



Ghana's President Says That The US 'Normalising' Erasure Of Its History

(Reuters) - Ghana's President John Dramani Mahama, speaking in New York in March, criticised the U.S. administration for what he described as normalising the erasure of Black history, warning such policies could have ripple effects elsewhere. Since his return to power, U.S. President Donald Trump has targeted U.S. cultural and historical institutions - from museums to monuments to national parks - to remove what he calls "anti-American" ideology.

His declarations and executive orders have led to the dismantling of slavery exhibits, the restoration of Confederate statues and other moves that civil rights advocates say could reverse decades of social progress. "These policies are becoming a template for other governments as well as some private institutions," Mahama said, speaking at an event on slavery reparations at the United Nations. "At the very least, they are slowly normalising the erasure." Mahama said that in the U.S.,

Black history courses were being removed from school curricula, institutions were being mandated to stop teaching the "truth of slavery, segregation and racism", and books addressing these subjects were increasingly being banned. The White House did not immediately respond to a request for comment. Mahama, who last year announced a deal to accept West Africans deported by the U.S., previously criticised Trump for his false claims of

white genocide and land seizures in South Africa, calling them an insult to all Africans. Mahama was in New York to table a resolution at the U.N. General Assembly to recognise transatlantic slavery as the "gravest crime in the history of humankind" and calling for reparations. The West African nation has been a leading advocate for reparations, a cause that has gained significant momentum in recent years, even as a growing backlash has emerged. Several Western leaders have opposed even discussing the subject, with critics arguing today's states and institutions should not be held responsible for historical wrongs. The draft resolution, seen by Reuters, urges member states to engage in dialogue on reparations, including issuing formal apologies, returning stolen artefacts, providing financial compensation, and ensuring guarantees of non-repetition. The resolution has been backed by the nations of the African Union (AU) and the Caribbean Community, as well as countries like Brazil. Ghana's foreign minister Samuel Ablakwa said the European Union and the U.S. had already communicated they would not back the resolution. The EU and U.S. missions to the U.N. did not immediately reply to a request for comment.



THE BLACK CADDIES OF AUGUSTA— Each year during The Masters golf tournament week, the Lucy Craft Laney Museum Performs *The Men on the Bag*. It's an experience that brings to life the rich history and pivotal role Black Caddies played in assisting the world's top golfers in winning the most famous golf tournament in the world: The Masters. Pictured above are Tommy Bennett (left) who caddied for Tiger Woods in his Masters' debut in 1995, and Lawrence Bennett (right) who was a chauffeur and overseer of the green Masters jackets for over 50 years.

From Oura Rings To Ramen Bars, Jaylon Smith, 30, Is Now A 'Unicorn Investor'

Dana Hunsinger Benbow

Indianapolis Star

In football, they're called unicorns — those extraordinary players who have a toolbox of skills that make them not only versatile on the field, but a rare phenomenon to witness. Football unicorns make people stop and stare in wonder, incredulous at the feat they just saw them perform. Jaylon Smith was a football unicorn.

An Indiana native, Smith won four state championships at Fort Wayne's Bishop Luers High School and the title of Indiana Mr. Football. At Notre Dame, he was an elite, generational linebacker, widely considered one of the best in school history. Smith won the 2015 Butkus Award as the nation's top linebacker and was a 2014 Second Team All-American.

As the 2016 NFL Draft approached, Smith was projected, almost universally, to be a top-five pick.

That was before his foot got caught up in the turf during the first quarter



of the last game of his college career at the Fiesta Bowl in January 2016. That was before an Ohio State player pushed him after a fumble, causing Smith to land on his left knee, which bent in a way that defied human anatomy. Smith suffered severe injuries, a torn ACL and a torn LCL/MCL.

His NFL stock plummeted. The Dallas Cowboys took Smith 34th overall in the second round of the NFL Draft, with \$4.4 million guaranteed. A top five pick would have secured \$23 million to \$28 million in a four-year rookie deal at the time, according to Forbes. "That (injury) cost him \$18 million

coming out," says Michael V. Ledo, a longtime mentor and financial advisor to Smith.

Yet, in what defied all injury odds, Smith went on to have a successful NFL career, despite nerve damage that some said meant he would never play again.

Smith was a 2019 Pro Bowler who played 88 NFL games, primarily with Dallas from 2017 to 2021. He was a tackling machine, recording three consecutive seasons with more than 100. In his career, he had 626 tackles, 11 sacks and six forced fumbles.

But what most didn't know about Smith, as he was deeply embedded in his NFL playing days, was that he was quietly learning and toiling over the inner workings of investing, off the field. And Smith wasn't just a student, he was making his own financial moves.

Which leads to Smith, not just a football unicorn, but a unicorn investor. During his final season with

(See **UNICORN INVESTOR** P. 2)



NC HOUSE PANEL RECOMMENDS CHANGES TO INVOLUNTARY COMMITMENT SYSTEM

NC NEWSLINE - A North Carolina House committee voted on Tuesday to approve interim recommendations to improve public safety in the state, but lawmakers say they're a long way from finishing their work on involuntary commitment.

The House Select Committee on Involuntary Commitment and Public Safety is recommending that county jails consider using telehealth as a way for medical staff to evaluate the mental health of arrestees on site, instead of sending them to a hospital as the law currently requires.

They're also suggesting increasing the number of providers who can complete commitment evaluations, recruiting and retaining staff so more beds are available, and expanding outpatient services.

Other recommendations include improving data collection, ensuring there's a payment method in place for outpatient commitment services, and evaluating the legal standards for involuntary commitment in regards to guardianship and incompetency, according to the report.

Rep. Marcia Morey (D-Durham) questioned whether there's enough funding available to complete these tasks.

"We have 300 beds that aren't being used because we aren't able to staff them," she said. "We're not being able to pay the licensed professionals that we need to increase licensing requirements, to get more people able to be licensed."

Others pointed out that while the mental health crisis has always existed, it's required more attention lately.

This could lead to the state keeping more people in custody than in the past, Rep. Carla Cunningham (D-Mecklenburg) said.

"We have to figure out another way to look at those individuals that are not going to self-medicate," she said. "They're not going to self-medicate because they know how the system works, because they're in and out of the system. They learn how to manipulate it."

NC EDUCATORS RALLY AT STATE LEGISLATURE AFTER LEANDRO DISMISSAL

By Jordan Meadows

Staff Writer

Dozens of educators, parents, and community members gathered outside the North Carolina General Assembly Wednesday morning to rally in the wake of the state Supreme Court's April 2nd decision to dismiss the Leandro case, a 32-year-old lawsuit that had become the centerpiece of efforts to overhaul public school funding in North Carolina.

The 4-3 ruling, split along partisan lines, vacated a court-approved plan that would have directed more than \$5 billion toward teacher pay, special education, school counselors, social workers, and nurses. With that plan now gone, advocates say the consequences will be felt most acutely in the districts that were already struggling.

"When our schools struggle, our communities feel it," said Tamika Walker Kelly, president of the North Carolina Association of Educators. The court's majority opinion vacated all actions taken in the Leandro case since 2017, ruling that a lower court had overstepped its jurisdiction by expanding what began as a county-level education adequacy dispute into a statewide matter. The ruling also reversed a 2022 decision that had allowed judges to direct state officials to transfer funds directly—effectively handing control of education spending back to the General Assembly.

For advocates, the most important legal point is what the ruling did not do: the 1997 precedent affirming that North Carolina's constitution guarantees every child a "sound basic education" remains intact.

"Nothing in this ruling has changed the words of our constitution," said Shray Shetty, an attorney at the North Carolina Justice Center. But the practical weight of the decision falls squarely on lawmakers. Advocates said Wednesday they are still assessing their options; whether through new litigation, legislative lobbying, or broader public organizing.

"This is a time to build a stronger movement, to build power, to put even

How Trump's SAVE America Act Could Make Voting Harder For Married Women

NC Newsline - Millions of women could face new challenges to voting under President Donald Trump's SAVE America Act, which would require voters to prove their citizenship before casting a ballot.

The federal legislation would mandate that most Americans show a birth certificate or passport to register to vote. But people with names that don't match their birth certificate in some instances could have to produce additional documents like a marriage certificate or divorce decree linking their past and current identities.

The proposal holds potentially outsized consequences for millions of married and divorced women, transgender individuals and others who have changed their names.

As many as 69 million American women have birth certificates that don't match their current name, according to an analysis by the liberal Center for American Progress.

"The fact that the majority of women upon marriage do change their name already means that this is going to be completely unequal in how the law is applied," said Letitia Harmon, senior director of policy and research at Florida Rising, a racial and economic justice nonprofit.

Harmon, 43, has personal experience with the issue because of state proof-of-citizenship laws, which have become more common in recent years.

The Florida resident used to live in Kansas, which required individuals to show documents like a birth



certificate or passport to register to vote until federal courts struck down the law as unconstitutional. Ahead of the 2014 election, Harmon was unable to locate her birth certificate before the registration deadline and couldn't vote.

More recently, Florida, Mississippi, South Dakota and Utah have all enacted proof-of-citizenship measures this year, in addition to Wyoming in 2025. Florida Republican Gov. Ron DeSantis signed the Florida SAVE Act last week.

A dozen years later, Harmon worries she could again face additional hurdles to voting — this time because of multiple name changes.

Harmon, who changed her name when she married but later divorced and changed it back, voiced concern that if election officials ever check her registration, it will be flagged. "It's heartbreaking and it's infuriating. It feels like we're going backwards," Harmon said.

Debate in D.C. In Washington, the U.S. Senate has been debating the SAVE America Act, Trump's signature elections initiative, after a version of the legislation passed the House. The bill doesn't appear to have enough support to survive a filibuster, but Trump and his allies have pressured senators to end the filibuster to pass

it before the midterm elections.

Supporters of the bill describe it as an election integrity measure and say it's necessary to prevent noncitizen voting, though studies have shown that's extremely rare. The measure reflects a long-running effort by Trump to assert more federal control over elections that includes a campaign by the Department of Justice to obtain sensitive state voter data and an executive order signed last week restricting mail-in voting.

Opponents condemn the legislation as unneeded and poorly drafted. If enacted, the bill would take immediate effect, throwing the election process into chaos in a midterm election year as millions of people registering to vote attempt to prove their citizenship. The new requirements would risk disenfranchising American voters struggling to obtain the documents they need in time. Disproportionate effect on married women

Critics have especially focused on the disproportionate effect the legislation could have on women. Eighty-four percent of women in opposite-sex marriages take either their husband's last name or hyphenate their name, according to a 2023 Pew Research Center survey. By contrast, less than 6% of men took their wife's last name or hyphenated their name. "Given that 85% of American women change their name when they get married, the impact on women is going to be huge and it's going to be

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STATE BRIEF

Continued from page 1

more pressure on our state legislators, state leaders, our governor and our state superintendent of public schools," said Jenice Ramirez, Co-Executive Director of Education Justice Alliance.

The educators at Wednesday's rally described classrooms strained well beyond what any court ruling could fix quickly. High teacher turnover, inadequate staffing, and students with unmet needs were recurring themes.

Jackie McLean, a dropout prevention specialist in Hoke County Schools and one of the original Leandro plaintiffs, spoke at the rally, describing the day-to-day reality in her district with striking specificity.

"We have one social worker for more than 2,000 students," she said. "We are really heartbroken, but we will not let up."

The timing of the court ruling has landed in the middle of an already fraught political environment: North Carolina lawmakers have not passed a budget for the current fiscal year.

The House and Senate remain at odds over education spending levels. The House has proposed an 8.7% teacher pay raise and a starting salary floor of \$50,000, which spokeswoman Demi Dowdy said "would bring North Carolina to #1 in the Southeast." The Senate has taken a more modest approach, noting that interim funding agreements have been reached for schools in the absence of a full budget.

Critics point out that state spending on education has not kept pace with growing needs, and that the expansion of Opportunity Scholarship vouchers has drawn resources away from the public system. Meanwhile, school districts across the state are already cutting budgets for next year, driven by enrollment declines, rising operational costs, and stagnant revenue.

With the legal path forward uncertain, the focus among those who backed the Leandro plan has shifted, at least in the near term, to the legislature.

That pressure was on full display outside the Legislative Building, where Yevonne Brannon, chair of Public Schools First NC, delivered a direct message to lawmakers:

"The Supreme Court let us down. But don't let our legislators forget that we're counting on them to fund our public schools... Make sure everybody in this building knows that they are the ones we're holding responsible for funding our public schools."

N.C. Data Center Developers Are Moving Hyperscale Projects Forward

WUNC - As the sun set on the town of Danbury, a chorus of voices rose in front of the Stokes County Government Center. Amid clapping and whistling, a crowd of about 100 people chanted "no data centers, no data centers" during the January meeting. A projector lit up the right side of the building, displaying a livestream of the county commission meeting that was being held inside.

Stokes County resident Robert Spong stood outside the government building. He shouldered a sign with the same message.

"I think since they had the one spill in the Dan River before with the coal ash, there's a lot of concern that this data center could, for whatever reason, discharge back into the Dan River," said Spong, referring to a 2014 incident when 39,000 tons of coal ash, a toxic byproduct of burning coal, spilled into the Dan River. The pollution came from a coal plant operated by Duke Energy.

About 75 miles south, similar signs filled the Rowan County Courthouse during a utility commission proceeding in March. The hearing wasn't about data centers — Duke Energy was requesting permission from state regulators to build new natural gas generators at its Buck Steam Station. But residents had recently learned about a land deal involving a company linked to data center development.

"We (want to) know how come you guys are ... asking us to pay for ... that plant up there to power the AI data center that none of us want," Salisbury resident Salvatore Cerbone said.

Across North Carolina, and the country, people are having difficult

conversations about how hyperscale data centers are transforming communities. These massive computing facilities power artificial intelligence and cloud storage services — and they bring with them political, environmental and economic implications.

Not all data centers are created equal.

North Carolina is no stranger to data centers. There are about 100 in the state that account for up to 3% of the state's energy demand. That demand is expected to more than double by 2030, as the market for larger facilities grows to accommodate these rapidly evolving technologies, according to data from the Electric Power Research Institute.

"(Up until now) most of the new data centers (were) built ... for storing grandma's pictures at some level," said Rob Cox, a UNC Charlotte energy expert. "It's just beginning now to shift into that AI phase."

Some communities have enjoyed a positive relationship with local data centers. Forest City Town Manager Janet Mason said Meta, which opened one there in 2012, has been an excellent neighbor.

"When Hurricane Helene hit, not only did they give supplies, but their people showed up to help, to volunteer (and) to distribute supplies," Mason said.

After its initial construction, the data center didn't offer a lot of jobs, but it also didn't bring many of the negatives people have come to associate with these facilities.

"We were shocked at how little water they used, because I think we were hoping to sell a little bit more water to



them," Mason said with a chuckle.

But not all data centers are created equal. In 2024, Meta's Forest City facility used 30 megawatts of energy and consumed about 4 million gallons of water. By comparison, one proposed hyperscale project in Edgecombe County is slated to consume 900 megawatts — 30 times that much energy.

Hyperscale, hyperspeed. Some big tech companies are building hyperscale facilities to support their own services, while other businesses are building data centers to lease out.

The tricky part is these developers want to build these hyperscale projects at hyperspeed.

"It's difficult to forecast the load growth, because they might have put an application in in North Carolina and Texas and Georgia, and they're going to see which one gives them

power fastest," Cox said.

To fast-track this, utilities like Duke Energy are falling back on fossil fuels at a time when North Carolina is not on track to meet its 2050 carbon neutrality goal, according to the state's most recent greenhouse gas inventory.

Not only that, but climate change is putting a strain on water resources. Corey Davis, assistant state climatologist at the North Carolina State Climate Office, said the state is already seeing the impacts of climate change with unpredictable rainfall.

"The wet periods tend to mean literally when it rains, it pours," Davis said. "You're getting very heavy rain amounts in a very short time period. And then in between those heavy rain periods, it's getting drier faster."

Davis said this environmental uncertainty is another factor communities have to consider when thinking about data centers moving in.

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The James G. Martin Center Presents "Blueprint for Reform: Civil Discourse"

RALEIGH, N.C. — The James G. Martin Center for Academic Renewal released a new report, *Blueprint for Reform: Civil Discourse*, urging colleges and universities to take concrete steps to foster respectful dialogue and protect viewpoint diversity on campus.

The report opens with a reminder from former Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor: "It's possible to disagree without being disagreeable." Yet, on many campuses today, disagreement is increasingly avoided rather than engaged. "American higher education is at risk of becoming an echo chamber," the report argues. "Too many students feel pressure to remain silent rather than risk social or academic consequences for expressing their views."

Survey data from the Foundation for Individual Rights and Expression (FIRE) show that students are more likely to self-censor when they believe their views diverge from those of their professors. A 2022 analysis of eight UNC System institutions similarly found widespread concern among students about expressing political opinions—driven more by

peer reactions than by faculty oversight.

"Our universities have done excellent work improving free-speech policies. This is the next logical step," said Jenna A. Robinson, the president of the Martin Center. "Committing to civil discourse will improve campus culture in a way that good speech policies cannot." The report builds on earlier work by Professor George R. La Noue, emphasizing that formal free-speech policies—while necessary—are not sufficient. Universities must go further by modeling and institutionalizing civil

discourse.

Key Recommendations:
Create and support programs dedicated to civil discourse. These programs should organize regular public-policy debates on an array of issues.

Institute and facilitate post-debate discussions within student residences.

