is baffling to me.

Her second book was lost to history. Phillis Wheatley died in 1784, impoverished. A series of misfortunes halted her progression. Regardless, her genius continues to be celebrated. Dr. Bonner always encouraged us to remain mindful that what she wrote came second to the fact that she wrote at all. As a writer of my own diasporic experience, Wheatley's influence is invaluable.



A TRIBUTE IN A BOTTLE: HARLEM HELLFIGHTERS

By Jheri Hardaway

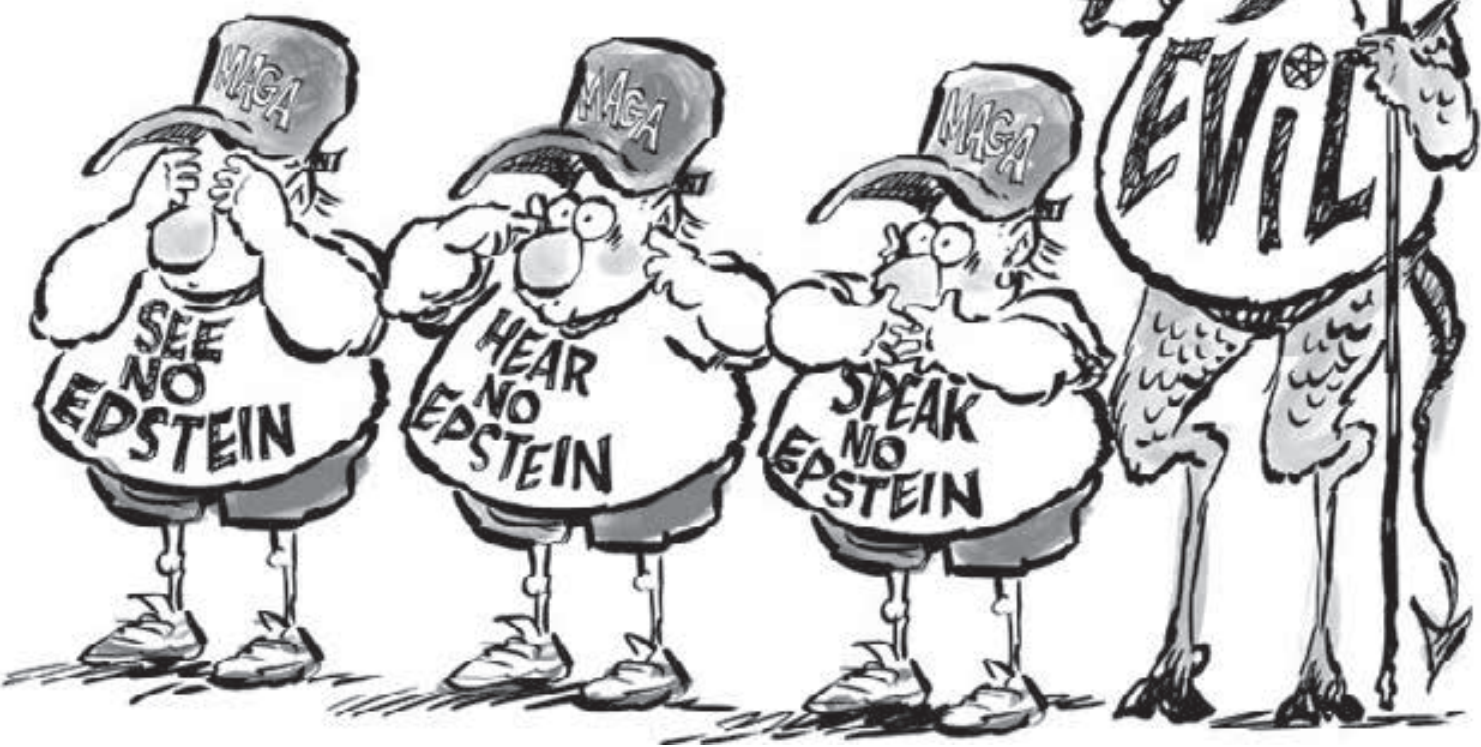
Staff Writer

Old Hillside has created another masterpiece. Introducing the Harlem Hellfighters Limited Edition Bottles. A special release inspired by legacy, courage, and celebration. Available for a short time only. This limited release is a whiskey blend featuring three custom labels honoring James Reese Europe, Henry Johnson, and Benjamin O. Davis Sr. Finished in French oak wine barrels for a total of 191 days, it marks the exact number of days the Harlem Hellfighters spent on the front lines in France. The barrels originate from the same region where the Hellfighters fought, creating a rare and powerful connection between place, history, heritage, and spirit.

The bourbon pours a warm, deep amber with subtle ruby undertones from the Pinot Noir finishing cask. On the nose, honeyed grain and delicate vanilla open into gentle red-fruit accents and soft oak. The palate is mellow and approachable, with smooth caramel and light brown sugar softened by a restrained whisper of rye spice, while the finish lingers with warm oak, soft spice and a refined Pinot Noir echo.

The Harlem Hellfighters, also known as the 369th Infantry Regiment, were the first African American infantry unit to fight in World War I. Despite facing racial segregation and discrimination, they served with distinction on the front lines for 191 days—longer than any other American regiment in WWI history. We're honored to partner with the Whiskey Valor Foundation, supporting veterans and their families through curated barrel selections and special events that raise awareness and funding for veteran-focused programs. A portion of proceeds from this release will be donated to support their mission. This release is available exclusively online. Enjoy free shipping with every purchase of the Harlem Hellfighters Whiskey Bundle throughout February.

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Other Viewpoints

RED TAPE IS STRANGLING RURAL HEALTH CARE. LET'S CUT IT.

By Sally C. Pipes

Rural America is running out of doctors. According to a recent report from the Commonwealth Fund, 43 million Americans now live in rural communities facing a shortage of primary care providers.

This shortage isn't new. It's been reality for rural America for decades. And it helps explain why patients there experience higher rates of chronic illness -- and die sooner -- than their urban counterparts.

At first glance, the problem seems simple -- too few doctors and nurses. But if that's the case, why have so many states adopted regulations that restrict the supply of care?

Our leaders need to scrap those regulations -- and simultaneously invest in efforts to train more healthcare providers locally.

Consider scope-of-practice laws, which limit what kinds of care nurse practitioners and physician assistants can deliver to patients -- and how they can do so. In states such as Texas, Oklahoma, and California, nurse practitioners must work under the supervision of another healthcare provider, generally a physician, for their entire career.

Physician assistants must deal with similar restrictions. Many of these highly trained professionals could treat patients immediately in rural communities that desperately need them. Instead, they're sidelined by regulations that make it illegal for them to use the full extent of their education.

Rolling back these rules would quickly expand access to care. "Certificate of need" laws are another barrier. These rules force would-be providers to convince state officials that a community "needs" a new clinic or facility before one can open.

They also offer incumbent providers the chance to lobby against the entry of competitors. What incumbent wouldn't want the government to outlaw its competition? That's exactly what certificate-of-need laws can enable -- to the detriment of patients.

