

Gunman Makes An Attempt On The President Life At News Media Event

WASHINGTON (AP) — A man armed with guns and knives stormed the lobby outside the White House Correspondents' Association Dinner attended by President Donald Trump on Saturday night, charging toward the ballroom in a chaotic encounter with Secret Service agents as guests dived under tables at the sound of shots being fired.

The president was uninjured and was rushed off the stage. The armed man, who officials said was a guest at the Washington Hilton where the dinner was being held, was taken into custody and was expected in court Monday. Police believe he opened fire and acted alone but did not say who was his intended target or describe a motive.

"When you're impactful, they go after you. When you're not impactful, they leave you alone," Trump, safe and uninjured and still in his tuxedo, said at the White House two hours later. "They seem to think he was a lone wolf."



The shooting unfolded just outside the vast subterranean ballroom holding thousands of dinner guests, disrupting minutes after it began an annual event meant to honor journalism and the First Amendment that was being especially scrutinized this year because it was the first time since Trump became president that he had attended. Trump told reporters later that he hoped the event would be rescheduled within 30 days, though the fact that an armed man was able to rush toward the ballroom raised instant questions about security precautions at an event attended each year by senior government officials.

Video posted by Trump showed the suspect running past security barricades as Secret Service agents ran toward him. One officer was shot in a bullet-resistant vest but was recovering, officials said. The gunman was tackled to the ground and was not injured, but was being evaluated at a hospital, police said.

Astronaut Victor Glover Is The Latest In A Long Line Of Black American Explorers

The Conversation—In April 2026, four astronauts are scheduled to fly around the Moon. As part of NASA's Artemis II mission, they will become the first humans to do so in half a century. One crew member, pilot Victor Glover, will become the first Black astronaut to ever orbit the Moon.

Glover's achievement is worth celebrating. But it's also worth remembering that he belongs to a long and underappreciated history. America's first Black explorer didn't fly an Apollo rocket or sail with the U.S. Exploring Expedition. He traveled with Lewis and Clark, and he was known by a single name: York.

I'm a historian who spent five years writing a book about Lewis and Clark, and I found new documents that show York was one of the most important people on their expedition. Even in a party that could number as many as 45 men, York stood out — for his courage, his skill and his sacrifices that helped the famous captains reach the Pacific Ocean.

YORK'S LIFE AS A SLAVE
York was born in Virginia around 1770. Growing up, he was a creative and sociable child, unusually tall with dark hair and a dark complexion — "black as a bear," a contemporary noted.

He was also enslaved by the Clarks. William Clark, who was around the same age, was also un-



The Artemis II crew will include Victor Glover, second from left, the first Black astronaut to fly to the Moon. NASA/Frank Michaux

usually tall, though his hair was a rusty red, and sometimes the boys played together. But the playing stopped once York turned 9 or 10. That's when he joined the adult slaves in working full time. That's also when he began to note the differences between his life and William's — differences that became only clearer once William started ordering him around.

In the 1780s, the Clark household headed to Kentucky. York met a Black woman there and married her. He also became William's "body servant."

A body servant was a slave who stayed close to his owner and prioritized his comfort, laying out his clothes and serving his meals. When Meriwether Lewis asked Clark to

join his expedition, in 1803, Clark ordered York to accompany him.

Perhaps York was excited for this adventure. Perhaps he was not — it would be punishing, and he would be separated from his wife.

Either way, York didn't have a choice.

THE CORPS OF DISCOVERY

York proved his worth from the start. Once they reached St. Louis, the soldiers, later known as the Corps of Discovery, rushed to raise winter quarters. Working in hail and snow, York and the others built log huts. They needed rough planks for their tables and bunks, but the carpenters had only a single whipsaw to make them. They chose two men to operate this crucial tool. One of them was York.

On May 14, 1804, the corps began ascending the Missouri River. York helped row and tow the party's barge, which was the size of a semi-truck trailer. He carried a rifle and hunted — according to the expedition's journals, he was only the fifth named member to bring down a buffalo. York cooked for the captains. He collected scientific specimens. He nursed the sick, including several soldiers and, later on, Sacagawea, a Shoshone woman who would also prove essential to the expedition's success.

The soldiers were not always kind in return. During this period, officers rarely brought along enslaved body servants. York's race probably made some of the men angry or uncomfortable. One day, someone threw so much sand in his face that it nearly blinded him. Clark claimed it was "in fun," but he also wrote that York was "very near losing his eyes," and no one else got cruelly sprayed with sand.

That fall, during councils with Native leaders, York played a surprising and vital role. The Arikara, Mandan and Hidatsa all crowded in to see him and to touch his skin. They had never met a Black person before, and York showed off his strength and played with the Native children. Later, the Arikara said York was "the

(See **BLACK EXPLORERS** P. 2)

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STATE NEWS BRIEFS

NORTH CAROLINA EDUCATORS PLAN MAY DAY MARCH ON RALEIGH FOR PUBLIC SCHOOL FUNDING

NORTH CAROLINA EDUCATORS PLAN MAY DAY MARCH ON RALEIGH FOR PUBLIC SCHOOL FUNDING

Medora Burke-Scoll drove an hour from Mebane to Raleigh early Thursday morning to join other educators urging state lawmakers to repeal the scheduled elimination of the North Carolina corporate income tax.

Burke-Scoll, a science teacher at Eastern High School and president of the Alamance-Burlington Association of Educators, said her school district simply cannot afford to lose more funding.

Of the 38 schools in the Alamance-Burlington school district, only nine met academic growth expectations last year.

"We are watching student outcomes decline. And as both a teacher and a parent, it's heartbreaking," said Burke-Scoll. "This didn't happen by accident. This is the result of choices."

Last year, the General Assembly failed to enact a new budget. Public schools tightened their belts. This year, scheduled tax cuts mean that state revenue will decline again next year, and that could mean less funding for teacher raises and classroom needs.

"We recently lost one of our strongest veteran math teachers," said Burke-Scoll. "She was working two additional jobs as a single parent. And when a higher paying opportunity came along, she told me she felt like she had no choice."

At the same time, Burke-Scoll said Alamance County has lost graduation coaches, behavior specialists, literary specialists, and testing coordinators.

"We're given mandates from the state, but we're not given the staffing to make those mandates a reality," said Burke-Scoll.

Senator Natalie Murdock (D-Durham) joined Burke-Scoll and other educators to announce that she will file the "Kids Over Corporations Act" next week.

The bill will repeal the scheduled elimination of the North Carolina corporate income tax, Murdock said. It will also establish a permanent corporate tax rate of 5%, effective in tax year 2026.

"Every single one of our neighboring states has a corporate tax rate of 5% or higher," said Murdock. "South Carolina charges corporations 5% and ranks 25 spots higher in education funding rankings than North Carolina."