Adopt a statement, such as the Chicago Statement, clearly affirming the value of free speech and the civil and free exchange of ideas.

Provide a user-friendly public calendar of scheduled campus debates.

Adopt a position of institutional neutrality on current debated issues. This will help ensure that students, staff, and faculty can ask questions and express views without pressure to conform to an official institutional stance.

Students are hungry for opportunities to engage in serious, respectful disagreement, the report concludes. If higher education is to fulfill its civic mission, colleges and universities must become places where ideas are tested, not silenced—and where disagreement leads not to division but to understanding.

Married Vote — CONT. FROM PAGE 1

very problematic," Maine Secretary of State Shenna Bellows, a Democrat, said in a February interview.

The House-passed version of the bill says that when individuals applying to register have names that don't match the name on their proof-of-citizenship documents, they could provide "additional documentation as necessary to establish that the name on the documentation is a previous name of the applicant" or sign an affidavit affirming that the name on the documents is their previous name.

According to the bill, each state would establish a process to carry out this provision, in line with guidance from the federal Election Assistance Commission, a bipartisan independent commission that aids election officials.

Affidavit provision unclear
Some election and legal experts have said the affidavit provision is unclear. It comes immediately before another provision that allows individuals without proof-of-citizenship documentation to register if they sign an attestation that they are a citizen and an election official signs an affidavit saying the person has sufficiently established citizenship.

The Election Assistance Commission would create a uniform affidavit for use in that situation.

"Who knows what sort of process they'll say," said Alison Gill, director of nominations and democracy at the National Women's Law Center, a progressive legal advocacy group. "So there is language there, but it's still very vague and conflictual."

Because states would be responsible for setting procedures to vet those with different names on their documents, Gill said some states would probably try to make the process easier than others. But election officials would likely err on the side of strict enforcement because they could be prosecuted for registering individuals who don't provide citizenship documents.

"Ultimately, this puts the burden on election officials, who face criminal and civil liability under the bill, potentially to decide whether to risk registering a person with mismatching documents," Gill said. "Frankly insulting"

White House officials and some congressional Republicans have denied that individuals who change their name would face greater dif-

ficulty registering to vote. White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt said in March that there was "zero validity" to claims that the legislation would stop women from voting or make it harder for them to vote.

Married women who have changed their name and are already registered to vote would be unaffected by the legislation, Leavitt said. She added that for the "small fraction" of individuals who go on to change their name or their address, they would have to go through their state's process to update their documentation.

"I think it's frankly insulting that the Democrats are saying that there are certain groups of people in this country who aren't smart enough to update their documentation to allow them to vote," Leavitt said.

But Alaska Republican Sen. Lisa Murkowski has raised concerns about how the SAVE America Act would affect married women. Murkowski, who opposes the bill, said in a floor speech that an estimated 155,000 female citizens in Alaska age 15 and older have names that don't match their birth certificates.

Unicorn Investor — CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Dallas in 2021, Smith put \$100,000 into Oura Ring, a smart ring that tracks health, wellness, sleep and fitness.

"I was very passionate about the health and wellness space, especially around COVID," Smith says. "That's something that really intrigued me. And I invested right away. And I was a believer."

Oura is now one of the most recognized performance and health-tech platforms in the world, "and that position just delivered nearly a 10x return and a 56% IRR at an \$11B valuation," according to a report from Rise Family Office, which was founded by Ledo, who is also the CEO.

What that means for Smith, in layman's terms, is that the \$100,000 he invested in 2021 turned into \$1 million in 2026. He recently exited Oura, taking his earnings with him.

"In the investment world, a unicorn is anytime you've got a company that's went to a billion dollar valuation or they've had a 10x on your money," Ledo says. "Jay put a hundred thousand, and he made a million in five years, which is crazy.

That's not normal."

Smith is putting that money into his Jinya Ramen Bar locations. He has the rights to Indiana, with eight to 10 restaurants planned, as well as locations in Illinois. His first bar opened in July 2025 on the Notre Dame campus, and was recently voted the best restaurant in South Bend.

Beyond ramen, Smith has many other investments, 21 to be exact. He has been steadily building a portfolio spanning Sam's Club eyewear distribution, real estate, franchise ownership, his insurance agency and more.

"And that is why he'll never go cash poor, because he's not trying to live on what he did for 10 years in the league to last forever," Ledo says. "His kids are going to be able to hear about him playing football but be proud of seeing the kind of father and leader he is day to day, just not living on his past."

First, there was Burger King

By the time Smith was 11, he wanted to be an entrepreneur. He may not have known exactly what that meant but he knew he wanted to one day own some kind of cool business and make a lot of money off of it.

He also wanted to be an elite athlete.

When Smith was 14, he found someone who would be a mentor to him in both realms. At the time, Ledo ran an athletic training company in Fort Wayne called AWP, Athletes with Purpose. Hundreds of kids came through the program, 200 went to college, 100 to Division I, 15 to the NFL, and Smith was the best of all of them, Ledo says.

Soon, Ledo wasn't just talking to Smith about football. He was talking to him about life and everything it would take to be successful, including finances.

"He really taught me the essence or the importance of thinking at a very young age," Smith says, "thinking beyond the game and searching to find my purpose beyond athletics."

The winter of his senior year of high school, after winning his fourth state championship in football, Smith opted out of playing basketball for his final season and took a job at Burger King. He wanted to get a taste of what it was like to work in the real world, outside of sports.

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ROAD OVER HARRIS CREEK AND
OVER HODGES MILL CREEK IN RALEIGH**

STIP Project No. BP5.R089/BP5.R120



RALEIGH - The N.C. Department of Transportation is hosting a public meeting to discuss the proposal to replace the bridges on Forestville Road over Harris Creek and over Hodges Mill Creek. The purpose of this meeting is to provide interested citizens with information on the project and gather public input on the proposed design.

Project details and maps can be found on NCDOT's project input website at publicinput.com/forestvillerd-bridges. The information will be available at the meeting allowing for one-on-one discussions with NCDOT staff, but there will be no formal presentation.

The meeting will be held from 4 to 7 p.m. on April 21 at Wake Cross Baptist Church, 3328 Forestville Road, in Raleigh.

People may also submit comments by phone at 984-205-6615 project code 1863, email forestvillerd-bridges@publicinput.com, or mail at the address shown below by May 5, 2026.

By Mail: Lisa Bullard-Gilchrist, EI
NCDOT Highway Division 5 – Bridge Program Manager
2612 N. Duke Street
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NCDOT will provide auxiliary aids and services under the Americans with Disabilities Act for disabled people who wish to participate in this meeting. Anyone requiring special services should contact Tony Gallagher, Environmental Analysis Unit, at 1598 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1598, 919-707-6069 or magallagher@ncdot.gov as early as possible so arrangements can be made.

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

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Business & Finance

How Algorithmic Bias In AI Shapes The Hiring Process

The Conversation—A public interest group filed a U.S. federal complaint against artificial intelligence hiring tool, HireVue, in 2019 for deceptive hiring practices. The software, which has been adopted by hundreds of companies, favoured certain facial expressions, speaking styles and tones of voice, disproportionately disadvantaging minority candidates.

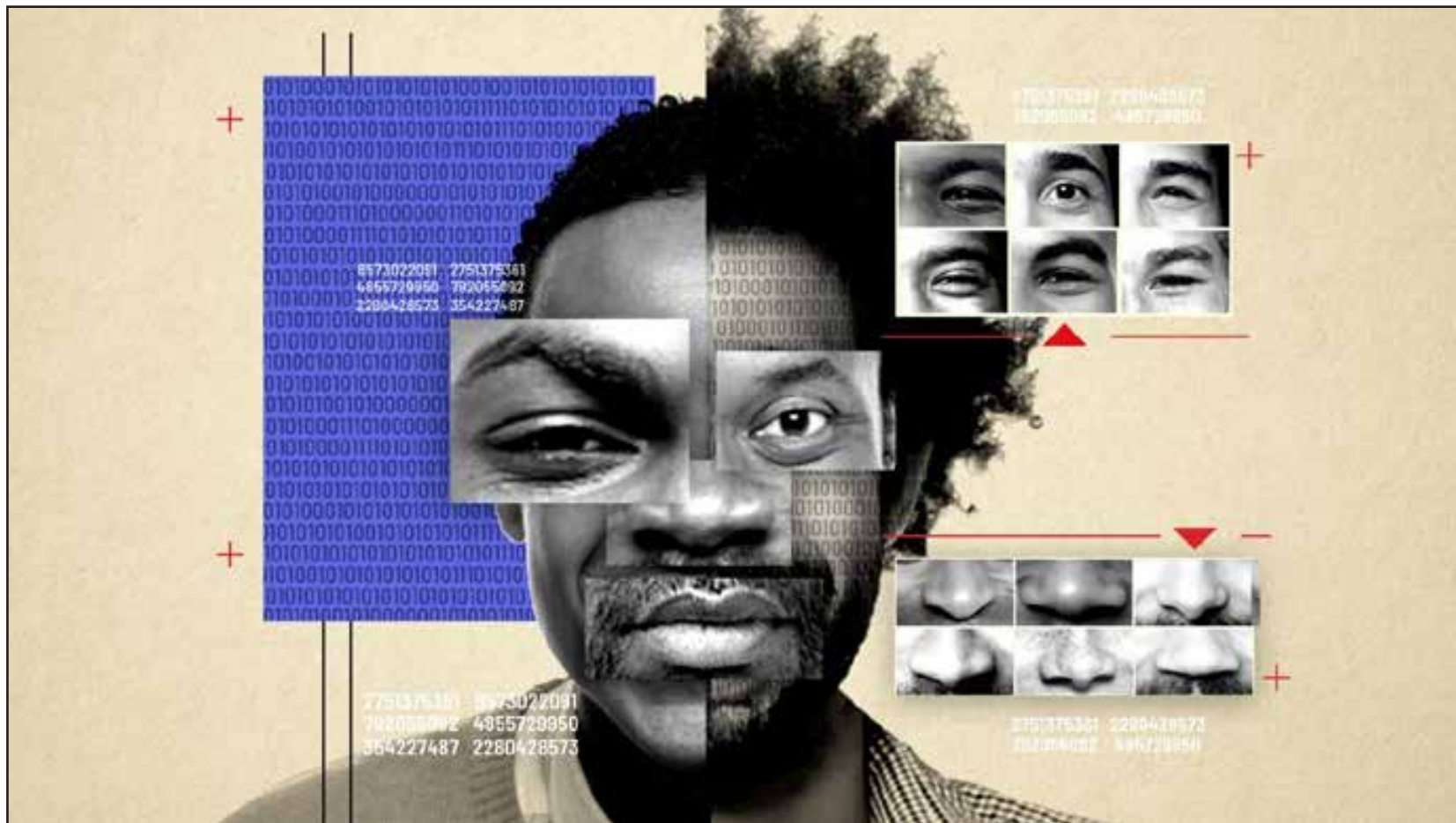
The Electronic Privacy Information Center argued HireVue's results were "biased, unprovable and not replicable." Though the company has since stopped using facial recognition, concerns remain about biases in other biometric data, such as speech patterns.

Similarly, Amazon stopped using its AI recruitment tool, as reported in 2018, after discovering it was biased against women. The algorithm, trained on male-dominated resumes submitted over 10 years, favoured male candidates by downgrading applications that included the word "women's" and penalizing graduates of women's colleges. Engineers tried to address these biases, but could not guarantee neutrality, leading to the project's cancellation.

These examples highlight a growing concern in recruitment and selection: while some companies are using AI to remove human bias from hiring, it can often reinforce and amplify existing inequalities. Given the rapid integration of AI into human resource management across many organizations, it's important to raise awareness about the complex ethical challenges it presents.

Ways AI can create bias
As companies increasingly rely on algorithms to make critical hiring decisions, it's crucial to be aware of the following ways AI can create bias in hiring:

1. Bias in training data. AI systems



rely on large datasets — referred to as training data — to learn patterns and make decisions, but their accuracy and fairness are only as good as the data they are trained on. If this data contains historical hiring biases that favour specific demographics, the AI will adopt and reproduce those same biases. Amazon's AI tool, for example, was trained on resumes from a male-dominated industry, which led to gender bias.

2. Flawed data sampling. Flawed data sampling occurs when the da-

taset used to train an algorithm is not representative of the broader population it's meant to serve. In the context of hiring, this can happen if training data over-represents certain groups — typically white men — while under-representing marginalized candidates.

As a result, the AI may learn to favour the characteristics and experiences of the over-represented group while penalizing or overlooking those from underrepresented groups. For example, facial analysis

technologies have shown to have higher error rates for racialized individuals, particularly racialized women, because they are under-represented in the data used to train these systems.

3. Bias in feature selection. When designing AI systems, developers choose certain features, attributes or characteristics to be prioritized or weighed more heavily when the AI is making decisions. But these selected features can lead to unfair, biased outcomes and perpetuate pre-

existing inequalities.

For example, AI might disproportionately value graduates from prestigious universities, which have historically been attended by people from privileged backgrounds. Or, it might prioritize work experiences that are more common among certain demographics.

This problem is compounded when the features selected are proxies for protected characteristics, such as zip code, which can be strongly related to race and socioeconomic status due to

historical housing segregation.

4. Lack of transparency. Many AI systems function as "black boxes," meaning their decision-making processes are opaque. This lack of transparency makes it difficult for organizations to identify where bias might exist and how it affects hiring decisions.

Without insight into how an AI tool makes decisions, it's difficult to correct biased outcomes or ensure fairness. Both Amazon and HireVue faced this issue; users and developers struggled to understand how the systems assessed candidates and why certain groups were excluded.

5. Lack of human oversight. While AI plays an important role in many decision-making processes, it should augment, rather than replace, human judgment. Over-reliance on AI without adequate human oversight can lead to unchecked biases. This problem is exacerbated when hiring professionals trust AI more than their own judgment, believing in the technology's infallibility.

To mitigate these issues, companies must adopt strategies that prioritize inclusivity and transparency in AI-driven hiring processes. Below are some key solutions for overcoming AI bias:

1. Diversify training data. One of the most effective ways to combat AI bias is to ensure training data is inclusive, diverse and representative of a wide range of candidates. This means including data from diverse racial, ethnic, gender, socioeconomic and educational backgrounds.

2. Conduct regular bias audits. Frequent and thorough audits of AI systems should be conducted to identify patterns of bias and discrimination. This includes examining the algorithm's outputs, decision-making processes and its impact on different demographic groups.

Six Ways To Become Rich While Earning Minimum Wage

By Cindy Lamothe

GOBankRates

Working a minimum wage job can feel like constantly spinning your wheels without making any financial progress. But earning less doesn't necessarily mean building wealth and your financial dreams are off-limits, according to experts.

"I've found that even with a low income, an intelligent way to grow wealth is by being careful with money," said Kelvin Wira, founder of Superpixel. "Focus on important things like rent and food, and try not to spend too much on extra stuff."

And try saving a little bit regularly, even if it's not much. Here are other expert-recommended ways to make big strides toward building wealth.

Track and Tame Expenses
Miguel Baptista, a manager with Rtitivities, said, "Making money on a minimum wage can seem tough, but it's possible to build wealth with small, smart steps."

First, he suggests keeping track of every penny you spend. It helps you

see areas where you can cut back, like your daily morning coffee run.

"Saving a little bit here and there adds up over time," Baptista added.

When it comes to tracking and taming expenses, Andrei Vasilescu, co-founder and CEO of DontPayFull, says awareness is key.

"Track every penny spent for a month," he said. "Categorize and identify potential cuts, even if it's just skipping that daily latte."

Every dollar saved is a dollar invested in your future.

Find Ways To Boost Your Earnings

General manager of Coupon Snake, Mafe Aclado believes it would be next to impossible to build wealth on minimum wage without first improving your earnings. Your total and accumulating earnings are the building blocks that ultimately help you build wealth.

"And with today's inflation affecting the cost of living, feeding and transportation," Aclado continued, "the fact is, your minimum wage would barely be enough to sustain

your immediate needs alone."

Aclado recommends boosting your earnings through side hustles and passive income streams so you can improve not only your income but also your chances of successfully building wealth.

"The minimum wage doesn't have to be your ceiling," said Connor Ondriska, co-founder and E-learning expert at SpanishVIP.

He suggests making it a point to ask for raises, hunt for side gigs — like pet-sitting or delivery — or monetize your hobbies online.

"Offer to tutor kids in your neighborhood, fix bikes for the local cafe or even write catchy jingles," said Ondriska. "Your skills are gold, mine them."

Vasilescu also agrees. He said, "Turn free time into income. Tutor online, sell on Etsy, do freelance writing — find your hidden talent and monetize it. Every extra dollar adds up, paving the path to bigger opportunities."

Invest Like a Boss

According to Ondriska, "Yes, even

minimum wage earners can invest."

He says to ditch the get-rich-quick schemes and embrace the boring, reliable options like low-cost index funds.

"Time is your secret weapon. The earlier you start, the more those little investments snowball," he explained. "Think of it as planting seeds today for a forest of wealth tomorrow."

Similarly, Vasilescu notes that time is your best friend.

"Even small, regular investments in low-cost index funds can snowball over years," he said. "Compound interest is the silent magician that turns pennies into riches."

Live Below Your Means

Experts agree that to build wealth on minimum wage, you should do everything you can to avoid lifestyle inflation.