In any other part of the economy, high prices and long waits are signals for entrepreneurs to enter the market. In health care, CON laws replace market signals with bureaucratic permission slips.

Eliminating these laws would make it far easier for doctors and other clinicians to practice in underserved parts of the country.

Of course, paring back rules and regulations can only do so much. Rural America also needs a more robust pipeline of physicians. Fortunately, there's evidence that doctors trained in rural settings often choose to stay. A recent study in the Journal of Graduate Medical Education found that residents who complete at least half their training in rural communities are five times more likely to end up practicing there.

Philanthropy could help build that pipeline of rural medical talent. Americans donated just under \$600 billion to charity in 2024. Steering even a small portion of that sum to things like rural residency programs could begin to narrow the rural physician gap -- and eventually deliver huge returns for public health.

Rural America is in need of intensive care. Market forces can address that need -- if we let them.

Sally C. Pipes is President, CEO, and Thomas W. Smith Fellow in Health Care Policy at the Pacific Research Institute. Her latest book is *The World's Medicine Chest: How America Achieved Pharmaceutical Supremacy -- and How to Keep It (Encounter 2025)*. Follow her on X @sallypipes.



Guest Columnist

Armstrong Williams

YOU HAVE RUN YOUR RACE, JESSE

The passing of Jesse Jackson marks the end of a turbulent and transformative era in American politics. For more than five decades, he stood at the intersection of protest and power, unapologetic in his focus on race, relentless in his pursuit of equity, and unafraid to confront America's deepest contradictions.

The era that shaped him defined him. Jackson came of age in the segregated South, forged in the crucible of the civil rights movement under the moral thunder of Martin Luther King Jr. That generation did not believe in incremental whispers; it believed in confrontation. Jackson carried that urgency into every arena he entered. He was not crafted in a time of comfort. He was born into a time of fire.

From my youth into adulthood, he was always accessible to me for interviews and conversations. As his national stature grew, he never withdrew behind layers of insulation. He understood that influence required engagement. He answered calls. He showed up. He stayed in the arena.

Through Operation PUSH and the Rainbow Coalition, Jackson built multiracial alliances rooted in economic justice and political empowerment. He believed coalition politics, not fragmentation, was the path to durable change. His presidential campaigns in 1984 and '88 were watershed moments. Critics dismissed them as symbolic. They were strategic and consequential. Jackson expanded the Democratic electorate, registered millions of new voters, and made a reality what once seemed impossible: a Black candidate competing seriously for the presidency of the United States.

Long before 2008, he made a Black presidency conceivable and, in many respects, probable. The path that led to Barack Obama was wid-

ened by Jackson's audacity and infrastructure-building. Likewise, the electoral strength and growing influence of members of the Congressional Black Caucus owe something to the psychological barrier he shattered and the political base he mobilized. He did not simply run for office; he recalibrated expectations.

Jackson was also an unapologetic champion of affirmative action and economic inclusion. Decades before diversity, equity and inclusion became a cultural battleground, he was pressing corporations and institutions to open doors long closed to minorities. He confronted executives directly, demanding hiring commitments, supplier diversity and economic participation. Critics accused him of shaking down corporations. Supporters argued he was applying moral leverage to institutions that had benefited from exclusion. Either way, he forced boardrooms to respond.

He was intensely ambitious. That ambition propelled him to national prominence and sustained him through controversy. Jackson's life was marked by contradiction. He could be prophetic and profane, soaring in moral rhetoric while grappling with personal failings. His adultery, which led to children outside his marriage, wounded his credibility and complicated his public image. Yet those imperfections made him, for many, a more human and relatable figure. He was not carved from marble. He was shaped by struggle, ego, faith, frailty and resilience.

At the height of his influence, he wielded real power. He negotiated for the release of American hostages and inserted himself into international conflicts when official diplomacy stalled. Foreign leaders took his calls. Domestic political leaders could not ignore him. When injustice erupted on picket lines, in impoverished communities, in moments of racial tension, Jackson appeared. He insisted on visibility for the marginalized and accountability for the powerful.

He understood the moral argument he was advancing, even when he fell short of embodying it perfectly. History rarely offers flawless leaders. It offers consequential figures who reflect both the nobility and the contradictions of their time.

Jesse Jackson bent the arc of American politics toward inclusion loudly, imperfectly and indelibly. He expanded the electorate, redefined coalition-building and made the highest office in the land imaginable for those once excluded from consideration. As debates over race, affirmative action and representation intensify again, his imprint remains unmistakable.

He did not merely keep hope alive. He forced America to confront what hope demands: pressure, participation, persistence and the willingness to wrestle with our own imperfections while striving for something greater.

FUNdraising Good Times

By Mel & Pearl Shaw Saad & Shaw



SALUTING DR. FREDERICK DOUGLASS PATTERSON FOUNDER OF THE UNCF

Black History Month celebrations are incomplete without a salute to nationally recognized fundraiser Dr. Frederick Douglass Patterson, founder of the United Negro College Fund. Named for abolitionist Frederick Douglass, Dr. Patterson was committed not only to fundraising but to collective fundraising that has changed the lives of generations of African Americans.

Born in 1901, orphaned at age two, and raised by his sister, Patterson earned a teaching certificate from Prairie View Normal and Industrial Institute in Texas by age 14; a doctorate in veterinary science by age 22; and a Master of Science degree by age 27, both from Iowa State University. At 32, he earned a second doctorate from Cornell University. At 34, he began his tenure as the third president of Tuskegee Institute, a position he held for 25 years. As president, Dr. Patterson established the university's School of Veterinary Science and continued the institute's strong fundraising tradition begun by its founder, Dr. Booker T. Washington. He also authored the weekly column *The Southern Viewpoint* published in the *Pittsburgh Courier*.

On Saturday, January 30, 1943, Dr. Patterson published his thoughts on the need for collective fundraising to benefit private black colleges with the title "Would it not be wise for some Negro schools to make joint appeals to public for funds?" And so it began. In 1944, Dr. Patterson founded the United Negro College Fund and launched the first national campaign to raise funds for twenty-seven private, historically black colleges and universities from across the south serving 12,000 students with an income of \$765,000.

Fast forward to today, and UNCF has raised more than \$6 billion, almost \$1.5 billion of which has been raised in the past decade alone, to enable more than 550,000 students and counting not just attend college, but thrive, graduate, and become leaders.

Dr. Patterson could have focused his energies on raising funds for Tuskegee. Instead, he was unselfish in his commitment to access to higher education for African Americans. In addition to founding UNCF, Dr. Patterson founded the College Endowment Funding Plan for which he was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom by President Ronald Reagan in 1987. The CEFP raised over \$60 million for 36 participating schools. He also served as president of the Phelps-Stokes Fund, focused on African Americans and higher education.

He had a vision for both fundraising and social financing that leveraged private and public funding. From the very beginning he encouraged African Americans to give to HBCUs with his 1943 words "...such a campaign might well begin with Negro people of America." It not only began, it continues.

