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Raleigh's Growth Raises Concerns On It's Affordability For Black Residents

By Judaea Ingram

Special To The Carolinian

Raleigh's rapid growth is bringing new development, new residents, and new opportunities. But for many longtime Black residents, it is also bringing rising housing costs and growing concerns about being pushed out of neighborhoods they have lived in for decades.

Over the past decade, the city's population has steadily increased, according to U.S. Census Bureau data, with thousands of new residents moving into Raleigh each year. During that same time, rent and home prices have risen faster than many residents' incomes, making it harder for long-term residents to stay in place.

Much of that change is especially visible in Southeast Raleigh, a historically Black area that has long been known for its strong community ties, cultural history, and generational roots. In recent years, the neighborhood has seen increased redevelopment. Older homes are being replaced with newer, higher-priced properties that many current residents say are out of reach.

Angela Morris has lived in Southeast Raleigh for more than

20 years. She said the changes are happening quickly and are reshaping the community she has known for most of her life.

"Everything is going up except people's pay," Morris said. "I've seen houses get torn down and replaced with homes nobody around here can afford. People I've known for years are leaving because they don't have a choice."

Her experience reflects a broader pattern affecting historically Black neighborhoods across Raleigh and the wider Triangle area. As the city continues to grow, rising property values and redevelopment pressures are changing the makeup of long-established communities. Many residents are facing higher rents, increased property taxes, and fewer affordable housing op-

tions.

For renters, those pressures often create instability and frequent moves. Marcus Hill, a 29-year-old service worker, said rising rent has forced him to relocate multiple times in recent years.

"Each time my lease was up, the rent went up," Hill said. "You try to plan ahead, but eventually it just gets too expensive. Moving sets you back every time."

Housing advocates say stories like Hill's are becoming more common as the supply of affordable housing struggles to keep pace with demand. Local housing data shows a tightening market, particularly for households earning below the area's median income, leaving fewer options for working-class residents.

"Development isn't the problem by itself," said James Carter, a local housing advocate. "The issue is who benefits from that development and who gets left behind. Right now, too many people feel like they're being pushed out of their own neighborhoods."

Carter added that the impact of rising housing costs goes beyond

(See HOUSING P. 2)



In The Parlors Of Black Bibliophiles

By Laura E. Helton

Lit Hub

They were "Damned Old Fools on Books." That's what the Philadelphia bibliophile William Carl Bolivar told Arturo Schomburg, his younger counterpart in New York, as the two men exchanged book lists, shared tips on where to hunt down rare titles, and bragged about their latest finds. Bolivar's remark was a cheeky nod to the proverbial "gentle madness" of book collectors, but neither man took his avocation lightly. Both saw the building of Black libraries, in

Schomburg's words, as "powder with which to fight our enemies."

Arturo Schomburg, the most famous bibliophile of the African diaspora, was born in Puerto Rico in 1874 and migrated at age seventeen to New York City. He participated in revolutionary anticolonial movements in the 1890s, founded the Negro Society for Historical Research in the 1910s, and became a leading figure of the Harlem Renaissance in the 1920s. Through these decades, he amassed a remarkable collection of 4,600 books, works of art, manuscripts, and pamphlets that spanned

five centuries of Black history in more than a hundred languages. That collection, acquired by the New York Public Library in 1926, laid the foundation for the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture—one of the largest research institutions of its kind in the world.

Though Schomburg's name alone graces this Harlem landmark, he defied the stereotype of a lone, eccentric collector content with the company of his books. Schomburg built his library as part of a vibrant world of self-taught bookmen—first among the expatriate Puerto Rican

and Cuban revolutionaries fighting for independence from Spain, and then among the literary-minded Black nationalists who shaped the New Negro Movement. He collected poetry with the fiery journalist and "race man" John Edward Bruce.

On lunch breaks from his mail-room job at a Wall Street bank, he poked around the bookstalls of Lower Manhattan and then returned to his typewriter to fire off reports to Bolivar. When weekends rolled around, Schomburg rode the

(See BIBLIOPHILES P. 8)

The US Government Ramps Up Mass Surveillance With Help Of AI Tech

THE CONVERSATION - On a Saturday morning, you head to the hardware store. Your neighbors' Ring cameras film your walk to the car. Your car's sensors, cameras and microphones record your speed, how you drive, where you're going, who's with you, what you say, and biological metrics such as facial expression, weight and heart rate. Your car may also collect text messages and contacts from your connected smartphone.

Meanwhile, your phone continuously senses and records your communications, info about your health, what apps you're using, and tracks your location via cell towers, GPS satellites and Wi-Fi and Bluetooth.

As you enter the store, its surveillance cameras identify your face and track your movements through the aisles. If you then use Apple or Google Pay to make your purchase, your phone tracks what you bought and how much you paid. All this data quickly becomes com-

mercially available, bought and sold by data brokers. Aggregated and analyzed by artificial intelligence, the data reveals detailed, sensitive information about you that can be used to predict and manipulate your behavior, including what you buy, feel, think and do.

Companies unilaterally collect data from most of your activities. This "surveillance capitalism" is often unrelated to the services device manufacturers, apps and stores are providing you. For example, Tinder is planning to use AI to scan your entire camera roll. And despite their promises, "opting out" doesn't actually stop companies' data collection. While companies can manipulate you, they cannot put you in jail. But the U.S. government can, and it now purchases massive quantities of your information from commercial data brokers. The government is able to purchase Americans' sensitive data because the information it buys is not subject to the same restrictions



as information it collects directly.

The federal government is also ramping up its abilities to directly collect data through partnerships with private tech companies. These surveillance tech partnerships are becoming entrenched, domestically

and abroad, as advances in AI take surveillance to unprecedented levels. As a privacy, electronic surveillance and tech law attorney, author and legal educator, I have spent years researching, writing and advising about privacy and legal issues related to surveillance and data use. To understand the issues, it is critical to know how these technologies function, who collects what data about you, how that data can be used against you, and why the laws you might think are protecting your data do not apply or are ignored.

Big money for AI-driven tech and more data

Congressional funding is supercharging huge government investments in surveillance tech and data analytics driven by AI, which automates analysis of very large amounts of data. The massive 2025 tax-and-spending law netted the Department of Homeland Security an unprec-

(See US RAMPS UP SURV. P. 2)

Federal Reserve Leadership Is Still In Limbo As Sen. Tillis Refuses To Budge

By Jordan Meadows

Staff Writer

Sen. Thom Tillis is escalating his standoff over the future of the Federal Reserve, doubling down Tuesday on his demand that the Department of Justice drop its investigation into Fed Chair Jerome Powell before he will support President Donald Trump's nominee, Kevin Warsh.

The dispute, playing out in a high-stakes Senate Banking Committee hearing, has effectively stalled Warsh's path to confirmation and injected new uncertainty into leadership of the central bank just weeks before Powell's term as chair is set to expire on May 15.

Tillis, a key Republican vote on the narrowly divided committee, made clear he is prepared to block any nominee until the probe is resolved.

"You have extraordinary credentials. They're impeccable," Tillis told Warsh during Tuesday's hearing. "The problem I have is where we are right now."

With Republicans holding only a one-seat advantage on the Senate Banking Committee and all Democrats expected to oppose Warsh, Tillis's position has given him outsized influence. His refusal to back the nominee is, for now, enough to keep the nomination from advancing to the full Senate.

Tillis emphasized that his opposition remains firm: "Let's get rid of this investigation so I can support your confirmation."

The impasse stems from a Justice Department investigation into Powell tied to cost overruns on renovations at the Federal Reserve's Washington headquarters and his testimony to Congress about the project. Tillis dismissed the underlying issue as routine for government projects.

"If we put everybody in prison in the federal government that has had a budget go over, we'd have to reserve an area roughly the size of Texas for a penal colony because of the way government projects work," he said.

He also sharply criticized the origins of the probe, appearing to target U.S. Attorney Jeanine Pirro. A federal judge has already blocked two subpoenas in the case, though Pirro has vowed to appeal, a process that could take months.

Powell, whose term as Fed chair expires in May but who remains a board member through 2028, has said he will stay at the central bank while the investigation continues. Without resolution, it remains unclear who would lead the Fed if Warsh is not confirmed in time. Powell has indicated he could remain in an interim capacity, even as Trump has publicly clashed with him over interest rate policy.

The president has repeatedly criticized Powell for not cutting rates aggressively enough, while Powell has defended the Fed's independence and data-driven approach.

During Tuesday's hearing, Warsh sought to reassure lawmakers that he would maintain the Fed's independence.

"Monetary policy independence is essential," Warsh said. "I am committed to ensuring that the conduct of monetary policy remains strictly independent."

Warsh, a former Fed governor and Hoover Institution fellow, fielded questions on monetary policy, his financial background, and his ties to the Trump administration. If confirmed, he would become the wealthiest Fed chair in history.

Tillis echoed that concern in a February statement, warning that "protecting the independence of the Federal Reserve from political interference or legal intimidation is non-negotiable." At the same time, Trump has shown little interest in backing off the probe, saying he does not plan to pressure the Justice Department to end it.

The result is a political and institutional stalemate: a nominee with strong Republican support but blocked by a single senator, an embattled Fed chair unwilling to step aside, and a Justice Department



Shreveport, Louisiana Reeling After A Man Kills Eight Children

SHREVEPORT, La. (AP) — A stunned Louisiana city struggled to come to grips Monday with the massacre of eight children carried out by a father who was separating from his wife and used an assault-style weapon despite a 2019 felony firearms conviction.

The violence reverberated across Shreveport a day after the nation's deadliest mass shooting in two years. Schools brought in counselors for the victims' young classmates and community leaders called for a city-wide reckoning on stopping domestic violence.

"We can not afford to wait until the next crisis," said Caddo Parish Sheriff Henry Whitehorn. "We owe it to the eight children who were lost."

The shooter, identified as Shamar Elkins, killed seven of his children and another child, police said. His wife and her sister also were shot and wounded.

Shooter "just snapped," brother-in-law says
Elkins had voluntarily checked into a Department of Veterans Affairs hospital in January for just over a week, said his brother-in-law, Troy Brown, who lived in the house with his wife, Keosha Pugh, and was at work during the attack. Elkins appeared "better when he came home" and seemed fine a day before the shooting, Brown said.

"All I know is he just snapped," Brown told the AP. "If I wouldn't have been at work, he was going to kill everybody in the house and that includes me."

Brown's wife, who made a series of frantic calls for help when the shooting started, and their 12-year-old daughter escaped through the home's roof, he said. His wife broke her pelvis after falling, he said.

"She said she was running for her life," said Lionel Pugh, an uncle of the two women shot. "The only ones he didn't kill was the ones who got away."

Elkins died after fleeing and a police pursuit. It was not clear whether he was killed by officers who fired or from a self-inflicted gunshot, Shreveport Police Chief Wayne Smith said.

Officials said the children who died — three boys and five girls — ranged in age from 3 to 11 years old.

Elkins and his wife, identified by family members as Shaneiqua Elkins, were separating and had been due in court Monday, said Crystal Brown, a cousin of a woman shot in the attack. She said the couple had been arguing about the separation before the shooting.

Family members described Shaneiqua Elkins as a doting mother, who celebrated her children's success in school and carefully dressed them before family events.

"She raised those kids right," Pugh said. "They were the center of her universe."

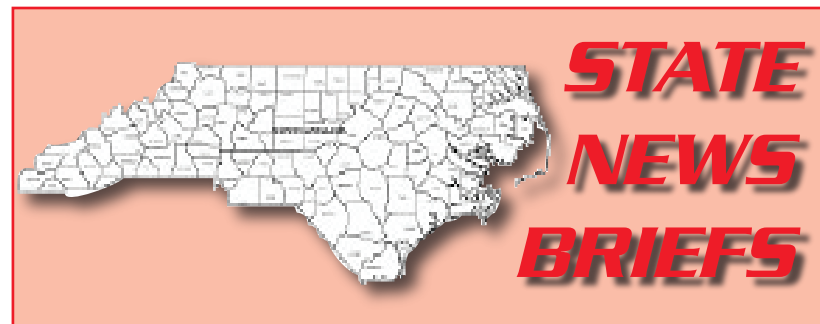
Gunman had no recent arrests for domestic violence, police say
While the shooter did not appear to have a long criminal history, court records showed Elkins was placed on probation in 2019 after pleading guilty to illegal use of weapons. In that case, Elkins fired five rounds at a vehicle and told police that someone inside it had pulled a gun on him, according to a police report.

Based on Louisiana law, a person convicted of certain violent felonies — including illegal use of weapons — are banned from having a gun for at least 10 years after completing their sentence and probation.

Authorities said Monday that how and when Elkins got the gun is being investigated.

Louisiana, a reliably red state, has expanded access to guns in recent years. For years, Democrats in Louisiana have proposed bills to tighten gun

(See MAN KILLS 8 CHILDREN P. 9)



STEIN CALLS FOR FULL MEDICAID FUNDING DURING BLACK MATERNAL HEALTH EVENT

Gov. Josh Stein stood with advocates at the Executive Mansion on Wednesday to mark Black Maternal Health Week, and used the event to call on the General Assembly to close a \$319 million Medicaid funding gap when they return to Raleigh next week.

"If we do not fully fund Medicaid soon, health care for millions of North Carolinians could be in jeopardy, and the entire health care system weakens," Stein said.

The event brought together lawmakers and advocates who highlighted persistent racial disparities in maternal health outcomes that are impacting not just Black women in North Carolina, but across the country.

Stein noted that Black women are twice as likely as white women to die from pregnancy-related complications in North Carolina, regardless of their income or education. "While there is no single solution, strengthening Medicaid and our healthcare system is essential," Stein said.

Health officials and advocates said many pregnancy-related deaths could be prevented with earlier intervention, better access to care and stronger coordination across the health system.

Advocates also highlighted community-based services aimed at filling gaps in care, including doula support, mental health services, transportation assistance and nutrition support.

Wake County Board Approves Affordable Housing But Rejects Property Tax Amendment To Limit Increases

By Jordan Meadows

Staff Writer

The Wake County Board of Commissioners tackled a wide-ranging agenda Tuesday afternoon, approving new affordable housing investments, infrastructure improvements, and unanimously adopting a resolution opposing a proposed state constitutional amendment that would limit local control over property taxes.

A major focus of the meeting was the county's continued effort to expand affordable housing through its 2026 Affordable Housing Development Program (AHPD). Commissioners approved funding recommendations tied to both Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) and Non-Tax Credit (NTC) projects.