"Resist the urge to upgrade your phone just because your friend did," Vasilescu advised. "Prioritize needs over wants and focus on building your financial buffer. Small sacrifices today lead to big freedoms tomorrow."

Baptista agrees, noting that living

below your means is crucial.

"It's all about what I need, not what I want," said Baptista. "This helps me save more money for the future."

Make the Most of Your Tax Benefits With an IRA

Sam Hodgson, pensions expert at SIPP Advice, said, "Many people, especially younger generations, don't realize the tax benefits available for your retirement savings. You need to have spare income to put in an IRA, but you can effectively deduct your IRA contributions from taxable income, so you pay less income tax."

For example, he says if you're earning minimum wage you can likely contribute the full allowance of \$6,000 per year into an IRA, even alongside any 401(k) you have with your employer.

"If you're paying 12% tax, this could equate to around \$720 tax relief each year," Hodgson added. "It might seem small, but over 40 years of working and being invested in the stock market, this could create a small fortune."

Think Beyond Money

"Building wealth isn't just about dollars," said Ondriska.

According to him, the knowledge and connections you accumulate today might be the key to unlocking higher-paying opportunities tomorrow.

"Invest in yourself. Learn new skills, network like crazy and build a community of support," he advised. "Devour free online resources, attend workshops and find a financial mentor... The more you know, the smarter your money moves will be."

Vasilescu similarly said, "Invest in yourself, your health and your relationships. True wealth is a balanced life where financial security gives you the freedom to pursue your passions."

Building wealth on minimum wage takes discipline, but our experts say it's achievable.

"Stay focused, celebrate small wins and keep moving forward," added Vasilescu. "Every step, however small, brings you closer to your financial goals. Start today, and watch your future self thank you for it."



On April 8 the North Carolina Black Alliance hosted the Divine 9 Legislative Day, "Forging Our Future Together: Mobilizing for Maximum Impact."

Millions Of Boomer Small Business Owners Will Soon Retire. Will Their Companies Live On Or Just Disappear

THE GUARDIAN - Want to buy my business? It's been very profitable. I've run it for more than 25 years. But no, you don't want to buy it. Like most small businesses in this country, there's really nothing of value here.

According to the Small Business Administration, there are approximately 33m small businesses in the US. But fewer than 7m actually employ people. The rest comprise freelancers, side gigs and independent contractors. I'm sure many of these people are making a living. But are they building assets? A brand? Probably not. If that "business owner" suddenly disappears, their business disappears with them. No one wants to buy a business like that. There's no value.

My company is no different. Like so many other business owners, I'm a micromanager and a control freak. My company has a few employees but in reality I'm nothing

more than a glorified independent contractor. The business is built around me. If I get hit by a bus, my company crumbles into nothing. No one wants that.

We live in a service-based economy, which according to federal data accounts for as much as 77% of US GDP. My business is part of that. I bill for hours incurred. I manage a handful of open projects at any given time. I'm constantly scrambling for more work. There's no commitment. There's no requirement to use us. Unlike big tech companies, my clients are not bound to any contract. And even if they were, there would be little benefit to me - enforcing contracts is too expensive and time-consuming for a company my size. A buyer of my company would not be buying any customers - they're free to go wherever they want. There's no value in that.

Being a service business, I have no hard assets to sell. My inventory

is hours. There are no products on shelves. No machinery or equipment. No buildings or properties or furniture or fixtures. And, thanks to the pandemic, there's no office. All of my employees are remote. Our "corporate headquarters" is literally a post office box. Our phone system is virtual. Our software and data is in the cloud somewhere. It all makes for a lean, efficient organization. But it's a house of cards.

A just-published report by McKinsey says that there will be a "great ownership transfer" over the next 10 years when baby boomers who run as many as 6m small and mid-size American businesses retire. UBS's 2026 Global Entrepreneur Report has found that nearly a third of global entrepreneurs are actively considering exiting their businesses within the next five years. For those aged 65 and over, this figure surges to 57%.

A younger generation could breathe more life into a business

Sounds great. But if you're one of those business owners - and you run a service business like mine - I wouldn't get your hopes up for a big payday. McKinsey warns that "without intentional action, many viable small businesses may close rather than transfer ownership". It's probably true. Can this be remedied? The clock is ticking. And there are only a few options.

A business owner could hand down the business to their kids. But this only works for people with kids who are actually interested in doing the work. For some, this is a viable succession strategy. A younger generation could breathe more life into the business.

This worked for me. My dad and I were the only two involved in my business until he unexpectedly passed away back in 2005, which left me no choice but to take things over and grow it. I added employees and products and, with good fortune, was able to grow profits

significantly beyond what the two of us were making. Many owners could do the same and provide an ongoing income stream for mom and dad. Or the kids could run it into the ground.

Instead, some older business owners may want to build an actual business with value. This would involve changing their billing models. Enforcing contracts. Buying property. Creating processes. Building infrastructure. Hiring a great management team. Creating a sustainable brand.

Sounds great, but there's a problem with this approach: it's exhausting. Ask any person over the age of 60 to do this and they'll be like: Who has the energy? That's a younger person's game! And they're not wrong. After spending 40-plus years in the business world, I understand why most people my age just want to play golf, relax and spend time with their

grandkids.

There is one other good option for a service business owner: build cash. I've been pulling profits out of my company all of this time and doing my best to save. I've bought life insurance. I've put everything in a trust to protect against liabilities and potential estate taxes. I know that my business won't be providing me with retirement income. But my savings will.

All of this presents a great opportunity for younger entrepreneurs. Why start a business from scratch when all of these business owners are looking to sell? Why not instead partner or purchase from an older business owner, keep them on as a mentor, take over their operations, assume their customers, leverage what employees, contractors and relationships they have, and then make your improvements? Instead of nothing, you've at least got a head start.



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Health and Wellness

What Sexual Assault Awareness Month Really Demands of Us

By Dominique Heath

Guest Columnist

Each April, Sexual Assault Awareness Month returns with a familiar call to attention. Teal ribbons appear, statistics are shared, and conversations begin to surface again.

But awareness, in practice, is often misunderstood.

According to the Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network, an American is sexually assaulted every 68 seconds. Nationally, 1 in 5 women and 1 in 6 men experience sexual violence in their lifetime. Globally, the numbers are even more staggering, with an estimated 1 in 3 women experiencing some form of violence.

These statistics are widely shared and widely differ upon specific studies. But what often gets lost is what comes after the numbers.

Awareness is not just knowing that sexual violence exists. It is understanding how it shows up in everyday life, recognizing the subtle moments that often go ignored, and being prepared to respond to them.

It is also understanding who is most impacted, and who is often left without adequate support.

A CRISIS THAT EXTENDS BEYOND BORDERS

For some communities, sexual violence is not only prevalent, but deeply under-resourced.

Organizations like the Panzi Foundation have spent years addressing what has been widely recognized as a humanitarian crisis in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. In a region where sexual violence has been used as a weapon of conflict, the need for care extends far beyond immediate response.

The Panzi Foundation provides holistic support to survivors, including medical treatment, trauma counseling, legal advocacy, and economic empowerment. Their work is not short-term. It is long-term, layered, and necessary.

Despite the scale of the crisis, organizations like the Panzi Founda-

tion often operate with limited visibility and support. Their work continues because the need is critical.

THE IMPORTANCE OF COMMUNITY-BASED SUPPORT

In the United States, support systems also vary widely depending on access, awareness, and trust.

National organizations like National Organization for Victim Assistance and Futures Without Violence provide advocacy, education, and resources at a broad level. At the same time, community-based organizations play an equally critical role.

Groups such as The Women's Center of Wake County and Black Women's Blueprint focus on localized, culturally informed support, ensuring that survivors are not only heard, but understood within the context of their lived experiences.

For many Black communities, addressing sexual violence comes with additional barriers. Historical distrust in systems, cultural expectations around privacy, and the pressure to protect community spaces can make it more difficult for survivors to speak openly.

But silence does not protect communities. Access to informed, culturally competent support does.

MORE THAN AWARENESS: A DAILY PRACTICE OF SAFETY

While many organizations focus on response and recovery, others are working to shift how people think about safety before harm occurs.

Some organizations, like She Keychains, approach safety as a daily practice rather than a reaction. Through consistent educational videos on social media and accessible tools, they emphasize that awareness is not about fear, but about preparation.

Dominique Heath, owner of She Keychains, Columnist, and an advocate who has worked alongside organizations such as The Women's Center of Wake County, has built her platform around this idea. Through daily videos and educational content, she shares practical safety tips that



DOMINIQUE HEATH, OWNER OF SHE KEYCHAINS

encourage people to be more intentional in how they move through the world.

Her approach centers on the idea that safety is not a single moment, but a series of habits built over time.

Q&A

Q: What does awareness actually mean outside of statistics?

A: Awareness is not passive. It's something you practice daily. It's

how you move, how you observe, and how you make decisions in real time. It's understanding that familiarity does not equal safety, and that your environment is always giving you information. The difference is whether or not you're paying attention to it.

Q: Why do so many situations go unrecognized or unspoken?

A: Because we are conditioned to minimize discomfort. From a young age, people are taught to question themselves before they question a situation. We normalize behavior that should be addressed, and we silence ourselves to keep things "comfortable." On top of that, many people don't feel safe speaking up, especially when the situation involves someone they know. So instead of being acknowledged, it gets internalized.

Q: What are some everyday signs people should pay attention to?

A: Your instincts will always recognize something before your logic does. That feeling when something shifts, when someone gets too close, when a situation feels off, that matters. I always tell people to pay attention to patterns, proximity, and pressure. If someone is rushing you, isolating you, or making you feel unsure of yourself, those are

signs. Awareness is about recognizing those moments early, not after something escalates.

Q: How can someone learn to trust their instincts?

A: You have to unlearn the habit of self-doubt. Especially for women, we are taught to prioritize being agreeable over being safe. That conditioning can override our natural instincts. Trusting yourself means accepting that your body is responding for a reason, even if you can't fully explain it yet. Remember, you do not need permission to remove yourself from a situation that feels wrong.

Q: What should someone do if they or someone they know experiences sexual violence?

A: The first priority is safety, always. Get out of the situation and into a secure environment where you are no longer in immediate danger. From there, it's important to connect with support, whether that's someone you trust or an organization that is equipped to help guide you through what comes next.

If possible, preserving evidence can be important, even though it can feel uncomfortable. Avoid changing clothes, showering, or cleaning the area until you've had the option to

receive medical care, because those steps can impact what can be documented later. Seeking medical attention not only protects your health, but also gives you access to trained professionals who understand how to handle these situations with care.

It's also important to understand that you have legal options. Connecting with a legal advocate can help you understand your rights, walk you through reporting if you choose to, and support you in making informed decisions without pressure. Some people choose to contact the police, especially if they want to document the incident or pursue legal action, while others may take time before deciding. There is no single "right" timeline, but having that report can be important for both your protection and justice.

Most importantly, no one should have to navigate any of this alone. There are people and organizations whose role is to support you through every step, at your pace, in a way that prioritizes your safety and your voice.

Q: Why is it important to know resources before they are needed?

A: Because in a moment of crisis,

(See SAAMP. 9)

We All Need To Know The Warning Signs Of A Stroke

B.E. F.A.S.T.

Balance Loss	Eye (Vision) Changes	Face Drooping	Arm Weakness	Speech Difficulty	Time to Call 911
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B = Balance Loss

Is there a sudden loss of balance or coordination? Is the person having trouble walking or experiencing dizziness?

E = Eye (Vision) Changes

Are there sudden changes in vision? Ask the person if they are experiencing blurred vision, double vision, or loss of sight in one or both eyes.

F = Face Drooping

Does one side of the face droop, or is it numb? Ask the person to smile. Is the person's smile uneven?

A = Arm Weakness

Is one arm weak or numb? Ask the person to raise both arms. Does one arm drift downward?

S = Speech Difficulty

Is speech slurred or difficult to understand? Ask the person to repeat a simple sentence.

T = Time to Call 911

If you have any of these symptoms or see someone else having them, call 911 immediately!

Child Abuse Prevention Month

By Jheri Hardaway

Staff Writer

From the Richard B. Harrison Branch of the Wake County Library, through Durham, Harnett, and beyond, you'll find blue and silver pinwheels swirling to spread awareness regarding Child Abuse Prevention Month. Now more than ever, we are being called to protect children both in person and online. Childhood is a shared responsibility and one life experience that unites us all. April is Child Abuse Prevention (CAP) Month, a time for communities nationwide to come together and take action to support strong families, thriving children, and healthier communities. This year, we unite under the theme "Powered by Hope, Strengthened by Prevention," recognizing that when families have the right support, they can build a brighter future for their children. Through advocacy, education, and community engagement, we can work together to prevent child abuse before it ever happens.

In a recent dialogue between local social workers and librarians, the consensus was clear: preventing abuse isn't just a professional obligation; it is a community-wide mission rooted in the "it takes a village" philosophy. The "See Something, Say Something" standard is the primary goal of Child Abuse Prevention Month. Also, to ensure every child has the best possible childhood. In North Carolina, the law mandates that every resident is a mandated reporter. Regardless of your profession, if you suspect a child is being abused or neglected, you have a legal and moral obligation to report it.

Prevention is about awareness. Being vigilant, especially in the digital age where risks like online exploitation are rising, is the first step in safeguarding our children. To make the message "applicable and actionable," social workers highlighted the Five Protective Factors. These are evidence-based pillars that help families thrive and reduce the risk of maltreatment:

1. Parental Resilience: The ability to manage stress and function well when faced with challenges.
2. Social Connections: Having a network of friends, family, and neighbors to provide emotional and practical support.
3. Concrete Support in Times of Need: Access to basic necessities like food, housing, and healthcare.
4. Knowledge of Parenting & Child Development: Understanding what children need at different ages.
5. Social & Emotional Competence of Children: Helping kids understand their feelings and how to interact with others.

The Wake County library system is actively bridging the gap between awareness and action. They recently launched Social-Emotional Learning Kits, which include: Books specifically for parents, engaging stories for children, and resources focused on mindfulness, dealing with grief, and emotional regulation. Child welfare is not just about intervention; it is primarily about prevention. By leveraging the resources of our libraries and the expertise of our social services, we can ensure that "no abuse in sight" becomes our reality. For more information, please visit Wake.gov/childabuseprevention or preventchildabuse.org.

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Arts & Culture

'African People Are Surreal': Songwriter, Blues Poet Aja Monet On Black Resistance & Love As Spiritual Warfare

THE GUARDIAN - 'For many years, I've called myself a surrealist blues poet,' says Aja Monet in her warm, deep voice. Sitting in a London cafe, the Los Angeles-based artist looks striking, with her blue braids woven up in an intricate style. She was up late uploading the final master recordings for her new album, *The Color of Rain*, which she says was heavily influenced by her reading around how "surrealism was a real intentional device that artists used in response to the rise of fascism throughout history".

High-minded and yet invested in the cut-and-thrust of our lives today, it's a typical comment from Monet. With themes around love, resistance and the absurdity of our current times, her performance, poetry and music offers a balm for the suffering and abuse meted out by establishment power. Already in 2026, her second poetry book *Florida Water* was nominated for an award by the foundational US civil rights organization the NAACP, and she performed alongside Stevie Wonder at Time magazine's event celebrating Martin Luther King Day.

She's gearing up for a show at Carnegie Hall in New York this spring to showcase *The Color of*

Rain, an album born from experimental jazz that plays with rhymes and rhythms in a way that gives them a psychedelic quality. Lead single *Hollyweird* is a good example, portraying Los Angeles in the wake of the wildfires as a surreal apocalyptic landscape full of hypocrites and blinkered, pampered stars. "African people are surreal," she says. "The way we move through the world is through a surrealist lens. We've always had to contend with the most absurd. What is more absurd than racism and sexism?"

Some of the most impactful films and TV shows made by Black American artists in the past decade, such as *Get Out*, *Atlanta* and *Sorry to Bother You*, fall under the umbrella of Afro-surrealism, but Monet also points to figures from the Négritude movement and the Harlem Renaissance as inspirations. "Surrealism for us is where insurgent consciousness takes shape. It's what we've imagined and cultivated in face of all we've endured because of colonialism's lack of political imagination."

When I meet her, she is the Barbican's artist in residence, performing a sold-out headline show as part of London jazz festival. On stage she pulls together threads from tradi-

tionally separate disciplines to create work that feels like it cannot be contained; if you've never really understood jazz or poetry, going to an Aja Monet show will burst your doors off.

"We talk about poetry as if it's not integral to so many facets of our lives," she says. "It seems like this high-art elitist thing, and it's taught that way, in academia, for a specific reason." What is that reason? "Division," she replies. "It's like spiritual warfare that we're in. Culture is one of the biggest ways to access a sense of self-determination, new ideological frameworks, to come to understand why we're here, what our purpose is, what we can do together." But instead of this ideal, she sees the way that culture is controlled by institutions and algorithms as having "a tendency to produce a certain kind of person you can control or manipulate", something baked into cultural institutions that were founded in wealthy colonial counties "to uphold their own values and ideals and to keep people in place and in the control of the hierarchies that they wanted to exist."

Monet cites hip-hop as one example. Great art forms like this, she says, "have become like modes of

entertainment. 'How do I entertain you? How do I keep you engaged, looking at the shiny thing? How do I get you to buy something? How do I get you to ...' Exploit yourself, or someone else? "Yes, I think that's what capitalism has made of art."