We salute Dr. Patterson, a visionary African American fundraiser who created one of the most well-known and well-respected fundraising organizations in the country. One that has changed individuals, families, communities, and our country.

Classifieds

CHATHAM COUNTY

NORTH CAROLINA
CHATHAM COUNTY

NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION

In the General Court of Justice
District Court Division
File No: 26CV000178-180
To: CARLOS ALFREDO BELTRAN-CASTILLO, Defendant.

Take notice that a pleading seeking relief against you has been filed. The nature of the relief being sought is for child custody. You are required to make defense to such pleading no later than April 1st, 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, RAQUEL DEL CARMEN DIAZ-ZELAYA, will apply to the court located at 40 E Chatham St, Pittsboro, NC 27312 for the relief sought.

This, the 17th day of February 2026.

Aneta Pavai
Pavai Law Offices, PLLC
Telephone: (919) 410-6690
2/19, 2/26, and 3/5/2026

DURHAM COUNTY

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

All persons, creditors having claims against PATRICA G. SIMPSON deceased, of Durham County, N.C., are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before (3 months, May 19, 2026), or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. 17 February 2026.

V-Gail Simpson, ADM
815 Wheat Mill Road
Durham, North Carolina 27704
Phone: 248 559-5718
F#: 25E001577-310
Feb 19, 26, Mar 5, 12, 2026

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File No.: 26E000112-310
Having qualified as EXECUTOR of the Estate of JUDITH LASCALLETTE, deceased, late of Durham County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons, firms, and corporations having claims against the Estate to present them to the undersigned, in writing, at the address shown below, on or before May 20, 2026, or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery.

All persons indebted to the decedent or the Estate are requested to make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This the 19th day of February, 2026.
Hillary Aaron, Executor
3803 Saint Lucy Dr.
Franklinton, NC 27525
2/19, 2/26, 3/5, and 3/12/2026

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

File No.: 26E000161-310
The undersigned, having qualified as Executor of the Estate of KAREN DENISE BURNETTE, late of Durham County, North Carolina, does hereby notify all persons, firms, and corporations having claims against said Estate to present them to the undersigned on or before the 20th day of May, 2026, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery.

All persons, firms, and corporations indebted to said Estate please make immediate payment to the undersigned. This the 18th day of February, 2026.

Davidia Burnette, Executor
1805 Mystic Drive
Durham, NC 27712
2/19, 2/26, 3/5, and 3/12/2026

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File No: 26E000158-310

Having qualified as EXECUTOR of the Estate of GERARD A. ESPOSITO, deceased, late of Durham County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons, firms, and corporations having claims against the Estate to present them to the undersigned, in writing, at the address shown below, on or before May 20, 2026, or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery.

All persons indebted to the decedent or the Estate are requested to make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This the 19th day of February, 2026.

Kenneth J. Esposito, Executor
c/o Law Office of Anne Page Watson
3400 Croasdaile Drive, Suite 205
Durham, NC 27705
2/19, 2/26, 3/5, and 3/12/2026

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

The undersigned, Richard Floyd Pickett and Lisa Ann Crawford, having duly qualified as Co-Administrators CTA of the Estate of SHIRLEY POPE PICKETT, deceased, late of Durham County, North Carolina, hereby notifies all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the Estate to present them to the undersigned in care of Ronald G. Coulter, Attorney for the Estate, 2004 Elcombe Court, Chapel Hill, NC 27517, on or before May 20, 2026, or it will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons and legal entities indebted to the Estate will please make immediate payment. This the 19th day of February, 2026.

Richard Floyd Pickett and Lisa Ann Crawford, Co-Administrators, CTA
c/o Ronald G. Coulter, Attorney
2004 Elcombe Court
Chapel Hill, NC 27517
1-919-246-5775
2/19, 2/26, 3/5, and 3/12/2026

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File No: 26E000016-310

Having qualified as ADMINISTRATOR of the Estate of DOROTHEA ROBINSON, deceased, late of Durham County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons, firms, and corporations having claims against the Estate to present them to the undersigned, in writing, at the address shown below, on or before May 20, 2026, or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery.

All persons indebted to the decedent or the Estate are requested to make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This the 19th day of February, 2026.

Taylor Robinson, Administrator
931 Vintage Franklin Way, Apt 306
Raleigh, NC 27606
2/19, 2/26, 3/5, and 3/12/2026

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File No: 26E000137-310

Having qualified as ADMINISTRATOR CTA of the Estate of FRANCES A. MARCHBANK, deceased, late of Durham County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons, firms, and corporations having claims against the Estate to present them to the undersigned, in writing, at the address shown below, on or before May 20, 2026, or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery.

All persons indebted to the decedent or the Estate are requested to make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This the 19th day of February, 2026.

Elizabeth A. Brown, Administrator
CTA
c/o Law Office of Anne Page Watson
3400 Croasdaile Drive, Suite 205
Durham, NC 27705
2/19, 2/26, 3/5, and 3/12/2026

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION

FILE NO.: 26CV000928-310
Juan Carlos Morales Barrios v. Margarita Isabel Morales Barrios & Miguel Benites de la Cruz

To: Miguel Benites de la Cruz
Take Notice that a Complaint has been filed against you in the Civil Action described above, in the General Court of Justice, District Court Division, by the Plaintiff herein, the nature of which is as follows: The Complaint seeks an Order of Permanent Custody of your minor child, Yasmin Luisa Morales Barrios. You are required to file an Answer including any defenses to this pleading within forty (40) days from the date of first publication of this Notice with the Clerk of Court of Mecklenburg County. If you fail to do so, you may not receive further notices, and the plaintiff will seek the relief sought herein.

Publication begins this is the 16th day of February 2026.

Yesenia L. Polanco-Galdamez, Attorney for Plaintiff
411 Andrews Road, Suite 130
Durham, NC 27705 (919) 294-8032
Published February 19, February 26, and March 05, 2025.

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

DURHAM COUNTY

SMALL CLAIMS

In The General Court of Justice,
District Court Division
FILE NO: 26CV001718-310
HERNANDEZ RUIZ SERVICES LLC,
Plaintiff v. UNKNOWN OWNER,
Defendant

TO UNKNOWN OWNER, VIN: 1FTCF15Y2GNA53327 (1986 FORD F150): TAKE NOTICE that a Small Claims action has been filed against you by Hernandez Ruiz Services LLC regarding a motor vehicle left for repairs and not claimed. You are required to appear before a Magistrate in Durham County as follows:

Date: Friday, March 27, 2026
Time: 2:00 PM
Location: 3rd Floor Magistrates
Durham County Courthouse
510 S. Dillard Street
Durham, North Carolina 27701

If you fail to appear and defend against the claim, judgment may be entered against you. This the 19th day of February 2026.