Among the highlighted developments was Evoke Living on New Bern, a project that will bring 73 senior housing units serving residents earning between 20% and 60% of the area median income (AMI). The project will receive more than \$2.5 million in combined city and county loans.

Altogether, the slate of recommended projects includes 318 units targeted at households earning below 50% of AMI.

County officials noted that since adopting Wake County's 20-year Comprehensive Affordable Housing Plan, adjustments to the request-for-proposals process have led to stronger outcomes—more deeply affordable units, increased supportive housing for vulnerable populations, and better coordination with developers and municipalities.

The 2026 AHPD cycle generated 15 new project proposals and 1 additional gap-financing request, totaling more than \$35 million in funding

requests. The initiative supports the county's goal of creating or preserving 2,500 affordable housing units by 2029.

Commissioners also approved a construction contract to replace the aging roof at the Southeast Regional Library in Garner. The facility was built in 1989, with its current roof last replaced in 2005. The library will remain open throughout the process.

The most politically charged portion of the meeting came as commissioners addressed a proposed constitutional amendment under consideration in the North Carolina General Assembly that would allow lawmakers to impose limits on how much and how quickly local property taxes can increase.

The proposal, backed by Republican legislative leaders, is framed as a response to rising property tax burdens. Supporters argue it would prevent what they describe as excessive increases that outpace inflation and population growth. Democrats and local government advocates, however, warn that such limits could significantly constrain counties' ability to fund essential services like schools, public safety, and public health.

In a unanimous 7-0 vote, Wake County commissioners adopted a resolution opposing what they describe as a "levy limit."

The resolution emphasizes that property taxes are a primary and stable source of locally controlled revenue and that counties rely on that authority to meet both operational needs and long-term obligations. It warns that restricting that authority could reduce fiscal flexibility, undermine stability, and lead to unintended consequences such as service cuts, delayed infrastructure

projects, increased fees, and inequitable impacts on residents.

Vice Chair Commissioner Safiyah Jackson voiced her support during the meeting, saying the resolution aligns Wake County with other jurisdictions across the state.

"I want to acknowledge that I also support [the resolution]," Jackson said. "My support is standing with other County Commissioners across the state, in a unified ask that we take a different approach. I just ask that we consider different solutions because if it were to move forward, it would have significant impacts," she added.

Jackson also noted that commissioners will revisit the issue in greater detail during upcoming budget discussions.

"On May 4, the Board will come together with the Town Manager and

look over the budget and the tough demands that are on our revenue—and why we have to have the rates that we have," Jackson said.

The proposed amendment, advanced by a state House committee last Wednesday, would require legislative approval by a three-fifths majority in both chambers before going to voters as a referendum.

While current law already caps property tax rates at \$1.50 per \$100 of assessed value—something no local government has reached—the proposal would require lawmakers to set additional limits on annual increases, though it does not specify exact thresholds. Local government groups, including municipalities and county associations, have urged lawmakers to instead focus on targeted relief programs such as homestead exemptions or circuit breakers for

seniors and low-income homeowners.

Meanwhile, counties like Harnett have begun taking up similar resolutions as Wake, particularly as property reappraisals drive higher tax bills in some areas. State law requires counties to reassess property values at least once every eight years.

Unlike standing committees, select committees are temporary. The involuntary commitment panel was established in late 2025, following passage of Iryna's Law in September in response to the fatal stabbing of Ukrainian refugee Iryna Zarutka in Charlotte. A man with a history of severe mental illness is charged with her death.

"The committee recommends authorizing this committee to continue its work and to reestablish it to continue work for the 2027-2028

biennium," legislative analyst Jessica Boney said.

Rep. John Torbett (R-Gaston) asked if agencies like the Dept. of Health and Human Services can make corrections immediately based on the committee's work.

"Can they go in and start implementing some of the things that we're talking about?" Torbett asked.

Rep. Hugh Blackwell (R-Burke), the panel's co-chair, said the panel has involved the department throughout the process of drafting recommendations. The agency has identified a number of things they can implement without legislative action, he said.

"I would hope and encourage them to do that and have a lot of those conversations," Blackwell said. "If it needs legislative action, then we can work on that."

US Ramps Up Surveillance — CONT. FROM PAGE 1

edented US\$165 billion in yearly funding. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, part of DHS, got about \$86 billion.

Disclosure of documents allegedly hacked from Homeland Security reveal a massive surveillance web that has all Americans in its scope.

DHS is expanding its AI surveillance capabilities with a surge in contracts to private companies. It is reportedly funding companies that provide more AI-automated surveillance in airports; adapters to convert agents' phones into biometric scanners; and an AI platform that acquires all 911 call center data to build geospatial heat maps to predict incident trends. Predicting incident trends can be a form of predictive policing, which uses data to anticipate where, when and how crime may occur.

DHS has also spent millions on AI-driven software used to detect sentiment and emotion in users' online posts. Have you been complaining about Immigration and Customs Enforcement policies online? If so, social media companies including Google, Reddit, Discord, and Facebook and Instagram owner Meta may have sent identifying data, such as your name, email address, phone number and activity, to DHS in response to hundreds of DHS subpoenas served on the companies.

Meanwhile, the Trump administration's national policy framework for artificial intelligence, released on March 20, 2026, urges Congress to use grants and tax incentives to fund "wider deployment of AI tools across American industry" and to allow in-

dustry and academia to use federal datasets to train AI.

Using federal datasets this way raises privacy law concerns because they contain a lifetime of sensitive details about you, including biographical, employment and tax information. Blurring lines and little oversight

In foreign intelligence work, the funding, development and controlled use of certain AI-driven gathering of data makes sense. The CIA's new acquisition framework to turbocharge collaboration with the private sector may be legal with proper oversight. But the line between collaborating for lawful national security purposes versus unlawful domestic spying is becoming dangerously blurred or ignored.

For example, the Pentagon has declared a contractor, Anthropic, a national security risk because Anthropic insisted that its powerful agentic AI model, Claude, not be used for mass domestic surveillance of Americans or fully autonomous weapons.

On March 18, 2026, FBI Director Kash Patel confirmed to Congress that the FBI is buying Americans' data from data brokers, including location histories, to track American citizens.

As the federal government accelerates the use of and investment in AI-driven spy tech, it is mandating less oversight around AI technology. In addition to the national AI policy framework, which discourages state regulation of AI, the president has issued executive orders to accelerate federal government adoption of AI systems, remove state law AI

regulation barriers and require that the federal government not procure the use of AI models that attempt to adjust for bias. But using advanced AI systems is risky, given reports of AI agents going rogue, exposing sensitive data and becoming a threat, even during routine tasks.

Your data
The surveillance capitalism system requires people to unwittingly participate in a manipulative cycle of group- and self-surveillance. Neighborhood doorbell cameras, Flock license plate readers and hyperlocal social media sites like Nextdoor create a crowdsourced record of all people's movements in public spaces. Sensors in phones and wearable devices, such as earbuds and rings, collect ever more sensitive details. These include health data, including your heart rate and heart rate variability, blood oxygen, sweat and stress levels, behavioral patterns, neurological changes and even brain waves. Smartphones can be used to diagnose, assess and treat Parkinson's disease. Earbuds could be used to monitor brain health.

This data is not protected under HIPAA, which prohibits health care providers and those working with them from disclosing your health information without your permission, because the law does not consider tech companies to be health care providers nor these wearables to be medical devices.

Legal protections

People have little choice when buying devices, using apps or opening accounts but to agree to lengthy terms that include consent for com-

panies to collect and sell their personal data. This "consent" allows their data to end up in the largely unregulated commercial data market.

The government claims it can lawfully purchase this data from data brokers. But in buying your data in bulk on the commercial market, the government is circumventing the Constitution, Supreme Court decisions and federal laws designed to protect your privacy from unwarranted government overreach.

The Fourth Amendment prohibits unreasonable search and seizure by the government. Supreme Court cases require police to get a warrant to search a phone or use cellular or GPS location information to track someone. The Electronic Communications Privacy Act's Wiretap Act prohibits unauthorized interception of wire, oral and electronic communications. Despite some efforts, Congress has failed to enact legislation to protect data privacy, the use of sensitive data by AI systems or to restore the intent of the Electronic Communications Privacy Act. Courts have allowed the broad electronic privacy protections in the federal Wiretap Act to be eviscerated by companies claiming consent.

In my opinion, the way to begin to address these problems is to restore the Wiretap Act and related laws to their intended purposes of protecting Americans' privacy in communications, and for Congress to follow through on its promises and efforts by passing legislation that secures Americans' data privacy and protects them from AI harms.

HOUSING

Continued from page 1

rent or homeownership. In many cases, displacement breaks apart longstanding community networks that have existed for generations.

For many families, leaving a neighborhood also means losing access to relationships and support systems built over time.

"When people leave, you're not just losing a neighbor," Morris said. "You're losing history, culture, and support systems."

Southeast Raleigh and other historically Black neighborhoods have also long served as cultural and economic anchors for Black families in the city. Churches, small businesses, and neighborhood organizations have played a central role in sustaining those communities. As more residents move out, many of those institutions are also feeling the effects of declining local populations.

At the same time, younger residents hoping to buy homes in Raleigh are facing growing barriers. Rising home prices and limited housing inventory have made homeownership increasingly difficult, especially for first-time buyers without generational wealth or financial assistance.

City leaders have acknowledged Raleigh's affordability challenges and have introduced initiatives aimed at expanding access to housing. These include funding for affordable housing developments and partnerships with nonprofit organizations working on housing equity. Still, some residents and advocates say the efforts have not kept pace with the scale of the need.

"There needs to be intentional action," Carter said. "If the city is serious about equity, then it has to prioritize the people who have been here all along."

As Raleigh continues to grow and attract new residents, many long-time residents are left questioning what that growth will mean for them. While development continues to reshape the city, concerns remain about whether current communities will be able to stay and benefit from the changes happening around them.

For Morris, the answer depends on whether residents most affected are included in those decisions.

"We're not against progress," she said. "We just want to be part of it."

Sponsored—Across North Carolina, thousands of children rely on foster families for safety and stability. Yet one group often waits the longest for a home: older teens. Typically defined as youth between 13 and 17, older teens in foster care are often overlooked by prospective foster parents who feel more comfortable caring for younger children. Approximately 2,300 teens in North Carolina's foster care system are waiting for adoption, often facing steeper odds of finding permanent families than younger children. The need for foster homes willing to support teens remains critical across the state.

Many teens enter foster care after significant changes in their lives. Some may have lived with relatives or moved between temporary placements before entering the foster system as teenagers. Others may have spent years in care without finding a permanent home.

When teens are placed in supportive foster families, they gain consistency and guidance when preparing for adulthood. A steady adult presence—someone who shows up for school events, offers encouragement, and helps navigate everyday decisions—can make a powerful difference in a young person's confidence and sense of belonging.

Fostering older teens creates opportunities for meaningful, lifetime connections. While some people assume teens don't want families or that it's too late to make a difference, the opposite is often true. Many teens still want connection, guidance, and someone they can count on.

In these situations, foster parents play an important role not only in preparing teens for life after high school, but in helping them maintain connections to siblings, relatives, and their cultural identity. This may include learning how to budget, apply for jobs, learn to drive, and explore college or training programs.

Becoming a foster parent in North Carolina may feel like a big step, but the process is designed to prepare families and ensure they have the support they need. Foster parents provide a temporary home and stable environment for children and



teens while families work toward reunification or another permanent plan. They partner with social workers, birth families, and other professionals to help youth stay safe, continue their education, and maintain connections.

The first step in becoming a foster parent is learning about the foster care role. Prospective foster parents can attend information sessions, watch an online orientation video, or speak with local agencies to understand what fostering involves and what placements may be a good fit.

The next step is choosing a licensed agency to work with throughout the process. Agencies guide families through training, licensing, and placement while providing ongoing support.

After selecting an agency, prospective foster parents complete training and meet required standards. Training prepares families for the realities of foster care, including how to support youth who have experienced trauma, communicate with social workers, and help children adjust to new environments. Families com-

plete background checks and other requirements designed to ensure a safe home.

Next, an assessment of the home and the family's preparedness to foster is conducted. During this step, agencies work with families to review their living space, discuss household routines, and confirm the home meets safety standards. Licensing allows families to officially welcome foster youth into their homes. Once licensed, families may receive placement calls and begin providing care.

Foster parents are never expected to do this important work alone. Support continues well after a child or teen is placed in a foster home.

In North Carolina, foster families can connect with networks such as the Foster Family Alliance of North Carolina, which offers community, training opportunities, and peer support. Programs like Success Coach provide guidance, helping teens and caregivers build stability.

Foster parents receive monthly financial assistance to help cover everyday costs, and youth in foster care

receive Medicaid coverage for medical and behavioral health services. These resources allow foster parents to focus on building relationships and helping teens thrive.

Older teens in foster care also receive support as they transition into adulthood. Eligible youth may choose to remain in care through a Voluntary Placement Agreement (VPA)², allowing them to continue receiving support as they pursue education, employment, or other goals.

Programs such as NC LINKS help youth build essential life skills, from financial literacy to career planning. Education programs like the Education and Training Voucher (ETV) Program and NC Reach scholarships help eligible students pursue college or vocational training.

Together, these resources help create a pathway from foster care to independence and opportunity.

Fostering an older teen is about more than providing a place to stay. It's about offering stability, encouragement, and belonging when it matters most. Older teens need caring adults who will guide them through high school, support them as they plan their futures, and help them build the skills and confidence they need to flourish.

By opening your home to a teen in foster care, you can help change a young person's life. North Carolina provides training, resources, and community support to help foster families every step of the way.

If you've ever considered fostering, now is the time to learn more and make a lasting difference for a teen who needs someone like you in their corner.

<https://governor.nc.gov/governor-proclaims-foster-care-month-2a-Voluntary-Placement-Agreement-VPA-for-foster-care-specifically-in-North-Carolina-is-a-contract-allowing-youth-to-remain-in-Division-of-Social-Services-DSS-custody-until-age-21-It-enables-extended-support-including-monthly-stipends-housing-assistance-and-social-worker-support-for-those-in-school-working-or-with-disabilities>

VIDEO LINK
https://ncswlearn.org/presenter/Foster_Parent_Orientation/story.html

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Business & Finance

Rethinking Property Taxes: A Path To Fairness In N.C.

