

JOIN US IN CELEBRATING

# BLACK HISTORY MONTH



Business .....	P. 3
Health .....	P. 5
Arts .....	P. 6
Community .....	P. 7
Church .....	P. 8
Classifieds .....	P. 10-11

# The Carolinian

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

\$1.00

Dedicated to the Spirit and Service of God

RALEIGH, N.C.

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*We Honor You  
Rev. Jesse Louis Jackson, Sr.*

## Black Newspapers Struggle To Survive Across The U.S.

By Jordan Meadows

Staff Writer

Another pillar of the Black Press has fallen.

In February, the Richmond Free Press announced it would cease publication after 34 years, sending shockwaves through Virginia's Black political, civic, and business communities. Founded in 1992 by Jean Patterson Boone and her late husband Raymond H. Boone Sr., the free weekly had long served as a watchdog, community bulletin, and cultural record for Richmond's Black residents.

Its closure follows the recent shutdown of The Scanner in Oregon, which folded after more than 50 years in operation. Both publications cited declining advertising revenue, a hostile political and economic climate, and mounting digital challenges that failed to replace lost print dollars.

Their demise is not isolated. It is part of a troubling national pattern, one hitting Black-owned newspapers especially hard.

"The Black newspaper exists, and thousands of people are reading it," said Paul Jervay, son of Paul Jervay Sr. and longtime publisher of The Carolinian. "So when you make a statement in a Black newspaper,

thousands of Black folks are privy to what you just said. And if it's a movement—civil rights movement—it's even more magnified. None of that happens without it."

The Black Press has long been a stabilizing and defiant force in American life. It began in 1827 with Freedom's Journal in New York, created to counter racist coverage in white-owned newspapers and to advocate for abolition and Black citizenship. After the Civil War, as newly freed African Americans claimed literacy and a political voice, Black newspapers proliferated across the South and beyond.

In North Carolina, that growth was especially pronounced: by the 1880s and 1890s, more than 30 African American newspapers had launched in the state. They shifted their focus from slavery to religion, politics, education, literature, and civic life, reporting the news through the eyes of Black journalists for Black readers. These publications documented Reconstruction, exposed racial violence, championed civil rights legislation, and preserved the everyday milestones of community life.

"Not only does it show what the community is thinking, but when you deal with someone like Jesse Jackson—a national icon—you don't



have that figure without a Black newspaper," Jervay said. "You can position a national figure in such a manner with a Black newspaper that Americans have to recognize it. Because they feel that thousands of Black folks are behind that individual. It's not just Jesse Jackson; it's the national Black community."

North Carolina has long been home to some of the nation's most enduring Black newspapers, including The Star of Zion, established in 1876 and still in produc-

tion today; The Carolina Times; The Carolinian; Carolina Peacemaker; The Charlotte Post; and the Winston-Salem Chronicle. Historically Black colleges and universities across the state also produced campus newspapers.

Yet since the COVID-19 pandemic, the losses have accelerated. In 2020, after the death of publisher Kenneth Edmonds, The Carolina Times ceased publication after 93 years, reducing Durham's legacy Black-owned newspapers from two to one.

In Wilmington, The Wilmington Journal stopped printing in 2021 following the death of longtime editor Mary Alice Jervay Thatch. The Journal's roots stretch back to 1927 and are deeply tied to the aftermath of the 1898 white supremacist coup in Wilmington, when a racist mob destroyed The Daily Record, then billed as the only Black daily newspaper in the world.

Today, only about 10 Black media outlets—print, digital, and radio—serve the entire state of North Carolina, according to UNC's Center for Innovation and Sustainability in Local Media.

Nationally, the crisis is even more stark: 136 newspapers closed in the past year alone. Since 2005, the United States has lost nearly 3,500 newspapers and more than 270,000 newspaper jobs. Daily newspaper circulation has fallen from 50–60 million at the turn of the century to just over 15 million today. Roughly 50 million Americans now live in "news deserts," areas with little to no reliable local news coverage.

According to leaders within the National Newspaper Publishers Association, more than 200 of its 250 member outlets are currently in financial distress. After the murder of George Floyd in 2020, Black newspapers experienced a brief

surge in corporate and philanthropic support tied to diversity pledges. But by 2025, much of that momentum had faded. A 2024 U.S. Government Accountability Office report found that small disadvantaged businesses received just 14% of \$14.9 billion in federal advertising spending, with Black-owned media receiving the smallest portion of that limited share.

When a Black newspaper closes, it's not just the paper that disappears. It's a record of Black civic life. It's fewer reporters pressing officials on housing inequities, school funding, and voting rights. It's fewer archives preserving the everyday history of neighborhoods, churches, fraternities, sororities, and small businesses.

In Durham, entrepreneur Cary Wheelous launched Hayti, a Black-owned news and podcast app designed to aggregate content from Black publishers worldwide and bring Black media into the digital age. Nationally, more than 300 local news startups have launched in the past five years. Yet most are concentrated in metro areas, leaving rural and historically underserved Black communities vulnerable.

Jervay also highlighted the need for a multi-platform strategy to strengthen Black media.

# A Bipartisan Panel To Update NC Election Data Systems

By Jordan Meadows  
Staff Writer

nology Tuesday with the inaugural meeting of the Modernization of Election Data Systems (MEDS) Commission. Chaired by State Auditor Dave

Boliek, the 22-member bipartisan group is tasked with providing guidance and practical advice on modernizing the state's election management system and campaign finance reporting software. "The current system hasn't been updated since 1998—before the iPhone, social media, AI, and high-speed computers," Boliek said. "We know that now is the time to do this. An elected politician deciding to take on a technological change is a real risk. I take the job seriously: I want to actually do something to help the people of NC in a way that's transparent and effective." The commission includes elections officials from across the state,

political science experts, researchers, and representatives from advocacy organizations. Members include Derek Bowers, Durham County elections director; Michael Dickerson, North Carolina's longest-serving elections director; and political science professors Chris Cooper of Western Carolina University and Andy Jackson of Appalachian State University. At Tuesday's meeting, the commission reviewed a three-phase plan to modernize the Statewide Elections Information Management System (SEIMS), the backbone of the state's elections operations. SEIMS coordinates voter registration, election results reporting, and

daily operations for the State Board of Elections and 100 county boards. The commission will also assist with updates to North Carolina's campaign finance reporting system, which has been in place since the early 2000s. "The goal is to develop a secure, user-friendly system that meets the needs of voters, administrators, and candidates alike," Boliek said. "These updates should come with ideas and feedback from people who will be using these systems." Commission members discussed plans to evaluate vendor proposals, offer feedback on system functionality, recommend final plans, and monitor implementation. The hope

is that the modernized system will become a model for other states while reinforcing voter confidence in North Carolina elections. Jackson highlighted the importance of reliable election data, saying, "Providing accurate, timely information helps bolster public confidence in our elections. Some improvements we are considering include requiring election committees to submit digital reports and tracking them by election rather than by year or committee." The commission's work will unfold over the next two years, with modernization implemented in phases. Meetings are open to the public.



## Honoring 25 Years of the North Carolina Black Alliance Impact



RALEIGH, N.C. — What North Carolina Black Alliance (NCBA) has done in its 25 years, particularly its work to correct environmental injustices, was singled out this month when the Wake County Board of Commissioners approved a proclamation both recognizing Black History Month and saluting the organization for its fight to make things right for Black people.

"Addressing environmental injustice is essential to Wake County's vision to provide excellent public service through collaborative, inclusive and sustainable solutions that prioritize the well-being of our community and aligns with the county's core values of accountability, equity and nurturing health and wellness," Commissioner Shinica Thomas read. "North Carolina Black Alliance has long centered environmental justice as a core priority." Leading much of NCBA's work in environmental justice has been Jovita Lee, Ed.D., the organization's deputy director, who received the proclamation along with NCBA leader Marcus Bass and NCBA Wake County organizer Alicia Roberts; as well as Brad Thompson, a founding NCBA member and former Raleigh mayor pro tempore. The proclamation during Black History month provided an opportunity to showcase the approach to Black uplift NCBA takes every day. "This is a great place to live, a great place to work, and this soil, this land has been worked by African Americans for centuries," Bass said. "It has been all of us collectively that have made Wake County as vibrant as it is."

## Businesses, Conservatives Celebrate SCOTUS Ruling Striking Down Trump Admin's Tariffs

NC NEWSLINE — "When I saw [the news] I was like, is that real? Did that really happen? We're excited." Abigail Helberg Moffitt, the owner of Bloom WNC, said Friday's 6-3 U.S. Supreme Court ruling striking down President Donald Trump's sweeping tariffs was welcome news for her specialty cut-flower business in Black Mountain. The only supplier of the tulip bulbs that Helberg Moffitt grows is in the Netherlands. And the trade tariffs with that country added an additional \$7,000 in expense to her orders in 2025. She was just weeks away from having to pay that sum again for this year's bulb order. Even as the court ruled that the Executive Branch doesn't have the

power to impose taxes, it did not spell out whether businesses that have already paid the tariffs would be able to seek a refund. "I would love for that to be a consideration," said Helberg Moffitt. "We're still paying off the tariffs from last year. But I do think that's almost wishful thinking." A coalition of over 800 small businesses launched a national sign-on letter Friday that calls on the Trump administration and Congress to deliver "full, fast, and automatic" tariff refunds. "Today's Supreme Court decision is a tremendous victory for America's small businesses who have been bearing the crushing weight of these tariffs," said Dan Anthony, executive director of We Pay the Tariffs,

in a statement. "They've taken out loans just to keep their doors open. They've frozen hiring, canceled expansion plans, and watched their savings drain away to pay tariff bills that weren't in any budget or business plan." The Washington, DC-based group says the refunds would allow small businesses to hire more workers, expand operations, pay down debt and contribute to their local economies. Helberg Moffitt says there's still recovery work to do on her farm, nearly 18 months after Hurricane Helene ravaged western North Carolina. Not having to budget for more unpredictable tariffs will be a blessing as she plans for 2027. "I'm excited about the possibility of putting my order in March and

hopefully not having tariffs," Helberg Moffitt told NC Newsline. Friday's ruling is also being praised by the John Locke Foundation, a Raleigh-based conservative think tank. "These tariffs increased costs for families, disrupted supply chains, hurt North Carolina businesses, and triggered retaliation against our farmers and manufacturers," said Locke Foundation CEO Donald Bryson. "By rejecting this misuse of emergency authority, the Court has restored clear constitutional limits and reinforced that major economic policy must come from the legislative branch." It's estimated that North Carolina importers paid \$5.6 billion in tariffs from March 2025 to December 2025.

## NC College Gender Gap Longstanding & Growing

CAROLINA PUBLIC PRESS — Where are all the men? That's the question the James G. Martin Center for Academic Renewal is asking in its new policy brief analyzing enrollment data, which found that women outnumber men at every UNC Sys-

tem institution but one — not including the North Carolina School of Science and Math, which was not part of the analysis. The same trend holds true within the NC Community College system at large. The "gender gap" rings true for higher education in general, and it has since the 1980s, but has grown more pronounced over time. Where are all the men? That's the question the James G. Martin Center for Academic Renewal is asking in its new policy brief analyzing enrollment data, which found that women outnumber men at every UNC System institution but one — not including the North Carolina School of Science and Math, which was not part of the analysis.



More recently, 2024 analysis from the Pew Research Center showed 47% of U.S. women ages 25 to 34 have a bachelor's degree compared to 37% of men of the same age. Jenna Robinson, president of the Martin Center and co-author of the brief, told Carolina Public Press she was aware of the national enrollment trends happening on college campuses, but she didn't necessarily think it had existed in North Carolina for as long as it has. "We found what we expected — over the years, more women have been going to college than men,"

she said. "One thing I didn't expect, though, was that the imbalance goes back as far as it did. We collected data as far back as IPEDS has data broken down in this way. For as far back as you can go with these data, women have outnumbered men. I found that a little bit surprising." Why the gender gap in enrollment? The explanation for the disparity in enrollment at North Carolina colleges today is that men simply aren't applying at the same rates as women in the state. But the reason for boys' seemingly lesser interest in higher education is where much of the debate lies. "A gap in applications has existed for at least two decades, but it has notably widened in recent years," the brief reads. "In the 2024 academic year, 128,554 men applied for admission to a UNC System institution, while 201,877 women applied. It's not that large numbers of male applicants want to attend college and are turned away; they have a disproportionate lack of postsecondary interest from the start." Part of the problem is boys' current performance in K-12, Robinson said. They aren't graduating at the same rate as girls, and they don't score as well on the National Assessment of Educational Progress tests. But it also appears that boys and men just have different preferences. The brief suggests a "broken education system" in which classrooms are more conducive to female learning could be the root, pointing to research that says girls are more inclined to sit still for longer lengths of time and are less affected by shorter recess periods. Reading material also tends to cater to girls' interests more than boys', it says. When boys have experiences during their K-12 education that causes them to decide, for example, that they don't like sitting at a desk or prefer to work with their hands, that can result in the decision to opt out of college, Robinson said. But as long as they have other goals and a means of achieving them, that fact alone isn't necessarily cause for concern. "If they want to go into the military or become an entrepreneur and start working right away, and they have a good plan and a good path, then I would say that's not a problem," she said. "Having an imbalance on its own isn't a problem. But if this is a bigger 'failure to launch' problem for boys, then that is something we should be

**WE SUPPORT JAMES WHALEN!**

Chief Justice <b>Henry &amp; Shirley Frye</b>	Chief Justice <b>Burley B. Mitchell, Jr.</b>	Associate Justice <b>Patricia Timmons-Goodson</b>
Associate Justice <b>G.K. Butterfield</b>	Associate Justice <b>Bob Orr</b>	Congresswoman <b>Eva Clayton</b>

**Attorney James Whalen has the endorsements of the following organizations:**

Durham Committee on the Affairs of Black People	Bladen Improvement PAC
RWCA - Raleigh-Wake Citizens Association	Henderson-Vance Black Leadership PAC
The George C. Simkins, Jr. Memorial PAC	Pam's Picks
	Guilford County Community PAC

**JAMES WHALEN**  
FOR NORTH CAROLINA COURT OF APPEALS

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

**STIP PROJECT NO. HO-0001AA**

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

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

A virtual meeting will be held **6 -7:30 p.m. on Monday, March 9, 2026**. Interested residents can attend the meeting online or by phone to learn more about the pilot, ask questions and talk with NCDOT representatives. There will be a formal presentation beginning promptly at **6 p.m.**

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

People may also submit comments by phone, email or mail by **April 10, 2026** by contacting **NCDOT State Signal Equipment Engineer Keith Mims, PE at 919-814-4931; [kmmims@ncdot.gov](mailto:kmmims@ncdot.gov); or 1561 Mail Service Center in Raleigh.**

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

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

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

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(See COLLEGE GENDER GAP, P. 4)

# Business & Finance

## N.C. Considers Deregulating Certain Hair Care Services

NC NEWSLINE – Becoming a fully licensed cosmetologist in North Carolina takes 1,500 hours of studying hair, skin, and nail services – even if you just want to provide natural hair care.