Hernandez Ruiz Services LLC
3929 Gorman Church Rd
Durham, NC 27703
(919) 452-1090
Harriett70@hotmail.com
2/19, 2/26, and 3/5/2026

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File No: 25E001341-310

Having qualified as EXECUTOR, ADMINISTRATOR of the Estate of NELLIE RUTH BURROUGHS, deceased, late of Durham County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons, firms, and corporations having claims against the Estate to present them to the undersigned, in writing, at the address shown below, on or before May 13, 2026, or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery.

All persons indebted to the decedent or the Estate are requested to make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This the 12th day of February, 2026.

Albert Burroughs Jr.
Executor, Administrator
c/o The Law Offices of Gregory Reynald Williams, PLLC
2232 Page Road, Suite 203
Durham, NC 27703
2/12, 2/19, 2/26, and 3/5/2026

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File No: 26E000119-310

Having qualified as ADMINISTRATOR of the Estate of STELLA WEBB, deceased, late of Durham County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons, firms, and corporations having claims against the Estate to present them to the undersigned, in writing, at the address shown below, on or before May 13, 2026, or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery.

All persons indebted to the decedent or the Estate are requested to make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This the 12th day of February, 2026.

Renee Lyons, Administrator
c/o DSR Legal
P.O. Box 51596
Durham, NC 27717
(919) 533-2441
2/12, 2/19, 2/26, and 3/5/2026

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

File No: 26E000117-310
THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 6th day of February 2026, as Executor of the ESTATE OF GENE MORGAN PRESSON, 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 May 13, 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 12th day of February, 2026.

JOSHUA NOVAK, EXECUTOR
ESTATE OF GENE MORGAN PRESSON
c/o Jennifer Dalman, Attorney
Walker Lambe, PLLC
Post Office Box 51549

Durham, North Carolina 27717
2/12, 2/19, 2/26, and 3/5/2026

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File No: 24E002561-310

Having qualified as EXECUTOR of the Estate of THOMAS WAYNE MURRAY, deceased, late of Durham County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons, firms, and corporations having claims against the Estate to present them to the undersigned, in writing, at the address shown below, on or before May 13, 2026, or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery.

All persons indebted to the decedent or the Estate are requested to make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This the 12th day of February, 2026.

Danny Murray, Executor
3217 Bahama Rd.
Bahama, NC 27503
2/12, 2/19, 2/26, and 3/5/2026

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File No: 26E000091-310

Having qualified as EXECUTOR of the Estate of BOBBY WALLACE GOSS, deceased, late of Durham County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons, firms, and corporations having claims against the Estate to present them to the undersigned, in writing, at the address shown below, on or before May 13, 2026, or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery.

All persons indebted to the decedent or the Estate are requested to make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This the 12th day of February, 2026.

Eva Lynn Sigmon, Executor
3240 Pleasant Green Road
Durham, NC 27705
2/12, 2/19, 2/26, and 3/5/2026

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF YOLONDA LAWRENCE
FILE NO. 25E001474-310

All persons, firms and corporations having claims against Yolonda Lawrence, deceased, of Durham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before May 19, 2026 or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 19th day of February, 2026 . Ayana Simon, Executor C/O Midtown Legal Group P.O. Box 18175
Raleigh, NC 27619.
2/12, 2/19, 2/26, and 3/5/2026

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

File No: 25E001433-310
THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 11th day of December, 2025, as Administrator CTA of the ESTATE OF PAULA TERRY THOMPSON, 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 May 8, 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 5th day of February, 2026.

Juanita T. Rose, Administrator CTA
Estate Of Paula Terry Thompson
c/o Shirley M. Diefenbach, Attorney
Walker Lambe, PLLC
Post Office Box 51549
Durham, North Carolina 27717
2/5, 2/12, 2/19, and 2/26/2026

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File No: 13E001332-310

Having qualified as ADMINISTRATOR of the Estate of OTIS REID PULLEY, deceased, late of Durham County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons, firms, and corporations having claims against the Estate to present them to the undersigned, in writing, at the address shown below, on or before May 5, 2026, or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery.

All persons indebted to the decedent or the Estate are requested to make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This the 5th day of February, 2026.

Vincent Michael Micelotta, Executor of the Estate of Marjorie Huit Hawkins
c/o Lori M. Bernstein, Attorney at Law
2726 Croasdaile Dr. Suite 202
Durham, North Carolina 27705
2/5, 2/12, 2/19, and 2/26/2026

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File No: 26E000073-310

Having qualified as EXECUTOR of the Estate of MARLOW P. SEVERIN, deceased, late of Durham County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons, firms, and corporations having claims against the Estate to present them to the undersigned, in writing, at the address shown below, on or before May 5, 2026, or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery.

All persons indebted to the decedent or the Estate are requested to make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This the 5th day of February, 2026.

Judit Benedek, Execurix, c/o Richard F. Prentis, Jr., 4 Consultant

2026.
Georgina Nicole Moreno
Administrator
404 Idlewood Drive
Durham NC 27703
2/5, 2/12, 2/19, and 2/26/2026

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File No: 26E000106-310

Having qualified as ADMINISTRATOR of the Estate of CURTIS G. DAYE, deceased, late of Durham County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons, firms, and corporations having claims against the Estate to present them to the undersigned, in writing, at the address shown below, on or before May 5, 2026, or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery.

All persons indebted to the decedent or the Estate are requested to make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This the 5th day of February, 2026.

Carla Alston Daye, Administrator
12603 Hampton Rd.
Rougemont, NC 27572
2/5, 2/12, 2/19, and 2/26/2026

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

File No: 25E001576-310
Having qualified as Administrator of the Estate of DAVID JUNIOR DOWDY, deceased, late of Durham County, North Carolina, the undersigned Administrator does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the Estate of said decedent to present such claims to Stella Jones at 215 Omega Road, Durham, NC 27712 on or before the 7th day of May, 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 Estate.

This, the 5th day of February 2026.

Stella Jones
215 Omega Road
Durham, NC 27712
C. Terrell Thomas, Jr.
Kirk, Kirk, Howell, Cutler & Thomas
Post Office Box 729
Wendell, NC 27591
Attorney for the Estate
(919) 365-6000

2/5, 2/12, 2/19, and 2/26/2026

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File No: 26E000090-310

Having qualified as EXECUTOR of the Estate of WILLIAM WITT, JR., deceased, late of Durham County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons, firms, and corporations having claims against the Estate to present them to the undersigned, in writing, at the address shown below, on or before May 5, 2026, or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery.

All persons indebted to the decedent or the Estate are requested to make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This the 5th day of February, 2026.

Larissa Witt Griffiths, Executor
1616 Kent St.
Durham, NC 27707
2/5, 2/12, 2/19, and 2/26/2026

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

File No: 26E000092-310
ALL PERSONS, firms and corporations having claims against MARJORIE HUITT HAWKINS, deceased, of Durham County, N.C., are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before 5-6-2026, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This 2-5-2026.