CAROLINA FOWARD - Members of a special NC House Committee voted Wednesday to advance a new constitutional amendment that would, if passed, require the General Assembly to set limits on the property taxes levied by local governments. State law already limits local governments to a maximum property tax of \$1.50 per \$100 value. The only way for local governments to exceed that limit is with voter approval.

No local government has ever hit the current \$1.50 per \$100 ceiling.

Passing a constitutional amendment requires three-fifths of the members in the NC House and the NC Senate to approve an act submitting the proposal to a public referendum. If it passes the General Assembly and the public approves it, the proposed amendment would require the legislature to "enact limits on the amount by which the authorized property tax levy could be increased and allow for exceptions applicable to the limits enacted."

This amendment does not propose a specific ceiling on property taxes to replace the current \$1.50 per \$100 limit. Nor does it propose a specific limit on how much property taxes could increase in a year.

During committee hearings, representatives referred repeatedly to stories of constituents who were facing unfair or unreasonable bills. At

Carolina Forward, we believe in fairness and affordability. That applies to taxation, too.

Public revenue is supposed to create public value, and a wide range of critical programs across North Carolina depend on taxation for their existence. Some of those public goods depend entirely on state funds, others are funded by a mix of local and state funds. They include: Childcare, K-12 schools, Police, fire, and emergency medical services, Medicaid, Mental and behavioral health programs, The DMV, State parks, Roads, Libraries, Stormwater management, and Equal access to these and other public goods are essential to establishing a high quality of life for every North Carolinian. Any changes to the public tax system must preserve or expand the public value we're currently delivering.

Here are four ways to create a more fair taxation system across North Carolina.

Fix # 1: Tax High Earners and the Wealthy a Little Bit More Than Everyone Else

North Carolina currently has a flat tax system. Corporate income taxes are scheduled to drop to 0% by 2030, while personal income taxes are dropping to 3.99% this year and may drop further to 3.49% next year.

As far back as 1921, North Carolina had different tax rates for different

income levels ranging from 3-7%. The historical ceiling for state income taxes on the highest earners was 8.5%. Different incomes were taxed at different levels until 2013, when the legislature introduced a flat tax rate of 5.8%.

To preserve the public good and distribute the tax responsibility more fairly, we can create different income tax rates for high earners and low earners and close loopholes that allow high-wealth individuals to hide some of their assets from taxation.

And that gets us into property taxation.

Fix # 2: Tax Extra Residences More Than Primary Residences

While income has been taxed at different levels relatively recently, the North Carolina Constitution (Article V, Section 2(2)) currently prohibits the government from taxing different types of property at different rates. This provision is called the "uniformity clause." That means you cannot tax properties owned by high wealth individuals or corporations at a different rate than properties owned by everyone else, nor can you tax certain kinds of properties (like mansions) at a higher rate than other kinds of properties (like small starter homes).

If the state legislature is willing to advance a constitutional amendment, then it should also consider

amending the uniformity clause and establishing guidelines for local governments to set a different property tax rate for additional properties after the taxpayer's primary residence.

Fix # 3: Reform the Property Valuation System

Property taxes are calculated by applying a tax rate to personal property, like a home or a vehicle. The property taxes people pay on their homes is actually the combination of multiple different assessments: the assessed value of the land on which the home sits, and the value of all the improvements to the land.

In communities across the United States, expensive properties tend to be undervalued and inexpensive properties tend to be overvalued. That means the more you pay for your house, the more likely you are to pay less than your fair share in taxes, and the less you pay for your house, the more likely you are to pay more than your fair share.

To ensure that everyone is taxed fairly, the Department of Revenue and county-level Tax Assessors should ensure that property is valued fairly. That means running revaluations annually, not every just every eight years, which is the current minimum under state law. It also means increasing the staffing and training of Assessors' offices so that they can do more hands-on work visiting and

assessing properties and so that they can hold their own against the types of threatening legal tactics that some commercial property owners have used to secure discounted valuations.

Fix # 4: Expand Eligibility for Property Tax Reductions

North Carolina provides three different programs that allow homeowners to reduce their property taxes. Here's how they work:

Homeowners who are 65+ or totally and permanently disabled who make less than \$38,800 per year can qualify for an Elderly or Disabled Homestead Exemption on their primary residence. This reduces their property's taxable value by \$25,000 or by 50% of the total appraised value - whichever is greater.

Homeowners who are 65+, make less than \$X (the number changes year to year), and have owned and resided in their permanent residence for multiple years (usually 5+ years) can also choose to apply for the Circuit Breaker Homestead Exemption instead. In 2025, qualifying homeowners earning \$38,800 or less had their property taxes limited to 4% of their income. Qualifying homeowners earning between \$38,800 and \$58,200 had their property taxes limited to 5% of their income.

Finally, disabled veterans who were honorably discharged and have a total and permanent service-related disability can reduce the taxable value of their permanent residence

by up to \$45,000. There are no income or age restrictions on this program.

The simplest way to expand eligibility would be to increase the eligibility of low-income individuals to qualify for taxable value reductions by reducing the years of ownership required for eligibility and attaching the income threshold to a percentage of the statewide median income (which is currently about \$74,000).

Effective Solutions Need Nuance

Simple solutions are appealing because they are easy to understand. But the North Carolina government provides a wide range of critical services that are anything but simple, and figuring out how to fairly allocate responsibility for public goods across all of the state's residents is anything but easy.

However, it's entirely possible for the wealthiest North Carolinians to pay just a little bit more in taxes to support facilities and services that belong to every North Carolinian: safe public schools and skilled public school teachers; salaries, equipment, and training for emergency first responders and law enforcement officers; fully staffed court systems and prosecutors' offices; funding for new mental health and addiction programs; and other great programs.

We can allocate responsibility for these and other shared goods in a way that is fair, reasonable, and affordable. Let's rise to the challenge.

Black Workers Face Steeper Job Losses Amid Economic Volatility

By Jordan Meadows

Staff Writer

Fresh signs of strain in the U.S. labor market are fueling concerns, as new data shows the economy shed 92,000 jobs in February and unemployment reached its highest level in years.

Economists say the warning signs are especially pronounced for Black workers, who continue to face significantly higher unemployment rates than other groups. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Black unemployment measured 7.3% in January, climbed to 7.7% in February, and edged down slightly to 7.1% in March. That remains nearly double the 3.6% rate for white workers and well above the national average of 4.3%.

The March report showed modest improvement for Black workers, with employment rising by 42,000 and the unemployment rate declining from the previous month. But analysts warn that month-to-month changes do little to alter the broader trajectory. "The decline in the Black unem-



ployment from 7.7% to 7.1% is significant and encouraging. But don't be surprised if it rises again as month-to-month changes obscure the overall trajectory," said Andre Perry, senior director at the Brookings Institution.

Critics argue that sweeping cuts to federal agencies and workforce programs have disproportionately af-

ected Black workers, particularly in the civil service, which has historically provided stable employment opportunities. More than 327,000 federal jobs have been eliminated over the past year, alongside efforts to scale back programs aimed at supporting minority-owned businesses, including the Community Development Finan-

cial Institutions Fund and the Minority Business Development Agency.

The administration's proposed 2027 budget includes a 10% reduction in discretionary spending and targets a range of diversity, equity, and inclusion programs for cuts.

Supporters say such moves are aimed at reducing government spending, while critics warn they could deepen economic disparities.

Researchers at the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies described current conditions as a "regression and recession" for Black Americans. Black unemployment reached 8.3% in November 2025, its highest level since the pandemic, while Black homeownership fell to 43.9% in early 2025—reversing years of gains.

Economists often describe Black workers as the "canary in the coal mine" during economic downturns, meaning their experiences can foreshadow wider labor market trouble. With job losses mounting, hiring stagnant, and disparities widening, analysts say the latest data presents a clear warning.



New Historical Marker Honors Nation's First Black Credit Union

ROWAN COUNTY, NC - State officials yesterday unveiled a new highway marker in Rowan County to honor Piedmont Credit Union, the first African American credit union established in the United States.

Founded in Rowan County in 1918 by local farmer Thomas B. Patterson and a handful of neighbors, Piedmont Credit Union gave Black farmers fair access to credit in an era defined by Jim Crow laws and economic exploitation. For example, Piedmont Credit Union provided its members with loans at 6% interest compared to 60% rates charged by some local banks at the time.

Within two years of Piedmont Credit Union's founding, 13 more African American credit unions formed across North Carolina.

The marker is at the intersection of Mount Moriah Church Road and Flat Rock Road in China Grove, NC, near where Piedmont Credit Union was established.

Dan Schline, CEO of the Carolinas Credit Union League, said, "The story of Piedmont Credit Union is the story of the credit union movement at its most powerful - ordinary people coming together to create economic opportunity where none existed. Thomas Patterson and his fellow founders built a lifeline for families who had been deliberately shut out of the system. Over a century later, that spirit of people helping people remains the foundation of every credit union in the Carolinas and across this country."

"The dedication of the Piedmont Credit Union historical marker is a fitting tribute to Thomas B. Patterson and the founders who had the vision to build an engine of economic opportunity in Rowan County," said U.S. Sen. Thom Tillis. "Their legacy is a testament to the North Carolina spirit of innovation and community, and I am proud to honor their courage and lasting impact on our state's history."

Rep. Grant Campbell said, "The Piedmont Credit Union stepped up over a century ago to give access to fair loan terms to African American farmers who often faced discrimination or rejection based simply on the color of their skin. Piedmont Credit Union allowed hard working farmers to protect their land ownership and formed a shield against predatory lenders. I am immensely proud to see this historical marker in my community celebrating such an important institution."

Sen. Carl Ford said, "This marker stands as a tribute to the Piedmont Credit Union's enduring legacy, one rooted in service, trust, and the belief that when people come together, they can build something lasting. At this marker's dedication, we not only reflect on a proud past, but also look ahead to a future shaped by the same spirit of cooperation and community that brought everyone together today."

Leslie Leonard, Administrator, NC Highway Historical Marker Program, said, "The Highway Historical Marker Committee unanimously approved Piedmont Credit Union as a marker topic, recognizing its statewide significance as a community-driven effort to secure economic stability despite systemic barriers to Black financial mobility."

In April 1918, a Rowan County farmer named Thomas B. Patterson and a handful of neighbors pooled \$126 in capital and founded the Piedmont Credit Union - the first African American credit union in the United States.

In an era defined by Jim Crow laws and economic exploitation, Black farmers in Rowan County had few options for fair financial access. The crop-lien system that dominated the region forced farmers to put up their next harvest as collateral for supplies, sometimes at interest rates as high as 60%, trapping generations of families in cycles of debt with little hope of escape.

Patterson envisioned something different. The Piedmont Credit Union offered its members loans at fixed 6% interest, allowing them to finance their crops at a rate that gave them a chance to turn a profit. "A thrifty, hard-working, intelligent farmer is an asset to any community, [and] the credit union aids in making him all of these," Patterson wrote in 1920. "After all, it is not what a man makes that gives him standing in the community; it is what he saves that counts."

By the end of 1919, Piedmont had grown from its original 23 members to 82, with total resources of \$1,347.83. The next year, 13 additional African American credit unions had formed across North Carolina - a movement born from one small community's refusal to accept injustice.

Show Me The Money: Businesses Line Up For \$166B in Refunds From Trump's Illegal Tariffs

NC NEWSLINE - WASHINGTON - The U.S. Customs and Border Protection tariff refund system went live Monday, marking what small business advocates call a "complex" first step for entrepreneurs to recoup \$166 billion in import taxes accrued under President Donald Trump's emergency tariffs, which the U.S. Supreme Court struck down in February.

Importers and brokers can now upload a detailed list of each tariff paid under Trump's now illegal order to charge duties under the International Economic Emergency Powers Act, or IEEPA.

Customs officials estimate 330,000 importers paid the duties. Refunds are expected within 60 to 90 days, according to CBP.

The Supreme Court's 6-3 decision earlier this year found Trump's steep global tariffs exceeded his presidential powers.

Following the high court's decision, U.S. Court of International Trade Judge Richard Eaton ordered the government to stop charging the tariffs and establish a refund system.

A handful of small businesses and Democratic state attorneys general led the legal challenge to Trump's 2025 "Liberation Day" tariffs.

Small business owners angry, frustrated

States Newsroom documented the experiences of several small businesses across the U.S. who faced increased costs following Trump's change in international trade policy.

Now many are experiencing a "confusing mix of relief," Richard Trent, executive director of Main Street Alliance, told States Newsroom in an interview Monday.

Trent, whose organization advocates on behalf of small businesses said "our entrepreneurs, many of whom were angry that they had to pay tariffs in the first place, and were frustrated by the back-and-forth over the last year, opened up the



portal this morning only to see that it had crashed. It just feels like the uncertainty just keeps popping up."

Trent, who spoke to "five or six" businesses Monday morning who experienced technical issues, said the portal was up and running again by afternoon.

Customs and Border Protection did not confirm for States Newsroom whether the system had crashed, but rather provided a written statement.

"U.S. Customs and Border Protection has developed a new tool, the Consolidated Administration and Processing of Entries (CAPE), to efficiently process refunds, pursuant to court order, for importers and brokers who paid IEEPA duties," according to an agency spokesperson.

"CBP has issued guidance to the trade community to help them prepare to use the new CAPE tool. Importers and brokers can visit CBP's website for resources and step-by-step guidance," the statement continued.

Monday's launch is the first part of a four-step process in refunding the taxes paid by American businesses of all sizes.

Trent said the "complex" process is yet another hurdle for small operations.

"This is progress, but it's not yet justice," Trent said in an earlier statement Monday. "Small business owners should not have to jump through hoops to get back money they never should have had to pay. We need a refund process that is simple, accessible, and fast." Guides for refunds

The Liberty Justice Center, the libertarian legal advocacy group that represented small business plaintiffs before the Supreme Court, has established the Tariff Equity Refund Resource for America. The platform offers online guides for how to properly submit documentation for the refunds.

"We took this fight all the way to the Supreme Court on behalf of small businesses, and we're not stopping now," Sara Albrecht, chair of

the Liberty Justice Center, said in a statement Monday. "We are a non-profit law firm - our only goal is to help businesses recover every dollar they are owed, not to take a percentage of it. At a time when others are looking to profit off confusion, we are making this process clear, accessible and free."

Trump declared international trade a national emergency just over a year ago, citing a trade imbalance on imports and exports between the United States and several other countries. The president imposed a 10% blanket tariff on all global imports and steeper double-digit taxes on products from some of the top U.S. trading partners.

The president delayed and changed the rates on numerous occasions.