Murdock said on Wednesday she met with the leaders of a global biopharmaceutical company that will be investing \$1.4 billion in the city of Durham.

"Companies from all over the world come here for our workforce and our phenomenal schools. That requires a strong public education system. Without stable education funding, you cannot produce a strong workforce," said Murdock.

By 2030, corporations will pay zero in state income tax in North Carolina. Murdock said for her, "the math does not math," and corporations are simply not asking for this.

"That is not accountable," said Murdock. "I'm calling on my colleagues in the General Assembly on both sides of the aisle to take a serious look at this bill, look at the numbers and make a different choice."

The corporate income tax is actually a very small part of state revenue — only about 5%, according to N.C. Budget and Tax Center. Personal income tax makes up 50% of revenue, and that's scheduled to be cut, too, which will have a much larger impact on the budget.

2 KILLED, 5 INJURED AS PLANNED FIGHT BETWEEN TEENS TURNS INTO DEADLY SHOOTING

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C. (AP) — A planned fight among young people escalated into a mass shooting at a North Carolina park Monday morning that left two teenage boys dead and five other people injured, authorities said.

Winston-Salem police Capt. Kevin Burns said a 16-year-old and a 17-year-old died at the scene after being shot around 10 a.m. at Leinbach Park, near a middle school. Five others between the ages of 14 and 19 were shot and suffered injuries ranging from critical to minor, Burns said at a news conference. Four of those victims are female, officials said.

Officials said multiple people fired guns during the shooting. Winston-Salem police Chief William Penn said no one was in custody but authorities believe some of those injured may have also been involved in the shooting.

"I feel like everyone else. I'm frustrated, I'm angry, I'm sad. This didn't have to happen," Penn said.

Penn said he couldn't immediately answer whether the teens who died were the ones scheduled to fight. The police chief also said "no" when asked if it was known what the fight was about.

Officials said schools near the park were safe.

The shooting happened in a park in a suburban and residential area northwest of downtown Winston-Salem, a city of about 250,000 known for decades as the home of the R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Co.

Gen Z Is The First Generation To Be Dumber Than Their Parents, Neuroscientist Claims

By Ashley Fike

VICE

Gen Z has managed something no modern generation pulled off before. After more than a century of steady academic gains, test scores finally went the other direction. For the first time ever, a new generation is officially dumber than the previous one.

The data comes from neuroscientist Jared Cooney Horvath, who has spent years reviewing standardized testing results across age groups. "They're the first generation in modern history to score lower on standardized academic tests than the one before it," Horvath told the New York Post. The declines cut across attention, memory, literacy, numeracy, executive function, and general IQ. That's not just one weak spot. That's the whole darn dashboard blinking at once.

Horvath took the same message to Capitol Hill during a 2026 Senate hearing on screen time and children. His framing skipped the generational dunking and focused on exposure. "More than half of the time a teenager is awake, half of it is spent staring at a screen," he told lawmakers. Human learning, he argued, depends on sustained attention and interaction with other people. Endless feeds and condensed content don't offer either.

Schools leaned hard into technology during the same window. Educational software replaced textbooks,



long readings, and extended problem-solving. After class, students returned to phones, tablets, and laptops, bouncing between social feeds and bite-sized explanations of material they never sat with for very long. Horvath described the outcome as students trained to skim. Skimming feels efficient, but it doesn't build depth.

"I'm not anti-tech. I'm pro-rigor," Horvath told the Post. Rigor, in his view, comes from friction. Reading full texts. Working through confusion. Spending time with material that doesn't immediately reward

you. Take that friction away, and cognitive skills dull. Brains adapt to the environment they're given, and this one prizes speed over staying power.

The same decline appears outside the United States. Horvath told senators that across roughly 80 countries, academic performance drops after digital technology becomes widely embedded in classrooms. The timing alone raises serious questions about how learning environments affect cognitive development.

Now, this is awkward. Horvath said many young people remain

highly confident in their intelligence despite lower measured performance. Confidence isn't the issue. Confidence without correction stalls improvement.

This conversation feels uncomfortable because it doesn't offer villains or easy fixes. Horvath summed it up bluntly during his testimony. "A sad fact our generation has to face is this: Our kids are less cognitively capable than we were at their age." His recommendation focused on restraint, dialing back screens in schools, and restoring depth before the next generation is doomed.



House Democratic Leaders Back Stein's Calls For Pay Raises, Medicaid Funding

By Brandon Kingdollar

NC Newsline

North Carolina House Democratic Leader Robert Reives (D-Chatham) and members of his leadership team backed Democratic Gov. Josh Stein's budget priorities in a Wednesday morning press conference, stressing the need for higher pay for teachers and public safety officials and measures to combat the rising cost of living.

The press conference came on the second day of the legislative short session, hours before House and Senate lawmakers passed a Medicaid funding bill. Legislators continue to search for consensus on a comprehensive budget, which they failed to agree on in last year's session, largely due to disagreements between House and Senate Republicans over whether to cut personal and corporate income taxes again.

"The people of North Carolina deserve better leadership than what they have seen so far from us. Our state's gone more than 900 days without a comprehensive budget," Reives said. "The only state in the nation to fail at the most basic responsibility we have."

A key issue for Democrats is raising pay for teachers, government employees and law enforcement, for all of whom North Carolina's salaries lag behind most other states.

"How can you tell people how much you support law enforcement when you refuse to even do the basic steps it takes to make sure they can make more money in law enforcement than they can going to work right now at Costco?" Reives asked.

Rep. Vernetta Alston (D-Durham), the House Democratic conference chair, said the party is focused on the issues "draining folks' bank accounts," including housing prices, utility fees, food costs and child care.

"Working people are paying more at the grocery store than they have in years, while many small farmers are struggling just to break even. That's the sign of a system that is failing," Alston said. "Industry can thrive without coming at the expense of North Carolina households."

Rep. Brandon Lofton (D-Mecklenburg) said raising pay for teachers in North Carolina is an urgent need. He recounted learning from his son that after his high school math teacher quit, they could not afford to find a replacement.

"He and his classmates sat in a room without a teacher and stared at a Zoom screen and watched a teacher from across the hall teach his class, and then that teacher would come over for the last 10 to 15 minutes of class to see if anyone had any questions," Lofton said.

Reives said he doesn't feel anything has changed with regard to House Democrats who lost their primaries — including Rep. Carla Cunningham (D-Mecklenburg), who lost to a challenger endorsed by Stein — amid speculation that some may join with Republicans to override Stein's vetoes.

"Unfortunately, having been here 12 years, I've lost a lot of friends to elections, and we never know why," Reives said. "Nothing's changed with us because we didn't vote them in, didn't vote them out."

Reives also voiced concerns over a proposed amendment backed by House Republicans to limit local autonomy over property taxes.