Vincent Michael Micelotta, Executor of the Estate of Marjorie Huit Hawkins
c/o Lori M. Bernstein, Attorney at Law
2726 Croasdaile Dr. Suite 202
Durham, North Carolina 27705
2/5, 2/12, 2/19, and 2/26/2026

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File No: 26E000081-310

Having qualified as EXECUTRIX of the Estate of CHARLES JOSEPH OFSONKA, deceased, late of Durham County, North Carolina, this is to 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 May 6, 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 5th day of February, 2026.

Jeffrey L. Austin
Public Administrator
500 Westover Dr. #32043
Sanford, NC 27330
2/5, 2/12, 2/19, and 2/26/2026

DURHAM COUNTY

Pl., Durham, NC 27707
2/5, 2/12, 2/19, and 2/26/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
File Number 26E000089-310
ALL PERSONS, firms and corporations having claims against LINDA ANN NEAL-NYANGENA A/K/A LINDA ANN NEAL, deceased, of Durham, Durham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before April 30, 2026, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the Decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This 29th day of January, 2026. Carima Eticha Neal, Administrator, c/o Caroline B. Denning, Esq., Womble Bond Dickinson (US) LLP, 555 Fayetteville Street, Suite 1100, Raleigh, NC 27601.
1/29, 2/5, 2/12, and 2/19/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
26E000062-310
ALL PERSONS, firms and corporations having claims against LOTTIE MAE WALTON, of Durham County, N.C., are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before April 30, 2026, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 29th day of January, 2026. Lisa Bullard
1502 Pomona Drive
Durham, NC 27707
1/29, 2/5, 2/12, and 2/19/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File Number 26E000063-310
THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 14th day of January 2026, as EXECUTOR of the Estate of ROBERT BRADSHAW JONES, SR., 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 30th day of April, 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 29th day of January, 2026.
Nichole J. DeWeese, Executor
212 Smith Dr.
Durham, NC 27712
1/29, 2/5, 2/12, and 2/19/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File Number 26E000044-310
THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 14th day of January 2026, as ADMINISTRATOR of the Estate of PETER ALAN LODEWICK, 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 30th day of April, 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 29th day of January, 2026.
Victoria A. Lodewick, Administrator
c/o Law Office of Anne Page Watson, 3400 Croasdaile Drive, Suite 205, Durham, NC 27705.
1/29, 2/5, 2/12, and 2/19/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File Number 26E000024-310
THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 6th day of January 2026, as EXECUTOR of the Estate of SHARON J. SABRAW, 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 30th day of April, 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 29th day of January, 2026.
John Collier Sabraw II, Executor
74 S. Shannon Ave.
Athens, OH 45701
1/29, 2/5, 2/12, and 2/19/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File Number 24E002018-310
THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 9th day of August 2024, as ADMINISTRATOR of the Estate of CAROL JEAN MORRISON, 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 30th day of April, 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 29th day of January, 2026.
Calvin Morrison, Administrator
3820 Vesta Dr.
Raleigh, NC 27603
1/29, 2/5, 2/12, and 2/19/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File Number 25E001416-310
THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 6th day of January 2026, as CO-EXECUTORS of the Estate of HELEN R. GAMBLE, 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 30th day of April, 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 29th day of January, 2026.
Janie V. Harrell, Co-Executor
1915 Southview Road
Durham, NC 27703
Frances R. Mizzell, Co-Executor
2901 Blue Grass Lane
Decatur, GA 30034
1/29, 2/5, 2/12, and 2/19/2026

GRANVILLE COUNTY

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
GRANVILLE COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File No.: 26E000058-380
Having qualified as ADMINISTRATOR of the Estate of PHILLIP WARREN, III, deceased, late of Granville County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons, firms, and corporations having claims against the Estate to present them to the undersigned, in writing, at the address shown below, on or before May 20, 2026, or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery.

All persons indebted to the decedent or the Estate are requested to make immediate payment to the undersigned. This the 19th day of February, 2026.
Marquitta A. Warren, Administrator
c/o John W. Perry, Attorneys at Law
PERRY, PERRY & PERRY, P.A.
601 Fayetteville Street, Suite 300
Durham, NC 27701
2/19, 2/26, 3/5, and 3/12/2026

ONSLOW COUNTY

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
ONSLOW COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File No: 25E002681-660
Having qualified as Administrator CTA of the Estate of PHILLIP GLENN CHRISTMAN, deceased, late of Onslow County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons, firms, and corporations having claims against the Estate to present them to the undersigned, in writing, at the address shown below, on or before May 5, 2026, or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery.

All persons indebted to the decedent or the Estate are requested to make immediate payment to the undersigned. This the 5th day of February, 2026.
Phillip Scott Christman
Administrator CTA
267 Pleasant Rd.
Griffin, GA 30224
2/5, 2/12, 2/19, and 2/26/2026

ORANGE COUNTY

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
ORANGE COUNTY
PUBLISHED NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Having qualified as

Administrator of the Estate of WILLIAM K. HICKS, JR., late of Chapel Hill, Orange County, North Carolina, (26E000065-670) the undersigned does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the estate of said decedent to exhibit them to the undersigned c/o The Banks Law Firm P.A., Winchester Place, Suite 110, 4309 Emperor Boulevard, Durham, North Carolina, 27703, on or before the 22nd day of May, 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 19th day of February, 2026.
Carol Brown, Executor of the Estate of William K. Hicks Jr.
David Tarbet, Attorney
The Banks Law Firm PA
4309 Emperor Blvd. Ste: 110
Durham, NC 27703
2/19, 2/26, 3/5, and 3/12/2026

WAKE COUNTY

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
WAKE COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File No.: 25E003185-910
Having qualified as EXECUTOR of the Estate of JOEL KELLY POWELL, deceased, late of Wake County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons, firms, and corporations having claims against the Estate to present them to the undersigned, in writing, at the address shown below, on or before May 20, 2026, or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery.

All persons indebted to the decedent or the Estate are requested to make immediate payment to the undersigned. This the 19th day of February, 2026.
Delissa Powell Gray Parilla, Executor
2836 Barrington Drive
Raleigh, NC 27610
2/19, 2/26, 3/5, and 3/12/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
WAKE COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File No: 25E002629-910
Having qualified as ADMINISTRATOR of the Estate of FRANCES MORRIS, deceased, late of Wake County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons, firms, and corporations having claims against the Estate to present them to the undersigned, in writing, at the address shown below, on or before May 20, 2026, or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery.

All persons indebted to the decedent or the Estate are requested to make immediate payment to the undersigned. This the 19th day of February, 2026.
Felicia Cooper, Administrator
4234 Triland Way
Cary, NC 27518
2/19, 2/26, 3/5, and 3/12/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
WAKE COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
ALL PERSONS, firms and corporations having claims against BARBARA ANN HINTON, deceased, of WAKE COUNTY, NC, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before March 12, 2026, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment.
This is the 19th day of February, 2026.
Sean C. Hinton, Administrator of the Estate, c/o MONROE JENKINS, PA
Post Office Box 12534
Durham, North Carolina 27709
2/19, 2/26, 3/5, and 3/12/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
WAKE COUNTY

NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION
File No. 25CV022844-910
CRYSTAL ANN BONE & JOSHUA BROUSSEAU, Plaintiffs VS TONY BROWNE & RONISHA CRUDUP, Defendants
TO DEFENDANTS: 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 Child Custody.