Monet was born to parents with Jamaican, Cuban and Puerto Rican roots but says that growing up "what mattered most was that you were a New Yorker". Her poems often speak to the struggles of minority ethnic people and she is clear about identifying as Black. "The police didn't stop us, pull us over and say, 'Oh, you're Cuban.' They saw Black people. My uncle was locked up from the time I was a kid, so I had to understand that this system was not built for our dignity and our humanity."

At 16 Monet left home and found herself gravitating towards the church. It was the community rather than the religiosity that really appealed to her. Grappling with issues at home and in the wider world, she found solace in words and thought that her calling might be using poetry to bring people closer to God. "Poems became a place of testimony and ministry," she says. "How do you testify about what you see, what you want, what the conditions are that



you're living in and the things that you want to change?" She says her generation "came from Big Pimpin'". We saw Jay-Z, Diddy and Missy: all of those people were about upward mobility. Everything that was main-

stream was all about how you can get ahead, how you can get out of your situation. Not how you can help your people and make things better."

Monet's propensity to speak truth to power meant that poetry cafes quickly took over as her church. It was in these rooms that she was first exposed to people talking about rape, assault and gender justice. "It was always the poets that were speaking about those things openly, explicitly, not the mainstream culture."

Much of Monet's work has interrogated issues of race, colonialism and inequality not just within America's borders, but in Sudan, the DRC and Palestine. Poetry first led her to learn about Palestine when as a teenager she crossed paths with Tahani Salah, a young poet of Palestinian heritage. The pair started going to poetry slams together in New York. "If you see somebody you love long for somewhere they can't return to, you're gonna be like: what we doing? Let's liberate Palestine. What do you need? You're all of 15, 16 years old, you don't know what that requires, but you have a righteous rage, an indignation about your belief that you can change something and make a difference."

Afrika Bambaataa, A Hip-Hop Pioneer, Dies at Age 68

Afrika Bambaataa, who has died of prostate cancer aged 68, was an influential figure in the development and rise of early hip-hop. Often bracketed with Kool Herc and Grandmaster Flash as one of the art form's initial innovators, he became especially associated with the use of electronic music, which he used as the backdrop to much of his output as a DJ, rapper and producer.

Bambaataa's pioneering outlook helped to move the first phase of hip-hop away from a reliance on soul and funk beats towards a more futuristic techno-pop feel, based around the synthesiser and the drum machine.

That new electro-funk blend was epitomised by his 1982 single *Planet Rock*, released in conjunction with the Soulsonic Force collective, which featured a keyboard hook from a Kraftwerk tune and became a formative hip-hop classic, as well as one of the earliest rap songs to impinge on the wider public consciousness.

Over the next few years, on the club circuit and on record, Bambaataa helped to ease hip-hop further towards mainstream popular-

ity, including through collaborations with musicians such as James Brown, with whom he released the song *Unity* in 1984, and John Lydon, with whom he composed *World De-*

struction, a Top 50 UK hit in 1985.

At the same time he played a part in defining and supporting the various elements of emerging hip-hop culture, such as breakdancing and

graffiti art, through the creation of the Universal Zulu Nation, an organisation that also tried to steer the scene away from its violent, gang-related roots.

However, in later life Bambaataa's proud standing as one of rap's founding fathers was overshadowed by historical allegations of sexual activity with underage boys, claims he denied, but which led him to resign from the Universal Zulu Nation.

Bambaataa was born Lance Taylor in New York. His father, a Barbadian, was absent from his upbringing, and so he was brought up by his Jamaican mother, Lamarse, in the Bronx, where as a teenager at Adlai E Stevenson high school he began to attend block parties, soon becoming an innovative DJ, organiser and promoter.

By the time he left school in 1975 he had adopted his stage name – after the 19th century Zulu leader Bambaataa – and was pulling together crews of fledgling rappers, organising breakdancing competitions and generally helping to create a new aesthetic.

Making use of his large vinyl col-

lection, which he augmented with hundreds of his mother's funk and soul records, Bambaataa began to use the turntable as an instrument, intercutting sections of different songs to produce new soundscapes and tunes in a way that was groundbreaking at the time.

His recording debut came in 1980 with *Zulu Nation Throwdown*, which he produced in association with *Cosmic Force*, a loose ensemble featuring, among others, MC Sabu and Lisa Lee.

While that single was based on a familiar funk foundation, Bambaataa had an eclectic musical taste that encompassed the electronic compositions of, among others, the Japanese computer-pop trio *Yellow Magic Or-*

chestra, featuring Ryuichi Sakamoto, and the pioneering German band *Kraftwerk*.

Determined to bring those influences into his music, he put together *Soulsonic Force* – featuring himself on the mic along with Mr Biggs, MC Globe and Pow Wow – to explore a new electro-funk direction through the single *Planet Rock*, which he followed up with *Looking for the Perfect Beat* (also 1982) and *Renegades of Funk* (1983), amounting to a trio of recordings that, in the estimation of the American music journalist Jason Gross, "weren't so much singles as turning points for the whole [hip-hop] style", later even influencing the techno revolution in Detroit.



The Ever-Evolving Life of Paul Robeson

By Jordan Meadows

Staff Writer

He won 15 varsity letters in four sports. He graduated valedictorian from Rutgers. He earned a law degree from Columbia while playing professional football on weekends to pay tuition. He performed before sold-out crowds on stages from Carnegie Hall to London's West End, and could sing in more than 25 languages. He petitioned the President of the United States, fought for independence movements on multiple continents, and stood before the House Un-American Activities Committee without flinching.

Paul Robeson did all of this—and was then largely written out of American history.

Born on April 9, 1898, in Princeton, New Jersey, the son of a former slave, Robeson came of age during an era of open segregation, lynching, and institutionalized racism.

In 1915, Robeson won a four-year academic scholarship to Rutgers University, making him only the third African American ever admitted to the school and, for a time, its only Black student. He played four varsity sports (baseball, football, basketball, and track). He was twice named a consensus All-American in football. He won speech and debate tournaments. He was inducted into the Cap and Skull Honor Society and earned a Phi



Beta Kappa key in his junior year. He graduated valedictorian of the class of 1919.

From there, Robeson enrolled at Columbia Law School, where he met Eslanda Cordoza Goode, whom he married in 1921. Eslanda, who would go on to become the first Black woman to head a pathology laboratory, eventually became his manager and an enduring influence on his career. To pay his tuition at Columbia, Robeson taught Latin and played professional football on weekends, eventually earning his law degree in 1923 while playing in the National Football League.

Robeson's artistic life was pro-

found: he was a bass-baritone of uncommon power and range, and he built a concert career that took him to Vienna, Prague, Budapest, Berlin, Paris, Amsterdam, London, Moscow, New York, and Nairobi. Between 1925 and 1961, he recorded some 276 songs spanning spirituals, classical music, European folk songs, popular standards, and political anthems. He performed his signature tune, "Ol' Man River," in the 1928 London premiere of *Show Boat*.

On stage, he earned international critical acclaim for his lead role in Shakespeare's *Othello*, winning the Donaldson Award for Best Acting Performance in 1944. He starred in Eugene O'Neill's *The Emperor Jones* and *All God's Chillun Got Wings*, and his film career included eleven pictures, among them *Body and Soul* (1924), *Jericho* (1937), and *Proud Valley* (1939).

He was among the top-earning performers of his era, making more money than many white entertainers at a time when that was nearly unheard of for a Black artist. He was also among the first performers in America to refuse to play to segregated audiences.

Robeson's travels across Europe, Africa, and the Soviet Union convinced him that his fame carried an obligation.

"The artist must elect to fight for freedom or slavery. I have made my

choice," he said.

That choice drove him to Spain during the Civil War to support the Republican cause, to Africa to advocate for self-determination, to India to support the independence movement, and to Britain to fight for labor rights.

In 1949, rioters attacked his concert at Peekskill, New York—smashing the stage, torching chairs, assaulting concertgoers, and threatening Robeson's life. The following year, the U.S. State Department revoked his passport, stripping him not only of his right to travel but of his primary source of income. The FBI had been monitoring him for years. Robeson fought back through the courts, filing suits and appeals that were repeatedly denied.

He waited eight years for vindication. It came in 1958, when the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in *Kent v. Dulles* that the State Department could not deny citizens the right to travel based on their political beliefs or affiliations. To mark the occasion, Robeson performed his first New York concert in a decade at a sold-out Carnegie Hall.

Once named "Man of the Year" by the NAACP, Robeson had been systematically marginalized by the country he had spent his life trying to improve. He retired from public life in 1963 and died on January 23, 1976, at age 77, in Philadelphia.

Omega's Host Charles Drew Blood Drive

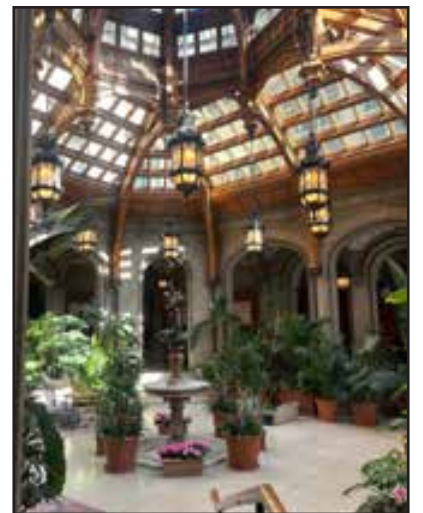
OMEGA BLOOD DRIVE LED BY BETA PHI CHAPTER DRAWS COMMUNITY SUPPORT

The Charles Drew Blood Drive took place on Saturday April 04, 2026, at Southern High School in partnership with Calvary Fest hosted by First Calvary Baptist Church. The Health and Wellness Sustainability team welcomed 21 donors to the American Red Cross Mobile collectively saving an estimated 63 lives. The event drew over 1000 attendees who enjoyed food vendors, appearances by the UNC Ram, Durham Bulls mascot, The easter Bunny and helicopter egg drops for the youth. This community event brought everyone together for fellowship, fun, and the lifesaving mission of the blood drive. The blood drive also falls under the fraternity's national health initiatives program.



By Jheri Hardaway

Staff Writer



In today's economic climate, conversations often gravitate toward the hardships of the Great Depression or the anxieties of modern recessions. Yet, for those seeking a tangible example of unparalleled wealth and architectural opulence, look no further than the Biltmore Estate. This exclusive, ornate landmark offers a masterclass in detail, where every glance reveals another layer of craftsmanship and history.

Tourism serves as a cornerstone of the North Carolina economy. As a state that boasts everything from serene coastal beaches to majestic mountains, there is a wealth of culture and nature to explore. Buncombe County stands as the third-most-visited county in the state, trailing only Mecklenburg and Wake. At its heart lies Asheville, home to the world-renowned Biltmore Estate, the largest privately owned residence in the United States, and home to America's most visited winery.

The house has an impressive and historic origin story. George Vanderbilt, grandson of famed shipping entrepreneur and industrialist Cornelius "the Commodore" Vanderbilt, first visited Asheville, North Carolina, in 1888. Captivated by the area's natural beauty, he slowly began purchasing land, ending up with 125,000 acres for what would become his country estate. Determined to make this a self-sustaining home, George enlisted architect Richard Morris Hunt to design and build the 250-room chateau. Landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted was also hired to create formal gardens and transform the former farmland into a beautiful pastoral landscape. Both men are memorialized inside the home with lavish portraits commissioned by the visionary George Vanderbilt.

As I explored the rooms and listened to the stories behind the details, I thought more and more about the actual labor. Then, as we approached the end of the tour, there was a colorful room that spoke to the skilled craftsman who did the real work. Bricks were made on sight and people came from far and wide to make an honest day's wage. It was noted that African American laborers were paid less. It was also mentioned briefly that a portion of the land belonged to an African American community called Shiloh. More research and details are needed; however, time always has a way of telling. I am confident that the Biltmore administration will be transparent and informative as history unveils its story.

Biltmore offers a plethora of experiences for every visitor, blending natural beauty, fine wine, and gourmet dining with world-class accommodations that create a seamless, all-inclusive atmosphere in the scenic mountains of North Carolina. During my visit, I was profoundly struck by the level of intricate detail and the unwavering dedication to both historical preservation and continuous expansion. The estate is brought to life by knowledgeable staff members who are eager to share historical tidbits and personal stories, enriching the tour with a human connection to the Vanderbilt legacy. It is a place where the grandeur of the past meets the hospitality of the present, making every visit a memorable journey through American history.

Community

Divine Nine Turns Out in Force for N.C. Legislative Day

By Jordan Meadows

Staff Writer

Hundreds of members of historically Black fraternities and sororities filled Halifax Mall in downtown Raleigh on Wednesday, turning the North Carolina Black Alliance's annual Divine 9 Legislative Day into what organizers called the largest such gathering in more than a decade.

The event, themed "Forging Our Future Together: Mobilizing for Maximum Impact," drew more than 500 attendees from the nine organizations that make up the National Pan-Hellenic Council, along with an array of prominent speakers who touched on redistricting, voting rights, public education, and elections.

"Usually we don't see this type of turnout in a non-presidential election year," said Marcus Bass with the NC Black Alliance. "For this many people to show out for a midterm cycle speaks to how important what's happening in this building is."

The program opened with an invocation delivered by Rev. Paul Anderson of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity before giving way to a full roster of

elected officials and civic leaders. Among those who addressed the crowd were state Senator Natalie Murdock and state Representative Robert Pierce.

The day's keynote address came from former Illinois U.S. Representative Jesse Jackson Jr., who delivered his first television interview in North Carolina since the death of his father. Jackson trained particular fire on gerrymandering, condemning the most recent mid-decade redistricting map drawn to unseat Representative Don Davis of North Carolina, one of three Black members of Congress from the state.

"When we do lose 73% Black districts, we lose the voice of John Conyers—the voice of Maxine Waters," Jackson said. "When these lines change and we have to campaign on all sides of town, other than just our own, the history is lost, and the quality of our voices are affected by that process."

He also took on the state Supreme Court's recent dismissal of the Leandro school funding case, and warned the crowd that foundational democratic norms were under strain.

"The norms are being broken. Faith

and support in the Constitution is being shattered," Jackson said.

After his keynote, Jackson accepted a posthumous Order of the Longleaf Pine—North Carolina's highest civilian honor—on behalf of

his father. Both men attended North Carolina A&T and were members of Omega Psi Phi.

"He took people who did not believe in themselves and told them they were somebody," Jackson said of his father.

He added that he looked forward to presenting the award to his mother, now 82, who had introduced Jesse Jackson Sr. to the teachings of Mahatma Gandhi and the American civil rights movement during their time together at A&T.

North Carolina Supreme Court Justice Anita Earls, one of two Democrats on the state's highest court, spoke at the event. She is seeking reelection and framed the stakes of judicial elections in stark terms, noting that in 2020, then-Chief Justice Cheri Beasley lost her seat by only 401 votes.

Governor Josh Stein also addressed the crowd, tying the work of Divine Nine organizations to the promise of the state.

"If you work hard, where you come from should never limit how far you can go. That is the promise of North Carolina, and delivering on that promise is what drives me as your governor, just as I know it drives so many of you in your daily lives," Stein said.

The event also featured a legislative panel of Democratic lawmakers focused on voting rights and education access, with attendees raising

concerns about the removal of polling places from college campuses across the state.

Nadine Vargas Stewart, the Mid-Atlantic Regional Director of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, framed the legislative day as part of an ongoing advocacy effort on issues she said continue to shape everyday life for communities across the region.

"Let us remember that the work continues until every citizen has access to quality healthcare, until affordable housing is truly affordable, and until we have representatives at every level of government who genuinely serve the interests of the people who elected them," Stewart said.

AKA members had attended both the Divine 9 Legislative Day on Halifax Mall and a reception held at the Governor's Mansion, featuring Shamiela Rhinehart, a Durham County Superior Court Judge, and Demetria Buie—both served on the Divine 9 Legislative Day Planning Committee.

Rhinehart also spoke at the event: "Even though we all wear different colors, today we are united. We understand we are stronger together," she said.



India Williams on the Power of Collaboration

By Jheri Hardaway

Staff Writer

In our North Carolina communities, the strength of our collective future often rests on the shoulders of those who view service not as a chore, but as a calling. This week, our Citizen Spotlight shines on an individual whose life is a masterpiece in resilience, faith, and the power of collaborative impact. From navigating the complexities of mental health advocacy to overcoming personal health battles, India Williams' story is a testament to what happens when purpose meets perseverance.

For many, professional success is measured in solo achievements. However, for this week's featured citizen, a pivotal moment came through the power of partnership. Collaborating on a purpose-driven grant initiative alongside business partner Dr. Christina Holston and a circle of dedicated mentors, she discovered that meaningful work is a team sport. "I learned that meaningful work is rarely done alone; it requires alignment, trust, and shared vision," India notes. This experience didn't just fund a project; it strengthened her leadership and deepened her faith in what a collective effort can produce for the community.



Advocacy is about bridging gaps, and her work centers on helping families navigate the often-overwhelming systems of mental health and care coordination. One of her most rewarding milestones involved helping a local family access the resources necessary to stabilize their home environment. India noted, "Seeing that transformation, not just in the individual, but in the entire family, reinforced why I do this work." By meeting people where they are, whether through faith-based initiatives or mentorship, Williams continues to foster the trust necessary for long-term regional change.