"You're going to lose law enforcement, you're going to lose school budgets, I mean, it's going to be crushing for cities and counties," Reives said. "If we started giving the money back to the counties that we gave 15 years ago to make sure that they were able to cover a lot of these things, all of them would be happy to reduce their property taxes."

Black American Explorers—CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

most marvelous" thing about the corps.

The next year, the expedition crossed the Rockies and the Continental Divide. York's most important — and most overlooked — contributions came soon after. On the Columbia River and its tributaries, the party had to dig out five new canoes and then paddle them through treacherous rapids.

Levis and Clark allowed only their best rivermen on these foaming, rock-riven waters. One of them was almost certainly York. During my research, I found an unpublished letter in which Clark praised York's ability to "manage the boats."

Just as important, York was a strong swimmer, a rare thing in an era when many people never learned to swim.

YORK'S LIFE AS AN EXPLORER

On the Columbia River, the corps survived a series of terrifying choke points — soggy hazards they referred to as the "Long Narrows" and the "Great Chute." After that came the ocean. They had traveled together for more than 4,000 miles (6,400 kilometers), and when the captains

asked the men to vote on where to put their final winter quarters, they made sure to ask York, too.

It was the latest sign that his role had changed during this epic journey. But those changes began with York. In the West, he found ways to make choices and assert himself. He sent a buffalo robe to his wife in Kentucky. When Clark told him to scale back his performances for Native people, York ignored him — because he wanted to, and because he could.

York's vote was also evidence that, like Victor Glover today, he was an official American explorer, a key member of a sprawling, federally funded mission. From 1804 to 1806, the government devoted a larger percentage of its budget to the corps than it devotes to NASA today.

Part of that money was earmarked for York. The Army gave officers who brought along their slaves a monthly ration or its cash equivalent. When the corps made it home, the government paid US\$274.57 for York's labor, a sum similar to what the privates received. But that money didn't go to York. It went to Clark.

THE HIDDEN HISTORY OF



A statue of York stands at the Riverfront Plaza in Louisville, Ky. The statue is speculative, as there is no record of what York looked like.

BLACK EXPLORERS

There have been many Black explorers in American history. Thomas Jefferson launched other expeditions besides Lewis and Clark's, and those expeditions also included enslaved people, though their names have not survived. Isaiah Brown served on the Wheeler Survey, which mapped the West in greater detail after the Civil War. Matthew Henson accompanied Robert Peary on his Arctic expeditions, which received some federal support. More recently, NASA has depended on Black astronauts such as Guy Bluford, Mae Jemison and Jeanette Epps, among others.

York and Victor Glover are, for now, the first and most recent examples of this inspiring tradition. But their contributions go beyond that. When the captains asked York to vote on the winter quarters, they were acknowledging in some small way that he'd proven he was more than a body servant.

Of course, York had always been more than that. It just took 4,000 miles for Lewis and Clark to see it.

Written by Craig Fehrman, an Adjunct instructor at the Media School, Indiana University

NC Rep Carla Cunningham Switches Party Affiliation After Primary Loss

NC Newsline—State Rep. Carla Cunningham has switched her party affiliation to unaffiliated. The move comes after the Mecklenburg County Democrat lost her primary in March.

Cunningham, a seven-term incumbent, lost to Rev. Dr. Rodney Sadler, who earned the endorsement of Gov. Josh Stein.

WBT was the first to report the news on Friday.

Cunningham angered a lot of Democrats when she voted to override Stein's veto of a bill outlining how sheriffs must cooperate with ICE. Before she voted, Cunningham gave a controversial speech saying immigrants must assimilate. "All cultures are not equal," she said.

Earlier this month in an interview on WBT, Cunningham said she votes her conscience.

"It's not beneficial for me to line



up behind a party agenda," Cunningham told WBT's Brett Jensen. "What's beneficial to my constituents is that I serve them and prioritize what their needs are."

Asked in the interview whether Democrats should be worried about how she might vote in the short session, Cunningham suggested she would do her own research and not be directed by party politics.

"I'm transactional," she said. "It's business. It's government doing business."

Cunningham is not the first Mecklenburg County legislator to leave the Democratic party. In April 2023, Rep. Tricia Cotham announced she would join with Republicans. Cotham's party switch gave Republicans 72 members in the state House that year, enough votes in the legislature to override then-Gov. Roy Cooper's vetoes.

'Shot Across The Bow': How D.C. Plans To Take On Prediction Markets

POLITICO—Washington's scrutiny of the wild world of prediction markets is about to come to a head.

The landmark federal case against a U.S. soldier who allegedly used confidential information to trade on the capture of then-Venezuelan leader Nicolás Maduro is ratcheting up calls for new guardrails around the fast-growing prediction markets.

Lawmakers have voiced alarm that the alleged trades could have endangered a military operation with potentially fatal consequences. The charges came just days after a leading market banned several congressional candidates for betting on their own elections.

"This is going to be the top emerging issue" in finance, said House Financial Services Chair French Hill, an Arkansas Republican whose committee plays a critical role in overseeing the regulation of financial markets. Members are trying to get up to speed on the issue and "not trying to prejudge," he said at an event Friday. "We're all going to be dealing with it."

The episodes could prove to be a tipping point for Congress, regulators and President Donald Trump's administration to impose new guardrails on a deep-pocketed industry that has quickly become a Washington powerhouse.

Prediction markets like Polymarket and Kalshi are a type of financial exchange that offer users Cheesecake Factory-like menus of wagers that span U.S. elections, Major League Baseball games and beyond.

The companies have moved aggressively in recent years to build out their networks of political and financial advisers, including Donald Trump Jr. The president's eldest son is an adviser to both companies, while the venture capital firm he works at, 1789 Capital, is a Polymarket investor. Both Polymarket and Kalshi have also attracted major support from Wall Street and Silicon Valley heavyweights, who have helped boost their valuations to meteoric highs.

Insider trading on the prediction markets has been top of mind for officials across the political spectrum in recent months, following a string of well-publicized and seemingly suspicious bets on the Iran war, Maduro's capture and even the weather in Paris.

Illinois Gov. JB Pritzker earlier this week signed an executive order expressly banning state officials from using privileged information to trade on the markets, while New York Gov. Kathy Hochul did the same the next day. A White House official, granted anonymity to speak freely, said ethics rules bar government employees from using privileged non-public government information for personal gain,



including through betting. And Wall Street enforcers have been warning that they were preparing to crack down.

But the arrest of a U.S. service member in connection with bets on Polymarket tied to Maduro's downfall could put new pressure on policymakers, according to more than a half dozen lawmakers, former regulators and industry officials.

On Thursday, the Justice Department and the Commodity Futures Trading Commission charged Gannon Ken Van Dyke, a 38-year-old master sergeant who allegedly made more than \$400,000 on wagers tied to Maduro's capture. Prosecutors said Van Dyke was involved in the operation's planning.