Some community colleges are asking state lawmakers to consider lowering the number of required hours and creating lower-level licenses for certain services.

“To put this into perspective, to complete that program, a student would have to come 40 plus hours a week for nine months. It’s a full-time job,” said Heather Laws, Alamance Community College’s department head for cosmetology.

Laws told legislators that while some students want to earn the highest-tier license, the long hours simply don’t work for many. She said many are already working full-time while taking the courses at night, and some even sleep in their cars on their lunch break.

“We have single parents with children, and they’re trying to balance work and school, and all of the responsibilities of everyday life,” Laws



Sen. Natalie Murdock (D-Durham) (Photo: NCGA screen capture)

said “The 1,500-hour pathway is not a good fit for every student that just wants to do hair.”

Members of a joint legislative oversight committee reviewed a draft proposal earlier this month that would create a new hair designer license requiring 1,000 hours. The bill would create a clear distinction between

those who specialize in hair services and fully licensed cosmetologists who can also offer skin care, nail care, and certain chemical processes for treating hair. The bill would also eliminate a requirement of licensing apprentices.

Laws said the proposal would work well within the current community college structure while allowing stu-

dents to begin earning income more quickly.

More than 30 states don’t regulate natural hair care

Lynda Elliott, executive director of the North Carolina Board of Cosmetic Art Examiners, said she has no issue with the idea of a new hair designer license that could be earned more quickly.

But Elliott said she has real concerns about a proposal to certify people to provide natural hair care, like braids or locs, after only 10 hours of study in infection control. The current curriculum to become a licensed natural hair care specialist in North Carolina requires 300 or more hours of study.

Sen. Natalie Murdock (D-Durham) noted that 37 states have already deregulated natural hair care braiding. “Are there concerns that you’ve heard from those other states after they took that action?” asked Murdock.

Elliott said while few states have had any problems, many require annual continuing education to ensure the workers stay up with the standards.

“It sounds simple, but we have com-

municable diseases that actually do live within our industry,” said Elliott. “You have to understand that disinfectant is a pesticide. You have to protect yourself.”

Elliott said North Carolina has a large number of natural hair designers who do impeccable work, but don’t speak English and would struggle to pass a licensure exam or understand infection control standards.

“Certification could still be that option, but some type of formal educa-

tion needs to be provided as these services do pose health and safety risks,” Elliott warned.

Rep. Sarah Steven (R-Surry) suggested that as lawmakers consider modifying cosmetology, they also look at the requirements for barbers, who must train at least 1,528 hours and pass a state board exam to become licensed.

“I think we should perhaps look at that too, opening more opportunities for everybody to work,” said Stevens.

### Classifieds



#### 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

#### REQUEST FOR BID

##### REHAB OF 545 E. EDENTON ST.

The City of Raleigh will accept sealed, written bids for the rehabilitation of the property located at 545 E. Edenton Street, Raleigh, NC 27601 until March 27, 2026, at 1:00 p.m. (EST). Bids can be submitted at the City of Raleigh’s Housing and Community Development Department at 421 Fayetteville St, Suite 1200, Raleigh, NC 27601 at which time and place bids will be publicly opened and read aloud for the construction of the Rehab of 545 E. Edenton Street project.

A mandatory on-site pre-bid meeting will be held on March 10, 2026, at 11:00 a.m. [PD1] [PD2] [NB3] [NB4] (EST) at 545 E. Edenton Street, Raleigh, NC 27601. Information is also posted on the North Carolina Electronic Vendor Portal (eVP): <https://www.evp.nc.gov>. The City reserves the right to reject all bids.

#### 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 8-Inch Water Line Extension project for the Town of White Lake which bids on March 5, 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 \* Town of White Lake; 1879 White Lake Drive; White Lake, NC 28337 \* Engineering Services, PA; 1202 Benson Road, Suite 200; Garner, NC 27529.

Potential subcontracting opportunities include but are not limited to hauling, asphalt paving, erosion control, seeding, and directional drilling. 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 Riegelwood Water System Replacement project for Columbus County – Water District IV which bids on March 5, 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 \* Columbus County, Commissions Chambers, 3rd Floor; 127 West Webster Street; Whiteville, NC 28472 \* Green Engineering, PLLC; 303 Goldsboro Street, East; Wilson, NC 27893 \* ConstructConnect website.

Potential subcontracting opportunities include but are not limited to surveying, hauling, asphalt paving, 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.

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## Fayetteville Businessman Appointed To North Carolina Ports Authority

FAYETTEVILLE, NC -- Local businessman Frederick Surgeon, owner of Sweet Valley Ranch and Surgeon & Associates, Inc., has been appointed to the North Carolina Ports Authority Board of Directors by Governor Josh Stein. The appointment was announced by the Governor’s office in late 2025, and Surgeon will serve a six-year term.

“It is an honor to serve the state of North Carolina on the North Carolina Ports Authority Board of Directors,” said Surgeon. “I am grateful to Governor Stein for the opportunity to contribute my experience and perspective in support of the state’s economic growth and infrastructure.”

Surgeon is the founder and owner of Surgeon & Associates, Inc., a

diversified organization encompassing agricultural tourism, health care services, residential and commercial cleaning, pest control, property inspection, and hospitality-related businesses. Among its divisions is Sweet Valley Ranch, a 300-acre working farm and agritourism destination located in Fayetteville. Prior to founding Surgeon & Associates, Surgeon served as a chief financial officer for multiple organizations and worked as an auditor at Ernst & Young. He has been active in entrepreneurship and business leadership for more than three decades.

An engaged member of the Fayetteville business community, Surgeon founded the Sweet Valley Ranch Gives Back program in 2021



to support local initiatives addressing critical community needs. The program has awarded more than \$275,000 to over 25 organizations serving Cumberland County. Surgeon & Associates also awards the annual David Surgeon Jr. Memorial Scholarship, established in honor of his late father. He holds a Master of Public Administration degree from the University of North Carolina at Pembroke and a Bachelor of Science degree in Accounting from North Carolina A&T State University. He serves on the Advisory Board of Lumbee Guaranty Bank and is a former chair of the Fayetteville Area Convention and Visitors Bureau Board. He resides in Fayetteville with his wife, Anita.

## Pipeline Explosions Intensify Safety Concerns

REIDSVILLE, NC -- Recent pipeline explosions across the United States are raising serious concerns about the expansion of high-pressure fossil fuel infrastructure through the Piedmont of Virginia and North Carolina. From a catastrophic explosion in Minnesota linked to aging weld seams, to corrosion-related ruptures in Iowa, to residential destruction in Virginia and catastrophic worker injuries in Louisiana, federal investigations reveal a pattern of systemic infrastructure vulnerabilities. “These are not isolated incidents,” said Dr. Crystal Cavalier-Keck of 7 Directions of Service.

The Southeast Supply Enhancement Project (SSEP) authorizes more than 24 acres of wetland impacts and over 15,000 linear feet of stream disturbance, including permanent conversion of forested wetlands to emergent wetlands. The Mountain Valley Pipeline Southgate extension (MVP Southgate) proposes a 42-inch high-pressure transmission pipeline through headwater streams, karst terrain, and rural communities. Recent pipeline failures across the United States demonstrate that: Corrosion and weld seam weaknesses persist in aging infrastructure; Pressure drops often occur simultane-

ously with rupture; Transmission lines pose a significant blast radius risk; Even previously inspected pipe segments can fail; Communities face evacuation, displacement, and environmental damage.

“Approving new 42-inch transmission corridors in this context is not precautionary,” Cavalier-Keck said. “It shifts risk onto communities while locking us further into fossil dependency.” Advocates are calling for federal agencies to: Reassess cumulative safety risks; Reevaluate wetland conversion approvals; Consider climate-driven infrastructure stress; Incorporate Just

Transition alternatives into decision-making.

From an Indigenous governance perspective, pipeline expansion raises long-term intergenerational concerns. “The Seventh Generation Principle asks whether decisions made today protect those yet unborn,” Cavalier-Keck added. “Expanding high-pressure fossil infrastructure across wetlands and watersheds during a climate crisis fails that test.” As federal investigations into recent explosions continue, communities in Virginia and North Carolina are urging regulators to pause and reconsider before irreversible harm occurs.

## Empowering Growth

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# College Gender Gap Longstanding — CONT. FROM PAGE 2

concerned about.”

Associate Professor in the UNC-Chapel Hill School of Education Daniel Klasik told CPP there are convincing arguments that say the enrollment gap could be attributed to the “gendering” of careers like teaching and health care, which are traditionally female-coded jobs and require college degrees.

“Men, on the other hand, if they wanted equivalent entry-level jobs — those are things like construction and industry work where maybe a college degree isn’t required — they can be making similar choices based on early career plans,” he said. “But because of the way those careers have been gendered, women tend to go more toward college-track professions whereas men may not need to.” With that in mind, Klasik said it’s not surprising NC State remains the only university to enroll more men — even if by a mere 0.38% — thanks to its engineering school.

UNC-Charlotte, another System university boasting a school of engineering, also has the second-highest percentage of male enrollment. NC

A&T, also with an engineering school, once boasted one of the higher percentages of male enrollment in 2015, but it’s fallen 7% in the years since.

Although there’s been significant progress of women going into STEM fields, physics, engineering and computer science continue to be male dominated. The male populations at NC State and UNCC exhibit that the programs a school offers matter a lot in attracting male students, Robinson said.

“Offering academic opportunities that are exciting and attractive to men will mean that more men show up,” she said.

“Health care is dominated by women. Teaching is dominated by women. And some of that probably goes back, historically, to those were the only professions that were open to women, if you go back far enough. But I think also part of it is that people have different preferences for how they approach work, what they want to do with their time, what they value in terms of a career. And I think that even in a society that has ended every vestige of inequality,

you’re still not going to have every profession be 50-50 male-female.”

Unique enrollment struggles for HBCUs

Elizabeth City State deviates from the norm in the brief, being the only university to see a notable gain in male enrollment since 2015 and also being the historically Black university with the highest male percentage enrollment in 2024 by a large margin.

With 47.92% of its 2024 enrollment being male, ECSU stands far above schools like Winston-Salem State and NC Central in this regard, which see staggeringly low percentages of male enrollment at 25.68% and 29.1%, respectively.

WSSU and NCCU aren’t alone, though. Historically Black Colleges and Universities across the country are struggling with male enrollment in their own right. Howard University, one of the most prestigious HBCUs in the country, enrolls just 30% men, 19% of whom are Black.

The Martin Center didn’t analyze the UNC or NCCC systems’ racial makeup, but it does note in the brief that high school graduation rates are especially low among Black males

— though boys in general graduate high school at lower rates than girls — which translates to lower enrollment of Black men in colleges and universities.

The gender gap within the Black population is actually the largest of any gap education researchers see and has existed even longer than it has in other groups, Klasik said. Some have attributed that to disproportionate disciplinary actions taken against Black males in grade school, also known as the school-to-prison pipeline, although Klasik isn’t convinced that paints the full picture.

College readiness  
Rodney Allred, a self-proclaimed college admissions nerd, worked as a college counselor in North Carolina high schools and early colleges for 26 years after he left his job as the Associate Director of Admissions at Pfeiffer University. He’s the founder of NC College Counseling, where he now provides college counseling services full-time.

Allred usually takes on 20 prospective college students each year ranging from seniors to some as young as eighth graders. This year,

19 of his clients are girls. He has a waitlist nearly as long as his client list, a disproportionate amount of which are girls, too.

When he does have male clients, the difference in their college enrollment readiness and attitudes toward college is palpable, he said. Female students will often be the ones to reach out on their own when it’s time for college prep, whereas it tends to be the parents of male students who seek out his services.

“The males, you get them on a Zoom meeting, and it’s like you’ve asked them to go to prison,” he said. “Just to come in and talk about it, it’s the parents dragging them. It’s not that they don’t see value in the service. A lot of them just don’t want to go to a four-year university, and just don’t want more of the same.”

“More of the same” being a school setting that expects students to sit still and listen rather than physically do. In his experience, classrooms are more conducive to female learning as the Martin Center brief suggests, which naturally leads to decreased college interest for males.

But there’s another factor Allred and the parents of his clients have observed. The marketing methods of college enrollment today seem to cater more to the female experience, he said.

Universities selling sorority recruitment culture and “rah rah” college environments, coupled with the feeling that girls are simply better in a traditional classroom environment, creates female students that want to attend college not only because they feel more equipped to but for the social benefits it offers.

Finding solutions  
If the trend is seen as something to be remedied, the answer is not affirmative action for men, Robinson said. But the brief does suggest to “end all discrimination against men” in the form of women-only scholarships and programs that attract only female applicants, it reads.

On that note, colleges should also offer alternative admissions pathways, it reads, such as career-and-technical education pathways, apprenticeships and military-to-college bridge programs.



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# Health and Wellness

## North Carolina's Medicaid's Retroactive Safety Net Is Shrinking

NC NEWSLINE – When people qualify for Medicaid after a medical emergency, the program can currently reach back up to three months to pay for care they received before they applied — a safeguard that often prevents a hospital stay or ambulance ride from turning into lifelong debt.

That protection is about to shrink. Beginning in January 2027, federal changes will sharply limit how far back Medicaid can cover medical bills for newly approved enrollees.

For adults covered under Medicaid expansion — a group that now includes more than 700,000 North Carolinians — retroactive coverage will drop from three months to just one. Other Medicaid populations, including children, seniors and people with disabilities, will see the window reduced to two months.

State officials say the changes are largely outside North Carolina's control, but consumer advocates, legal aid attorneys and hospital groups warn that the shorter timeline could leave patients and providers burdened by costs that Medicaid would previously have covered.

How retroactive coverage works — for now

Sarah Gregosky, chief operating officer for NC Medicaid, said the current rules allow people applying for Medicaid to request coverage for medical services they received before submitting their application, as long as they were qualified at the time they received care.

When an applicant requests retroactive coverage, the state reviews their eligibility month by month — both prospectively and retroactively — which can result in Medicaid paying claims for care that occurred as much as 90 days before the person ever realized they qualified.

“What’s going to happen is the

periods in which we’re reviewing retrospectively, when folks indicate on their application, is going to shorten,” Gregosky said. “For our traditional Medicaid programs, [...] folks will have a 60-day period that they can say, ‘Hey, I had medical claims. Can you review my eligibility in those months?’ And for our expansion population, it will be limited to the 30 days prior to eligibility.”