Following his Supreme Court loss, Trump imposed a new round of universal, temporary tariffs under a separate statute. The Liberty Justice Center is again representing small businesses in court to fight the new import taxes.

Developers Pressure Taylortown As Sewer Saga Stalls Critical Projects

By Jheri Hardaway

Staff Writer

Taylortown, NC - Taylortown, the historically Black town in Moore County, which neighbors the world-class golf resort Pinehurst, continues to be pressured by developers eager to drive revenue by renting hotel rooms to tourists. Moore County is a top ten tourism county in North Carolina, so the urgency of Summit Hospitality Group, Ltd. and the Parks Hospitality Group is understood. These two developers are pushing hard for their hotel projects, and the town is equally as excited for the growth, yet cautious to ensure things are done correctly. Town leadership expressed a profound sense of being "bullied" and "disrespected" by the developers. The central point of contention in this challenging encounter was the path forward for infrastructure, specifically sewer capacity and ownership, which is critical to multiple projects.

Summit Hospitality Group, Ltd. is a full-service hotel management and consulting firm founded in 1989 in Raleigh, North Carolina.

The company builds and operates a diverse portfolio of award-winning hotels and restaurants across North Carolina, representing nearly \$250 million in assets with over 700 employees. Parks Hospitality Group is a hotel development and management company dedicated to providing upscale accommodations and uniquely curated food and beverage experiences. Since 2008, Parks has partnered with Hilton and Marriott to develop a thriving portfolio of over 1700 rooms spanning North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Georgia.

The developers shared that they have been awaiting the official issuance of a conditional special use permit (SUP) for their project. Their attorney, Thomas M. Van Camp, argued that the conditions had been met and requested that the formal approval letter be issued within ten days to prevent legal action. He maintained that the developers have a vested right in the unanimous vote they received in August, emphasizing the standard developer path of using the due diligence period for entitlement before finalizing property

acquisition. Van Camp specifically asked for clarification on the precise issues preventing progress, arguing that neither the town's background check of the building nor legal challenges with the current owner should obstruct the permits. The attorney pressed for a way to proceed, emphasizing their commitment to being "good neighbors" but stating they cannot become "entangled" in unrelated disputes.

Taylortown officials vigorously pushed back on the assertion of silence, denying the accusation that there had been "crickets" on the issue. While acknowledging they have been extremely busy and that the final order had been delayed by an error in transcribing a legal assistant/paralegal note, they emphasized that coordination had been ongoing regarding other project elements, such as the driveway. The town maintained that the conditional permit remains just that, conditional, and that the required infrastructure evaluations must be completed to ensure a solid foundation.

At the heart of the delay are unresolved questions about the town's



sewer system, particularly the specific connection point and available capacity of the main line intended for the new developments. In light of a history of alleged deception and "misdiagnosed and plotted" data, Taylortown recently hired independent engineering firm JC Waller & Associates to conduct a compre-

hensive condition and capacity assessment. This evaluation is critical for identifying unknown sources of "illicit discharge" into the manholes, which significantly impacts the line's capacity. CEO and Principal at JC Waller & Associates, PC, Dr. Juhann Waller, D. Des. explained that while the system-wide evaluation would likely take until the end of summer, his team will prioritize the downstream analysis from the lift station back to the proposed connection point. This accelerated approach aims to provide the facts necessary to make an objective recommendation to the council regarding whether the existing eight-inch line has sufficient capacity for the new project.

Dr. Waller stated that the intent is not to slow things down, and if the work can be completed faster, it will be, adding that his "word is good" on prioritizing this segment. However, he emphasized that they cannot commit to a compressed timeframe without fully understanding the potential magnitude of required repairs, should any deficiencies be discovered during the evaluation.

The meeting's tension reached its

peak as the town's Mayor Bridget Cotton and other leaders detailed a deep-seated feeling of being marginalized by both outside entities in recent history. One official directly referenced former interactions with area developers and leaders as a form of bullying, accusing those with an interest in Raleigh of lacking respect for the town. Mayor Cotton strongly objected to the "nice, nasty memos" received from the developers. She argued that other local authorities, such as Moore County, also decided reconstruction and manhole locations without inviting the town, even though Taylortown has qualified and strong people to make those decisions in its own best interest. Mayor Cotton stated, "This feeling that Taylor Town has is real."

As the engineering study continues and the legal teams exchange documentation, the community remains in a holding pattern, hoping that the commitment to transparency and communication can bridge the significant gap between Taylortown's autonomy and the desire for new development.



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Health and Wellness

Have Behaviors Replaced Communication In The Dating Field?

By Jasmine Deloatch

Special To The Carolinian

An Analysis—Either you're in the dating pool, you've heard the horrors of the dating pool, or you've run away from the dating pool. Regardless of your stance, I'm sure that we can agree, whether you are a woman or a man, that feelings are controlling our dating world. Could this be the result of daters having different needs? Historically, dating has been seen as a necessity to both men and women. Men would marry for companionship, homecooked meals, a bearer of children, and a caregiver, while women would marry for protection and to be provided for.

In current day America, we have social media for companionship. Most people go to sleep scrolling with their phone in hand, versus a person on their arm. We have

doordash and meal preps that are available to buy. There are cleaning services that are affordable to the middle class. Women are learning to shoot guns and enroll in self defense classes and women are climbing the corporate ladder and many are able to provide and protect their own homes.

Where does that leave them in the dating world? Every need is met, besides emotion. Women and men had to consider foundational things in the past and were less focused on how the person made them feel, but more focused on the purpose of the relationship and building a family. Today's dating world is full of feelings. And those feelings turn into behaviors that fill in for what is needed most, communication.

So, how do these emotions translate to the dating world? I surveyed three single women, Koren, Ra-

ven and Tenea from Virginia, who shared that when they have shown attentiveness to their dates, they noticed happiness among their dates. Raven noticed happier facial expressions and also added that they openly express their gratitude. Tenea shared that men will show happiness by making themselves available to her and showering her with gifts. Koren also added that she noticed men display happiness during deep conversations with them. We can assume here that these men felt comfortable expressing happiness and that attention and good conversation is what made their dates the happiest.

Tenea reported noticing sadness from her dates when they were not able to live up to the expectations that were set or when they were not receiving attention. She said that they will withdraw or disappear. Raven said that she notices that guys that she's dated will vocalize when she does not pay attention to them and they begin to express sadness. Eric, a male dater in Virginia shared that he noticed that women that he's dated are happy when they are treated the way they prefer to be treated. This ties back to the willingness of modern daters to express



what makes them happy.

It's safe to say that we can conclude that there's no lack of communication in the happiness department. People will express what makes them happy and express when they are not happy. But will they communicate outside of how their partner makes them feel? Do modern daters discuss how they feel about hardships at work, family relationships, being a parent, the

car that cut them off on the road or insecurities that they may have? Or do these emotions just turn into distance and cold shoulders? Do we only communicate to our partner intimately when the situation involves them?

Raven reported her dates showing signs of anger when being asked questions such as "what are you doing" or "who are you talking to." She shared that although it may be as-

sumed that those questions are being asked as a result of trust issues, in reality she is really just curious about their day. She shared that when she expresses a point of view that differs from her date, she notices that they become cold or distant. "Maybe I've just dated men who aren't open and believe it's their way or the highway, but I'm not that person. So if I have a different take, I will tell them," Raven said.

On the other side of dating, Eric, shared that he noticed heightened emotions of anger, sadness or worry in women that he's dated if they feel that he's being sneaky or acting differently towards them. He said they would question him or say nothing at all and mirror his actions, becoming distant and withdrawn. This is interesting because we tend to see a lot of modern relationships end due to how the couple felt, versus ending because of an irreconcilable difference like not agreeing on family plans, where to live, how to raise their children, religion or difference of belief systems.

BetterHelp reported that 47% of adults in the U.S. have stress related to their love life. Tune in next week to read a mental health professional's opinion on this.



Girls Are Great!

By Jheri Hardaway

Staff Writer

Harnett County, NC - With cuts to public education resources as funds are being syphoned away from public schools, resulting in fewer and fewer opportunities to have conversations with youth about essential things. For example, the physical and emotional changes that take place during puberty. Harnett County Government and the N.C. Cooperative Extension of Harnett County hosted this impact event, which included health insights, creating art, cooking workshops, dance, and so much more.

Girls are Great is an annual conference that provides information on the physical and emotional changes that take place with girls during puberty. This program is available for tween and teen girls ages 9-16, along with their parent and or guardian. Teens get answers about topics including teen health, healthy dating, relationships, and more. The goal is to encourage healthy attitudes and lifestyles that will enable Girls to develop to their full potential.

This beautiful and inspirational event has been hosted in Harnett County for over 30 years! Amazing opportunities like this should be occurring more often. Honest and trustworthy guidance at these tender ages is essential now more than ever.



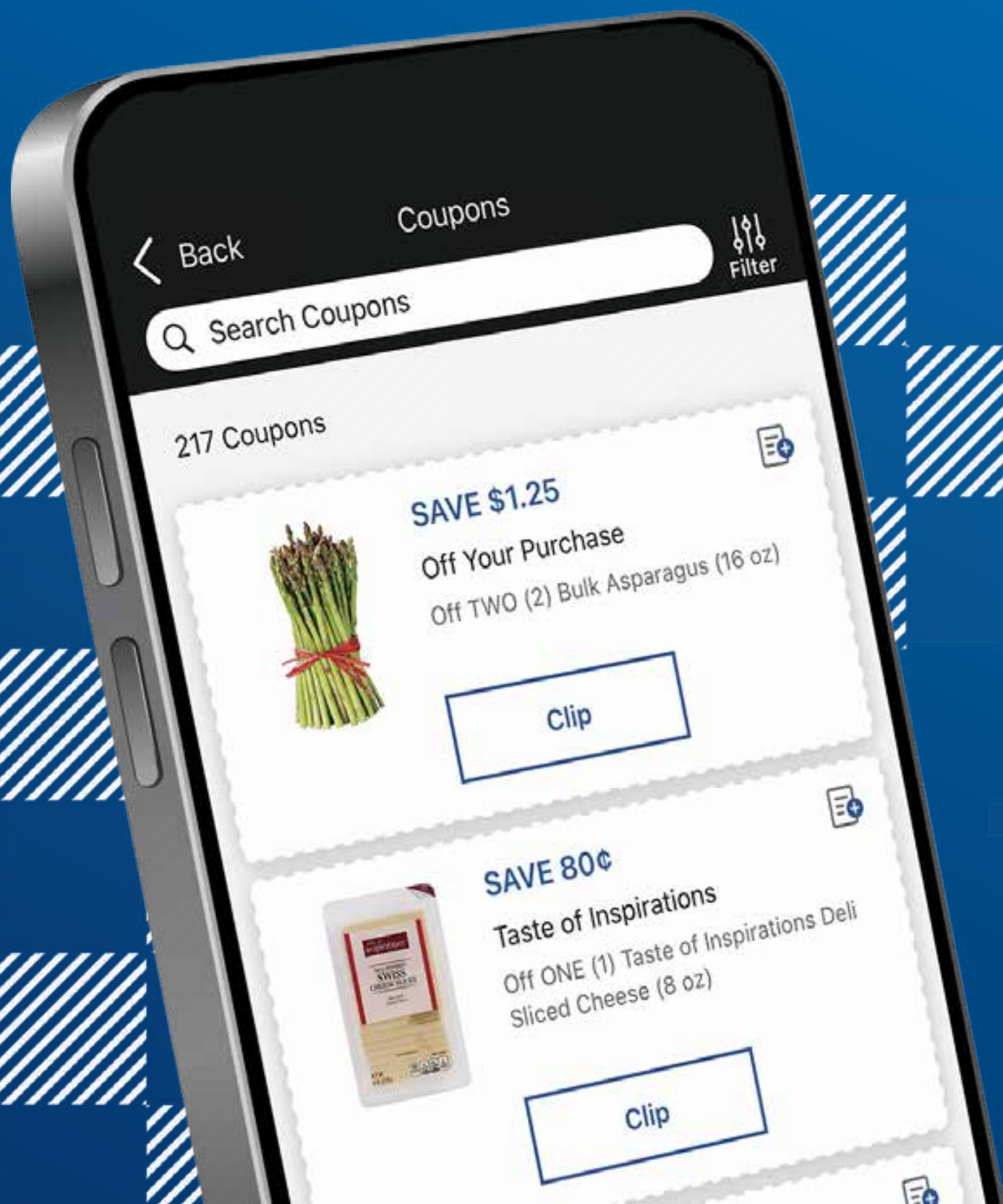
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Arts & Culture

Triangle Performance Ensemble's Present *The Third Day*

By Judaea Ingram

Special To The Carolinian

DURHAM, N.C. — Triangle Performance Ensemble, the same company behind *Black Nativity* Durham, brought its world premiere stage drama *The Third Day* to Hillside High School in Durham from April 17 through April 19, 2026. The Saturday, April 18 at 3:00 p.m. showing reached a sold-out crowd, setting the tone for a weekend of strong community turnout and emotional engagement.

The production, hosted at Hillside High School, reflects the Ensemble's continued work in faith-based and community-centered theater across the Triangle, where gospel tradition, live music, and social storytelling intersect.

Written by Emmanuel Tabb, Daniela Ochman, and Tiffany Agerston, *The Third Day* is inspired by the Passion narratives and the resurrection of Jesus Christ. The story follows two families brought together to stage their church's annual Easter production. What begins as a familiar tradition gradually unfolds into something more complex, as personal struggles, hidden truths, and family tensions surface both onstage and off.

The result is a play within a play that mirrors real life, where faith is tested

in the middle of conflict, grief, and unanswered questions.

Directed by Wendell Tabb, the Ensemble grounds the production in gospel theater while pushing it into contemporary relevance. Musical direction by Xavier Cason deepens that foundation, with live gospel-influenced music underscoring emotional shifts and heightening moments of reflection and tension throughout the performance.

Tabb described the intent behind the production as connecting scripture directly to lived experience. He said audiences will see "how they take the Easter story and turn it into real life, what people deal with on an everyday basis," adding that the "biblical story comes to life and what people are dealing with."

That connection is especially clear in how the play engages issues beyond the church setting. Alongside themes of faith, forgiveness, and transformation, the production directly confronts gun violence and everyday struggles within communities. Those realities are not treated as separate from the story but woven into it, shaping relationships, emotional breaks, and moments of silence that carry weight on stage.