"This is just something that really has to be locked down," former CFTC Commissioner Christy Goldsmith Romero said. "We can't have insider trading in these markets."

Prediction market backers have been quick to tout the Van Dyke charges as evidence that the industry and regulators are properly — and forcefully — policing the markets. Insider trading is already prohibited on CFTC-regulated markets, such as Kalshi, they say. And it's not unusual in other parts of Wall Street, where it is often also caught after the fact: The oil futures market has drawn similar concern about various well-timed bets in recent weeks.

But an industry official, who was granted anonymity to speak candidly, said the prediction markets "need to reflect, take their medicine, adjust and evolve."

"Some of these contracts could foreseeably have violence associated, which full stop should not be listed," the official said. "However, the idea that you would just get rid of any geopolitical contract that could be perceived by anyone as sensitive, that's not going to be on the table. Now is the time for cleaner and clearer self regulation."

Lawmakers are already jumping on the news. In a statement, Sen. Todd Young, an Indiana Republican who

has introduced bipartisan legislation to bar everyone from the president to congressional staffers from trading on the markets, told POLITICO that he was "glad to see more people taking these insider trading concerns seriously."

"This selfish act could have put other brave servicemembers in harm's way," Young said. "We need to implement protections to prevent public servants from being able to profit off of insider information."

Sen. Bernie Moreno, a Republican from Ohio, said Friday that he will introduce a resolution proposing a ban on U.S. senators from trading on the prediction markets. And Sen. Richard Blumenthal, a Democrat from Connecticut, told POLITICO before the Van Dyke charges that prediction markets "will be an area" of focus should Democrats take control of Congress this November.

Even Trump himself has voiced concern. Speaking to reporters in the Oval Office shortly after the charges were announced, he said "the whole world, unfortunately, has become somewhat of a casino" before mentioning "predictive markets."

"It's a crazy world," he said. "It's a much different world than it was."

White House spokesperson Davis Ingle said in a statement that while Trump "seeks a strong and profitable stock market for everyone, members of Congress and other government officials should be prohibited from using nonpublic information for financial benefit."

Others are urging caution. In an interview last month, Rep. Dusty Johnson of South Dakota, a Republican on the House Agriculture Committee, said he wants members to "try to come together to all agree on the facts, understand the legal basis for these products and to chart together a course for where we want to go."

CFTC Chair Michael Selig, who has been a major booster of the prediction markets, said in a statement after the Van Dyke charges that he has "been crystal clear that anyone who engages in fraud, manipulation, or insider

trading in any of our markets will face the full force of the law." And the companies themselves have already rolled out various measures intended to thwart insider trading on their platforms.

On Friday, in a post on X, Polymarket CEO Shayne Coplan wrote that his company referred the trading on Van Dyke's account to authorities and cooperated throughout the investigation.

"This happens constantly behind the scenes, despite what many are led to believe," he wrote, adding that Polymarket's cryptocurrency underpinnings allow additional transparency into the trading on its platform. "Every trade is public, permanent, and auditable. Bad actors leave a trail."

Van Dyke was charged with violations of the Commodity Exchange Act, wire fraud and unlawful monetary transactions. Each carries a varying maximum sentence of between 10 and 20 years, according to prosecutors.

He was able to make the trades through Polymarket's international platform, which is not overseen by the CFTC nor supposed to be open to U.S. customers under the terms of a 2022 settlement with regulators. Van Dyke allegedly concealed his location using a virtual private network, allowing him to trade on Polymarket, according to the complaint.

A person familiar with Polymarket's operations, who was granted anonymity to speak freely, said the use of VPNs on its platform "is an area of continued focus" for the company. Polymarket, the person added, is currently working to fully roll out its CFTC-regulated exchange and that "the last thing in the world the company wants is to do something that's going to prevent it from being able to operate fully in the U.S."

Earlier this week, Kalshi, which is regulated by the CFTC, issued five-year bans against three congressional candidates who had traded on their own elections against the exchange's rules. Kalshi spokesperson Elisabeth Diana said in a statement that Kalshi identifies its customers, bans insider trading and has substantial market surveillance on its platform. "We're regulated in the U.S. and have strict rules to keep our customers safe," she added, noting that "regulation matters."

And that, combined with the Van Dyke case, is a clear sign to some that regulators, prosecutors and the industry itself are moving quickly to clamp down.

"This puts the meat on the bones" of regulators' warnings, said Liz Davis, a former DOJ and CFTC attorney who is now a partner at Davis Wright Tremaine. "It certainly sends the shot across the bow."

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Business & Finance

Detroit Was Once The Home To 18 Black-Led Hospitals

Few institutions better illustrate the effects of the Great Migration on Black life in Detroit than Dunbar Memorial Hospital.

Founded in 1918, Dunbar was both a medical institution and a radical expression of racial uplift and Black health advocacy.

We study and teach Black medical history and are members of the Association for the Study of African American Life and History.

Dunbar provided more than curative medicine. It also offered preventive care, professional training and organized advocacy. It was led largely by members of W. E. B. Du Bois' "Talented Tenth," a cadre of educated and socially conscious Black Americans who advocated for marginalized Black Americans.

Their efforts provide lessons for advancing health equity today.

Between 1910 and 1930, Detroit experienced one of the most dramatic demographic transformations in American history. This shift was driven largely by Henry Ford's 1914 offer of five dollars a day, roughly twice the typical wage at the time, to anyone willing to work on his assembly lines.

Detroit's Black population rose from fewer than 6,000 residents in 1910 to more than 120,000 by 1930. This more than sixfold increase was part of the Great Migration, the mass movement of millions of African Americans from the rural South to Northern and Midwestern cities in search of industrial jobs, political freedom and escape from Jim Crow segregation.

By mid-century, 300,000 Black Americans migrated to Detroit, making it one of the largest urban Black communities in the North. Rapid population growth created an urgent

need for housing, employment and health care.

STRUCTURAL RACISM THREATENS BLACK HEALTH AND LIVES

At the time, white residents could live in any neighborhood they could afford. Black Detroiters were systematically excluded from quality neighborhoods by restrictive covenants embedded in property deeds. And they were barred from white-controlled medical institutions.

Historian Richard W. Thomas explains in "Life for Us is What We Make It" how real estate steering and redlining confined Black Detroiters to overcrowded districts such as Black Bottom and Paradise Valley. Inflated rents, poor sanitation and neglected infrastructure defined daily life. These conditions fostered infectious diseases such as tuberculosis, influenza, smallpox and dysentery. The causes were structural rather than behavioral.

Racial discrimination extended into medical systems. Many white hospitals refused Black patients. When provided care, Black patients were assigned to inferior wards. Black physicians and nurses were barred from internships, residencies and professional advancement.

Black and white leadership in Detroit recognized the need for an intervention. The Black community experienced disparities in treatment and health outcomes. White residents feared disease would seep into their neighborhoods.