Further, take notice that this matter has been continued for hearing on April 13, 2026 at 9:00 a.m. at the Wake County Courthouse, Courtroom 2B, Raleigh, North Carolina.
You are required by law to appear and make defense to such pleading no later than 30 days after the first publication of this Notice. Upon your failure to do so, the Plaintiffs will seek the relief requested in the Complaint, and judgment for child custody may be

entered against you.
This, the 19th day of February, 2026.
Crystal Ann Bone & Joshua Brosseau, Plaintiffs
112 Griffin St.
Garner, NC 27529
2/19, 2/26, and 3/5/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
WAKE COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
The undersigned, having qualified on the 27th day of January, 2026 as Personal Representative of the Estate of ANITA DAVIS PEARSON. (25E002191-910), deceased, this is to notify all persons, firms, and corporations having claims against said Estate that they must present them to the undersigned at 554 New Bern Avenue, Raleigh, NC 27610 on or before May 12, 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 12th day of February 2026.
Megan Pearson-Mason, Personal Representative of the Estate of Anita Davis Pearson
554 New Bern Ave.
Raleigh, NC 27610
2/12, 2/19, 2/26, and 3/5/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
WAKE COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File No: 25E005002-910
Having qualified as ADMINISTRATOR of the Estate of MARY SANDRA GREEN, deceased, late of Wake County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons, firms, and corporations having claims against the Estate to present them to the undersigned, in writing, at the address shown below, on or before May 13, 2026, or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery.

All persons indebted to the decedent or the Estate are requested to make immediate payment to the undersigned. This the 12th day of February, 2026.
Terri Green Wagner, Administrator
341 S. Walker St.
Cary, NC 27511
2/12, 2/19, 2/26, and 3/5/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
WAKE COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File No: 26E000098-910
Having qualified as EXECUTOR of the Estate of FRANCES ADER READ, deceased, late of Wake County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons, firms, and corporations having claims against the Estate to present them to the undersigned, in writing, at the address shown below, on or before May 13, 2026, or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery.

All persons indebted to the decedent or the Estate are requested to make immediate payment to the undersigned. This the 12th day of February, 2026.
Henry M. Read Jr., Executor
3092 Main Street, P.O. BOX 507
Walkertown, NC 27051
2/12, 2/19, 2/26, and 3/5/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
WAKE COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File No: 25E003437-910
Having qualified as EXECUTOR of the Estate of MARGARET A. MORGAN, deceased, late of Wake County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons, firms, and corporations having claims against the Estate to present them to the undersigned, in writing, at the address shown below, on or before May 13, 2026, or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery.

All persons indebted to the decedent or the Estate are requested to make immediate payment to the undersigned. This the 12th day of February, 2026.
Rebecca Ashley Russell, Executor
2150 Carpenter Upchurch Road
Cary, NC 27519
2/12, 2/19, 2/26, and 3/5/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
WAKE COUNTY

NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION
In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File No: 25CV039346-910
To: DEBRA D. POOLE
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 a defense to such pleading no later than March 24, 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, DEWEY O. HEDGEPTH, will apply to the court for the relief sought.

This, the 12th day of February, 2026.
Dewey O. Hedgepeth, Plaintiff
530 June Lane
Raleigh, NC 27610
2/12, 2/19, and 2/26/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
WAKE COUNTY

NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION
In the District Court Division
File No. #25CV037546-910
To: CINDY CARYLE JEREW, 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 Complaint for Divorce and Equitable Distribution. You are required to make a defense to such pleading no later than March 17, 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, MICHAEL JEREW, will apply to the court for the relief sought.
This, the 8th day of January, 2026.
Michael Jerew, Plaintiff
c/o New Direction Family Law
150 Fayetteville St., Suite 500,
Raleigh, NC 27601
2/5, 2/12, and 2/19/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
WAKE COUNTY

NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION
In the District Court Division
File No. 25CV007590-910
To: STACI BYRD
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 a defense to such pleading no later than March 17, 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, JAMES STREET III, will apply to the court for the relief sought.

This, the 5th day of February, 2026.
James Street III, Plaintiff

623 Pony Club Circle
Cary, NC 27519
2/5, 2/12, and 2/19/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF WAKE

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File No: 25E002109-910
Having qualified as Administrator of the Estate of MAY SADAK, deceased, late of Wake County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons, firms, and corporations having claims against the Estate to present them to the undersigned, in writing, at the address shown below, on or before April 30, 2026, or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery.


All persons indebted to the decedent or the Estate are requested to make immediate payment to the undersigned.
This the 27 day of January, 2026.
Fida Sadak Nehme, Administrator
4020 Woodbine RD
Raleigh, NC 27612
1/29, 2/5, 2/12, and 2/19/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
WAKE COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File Number 25E004552-910
THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 5th day of January 2026, as EXECUTOR of the Estate of JAMES LOVELACE BULLOCK, 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 30th day of April, 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 29th day of January, 2026.
Bethel Clay Bullock, Executor
2521 Sweetgum Drive
Apex, NC 27539
1/29, 2/5, 2/12, and 2/19/2026

Submit your bid, job and recruitment advertising to ads@caro.news

PAYING CASH AND BUYING OLD CASSETTE TAPES CALL MARVIN 919-268-7476 OR EMAIL ME AT WYCHEMARVIN4@GMAIL.COM


ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS
The North Carolina Department of Adult Correction has the following contract in Gaston County out for bid:
C- 11835 Gaston CC Modular Medical Office. The bid opening is scheduled for: Thursday, 03/12/2026. To obtain the Notice to Bidders, any Pre-Bid Requirements, and any Addenda visit: North Carolina Department of Adult Correction (RE-ADVERTISEMENT) • eVP

D/M/WBE SUBCONTRACTORS/SUPPLIERS WANTED
T. A. Loving Company (NC General Contractor License No. 325) is seeking certified DBE subcontractors and suppliers for the following projects that bid for NCDOT:
Bid Date: 02/24/2026 at 2:00 PM
Project: Replace Bridge #219 Over Aycock Swamp in Wayne County (Division 4)
Plans and specifications are available for inspection at the following locations: TA Loving Company, NC DOT Division office.
Potential subcontracting opportunities include but are not limited to surveying, demolition, clearing and grubbing, hauling, asphalt paving, striping, traffic control, earthwork, erosion control, and seeding.
Please contact Justin E. Hill at our office as soon as possible if you are interested in submitting a proposal on any portion(s) of this project. Quotes may be emailed to Justin E. Hill - jehill@taloving.com. All quotations will be accepted up to the bid closing time of the bid date. Our address, phone number, and fax number is as follows.
T. A. Loving Company PO Box 919 Goldsboro, NC 27533 919-734-8400 (phone) 919-736-2148 (fax).
TA Loving Company is an Equal Opportunity Employer