The performance moves between humor, gospel energy, and deeply emotional scenes, creating a rhythm that shifts the audience from laugh-

ter to reflection. At its most powerful moments, the production feels grounded in lived experience, with characters navigating pressures that feel immediate and familiar.

Audience response reflected that impact. The auditorium at Hillside High School was filled throughout the weekend, with families, students, and community members in attendance. The Saturday afternoon show reached a sold-out crowd, underscoring the anticipation surrounding the production. Throughout the performances, audiences responded with applause, laughter, and moments of praise, while more emotional scenes often drew quiet stillness before reaction returned.

Outside the auditorium, the event extended into a broader community gathering. Vendors lined the surrounding space, adding to the atmosphere beyond the stage. Among them was 10-year-old Ava, who sold homemade lemonade, contributing to the intergenerational presence that defined the weekend.

By the end of *The Third Day*, Triangle Performance Ensemble transformed Hillside High School into a space where gospel tradition and present-day reality met. The production left audiences with a layered experience of faith, struggle, and hope, grounded in stories that feel both spiritual and deeply human.



Harvard's Slavery Researchers Are Quitting, Being Fired

THE GUARDIAN - Christopher Newman remembers seeing campus police officers as he walked into a human resources office at Harvard University, but he didn't imagine that they were there for him.

It was July 2024, and Newman had just turned in the results of a two-month-long internship with the Harvard University Archives: an annotated bibliography for the landmark 2022 Harvard and the Legacy of Slavery Initiative report, which detailed the university's ties to slavery across three centuries. He completed his project on Friday, 26 July, and on Monday, he said he received an email that HR wanted to meet with him.

After that meeting, the officers escorted Newman out of the building, told him he was banned from campus and denied his request to collect his belongings from his office, he told the Guardian. He said he was told that a flight back home was booked for that afternoon. "I was asking too many questions," Newman said, "veering off of the proverbial beaten path."

Newman knew he had ruffled some feathers during his internship. At an event at a local history museum, he had met members of the Lloyd family — descendants of people enslaved by a Harvard benefactor and trafficked from Antigua to Cambridge, Massachusetts — and struck up an acquaintance. Over the course of several meetings with library staff and other interns after meeting the Lloyds, Newman said he brought up the island of Antigua multiple times.

"There is an absolute direct connection from Antigua and what was going on there to the slave trade at Harvard," he said he told the group. "We should really start looking into this Antigua thing, because there's some teeth here." But he was met with radio silence. "It seemed like nobody was really trying to hear that," he said.

In its 2022 report, the university had broadly delineated its historical ties to the Caribbean islands of Barbados, Antigua and Barbuda, Haiti, Cuba and Jamaica, among others, mainly by tracing the actions of key alumni who were merchants and

planters. What Newman was suggesting, though, was that the university look to the present and consider its current-day responsibilities to nations such as Antigua and Barbuda.

Harvard, founded in 1636 in Cambridge, is widely considered the most prestigious university in the US, and has an endowment of over \$50bn, which makes it the wealthiest university in the world. The revenue from the endowment, supplemented by donations, income from student tuition and sponsorships, is used to fund the university's operations. Yet because the money is invested and meant to grow over time, the university maintains that its ability to draw from the endowment is limited.

Still, the school's \$100m investment in reparations-related programs in 2022 seemed to usher in an era of openness and accountability within the university about its legacy of slavery. Yet academics involved in the project and related research initiatives allege otherwise. Three Harvard-affiliated academics stepped down from their posts with the Harvard and the Legacy of Slavery Initiative, alleging the university was getting in the way of their work. The former executive director of the initiative stepped down for "personal reasons", and 10 researchers who had been working on projects related to the initiative had been fired. Two professors wrote in a letter published by the Harvard Crimson that the university had tried to "delay and dilute" efforts to connect with descendant communities while designing a memorial on campus. In a statement made to the student newspaper at the time, a university spokesperson said it would "take seriously the co-chairs' concerns about the importance of community involvement".

Newman, 45, is originally from Ohio and a doctoral student at Howard University, specializing in African diaspora and Caribbean studies. His demeanor is calm and soft-spoken, and during interviews, he takes pains to be precise and methodical. His Harvard summer internship responsibilities were to create an annotated bibliography using sources from the Harvard libraries, but there was a wider initiative going on at



the university to research its ties to slavery. He said his adviser promised to convey his interest in engaging descendant communities. Yet at the meeting with human resources, Newman said he was fired. He said he was accused of misrepresenting himself online as an archivist and reaching out to descendant communities when he shouldn't have. Newman added that he only ever claimed he was "working for the Harvard archives", not employed as an archivist.

A spokesperson for the university said they did not comment on personnel matters yet added "this individual was an intern at Harvard Library, and not with the Harvard & the Legacy of Slavery Initiative, which is the only group at the University authorized to engage in descendant research, descendant outreach, or additional research on behalf of the University." Newman doesn't contest that his research interests were expanding past the original job description, but he said he thought his curiosity about living descendants and the university's ties to the Caribbean would have been encouraged. To be fired for a set of allegations after he tried to defend and explain himself, he said, was painful.

The ties between Harvard University and the Caribbean are myriad and consist of densely layered networks of wealthy families, trade, political power and violence. Dozens

of university presidents, overseers (governing officials), donors and staff grew their wealth off of enslaved labor and the transatlantic slave trade. Researchers who have attempted to make the university's connections — and potential obligations — to the Caribbean explicit say their efforts have been stymied. Officials in Antigua have tried to engage in a dialogue with the university about reparations for nearly a decade. "The conversation is not happening," said Carla Martin, a Harvard lecturer in the African and African American Studies department. "We all have tried."

In the tumultuous years since the creation of the Harvard and the Legacy of Slavery Initiative, three memorial committee members have stepped down and researchers have been fired largely over disputes related to engaging descendant communities.

Vincent Brown, a history professor at Harvard, stepped down from his role on the initiative last winter, after a research team visiting Antigua was unexpectedly fired. "I felt like I was basically sacrificing my scholarly reputation to stay on a project that didn't have scholarship as its priority," he said. The university declined to comment on Brown's resignation.

"I have been bombarded with questions that I cannot answer," he wrote in his resignation letter. "Is it true that the university does not really want to know the whole truth

about its history of slave ownership in the Caribbean?" And if true, what would the university be trying to hide?

"Soe infinite is the profit of sugar" It was the winter of 1641, and John Winthrop, the first governor of the Massachusetts Bay Colony and one of the founders of Harvard University, was nervous about the economic viability of the colony. Attempts to create a codfish industry and expand the fur trade had failed, and a solution was desperately needed to prevent a crisis. "The general fear of want of foreign commodities, now our money was gone," he wrote in his journal, "set us on work to provide shipping of our own."

The growing plantations in the Caribbean provided the answer. Winthrop was aware of the "great advantages supposed to be had" in the southern expanses of the British empire, where, a friend in Barbados would inform him: "Men are so intent upon planting sugar that they had rather buy foode at very deare rates than produce it by labour, soe infinite is the profit of sugar." The potential gains from planting and processing sugarcane were so great,

in other words, that colonists ignored any other form of agriculture entirely. The Caribbean colonies would need to import their food and other necessary products from New England.

Shipments began to leave Boston for the Caribbean with commodities such as grain, fish, cattle and pipe staves, the wooden slats used to make barrels. Boats returning from the Caribbean brought back indigo, sugar, tobacco, cotton and the first recorded enslaved African people to be sold in New England. Within a few years, Winthrop could triumphantly claim that "it pleased the Lord to open to us a trade with Barbados and other islands in the West Indies." Boston's role in a transatlantic trade was cemented.

This development provided a lifeline to the struggling Harvard College, which at that point in 1641 had consisted of two buildings, one still unfinished, on a cow pasture. The university was reliant on financial support from the colonial government and the generosity of individuals, so as the colony flourished on the

(See *HARVARD RESEARCH*, P. 12)

Eddie Murphy receives life achievement award by AFI

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Eddie Murphy took a moment to look out at the star-studded room at the American Film Institute ceremony — at his family, his peers, the people who have shared his journey — and let it all sink in.

"Seeing all of my family, all my kids, my beautiful wife, and seeing all the different people I worked with, I'm just really filled up," said Murphy, who received the life achievement award at the Dolby Theatre in Los Angeles on Saturday night. "This is a special moment. I wish y'all could feel what I'm feeling, see what I'm seeing, I almost teared up. I'm going to get backstage and cry."

Just before accepting the award, Murphy was met with a standing ovation, stepping onstage and moving through the ballroom as the applause followed. Along the way, he passed Spike Lee, Martin Lawrence, Dave Chappelle, Chris Rock, Arsenio Hall and Judge Reinhold.

The tribute, which also featured appearances from Bill Burr, Kevin Hart, Eva Longoria, Da'Vine Joy Randolph and Kenan Thompson, will premiere as a special on Netflix on May 31.

Murphy, 65, has moved from a teenage stand-up sensation to a breakout force on "Saturday Night Live" to a box office mainstay with films like "Beverly Hills Cop," "Coming to America," "The Nutty Professor" and the "Shrek" franchise.

Large images from those defining moments filled the venue stage, tracing a career that has crossed stand-up, television and film.

"Eddie made us laugh and made our nation feel better," said Lee, who presented the award to Murphy. "I took a camera and told stories on how our nation could be better. ... We both pushed culture forward. ... Every step of this journey, Eddie has been true to himself."

Comedians pointed to Murphy's influence across generations.

"There is no us without you," Rock said. Lawrence, who starred in the film "Life" with Murphy, shared a personal moment from early in his career, recalling how Murphy once declined his request for a photo. But now, that shouldn't be a problem since their children married each other in 2025.

"Now I can get all the pictures I want," Lawrence said with a smile. "Because we're in-laws."

Arsenio Hall, Murphy's longtime collaborator on "Coming to America," spoke about Murphy advocating for him in the film and highlighted the depth of his talent.

"When Eddie does a family film, he plays a whole damn family," Hall said. Chappelle reflected on studying Murphy's stand-up as a teenager watching "Raw." He described Murphy as one of the defining figures in the industry and shared a recent visit to his home, where seeing Murphy's grandchildren playing offered a deeper perspective on his life.

"I would watch him every day after school like I was taking a class," said Chappelle, who also spoke on an interview where he considered revisiting "Chappelle's Show," a project he once stepped away from, calling it one of the most meaningful experiences of his career.

Chappelle said Murphy encouraged him to revisit the idea, and even joked about joining the project if it comes to fruition.

Book Review: The Black Defender

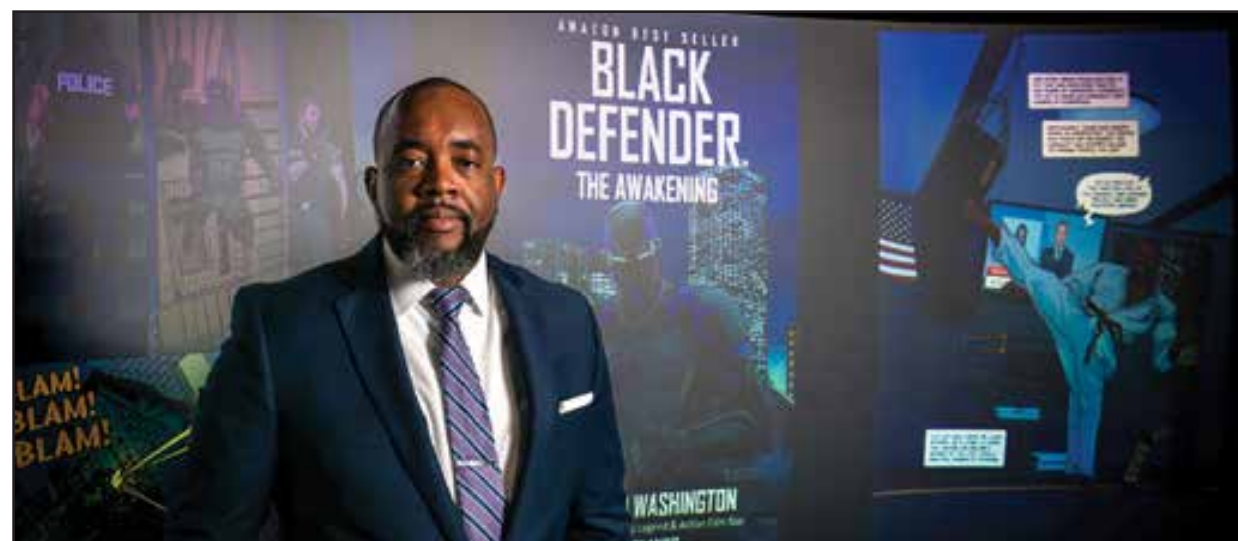
By Jheri Hardaway

Staff Writer

Dr. David Washington's outstanding graphic novel, *Black Defender: The Awakening*, is a compelling adventure in the tradition of classic hero tales. Our protagonist, Chris Withers, initially seems like an ordinary man, but he is emboldened by the plight of missing girls known as "the lost" and the tragic, cold-blooded murder of his fiancée. As the narrative unfolds, Withers emerges as a formidable leader and a passionate advocate for justice.

Throughout the book, Washington skillfully alludes to the urgent need for justice and the persistence of racial inequality. He balances informative commentary on contemporary challenges with creative graphics and an overarching theme of constructing a better world. The artwork is truly engaging, featuring characters with detailed and powerful expressions that reflect the various obstacles they overcome.

Watching the *Black Defender* champion the cause of his loved ones and the marginalized members of his community offers a refreshing



perspective, especially in an era of hardship and unequal legal representation. By incorporating the reality of missing persons into the story, the author reinforces the idea that every individual matters and has something valuable to contribute to a better society.

This graphic novel is an essential read for middle and high school students, as well as comic book enthusi-

asts, highlighting the importance of contributing to a more just society. During his journey, the *Black Defender* is reminded not to be consumed by his personal tragedy but to remain focused on the greater good. Rejecting the hyper-individualism often encouraged in today's world, he prioritizes community and refuses to rest until he finds the answers needed to provide collective peace

of mind. Even though new villains always await on the horizon in the world of comics, the message here remains powerful.

I highly recommend *Black Defender: The Awakening* to anyone who appreciates hero tales or is looking for an informative and enjoyable read. It carries an excellent message, and I look forward to seeing Dr. David Washington's future work.