Gregosky said the state has little flexibility in how the change, part of the One Big Beautiful Bill Act signed into law last summer by President Donald Trump, is implemented.

“It’s largely prescribed by federal rules,” she said. “We don’t have discretion in extending that period.”

A safety net in case of emergency Retroactive coverage is most commonly used by people who only realize they qualify for Medicaid after something goes wrong — a hospitalization, accidental injury or sudden illness that forces them into the health care system.

“Typically, folks who are looking for that retrospective coverage had some sort of event that is triggering them to apply,” Gregosky said.

Health care navigators who help people enroll in Medicaid say the three-month window has been crucial since North Carolina expanded the entitlement program to cover more low-income adults in 2023.

“That three months retroactive coverage has been a big lift for a lot of people who really need emergency services, [who] go in and are hospitalized for a certain amount of time and are not able to enroll before that,” said Nicholas Riggs, director of the NC Navigator Consortium. “Or they had some sort of life change or experience and just haven’t had a chance to get coverage.”

Riggs said navigators regularly work with people who assumed they



weren't eligible for Medicaid until a health crisis forced the issue.

That's especially true, he said, for people who qualify through expansion, which raised the state's strict income threshold for Medicaid. The measure opened up the program to many working adults with lower incomes who previously made too much money to qualify.

“A lot of folks deem that they're ineligible for coverage, when the contrary is true,” Riggs said. “They

would have been eligible the whole time.”

With less time for coverage to be applied retroactively, Riggs said even small delays or misunderstandings during the application process could carry far greater consequences for patients who qualify for Medicaid but don't realize it until after an emergency.

“My biggest advice to folks is don't wait to enroll,” he said. “If you have any change in eligibility, even if you

don't think that you're eligible for coverage, try to enroll because you never know.”

The looming changes come as enrollment assistance resources are thinning. Riggs said federal funding cuts forced the NC Navigator Consortium to reduce its staff by about 25 percent last year, which limited the group's capacity to help people understand their eligibility and complete applications.

“We are worried about being able to reach the number of people that we were before with so many policy changes going into effect,” he said, adding that the state's need for navigators “has never been more critical.”

Less room for mistakes Attorneys at Pisgah Legal Services, a nonprofit law firm serving western North Carolina, are anticipating an increase in clients facing medical bills they would previously have been able to resolve through retroactive Medicaid coverage.

“If you're not navigating eligibility and not navigating these systems and seeing what goes wrong, you could think, ‘Well, what's the big deal between one month and three months?’” said Thomas Lodwick, a managing attorney at the firm who specializes in cases concerning

health and income. “But the big deal is that stuff goes wrong all the time. Applications get lost. They get erroneously denied.”

Lodwick said the existing three-month window acts as a “buffer,” giving applicants time to identify and fix issues that might otherwise derail their enrollment after an expensive emergency.

“Even if something goes wrong the first time [they apply], you can kind of clean it up and get them covered for that same period, and then they can avoid a crushing medical debt,” Lodwick said. “Frankly, a lot of times it can take months for that initial application to get processed or for the person to even find out that they were denied.”

With that buffer shrinking, Lodwick said the financial consequences will not stop with patients.

“Realistically, if you're visiting the ER in an ambulance and you're someone who qualifies for Medicaid, you're not going to be able to pay these thousands and thousands of dollars,” he said. “At some point, that means the hospitals and other emergency service providers are going to be providing uncompensated care, further straining their abilities to provide care to everyone.”

## High Blood Pressure: Guide to Symptoms, Causes And Tests



AARP—A staggering three-quarters of Americans ages 65 to 74 have high blood pressure, otherwise known as hypertension, putting them at increased risk for stroke, heart attack, heart failure and dementia. Men tend to have higher blood pressure rates in their younger years, but women catch up around the time of menopause.

Hypertension increases with age. The American Heart Association's (AHA) 2026 “Heart Disease and Stroke Statistics” report shows that while rates are relatively low in people ages 20 to 34 (30 percent for men and 16.6 percent for women), rates rise to 81.8 percent for women after age 75. Rates go up to around 70 percent for men after age 65. (See chart below.)

These alarming rates are even higher for people of color, especially for African Americans. Hypertension prevalence across all ages is higher among non-Hispanic Black adults (62.3 percent for men and 59.2 percent for women) than non-Hispanic whites (50.4 percent for men and 42.2 percent for women).

What causes high blood pressure? “The main cause of high blood pressure is aging blood vessels,” says Dr. Jordana Cohen, associate professor in the Renal-Electrolyte and Hypertension division at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania. She is also past chair of the AHA's Hypertension Science Committee.

Blood vessels tend to stiffen with age and become less flexible, which can raise pressure inside them. However, studies have found that there are populations of older people who don't have high blood pressure. For example, the remote South American Yanomami tribe lives in near-total isolation in the rainforests in southern Venezuela and northern Brazil. Its members eat very little salt and fat and have a diet high in plantains, fruit and meat, and their blood pressure doesn't increase with age.

Research suggests this may be related to their lower salt intake and their high potassium intake, Cohen says. They also have less exposure to modern-day risk factors such as pollution, stress and other diseases that are prevalent in our society, like diabetes, heart disease and kidney disease, all of which contribute to high blood pressure, Cohen adds.

Understanding a blood pressure reading Blood pressure is measured in stages, with a normal range below 120/80 mm Hg (millimeters of mercury, a standard unit for measuring pressure). The top number — the systolic — is the pressure in your arteries when your heart beats and pushes blood through them, bringing it to each part of your body. The bottom number — the diastolic — measures the pressure in your arteries when the blood is flowing back to the heart through the veins.

The stages at or above 120/80 mm Hg include elevated stage 1 hypertension and stage 2 hypertension. (See blood pressure ranges table.) A severely elevated blood pressure of 180/120 mm Hg or greater could be a hypertensive emergency and could require guidance from your doctor or, in some cases, emergency care.

“The top number is what's mostly considered our biggest indicator of risk,” Dr. Jordana Cohen says. It also tends to be the most responsive to treatment.

The bottom number tends to be higher in younger people and decreases with age. Older patients can see a very wide split between their top and bottom numbers, which can be concerning, Cohen says, especially if the bottom number gets too low. In this case, people may feel lightheaded, which can lead to falls, and the risk of kidney problems can increase.

“This is something that I see in my much older patients in their 80s, 90s and 100s,” Cohen says.

What are the symptoms of high blood pressure? Most people with hypertension shouldn't expect to experience symptoms from high blood pressure. This is why it is called the silent killer.

“If your expectation is that you're going to feel it, then you're going to be somebody who's missing it 90 percent of the time,” Cohen says.

Generally, people will not feel any symptoms of high blood pressure unless their blood pressure is severely elevated.

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# Arts & Culture

## The Harnett County African American Heritage Center

LILLINGTON, NC — February 15 — The Harnett County African American Heritage Center proudly hosted its annual Black History Program on Sunday, February 15, at the Harnett County Resource Center in Lillington, North Carolina. This highly anticipated event brought together students, families, educators, and community members for an inspiring celebration of African American history, culture, music, and excellence.



of Gospel Music. The audience was visibly moved as they honored his profound influence on gospel music and spiritual expression.

The program also featured Mr. Roy Harris, Choral Director at Triton High School, who performed Jesus, You Are the Center of My Joy in tribute to Richard Smallwood, the nationally recognized gospel composer and recording artist who recently passed away. His tribute honored Smallwood's extraordinary contributions to gospel music and the lasting spiritual legacy he leaves behind.

The room was filled to capacity, with proud parents, educators, and community leaders cheering on the students. Excitement filled the air as each presentation and performance unfolded. "The presentations and performances were phenomenal," said Bettie Edwards Murchison. "The students truly shined."

Overall, the annual Black History Program was a powerful and uplifting tribute to African American history, culture, faith, and achievement. It highlighted not only the talents and academic growth of the students but also the dedication of educators, families, and community leaders who continue to invest in future generations. The celebration served as a reminder that through music, history, and unity, communities grow stronger — and together, we stand.

Outstanding participation came from students at Lillington Shawtown Elementary School, under the leadership of Principal Tiffany Artis and Executive Director of the Heritage Center and fifth-grade teacher, Desi L. Campbell, who organized and directed the event. Fifth-grade students from Overhills Elementary School, led by Principal Tracy Lubowski, also joined in the celebration, demonstrating strong collaboration between schools and the wider community.

In preparation for the event, students conducted in-depth research on African American composers, musicians, and singers who have shaped African American music and culture. They explored musical genres such as African, Jazz, Gospel, and Motown, gaining a deeper appreciation

for the rich musical traditions that continue to influence generations. Their hard work was proudly displayed through creative and informative exhibits that filled the room with color, history, and inspiration.

Students also participated in a poster contest, competing for cash prizes of \$100, \$50, and \$25. The competition encouraged creativity, scholarship, and confidence. First place was awarded to Kyrie Lovett from Overhills Elementary, second place to , and third place to Khairi

Cooper. Each winner was celebrated for their dedication and artistic excellence.

Under the direction of art teacher Coleen Bartley from Lillington Shawtown, students created stunning portraits of African American artists and performed traditional African dances that energized the audience. The rhythmic sounds of the djembe drum accompanied Jamaican selections, showcasing the students' cultural awareness and performance skills. Their research

presentations reflected both academic growth and pride in heritage.

The musical performances were a powerful highlight of the program. Students delivered a moving rendition of We Are the World, arranged by Mr. Campbell, and closed the program with a heartfelt original composition titled We Stand Together, also written by Mr. Campbell. The closing song carried a strong message of unity in the community, declaring that no matter one's color, creed, or background, "we stand to-

gether." It served as a reminder that strength is found in togetherness and shared purpose.

The program opened with the captivating and soulful sounds of Lift Every Voice and Sing, beautifully performed by Mrs. Dorthea L. Taylor, music faculty at Bennett College. Her stirring performance set a reverent and uplifting tone for the afternoon.

Adding to the spirit of remembrance and celebration, Jalysa Hayes delivered a heartfelt rendition of Precious Lord, Take My Hand during a tribute to the late Thomas A. Dorsey, widely known as the Father

## They Were Bound By Law: Limits To Emancipation in Revolutionary NC

By Jordan Meadows

Staff Writer

Last Wednesday, the State Archives of NC's America 250 held a panel discussion offering a detailed examination of how colonial and early state laws shaped the lives of African Americans in North Carolina. The panel, titled "Bound by Law: Limits to Emancipation during the Revolution" revealed deep contradictions between revolutionary ideals of liberty and the legal system that restricted Black freedom.

Hosted as a lunch-and-learn program, the event spotlighted a research initiative connected to the state's official commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the United States' founding in 1776. The program was held in recognition of Black History Month and focused on legislation that restricted the emancipation of enslaved individuals in early North Carolina.

Archives staff Adrienne Berney and Alana Gomez examined the legal landscape from the late seventeenth century through the Revolutionary era, beginning with what was described as "The foundations of Racialized Law," when race became formally tied to legal status and inheritable lifetime servitude. The panel traced these developments to the 1669 Fundamental Constitutions of Carolina, which declared enslaved people to be property and granted enslavers absolute authority.

Olivia Cody, a junior from Fayetteville majoring in teaching at Winston-Salem State University, contributed to the project through historical research and digital interpretation. Interning with the North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources State Archives Division as part of the America 250 NC team, she helped develop an interactive digital timeline and instructional materials designed to make complex legal history more accessible to educators and the public.

"My philosophy is that access to history means more than opening the archive, it means helping people understand what they find there," Cody said.

By the early 1700s, laws in neighboring Virginia limiting the rights of free Black residents influenced



similar legal structures in North Carolina, culminating in statutes by 1741 that reinforced racial hierarchy and further restricted Black mobility and autonomy. During the early to mid-1700s, North Carolina enacted a growing body of laws designed to protect enslaved people primarily as labor property, requiring passes for travel, restricting gatherings for worship or community without white supervision, and obligating white citizens to pursue and return runaway enslaved individuals.

Panelists emphasized that even seemingly protective legislation reflected economic motives rather than humanitarian concern. By 1774, North Carolina outlawed the willful and malicious killing of enslaved people, but the law functioned largely to preserve the stability of the plantation economy rather than recognize enslaved people's humanity, notably including an exception when an enslaved person was deemed in "willful resistance." As revolutionary sentiment grew, these legal contradictions became more visible.

The Halifax Resolves of 1776 revealed anxieties among colonial lead-

ers about British promises of freedom to enslaved people who supported the Crown, exposing the tension between the rhetoric of independence and the reality of slavery in North Carolina's cash-crop economy.

Central to the program was the 1777 statute, "An Act to prevent domestic Insurrections, and for other Purposes," which sharply limited emancipation and established one of the only legal pathways to freedom through the recognition of "meritorious services." Under this law, county courts were required to evaluate whether an enslaved person's extraordinary acts of loyalty, service or devotion justified a recommendation for emancipation to the General Assembly.

To illustrate how these laws operated in practice, the panel highlighted the story of John Jasper White, known as "Currituck Jack," whose experience demonstrated both the physical and legal battles required for freedom in Revolutionary North Carolina. In 1780, Jack was aboard the schooner Polly, owned by Henry White of Currituck County, when it was captured by British privateers. After persuading his captors to un-

chain him, Jack helped the crew retake the ship and deliver the captured privateers to Annapolis and the Continental Congress.

Jasper later wrote that Jack "received the thanks of the Congress of the United States . . . and a recommendation to his master to liberate him." Despite this recognition and his injuries, Jack remained enslaved and was subjected to abuse until the North Carolina General Assembly granted his freedom in 1792.

The program also examined the life of Edward "Ned" Griffin, a multiracial man in Edgecombe County during the Revolution. First documented in a 1770 probate record as "mulatto Ned," Griffin was passed between enslavers before being sold in 1781 and sent into Continental service as a substitute in exchange for a promise of freedom. Griffin served as a private for twelve months and was honorably discharged in July 1782. However, upon his return, Kitchen reneged on the agreement and sold him again, prompting Griffin to petition the Edgecombe County court for his emancipation.

The North Carolina General Assembly ultimately passed "An Act for Enfranchising Ned Griffin, Late the Property of William Kitchen" in 1784, declaring that "Ned Griffin... shall forever hereafter be in every respect declared to be a freeman; and he shall be, and he is hereby enfranchised and forever delivered and discharged from the yoke of slavery." Griffin lived as a free person of color in Edgecombe County until his death in 1802.

Throughout the discussion, presenters stressed that the restrictive legal framework did not eliminate resistance among enslaved people.

Reflecting on the research behind the exhibit, Cody noted, "I think what surprised me the most is the resistance that still took place. Although these legislations were set up against enslaved people, enslaved people were still working to either gain their freedom or ensure their continued attempts to do so—making sure they're still resilient." She added, "I read stories of resistance, stories of revolt with everything set against them. Much like how we are now, they did not die and disappear."