India Williams truly has the heart of a warrior alongside the temperament and beauty of a queen. True resilience is often forged in private battles. As a Lupus Warrior, she faces the unpredictable nature of flares that can drain even the most committed advocate. Yet, she has turned this challenge into a lesson on grace. "Resilience doesn't always look like pushing through," she shares. "Sometimes it looks like resting, recalibrating, and rising again with renewed strength." Her advice to others facing similar uphill battles is simple yet profound: "Give yourself permission to pause without quitting." This invaluable advice shows

that India is committed to the community by way of commitment to herself. We've got to take care of home before we can take care of others, and India continues to show us how. However, she doesn't do it alone. Behind every public-facing role is a foundation of support. For her, that foundation is built on the encouragement of her husband, La'Won Williams, their children, Solomon and Eli, and a vast network of family, including her Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated@ sisters.

India Williams' work is also a tribute to the legacy of her late parents, Dennis and Coleta Dickerson. "In honor of them, I strive daily to make them proud," she says. "They spoke the Word of God over my life, and I stand firmly on that foundation." Guided by the promise of Psalm 121:2, she approaches every project with the belief that with God, nothing is impossible.

As India looks toward the future, the focus remains on sustainability and creating programs that support mental health and education across the state. Her message to The Carolinian readers is a call to action: "You don't have to have everything figured out to make a difference. Start where you are, use what you have, and remain open to growth."



Shaw Holds Its Annual Spring Football Game

By Steve Worthy

Photographer

Shaw University Football hosted its annual spring game on April 12 at Durham County Stadium in Durham, offering a first look at the team ahead of the upcoming 2026 season.

The scrimmage gave players and coaches an opportunity to evaluate talent, test new strategies, and build momentum as the Bears prepare for the fall.

Shaw will open its season on the road against Fayetteville State Broncos on August 29, 2026. The team's first home game is scheduled for September 12 against Ferrum Panthers.



McCrory Says, 'The Hell With The Midterms'

NC Newsline—Former Gov. Pat McCrory says the economy, not the war in Iran, will be what decides North Carolina's closely watched U.S. Senate race this fall.

Appearing on C-SPAN's "Cease-fire" over the weekend, McCrory said even before the war started, North Carolina families were feeling economic stress.

"It's up to the administration with the help of Congress to communicate what pain we might go through with this war," said McCrory. "But also explain, if we go through this pain, we stop future pain that might occur."

Without a coherent explanation, McCrory believes that voters could

swing from the Republican party controlling Congress to the Democratic side of the aisle in the 2026 midterms.

Unfortunately, McCrory said, the Trump administration is doing a poor job articulating why the country entered the Iran war seven weeks ago and how it might be resolved.

"That's going to impact the midterms, especially every time you fill up your gas tank," said the Charlotte Republican. "Now, a lot of things can happen between now and November, which could completely reverse it, but right now, there is just total chaos."

McCrory said exacerbating the chaotic situation is President Donald

Trump's use of social media.

"The President deserves criticism for communicating with America and the world on Truth Social at two o'clock in the morning. That is no way to communicate to people," said McCrory.

On April 7, Trump wrote on his

account, "A whole civilization will die tonight."

McCrory said this language is not helpful.

Sunday, after peace talks broke down Trump announced a naval

(See MIDTERMS P. 9)



A CALL TO ACTION

First at Blue Ridge, located in Ridgecrest NC, is a premier therapeutic recovery center for justice involved individuals. Mark Merrick is the Executive Director at FIRST, and Dr. LaShawnda Key is a DAC employee under the Rehabilitation and Reentry section.

Dr. Key, a member of Juniper Level Missionary Baptist Church, issued a plea for coats for individual who had been released through the justice release program. Juniper Level Missionary Baptist Church Missionary Auxiliary (President Angela Hinnant) and Logan's P.A.L.S. (CEO Logan Thomas) worked together to answer the call.

75 coats were collected and donated to First and Blue Ridge. Photo (L to R): Angela Hinnant, Dr. LaShawnda Key, Teen Logan Thomas, Dr. Fred Thomas, Mark Merrick

JOHNSTON COUNTY VETERANS RESOURCE FAIR

Smithfield, N.C.- A resource fair for veterans is scheduled from 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Saturday, May 2, in the lobby of the Paul A. Johnston Auditorium at Johnston Community College.

The free event, hosted by Johnston County Veterans Services, will offer veterans, active-duty service members and their families access to health care services, education resources, job opportunities and other community-based resources.

"Our goal is to create a 'one-stop shop' for those who served," said Robert Boyette, head of the Johnston County Veterans Service Office, the event's organizer. "Beyond just handing out brochures, many of these vendors will be offering real-time consultations and benefits." Boyette said his office was proud to support the County's veterans, active-duty service members, and their families.

"Come out and connect with valuable resources all in one place," he said. "Spread the word and bring a friend. We look forward to seeing you there."

JCC is located at 245 College Road in Smithfield. For more information, call Johnston County Veterans Services at 919-989-5067.



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Church



SERMON of the WEEK

BE YOU, SEEK BEYOND THE FILTERS, NO CAP, I AM ENOUGH

By: Kim Person

Sunday, April 12, 2026, was Youth Sunday at Lincoln Park Holiness Church. Sister Kim Person was the guest speaker. Overseer William Eli Ratcliff is the pastor. The Lincoln Park Holiness Church Community Youth Choir provided music.

Kim Person is a gospel artist, a five-time Stellar Awards nominee, and a Billboard nominee. Sister

Person spoke from the topic inspired by her music "Be You, Seek Beyond the Filters, No Cap, I Am Enough." She said to the youth, "You are more than a number. God made you on purpose, and there is nothing wrong with you. God is calling you to Him. He has created you so you can level up to who He has called you to be.

When you have the favor of God on you, you do not need anything else. Sometimes you are crumbled up by life and stepped on by people,

but remember, you are the apple of God's eye. Even though fear may be present, purpose and success are louder. It won't always be like this; God is going to perfect that which is concerning you and turn it around.

Sometimes you may forget you are awesome, so this is your reminder: I am enough, I am chosen, I will not shrink, I will walk into my purpose. Your mind is powerful; do not limit yourself. Take the limits off so you can see yourself as God sees you.

Practical Biblical Principles

AFTER THE RESURRECTION

Read: 1 Corinthians 15:3-11

By John L. Caldwell, Pastor New Jerusalem Baptist Church Christ's eleven appearances were not only proofs of His resurrection, but pledges of His Love. Christ did not just appear here and there after His resurrection but made definite appearances to His disciples to teach them special lessons.

After the resurrection Christ did not show Himself to those who opposed Him. Nor did He try to hide from His enemies. At this point in the Resurrection those who opposed Him could no longer do anything for Him, against Him or to Him. In short, Jesus no longer had any business with them.

From the moments after the Resurrection, Jesus had only positive work to accomplish before returning to the Father in heaven. It was given to Him to know those He visited after the Resurrection would be able to carry out and spread the Good News of the Gospel after He had returned to the Father.

Jesus first appeared to the women who came to the tomb to anoint His body with spices early Sunday morning. It was Mary Magdalene, Mary, the mother of James, and Salome and other ladies. These ladies had followed Jesus wherever He went with His ministry (Matthew 27:55-56).

Jesus's first appearance was to Mary Magdalene, the woman out of whom He had cast seven devils. Mary had followed Jesus from the cross to His tomb. It was at the tomb Jesus revealed Himself to Mary while weeping at the tomb. Then Jesus personally introduced Himself initially to Mary and to the other ladies afterwards. Mary saw Jesus alive and no one could make her doubt this fact. In a sense, Mary and the other ladies became the first ever evangelist to carry the good news of Jesus' resurrection. At the tomb, Jesus instructed Mary to go tell His disciples He would meet them in Galilee with a special invitation to Peter. Jesus rewarded the women with His presence (Matthew 28:8-10).

The women came and told the disciples the Lord is risen. At first, the disciples did not believe them. Then the disciples, Peter and John struck out running to the tomb and arriving at the tomb they found it empty.

Jesus on the same day of the Resurrection appeared to two other of His disciples while they were on their way home on the road to Emmaus, seven miles from Jerusalem. These two disciples also saw the empty tomb and were filled with sorrow (Luke 24:24). They did not rec-

ognize Jesus as He walked with them and expounded the Messianic gospel to them and ate with them in their home. And the moment He broke bread with them they immediately recognized the risen Lord. Jesus then disappeared from them. The two disciples soon returned to Jerusalem and reported their sightings of the risen Jesus to the disciples.

On that same day, at evening, Jesus appeared to His disciples as they remained locked up in a room. They saw the risen Jesus and were afraid. Jesus told them not to be afraid and showed them His scarred hands and side. It was there Jesus blessed them and commissioned them to go preach the gospel (John 20:21-22). The disciple, Thomas, was not at this assembly and did not believe the disciples report.

The following week the disciples were still locked up in the room. This time Thomas was there, and Jesus again appeared in the room. Jesus invited Thomas to put his finger into his wounds and believe. This Thomas did and soon believed it was Jesus (John 20:29). It was Jesus' will that all eleven of His disciples see Him, as the risen Lord, before He returned to the Father. Anyone today can have as much confidence believing without seeing, as those who saw and believed.

After the disciples begin to fear they were failures they went back home to Galilee and started fishing. Jesus appeared to the seven disciples while fishing. For it was Peter who said, I am going to put my sorrows behind me and go fishing to calm my nerves. The other six disciples decided to go fishing with Peter. They fished all night and caught nothing. The next morning Jesus stood on the shoreline and called out to Peter and his group, "Follows do you have any food?" Meaning have you caught anything? They answered No! Not knowing who it was calling out to them from the shore, Jesus told them to cast your nets on the right side of your boat, and you will find some fish. This they did and hauled in a bunch of large fish. Jesus was slowly bringing the disciples to their failures. He wanted them to understand why their work yielded nothing. It was because they had done what they were not to do. They were supposed to be preaching the gospel and not fishing. John then recognized Jesus and told Peter it was the Lord calling out to us.

The disciples brought the fish in and found Jesus already cooking a breakfast of fish and bread for them to eat. Jesus said to the disciples come and eat and bring some of your fish. None of the disciples dared to ask Him, "Who are you?" Knowing

it was the Lord (John 21:11-12). This was the third time Jesus showed Himself to His disciples after He was raised from the dead. They began to worship the Lord (1 Corinthians 15:6).

It was here on the beach of the sea of Galilee that Jesus commissioned all the disciples to preach the gospel and baptize in His name (Matthew 28:18-20). The Holy Spirit had yet to come.

After this Jesus was seen by more than five hundred Believers (1 Corinthians 15: 6). The four standards of the Gospel are as follows: Christ's death, burial, resurrection, and last but not least, is the testimony of the witnesses of Jesus' Resurrection. This is the main reason Jesus appeared to these disciples. They all had seen Him after the Resurrection (1 Corinthians 15:7-8). Jesus prepared His disciples for the troubles to come. If we trust Him, He will prepare us for troubles when we follow the gospel.

James, the brother of our Lord, at first didn't believe in Jesus, his brother. This is why Jesus made a special visit to him (1 Cor 15:7). As the gospel spread and took hold, James became the leader of the church in Jerusalem. He was the first of the disciples to be martyred. Fifty days after the Resurrection the Holy Spirit permanently fell upon all that was waiting in the upper room, including Matthias whom the disciples chose and was added to the group. They came out from the upper room, being filled and energized with the Holy Spirit, speaking in different languages ready to carry the gospel. And Peter preached the gospel and added thousands of souls to the church that day. Ten days later Jesus ascended into heaven and was seen again by all of His disciples. Then they were reminded by an angel who appeared to them and told them. "As you have seen the Lord rise up into the clouds, you will likewise see Him return to this same spot in the future.

Some forty years later, Paul appeared on the scene and while on the road to Damascus, he met Jesus in the Spirit. He was eventually called into the ministry after his conversion. Two years later he was ready to carry the gospel knowing he would be martyred.

It was Paul and Peter's leadership, while in Rome, which caused the gospel to be carried to the known world. They were both martyred, and the first New Testament church was built in Rome to become the center stage of the Gospel from which the gospel was carried to the whole world.

ELLIOTT BROWN PALMER, SR.

Elliott Brown Palmer, Sr., born on March 7, 1933, in Durham, North Carolina, was the youngest of nine children to Clarence McZoiiah Palmer, Sr., and Ada Corinne Brown Palmer. As a young man, he indulged in various activities, including participating in the soap box derby, working at the local laundromat, singing in the choral ensemble, and playing football. During his college years at his cherished NC Central University, he excelled in football and served as the Student Body President. Affectionately known as EB, he later pursued a career in education, becoming the youngest Principal in North Carolina at the time.

Additionally, he served as the .N Girls Basketball Coach at Little River High School, where he also taught.

Dr. Palmer's academic journey began at Hillside High School, where he graduated in 1951. He earned both undergraduate and graduate degrees from North Carolina Central University and continued his post-graduate studies at Bimidi State University (Minnesota), Duke University, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and North Carolina State University.

Dr. Palmer, a respected civic leader, served as the Executive Director of the North Carolina Teachers Association (NCTA). During his tenure, he spearheaded the fight to safeguard the rights of Black educators and played a pivotal role in the desegregation of public schools. He initiated legal actions, organized teachers, and collaborated with attorney Julius Chambers to successfully eliminate the discriminatory certification exams administered by

the NC State Board of Education in 1969. Dr. Palmer was also a key figure in the merger that unified the state's education associations, leading to the formation of the North Carolina Association of Educators. His remarkable achievements include serving on various commissions and task forces related to education under three United States Presidents and eight North Carolina

Governors. Additionally, he was elected as a delegate to the International Conference of the Teaching Profes-

sion in Seoul, Korea, and Dublin, Ireland.

Obituaries



sion in Seoul, Korea, and Dublin, Ireland.

He was a member of Guys and Dolls and served as a Trustee for First Baptist Church.

Dr. Elliott Brown (E.B.) Palmer, Sr., a distinguished educator, public historian, and preservationist, has made significant contributions to preserving African American life and culture. After his illustrious education career, Dr. Palmer, along with his wife, Juanita Brooks Palmer, established the African American Cultural Complex (AACC) in Raleigh, North Carolina. Their vision was to showcase the remarkable contributions of African Americans to North Carolina and the United States through meticulously crafted educational programs.

Through the AACC, Dr. Palmer and his wife have brought African American history to life, captivating countless North Carolinians and audiences worldwide. Their efforts culminated in the creation of a highly acclaimed outdoor drama, "The Amistad Saga," which entertained, educated, and inspired viewers.

Dr. Palmer's remarkable career extended beyond education and history. He served as the Executive Director of Hammocks Beach Corporation for nearly half a century. Originally established as a segregated state park for African American North Carolinians, Hammocks Beach State Park now preserves its rich history and natural resources. Dr. Palmer served

on the N.C. Aquarium Society Board of Directors, the Raleigh Arts Commission, and as a consultant to the N.C. Museum of History's Minority Affairs Committee. Additionally, he served as the past president of the College Community Chorale Society, further demonstrating his multifaceted contributions to the arts and community.

Dr. Palmer has been honored with two of North Carolina's most prestigious awards: The Order of the Longleaf Pine (presented by Governor Jim Hunt in 1999) and The Old North State Award (presented by Governor Mike Easley in 2007). He has also received a Lifetime Achievement Award from both the NC State Teachers Association (1989) and the National Education Association (1992). Additionally, he has been recognized for his contributions to the museum field by the National Association of African American Museums and the National Education Association. In 2009, Governor Beverly Purdie appointed Dr. Palmer to the NC African American Heritage Commission, where he served until 2013. In 2024, President Joseph R. Biden, Jr. presented Dr. Palmer with the President's Lifetime Achievement Award, acknowledging his lifelong commitment to building a stronger nation through volunteer service. The award ceremony was held on December 14, 2025, at First Baptist Church. Dr. Elliott Brown Palmer, Sr., a remarkable individual, received numerous accolades from various fraternities, sororities, and other esteemed organizations for his invaluable contributions to the community.

He leaves behind a rich legacy of family, mourning his loss is his loving wife of 41 years, Juanita Brooks Palmer; His sons, Elliot Brown Palmer, Jr., and Douglas Keith Palmer (Angela); his daughters, Ruth Annette Palmer Manns (Jacob) and Tonya Maria Palmer Redfearn (Cornelius) will forever cherish the memories they shared.

Dr. Palmer's family is further enriched by his 10 grandchildren: Jade Palmer, Cory Palmer, Maya Palmer, Taylor Redfearn, Chandler Redfearn, Morgan Redfearn, Emerson Redfearn, Evan Redfearn, Grace Palmer, and Travis Manns.