Community

Ingersoll Rand Life Sciences Technologies Charts New Course

By Jheri Hardaway

Staff Writer

Lillington, NC - To the uninitiated, the name Ingersoll Rand often conjures images of heavy-duty power tools and humming air compressors. But inside a pristine, 60,000-square-foot facility in Lillington, the narrative is shifting from mechanical torque to medical breakthroughs. Last Thursday, local leaders, state representatives, and industry executives gathered for a ribbon-cutting ceremony at the Ingersoll Rand (IR) Life Sciences Technologies site. The event was more than a formal opening; it was a loud signal that Harnett County is no longer just on the periphery of the Research Triangle Park; it is becoming a vital organ in the region's life sciences body.

From Power Tools to Life-Saving Therapies, Scott Watson, Ingersoll Rand Senior Vice President and General Manager of the Life Science Technologies segment, opened the ceremony by acknowledging the common misconception about the brand. "You may think, who is Ingersoll Rand and what do they do? I thought it was power tools," Watson admitted. "Well, Ingersoll Rand is much more than that. We are very much focused on the life sciences market."

The facility specializes in Water for Injection (WFI), a substance that sounds simple but is a marvel of engineering. WFI is sterilized, pyrogen-free water used as a solvent for injectable drugs and for sanitation in pharmaceutical manufacturing. "It takes all this plant and a lot of expertise to make this happen," Amada explained, noting that the site's location in a "thriving pharmaceutical environment" allows it to serve as a critical link in the global supply chain for life-changing therapies. The Lillington site represents a strategic pivot toward high-stakes manufacturing. The facility now houses state-of-the-art technologies trusted by global giants like Eli Lilly, AstraZeneca, and Medtronic. These are partnerships built over decades, now anchored right here in our backyard. With over 300 life science companies located within a 150-mile radius of Lillington, the IR facility is perfectly positioned to capture the momentum moving south from Raleigh.

As the ceremony concluded and guests donned safety glasses for a tour of the humidity-controlled warehouse and the intricate water treatment systems, the atmosphere was one of shared triumph. This isn't just about a building; it's about the "ownership mindset" Watson described—an investment in the community that gives every employee



equity in the company after one year. For Harnett County, the message is clear: the future of global healthcare is being manufactured right here, one drop of pure water at a time.

Perhaps most impressive to the taxpayers and residents of Harnett County was a detail shared by Plant Manager T.R. Stokely. In an era where corporate expansions are often contingent on public subsidies, this project took a different path. "We didn't take any additional incentives for this project because we believed in it so much," Stokely

said. "We wanted to ensure everyone understood our commitment from the beginning." Stokely, whom Watson credited for his "perseverance" over the last year of development, emphasized a "hire local, source local" philosophy. The numbers behind the expansion are staggering:

1. 3,000 square feet of ISO-certified clean rooms.
2. 10,000 square feet of modern office space.
3. A brand-new in-house chemistry lab.
4. A fully climate-controlled ware-

house. Most importantly, the massive construction project, which at times saw 80 contractors on-site, was completed with zero safety incidents. Finally, here are a few fast facts on the planned expansion:

1. Total Size: 60,000 square feet.
2. Focus: Bio-pharmaceutical containment and Water for Injection (WFI).
3. Headquarters: Ingersoll Rand is headquartered nearby in Davidson, NC.

An important note on community impact: no additional government incentives were used. The focus remains on local hiring.

Regarding hiring, Commissioner Barbara McKoy shared that early in the process, she asked the executives, "What are you doing to benefit the workers?" Commissioner McKoy later emphasized,

"What impressed me is that they are willing to work with people to ensure they can do the jobs. They are looking to double in size, which is very good for the county. Also, their schedule is four days a week." These highlights tie in well with a previous project of the Harnett County Board of Commissioners, which cut the ribbon on the Harnett Advanced Technology Training Center in January. Area leadership demonstrated strong vision, as career opportunities and training facilities are now ready for action. In the past, Everett Brothers, the bookmaker, and Erwin Mills, who were unionized, could send kids to college and had strong benefits. When Rooms to Go arrived, the county commission negotiated strong salaries. Harnett County has proven itself to have the vision, space, and resources to empower career opportunities.

"Put Down the Hose": Raleigh Moves to Water Restrictions Amid The Ongoing Drought



By Judaea Ingram

Special To The Carolinian

RALEIGH, N.C. — Raleigh Water is implementing water-use restrictions beginning Monday, April 20, in response to ongoing severe drought conditions in central North Carolina that have reduced water levels in the watershed feeding Falls Lake, the region's primary reservoir.

City officials say the decision comes as Falls Lake continues to decline under sustained dry conditions. According to data from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers cited by city reporting, the lake is currently sitting at nearly 248 feet in elevation, compared to about 256 feet at its peak in July of last year. Officials note that this represents a significant drop in storage conditions over time and reflects reduced inflows into the system.

Raleigh Water reports that the city's water supply pool is currently below 84 percent capacity. The threshold for triggering conservation measures is 85 percent, meaning the system has entered a level where preventative restrictions are required to avoid deeper shortages later in the year. City officials say the goal is to reduce non-essential demand while maintaining stable service for drinking water, hygiene, and other essential household uses.

The restrictions primarily target outdoor water use, which typically increases during warmer months. Under the Stage 1 rules, automatic sprinkler systems and hose-end irrigation are limited to designated times. Residents with odd-numbered addresses may water on Tuesdays, while those with even-numbered addresses may water on Wednesdays. In both cases, irrigation

is only permitted between midnight and 10 a.m. Handheld hoses and drip irrigation systems remain allowed at any time.

City officials emphasize that indoor water use is not affected. The restrictions are focused on reducing pressure on the system from outdoor landscaping activities, which account for a large portion of seasonal water demand. Officials say the intent is conservation rather than elimination, but compliance is considered necessary to stabilize reservoir conditions.

Raleigh Water also notes that enforcement measures may be applied to ensure adherence to the restrictions. While details of penalties were not fully outlined in the public briefing, officials stated that residents are expected to follow the guidelines as part of a broader effort to manage drought conditions across the region.

The last time Raleigh implemented water-use restrictions of this nature was in 2007. City officials say the current situation does not indicate an immediate shortage of drinking water but reflects early action to prevent conditions from worsening if dry weather continues.

Falls Lake, which serves as the primary drinking water source for Raleigh and surrounding Wake County communities, depends on consistent rainfall and watershed inflows to maintain healthy levels. Ongoing drought conditions have reduced those inflows, contributing to the gradual decline in reservoir storage.

Officials continue to monitor weather patterns, rainfall forecasts, and reservoir data to assess whether additional conservation measures will be necessary in the coming weeks or months. For now, Stage 1 restrictions represent the city's first level of response in its drought management plan, aimed at balancing current water availability with long-term supply needs.

Wake County Plans New Public Safety Station In North Wendell

WENDELL, NC - Construction of a state-of-the-art public safety facility will soon begin in eastern Wake County. At yesterday's meeting, Wake County commissioners approved the schematic design for Wendell North Public Safety Station, which will be shared by Wake County EMS and the Wendell Fire Department.

"The Wendell North Public Safety Station project is a perfect example of our commitment to the thoughtful, long-range strategies outlined in our Capital Improvement Plan," said Wake County Commissioner Vickie Adanson. "By investing today, we're supporting our first responders and securing exceptional public safety services for eastern Wake County well into the future."

Wendell North Public Safety Station is a planned replacement for Wendell Fire Department Station 2 and will serve as a regional EMS station. The 6.8-acre site is located on the far northwest corner of Sandy Pines Preserve. Response vehicles will be able to easily respond to calls within the preserve if needed, but activity at the station will not impact park operations.

Station Details

The 17,664-square-foot Wendell North Public Safety Station will have bay spaces for eight ambulances and four fire apparatus. It is the first County public safety station with a larger EMS presence than fire, due to increased demand.



Two Years After His Death, A Vietnam Era Marine Gets His Honorable Discharge

WUNC - For more than half a century, his bad-conduct discharge made it hard for Vietnam veteran Raymond Dick to find work doing anything but manual labor and prevented him from getting VA health care.

More than that, it kept the Greensboro native from officially being a retired Marine, said John Brooker, director of UNC-Chapel Hill Law School's Military and Veterans Law Clinic.

Marines are famously proud of their ties to the service, and Dick was no exception, Brooker said.

Now, though, after years of work led by the law clinic's students, the Navy and the Department of Veterans Affairs have agreed that Dick's bad-conduct discharge was improper and upgraded it.

The change is too late for Dick to enjoy. He died in 2024 of a heart condition Brooker believes was connected to Dick's exposure to Agent Orange in Vietnam. But it does mean that Dick's widow can begin receiving VA survivor's benefits.

"Those are enough to remove her food and housing insecurity," Brooker said. "She has her own apartment in a senior living community now, and along with her Social Security, that will be enough for her to live on for the rest of her life."

A UNC law school graduate who was involved in the case helped the family organize a ceremony Friday to mark Dick's official change in status back to an official part of the Marine Corps family. Several of the other students who worked on the case attended, too.

The story of Dick's discharge began in June 1969. He was back at Camp Lejeune after a hard combat tour in Central Vietnam, where he had distinguished himself so much he was put in a special, hand-picked unit tasked with unusually dangerous counterinsurgency assignments in rural villages.

At Lejeune, he wasn't at war anymore, but the base had its own perils. Especially that summer. Tensions were high between Black troops like Dick and white Marines, fueled by

the institutional racism in the Corps, the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr. the year before, and general unhappiness about the draft.

A former Marine drill sergeant, Willie Robert Robertson of Clayton, N.C., also was stationed at Lejeune then. He told WUNC in a 2019 interview that Black Marines often faced demeaning treatment from white troops.

"They wouldn't call you Private Robertson," he said. "With a Black, they might say, 'Hey, splib, come here!' And I'm like, what's a splib? But the guys from up North, they knew what it was. They would say 'They're calling you an N-word.'"

One day Dick, walking across the base with a friend, heard a group of white military police officers yelling at them. And not bothering to use an euphemism for the N-word.

The details after that are scarce, said Brooker, but a fistfight broke out, and Dick and other Black Marines were thrown in the brig on various charges.

He was court-martialled later that year and initially convicted not only of charges related to the assault, but also robbery, despite no robbery having occurred, Brooker said. On appeal, the robbery conviction was overturned, reducing his sentence from seven years of confinement to one, which he then served.

He also was given a bad conduct discharge, which in some ways is a life-long sentence.

Which is where Brooker and the clinic come in.

His team of law students, working on the case for three years, were able to develop and present evidence to the Navy and to the Department of Veterans Affairs that Dick's court martial was racially motivated and legally flawed, and that there were mitigating factors, including his PTSD.

"So it wasn't any one thing, because the wrongs to Mr. Dick were so numerous and so significant," Brooker said. "They all contributed to the result."

Hanging over the court proceedings was a notorious incident had



happened just weeks after Dick was arrested, and not long before his court martial began.

Various small incidents at an on-base nightclub exploded into an outbreak of several fights involving gangs of white Marines and Black Marines. By the end of the night, one was dead and 15 injured, some of them badly. Dozens were charged with crimes, including homicide.

"And as a result, there was Congressional attention and significant pressure placed on military leadership and the leadership at Camp Lejeune to get a hold of this situation," Brooker said. "So the tool they used to do that was a Uniform Code of Military Justice, and when you only have one tool, kind of like a hammer, every problem looks like a nail."

Dick's trial was scheduled after the riot and after those pressures came to bear. So it's reasonable, Brooker said, to assume that affected how Dick was treated, given the array of charges and heavy punishment for what at the end of the day was just a fistfight. Nobody was injured in the brawl except Dick, who hurt his hand.

"Even the military judge, who's supposed to be neutral," Brooker said. "No one's immune from that. They all see the news. They all see what is happening."

But his students didn't rely on that

for their appeals — one to the VA to change Dick's status for benefits, and the other to the Navy to change the discharge in the service's records.

One issue they pointed to was racist pressure during the trial. A white bailiff had loudly closed a set of handcuffs even after being told to stop in an apparent attempt to intimidate the Black defendants.

Also, the same military lawyer had been appointed to represent several defendants.

"The reason you cannot usually represent multiple folks involved in an incident like this is you may have to call into question the behavior of another client to protect the other client," Brooker said. "It may have been that Mr. Dick could have been better served if his attorney called into question one of the other men involved in the fight and, for lack of a better term, blame them for many of the events."

He described Dick as a gentle and sweet man with a perpetually positive outlook and glint in his eye.

But Dick also struggled till the day he died with his post traumatic stress disorder. He was hypervigilant, had trust issues sometimes, and wanted people to call their names out before they entered a room he was in.

"So he was much like many other veterans from that era of the Vietnam War, who are wonderful souls," Brooker said. "However, they're also struggling mightily with the internal demons and the symptoms of their mental health condition."

Dick was a landscaper for most of his life and never had access to mental health care for his PTSD, Brooker said. "He told us he just wanted to feel better."

Kim Tran, a clinical psychologist at the law school who works with the clinic, said that desire wasn't just about him.

"He knew that he would be better available to his family, to the people who love him, and not to have to spend so much of his life self-managing the symptoms," she said. "He wanted his wife and his children and his family to experience him without the untreated (PTSD) interfering."

Chief Addresses Recent Surge in Violent Crime

By Jordan Meadows

Staff Writer

On Tuesday morning, Raleigh Police Chief Rico Boyce addressed the spike in violent crime across the city in recent weeks in a press conference outlining the scope of the violence and the department's plan to restore public safety.

"This recent cluster of violence threatens the perception of safety of our residents, our visitors, and our overall sense of security within our community," Boyce said. "Over the past 10 days, we've had multiple violent incidents that were publicized in the news."

The recent surge includes a series of shootings, stabbings, and large public altercations—many of them occurring in well-trafficked areas like downtown Raleigh and the Glenwood South nightlife district.

Among the most alarming incidents was a shooting at Triangle Town Center on April 17. Police say three juveniles fought a mall employee, and the altercation escalated into gunfire, leaving three people injured. The mall was evacuated and closed for the eve-

ning before reopening the next day. The Wake County District Attorney's Office has indicated that charges are likely forthcoming.

In addition to shootings, two large fights involving weapons created chaos in public spaces downtown, further intensifying concerns about safety in Raleigh's busiest areas.

Chief Boyce emphasized that a key component of the response involves increasing police presence in areas most affected by nightlife-related violence.

He said the department is "increasing the size of patrol force at and near bars, clubs, transportation hubs, and the hospitality corridor," with a particular focus on downtown and Glenwood South.

Another major initiative is strengthening inter-agency collaboration with the Wake County ABC Board Law Enforcement Division, based in Garner.