ANTIQUES AUCTION SELLING NECK SHACKLES ACCUSED OF 'PROFITING FROM SLAVERY'

By Jordan Meadows

Staff Writer

THE GUARDIAN — An antiques auction selling chains linked to the enslavement of African people in Zanzibar has been accused of "profiting from slavery."

Neck irons dated to the Omani-Arab dominated trade in enslaved people in east Africa, which ended after African resistance and British pressure in the late 19th century, will go on sale this weekend in Scotland.

The auctioneer Marcus Salter, of Cheeky Auctions in Tain, Ross, said he wanted to ensure history was confronted with the sale of the "sensitive artefact" and did not wish to offend.

But the Labour MP Bell Ribeiro-Addy, who chairs the all-party parliamentary group for Afrikan reparations, said trading in such items meant people were "continuing to profit from the slave trade."

Nigel Murray, a retired lawyer in the Scottish Highlands, contacted the Guardian after he saw the chains promoted on Facebook and said "he was never going to buy anything more" from Cheeky Auctions.

The shackles, dated to 1780 and valued at about £1,000, are among objects listed in the auction, called "Challenging History."

Salter said he was selling the chains for a dealer whose father had owned them for 50 years, adding: "No matter what happens there's going to be money made out of it from somewhere."

He claimed if the item was donated to a museum, it could be "put into storage and never seen again", and that slavery-linked mahogany was sold and used without controversy.

"I think it's important not to upset and offend, but shock people into learning the whole truth," Salter said. "There are certain things we're not allowed to sell at auction. We had to check with the platform we're selling with that we could do this. They consider the slave chains to be a historical artefact, therefore we can."

"We've had people we've never met say they're boycotting us. We've had people who educated us and we educated them. There have been others who just disagree and never want to come in."

In 2024, the Antiques Roadshow expert Ronnie Archer-Morgan refused to value an ivory bangle linked to enslavement.

Ribeiro-Addy said of the chains: "If they were to be put in a museum I would understand, but buying and selling them like oddities is the same thing that people do when it comes to human remains — treating them as collector's items, something to be fetishised rather than items that should be looked at in horror."

"Why are you selling it for profit? Unless you're trying to re-enact the history of enslavement by profiting from something used to inflict pain and oppression. We've got people trying give valid reasons for continuing to profit from the slave trade — that's all it sounds like to me."

Murray said the auction was "vile", adding: "An auction is the way enslaved people were sold, and here you are auctioning these chains off. [Descendants of plantation owners] have millions of pounds gained from slavery, to see people making more money out of it just made me feel very angry."

Caecilia Dance, an associate at London law firm Wedlake Bell, has advised on the restitution of Nazi-looted art. Dance said she could not comment on the auction, but that there was "no specific law against" trading objects linked to slavery.

She added that "public interest stewardship" — donation, sale, or long-term loan to a museum with relationships with affected communities — would be the "ideal management pathway" for an item linked to slavery.

Dance said: "It's reached a point in the art trade where if there's any sign an item might have been looted in the Nazi period, no one wants to buy it."

"It's probably only a matter of time that that ethical framework extends to objects associated with enslavement because you risk commodifying trauma, even if the sale is completely lawful. Public opinion is definitely turning in favour of restitution."

## Sonny Kelly's Indivisible: Unifying The United States Via Interactive Art

By Jheri Hardaway

Staff Writer

CHAPEL HILL - If you haven't seen a Legacy Heirs production, please go to the website immediately and learn more. Sonny Kelly is an outstanding actor and educator. His one-man plays are absolutely captivating. His unique ability to embody so many people with a change in the tone of his voice, or a hat, or a pencil, is particularly incredible. Kelly has a way of involving the audience but maintaining control in all of his productions. This is also a family affair, with his son as his main technical director, and his wife singing the songs that enhance his production. I have now seen three productions by Legacy Heirs Productions, and I will not miss one as long as I am able.

The most recent production, Indivisible, presented at UNC's Friday Center, elevated the social consciousness of the crowd. At one point, when



discussing the line "indivisible with liberty injustice for all" from the Pledge of Allegiance. Kelly gave the audience the option to stand or not, depending on how they felt about

the current state of our country. This silent yet impactful personal display allowed the audience to get a better understanding of how others are feeling in this time and in the cur-

rent political climate. Conversations around race are challenging, but Kelly has a way of making them powerful, comprehensive, and even humorous at times to break up the seriousness of the topic. Kelly's handling of these sensitive conversations and his contextual examples using historic figures, his family, and even students he taught allow a vast amount of perspectives to be presented when talking about the social challenges that we face in America today and have been dealing with for generations. Kelly breaks down R.A.C.E as: Reflect, Ask, Connect, and Expand.

Sonny Kelly is an educator and a healer. I hope that more people hear his message so they can be inspired by understanding that we are a melting pot and we are one. We are truly better together. Everyone has something to offer, and as long as we listen to figure out what those things are, we can build together and create the country that we could all be proud of.

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# Community

## 4th Annual Reach for the Stars! Be a Star! STEM and Resource Fair Empowers K-12 Students with Disabilities

Raleigh, NC – The Catalyst Program at NC State University proudly announces the 4th Annual Reach for the Stars! Be a Star! STEM and Resource Fair, taking place on Saturday, April 18, 2026, from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM at the McKimmon Center, 1101 Gorman Street, Raleigh, NC 27606. This inspiring event will welcome K-12 students with disabilities, their families, and friends to explore the exciting world of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics). With over 75 interactive tables, hands-on activities, dynamic speakers, free raffle prizes, giveaways, and participation from government officials, the fair is designed to showcase the talents and potential of students with disabilities in STEM fields. Currently, only 3% of the STEM workforce is composed of individuals with disabilities. This fair aims to change that by providing opportunities for students to discover career pathways, educational support, and resources that will help them thrive in STEM.

## Business Spotlight: The Newsagent's

By Jheri Hardaway  
Staff Writer



RALEIGH - In an era defined by the relentless glow of smartphone screens and the rapid-fire pace of digital notifications, a new storefront on 228 Fayetteville Street is asking Raleigh residents to do something radical: sit down, decompress, and turn a page. The Newsagent, a meticulously curated boutique and coffee bar, has officially opened its doors, offering a sophisticated blend of contemporary literature, international newspapers, and vintage periodicals. The space, formerly an art gallery, has been transformed into a "mercantile of the mind," a project two years in the making by owners Neetzan and Yulia.

For Neetzan, the inspiration for The News Agent was born out of a personal desire for a specific kind of sanctuary within the downtown grid. With a professional background that includes working at The Hill in Washington, D.C., his reverence for the tactile nature of journalism is deeply ingrained. "I felt like a place like this was missing downtown," Neetzan shared during a tour of the extraordinarily beautiful interior. "A place for people to come and decompress... reconnect with some forgotten objects, like books and newspapers. Physical, real prints."

The shop's philosophy is simple: provide the community with an opportunity to "unplug" in a world where those chances are becoming increasingly rare. By pairing high-quality coffee with a vast selection

of ink-and-paper media, the owners hope to encourage patrons to set their phones aside, even if only for the length of a latte. Bringing this vision to life was no small feat. The journey began in 2024 when the couple leased the historic space. What followed was a rigorous year of construction and navigation through city bureaucracy. "It was a really old building, so we had to bring it up to compliance—fire code, ADA compliance, a lot of things that were missing," Neetzan explained. "Because it was an art gallery before this, it wasn't set up for a mercantile. We had to work with the city to get a 'change of use.' That took a long time."

Despite the "ups and downs" of the renovation process, the duo remained committed to their location. "We really wanted to be in this space, and we really wanted to be downtown more than anything. This is the heart of North Carolina."

While the physical shop serves as a hub for locals, The Newsagent's is also expanding its reach digitally. For those who can't make it to the downtown sanctuary, the shop offers additional items and curated selections through its online store.

As Raleigh continues to grow, The News Agent stands as a testament to the enduring power of the printed word and the importance of physical spaces that prioritize peace over pings. The Newsagent's is now open downtown. Whether you are looking for the morning's headlines or a rare vintage magazine, Neetzan and Yulia invite you to grab a coffee, find a seat, and stay a while.



FOURTH WARD HISTORIC NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION'S COMMUNITY CARE: HOMELESS EVENT

Raleigh, N.C.—Although the temperature was below freezing and the wind gust up to 40 mph, the volunteers and homeless came out to serve our community at the New Bern Ave Mission House where Sylvia Wiggins board homeless people/families.

Fourth Ward is also preserving their legacy after being left out of Raleigh's history for over 50 years!

## Ms. Thelma Foster Turns 100

By Jordan Meadows  
Staff Writer



Thelma Foster Fogg will celebrate her 100th birthday on March 16.

Born 1926, in Nash County, Fogg later moved to Raleigh and has lived in the area for roughly 60 years, first in Chavis Heights and now in Rochester Heights. Over the decades, she built a legacy of service both professionally and spiritually, working many years as a nurse before dedicating more than 40 years to the Wake County Public School System.

Fogg has long been active in her church community, serving as an original member of Manly Baptist Church, which later became Macedonia New Life Church on Rock Quarry Road. Known for her strong faith and consistent presence, she remains deeply involved in church life and is well known among family and friends for her love of gardening.

Fogg comes from a large family of 18 siblings, with only three still liv-

ing today. She raised three children: Bertha McKnight, Maryland Johnson, and Irene Foster Hill.

As she reaches the milestone of 100 years, loved ones and community members celebrate not only her longevity, but a life defined by faith, service, and lasting impact across Raleigh.

## CSDVA Excels At Its Annual Review

February 24, 2026 – Founded in 1998, Community School of Digital and Visual Arts (CSDVA) board members and staff celebrate after presenting their annual review to Office of Charter Schools, Division of Academics, North Carolina Department of Instruction. The presentation included four major areas: academic performance, financial status, governance, and facilities.



CSDVA prepared a comprehensive review which encapsulated a forwardthinking strategy, above-average academic results, and fully compliant and certified board members in a facility to teach over 220 students in grades K - 8. Principal Cheryal Issac presented CSDVA's instructional approach that centers on protecting strong foundations, pushing instructional excellence, and preparing students for success.

Through consistent collaboration, data-driven planning, and high-quality instruction, the school is building sustainable systems

that support academic growth for all learners. Ben Johnson, chief operating officer, showcased CSDVA's financial status with a strong fund balance. The school further launched a robust enrollment recovery program and eliminated nonessential consultants. Board Chairman Tommy T. McNeill provided an update that all board members completed training in areas of charter school law and regulations, open meetings and public record requirements, and financial oversight and accountability. Moreover, McNeill gave a governance update and stated, "CSDVA is fully compliant with all Office of Charter School Board requirements."

McNeill affirms that Community School of Digital and Visual Arts is poised to welcome more students to become lifelong learners while they pursue their dreams of hope and prosperity. CSDVA is currently located at 1955 W Cornwallis, Road, Durham, NC 27705.

## City of Raleigh Museum Event Spotlight: Is the "House of Freedom" Still Roofless?

By Jheri Hardaway  
Staff Writer

RALEIGH - In a powerful event for Black History Month, the Capital City Lawyers Association (CCLA) collaborated with the City of Raleigh Museum to host "Civil Rights Talk" on Wednesday, February 18, 2026. The evening, led by CCLA President Taylor Scruggs-Smith, featured attorney Lex Jordan, Esq., who used a compelling architectural metaphor to challenge the audience's understanding of freedom and civil rights in America.

with "loophole" natures. The speaker drew direct lines from these historical precedents to contemporary legal battles, offering a sobering warning that "ignorance is slavery" and that knowledge is the only defense against the "removal of bricks" from the civil rights foundation.

Key legal challenges highlighted included:

- Birthright Citizenship: Jordan

addressed current threats to the 14th Amendment, arguing its original intent was to grant citizenship to first-generation Americans whose parents were trafficked and owed no "immediate allegiance" to the U.S.

- Affirmative Action: He discussed the significant shift from the Bakke ruling to the 2023 Students for Fair Admissions v. Harvard ruling, noting a con-

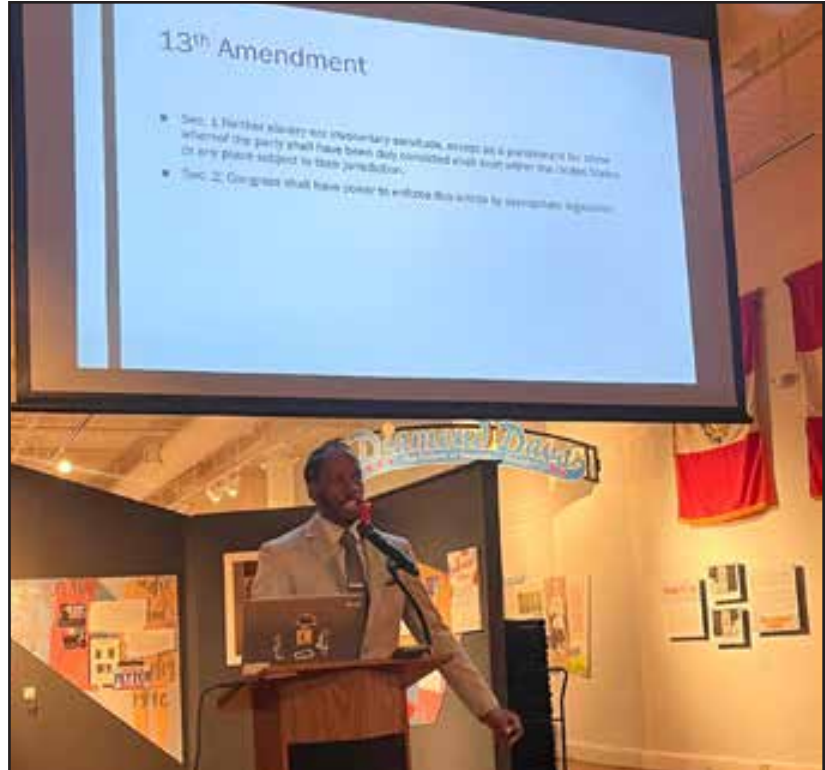
cerning trend where the Equal Protection Clause is now being "inverted" to strike down race-conscious admissions policies.

- The NC Connection: Jordan brought the issue close to home by recounting the 1898 Wilmington Massacre. He described this historical trauma as a moment where "white supremacy branded itself" onto North Carolina, effectively erasing Black economic and political gains for nearly a century.

The Road from Law to Reality Moving beyond the de jure (legal code) to the de facto (reality), Jordan emphasized that the legal rights of other marginalized groups—including the LGBTQ+ community and those fighting for women's reproductive rights—often find their legal "roots" in the Black struggle for the 14th Amendment.