Obituaries

CHARLES LEE OATES

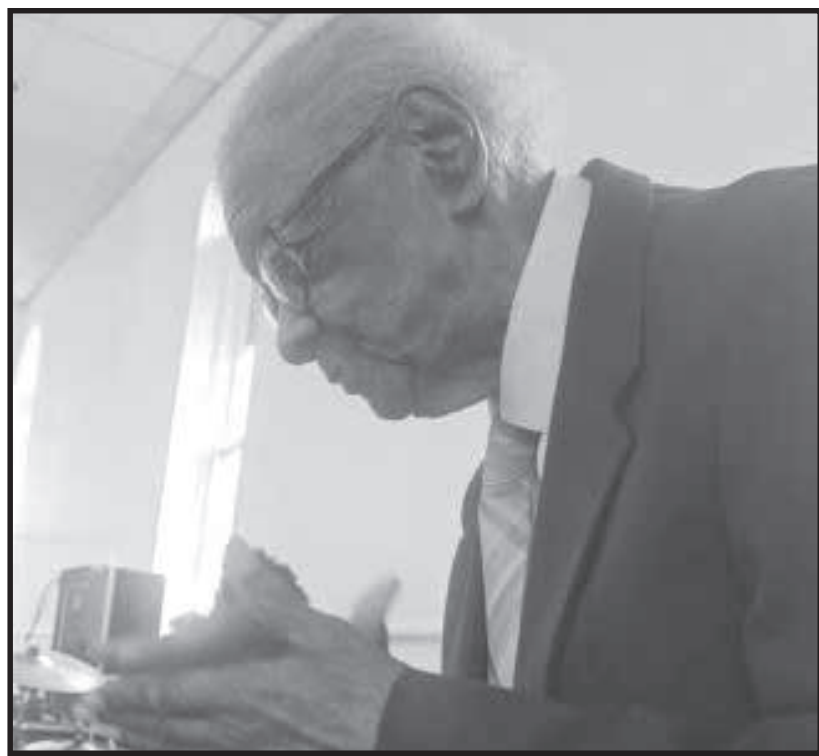
Mr. Charles Lee Oates, affectionately known as Scooby, was born on October 23, 1935, to Jesse Mae Oates and Curtis Ingram.

He graduated from Atkins High School in Winston-Salem North Carolina. After high school, Charles enlisted in the Army, where his specialty was communications. He served in the Korean conflict. After the military, he enrolled in St. Augustine's College, Class of '61, and received a degree in English.

He wed Anna Lee Harris Oates in 1957, sharing 65 years of marriage, before her passing.

In the late '70s and early '80s Mr. Oates was a bail bondsman in Wake Co., and he owned several properties before opening his first convenience store in June 1983 on the corner of Hill and Pender Streets. After leaving Scooby's on Pender Street in the care of Mrs. Oates, he opened up the Martin Street Convenience Store, finally retiring on East Street in July 2017. The East Street Convenience Store featured a "Wall-of-Fame" contributed to by many of the stores patrons. It was a photo gallery, which patrons enjoyed looking at, and identifying people they knew.

Scooby's also offered what was



considered by many as the best sausage dog in town. Whether it was a sausage dog, or a hot dog that you purchased from the Oates, you could always rest assured it was prepared the way you wanted it, and with "tender loving care."

Mr. Oates leaves behind two daughters, Chas Anna Oates Horne (Johnny), and Charlene Lee Oates. Five grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his wife, Anna Lee Harris Oates.





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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.

SAAM

Continued from page 5



you're not thinking clearly. You're trying to process what just happened. If you already know where to go, who to call, or what organizations exist, you remove one layer of stress in an already overwhelming situation. Preparation is not about expecting something to happen, it's about not being left without options if it does.

Q: What role do organizations play in this process?

A: Organizations ARE essential. They provide structure, advocacy, and care that most people would not be able to access on their own. They understand the systems, they provide resources, and they create a pathway for healing that extends beyond the immediate moment. This is not something individuals should have to figure out alone, and these organizations exist to make sure they don't have to.

Q: Why can it be more difficult for Black communities to address sexual violence openly?

A: There is a complex history behind it, and it didn't start with us. There is a long-standing, justified distrust in systems like law enforcement and the legal system, where Black people have historically not been protected, and in many cases, have been further harmed. That reality shapes how people respond to situations involving harm, especially when it comes to reporting.

At the same time, there is a strong culture of protecting our own. In many Black communities, there is an unspoken pressure to handle things privately, to not "bring attention" to the community, or to not contribute to harmful stereotypes. That can make it incredibly difficult for survivors to speak up, especially when the person who caused harm is someone known, respected, or connected.

There is also a history of Black women, in particular, not being believed, not being protected, and being forced to carry both racial and gendered burdens at the same time. That has created a reality where many people feel like speaking up won't lead to support, or worse, could lead to further harm.

But the truth is, silence does not protect us. It allows harm to continue. We cannot build stronger communities by ignoring what is happening within them. Accountability and support have to exist at the same time. Survivors should not have to choose between speaking up and protecting their community, and creating spaces where both can exist is part of the work that still needs to be done.

Q: How can friends, family, or communities better support survivors?

A: Support starts with belief. Not interrogation, not doubt, not minimizing. Just belief. The way you respond in that first moment matters more than people realize. If someone has the courage to say something, they are already taking a risk. How you react can either make them feel supported or make them shut down completely.

From there, it's about being present without trying to control the situation. You don't have to have all the answers, and you don't need to force someone into a decision. What you can do is listen, respect their pace, and help connect them to resources when they're ready. That might look like helping them find a support organization, offering to go with them to get medical care, or simply checking in consistently so they know they're not alone.

It also means being aware of how your words and actions impact them. Avoid asking questions that feel like blame, even unintentionally. Avoid trying to "fix" it too quickly. Support is not about solving the situation, it's about standing with someone as they navigate it.

Q: What does a safe environment actually look like?

A: A safe environment is not just physical, it's emotional. It's a space where someone can speak openly without fear of being dismissed, blamed, or embarrassed. It's built through consistency, trust, and accountability. Safety is not something you say, it's something you demonstrate.

Q: What does everyday safety look like beyond self-defense tools?

A: Safety is built through habits. It's not something you suddenly think about when something feels off, it's how you move every day. It's being aware of your surroundings, actually paying attention to who and what is around you, and not just assuming you're safe because something feels familiar. It's communicating your plans, sharing your location when needed, and taking those extra few seconds to notice your environment. Small things like knowing where your exits are or not allowing yourself to be easily cornered can make a real difference.

At the same time, it's about how you prepare yourself. Staying physically capable, understanding how your body moves, and being able to react without hesitation matters more than people realize. Self-defense tools can help, but they are not the foundation. The foundation is how you think and how you move. It's trusting your instincts, being willing to act on them, and carrying yourself with intention.

Indivisible: Bring Back Bartering

By Jheri Hardaway

Staff Writer

Bartering is an age-old practice that holds the key to navigating our modern economy, especially in times of inflation. We the people, are our strongest resource. When we work together as neighbors, we achieve more. Bartering has deep roots in human history, long before paper money or digital currencies. Today, in the face of inflation and economic uncertainty, bartering offers a powerful solution that allows people to obtain goods and services without relying on cash alone. It's about using what we have and who we know to create a more economically resilient and cooperative community. Think about the service providers in your circle: the friends who are plumbers, electricians, teachers, chefs, or caregivers. Perhaps someone you know can lay a floor in exchange for childcare. Maybe a neighbor would gladly trade a few hours of lawn care for a home-cooked meal. When we begin to look at our resources creatively, the possibilities are endless. Instead of turning to loans, government assistance, or desperate measures like crime, could we look to each other and negotiate our way to independence? We can win! Imagine a community where skills, services, and goods are exchanged based on mutual need and value, rather than dictated by fluctuating market prices. Bartering allows us to keep money in our pockets, reduces waste, and strengthens our local economy.

Beyond the financial benefits, there's something special about choosing older, well-crafted items over new, mass-produced alternatives. Many modern goods, from flat-pack IKEA furniture to the fleeting styles of fast fashion brands like Shein and Temu, are destined for the dump. They're cheap, but their low price often comes with a high cost: they break, they tear, they end up in landfills. Some of them are made from toxic, cancer-causing manufactured fabrics.

Older items, whether it's a sturdy wooden chair from an estate sale, a set of vintage Pyrex dishes from a thrift store, or a leather jacket that has already lasted a generation, are often built to last. These items are not only more durable, but they also come with a story, a history that connects us to the past and grounds us in the present. One of my favorite dresses is handmade. I bought it from a thrift shop over ten years ago. I knew when I first bought it from the quality of the material and the "made by mom" tag that it was quality and ready for another life. When we choose to recycle or upcycle these items, we are rejecting the throwaway culture that dominates today's consumer landscape.

Bartering and trading within our communities foster relationships and build trust. When we swap skills and goods, we create networks of support that extend far beyond the transactional. We learn from each other, grow together, and build resilience against whatever economic challenges may come our way. Let's challenge ourselves to reconsider what value truly means. Every person in our community has something to offer, whether it's a skill, a product, or simply time and energy. By embracing bartering and upcycling, we not only protect our wallets but also nurture a culture of cooperation and care. Let's barter, trade, recycle, and upcycle our way to a more sustainable future, one item at a time. After all, the solutions we need might already be in our own homes or just a neighbor away.



REAL PEOPLE

I hope I do not confuse you with the title, because we are all real people, and we all matter. Not some more than others. Not based on status or recognition. We all matter equally.

It is easy to get confused about this because we are often taught to value the wrong things. Titles, honors, clothing, connections to influential people. These things can look important, but when we build our lives around them, we miss something greater. We miss the fullness of living and learning that comes from simply being present and real.

I have been reminded of this while attending funerals or watching them online. What stands out to me is how many people truly matter, not because of titles or wealth, but because of how they lived and how they touched others.

At these services, there are always so many people. There is diversity. There are stories. Sometimes I know the person being honored. Other times I do not. But through the testimonies shared, I often find myself wishing I had known them.

It reminds me of the book *The Five People You Meet in Heaven* by Mitch Albom. The idea that the people we encounter, even briefly, can have deep and lasting meaning.

Another of his books, *Tuesdays with Morrie*, had a powerful impact on me. It tells the story of his visits with a former professor who was dying from Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis. Through those weekly visits, he was forced to confront vulnerability, authenticity, and what it truly means to live.

Those visits changed him. They opened him up. They led him to live with more purpose.

Because of that experience, he went on to do meaningful work, including helping create spaces of hope for others. His writing, his service, even the work he supported in Haiti with orphanages and education, all of it can be traced back to one decision. He chose to show up. He chose to be present with someone in their most vulnerable state.

That is what being real looks like.

Too many of us hide, not just from others, but from ourselves. We cling to images of who we think we should be instead of embracing who we truly are. We are afraid to admit our struggles, our mistakes, our vulnerabilities. We worry about how others will see us.

I remember when I realized I had drifted away from what I believed was my purpose. I had to stop and reflect. I had to look back and recognize where I had made choices that did not align with who I truly was.

Each time I paused and became honest with myself, I could see more clearly. I began to understand how I had shaped my life based on expectations instead of truth.

So I made a decision. I chose to live with as much honesty and vulnerability as I could. Not perfectly, but intentionally.

In Sunday school, we talked about Mark 2:11, Revelation 13, and 1 Peter 2:13 through 17. Those are not just scriptures you read and move on from. They make you sit still for a minute.

In Mark, Jesus shows us where real authority comes from. It is not in titles or positions, but in power that restores and heals. In Revelation, we are warned about what happens when power is misused and people begin to follow what looks strong instead of what is right. And in Peter, we are told to respect authority, but that does not mean we lose our discernment or forget who we ultimately belong to.

All of that matters right now.

Because we are living in a time where leadership can be confusing. Sometimes it looks loud instead of wise. Sometimes it looks forceful instead of faithful. And if we are not careful, we will mistake one for the other.

Those scriptures remind me to stay grounded. To pay attention. To not be so easily impressed by titles, positions, or recognition. To remember that real authority does not have to announce itself.

At the end of the day, it is not about what we are called. It is about who we are.

It is about how we live when nobody is watching. How we treat people when there is nothing to gain. And whether we are willing to be honest about ourselves, even when it is uncomfortable.

Because being real, truly real, that is what matters.



WAR, WHAT IS IT GOOD FOR?

I was born in 1953. From then to now, the U.S. has engaged in 7 military operations, authorized by Congress or initiated by the President including the current Iran War. I've been thinking a lot about war lately. Who gains what? What is the cost paid in human lives? Why does this war feel different from previous wars?

The Vietnam War (1955-1975) was the longest, deadliest post-Korea conflict for Americans. Approximately 58,000 Americans died. All of this happened although there was no declaration of war requested of Congress. There was a Joint Resolution of Congress to promote peace

and security in Southeast Asia. In the end, we lost. Vietnam shattered public trust in government and the military. It resulted in the War Powers Act of 1973 which required the president to notify Congress within 48 hours of deploying forces and limits unauthorized deployment to 60 days.

In 1990 a large coalition drove Iraq from Kuwait. Casualties were low and it was over quickly. After 9/11, (2001-2021) Operation Enduring Freedom occurred in Afghanistan. There were 1,800 "hostile" death of U.S. military personnel and about 20,000 more were wounded in action. Two years later, we initiated Operation Iraqi Freedom suffering 3,482 U.S. military deaths and 31,947 wounded soldiers.

Since 2001, there have been ongoing military operations in Syria, Yemen, Somalia, and Libya with counterterrorism missions.

And now, right now, America is actively engaged in the Iran War. Obviously, things are different. Technology has changed the way we engage. Social media has changed the way we communicate. We can watch only news that aligns with our beliefs. Or we can watch cat videos.

During the post 9/11 wars, 2001-2021, between 1.9 and 3 million U.S. service members served in military operations in Afghanistan, Iraq and related locations with over half deployed more than once. They served longer tours of duty, had higher levels of combat exposure, and suffered much higher rates of disability than during any previous U.S. wars. We have been left with over 1.8 million veterans with some degree of officially recognized disability as a result of those wars. More than 40% of post 9/11 veterans are entitled to lifetime disability payments. And sadly, but not surprisingly, the U.S. military suicide rate climbed significantly after 2004, signaling a mental health crisis. Veterans face elevated rates of PTSD, traumatic brain injury, drug and alcohol dependence, homelessness, and higher divorce rates. And what did we get for their sacrifice?

The Patriot Act; the creation of the Department of Homeland Security, mass surveillance, airport security theater, and a permanent war footing. It normalized the idea of open-ended, undeclared wars. Iraq and Afghanistan produced a generation of veterans with complex trauma, a hollowed-out middle class bearing the financial burden, and deep skepticism about nation-building.

On February 28, 2026, The United States and Israel launched airstrikes on Iran, targeting military and government sites, assassinating Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei and other Iranian officials. Iran responded with missile and drone strikes against Israel, U.S. bases, and allies in the Middle East, and closed the Strait of Hormuz, disrupting global trade. Here's where this war differs from previous military engagements: it was launched against a major regional power with ballistic missiles and proxy forces across the Middle East. The President gave diverse and changing justifications for starting the war. A ceasefire was announced April 7th though the situation remains volatile. HOT MESS!

Polls continue to show widespread disapproval of the war with a Reuters/Ipsos poll showing a whopping 61% disapproval. After launching the surprise attack on Iran, the President scrambled to win support for the war – a conflict Americans of all political persuasions were already wary of entering.

Perhaps that is why this doesn't feel like America's war. It feels like we have chosen to not engage as we attempt to survive the intense economic impact to our lives. As a nation, we are balancing fear, economic trauma, and faith. We look back and don't see where our mortal and financial expenditures have shown a justifiable return on investment. Since 1953, America has fought in at least 7 major conflicts, lost tens of thousands of lives, generated millions of disabled veterans, and has yet to pass a formal declaration of war for any of them. The Iran war is the newest chapter – launched without a congressional vote, deeply unpopular, and constitutionally contested. There will be no sentimental pictures of families gathered to watch the daily reports from the battleground. Americans are not sharing the latest updates on their phones. The average American's attention is on gas prices, Korean skincare, and cat videos. This is the 2026 survival strategy: just don't think about it and it will go away (in two weeks).

MIDTERMS

Continued from page 7

blockade of the Strait of Hormuz and threatened that any Iranian who fires at the U.S. will be "BLOWN TO HELL!"

"People call me old school. I'm 69 years old. That's not the way we need to communicate and not through cussing and swearing and things of this nature," said the former governor.

McCrory said it's unfortunate that both the executive branch and Congress seem to care more about the November midterms than the long-term health and security of our country.

"There's too many short-term thinking people in DC right now and not people thinking long-term," said McCrory. "They ought to say the hell with the midterms and they ought to be making decisions that have an impact on the next decade, not the next several months."

At the same time, McCrory said Democrats need to be more vocal about how they would resolve the conflict with Iran.

"What agreements would they agree with in moving forward? How should we work with Iran?" McCrory asked. "They're got to start coming up with solutions instead of just throwing rocks. Because we're all a part of this problem now."

McCrory said unfortunately, the problems that are resonating in Washington can also be found in state capitals and city and county governments where partisan control has become more important than finding common ground.

Asked whether he might be mulling a future run for office, the one-term governor and former national co-chair of the No Labels party said that's not in the cards.

"I don't think I can get elected dogcatcher, because I don't meet the litmus test in either party," said McCrory.

McCrory, who lost his last election to Ted Budd in the 2022 North Carolina Republican U.S. Senate primary, said Republicans view him as a RINO ("Republican In Name Only"), while Democrats have labeled him a "right-wing extremist."

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.: 26CV000382-180

To: JOSE IGNACIO CORTEZ-LOPEZ, 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 May 27, 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, ADAMILDA GELINDA ESCALANTE-ESCOBAR, will apply to the court located at 40 E Chatham St, Pittsboro, NC 27312 for the relief sought.

This, the 16th day of April 2026.

Aneta Paval
Paval Law Offices, PLLC
Telephone: (919) 410-6690
4/16, 4/23, and 4/30/2026

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.: 26E000324-310

Having qualified as ADMINISTRATOR of the Estate of JENNIFER RENEE BENNETT A.K.A. JENNY BENNETT, A.K.A. JENNIFER BENNETT, 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 July 17, 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 16th day of April, 2026.