"Through this collaboration, we can more effectively address problem establishments and take a proactive step to reduce crime in our nightlife areas," Boyce said.

These efforts fall under what Boyce



described as the department's broader Strategic Partnerships for Operational Success, an initiative that combines resources across agencies to respond more effectively to crime trends.

Many of the violent events involve large groups, escalate quickly, and occur in public or commercial spaces. This combination has heightened public visibility and concern, even as police continue to make arrests in several cases.

Boyce acknowledged the urgency of the moment while reaffirming the department's mission:

"These actions lead to one priority:

protecting our community and preventing further violence in our great city."

Chief Boyce, who became Raleigh's 31st police chief in February, brings 25 years of experience within the department. Announced by City Manager Marchell Adams-David, his career began as a patrol officer in Raleigh's Southeast District, rising through the ranks to Deputy Chief before taking on the department's top role.

Now, just months into his tenure, Boyce faces one of the most visible public safety challenges in recent years.

Church

SERMON of the WEEK



General Mother-elect Belinda McKoy

Title: Fight This Battle for Me
Scripture: 1 Kings 18:21& 26-39; Joshua 24:15

If my leader is blessed, I will be blessed. If my leader succeeds, I will succeed. Whatever you need God's got it.

When you are in a battle, you must choose a side. You cannot fight a battle without knowing whose side you are on, and you cannot be wishy-washy about it. Whose side are you on?

The Bible says in 1 Kings 18:21, Elijah stood before the people and said, "How long halt ye between two opinions? if the Lord be God, follow him: but if Baal, then follow him." And the people answered him not a word.

That silence still speaks today. Too many people are quiet when it comes to choosing God. Too many people want to wait and see. But in a battle, silence is a decision. Not choosing is choosing.

Some of us want to be lukewarm because we do not want to do the right thing. We want God on Sunday and the world on Monday. We

want blessings without commitment. But God is saying today—you must choose a side. When you are in a battle, you have got to know who you are battling against.

Elijah knew the battle was not just against false prophets—it was against false allegiance. It was against divided hearts. That is why he called them together and said, let the God that answers by fire—let Him be God.

The prophets of Baal cried out from morning until noon. The Bible says in 1 Kings 18:26, they called on Baal, saying, "O Baal, hear us." But there was no voice, no answer. They jumped, they cried, they cut themselves—but still no answer.

Can I tell you something? When you are on the wrong side of the battle, you can cry all you want and still get no answer. They kept going all day long. But when Elijah stepped up, he didn't panic. He didn't beg. He didn't perform. He prayed.

In 1 Kings 18:36-37, Elijah said, "Lord God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, let it be known this day that thou art God... hear me, O Lord, hear me."

And then the Bible says in verse 38, the fire of the Lord fell. Not only did it fall, it consumed everything. The sacrifice, the wood, the stones, the dust—and even the water. When God shows up in your battle, He doesn't do it halfway. He shows Himself strong.

And when the people saw it in verse 39, they fell on their faces and said, "The Lord, he is the God! The Lord, he is the God!" That is what happens when you choose the right side.

We are not in a fight, but we are in a battle. There is a difference

between a battle and a fight. When your stomach hurts that is a fight, but when you have cancer that is a battle. A fight is temporary. A battle is something that tries to take you out. A fight comes and goes. A battle requires strategy, endurance, and help from God. And that is why you cannot afford to be on the wrong side.

Joshua said it plain in Joshua 24:15, "Choose you this day whom ye will serve... but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." He didn't say next week. He didn't say when things get better. He said today. Because battles don't wait.

If your house is going to stand, you have got to make a decision. If your mind is going to be at peace, you have got to make a decision. If your life is going to change, you have got to make a decision. As for me—I will take Jesus.

You do not have to worry about the battles in your life, because all you have to do is call on Jesus, because He is a battle-ax.

When the enemy comes in like a flood, Jesus will lift up a standard. When you don't know what to do, Jesus will step in. When you are too weak to fight, Jesus will fight for you. In the time of a battle choose Jesus. Because the battle is not yours—it belongs to the Lord.

So today I ask you again—whose side are you on? Because when you choose God, you are not just choosing a side—you are choosing victory. As for me... I will take Jesus to help me fight mine.

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

Bibliophiles—CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



Meeting room and library of the Negro Society for Historical Research, circa 1912, at the home of John and Florence Bruce, Yonkers, New York. Photograph by A. Ciralli. (The African Times and Orient Review, Christmas Annual 1912, Manuscripts Archives and Rare Books Division, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture)

subway to Brooklyn with Charles Martin, a Moravian minister from Saint Kitts, to scour second-hand shops. He went on a pilgrimage with his friend John W. Cromwell, a teacher in Washington, D.C., to rescue manuscripts from a hayloft. In such company, Schomburg spent his life in pursuit of material to illuminate Black history and culture, from sixteenth-century geographies of Africa to the contemporary poets of the Harlem Renaissance.

By 1926, Schomburg's collection no longer fit in his family's modest rowhouse, where books had overtaken every room and were even stacked on top of the piano. His library needed a new home, and in a transaction that would cement his fame as a Harlem Renaissance celebrity, he sold his books and art to the New York Public Library for ten thousand dollars. The price was far less than what he had paid for the materials, but the sale of the collection captured the logic of the Renaissance: a rebirth inspired by the recovery of a treasured past. Schomburg's materials were added to the new Department of Negro Literature and History at the 135th Street branch library in Harlem—the first such collection in a public institution in the United States. The sale transformed the branch—already a hub of Harlem's creative and intellectual life—into a global destination for the study of the African diaspora.

Schomburg's collection inspired an efflorescence of collecting at historically Black colleges and universities and at branch libraries serving Black communities. By the mid-1940s, special collections devoted to the study of Black life could be found in Los Angeles, Nashville, Detroit, and beyond. They provided refuge and resources for generations of thinkers and creators, from Margaret Walker, who found encouragement as a young poet at the Hall Branch Library on Chicago's South Side, to James Baldwin, who reportedly once said that the Schomburg Collection, which he visited weekly as a child, gave him a "connection to life."

These were the first Black libraries

in public, but they weren't the first collections to serve Black publics. In the decades before Schomburg's collection arrived at the New York Public Library, he and other collectors opened their storehouses to the community. In an era known as the "nadir" of American race relations because of escalating anti-black violence—and when few libraries or learned societies admitted Black readers—bibliophiles met the moment by turning their private parlors into public spaces.

Thus, when W. E. B. Du Bois began research for The Philadelphia Negro, which would be published in 1899, he went to the home of William Henry Dorsey, who had transformed the second floor of his house into an art gallery and library that included hundreds of scrapbooks documenting Black life. And when the writer Alice Dunbar-Nelson was compiling Masterpieces of Negro Eloquence, a 1914 anthology commemorating the fiftieth anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation, she traveled from Delaware to New York to consult the private collections of Schomburg, Charles Martin, and John Edward Bruce.

Schomburg relished such visits. Known as a generous host, he loved to invite friends and travelers to his home. "The library has a few easy chairs so that you can drop in and feel at home," he wrote to the scholar Alain Locke in 1916. The novelist Eric Walrond stopped by Schomburg's Brooklyn house in 1922 and called it "hallowed ground." He marveled at the "sitting room that exudes a classic odor," filled with books and adorned with portraits of an Ethiopian princess, the composer Le Chevalier de Saint-Georges, and the band master John Fraser. "It is easy to appreciate why writers and artists, poets and anthropologists, of both races, flock to the unpretentious little dusty-brown house on Kosciusko Street," he wrote.

The homes of Schomburg, Dorsey, and other collectors were important sites of Black intellectual culture: salon-like spaces for the bookish crowd. Until now, however, it has been hard to picture them. Only a

handful of drawings and descriptions survive to document the private spaces that facilitated what Fred Moten and Stefano Harney term "Black study," or intellectual convenings that are collective, informal, and dissident. There is a single drawing of the small museum in Dorsey's Philadelphia home; a handful of snapshots of the Harlem studio of collector, scrapbook maker, and dandy Alexander Gumbly; and one grainy photograph of the library of Ella Elbert, featured in The Crisis magazine in 1920. There is no known image of the interior of Schomburg's Brooklyn home.

But at long last, a recently-resurfaced photograph has provided us with a more detailed look into the world of these early Black bibliophiles—a world at once elegantly studious and defiantly oppositional. Upon first glance, the room looks like a typical parlor of its era, clinging to the vestiges of late Victorian décor that were quickly fading from fashion. Note, for example, the heavy draperies and their tassels, the busy floral wallpapers, the stalks of hydrangeas that flank the mantelpiece, and the art and finery covering every surface.

Yet a closer look reveals telling details that distinguish this space from similar middle-class interiors of the era. Above the fireplace hangs an eighteenth-century map of Africa by the French cartographer Guillaume de l'Isle—the first engraving to accurately depict the continent's coordinates. Crowded on the mantel below the map are portraits and silhouettes of Black icons, among them the Liberian theologian Alexander Crummell and the British composer Samuel Coleridge-Taylor. In the back corner of the room is a Yoruba Gelede mask and other Nigerian artifacts. In glass-fronted bookshelves along the wall, on a carved West African stool in the foreground, and atop the claw foot table at the center of the room, were books: piles and stacks and rows of books. This is the quintessential parlor of a Black bibliophile, a space designed to "teach, enlighten, and instruct our people in Negro history and achievement."

Ar-Razzaq mosque in Durham receives Historical Marker

WUNC - More than 70 years since its founding, the Ar-Razzaq Islamic Center is officially being recognized by North Carolina with a Highway Historical Marker as the state's first mosque.

Cheers and yells of "Allahu akbar!", or "God is greater!" broke out when the marker was unveiled on Friday afternoon, commemorating state recognition of the historically Black mosque in Durham's West End.

Established in 1956 by Imam Kenny Muhammad from Baltimore, the Ar-Razzaq Islamic Center remains a centerpiece of Durham's African American Muslim community, playing a key role in the expansion of Islam in the state.

"It is heartwarming," said Rhonda Muhammad, daughter of Ar-Razzaq's founding imam. "It is a manifestation of devotion and dedication. My father did not live to see this, but he didn't work for any granddime. That's not what he was here for. He was a man that loved people and he believed in the uplifting of humanity."

The N.C. Department of Natural and Cultural Resources recognized the mosque through its Historical Marker Program, which has registered more than 1,600 markers on historic sites statewide.

Ar-Razzaq was initially founded as a Nation of Islam organization before transitioning in the late 1970s to mainstream Sunni Islam, connecting a network of African American mosques to other American mosques.

Islam then became more religious than social for the mosque, said Muhammad.

"It broadened our horizons, it broadened our scope," Muhammad told WUNC. "We no longer saw white people as the devil. So it just broadened us. It created a whole new vista of thinking for us."

The South is underrepresented in the study of Black Muslim identity, according to the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources.



Ar-Razzaq is a rare example of a community that flourished since the 1950s, far from more recognized urban American Muslim centers like Detroit and Chicago.

The marker is located across from the mosque on Chapel Hill Street in downtown Durham, next to the Al-Taiba Halal Market storefront, a Muslim-owned business.

Ar-Razzaq's leaders also opened the first mosque and Muslim school in Raleigh in 1971.

Ar-Razzaq's civil rights history. The mosque first existed on West Pettigrew Street in the former Black Wall Street of Durham, before moving to its present Chapel Hill Street location in 1972.

Ar-Razzaq attracted prominent Black Muslims of history during the 1960s civil rights movement, such as the civil rights icon and writer Malcolm X and boxing legend Muhammad Ali.

Rhonda Muhammad says she remembers when Malcolm X visited and gave a speech in Durham.

"He was supposed to speak at

Duke, and because of the controversy, they denied him access," she said. "My father tried to get him at UNC. They would not allow him to speak. We went to North Carolina Central University, and they would not allow him to speak."

Malcolm X eventually gave his speech in a building that was known as Page's Auditorium, on South Roxboro Street, according to state historical records.

As a teenager, she said, her family hosted him at their Fayetteville Street home in Raleigh, because segregated hotels would not receive Black people.

"Ar-Razzaq's marker ... gives proper visibility to this community's contribution to Durham's civil rights legacy and calls us to other home-grown histories," said Aleah Marrow, member of Ar-Razzaq and daughter of Greg Rashad, imam of the mosque.

"Historical markers educate the public, preserve shared memories and help communities understand and interpret their past."



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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.

Senator Phil Berger: Still mistaking the problem for a solution

Rob Schofield

NC Newsline

State lawmakers are back in Raleigh for the 2026 legislative session and in at least one important way, it will be a gathering of historic note. Thanks to his stunning defeat in the March primary, this will be Senate President Pro Tem Phil Berger's 16th and final go-round running the General Assembly's upper house. Only one other Senate leader in state history – Berger's immediate predecessor, the late Marc Basnight, who held the job for 20 years – served longer.

Interestingly and unfortunately, however, unlike Basnight, a conservative-leaning Outer Banks restaurateur and businessman who evolved and grew during his two decades in leadership to become a formidable champion of, among several laudable causes, higher education and environmental protection, the Phil Berger of today is pretty much the same guy who rose to power after the 2010 "Tea Party" election.

As NC Newsline reported, Berger highlighted this disappointing fact in a recent pre-session news release in which he reiterated his opposition to pausing scheduled regressive income tax cuts – cuts that even his fellow Republicans in the House of Representatives have effectively acknowledged will do great damage to core state structures and services if they are allowed to take effect.

"Our policy success is largely grounded on the continuing exercise of discipline on two fronts – tax reduction and spending restraint," Berger said. He went on to restate the tired old right-wing claim that unless North Carolina remains on this track, it will find itself losing out to other states in the "never-ending competition...for economic growth, job creation, and a better future for our people."

What "policy success" Berger might have in mind – other than the tax and spending cuts themselves and the relentless gerrymandering, voter suppression tactics, and far right social agenda items he and his Republican colleagues have pursued – is not at all evident.

Yes, North Carolina has continued to grow over the last decade-and-a-half – mostly in urban and suburban Piedmont communities in which Republican politicians struggle – but to attribute that fact to GOP tax and spending cuts that chiefly benefit the wealthy and out-of-state corporations strains credulity. If anything, it's more accurate to say that North Carolina has continued to grow despite those cuts.