He concluded with a powerful motivational message, encouraging the audience to "keep hope alive," referencing Jesse Jackson. Jordan asserted that while the "house" is currently roofless, the "architects"—African Americans—have the power and the history to finish the build.

The City of Raleigh Museum, which is establishing itself as a cultural hub for conversations that challenge conventional thinking under the leadership of Abby Kellerman City of Raleigh Museum Director, continues to partner with organizations like the CCLA to host outstanding and informative programs that are unique to the city.



## Ag-Grow-Culture

U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Brooke Rollins today announced the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is opening the enrollment period for the Farmer Bridge Assistance (FBA) program, providing \$11 billion in one-time bridge payments to row crop producers in response to temporary trade market disruptions and increased production costs. The FBA enrollment period opens Feb. 23 and closes April 17, 2026.

"Improving the farm economy is our top priority at USDA, and we have simplified and streamlined the application process for the bridge program to ensure producers get the financial assistance they need as quickly as possible as we're kicking off the spring planting season. President Trump continues to put farmers first. If our farmers are not economically able to continue their operations, then we will not be able to feed ourselves in this country," said Secretary Brooke Rollins. "Producers who want to further expedite their payment, can apply online through the program website and could receive a payment in their bank account as early as February 28, 2026. Putting Farmers First means providing economic relief now while the Trump Administration continues opening new markets and strengthening the farm safety net."

These bridge payments are authorized under the Commodity Credit Corporation Charter Act and are administered by the Farm Service Agency (FSA). Bridge payments are intended in part to aid farmers until historic investments from the One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBA), including reference prices which are set to increase between 10-21% for major covered commodities and will reach eligible farmers after Oct. 1, 2026.

**How to Apply** Pre-filled applications will be available online to producers with a Login.gov account who timely filed their 2025 crop acreage report for eligible commodities. Producers who have a Login.gov account can access and submit their pre-filled application from fsa.usda.gov/fba. Additionally, producers can also request their pre-filled FBA application from their FSA county office.

April 17, 2026, is the deadline to submit completed FBA applications. Producers can complete FBA applications online or submit to their FSA county office.

**Login.gov** Login.gov is the public's one account for government. Producers can use one account and password for secure, private access to participating government agencies, including FSA.

To apply for FBA online, producers can start by visiting fsa.usda.gov/fba to create their Login.gov account. Producers who have an existing Login.gov account, can work with FSA using their existing account.

With a secure Login.gov account, producers can be amongst the first to apply for FBA allowing them to view, certify, and submit their application as well as track their application and payment status.

For assistance creating a Login.gov account, visit <https://login.gov/help/>.

**Eligibility** The following commodities are eligible for FBA: Barley, Chickpeas, Corn, Cotton, Lentils, Oats, Peanuts, Peas, Rice, Sorghum, Soybeans, Wheat, Canola, Crambe, Flax, Mustard, Rapeseed, Safflower, Sesame, and Sunflower.

All intended uses for FBA eligible commodities are eligible excluding grazing, experimental, green manure, left standing, or cover crops. Initial acres, double crop acres, and subsequently planted acres, are eligible. Prevent plant acres are not eligible.

Crop insurance linkage is not required; however, USDA strongly urges producers to take advantage of the new risk management tools provided for in OBBA to best protect against future price risk and volatility.



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# Church

## Habitat for Humanity & Pastors At Odds Over Affordable Housing

The disagreement pits Habitat For Humanity of Orange County against four pastors — including two from influential, predominately white

churches in Chapel Hill — who are concerned about Habitat's decision to require a \$61,100 minimum income to be eligible to purchase one of 75 townhomes planned for Auman Village.

at for Humanity, but as faith leaders we cannot support Habitat's current plans for a new housing development in Hillsborough," they wrote in an op-ed published by Chapelboro.com.

median income for white households. The census data is a five-year look at median income for Black and white households in Orange County. The five-year surveys are considered more reliable for small geographic areas and small population subgroups.

of area median income. She said the cost to build a home in Orange County has risen 40% to 50% since the pandemic.

"I should have been looking out for all African Americans that live in Orange County," Boss said.

## Practical Biblical Principles

### THE WOMAN, THE CHILD, THE DRAGON, AND BLACK SLAVERY

**Read: Revelation 12:1-9**  
By John L. Caldwell, Pastor New Jerusalem Baptist Cathedral

The cross is still offensive to the world at large. Teachers cannot pray with their students. Military chaplains cannot say the word Jesus. Bibles can no longer be given out to military personnel. Without offending other religions, no one can publicly blaspheme other religions. The Commandments of God has been taken down from school rooms, courthouses, and all public places. The Nativity Christmas scene cannot be displayed in any public place. These are prohibitions passed by our American governments. This is no less than universal spiritual warfare which has been going on since the failure of Adam and Eve and will continue until Christ returns to earth.

ed to kingdom living or Jesus becomes a real target for the devil. The key phrase here is "Anybody who is or will be connected to Jesus," is a target for the devil.

The devil knows why Jesus is returning. He is coming to destroy the works of the devil and establish a godly Kingdom on the earth (1 John 3:8). All of this is the reason for a long-term spiritual warfare with the enemy of God, His people, and all who have accepted and will accept Jesus as Lord and Savior.

The devil is known for sneaky, pre-empted strikes. He knows God's plan of salvation for man. He will try and beat God to the punch, so to speak, to destroy and distract anybody from knowing God. Historically speaking we see this when God told Abraham He was going to bless his seed and prosper him. God also told Abraham that in the future before the blessings come upon Abraham's descendants, they will spend more than four hundred years in slavery (Genesis 15:13). Any type of slavery is evil and comes from the devil, Not considering the timeline, the Hebrews were soon enslaved in Egypt, next came the Holocaust followed by years of antisemitism to this day. Up to this day wars have not ceased to be fought with God's people-Israel and Christians around the world (John 17:20-21).

This brings us to the reason why Black people were also in slavery. For the very same reason the Hebrews were enslaved. This was the devil's pre-empted strike to keep the Black man, the children of Cush, Noah's son, from entering God's presence, through Jesus Christ. It is now time to talk about the five Covenants God made with His people. The first four Covenants were made exclusively for Israel- There was the Noahic Covenant (Genesis 9:9-11), The Abrahamic Covenant (Genesis 17:1-2), the Mosaic Covenant (Exodus 12:49), The Davidic Covenant (2 Samuel 7:16).

The fifth Covenant is the New Covenant, which was inaugurated by Jesus, is the ultimate expression of God's "Inclusive" promise (Jeremiah 31:31-34). This Covenant is fulfilled in Christ, Who, through His death and resurrection, extends salvation to all who believe, regardless of ethnic or cultural background.

St. Paul expresses this blessing well. In Galatians 3:28-29. "There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed and heirs accordingly." Those who have faith are sons of Abraham (Galatians 3:7-8).

Paul also uses the images of the grafted olive tree branches (Romans 11:17-24). Other olive branches are sometimes grafted into the olive vine

to make the tree stronger. Here God is making salvation available to both the Jew and Gentile through Christ (Ephesians 2:13-14).

We as a Black people, along with other Gentile nations have been grafted. Jesus also stated that He had other sheep not of this (Jewish) fold (John 10:16). It is through the death and resurrection of the Messiah which unifies all disparate people under one Covenant (1 Corinthians 15:3-4).

One of the main differences between Israel's Egyptian slavery and the American black slavery is: Israel 'slavery took place in one basic region under one rule. America's slavery, in the south, was scattered throughout the south under different jurisdictions, locations and slave masters making it difficult to mast several million Blacks under one head or leadership.

When slavery was over the Hebrews it was easy for God to appoint them a leader among them - Moses. Whereas, when the Blacks were freed, there was no single leader to lead them out of slavery into a waiting Promised Land. Black spiritual leaders eventually came on the scene to lead the Black from the plantation. God performed no miracles, as he did in Egypt, to enhance the Black man's escape to freedom. It should be clear to all the devil knew Black people would soon come under God's grace initially and flock to Jesus as Savior once they learned about Him. God never hated the Black man. God cares, loves, and provided protection for us from the beginning.

The devil's slavery of the Black man was a pre-empted strike against the Black man to keep him from knowing and receiving Jesus as Lord and Savior.

Considering God's grace, the Black man should lift every voice and sing: Stony the road we trod, bitter the chastening rod, felt in the days when hope unborn had died; yet with a steady beat, have not our weary feet, come to the place for which our fathers sighed? We have come over a way that with tears has been watered, we have come treading our path thro the blood of the slaughtered. Out of the gloomy past, till now we stand at last where the bright gleam of our bright star is cast.

God of our weary years, God of our silent tears, Thou who hast brought us thus far on the way; Thou Who hast by Thy might, led us into the light, keep us forever in the path, we pray. Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met Thee, Lest our hearts, drunk with the wine of the world, we forget Thee. Shad-owed beneath thy hand may we forever stand, true to our God, true to our native land - Africa.

Habitat also wants to set homebuyers up for long-term financial success, Player said.

"The last thing that we want to do is sell a home to someone who maybe is not ready for that responsibility, ready for HOA dues or property taxes, and saving for long-term maintenance needs on the home," Player said.

Fifteen of the townhomes are designated as "workforce housing" for households with incomes higher than a traditional Habitat homeowner. Those homes will be sold to families earning 80-120% of the area median income or an income of roughly \$85,000 to \$125,000 per year for a family of four.

Rev. Tony Boss, pastor of Piney Grove Missionary Baptist Church and one of the pastors who wrote the op-ed, asked Habitat to set aside at least six townhomes for low-wage earners making 30% of area median income, or roughly \$33,000 a year.

Boss' church is about a mile from the Auman Village site, which is currently being cleared for construction. He initially asked for homes to be set aside for members of his congregation, but now says all African Americans with modest incomes should have a chance to buy homes in Auman Village.

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McLaughlin told NC Newsline that he's worried that affordable housing is now out of reach for residents earning 30% of area median household income. High rents and high property taxes are making it increasingly difficult for residents of modest means, he said.

"I think Orange County likes being a diverse county, but sometimes you have to actually be intentional to keep it that way," McLaughlin said.

"I want Rev. Boss' church to be part of Orange County and I want the congregation [at Piney Grove Missionary Baptist Church] to be part of Orange County," McLaughlin said. "I feel like that's slipping away, if even affordable housing is out of their reach."

The pastors have offered to raise money to offset construction costs to make it feasible for families earning 30% of area median income to buy at least some homes in Auman Village, McLaughlin said.

## SERMON of the WEEK



### LPHC YOUTH PRESENT POWERFUL BLACK HISTORY CELEBRATION

Submitted by Jamar McKiver  
The youth of Lincoln Park Holiness Church delivered a moving and memorable Black History presentation during Sunday's worship service, blending history, faith, and inspiration into a powerful experience for the congregation.

The program began with a video honoring the Civil Rights foot soldiers—those brave men, women, and children who marched, protested, and stood firm in the fight for equality. As the video concluded, the youth marched into the sanctuary singing the historic anthem, "I'm Not Going to Let Nobody Turn Me Around."

Carrying handmade signs, they boldly declared messages of strength and identity:

- "Stand Up for Civil Rights"
- "Black Is Beautiful"
- "I Love Being a Smart Black Boy"
- "I Am Somebody"
- "Power to the People"

Their presentation continued with a powerful recitation of Dr. Maya Angelou's classic poem, "Still I Rise," reminding everyone in attendance that resilience and dignity remain hallmarks of the Black experience.

The Lincoln Park dance team followed with an uplifting performance to "I'll Rise Up" and "Rain on Us" by Ernest Pugh, ministering through movement and worship. Their performance reinforced the day's message of perseverance, unity, and faith.

The morning's speaker, Assistant Overseer Elder Dr. Derrick L. Sauls, delivered a sermon entitled "A Tool of Hope." Drawing from Scripture, he reminded the congregation that hope is not passive—it is a powerful spiritual instrument meant to be used daily.

His message was anchored in II Corinthians 4:8-9 (KJV), which declares, "We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed." He also referenced Isaiah 41:10, Psalm 46:1, Isaiah 54:17, Matthew 18:20, and Galatians 6:2, reinforcing that God's presence, protection, and promises

remain constant.

Elder Sauls emphasized several key truths:

- We must use the tool of hope not only for ourselves but for our families and friends.
- Hope will sustain you when you feel like giving up.
- "Man's hands are too short to box with God," he declared, reminding listeners of God's sovereignty.
- We are called to speak truth to power.
- We must protect one another and carry each other's burdens.
- It is time for unity—"It's time to get back together."

One powerful statement that resonated throughout the sanctuary was his reminder: "You never know who's in the kitchen." The message encouraged vigilance, awareness, and responsibility within the community.

The sermon closed with a resounding affirmation: There is still a Tool of Hope.

Through song, spoken word, dance, and preaching, the youth of Lincoln Park Holiness Church demonstrated that the legacy of faith, resilience, and unity continues in the next generation. The service was not only a celebration of Black history but also a reminder that hope remains alive—and it is a tool we must continue to use.

Please visit [www.youtube.com/@lincolnparkholinesschurch1913](http://www.youtube.com/@lincolnparkholinesschurch1913) to watch this week's sermon on video.

### Honoring Black History Makers...

**With Wall Of Historical Events**  
Karl Anderson, Vice President, and Orrin Ray Haywood, President, invite everyone to come and see their complete "Black History Wall Of Fame." The Wall is one among a number of presentations hung through the Funeral Home depicting the many individuals who have made significant contributions to our history. "We feel it is both a reminder of how far we have come, and a challenge to all of us as to how far we have yet to travel." Haywood Funeral Home embraces daily the legacy of these outstanding African-Americans who have come before us!

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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.



REV. JESSE JACKSON: OUR BALM IN GILEAD

By Linden Beckford, Jr.

Special to The Carolinian

Rev. Jesse Jackson was truly a giant in our community. He was a man who knew how to lead others. Someone recently referred to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. as our modern Moses. That same person referred to Rev. Jesse Jackson as our modern-day Joshua. I concur with that.

During the 1970s and 1980s, Rev. Jesse Jackson encouraged us not to despair. He taught us to stand tall with our collective chests out. Simply put, he urged us not to allow oppression to win. Rev. Jackson was doing his civic and spiritual duty. He stood in the radical tradition of the Black church. As a servant of God, one has a moral obligation to guide people in the right direction.

One of the things that is admirable about Rev. Jesse Jackson is how he basked in his Afro American culture. He was a man who took great pride in his culture in America. He represented the various institutions created by us. He was a proud Baptist. It was clear by the way he spoke that he did not try to sound "race neutral." Back in the day, he referred to himself as the "country preacher." He was a proud member of Omega Psi Phi. He was a proud graduate of North Carolina A&T. He also enjoyed soul food. Rev. Jackson was an all-around Soul Brother!