Thomas Lee Bennett III
C/O The Monroe Law Firm
1340 Environ Way
Chapel Hill, NC 27517
4/16, 4/23, 4/30, and 5/7/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS In the General Court of Justice, Superior Court Division Before the Clerk File No.: 25E000182-310

Having qualified as ADMINISTRATOR of the Estate of JACQUELINE THORPE BRIGHT, 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 July 17, 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 16th day of April, 2026.

Jamal Edward Thompson
Administrator
825 Gerard St.
Durham, NC 27701
4/16, 4/23, 4/30, and 5/7/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS Having qualified as Executor of the Estate of LOUISE OLIVER MATTHEWS of Durham County, North Carolina, the undersigned does hereby notify all persons, firms, and corporations having claims against the estate of said decedent to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 18th day of July, 2026, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery.

All persons, firms, corporations indebted to the said estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This is the 16th day of April, 2026.

Rhonda Matthews Price & Renee Jill Matthews Barber, Co-Executrices, c/o Richard F. Prentis, Jr., Stubbs Cole Law Firm, 4 Consultant Place, Durham, NC 27707

H-S: 4-16, 4-23, 4-30 & 5-7-2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS In the General Court of Justice, Superior Court Division Before the Clerk File No.: 26E000379-310

Having qualified as ADMINISTRATOR of the Estate of CAROLYN F. BOLDEN, 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 July 17, 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 16th day of April, 2026.

Lesley Bolden, Administrator
5305 Lacy Rd.
Durham, NC 27713
4/16, 4/23, 4/30, and 5/7/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

Superior Court Division Before the Clerk File No.: 25E000708-310

Having qualified as EXECUTOR of the Estate of MAX PAUL ROUSSEAU A/K/A/ MAXENT PAUL ROUSSEAU, 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 July 17, 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 16th day of April, 2026.

Felicia M. Rousseau, Executor
8 Lauren Ln.
Durham, NC 27704
4/16, 4/23, 4/30, and 5/7/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS In the General Court of Justice, Superior Court Division Before the Clerk File No.: 26E000412-310

Having qualified as ADMINISTRATOR of the Estate of WILLIAM DOUGLAS HART, 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 July 17, 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 16th day of April, 2026.

Tabatha Hart Allen, Administrator
11 Mattie CT
Durham, NC 27704
4/9, 4/16, 4/23, and 4/30/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS In the General Court of Justice, Superior Court Division Before the Clerk File No.: 26E000368-310

Having qualified as ADMINISTRATOR of the Estate of JONNETTA HODGES, 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 July 17, 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 16th day of April, 2026.

Alisa Yarborough, Administrator
c/o Christopher Hill
311 E. Main street
Durham, NC, 27701
4/16, 4/23, 4/30, and 5/7/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS The undersigned, having qualified as Executor of the Estate of JANET M. QUINLIVAN, deceased, 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 July 16, 2026, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms, or corporations indebted to said estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This the 16th day of April, 2026

Michael J. Quinlivan
Executor of the Estate of Janet M. Quinlivan
c/o Jillian E. Brevorka, Esq.
Attorney for the Estate
Hodgson Russ LLP
7 Corporate Center Court
Suite B
Greensboro, NC 27408
4/16, 4/23, 4/30, and 5/7/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS In the General Court of Justice, Superior Court Division Before the Clerk File No.: 25SP001002-310

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF CHERI W. FULLER, DECEASED, TO DETERMINE OWNERSHIP OF SURPLUS FUNDS

TO: GRACE ANN FULLER
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: Petitioner has filed a Petition for Surplus Funds.

You are required to make defense to such pleading no later than May 19, 2026, which is forty (40) days from the first date of publication of this notice, and upon your failure to do so, the party seeking service against you will apply to the Court for the relief sought.

This the 9th day of April, 2026.

Robert E. Levin
Public Administrator of the Estate of Cheri W. Fuller
HAYWOOD, DENNY & MILLER, L.L.P.
Attorneys at Law
P.O. Box 51429
Durham, NC 27717
(919) 403-0000
4/9, 4/16, 4/23, and 4/30/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS In the General Court of Justice, Superior Court Division Before the Clerk File No.: 26E000125-310

CHANDLERS TIRE AUTO & TOWING LLC, Plaintiff v. SYLVESTER ASHFORD, Defendant TO SYLVESTER ASHFORD, VIN 1GCEK19T53E212421 CHEVEROLET SILVERADO 2003: 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: 05/08/2026
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 is the 9th day of April 2026.

Chandlers Tire Auto & Towing LLC
1314 E Club Blvd
Durham NC 27704
919-220-5234
Chandlerstowing.dmv@gmail.com
Deborah Davis
4/16, 4/23, and 4/30/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS In the General Court of Justice, Superior Court Division Before the Clerk File No.: 18-E-1017

Having qualified as ADMINISTRATOR of the Estate of CHERI W. FULLER, 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 July 10, 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 9th day of April, 2026.

Roberts E. Levin, Administrator
PO Box 51429
Durham, NC 27717
4/9, 4/16, 4/23, and 4/30/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS Having qualified as the Personal Representative of the Estate of SYLVESTER ROSS, late of Durham County, North Carolina, the undersigned does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the estate of said decedent to exhibit them to the undersigned in care of the attorney for the estate, Kim K. Steffan, Steffan & Associates, P.C., 2411 Old NC 86, Hillsborough, NC 27278, on or before the 9th day of July, 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.

Chester Ross
Personal Representative
Attorney for Estate:
Kim K. Steffan
Steffan & Associates, P.C.
2411 Old NC 86
Hillsborough, NC 27278
4/9, 4/16, 4/23, and 4/30/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS In the General Court of Justice, Superior Court Division Before the Clerk File No.: 26E000412-310

Having qualified as ADMINISTRATOR of the Estate of WILLIAM DOUGLAS HART, 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 July 10, 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 9th day of April, 2026.

Tabatha Hart Allen, Administrator
11 Mattie CT
Durham, NC 27704
4/9, 4/16, 4/23, and 4/30/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS In the General Court of Justice, Superior Court Division Before the Clerk File No.: 26E000408-310

Having qualified as EXECUTOR of the Estate of ESTHER BARNETT, 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 July 10, 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 9th day of April, 2026.

Richard Lee Jones, Executor
307 Island Dr.
Beaufort, NC 28516
4/9, 4/16, 4/23, and 4/30/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION In The General Court Of Justice Superior Court Division Before The Clerk File No.: 26E000120-310

Having qualified as ADMINISTRATOR of the Estate of KRISTIN ABERLE, 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 July 10, 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 9th day of April, 2026.

Kaitlyn Aberle, Administrator
4290 Brighton Blvd #708
Denver, CO 80216
4/9, 4/16, 4/23, and 4/30/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS Having qualified before the Clerk of Superior Court of Durham County as Public Administrator of the Estate of DERAL WEST HAMILTON, this is to notify all persons, firms, and corporations having claims against the Estate to send them, duly itemized and verified, to P.O. Box 51429, Durham, NC 27717, on or before the 9th day of July, 2026, (three months after the date of this Notice) or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery.

All persons, firms and corporations indebted to the Estate are requested to make prompt

NOTICE TO CREDITORS In the General Court of Justice, Superior Court Division Before the Clerk File No.: 18-E-1017

Having qualified as ADMINISTRATOR of the Estate of CHERI W. FULLER, 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 July 10, 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 9th day of April, 2026.

Roberts E. Levin, Administrator
PO Box 51429
Durham, NC 27717
4/9, 4/16, 4/23, and 4/30/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS Having qualified as the Personal Representative of the Estate of SYLVESTER ROSS, late of Durham County, North Carolina, the undersigned does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the estate of said decedent to exhibit them to the undersigned in care of the attorney for the estate, Kim K. Steffan, Steffan & Associates, P.C., 2411 Old NC 86, Hillsborough, NC 27278, on or before the 9th day of July, 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.

Chester Ross
Personal Representative
Attorney for Estate:
Kim K. Steffan
Steffan & Associates, P.C.
2411 Old NC 86
Hillsborough, NC 27278
4/9, 4/16, 4/23, and 4/30/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS In the General Court of Justice, Superior Court Division Before the Clerk File No.: 25E001024-310

Having qualified as ADMINISTRATOR of the Estate of OMAR BASHIR TARIQ, 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 July 10, 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 9th day of April, 2026.

Sally Ann Tariq, Administrator
1304 Buffalo Road
Garner, NC 27529
4/9, 4/16, 4/23, and 4/30/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS In the General Court of Justice, Superior Court Division Before the Clerk File No.: 26E000120-310

Having qualified as ADMINISTRATOR of the Estate of KRISTIN ABERLE, 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 July 10, 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 9th day of April, 2026.

Kaitlyn Aberle, Administrator
4290 Brighton Blvd #708
Denver, CO 80216
4/9, 4/16, 4/23, and 4/30/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS Having qualified before the Clerk of Superior Court of Durham County as Public Administrator of the Estate of DERAL WEST HAMILTON, this is to notify all persons, firms, and corporations having claims against the Estate to send them, duly itemized and verified, to P.O. Box 51429, Durham, NC 27717, on or before the 9th day of July, 2026, (three months after the date of this Notice) or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery.

All persons, firms and corporations indebted to the Estate are requested to make prompt

settlement with the undersigned.

This the 9th day of April, 2026.

Robert E. Levin
Public Administrator of the Estate of DERAL WEST HAMILTON, Deceased P.O. Box 51429 Durham, NC 27717
4/9, 4/16, 4/23, and 4/30/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION FILE NO.: 26CV003518-310

Leticia Triana Corrales v. Jose Luis Reyes Romero To: Jose Luis Reyes Romero

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 children, Janeth Reyes Triana, Luis Angel Reyes Triana, and Alexa Fernanda Reyes Triana. 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 Durham 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 9th day of April 2026.

Yesenia L. Polanco-Galdamez, Attorney for Plaintiff
411 Andrews Road, Suite 130
Durham, NC 27705 (919) 294-8032
Published April 09, April 16, and April 23, 2026.

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS In the General Court of Justice, Superior Court Division Before the Clerk File No.: 26E000377-310

Having qualified as EXECUTOR of the Estate of PAMELA LOVATE BASNIGHT, 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 July 10, 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 9th day of April, 2026.

Ashia Joell Basnight, Executor
108 Geranium Street
Durham, NC 27704
4/9, 4/16, 4/23, and 4/30/2026
-- BEGINNING OF NOTICE --
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION In the General Court of Justice District Court Division CASE NO. 25CV007624-310

MARIA CERRITO CERRITO, PLAINTIFF VS. MARTIN ARRIAGA BELMAN, DEFENDANT.

TO: MARTIN ARRIAGA BELMAN, DEFENDANT.

TAKE NOTICE THAT A PLEADING SEEKING RELIEF AGAINST YOU HAS BEEN FILED IN THE ABOVE-ENTITLED CIVIL ACTION FOR THE PURPOSE OF OBTAINING THE MINOR CUSTODY OF CRISTOFER JOSUE ARRIAGA CERRITO.

YOU ARE REQUIRED TO FILE A WRITTEN RESPONSE WITH ANY DEFENSES WITH THE CLERK OF SUPERIOR COURT OF DURHAM COUNTY, 510 S Dillard St #2000, Durham, NC 27701, UNITED STATES.

YOU MUST ALSO SERVE A COPY UPON THE PLAINTIFF'S ATTORNEY (ADDRESS AT THE BOTTOM OF THIS NOTICE). YOUR RESPONSE MUST BE FILED WITHIN FORTY (40) DAYS FROM THE FIRST DATE OF PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE.

THIS PUBLICATION BEGINS ON THE 9TH DAY OF April, 2026.

SIGNED,
VALERIA CESANELLI,
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF
5448 Apex Peakway Suite #117,
Apex, NC 27502
NC State Bar #45735
-- END OF NOTICE --
-- INICIO DEL ANUNCIO --

ANUNCIO DE NOTIFICACIÓN POR PUBLICACIÓN ESTADO DE CAROLINA DEL NORTE, CONDADO DE DURHAM, EN EL TRIBUNAL GENERAL DE JUSTICIA, DIVISIÓN DEL TRIBUNAL DE DISTRITO N.º DE ASUNTO 25CV007624-310 MARÍA CERRITO CERRITO, DEMANDANTE, CONTRA MARTIN ARRIAGA BELMAN, DEMANDADO.

SE LE NOTIFICA QUE SE HA PRESENTADO UN ESCRITO SOLICITANDO UNA MEDIDA CAUTELAR EN SU CONTRA EN LA ACCIÓN CIVIL ANTERIORMENTE MENCIONADA CON EL FIN DE OBTENER LA CUSTODIA DEL MENOR CRISTOFER JOSUE ARRIAGA CERRITO. DEBE PRESENTAR UNA CONTESTACIÓN POR ESCRITO CON SUS ALEGACIONES DE DEFENSA ANTE LA SECRETARÍA DEL TRIBUNAL SUPERIOR DEL CONDADO DE DURHAM, 510 S Dillard St #2000, Durham, NC 27701, ESTADOS UNIDOS. TAMBIÉN DEBE ENTREGAR UNA COPIA AL ABOGADO DEL DEMANDANTE (DIRECCIÓN AL FINAL DE ESTE AVISO). SU RESPUESTA DEBE PRESENTARSE EN UN PLAZO DE CUARENTA (40) DÍAS A PARTIR DE LA PRIMERA FECHA DE PUBLICACIÓN DE ESTE AVISO.

ESTA PUBLICACIÓN COMIENZA EL 9TH DE ABRIL DE 2026.

FIRMADO,
VALERIA CESANELLI, ABOGADA DEL DEMANDANTE
5448 Apex Peakway, Suite n.º 117,
Apex, NC 27502
N.º de colegiada de Carolina del Norte: 45735
-- FIN DEL AVISO --

4/9, 4/16, and 4/23/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION FILE NO.: 25E001515-310

Having qualified as EXECUTOR of the Estate of KATHY HAY, deceased, late of Durham County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons, firms, and corporations

qualified on the 10th day of March 2026, as Executor of the ESTATE OF SALLY ALENE FURR STAUNTON, 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 3rd day of July 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 2nd day of April 2026.

Jacquelyn Staunton Pergerson
Executor
ESTATE OF SALLY ALENE FURR STAUNTON
c/o E. Jack Walker, Jr., Attorney
Walker Lambe, PLLC
Post Office Box 51549
Durham, North Carolina 27717
4/2, 4/9, 4/16, and 4/23/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS The undersigned, having qualified on the 27th day of March, 2026, as Executor of the ESTATE OF ROSE ANNE WALLACE AKA ROSEANNE HESTON WALLACE, 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 3rd day of July, 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 2nd day of April, 2026.

Shirley Meiler Diefenbach
Executor
ESTATE

DURHAM COUNTY

having claims against the Estate to present them to the undersigned, in writing, at the address shown below, on or before July 3, 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 2nd day of April, 2026.

Danielle Hay, Executor
508 Crestview Dr.
Durham, NC 27712
4/2, 4/9, 4/16, and 4/23/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 26th day of March 2026, as Administrator of the Estate of CAROLE CHRISTINE CROTTY, 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 3rd day of July 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 2nd day of April 2026.

BONNIE CROTTY NELSON
ADMINISTRATOR
ESTATE OF CAROLE CHRISTINE CROTTY c/o Jennifer Dalman, Attorney

Walker Lambe, PLLC
Post Office Box 51549
Durham, North Carolina 27717
4/2, 4/9, 4/16, and 4/23/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

The undersigned, having qualified as Executor of the Estate of SHIRLYN ROBINSON STANBACK aka SHIRLYN R. STANBACK aka SHIRLYN STANBACK, 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 July 3, 2026 be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms or corporations indebted to said estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This the 2nd day of April, 2026.

Shonnese Diane Stanback
Executor of the Estate of Shirlyn Robinson Stanback aka Shirlyn R. Stanback aka Shirlyn Stanback
1114 Vermillion Drive
Durham, NC 27713
Leigh Anne Kasias
Wyatt Early Harris Wheeler LLP
1114 Vermillion Drive
Durham, NC 27713
4/2, 4/9, 4/16, and 4/23/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Having qualified as Administrator CTA the Estate of Elva Ann Utley, deceased, this is to notify all persons, firms, and corporations having claims against the Estate of ELVA ANN UTLEY to present them to the undersigned on or before July 3, 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.

This the 2nd day of April, 2026.

Maurice McKellar Jr., Administrator
CTA c/o John W. Perry
Attorney of the Estate of Elva Ann Utley Post Office Drawer 2051
Durham, North Carolina 27702
Telephone: (919) 683-8685
4/2, 4/9, 4/16, and 4/23/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File No.: 26E000336-310

Having qualified as EXECUTOR of the Estate of BETTYE EVELYN SMITH KELLY, 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 July 3, 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 2nd day of April, 2026.

Sharon Denise Smith-Knox
Executor
3000 Moss Stone Ln
Marietta, GA 30064
4/2, 4/9, 4/16, and 4/23/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File No.: 26E000351-310
Having qualified as EXECUTOR of the Estate of MARY

CHAMPAGNE, 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 July 3, 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 2nd day of April, 2026.

Christopher Champagne, Executor
1120 Goversness Lane
Morrisville NC, 27560
4/2, 4/9, 4/16, and 4/23/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The undersigned, having qualified as Administrator of the Estate of PAUL ISAAC HOLMES, Deceased, late of Durham County, North Carolina, does hereby notify all persons, firms, and corporations having claims against the estate to exhibit the same on or before July 1, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment.