As Detroit's Black population expanded, the gap between community health needs widened. In 1918, Black physicians founded Dunbar Hospital to address health care disparities.

THE BIRTHPLACE OF A BLACK HOSPITAL

MOVEMENT

Dunbar Memorial Hospital was founded by 30 Black doctors and allied health professionals. It was named for poet Paul Laurence Dunbar, whose cultural influence reso-

nated deeply in Black Detroit.

Dunbar was designed to serve Black patients with dignity and competence. It provided inpatient and outpatient care, hygiene education and disease prevention. The hospital

occupied a three-story Romanesque Revival—Queen Anne residence built in 1892 at 580 Frederick St. in midtown Detroit.

Acquired in 1917, the house was converted into a 25-bed hospital with operating rooms, laboratory services, pharmacy and a nursing training program. Evidence suggests the Black engineer Cornelius Langston Henderson designed the renovation. In 1924, the Allied Medical Society acquired the adjacent house at 584 Frederick St. for its nurses quarters and offices.

Dunbar trained Black physicians and nurses excluded from white institutions. It helped to build a medical network for Black health care professionals.

THE RISE OF BLACK-LED MEDICAL SOCIETIES

In the early 20th century in Detroit, Black physicians perceived medicine as both profession and racial service. Many were trained at Howard University College of Medicine and Meharry Medical College. After graduation, white hospitals denied them privileges based solely on race. They could not admit patients freely or perform surgeries under equal conditions.

Excluded from white medical societies, Black physicians organized parallel institutions. The National Medical Association and the Allied Medical Society of Wayne County are examples of their organizing. Their goal was to secure professional autonomy and improve community access to health care.

"The Negro Hospital Movement was a reflection of the reality that medicine was one of the most segregated professions in America," said Dr. Charles H. Wright, a Black medical doctor in Detroit and founder of

The Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History.

Dunbar's founders included Drs. James W. Ames, Albert Henry Johnson, George Bundy, Albert Buford Cleage Sr. and Alexander L. Turner. Beyond clinical work, these Black physicians pursued public health advocacy. They organized sanitation campaigns to address childhood illnesses, nutrition and recreation.

CIVIL RIGHTS REFORMS INTEGRATED HOSPITALS

Detroit had approximately 18 Black-owned or Black-operated hospitals during the 1940s and '1950s.

Their decline followed structural and policy shifts. Hospital desegregation after World War II opened previously white-only hospitals to Black physicians and patients.

Federal policy reinforced this change. When Medicare began in 1965, hospitals had to comply with civil rights laws to receive funding.

Integration marked progress. It reduced the structural need for separate Black institutions. Jamon Jordan, Detroit's official historian, noted how federal policy accelerated desegregation.

The history of Dunbar Memorial Hospital offers a blueprint for addressing health inequities today. It reflects W.E.B. Du Bois' Talented 10th not as elitism but as obligation. During the Jim Crow era, Black physicians responded to exclusion with organization. The lesson is clear. Representation alone is not enough. Advancing health equity requires professional excellence, accountability and institution building.

Written by Rashid Faisal, Lecturer, College of Education, University of Michigan-Dearborn and Anita Moncrease, Professor of Pediatrics, Wayne State University



Dunbar Memorial Hospital served as a training ground for Black physicians and nurses excluded from white institutions and helped build a medical workforce. Walter P. Reuther Library, Wayne State University

UNC-Wilmington Seeks Approval For 4-year Medical School

NC Newsline—University of North Carolina at Wilmington Chancellor Aswani Voley told members of the UNC System's Board of Governors Wednesday that the time is right for his university to add an accredited four-year medical school with a three-year accelerated track.

The southeastern region of the state faces a significant shortage of physicians, and that leads to patients facing longer wait times for care, an overreliance on emergency departments and higher levels of hospitalizations.

"By 2030, North Carolina is projected to have a deficit of over 7,700 physician positions. This is on top of a growing state and aging demographics," Voley told the board's planning committee. "And despite being a fast-growing state, North Carolina ranks 40 out of 50th in medical students per capita."

Six of the seven existing medical schools in North Carolina are located between I-77 and I-95. The closest medical program to Wilmington, at East Carolina University, is over two hours away.

"Imagine taking an individual with deep roots in the community. They go to medical school in a place like Wilmington, they do their residency there. The odds of returning go up



to 80%, as has been the case in other states," said Voley. "So that is an approach we should be taking."

At this point, UNC-Wilmington is just seeking authorization to begin the planning process. But on Wednesday, the idea received a strong endorsement from veteran state Rep. John Bell (R-Wayne).

"It's not just going to benefit just our region. It's going to benefit the entire state — and frankly, the entire eastern seaboard of our country," said Bell. "It's incredible what we can do when public and private and communities come together."

Bell said he could personally relate to the physician shortage in rural eastern North Carolina, noting that he travels an hour and 25 minutes to see his own primary care doctor.

Voley said it has been more than 50 years since North Carolina launched a public medical school, and during that time, the state's population has doubled to more than 11 million people. The Brody School of Medicine at East Carolina University was established in 1974.

Board of Governors member Reginald Holley praised the chancellor for bringing his vision to UNC system leaders.

"I also would attempt to speak for the men and women who are

invisible, who don't have the opportunity to sit around this table. Men and women of low income, men and women who hardly have the kind of access to the healthcare that we all enjoy," said Holley. "What a time it will be for these men and women, if such a vision were to come to fruition in southeastern North Carolina. What a difference it would make."

The UNC System Board of Governors could give UNC-Wilmington the green light to move forward at its May meeting.

Voley pledged that he was prepared to secure a nine-figure gift towards the project.

"We already are working and have commitments from any number of healthcare organizations for clinical partnerships, clinical placements, residencies, so on and so forth," said Voley. "The goal is to make sure that this proposal is fiscally responsible, and more importantly, sustainable."

Voley predicted it would be a seven-year to eight-year process before the region would start to see the graduates.

"The need is there. The shortage is significant," said Voley. "The best time to tackle any problem like this was yesterday. The second best time to do it is today."

Fuquay-Varina Seeks New Water Source Due To Its Growth

Fuquay-Varina is asking for approval to pull 6.17 million gallons per day from the Cape Fear River Basin, but release its treated wastewater into the Neuse River Basin.

NC Newsline—North Carolina's population is growing quickly in metro areas like the Triangle, and that means more demand for water in towns like Fuquay-Varina.

While Fuquay-Varina, located a bit south of Raleigh, sits on two river basins, the town doesn't have its own water source. At the moment, Fuquay-Varina buys wholesale water from Raleigh, Harnett County and Johnston County, according to the N.C. Dept. of Environmental Quality.

But the town's current contracted water supply isn't enough to meet projected future demands, so Fuquay-Varina wants its own permanent water supply.