Rev. Jackson was a man who would have made Harriet Tubman, Frederick Douglass, Ida B. Wells, Bishop Henry McNeal Turner, Vernon Johns, and Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. proud. In fact, he would have made even the lesser-known individuals in that tradition proud.

When Jesse Jackson would chant, "I Am Somebody," he understood how important it was for African Americans to have a positive view of ourselves. He was associated with PUSH-Excel, a program designed to motivate Black students. Believe it or not, Rev. William Holmes Borders was the man who wrote "I Am Somebody" as a poem back in the 1940s. Rev. Jesse Jackson remained consistent in trying to uplift his people.

When Jesse Jackson ran for President of the United States in 1984 and 1988, he showed us what was possible. It electrified us in unimaginable ways that had not been experienced before. Whenever a Black person endorses another Black person to reach the highest office in the land, it signals that we have a stake here in America.

Jesse Jackson spoke the language of Curtis Mayfield. Remember the 1968 song "This Is My Country." This is why Jesse Jackson's run for President was so important. He confirmed that we had, and have, skin in the game.

President Barack Obama and Vice President Kamala Harris had their paths paved by Jesse Jackson. Fortunately, he lived to see that happen for them.

We owe a debt of gratitude to the Jackson family for sharing Rev. Jesse Jackson with us. While we may never fully know or understand the price that was paid, we salute the family for persevering throughout this journey. We say thank you.

If we want to honor Rev. Jesse Jackson, we must do some things. We must bask in our Afro American ethnicity. We must not be shamed or guilty about our American identity. We must be ready, willing, and able to work with other racial groups in America. Working with others does not compromise who we are as a people.

I would also say that Abby Phillip did a good job with her recent book. A Dream Deferred: Jesse Jackson & the Fight for Black Political Power is a must-read. I am glad that Abby Phillip had the presence of mind to write this important book while Jesse Jackson was still among us.

Rev. Jackson! You ran a great and tough race on this earth. Your life is a testimony to the song "The Impossible Dream." While you will be missed, you will be remembered as a true freedom fighter. May the Lord be pleased with your work on this earth. Aluta Continua (The Struggle Continues)!

# Other Viewpoints

## WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH YOU FOLKS?

By Karl Cameron

Special To The Carolinian

As Black History Month draws to a close, I thought it was time to go back to our founder P.R. Jervay Senior's Filing Cabinet that occupied the center of the front office at The Carolinian's 518 E. Martin St. address in Raleigh, NC. Sadly the Filing Cabinet, as well as The Carolinian's Publishing House are casualties of the past, succumbing to what I now refer to as "urban removal."

However, Mr. Jervay held many a pointed conversation with folks like Clarence Lightner, J.W. Winters, and Avery Upchurch, as well as a host of community leaders from around the city. Were he with us today, he would be shocked at where we find ourselves as Raleigh's Black Community, with many of our ministers embracing church administration over congregation salvation, our politicians representing every community except the Black Community, and our community organizations, like the local NAACP chapters and RWCA not being inclined to be active in ways that could make for a better community for all.

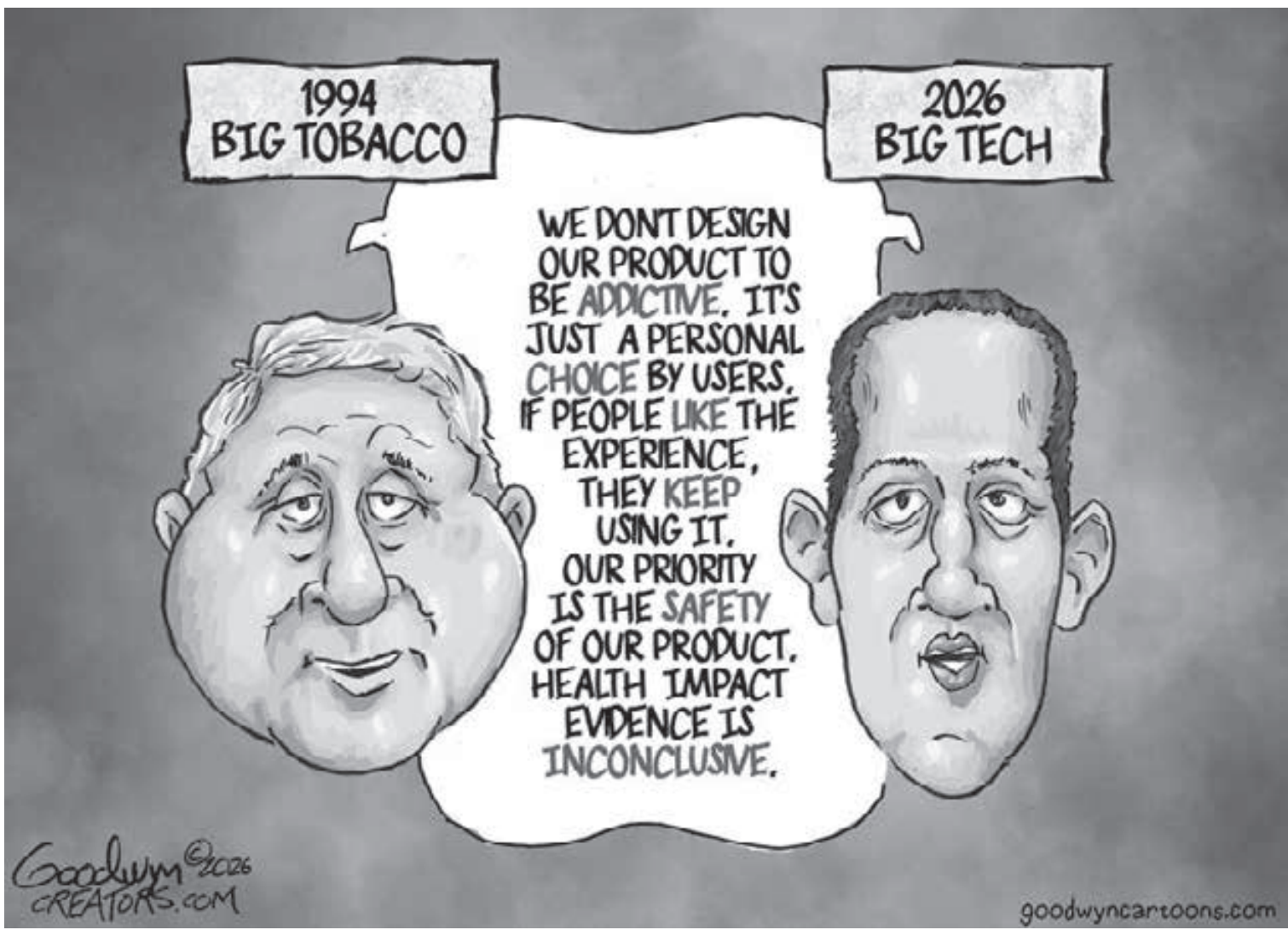
There were discussions around the Filing Cabinet regarding Trades and Technology in Wake County High Schools long before Southeast Raleigh High, and even today it is the Black Parents' responsibility to seek out a Trade curriculum for their child in Wake County, if a college or university is not an option.

Our founder was in fact a product of Hampton Institute's Trade School, which no longer exists. However, is that to our benefit? Mr. Jervay majored in Linotype Operation, which evolved into the modern day computer. He was so adept at his craft that he later taught the course at now Hampton University, as well as devised a system available to his students, "the glide system", which enabled them to be productive in print shops up and down the east coast.

His interest and knowledge about the printing industry led him to constantly invest in technological advancement at The Carolinian. He began with his Linotype Machines, went on to Friden Machines, and on to CompuWriters, and then to modern day Macintosh computers. Mr. Jervay's vision wasn't confined to the typesetting area of the newspaper, as he purchased a 4-Unit Cottrell Vanguard Web Offset Press in the late 60s to produce The Carolinian, as well as Eastern North Carolina Special Editions. All of this all of this was conceived and delivered under God by a Trades School graduate.

Additionally, while we're talking about trades, Mr. Jervay's wife, the late Brenda Yancey Jervay, earned her degree at then Hampton Institute in Home Economics, and went on to Columbia University to receive a Master's Degree in that discipline. Mrs. Jervay brought those abilities to Shaw University's campus, as she served that institution a head of the Home Economics Department, placing a number of her students in dietician positions in schools along the Eastern Seaboard.

Currently, J.W. Ligon Magnet Middle School is in the news regarding what options will be taken to renovate or rebuild its aging facility. One substantial legacy was contributed by teachers like Ms. Toole, Home Economics; Mr. Levister, Printing; Mr. George Exum,



Bricklaying, and Mr. Roy Smith, Plumbing where they added job ready skills to then Ligon Senior High's core curriculum, which enabled students to go out into the workforce and earn a living.

Mr. Jervay would probably address much of what is going on in our city, state, and nation with his classic AWWW! He would surely lament, "What's the matter with you folks", and express his frustration with attacks on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, the lack of preparation for our young adults for the political future by our community organizations, and an abdication from winning souls to Christ by too many of our Black Preachers.

This man did so much that so little is said about, and he did it with a Trade School Education!

So, let's step back for a moment, and access where we are, and what we're doing to secure the declaration that all of us should be ascribing to: that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.

If you're asking, what can I do? You can start by voting. If you asking, how can I do it, why not start where P. R. Jervay Sr. started, with a trade. If you're asking how can I make a sustainable living, why not start with asking what do I do best? You can enhance that through further education. He did!

These are just a few questions to consider in making the kinds of contributions to your church, your family, and your community. Many and varied disciplines and occupations make up a progressive community. Add in communication and cooperation, and you'd be surprised what the recipe will produce. In Mr. Jervay Senior's Day is produced a "Viable Village."

These, and many more topics were discussed at the Filing Cabinet, at The Carolinian, at 518 East Martin St., in Raleigh, NC, and often times the by-product of those discussion was "production." P. R. Jervay Senior's favorite word, which meant putting the thoughts from those discussions into action.



## REVERAND JESSE LOUIS JACKSON

To think that Johnson would believe he has the power, at any level, to dismiss the contributions of Jesse Jackson by not allowing his remains to lie in state in the U.S. Capitol reveals who he is and who he is not. These man-made symbols of respect are treated as though they define worth. Lowering a flag or allowing someone to lie in state are only symbols of what Speaker Johnson and others choose to honor.

When Charlie Kirk was honored by lying in state and flags were lowered for his contributions, it did not change the fact that he and Johnson have promoted beliefs that Jesus never taught. Their actions and stated beliefs may have earned them positions of perceived power, but they also announce to the world what they truly stand for. Reverence for the Constitution and reverence for the teachings of Jesus require more than ceremony.

Jesse Louis Jackson never needed symbols to prove who he was. From boyhood to manhood, he was sent here to lift people up. He was born to sit at conference tables and tell corporations that Black consumers bought their products but were denied access to ownership, jobs, and opportunity. Corporations listened because they understood his power. He had the ability to mobilize people and influence markets. He knew that if companies refused to open doors, they could lose what mattered most to them, money. They were wise enough to negotiate.

It is interesting to note that when students from North Carolina A&T sat down at the Woolworth's lunch counter, that was not Jesse's assignment. Yet he understood the power of what they had done and chose to join them. Even then, he was a powerful orator who encouraged students to act. At his historically Black college, where he was also a football player and met his wife Jacqueline, he developed the leadership that would later shape the nation.

God placed him in the path of Martin Luther King Jr., who recognized in him a servant leader and mentored him. Jesse was on his way, not for personal gain, but for his people. He spoke eloquently for those who were marginalized. He understood what it meant to be rejected. He used his own life to encourage children who might believe they did not matter.

His simple declaration, "I am somebody," reached into the hearts and minds of many. His speeches are legendary and will continue to be studied and respected by young people around the world, alongside historic addresses like the Gettysburg Address and "I Have a Dream." When I listen to his speeches, I often feel that something greater than him was guiding his words.

Jesse Jackson was not only a national leader but an international one. He traveled into the Middle East and negotiated the release of hostages without violence or provoking war. That courage and diplomacy should never be forgotten.

When I watched the subdued Black History celebration at the White House and heard Trump call himself a friend of Jesse's, I shook my head. Trump attempted to suggest that Jesse shared his dislike of Barack Obama, which was not true. Jesse once questioned whether Obama could win the presidency, and he said so in an open microphone moment. That revealed his humanity, not his hostility.

No one was prouder than Jesse Jackson when Barack Obama stood on that stage and declared that change had come to America. Those were not tears of jealousy. They were tears of joy, shared across the nation. They were in my eyes as well.

Jesse Jackson was sent to this country as a living example of what can happen when we answer our calling. He was not merely a leader. He was a great leader. He has finished his work and gone home to join those who walked the path before him. I imagine there was a great rejoicing when he arrived.

As for those of us still here, we say thank you. And to all who mourn, we offer our deepest condolences.



Rev. Jesse Jackson died last week at the age of 84. A high school classmate and dear friend shared a picture of himself and Rev. Jackson that reminded me of the first time I met Jesse Jackson in the late 1960s.

My father was a quiet man who worked midnight to 8am driving a forklift for commercial printer R.R. Donnelly's in Chicago. Daddy was born in 1908 in Mississippi and moved to Chicago as a young man. He didn't talk a lot about his experiences however even as a young child I knew there were stories that he felt were better untold. The family photo album was filled with pictures of a couple living their best lives on Chicago's Southside. They worked and saved their money and tried to have a baby for 13 years. In 1953, after purchasing a three-story building with tenants, they had me, their only child. The neighborhood had declined, white flight had created new housing opportunities thirty blocks south and they both had stable jobs so in 1958 we moved.

Ours was a black middle-class neighborhood sprinkled with whites who were too old to move. The Dan Ryan Expressway cut through the neighborhood, creating an informal albeit widely accepted line of demarcation between black and white neighborhoods. "We" lived on the north side of the bridge; "they" live on the south side. We crossed the bridge daily to attend elementary school. The high school was on our side of the bridge. I don't remember any racially spurred conflicts ever. We didn't think of our neighborhoods as segregated. We didn't think of our access to all that Chicago had as limited. We were kids growing up in a big city. We rode public transportation, went where we wanted, learned to drive and discovered even more of the city. And then, right before Easter in 1968, Dr. Martin Luther King was assassinated.