Dated April, 4, 2026.

Steven Philip Holmes, Administrator
c/o Attorney Heather Hazelwood
PO Box 61182
Durham NC 27715

4/2, 4/9, 4/16, and 4/23/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File No.: 26E000349-310

Having qualified as EXECUTOR of the Estate of PATRICIA ANN NELSON, 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 July 3, 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 2nd day of April, 2026.

Leann Nelson, Executor
2404 Indian Trail
Durham NC 27705
4/2, 4/9, 4/16, and 4/23/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

The undersigned having qualified as Executor of the Estate of JEWEL BRANCH RICH a/k/a JEWEL B. RICH, Deceased, late of Durham County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the Estate to Exhibit them to the undersigned at the office of IDOL LAW, PLLC, PO Box 51759, Durham, North Carolina 27717, on or before the 5th day of July, 2026, or this Notice will be in bar of their recovery.

All persons indebted to the Estate will please make immediate payment.

This is the 2nd day of April, 2026.
Jo Ann Rich McBride, Jeanine Rich Yates, Co-Executors
Estate of Jewel Branch Rich a/k/a Jewel B. Rich, Deceased
Robert A. Idol, Esquire
IDOL LAW, PLLC
Attorney at Law
PO Box 51759
Durham, NC 27717
(919) 401.5151
4/2, 4/9, 4/16, and 4/23/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Having qualified as Administrator of the Estate of DELORES DUKES-LEE, deceased, this is to notify all persons, firms, and corporations having claims against the Estate of Delores Dukes-Lee to present them to the undersigned on or before July 3, 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 March, 2026.

Valerie Gaddy Terrell, Executor
3915 Wake Forest Hwy
Durham NC 27703
3/26, 4/2, 4/9, and 4/16/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File No.: 26E000306-310
Having qualified as EXECUTOR of the Estate of BARBARA J. PIERCEY, 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 June 29, 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 March, 2026.

Bruce Piercey, Executor
728 S Lee St
Alexandria, VA 22314
3/26, 4/2, 4/9, and 4/16/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File No.: 26E000305-310
Having qualified as EXECUTOR of the Estate of MARY

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 Durham County. If you fail to do so, you may not receive further notices, and the plaintiff will seek the relief sought herein.

This is the 2nd day of April 2026.

Yesenia L. Polanco-Galdamez, Attorney for Plaintiff
411 Andrews Road, Suite 130
Durham, NC 27705
(919) 294-8032
4/2, 4/9, and 4/16/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION
FILE NO.: 26CV003377-310
Meylin Naomi Perez Rivas
v. John Doe

To: John Doe
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, Genesis Loani Rivas.

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 Durham County. If you fail to do so, you may not receive further notices, and the plaintiff will seek the relief sought herein.

This is the 2nd day of April 2026.

Yesenia L. Polanco-Galdamez, Attorney for Plaintiff
411 Andrews Road, Suite 130
Durham, NC 27705
(919) 294-8032
4/2, 4/9, and 4/16/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File No.: 26E000339-310

Having qualified as EXECUTOR of the Estate of CARL DENNIS PARKER, 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 June 29, 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 March, 2026.

Annette P. Adkins, Executor
2613 Fitzford Ct.
Durham, NC 27712
3/26, 4/2, 4/9, and 4/16/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File No.: 26E000216-310

Having qualified as EXECUTOR of the Estate of DOVIE LEE GADY, 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 June 29, 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 March, 2026.

Valerie Gaddy Terrell, Executor
3915 Wake Forest Hwy
Durham NC 27703
3/26, 4/2, 4/9, and 4/16/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File No.: 26E000306-310

Having qualified as EXECUTOR of the Estate of BARBARA J. PIERCEY, 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 June 29, 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 March, 2026.

Bruce Piercey, Executor
728 S Lee St
Alexandria, VA 22314
3/26, 4/2, 4/9, and 4/16/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File No.: 26E000305-310
Having qualified as EXECUTOR

of the Estate of FLOYD HARRIS, 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 June 29, 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 March, 2026.

Cornelia J. Harris, Executor
1 Brightfield Ln.
Durham, NC 27712
3/26, 4/2, 4/9, and 4/16/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File No.: 25E001210-310

Having qualified as EXECUTOR of the Estate of KATHLEEN ANN SMITH, 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 June 29, 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 March, 2026.

Eric Tanuan, Executor
c/o Monks Law Firm, Steve Monks, Attorney,
Monks Law Firm
6613 Speight Circle
Raleigh, NC 27616
3/26, 4/2, 4/9, and 4/16/2026

FORSYTH COUNTY

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
FORSYTH COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File No.: 22 E 1060

Having qualified as EXECUTOR of the Estate of DEBORAH ANTOINETTE SMITH A/K/A DEBORAH A. SMITH, deceased, late of Forsyth 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 July 3, 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 2nd day of April, 2026.

William W. Smith, Executor
2227 Standing oak Lane
Pfaftown, NC 27040
3/26, 4/2, 4/9, and 4/16/2026

ORANGE COUNTY

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE OF ACTION FOR PUBLICATION
In The Circuit Court Of The Eighteenth Judicial Circuit

In And For Brevard County, Florida
In Re: Termination Of Parental Rights For The Proposed Adoption Of The Minor Child: Milanee Mona Bell, Dob: 07/26/2008

CASE NO.: 05-2025-DR-037416-XXDR-BC, DIVISION: F
GEORGE BELL, Petitioner
TO: Gail Villanueva
Address: 447 Ballantyne Common Circle, Apartment 103, Hendersonville, North Carolina 28792

YOU ARE NOTIFIED that an action for the proposed adoption, including a claim for termination of parental rights, has been filed against you. You are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to this action on Jessica D. Thomas, Attorney for Petitioner, GEORGE BELL, whose address is 253 N. Orlando Ave., Suite 204, Maitland, FL 32751, on or before March 11, 2026, and file the original with the Clerk of this Court at 425 N. Orange Avenue, Orlando, Florida 32801, either before service on Petitioner's attorney or immediately thereafter; otherwise, a default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the Petition.

WARNING: Rule 12.285, Florida Family Law Rules of Procedure, requires certain automatic disclosure of documents and information. Failure to comply can result in sanctions, including dismissal or striking of pleadings.
DATED this 20th day of February, 2026.

CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT
By: Debbie Huff

Deputy Clerk
Published: 3/26, 4/2, 4/9, 4/16, 4/23, and 4/30/2026

ONslow COUNTY

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME

Case No. 26STCP00773
To All Interested Persons:
Mauro Pasillas Macias, filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:

PRESENT NAME
Mauro Pasillas Macias
PROPOSED NAME
Mauro Pasillas

THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.

Notice of Hearing

Date: 06/26/2026 Time: 8:30 AM Dept.: 45; Room 529 The address of the court is 111 North Hill Street, Los Angeles, California 90012. *To appear remotely, check in advance of the hearing for information about how to do so on the court's website. To find your court's website, go to www.courts.ca.gov/find-my-court.htm.

IMPORTANT NOTE: If you or your witnesses, do not have the ability to access the court's website above, or are unable to follow the instructions on the Court's website, or are otherwise unable to appear remotely, you MUST call the court room or call 213-633-0645, prior to the hearing, to request an alternate means to appear. Failure to do so may result in your case being dismissed, or a ruling issued against you. The address of the court is 111 North Hill Street, Los Angeles, California 90012. A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation printed in the county which Mauro Pasillas Macias resides:

Date: 02/24/2026

Judge Virginia Keeny, Judge of the Superior Court

4/9, 4/16, 4/23, and 4/30/2026

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Classifieds

WAKE COUNTY

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

This the 2nd day of April, 2026.
 Charlie Burnette, Executor
 c/o Monks Law Firm, Steve Monks, attorney
 Monks Law Firm
 6613 Speight Circle
 Raleigh, NC 27616
 4/2, 4/9, 4/16, and 4/23/2026
 STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
 WAKE COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
 In the General Court of Justice,
 Superior Court Division
 Before the Clerk
 File No.: 26E000102-910
 Having qualified as ADMINISTRATOR of the Estate of PETER JOHN BECK, JR., 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 July 3, 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 2nd day of April, 2026.
 Janet Robinson, Administrator
 c/o Monks Law Firm, Steve Monks, attorney
 Monks Law Firm
 6613 Speight Circle
 Raleigh, NC 27616
 4/2, 4/9, 4/16, and 4/23/2026
 STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
 WAKE COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
 In the General Court of Justice,
 Superior Court Division
 Before the Clerk
 File No.: 26E000869-910
 Having qualified as EXECUTOR of the Estate of JOYCE WILSON HAWLEY, 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 July 3, 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 2nd day of April, 2026.
 Christina Jane Pressley, Executor
 3209 Landing Falls Lane
 Raleigh, NC 27616
 4/2, 4/9, 4/16, and 4/23/2026
 STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
 WAKE COUNTY

NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION
 In the General Court of Justice
 District Court Division
 File No. 20CV013438-910
 IN THE MATTER OF: WILLIAMS AND WILLIAMS v. WILLIAMS AND UNKNOWN FATHER

To: Unknown Father of M. M. W, a male child born of Morgan Brittany Williams on 09/23/2016 in Wake County, NC.

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 child custody. You are required to make defense to such pleading within 40 days of service on or before May 12, 2026. If you fail to respond, the party seeking service against you will apply to the court for the relief sought. This, the 2nd day of April, 2026. You should provide a copy of any response to the attorney for the Plaintiffs at Melissa Stuckey, McNeil Law Firm, PLLC; 226 W. Millbrook Road, Raleigh, NC 27609, 919-803-6778.
 4/2, 4/9, and 4/16/2026
 STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
 WAKE COUNTY

NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION
 In The General Court of Justice
 District Court Division
 FILE NO. 25CV045563-910 & 25CV045564-910
 IZABELLE M OROZCO HERWICK, Plaintiff VS LUIS SUASTEGUI GARCIA, Defendant
 TO LUIS SUASTEGUI GARCIA:

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: Absolute Divorce & Child Custody.

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 2nd day of April, 2026.
 Izabelle Marie Orozco Herwick
 Plaintiff
 714 Copperline Dr.
 Garner, NC 27529
 4/2, 4/9, and 4/16/2026
 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 Absolute Divorce. You are required to make a defense to such pleading no later than May 12, 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. HEDGEPEATH, will apply to the court for the relief sought.
 This, the 2nd day of April, 2026.
 Dewey O. Hedgepeth, Plaintiff

530 June Lane
 Raleigh, NC 27610
 4/2, 4/9, and 4/16/2026
 STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
 WAKE COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
 In the General Court of Justice,
 Superior Court Division
 Before the Clerk
 File No.: 25E004791-910
 Having qualified as EXECUTOR of the Estate of JAMES MONROE, 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 June 29, 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 March, 2026.
 Mary Ann Monroe Williams
 Executor
 1324 Wrentree Circle
 Raleigh, NC 27610
 3/26, 4/2, 4/9, and 4/16/2026



ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

The North Carolina Department of Adult Correction has the following contract in Nash County out for bid: C- C11855 Support Buildings' Fire Alarm Replacement . The bid opening is scheduled for: Thursday, 05/21/2026 . To obtain the Notice to Bidders, any Pre-Bid Requirements, and any Addenda visit: North Carolina Department of Public Safety · eVP



ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

The North Carolina Department of Adult Correction has the following contract in Mitchell County out for bid: C- C11828 Mountain View CI Emergency Roof Replacement . The bid opening is scheduled for: Wednesday, 05/06/2026 . To obtain the Notice to Bidders, any Pre-Bid Requirements, and any Addenda visit: <https://evp.nc.gov/solicitations/details/?id=e0fab3bf-f72d-f111-8342-001dd80bcb64>

Submit your bid, job and recruitment advertising to
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The Masters We Know Was Built On The Shoulders Of Black Caddies We Should Know Better

AUGUSTA, Ga. (AP) – When Ben Crenshaw is asked to explain his success at Augusta National Golf Club, where he won the Masters in 1984 and 1995 to claim his only two major championships, it usually isn't long before he hands some credit to Carl Jackson.

Jackson, an Augusta native who started caddying at the Masters as a 14-year-old, first caddied for Crenshaw in 1976.

"I finished second that year, largely due to Carl's help," the 72-year-old Crenshaw said this week.

In those days, a tournament rule required golfers to hire one of the club's caddies, all of whom were Black. As club co-founder Clifford Roberts, a contented denizen of the segregated South, once said: "As long as I'm alive, all the players will be white, and all the caddies will be Black."

But even when PGA Tour players successfully pushed for the right to bring their regular tour caddies to the tournament in 1983, a change that dealt an economic blow to many Black caddies who relied on the Masters as a dependable annual payday, Crenshaw stuck with Jackson. Crenshaw said Jackson made him a better golfer because he insisted they approach their preparation for the Masters — the reading of its undulating greens and swirling winds — like students approaching a final exam.

"He made me learn," Crenshaw said of Jackson. "It was, for us, a study."

As Jackson, now 77, once said: To navigate Augusta National, there are no tricks. There are only facts. When Crenshaw's fellow Texan Jordan Spieth won in 2015, Spieth and caddie Michael Greller credited Crenshaw and Jackson for generously sharing decades of accumulated wisdom. Greller likened course-strategy sessions with Jackson to "sitting down with Michael Jordan before the NBA Finals."

Considering Jackson caddied in a record 54 Masters, it'd be an understatement to call him an indelible part of tournament history. So you'll understand why Jackson took it as a slight when he caddied for Crenshaw at last year's Par 3 Contest and only gained entrance to the grounds thanks to a ticket provided by Crenshaw, not an official credential. Masters winners get a lifetime invitation to return. The caddies who win — not so much.

"I don't feel welcomed here," Jackson told the Augusta Chronicle in the lead-up to last year's Masters. "It feels like they want me to go, so that's what I'll do."

That unfortunate moment is merely a small chapter in the problematic history of the club and its caddy corps. If the tournament's green caddie hats and white coveralls have become iconic, you can get the impression the tournament would prefer the folks who've worn them remain anonymous. You won't find Jackson's name, or the name of any other caddie, in the exhaustive 460-page media guide that so thoroughly chronicles most every other detail of tournament history. And if that's perhaps standard operating procedure in pro golf, where caddies are often seen as replaceable employees of the star attractions, it's surprising that a tournament that claims to value tradition as highly as the Masters wouldn't see fit to pay at least occasional homage to figures as revered as Jackson and his cohorts.

"This club was built on a lot of these (caddies') shoulders, and we need to remember that," said Ward Clayton, author of the recently released book "The Legendary Caddies of Augusta National."

Clayton isn't the only voice helping to ensure the legacy of Augusta's great caddies is preserved. There's a monument in the works in Sand Hills, the historically Black neighborhood from which many of them hailed. And this week, Augusta's Lucy Craft Laney Museum of Black History presented another performance of its long-running play "Men on the Bag," a dramatization of the history of Augusta National's Black caddies.

The museum has immortalized some of the most famous caddies on collectible trading cards, among them Nathaniel (Iron Man) Avery, who helped Arnold Palmer to four Masters titles; Willie (Pete) Peterson, who carried Jack Nicklaus's bag in five of his record six Masters wins; and Jim (Big Boy) Dent, who got his start as an Augusta National caddy before playing on the PGA Tour for 18 years and winning 12 times on what is now known as the Champions Tour.

And then there's Jariah (Bubba) Beard, an unofficial historian of the caddy corps before he died last year at age 82. When Fuzzy Zoeller won the Masters in 1979, he credited

Beard with providing the local insights that helped make Zoeller the tournament's only rookie winner.

"I've been like a blind man with a Seeing Eye dog all week," Zoeller said.

Among the attendees at this week's performance of "Men on the Bag" was Patsy Sarvis, the niece of Willy (Pappy) Stokes, known as the godfather of Augusta caddies, who was on the bag for five Masters wins with four different golfers from the 1930s until the 1950s and died in 2006 at age 86. Sarvis said family lore had it that her uncle gained some of his renowned knowledge of the hilly topography by walking the course in the rain to watch the way the water flowed through the contours.


Stokes's story, like those of so many of his fellow caddies, has largely been confined to family legend until recently.

"These caddies have often gone unknown," said Corey Rogers, the Laney museum's historian. "You'll see pictures of golfers, and you'll see Nicklaus, Palmer, (Gary) Player and others. And then it'll say, 'Unknown caddie.' So the impetus for us doing this is, we wanted to give these caddies voice, tell their unique stories."


Sarvis said her family's roots are intertwined with the history of Augusta National. Her mother, who died in 2019 at age 104, once lived and worked on the property now occupied by the club, long before founders Roberts and Bobby Jones laid eyes on what was then known as Fruitland Nurseries and had visions of building the world's finest golf course.

This week, Sarvis, who is retired, picked up a job working for a company that provides security — a role that comes with the option to walk the course and shop at the famed golf shop. For many of the sporting pilgrims who flock to the Masters, it's a feel-good week, a bucket-list moment. For Sarvis, the emotions are more complicated.

"I don't know if I could really express myself. You see, years ago, Blacks couldn't go to Augusta National, nobody but the caddies and the servers. So now, sometimes I want to go on the course, and then sometimes I don't want to go," Sarvis said. "And I don't mean to be negative. That's just how I feel. It's OK, that's just the way of the world. That's just the way things are."



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