Fuquay-Varina is requesting an Interbasin Transfer Certificate from the state, asking for approval to pull 6.17 million gallons per day from the Cape Fear River Basin, but release its treated wastewater into the Neuse River Basin. This would cost the town about \$200 million less than returning the water to the Cape Fear River Basin, according to the environmental impact statement included in the request.

North Carolina law doesn't allow systems to remove water from one river basin and put it back into a

different river basin without permission from the state, because doing so reduces the volume of water available to downstream users in the donor basin and can be harmful to wildlife.

Lawmakers and environmentalists are pushing back against the proposal.

A bipartisan group of state senators whose districts collectively represent southeastern North Carolina wrote a letter to the state's Environmental Management Commission on March 31 opposing the request. The Cape Fear River Basin is pivotal to their communities, they said.

"Nearly one million North Carolinians rely on this river for drinking water, jobs and quality of life. Permanently removing that water puts our communities and our future at risk," Senate Majority Leader Michael Lee (R-New Hanover) wrote in an April 6 social media post. "We support responsible growth, but not at the expense of southeastern North Carolina."

Lee did not respond to NC Newsline's request for comment.

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill is currently studying surface water transfers in the state. The Southern Environmental Law



Center wants the Environmental Management Commission to delay considering the certificate until the study is finished. In its public comments on the issue, SELC described the framework for considering surface water transfers as "outdated."

The approval process currently includes an environmental impact statement. But Blakely Hildebrand,

senior attorney at SELC, said it doesn't present a "comprehensive or thorough" review of the proposal's overall effects on surrounding areas.

"We are concerned about water quality implications as well as impacts to species and ecological flows, and the [environmental impact statement] does not get into any detail whatsoever on those key con-

cerns," she said.

Environmentalists have suggested the state should require Fuquay-Varina to return the water it draws from the Cape Fear River back to the Cape Fear. They say that would allow the town to use the water it needs for its growing population and mitigate harms to downstream communities by replacing treated water,

although it would cost the town more.

"We support water within a hydrological unit staying within its watershed," said Samantha Krop, Neuse Riverkeeper and advocacy director at Sound Rivers, Inc. "We ask for thoughtful consideration of how the town can grow but exist within the carrying capacity of our watershed, rather than seeking to pull water resources from other locations."

Pulling water from one river basin into another can also damage aquatic ecosystems. Some species are endemic to the Neuse River Basin but don't live in the Cape Fear Basin, Krop said. In particular, Middle Creek is home to several endangered species, like the Carolina madtom — a small catfish native only to the Neuse and Tar River basins.

"They're already experiencing a lot of negative impacts from urbanization and stormwater runoff," Krop said.

The public comment period for the transfer request closed on April 1, and staff at DEQ's Division of Water Resources are reviewing the data to present to the Commission's Water Allocation Committee in May, according to DWR public information officer Laura Oleniacz.



Why I Celebrate Black Graduation Magic: An Anti-Racist Perspective

By Clare Warner

McMaster University

There is a rich history of Black graduation ceremonies in the United States focused on celebrating the unique experiences and achievements of Black university students.

In Canada, the tradition gained attention with the University of Toronto's 2017 celebration.

Since then, annual Black graduation ceremonies have been embraced by many other institutions, including McMaster University, Toronto Metropolitan University and Concordia University.

These optional celebrations are complementary to faculty-based convocation ceremonies where students are awarded their degrees. As in the case of Toronto's event, many are initiated by students seeking to celebrate their achievements in a culturally affirming way.

Their emergence are part of the introduction of Black-focused programs, services and spaces on Canadian campuses, which according to the available evidence, positively impact the well-being and academic success of Black students.

THE PRINCIPLE OF 'UBUNTU'
The celebrations embody the principle of Ubuntu, a South African philosophy about interdependence.

Students, parents and family members are often joined by staff, faculty, alumni and community members in a communal celebration of achievement.

These community celebrations remind graduates they are powerfully networked and supported as they embark on their careers or further studies. They also offer a moment to reflect on the personal, familial and ancestral sacrifices, which have enabled the long-awaited day.

During the celebrations, students are often presented with a Kente Stole. The stole is a scarf-like garment inspired by kente cloth, a vibrant textile created in the 17th century by the Akan people of Ghana drawing on their longstanding traditional weaving practices.

Historically associated with royal gatherings, today kente-inspired stoles are featured in important community celebrations as a symbol of ancestry and cultural pride. Visually stunning, many students proudly wear their stoles during

their formal convocation event, reinforcing their undeniable presence and contribution to the university.

Typically, Black graduation celebrations also incorporate cultural attire, music, speeches and awards, which together create the "magic" I'm so fond of.

ACCUSATIONS OF SEGREGATION

These celebrations are not without their critics, however, as accusations of segregation are not uncommon. Notably, predominantly white gatherings on campuses evade this criticism because whiteness is often constructed in non-racial terms, preserving for itself the privilege of being seen as simply human.

Accusations of segregation fail to acknowledge that Black graduation celebrations exist in the context of, and are an antidote to, the well-documented barriers Black students experience in the pursuit of higher education.

They are also troubling when situated within the history of segregationist policies in North America and South Africa, which systematically deprived Black communities of vital resources and opportunities as part of state-sanctioned efforts to maintain racial hierarchies.

FOSTERING BELONGING

In reality, Black graduation celebrations are inclusive, frequently welcoming non-Black campus allies and graduates' family members and partners, suggesting accusations of segregation are rooted in ideological opposition rather than evidence.

Other criticisms focus on the potential for Black graduation celebrations to reduce the participation of Black students in their formal convocations.

This claim runs contrary to available evidence that Black-focused programming at Canadian universities increases students' sense of belonging, which is a prerequisite for greater institutional engagement.

Based on this logic, Black graduation ceremonies are more likely than not to empower Black students to take up space in their formal convocations alongside peers from their programs.

CELEBRATING BLACK ACHIEVEMENT

Black graduation ceremonies have also attracted negative comments in popular forums like Reddit threads. Amid the deliberations, profiles from

different racial backgrounds sometimes demand equivalent ceremonies in the name of fairness.

This stance is disappointing because it denies the necessity of celebrating Black achievement in a world plagued by a specific, longstanding and deeply entrenched anti-Blackness. It's also illogical because Black graduation celebrations do not occur at the expense of other communities.

Celebrating Black achievement does not preclude other, also valid, celebrations of success — which can and often do co-exist.

In fact, as is so often the case with innovation born out of Black resistance and creativity, Black graduation celebrations provide both precedent and a model for culturally grounded recognition events and celebrations on campuses.

REPAIRING REPUTATIONS, BUILDING BRIDGES

It would be a mistake to judge Black graduations as a single celebratory day, as their impact far exceeds one day. Months-long in the planning, they can nurture cross-campus relationships as departments and faculties collaborate in support of the proceedings.