The world changed. Grainy images of the Viet Nam war and nationwide protests competing with nightly exposure to the Civil Rights movement broke the lenses of our rose-colored glasses. Daddy and I began attending Operation Breadbasket meeting at the Capital Theater in Chicago on Saturday mornings. It was there I first heard Jesse Jackson speak. I was mesmerized. When Daddy wasn't able to go I took the bus. During one meeting, there was a call for volunteers to help route shoppers to alternative stores during a protest. Following the meeting, I went with others to the Operation Breadbasket office to help. It was there I met Jesse Jackson. It was there I became a revolutionary. My big assignment was to watch his children until they were retrieved by his wife. A seemingly small task, it was life-changing. I stayed at the office until dark, knowing I would have to face my non-revolutionary mother when I got home. It was worth it. I became aware of more of the world in that afternoon, reading protest literature, listening to conversation about protests down South. And, let's be honest, Jesse Jackson, a mere 11 years my senior, was FINE! He had the Afro to end all Afros! And that voice. I could listen to him speak for hours. It was those experiences, that exposure that made me choose Spelman for college. I imagined I was going to the heart of the Civil Rights movement and pictured myself learning to organize protests. WRONG! So wrong.

In 1973 my parents retired and moved from Chicago to Jackson, Mississippi. I was in college in Iowa and joined them for what I planned to be a brief visit. Forty years later, I moved to Raleigh, North Carolina. Mississippi was good to me and for me. I was able to sit with Civil Rights icons, those on the frontlines. I heard stories from my contemporaries who remembered when Medgar was killed. I saw the end of the thriving Black business district, Farish Street, and wrote for the black newspaper, the Jackson Advocate. I watched the city grow and change as it came to terms with its history and began to write its future. And I witnessed with brilliant clarity the results of the work of Dr. King, Jesse Jackson, Medgar Evers and others.

That Jesse Jackson was able to live his life and die peacefully at age 84 is a beautiful thing. We're living in a confusing time right through here. There are so many things we take for granted now and it's easy to delude ourselves that the need for civil rights has passed. Although the nation is living under the weight of fear and intimidation pushing celebrations of cultural history and differences into dark spaces, don't get it twisted: there's still work to do. There's still much to overcome.



"My parents tried to home-school me and teach me all they know. Longest three minutes of my life."

# 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 Paval  
Paval 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**  
In the General Court of Justice,  
Superior Court Division  
Before the Clerk  
File No.: 26E000225-310

Having qualified as EXECUTOR of the Estate of GWENDOLYN LEE, 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 27, 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 26th day of February, 2026.

Sharnetta Diane Lee, Executor  
7804 C. 131 Fairview Rd.  
Charlotte, NC 28226  
2/26, 3/5, 3/12, and 3/19/2026  
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
DURHAM COUNTY

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**  
Having qualified as Administrator of the Estate of PEGGY JOANN GASKINS-SPENCER deceased in Durham County, this is to notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said Estate to present them, duly verified, to the undersigned at 5214 Penrith Drive Apt G, Durham, NC 27713 on or before the 26th day of May, 2026, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said Estate will please make immediate settlement with the undersigned.

This the 26th day of February, 2026.

Kevin Spencer  
Administrator  
5214 Penrith Drive Apt G,  
Durham, NC 27713  
File #26E000109-310  
2/26, 3/5, 3/12, and 3/19/2026  
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
DURHAM COUNTY

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**  
In the General Court of Justice,  
Superior Court Division  
Before the Clerk  
File No.: 25E000176-310  
Having qualified as ADMINISTRATOR of the Estate of AUDREY JACKSON LUCAS, 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 27, 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 26th day of February, 2026.  
Torhi Klayette Jackson  
Administrator  
117 Holiday Court  
Greenville, NC 27834  
2/26, 3/5, 3/12, and 3/19/2026  
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
DURHAM COUNTY

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**  
The undersigned, having qualified as Executor of the Estate of EDWIN LEE MORRIS, Deceased, late of Durham County, North Carolina, does hereby notify all

persons, firms and corporations having claims against the estate to exhibit them to the undersigned at the offices of Munson Law Firm PLLC, P.O. Box 1811, Pittsboro, NC 27312 on or before the 26th day of May, 2026, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to the estate will please make immediate payment.

This 26th day of February, 2026.  
BARBARA MORRIS, EXECUTOR  
ESTATE OF EDWIN LEE MORRIS  
2/26, 3/5, 3/12, and 3/19/2026  
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
DURHAM COUNTY

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**  
26E000105-310

Having qualified as Executor of the Estate of JOHN KEITH SPITZNAGEL AKA JOHN K. SPITZNAGEL, late of Durham County, North Carolina, the undersigned does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claim against the estate of said decedent to exhibit them to the undersigned c/o Guido De Maere, P.A. at 100 Europa Drive, Suite 160, P.O. Box 3591, Chapel Hill, NC 27515 on or before the 26th day of May, 2026, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms and corporations indebted to said estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This the 26th day of February, 2026.

Jean S. Hetherington, Executor of the Estate of John Keith Spitznagel aka John K. Spitznagel  
Attorney for the Estate:  
Guido De Maere, P.A.  
P.O. Box 3591  
Chapel Hill, NC 27515-3591  
2/26, 3/5, 3/12, and 3/19/2026  
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
DURHAM COUNTY

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**  
Having Qualified as Executor of the Estate of BRENDA PITTS, deceased, late of Durham County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons, firms, and corporations having claims against the estate of said deceased to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 26 day of May, 2026, or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate payment.

This the 26 day of February, 2026.

Rashidah Bryant  
10 Pumpkin Place  
Durham, NC 27703  
Attorney for Executor  
Karen R. Carnegie  
300 George Washington Hwy N  
Chesapeake, VA 23323  
2/26, 3/5, 3/12, and 3/19/2026  
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
DURHAM COUNTY

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**  
In the General Court of Justice,  
Superior Court Division  
Before the Clerk  
File No.: 26E000187-310  
Having qualified as EXECUTOR of the Estate of BARBARA ANN MCKENZIE, 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 27, 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 26th day of February, 2026.

Leah Friedman, Executor  
8 Stillwater Park  
Durham, NC 27707  
2/26, 3/5, 3/12, and 3/19/2026  
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
DURHAM COUNTY

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**  
Having qualified as Administrator of the Estate of JOAN ANN WORTH, Deceased, late of Durham County, North Carolina, the undersigned individual hereby gives notice to all persons, firms, and corporations having any claim against the Estate of Joan Ann Worth, Deceased, to present such claims to the Administrator, c/o Samantha J. Hovaniac, Brooks, Pierce, McLendon, Humphrey & Leonard, L.L.P., Post Office Box 1800, Raleigh, North Carolina 27602 on or before May 26, 2026, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms, and corporations indebted to Joan Ann Worth, Deceased, are requested to make immediate payment to the undersigned Administrator.

This the 26th day of February, 2026.

Jean M. Shanahan, Administrator of the Estate of Joan Ann Worth  
Samantha J. Hovaniac, Attorney  
Brooks, Pierce, McLendon,  
Humphrey & Leonard, L.L.P.  
Post Office Box 1800

Raleigh, North Carolina 27602  
2/26, 3/5, 3/12, and 3/19/2026  
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 26th day of February 2026.

Yesenia L. Polanco-Galdamez, Attorney for Plaintiff  
411 Andrews Road, Suite 130  
Durham, NC 27705 (919) 294-8032  
Published February 26, March 02, and March 9th, 2026.  
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
DURHAM COUNTY

**SMALL CLAIMS**  
In The General Court of Justice  
District Court Division  
FILE NO: 26CV002121-310

CHANDLERS TIRE AUTO & TOWING LLC, Plaintiff v. UNKNOWN OWNER, Defendant  
TO UNKNOWN OWNER, VIN 1JVV532W17L024432 WABASH TRAILER 2007: TAKE NOTICE that a Small Claims action has been filed against you by Chandlers Tire Auto & Towing LLC regarding a motor vehicle left for repairs and/or Towing and Storage and not claimed. You are required to appear before Magistrate in Durham County Courthouse in Durham County as follows;  
Date: 04/06/2026  
Time: 2:00PM  
Location: 3rd Floor Magistrates Durham County Courthouse  
510 Dillard Street  
Durham, North Carolina 27704

If you fail to appear and defend against the claim, judgement may be entered against you. This the 24th day of February 2026.

Chandlers Tire Auto & Towing LLC  
1314 E Club Blvd  
Durham NC 27704  
919-220-5234  
Chandlerstowing.dmv@gmail.com  
Deborah Davis  
2/26, 3/5, and 3/12/2026  
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
DURHAM COUNTY

**SMALL CLAIMS**  
In The General Court of Justice  
District Court Division  
FILE NO: 26CV002124-310

CHANDLERS TIRE AUTO & TOWING LLC, Plaintiff v. UNKNOWN OWNER, Defendant  
TO UNKNOWN OWNER, VIN 2G CDC14G4B1206094 CHEVROLET C10 1981; TAKE NOTICE that a Small Claims action has been filed against you by Chandlers Tire Auto & Towing LLC regarding a motor vehicle left for repairs and/or Towing and Storage and not claimed. You are required to appear before Magistrate in Durham County Courthouse in Durham County as follows;  
Date: 04/06/2026  
Time: 2:00 PM  
Location: 3rd Floor Magistrates Durham County Courthouse  
510 Dillard Street  
Durham, North Carolina 27704

If you fail to appear and defend against the claim, judgement may be entered against you. This the 24th day of February 2026.

Chandlers Tire Auto & Towing LLC  
1314 E Club Blvd  
Durham NC 27704  
919-220-5234  
Chandlerstowing.dmv@gmail.com  
Deborah Davis  
2/26, 3/5, and 3/12/2026  
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
DURHAM COUNTY

**SMALL CLAIMS**  
In The General Court of Justice  
District Court Division  
FILE NO: 26CV002040-310

CHANDLERS TIRE AUTO & TOWING LLC, Plaintiff v. UNKNOWN OWNER, Defendant  
TO UNKNOWN OWNER, VIN NCX1273588 (2003 BELSHEE TRAILER): TAKE NOTICE that a Small Claims action has been filed against you by Chandlers Tire Auto & Towing LLC regarding a motor vehicle left for repairs and/or Towing and Storage and not claimed. You are required

to appear before Magistrate in Durham County Courthouse in Durham County as follows;  
Date: Monday, April 6, 2026  
Time: 2:00 PM  
Location: 3rd Floor Magistrates Durham County Courthouse  
510 Dillard Street  
Durham, North Carolina 27704  
If you fail to appear and defend against the claim, judgement may be entered against you. This the 24th day of February 2026.

Chandlers Tire Auto & Towing LLC  
1314 E Club Blvd  
Durham NC 27704  
919-220-5234  
Chandlerstowing.dmv@gmail.com  
Deborah Davis  
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 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**  
In the General Court of Justice,  
Superior Court Division  
Before the Clerk  
File No: 26E000158-310

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.

to appear before Magistrate in Durham County Courthouse in Durham County as follows;  
Date: Monday, April 6, 2026  
Time: 2:00 PM  
Location: 3rd Floor Magistrates Durham County Courthouse  
510 Dillard Street  
Durham, North Carolina 27704  
If you fail to appear and defend against the claim, judgement may be entered against you. This the 24th day of February 2026.

Chandlers Tire Auto & Towing LLC  
1314 E Club Blvd  
Durham NC 27704  
919-220-5234  
Chandlerstowing.dmv@gmail.com  
Deborah Davis  
2/26, 3/5, and 3/12/2026  
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
DURHAM COUNTY

**Hendrick Acura versus Nikki Keianna Stone, Carl Derrick Houze, Credit Acceptance Corp**  
**NOTICE OF SALE**  
Take notice that a public sale will take place on March 16th, 2026 at 10:00 am to satisfy a lien against the following vehicle: 2008 Acura VIN# 2HNYD28388H519459. The location of the sale is Hendrick Acura Southpoint, 212 Kentington Sr, Durham, NC 27703.  
2/26 & 3/5/2026  
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
DURHAM COUNTY

**BMW of Southpoint versus Jasmine Mashay Brodie, Deaveon Jackson, Stephanie Poe, Nakita Beatrice Russell, Ally Financial**  
**NOTICE OF SALE**  
Take notice that a public sale will take place on March 16th, 2026 at 10:00 am to satisfy a lien against the following vehicles: 2012 BMW 5UXZV4C52CL767518, 2014 BMW WBA5A7C59ED613296, 2015 BMW 5UXKRC059F0K61494. The location of the sale is BMW of Southpoint, 225 Kentington Dr, Durham, 27713.  
2/26 & 3/5/2026  
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
DURHAM COUNTY

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**  
ALL persons, creditors having claims against PATRICIA 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#: 25E0001577-310  
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.

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

**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**  
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.

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.

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.

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

**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

**DURHAM COUNTY**

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.  
 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.  
 Rougement, 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 Number 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 Huitt 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.  
 Marlena Yates, Executor of the Estate of Marlow P. Severin

c/o Zachary A. Marks, Esq.  
 Wyrick Robbins Yates & Ponton, LLP  
 4101 Lake Boone Trail, Ste. 300  
 Raleigh, NC 27607  
 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: 26E000068-310**  
 Having qualified as EXECUTOR of the Estate of ROBERT PRICE SNEED, 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.  
 Robert Price Sneed Jr., Executor  
 3407 Windsor Way  
 Durham, NC 27707  
 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: 26E000069-310**  
 Having qualified as EXECUTOR of the Estate of SARAH KOPP SNEED, 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.  
 Robert Price Sneed Jr., Executor  
 3407 Windsor Way  
 Durham, NC 27707  
 2/5, 2/12, 2/19, and 2/26/2026  
 STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
 DURHAM COUNTY  
**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**  
**File No: 25E000975-310**  
 Having qualified as Public Administrator of the Estate of GEORGIEON TISDALE STEELE, deceased, of 1011 Da Vinci St., Durham County, Durham, NC 27704, the undersigned does hereby notify all persons, firms, and corporations having claims against the estate of said decedent to exhibit them to the undersigned in care of the attorney for the estate on or before 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  
 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 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 Pl., Durham, NC 27707  
 2/5, 2/12, 2/19, and 2/26/2026

**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

**ON SLOW COUNTY**

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
 ONSLOW COUNTY  
**SUMMONS**  
**Rule 204(c)(3)(B). Summons – Publication.**  
 To: Gavin Phillip Chronister  
 You have been sued by Taylor Kollmann, the Petitioner, in the Sixth District Magistrate Court Court in and for Bannock County, Idaho, Case No. CV03-25-03001.  
 The nature of the claim against you is Petition for Divorce.  
 Any time after 21 days following the last publication of this summons, the court may enter a judgment against you without further notice, unless prior to that time you have filed a written response in the proper form, including the Case No., and paid any required filing fee to the Clerk of the Court 624 East Center, Pocatello, Idaho 83201 and (208) 236-7351 and served a copy of your response on the Petitioner's attorney Tiffany Johnson, 1505 Sierra Dr Pocatello ID 83201, at Tiffany@johnsonlawidaho.com Phone: (208)-269-8779  
 A copy of the Summons and Petition can be obtained by contacting either the Clerk of the Court or the attorney for Petitioner. If you wish legal assistance, you should immediately retain an attorney to advise you in this matter. Dated: 2/6/2026  
 Bannock County Magistrate Court  
 By Gayla Syphus, Deputy Clerk  
 2/26, 3/5, 3/12, and 3/19/2026  
 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 OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION**  
**In The General Court of Justice**  
**District Court Division**

**FILE NO. 25CV039457-910**  
 VERONICA LAUVRAY, Plaintiff v.  
 SOPHIE K. JOHNSON, Defendant  
 TO: SOPHIE K. JOHNSON  
 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: An Absolute Divorce.  
 You are required to make defense to such pleading no later than forty (40) days after the first date of publication of this notice, exclusive of such date, and upon your failure to do so, the party seeking service against you will apply to the Court for the relief sought.  
 This, the 26th day of February, 2026.  
 Veronica Lauvray, Plaintiff, Pro Se  
 860 Squire Court  
 Cary, NC 27511  
 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.: 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.  
 Delisa 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 BROSSEAU, 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

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

# Sports

## How A Black NC Native Rose To The Top Of Snowboarding

By: Jordan Meadows

Staff Writer

Professional snowboarder Zeb Powell has spent the past few years redefining what the sport looks like while carrying his North Carolina roots onto some of snowboarding's biggest stages.