Sports

Part 1: Black Coaches In Pursuit Of The NCAA Football Championship Have Just One More Bridge To Cross



R to L: Marcus Freeman (Notre Dame), Terry Smith (Penn State), Tim Skipper (UCLA), Sherrone Moore (University of Michigan), Deion Sanders (University of Colorado), Tony Elliott (University of Virginia), Mike Locksley (University of Maryland), Fran Brown (Syracuse University), Willie Jeffries (Wichita State University)

By Al-Tony Gilmore

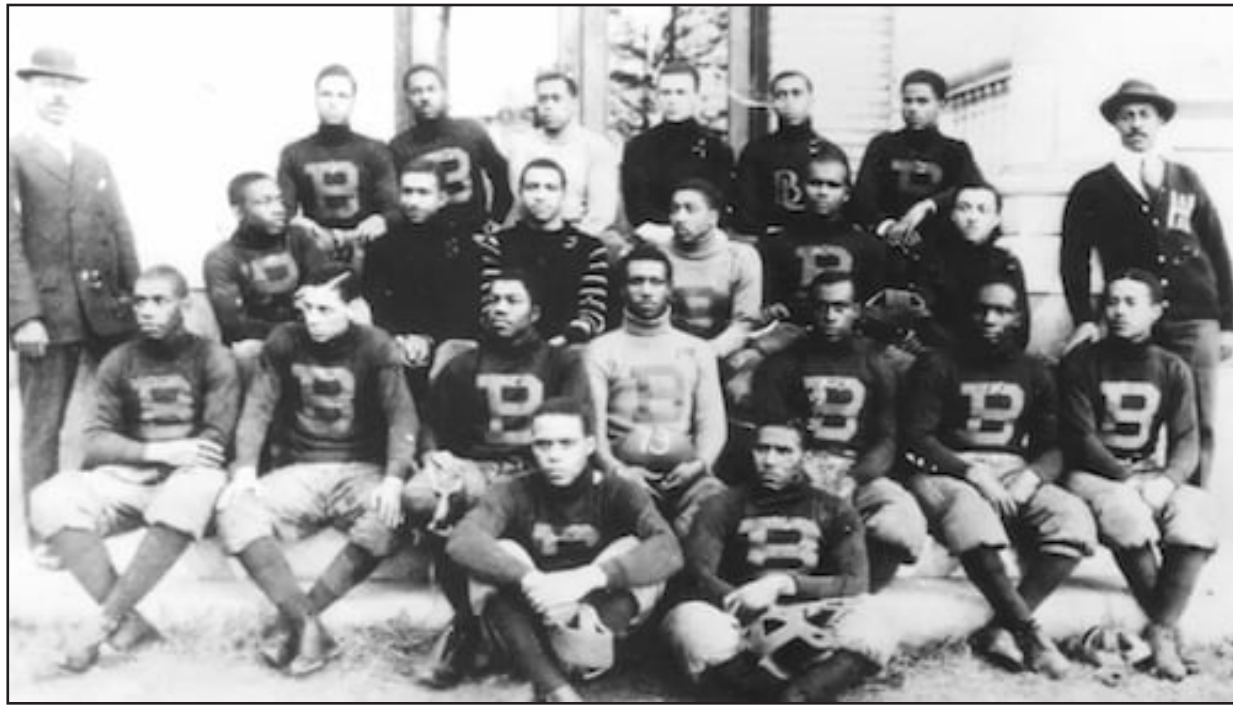
The Journal of Blacks in Higher Education

A Black coach has never won the NCAA Division I college football championship. It is the one collegiate major sports title that has been elusive for Black coaches, clearly because so few have been positioned to win the coveted crown. The prerequisite is more than just being hired as a head football coach, it is about being hired as head coach at schools with the most competitive programs.

Schools from the Power 5 athletic conferences – Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC), Big 10 Conference, Southeast Conference (SEC), Big-12 Conference, and Pac-12 Conference – are decidedly more advantaged because of their disproportionate share of the stronger teams, top recruited athletes, state-of-the-art facilities, and the enormous flow of revenue required to maintain a competitive edge.

The University of Notre Dame's football program is the single exception, being an independent school with affiliation, but no membership, in an athletic conference. It compensates by having a prestigious brand identity; the financial resources generated by the program; the consistent high quality of players on the roster; and the scheduling of games with the nation's most formidable teams. All combine to position it well for the national title.

The conferences of mid-major football schools such as the Mid-American, Mountain West, Sun Belt, Conference USA, and the American Conference, have some possibility of making the NCAA football playoffs because of the widening of the playoff field to 12 teams. Realistically, however, the chances are slight regardless of how well those teams perform over the season, because the 13-member selection committee gives automatic



1892 BIDDLE COLLEGE FOOTBALL TEAM

bids to the five highest-ranked conference champions with the four highest of those teams receiving a first-round bye.

The remaining selections favor schools from the Power 5 conferences, those having posted outstanding seasons but falling short of winning conference titles. That leaves maybe one and no more than two slots for mid-major conference schools whose most compelling case would be to have an undefeated season or one-loss record, preferably with a win over one of the better teams from the stronger football conferences. Such a scenario will be infrequent though not impossible.

While Black athletes make up nearly half of all NCAA Division I football players, there are currently only 16 Black head coaches at NCAA Divi-

sion I schools, representing just 12.3 percent of the head coaches at the 130-member institutions. Of those coaches, half are at either Power 5 conference schools or Notre Dame: Marcus Freeman (Notre Dame); Terry Smith (Penn State); Tim Skipper (UCLA); Sherrone Moore (Michigan); Deion Sanders (Colorado); Tony Elliott (Virginia); Mike Locksley (Maryland) and Fran Brown (Syracuse). The others are at the mid-major conferences: Willie Simmons (Florida International); Jay Norvell (Colorado State); Lance Taylor (Western Michigan); Derrick Mason (Middle Tennessee); Kenni Burns (Kent State); Charles Huff (Southern Mississippi); Jerry Mack (Kennesaw State); and Thomas Hammock (Northern Illinois).

Last season Marcus Freeman be-

came the first African American serving as head coach to reach the national championship game, but his Notre Dame team lost to Ohio State. Noticeably as a sign of racial progress in collegiate sports, the pre-game media did not focus on the significance of what Freeman would have accomplished with a win, and Freeman to his credit downplayed that angle to the game by adroitly shifting the conversation away from himself and towards his team and staff.

At the professional and collegiate levels, by 2025, Black coaches had virtually wiped away all malicious and race-based claims of an inability to win national titles, having won the World Series, NBA Championship, Super Bowl, and the NCAA basketball (men and women), soccer, tennis (men and women), and track and field championships (men and women), and having trained and coached well over 100 Olympic champions. It did not happen overnight. Rather it came in incremental steps, some more strenuous and challenging than others. But largely absent in the conversation are the triumphs and travails of early Black coaches and their efforts to level the playing field of athletic

competition; to transform the lives of student athletes; to prove their coaching prowess; to remind America of the meaning of fair play and sportsmanship; to bench Jim Crow; to compete for national championships; and to assist in eliminating racism from both athletic competition and ultimately the American way of life.