It's not an exaggeration to say Black graduation ceremonies, which symbolize inclusion, can enhance a university's reputation among prospective students.

For enrolled students, Black graduation ceremonies provide motivation to continue working towards that long-awaited moment of proudly crossing the stage in the presence of community.

They also have less visible, but no less meaningful, effects. As an outward-facing symbol of institutional commitment to Black students, Black graduations contribute to the repair or enhancement of a university's reputation with local Black communities. This can lead to meaningful partnerships with community organizations and attract donors who want to augment support for Black students.

Overall, Black graduation ceremonies demonstrate how far we have come since the days of discriminatory admission policies, which excluded Black students from some programs in higher education in Canada. They represent progress and should be a source of pride for universities.

Duke Energy Plans To Spend A Record \$103 billion On Growth

Fortune—Utility giant Duke Energy may not be a household name, but it sits at the epicenter of the AI data center boom and affordability debate as it plans to spend an industry record of \$103 billion for growth over just five years—and CEO Harry Sideris isn't afraid to say he expects that eye-popping number to grow.

"Ours will probably go up as we move into the future because the growth is not slowing down," Sideris told Fortune in a sit-down interview recently, citing the AI surge. "We're only beginning. This thing is not just a blip; it's going to go on for a while into the foreseeable future."

Charlotte-based Duke aims to add about 20 gigawatts of new power generation over a decade through gas-fired power plants, solar energy, battery storage, grid upgrades, and efficiency gains. That's enough to service about 15 million homes. Compare that to the nearly 17 million residents in the combined Carolinas. And that's not even counting the next-generation nuclear power that Duke aspires to add in due time.

Duke counts Amazon, Microsoft, Google, and Meta as major data center customers and has some of the fastest-growing states in population in its Southern and Midwestern service area. Charlotte-based Duke—the highest-ranking utility in the Fortune 500 at No. 144—leads the regulated utility industry in power generation and grid scale. The 125-year-old company gets its name from the power and tobacco industrialist, James Buchanan "Buck" Duke, whose family also gave its name to Duke University.

"It's a good time to be in the utility

business. I say that we're the cool kids now," said Sideris, who just finished his first year as CEO following an entire career at Duke and predecessor companies. "Everybody else has picked up on it."

But despite Duke touting an emphasis on affordability and rate hikes below industry peers, its rates are still rising. Data centers account for only a fraction of the price increases, but the overall situation has sparked a feud with the Democratic North Carolina Gov. Josh Stein and others.

Stein complained earlier in April that Duke is asking for both a 15% rate hike and an extra \$800 million in fuel costs, arguing that Duke is shifting the "cost of electricity from large industrial users onto the backs of regular people, making your utility bills more expensive."

Sideris counters that Duke's data center deals require the hyperscalers to pay for their own infrastructure. Duke's rate hikes are needed, he said, because of population growth and grid upgrades, including hardening infrastructure to combat increasing severe weather events from climate change. In Duke's footprint, Florida and the Carolinas are three of the fastest-growing states in the country for population, while Ohio, Kentucky, and Indiana are showing more modest growth. And all of them are attracting more data center projects.

"There are certain parts of the country where [data centers] are driving the cost higher in some of these markets. That's not in our territory," Sideris said, pointing to the Northeast and other parts of the Midwest.

"That doesn't mean [rates] are not

going to go up because there is so much to build. The data centers are paying for theirs, but there's so much to build for population migration. We have 200,000 people moving into our service territory each year. So that takes infrastructure that does get spread out amongst everybody," Sideris said. "Then there's the other piece of that, which is hardening and making your system more resilient. That's adding value, but it does cost money to invest in that. We're replacing our wooden poles, like in Florida, with steel and concrete."

Out of Duke's \$103 billion capital spending plan—and counting—about 60% is dedicated to building new power generation, while the rest is going to grid expansions and upgrades—essentially the poles and wires.

Duke represents the single-biggest slice of the pie out of Investor-owned utilities nationwide aiming to spend at least \$1.4 trillion through 2030, according to the nonprofit PowerLines. In doing so, utilities requested a record high \$31 billion in rate hikes in 2025—more than twice the near record from 2024.

And speed in spending those trillions is critical to meet the needs of the AI hyperscaler developers, who emphasize the race against China for global AI supremacy.

Sideris argues that being a vertically integrated utility is an advantage in the AI game.

"The hyperscalers tell us that," Sideris said. "They love to come to us because they know that there's one person to deal with, and you're going to be able to serve me from here to here."

Man Pleads Guilty To Stealing Over \$1M In PPP Loans For An Amateur Basketball League

FOX News—A man who used government loans meant to provide financial relief to small businesses pleaded guilty to defrauding taxpayers of more than \$1 million for a company he claimed operated an amateur basketball league, authorities said.

Jamar Johnson, a U.S. citizen, entered his plea on Monday for his role in a scheme that netted him \$1,047,824 in taxpayer funds through the U.S. Small Business Administration's (SBA) Paycheck Protection Program (PPP), the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) said.

"Jamar J. Johnson exploited a critical pandemic relief program for personal gain, stealing more than \$1 million meant to support American small businesses when they needed it most," said acting DHS Assistant Secretary Lauren Bis.

"This guilty plea sends a clear message: Those who defraud the American people and attempt to hide their crimes will be identified, investigated and held accountable. DHS remains committed to protecting taxpayer-funded programs and ensuring justice for those who abuse them."

In 2020, Johnson submitted a PPP loan application for a company he said ran an amateur league. However, once the funds were disbursed, Johnson used the money to fund his lifestyle, including purchasing cryptocurrency and transferring the funds to foreign markets

in an effort to conceal the illicit proceeds.

In addition to depriving the government, the scam also hurt small businesses that needed access to government funds to avoid shutting their doors and laying off employees at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, DHS said.

"Fraud of this nature weakens the effectiveness of federal assistance programs and places an additional burden on taxpayers who ultimately bear the cost of these crimes," the department said in a statement to Fox News Digital.

Homeland Security Investigations (HSI), which operates under DHS, has authority over certain financial crimes and was involved in the investigation that ultimately led to Johnson's guilty plea.

The federal government has cracked down on the massive scale of fraud stemming from the PPP loans.

The plea announcement comes as the U.S. Small Business Administration on Friday separately referred 562,000 suspected fraudulent loans totaling over \$22.2 billion to the U.S. Department of Treasury for collections.

"After extensive review, and with the strong support of the White House Anti-Fraud Task Force, we are taking our most decisive action yet to end a Biden-era scheme that protected over 560,000 borrowers tied to more than \$22 billion in suspected pandemic-era fraud," SBA



Administrator Kelly Loeffler told Fox News Digital.

The SBA accused former President Joe Biden of deliberately protecting suspected fraudsters by refusing to refer them to the Treasury.