Born in Charlotte and raised in Waynesville, Powell grew up far from the traditional mountain hubs that typically produce elite riders, yet carved out a path that would eventually make him one of the most recognizable figures in modern snowboarding. Powell was adopted and raised by Carl and Valerie Powell, whose working-class household in western North Carolina helped shape his grounded, experimental approach to the sport.

Early on, he struggled with in-

struction that forced him to ride in a stance that did not come naturally, and he initially disliked snowboarding. That frustration, however, turned into persistence. By age 15, he had already won Red Bull All Snow, a breakthrough that signaled the arrival of a rider whose style would prioritize creativity, flair, and individuality over traditional competitive orthodoxy.

His breakthrough moment on the global stage came at the 2020 Winter X Games, where he captured gold in Knuckle Huck, becoming the first Black snowboarder to win X Games gold. Powell has since used that platform to partner with organizations like Hoods to Woods, which introduces inner-city youth to snowboarding and outdoor recreation.

In competition, Powell has remained a consistent presence, plac-

ing first in X Games Knuckle Huck in 2020, fourth in 2022, second in 2024, and fourth again in 2025. Off the podium, his influence has arguably been even greater. Known for oversized boards, playful tricks, and an unconventional aesthetic, he has helped push snowboarding toward a more expressive, street-influenced direction that resonates with younger audiences.

That cultural reach has attracted major sponsorships and cross-industry attention. Powell is backed by brands including Red Bull, Burton, Thirtytwo, Recess Ride Shop, and Crab Grab, and in April 2025 he made history again by signing with Jordan Brand, becoming the first professional snowboarder to represent the label.

His growing presence within that world became especially visible dur-

ing the brand's 40th anniversary "Board of Greatness" gathering in Greece, where Powell found himself among elite athletes and celebrities, including Michael Jordan, Luka Dončić, Maya Moore, and Carmelo Anthony.

Powell's celebrity crossover continued during high-profile winter sports coverage that included appearances alongside Snoop Dogg, who served as an honorary Team USA personality during Olympic festivities. In widely shared content, Powell joined snowboarding legend Shaun White in introducing Snoop Dogg to snowboarding.

Beyond entertainment appearances, Powell has also entered mainstream advertising, recently collaborating with skateboard icon Tony Hawk in promotional campaigns,



further cementing his status as a crossover action sports figure. He also appeared in a Warren Miller film.

Most recently, Powell was in Boston for the revived Red Bull Heavy Metal Finals, a free urban snowboarding competition held at Boston City Hall Plaza. The plaza was transformed with more than 100 tons of snow to create a custom street course blending architecture and terrain, drawing thousands of spectators and featuring top riders from around the world.

Powell described the past year as "crazy," noting appearances at X Games, community tours, film features, and major brand activations. Despite the rapid rise, he has maintained a perspective rooted in his North Carolina upbringing, often expressing disbelief at the scale of opportunities now surrounding him

## She Is The First Black Female U.S. Hockey Player In Olympics

MILAN (AP) — As soon as U.S. hockey defender Laila Edwards skated onto the Olympic ice ahead of Thursday's gold medal win against Canada, she scanned the stands for the real MVP: Her 91-year-old grandmother.

Their shared ritual was on display before Team USA's 2-1 triumph Thursday — only made possible through an outpouring of donations to a GoFundMe drive, with by far the biggest individual contribution coming from NFL brother tandem and hometown allies Travis and Jason Kelce.

"As she comes in, she's looking around," her grandmother, Ernestine Gray, told The Associated Press earlier this week. "Then I say, 'I won't do anything to distract her.' Then she did see me and I wave to her and then she waved back."

Edwards, the first Black female hockey player to represent the U.S. at the Olympics, fielded a team of her own in Milan. The fundraiser enabled 10 family members and four friends to travel from the U.S. to Italy for her Olympic debut. Still others paid their own way.

After the semifinals game earlier this week, Edwards told the AP

that her family's presence in Milan "means everything to me."

"They helped me get here and make this team and achieve my dream, so it means a lot," she said.

Edwards had an assist for the first of the two goals that would win the game.

'Queen of Cleveland'

The Kelce brothers grew up in the same town as Edwards. They have been fans of hers since 2023, when she became the first Black player to make the U.S. senior women's national team, and shouted her out on their popular podcast, "New Heights."

The top donation to the GoFundMe was \$10,000, from someone remaining anonymous; Edwards has confirmed that it came from the Kelces. By Thursday, the Edwards family had raised more than \$61,000.

What's more, Travis Kelce reached out to provide advice to the "Queen of Cleveland," a nickname her teammates gave her following a U.S.-Canada game played there in November. And Jason Kelce and his wife, Kylie, were in the stands Monday to cheer on the U.S. team during their 5-0 win over Sweden. Edwards, a forward-turned-defender, had an assist



then, too.

Generosity from the Kelces and locals is another example of how the tight-knit town operates, her parents said, even though their daughter moved away at a young age. Edwards, considered the future face of women's hockey, has also inspired the Black community in Ohio and

beyond. While diversity is reflected in many sports such as soccer, it hasn't made a dent in winter sports and there are very few Black athletes in the Milan Cortina Olympic Games. Men's and women's hockey globally, including in the U.S., remains predominantly white.

"Just to hear all the people of color talking about, 'I've never watched hockey before and I'm tuning in,'" Gray-Edwards said. "I would love to know what the ratings are. Because everybody at home, everybody is talking about it. All these people are trying to buy jerseys."

For Gray-Edwards, some of the most meaningful moments have been seeing little boys come up to her daughter for an autograph.

"That means they're not like, 'Oh, this is a girl that plays hockey.' They're like, 'This is a good hockey player.' So it doesn't matter if she's Black, a woman — she's a good player," Gray-Edwards said.

But Gray-Edwards' most treasured memories likely won't be about Thursday's gold medal win — they will stem from watching her 91-year-old mother and her 22-year-old daughter together at the rink.

"You can just see them waving at each other. My mother's like jumping and, oh, she just loves it," Gray-

Edwards said.

'How would we afford it'

Hours before the puck dropped for Monday's semifinal, the Edwards family was ready.

Edwards' mother, Charone Gray-Edwards, has strict rules about travel. She mandated that everyone meet in the hotel lobby 2½ hours before game time, dressed in their Team USA finest. They called a taxi van to fit the large group — including Edwards' parents, grandmother, aunt, cousin and older brother — and loaded up.

Her parents weren't sure the entire family would be able to make the journey when she called them a month before the Olympics to say she'd been chosen for the team. They could cover the costs for two people, but the full family roster — all of whom have supported her over the years — would have been far too expensive. And they hadn't booked early flights or locked in cheaper hotel rates for fear of jinxing her.

## Howard University's Swimming And Diving Makes History With Dual NEC Championship

By: Monica Lewis

The Dig (Howard University)

It is fitting that during February, Howard University's swimming and diving program did what's never been done before, creating another defining chapter in Howard Athletics history. This past Friday, the Bison men's and women's swimming and diving teams captured the Northeast Conference Swimming and Diving Championships, cementing the program's place among the nation's elite.

The women's team claimed its first NEEC title in program history, while the men secured their second consecutive championship and third in four years — a remarkable run that underscores Howard's growing dominance in the sport.

For a program that stands alone as the only HBCU with a Division I swimming and diving team, the achievement carries significance far beyond the medal stand. It represents progress, possibility, and a powerful reminder that excellence in aquatics belongs to everyone.

"This moment is about more than winning championships. It's about showing young swimmers and divers — especially those who may not see themselves represented — that they belong in this sport and can excel at the highest level," said Nic Askew (B.A. '00), who has been at the helm of the program since 2014, transforming the team into a national force.

Excelling at the highest level is exactly what the Bison did during



the NEC Championships, which took place at the Spire Institute in Geneva, Ohio, Feb. 17-20. From the very start, Howard student athletes made their presence felt capturing — and maintaining — first place throughout the meet. Heading into the championships, the men's team were predicted to finish first and the women were predicted to finish in second place, but Askew was confident that both teams would finish strong.

"I've seen these young men and women really push themselves this entire season and I have never doubted that we could win," Askew said. "I am proud of what we did and know that this program continues to set the standard."

Throughout the championship

meet, the Bison displayed depth, resilience, and a relentless competitive spirit, with standout performances across relays, individual events, and diving. In addition to winning both team championships, the Bison earned impressive individual honors, including Zion Wilson, a sophomore chemical engineering major from San Antonio, Texas (NEC Most Outstanding Diver); Zuilda "Zuzu" Nwaeze, a senior from Columbia, Maryland (NEC Most Outstanding Swimmer); NEC Diving Coach of the Year Courtenay Miller (B.B.A. '86 and M.Div. '04); and both teams, who earned NEC Coaching Staff of the Year. Nwaeze ends her Howard career with her third consecutive Most Outstanding Swimmer honor.

A Black History Month Milestone Winning both titles during Black History Month adds an even deeper layer of significance. In a sport where Black athletes have historically been underrepresented, Howard continues to elevate visibility and open doors for future generations of swimmers and divers.

"Watching these teams come together and accomplish so much really has been history in the making," Askew said. "Never before has a women's team from an HBCU won a conference title and never before has an HBCU won back-to-back swimming and diving conference titles. These wins speak volumes about the talent and competitive nature of our program and what is possible for student athletes considering attending an HBCU."

The championships are not only victories for the Bison, but also for representation in collegiate athletics — proof that excellence and diversity go hand in hand.

A Force in the Sport

With multiple conference titles, national recognition like the 2020 Sports Illustrated cover story, and a culture rooted in excellence, Howard Swimming and Diving has firmly established itself as a program to watch and one that is poised to dominate for the foreseeable future.

As the Bison celebrate this historic sweep, one message rings clear: Howard is not just participating in the sport — it is helping shape its future and break barriers in the process.



FSU WOMEN DOMINATE FINALE

RALEIGH, NC — Fayetteville State controlled the tempo in the second half to secure a 75-50 win over Shaw. Guard Neveah Colon powered the Broncos' offensive attack, driving aggressively to the rim and finishing through contact as Fayetteville State built separation.

Shaw showed flashes of transition speed, particularly when Leasia Matthews pushed the pace on fast breaks. Her ability to get downhill created opportunities in the open floor, but the Bears struggled to string together consistent stops defensively.

Fayetteville State's defensive pressure disrupted Shaw's rhythm, forcing turnovers and converting them into points on the other end. The Broncos' balanced scoring and sustained defensive intensity proved too much down the stretch as they closed out the regular season on a high note.

PHOTOS BY: STEVE WORTHY



SHAW MEN FALL DESPITE SCOTT'S 28

RALEIGH, NC — The men's matchup delivered an up-tempo, high-scoring battle, but Fayetteville State's offensive firepower ultimately carried the Broncos to a 101-89 victory.

Shaw's Dreveon Scott turned in a standout performance, leading all scorers with 28 points. Scott capitalized on turnovers and attacked the basket in transition, keeping the Bears within striking distance throughout the first half. Justin Harris added energy on the break, while Darius Abraham battled on the boards in a physical paint presence.

Despite Shaw's offensive efforts, Fayetteville State maintained control with efficient scoring and second-chance opportunities. Larry Howell played a key role for the Broncos, contributing on both ends of the floor, including tough rebounding plays that limited Shaw's momentum.

Though the Bears fought to keep pace, Fayetteville State's depth and scoring consistency sealed the win in the closing minutes.

PHOTOS BY: STEVE WORTHY

## Part 2: Black Coaches In Pursuit Of The NCAA Football Championship

By Al-Tony Gilmore

The Journal of Blacks in Higher Education

(See previous edition for PT. 1)

Some Black coaches and administrators hoped for more than "segregated all-Negro titles" and clamored to compete against PWIs. In 1951, 21 HBCU representatives, led by Mack Greene, athletic director of Central State, convened to form the National Athletic Steering Committee (NASC). The plan and strategy of the NASC was to meet with both the NCAA and NAIA and request that HBCUs be allowed to enter either or both of their national basketball tournaments. Initially,

both the NCAA and the NAIA were cautious and guarded about allowing HBCUs to compete against PWIs for national championships. They were told by the NCAA there was "no championship apparatus which would accommodate black colleges," because they were too small, recalled Naismith Memorial Hall of Fame basketball coach John McLendon in his book, co-authored with Milton Katz, *Breaking Through: The NAIA and the Integration of Intercollegiate Athletics in Post World War II America*. McLendon also remembered that the NCAA voiced fear over the style of HBCU basketball and straightforwardly express-

ing the belief that "your coaches may not be competent enough."

Fortunately for the NASC, the leadership of the NAIA was more receptive and in 1953 unanimously approved that "all colleges for Negroes that meet the required standards" were eligible for NAIA membership and that it would sponsor a national tournament of NASC schools — designated District 29 — and the winning team would be eligible beginning in 1953 for participation in the NAIA national tournament held annually in Kansas City.

Greene wrote in the NASC newsletter with unbridled optimism:

"The door is now open to all colleges for Negroes to world competition in basketball. Let's prepare ourselves for all that it means!" It was the opening of the door for the best Black coaches — all then at HBCUs — to demonstrate the quality of their coaching skills. At least two generations earlier Black athletes at PWIs had manifested their worth as athletes, though all had been trained by White coaches. Black coaches and all Black teams in interracial games were what was different, and with the opportunity provided by the NAIA had something to prove.

(See NEXT EDITION for PT. 3)