In 2019, on the 150th anniversary of college football, ESPN unveiled its list of the 150 all-time greatest college football coaches. To its credit, eight of those coaches were from HBCUs and most coached during the segregation era. There should have been more and arguably some should be ranked higher, but the fact that ESPN considered their contributions in the context of the limitations placed on their coaching options makes the credibility of the list more plausible. They could only pursue national HBCU titles and none were considered for coaching vacancies at PWIs.

In ranking order they were: #5 Eddie Robinson, Grambling, 9 national titles; #53 Alonzo "Jake" Gaither, Florida A&M, 6 national titles; #71 John Merritt, Jackson State and Tennessee State, 7 national titles; #103 Billy Nicks, Morris Brown and Prairie View, 6 national titles; #113 Vernon "Skip" McCain, Maryland State, #122 Marino Casem, Alabama State, Alcorn and Southern; 4 national titles #143 Earl "Tiger" Banks, Morgan State, and #145 W.C. Gordon, Jackson State. To those more informed on the history of HBCU football, two names were conspicuously absent from the ESPN list: Henry Kean, Kentucky State and Tennessee State, 6 national titles, and Eddie Hurt, Morgan State, 6 national titles and a 54-game streak without a loss.

Winning an NCAA Division I championship in any sport is prestigious and widely acclaimed, though until Willie Jeffries was hired as head coach at Wichita State in 1979, no Black coach had been hired as head football coach of a PWI Division I school. However, Wichita State, a school in the Missouri Valley Conference, was not a power conference school. Two years later, Dennis Green became head coach at Northwestern, a Power conference school, becoming the first Black coach positioned to win the NCAA title.

Before Jeffries, however, it is important to note that there were several Blacks appointed head coaches in other sports at PWIs, among them John McLendon (basketball, Cleveland State, 1966); Nell Jackson (track, Illinois, 1970); Fred Snowden (basketball, Arizona State, 1972); John Thompson (basketball, Georgetown, 1972); George Raveling (basketball, Washington State, 1972); and Marian Washington (basketball, Kansas, 1973).

Black coaches at HBCUs were uniformly denied opportunities to compete for national championships sanctioned by the NCAA, the anomaly being Howard in 1974 when it won the NCAA soccer crown under Lincoln Phillips becoming the first HBCU to win a NCAA Division I national championship. However, beginning in the mid-1930s and through the 1950s there were some extraordinary opportunities and results at the lower athletic levels such as the NAIA (National Athletic Intercollegiate Association) and the AAU (Amateur Athletic Union). Tuskegee Institute's women's track team, coached by Christine Petty and Cleve Abbott, won the integrated AAU national track championship meet 14 times between 1937 and 1951.

With the fractional exception of track and field and the AAU, during segregation all Black collegiate head coaches were at HBCUs and limited to winning mythical "Negro" national championships determined by the outcome of games between teams selected by Black sports journalists of newspapers such as the Chicago Defender and the Pittsburgh Courier (which additionally selected an annual HBCU All-American football team). As was to be expected – because the best teams chosen by one newspaper were not always the same as the other – there were several years when two or more HBCUs would lay claim to being the national Negro football champion. One school, Florida A&M, became so obsessed with its self-acclaimed football superiority that it invited what it considered to be the best HBCU opponent to its Orange Blossom Classic game, with the winner being arbitrarily declared the national champion.

(Part 2 In Next Week's Edition)



Team 23XI Wins Daytona 500

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. (AP) — Michael Jordan, six-time NBA champion, is now a Daytona 500 winner, too.

Tyler Reddick won "The Great American Race" on Sunday with a last-lap pass at Daytona International Speedway that sent Jordan into a frantic celebration. The NBA Hall of Famer bear-hugged Reddick in victory lane and then jointly hoisted the Harley J. Earl trophy with the 23XI Racing driver.

Jordan, who turns 63 on Tuesday, will get a Daytona 500 ring for

his birthday and made it known in victory lane he wears a size 13.

"It feels like I won a championship, but until I get my ring, I won't even know," Jordan said.

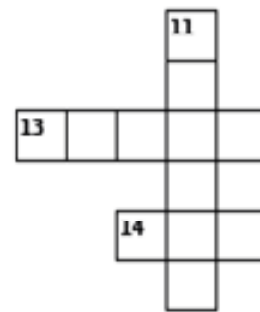
The moment captured the message team co-owner Denny Hamlin — who finished 31st in Sunday's bid to become the third driver in history to win four Daytona 500s — delivered to 23XI employees in a team meeting ahead of NASCAR's season opener.

"He loves his race team," Hamlin said, adding he reminded the team of the fulfillment they saw in

Jordan when Reddick won at Talladega in 2024. "I was like 'You know, you guys understand the responsibilities you have, that you have the power to bring joy to Michael Jordan. You have that power and nobody else can do it.'

"There's nothing else that can bring him the joy that seeing what his team can do and they took it to heart."

Reddick, in a Toyota, led only one lap Sunday: the one to the checkered flag. He was the 25th different driver to lead a lap for a new Daytona 500 record.



The NFL Hires Zero Black Coaches For 2026 Season

By Jheri Hardaway

Staff Writer

Despite 10 head coaching vacancies this year, no Black head coaches were hired. The only person of color hired for a head coaching role during this 2026 cycle was Robert Saleh, who is of Lebanese descent and was hired by the Tennessee Titans.

We checked in with NFL Network commentator and former Assistant GM Marc Ross for his perspective, "Painfully disappointing. All the initiatives over the years have proven to have no effect. Plenty of quality



candidates but they just are not prioritized while white candidates even with little experience are given benefits. Bottom line you can't make the 32 owners do something they don't want to do."

With the recent departure of legendary coach Mike Tomlin, who stepped down from the Steelers after 19 seasons, and the firing of Raheem Morris (Falcons) and Mike McDaniell (Dolphins), the number of Black head coaches in the league has dropped to just three: DeMeco Ryans (Houston Texans), Todd Bowles (Tampa Bay Buccaneers), Aaron Glenn (New York Jets).

Across

1. Nickname of Rocky Mount Baseball legend
5. NFL Defensive powerhouse Julius
6. Winston Salem native, Pro Football HOF Carl
7. Female Olympic Track & Field Superstar Marion
10. "Bonecrusher" Smith's first name
13. NDA Jumpshooting game changer Steph
14. He broke the PGA color line, last name Sifford

Down

2. Ms Smith shares a name with her former team
3. Nickname of Legendary Track Coach George Williams
4. Basketball G.O.A.T Michael
5. National Soccer Hall of Fame member Eddie
8. NC State, WMBA Basketball Superstar Andrea
9. UNC to NBA to NASCAR, Brad
11. Big Game James
12. A Chris who recently announced retirement