In February, the SBA suspended more than 111,000 California borrowers after uncovering \$8.6 billion in suspected fraudulent activity linked to the pandemic. In total, the agency suspended 111,620 California borrowers who received 118,489 PPP and Economic Injury Disaster (EIDL) loans, totaling \$8.6 billion.

"This staggering number represents the most significant crack-down on those who defrauded pandemic programs, and it illuminates the scale of corruption that the Biden administration tolerated for years," Loeffler said at the time.

Alaska To Replace Black Veterans Memorial Bridge, Saving Part As Tribute To Its Highway Builders

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP) — Thousands of Black soldiers performed the backbreaking work of transforming rough-hewn wilderness in extreme weather swings during World War II to help build the first road link between Alaska and the Lower 48.

The work of the segregated Black soldiers is credited with bringing changes to military discrimination policies. The state of Alaska honored them by naming a bridge for them near the end point of the famed Alaska Highway.

Now, eight decades later, the aging bridge needs to be replaced. Instead of tearing it down, the state of Alaska intends to keep two of the bridge's nine trestles in place as a refashioned memorial. The others will be given away.

The state of Alaska will replace the 1,885-foot (575-meter) bridge that spans the Gerstle River near Delta Junction, the end point of the Alaska Highway about 100 miles (161 kilometers) south of Fairbanks.

Seven of the bridge's trestles are being offered for free to states, local governments or private entities who will maintain them for their historical features and public use.

The two remaining spans from the old bridge, renamed the Black Veterans Memorial Bridge in 1993, will honor the 4,000 or so Black soldiers who built the first wooden bridge over the river while completing the Alaska Highway.

These two sections, the first trestles on either end, will retain the name of the memorial bridge. The new Gerstle River Bridge will unofficially carry the memorial name unless the Legislature also makes it official. The old bridge will remain in place until the new one opens in 2031.

Mary Leith, a former Delta Junction mayor and member of the historical society, said she's pleased some of the history will be saved, but



she wants the state to have proper signage and a highway pullout area near the historic bridge to allow people to walk on it.

"I would hope that if they're going to save it, then they save it properly," she said.

The Black Veterans Memorial Bridge sign will remain and the two sections will be visible from the new bridge, but both will be blocked off to prevent people from climbing or vandalizing them, said Angelica Stabs, a spokesperson for the state transportation department. No pull-out is planned.

The new bridge will parallel the existing bridge to the east, leaving about 50 feet of space between it and the old bridge's location, Stab said.

SOLDIERS' WORK HELPED INTEGRATE THE U.S. ARMY

The project to build a supply route between Alaska and Canada used 11,000 troops from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers divided by race, working under a backdrop of segregation and discrimination. Besides transforming the rugged terrain, the soldiers had to deal with mosquitoes, boggy land, permafrost and temperatures ranging from 90 degrees F (32 degrees C) to minus 70 F (minus 56 C).

"Though conditions were harsh for

all, they were nearly unbearable for black soldiers. From the Deep South, most of these soldiers had never encountered anything approaching the severe conditions of the far north. Moreover, since black troops were not typically permitted to use heavy machinery, they made do with picks, shovels, and axes. In addition, they were prohibited from entering towns and were confined to wilderness assignments," according to a historical account by the National Park Service.

It took Black soldiers working from the north just over eight months to meet up with white soldiers coming from the south to connect the 1,500-mile (2,400-kilometer) gravel road, then called the Alcan Highway, from Dawson Creek, British Columbia, to Delta Junction Oct. 25, 1942.

"In light of their impressive performance, many of the black soldiers who worked on the Alcan were subsequently decorated and sometimes deployed in combat. Indeed, the U.S. Army eventually became the first government agency to integrate in 1948, a move that is largely credited in part to the laudable work of the soldiers who built the Alcan," the National Park Service says.

Former NC Police Officer Arrested For Allegedly Planning A Mass Shooting At New Orleans Festival

FOX News—A former North Carolina police officer was arrested in Florida after authorities said he planned a mass shooting at a New Orleans music festival.

Christopher Gillum, 45, of Chapel Hill, North Carolina, was taken into custody around 6:40 p.m. Wednesday at a hotel in Destin, Florida, the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office said.

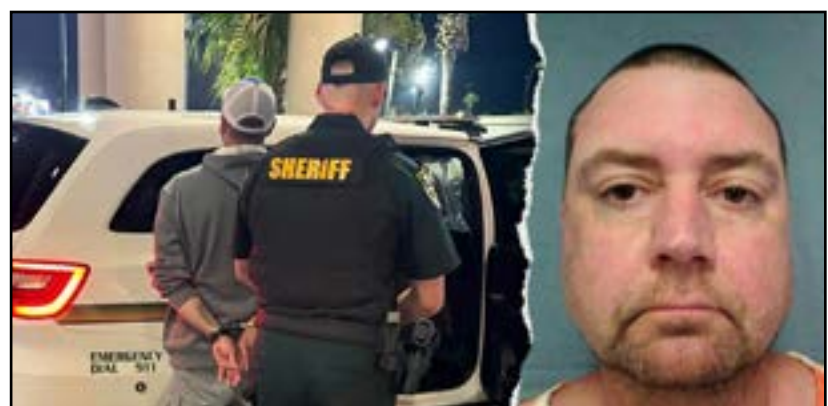
Authorities said Gillum was wanted for making "terroristic threats" and was believed to be traveling to a festival in New Orleans to "conduct a mass shooting."

Investigators recovered a handgun and about 200 rounds of ammunition from his hotel room.

Gillum's family reported him missing Tuesday, telling authorities he had a history of self-harm and had made threats to harm "Black people," according to a police bulletin from Burlington, North Carolina.

Lt. Clint Lyons of the Alamance County Sheriff's Office said Gillum left the state before authorities could initiate an involuntary commitment, adding there were no legal grounds to detain him at the time.

Earlier Wednesday, Gillum was stopped by law enforcement in Okaloosa County but was released



because he did not meet criteria for arrest or commitment, according to the bulletin.

Deputies later conducted surveillance after learning he was under investigation and arrested him once a warrant was issued from Louisiana, authorities said.

Gillum is expected to be extradited to Louisiana to face charges, the sheriff's office said.

Authorities did not name the event, but the New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival — known as Jazz Fest — runs through May 3 and draws hundreds of thousands of attendees annually. Louisiana State Police said "there are no known direct threats" to any festivals in the

state.

Gillum served as a sworn police officer in Chapel Hill from 2004 until his resignation in 2019, according to a town spokesperson.

He later worked as a police officer in Carolina Beach from October 2019 to October 2020, then became a detention officer with the Orange County, North Carolina, Sheriff's Office in October 2023, leaving in July 2024.

Gillum returned to the Chapel Hill Police Department as a non-sworn employee in 2024 before leaving later that year. He was rehired as an Orange County sheriff's deputy in January 2025 but resigned that September.