North Carolina was already a fast-growing magnet for new residents and businesses long before (and immediately prior) to the Republican legislative takeover. What's more, it was a state in which new and aspiring residents were often attracted not just by already moderate taxes, but also by diverse, rapidly improving, and award-winning K-12 and higher education systems and the graduates they produced, a comparatively mild climate and appealing natural environment, a comparative lack of sprawl and congestion and a forward-looking commitment in many locales to social progress.

Now, of course, as Berger winds up in Senate years, many of these erstwhile attractions are no more.

Where once North Carolina's K-12 schools were an upward trending national model and envy, and an inspiring magnet for new teachers, relentless tax and spending cuts authored by Berger and approved by his handpicked state Supreme Court have left them threadbare, eviscerated and demoralized. Today, both per-student funding and funding effort are at or near the bottom of national rankings.

Likewise, North Carolina's once proud public universities now hemorrhage talented faculty members and administrators to systems that are capable of paying competitive salaries and willing to respect the tradition of academic freedom.

And whereas North Carolina once sought to pursue a hopeful model for intelligently marrying economic and population growth with a commitment to coping with climate change and preserving much of the natural environment that helped make it so appealing in the first place, today, environmental regulation of any kind, as well as funding for the programs that make it work, are anathema to Berger and his fellow Republican lawmakers.

And the list goes on.

Be it health care access, public health and disease prevention, early childhood education, services to people with mental health needs and developmental disabilities, the criminal and civil justice systems, disaster relief, affordable housing, unemployment insurance, workplace safety, consumer protection, scientific research, economic development, an adequately funded and independent election system, or numerous other critical common good services that make a broadly middle class society healthy and sustainable, North Carolina is demonstrably worse off than it was 16 years ago thanks in large measure to the tax policies Berger and his colleagues have championed.

And sadly, while Berger may seek to portray these destructive cuts as somehow emblematic of "discipline," the truth is the precise opposite. Genuine discipline in public financing involves not just spending restraint that avoids waste, but also a commitment to sustained investment and shared sacrifice that asks the well-off to pay their fair share, elevates the common good, and promotes a rising tide that lifts all boats.

As he prepares to walk off into the sunset, it's a sad commentary that one of the most powerful politicians in North Carolina history continues to mistake one of the state's biggest problems for a solution.

Other Viewpoints

North Carolina is ranked dead last in school funding. My daughter with autism is paying the price.

By Kristina Peck

There is a version of N.C. Pre-K enrollment that takes twenty minutes. You fill out a form, submit a birth certificate, and your child starts school in the fall.

That version does not exist for families like mine.

My daughter has Level II autism and a speech delay. In North Carolina, N.C. Pre-K closes enrollment when funding runs out. Priority is based on financial need. There is no guaranteed access for children with disabilities. What most families do not know is that this does not override federal law. Under IDEA, children with disabilities ages three to five have a legal right to early childhood special education services regardless of what the state budget allows.

I had to research this myself, cite it by statute, and walk into a school administrator's office to explain it. They acknowledged the law. They still moved slowly.

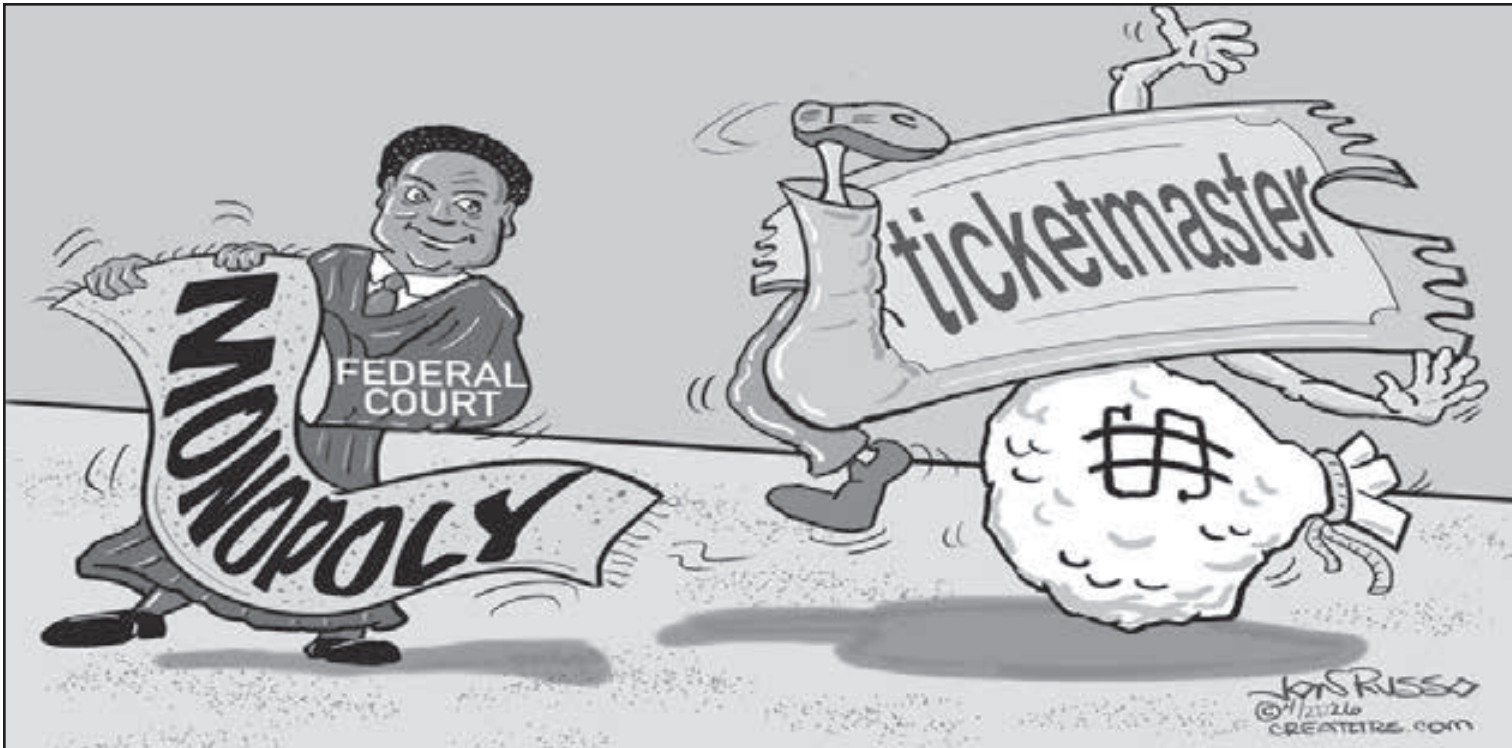
This is happening in a state that ranked dead last, 51st out of 51, in school funding effort according to the Education Law Center's Making the Grade 2025 report, spending \$5,600 less per student than the national average. In July 2025, the federal government froze more than \$165 million in N.C. school funding without warning. When those funds disappear, the students who depend on them most feel it first.

Meanwhile, 60 percent of North Carolina three and four year olds were not enrolled in any formal education setting between 2019 and 2023. For children with autism and developmental disabilities, missing early intervention is not a disadvantage. It is a loss. The earlier services begin, the better the outcomes. Every month of delay is developmental time that cannot be recovered.

Under IDEA's Child Find mandate, school districts must identify and evaluate children suspected of having a disability within mandated timelines, whether or not a parent asks. In practice, families are told to wait and see. Most take it. They do not know they can push back.

I knew. I pushed back. It still took longer than it should have. While I tracked down evaluations and requested meetings in writing, other families enrolled their children in Pre-K in twenty minutes online. Same county. Same fall start date. Entirely different experience, determined entirely by whether their child has a disability.

I work in education systems professionally, helping charter schools across North Carolina, Georgia, and Texas build enrollment processes that work for the families they serve. A district that wanted to close this gap could assign a single point of contact for every family beginning a special education evaluation. It could notify parents of their IDEA rights in plain language before a parent has to ask. None of this requires more money. It requires a decision about whose experience is worth designing for.



That decision, in a state that ranks last in school funding and just lost \$165 million in federal support, is one North Carolina has not yet made.

My daughter will get her services. I will make sure of it, because I know how to navigate this system and I will not stop until she does.

I did not always know. I learned. I researched. I pushed. I know most parents in my position do not have the time, the access, or the vocabulary to do what I did.

I think about those families. The ones who applied for N.C. Pre-K, were told the funding was gone, and went home believing that was the answer. Who did not know there was a federal door that no one can legally close. Who are watching their child's early years pass while a district that knew better chose not to move.

My daughter came to this process with well-child visit records, a documented Level II autism diagnosis, ABA evaluations, full psychological reports, speech assessments, and occupational therapy documentation. She had the paper trail most families spend years trying to build. It has still been a fight.

Somewhere in the same county, another child registered for Pre-K in twenty minutes. No separate intake appointments. No delayed screenings. No repeated requests to resubmit documentation. No one asking whether she really needed to be there.

My daughter did not earn this fight. And a state that ranks last in the nation in education funding has no business asking her to prove she deserves a seat at the table.

Peck is a consultant for charter schools in N.C., GA, and TX. She is a former LPN who lives in Salisbury, N.C.



PROGRESS IS REAL, BUT THE PLAYING FIELD IS TILTED

Recently I attended a round table discussion with women executives from North Carolina nonprofit organizations. Some were publicly funded, others exclusively dependent upon private donations. Black, white; old, young; they were an impressive group. One participant stood out. She spoke of the frustration of constantly fighting for her rightful place at the table. This wasn't a surprise although it's easy to believe that gender-disparity is behind us. If it was it isn't now. We've seen the workplace change more times than you can count. Some changes have been for the better—doors opening that were once nailed shut. Others feel like the same old story dressed up in new language.

Progress is real, but the playing field is still tilted.

Many women in leadership are sounding the alarm about the current workplace environment. They're not complaining—they're reporting. And what they're reporting is that companies are quietly pulling back from the commitments they made just a few years ago. Only about half of organizations now say they're truly committed to advancing women. That's a sharp drop, and women feel it. They feel it in the lack of mentorship, the shrinking number of promotion opportunities, and the unspoken expectation that they must work twice as hard to be seen as half as ready.

For Black women, this isn't news. It's history repeating itself. One of the biggest barriers women face today is what researchers call "the broken rung." It's the very first step up the ladder—from employee to manager. For every 100 men who get that first promotion, only 93 women do. And for Black women, the number falls to 60. That's not a gap. That's a canyon. And once you fall behind at that first step, it follows you for the rest of your career.

But the story doesn't end there. Women who do make it into leadership are carrying a heavy load. Six in ten senior-level women say they're burned out. Not tire, burned out. They're mentoring younger employees, leading diversity efforts, managing teams, and still expected to smile through it all. And while remote and hybrid work have been a blessing for many families, women report that working from home often means being overlooked for promotions. Men don't seem to face that same penalty.

Even with all these challenges, the job market is showing something remarkable: companies are willing to pay a premium to recruit women into senior roles. Women who switch employers are seeing salary increases of around 25 percent, compared to just 9 percent for men making similar moves. That means the market knows what women bring to the table, even if their own organizations sometimes forget.

This is especially important for African American seniors to understand, because many of us are the advisors, the encouragers, the sounding boards for the younger women in our families. Our daughters, nieces, and granddaughters are stepping into a workplace that is both more open and more complicated than the one we knew. They're ambitious, talented, and prepared—but they're also navigating systems that still weren't built with them in mind.

And they need us to remind them they can't wait for permission to lead. You lead because the community needs you.

The job market today is a mixed bag. For midcareer women—especially those in administrative and managerial roles—it feels tougher. Fewer advancement programs. Less sponsorship. More burnout. But for women at the top, opportunity is knocking loudly. Companies want diverse leadership, they're willing to pay for it, they're just afraid to say it out loud.

But here's the truth: opportunity shouldn't depend on how high up the ladder you already are. Equity shouldn't be a luxury item reserved for executives. And burnout shouldn't be the price women pay for success.

If companies want to keep the talent they claim to value, they must recommit to fairness—not in slogans, but in promotions, paychecks, and policies. They must fix the broken rung, support flexible work without penalty, and invest in mentorship that lifts women as they climb.

As elders in the community, we know what happens when a society ignores the voices of its women. We've seen the cost. And we've seen the power that's unleashed when women are given room to rise.

So let's keep listening to our daughters—and let's keep pushing the world to hear them too. Their fight is not new, but neither is their strength. And this moment, with all its challenges, may be one of the most important opportunities yet to make the workplace what it should have been all along: a place where talent—not gender—determines how far you can go.

A Different Voice

By Dorothy Shaw Thompson



JUDGEMENT ISN'T NECESSARY BUT LOVE IS

We say God is good all the time, and all the time God is good. But can we see God in all things and truly mean it? This situation has stirred up a lot of anger. Women and men alike have taken to social media to express their grief and outrage over what happened. And rightly so. It is tragic. It is painful. It is hard to understand. But I have to be honest. My first reaction was human. My ego stepped in. And I realized something. As much as we say we want love to prevail, our humanity often puts love aside when something happens that we do not like. If we truly want to grow spiritually and love the way God calls us to love, then even in tragedy, we must choose love.

In my work, I have come to believe that if God loves unconditionally, and we say we want to be like Him, then we must at least try to do the same. Even when it is difficult. Especially when it is difficult. Think about when we love without conditions. We love a newborn baby, even though all they do is cry, keep us up at night, and make messes. We love deeply when we choose a partner, often overlooking flaws and giving grace where we might not otherwise. And at funerals, we hear words of love and admiration that sometimes make us wonder if we knew the same person being described.

All of that reveals something about us. It reveals how easily we move between love and judgment. But love is the consistent opposite of judgment. Scripture reminds us of this. The stories of the prodigal son, the woman caught in adultery, and the woman at the well all point to the same truth. We are not called to judge. Because the same measure we use to judge others will be used for us.

So when something like this happens, instead of only asking what was done, we also have to ask what led there. I do not know all the details. I will not pretend to. But I do know that people do not simply lose their way overnight. Pain, trauma, feelings of abandonment, and the need to prove worth can shape a person in ways we do not always see. Sometimes people spend their whole lives trying to prove they are enough. Enough to be loved. Enough to be valued. Enough to matter. And when those foundations are built on what the world calls success, titles, status, recognition, when those things are shaken or taken away, some people do not know how to stand.

That does not excuse what happened. Not at all.

But it does remind us that this is not just one story. This kind of pain shows up every day in different ways, in different homes, in different lives. And too often, we only speak loudly when it reaches a certain level of visibility.

So the question becomes, how do we love through something like this? We start by asking God to help us see clearly. To see beyond the surface. To see the lesson. Because going to the right school, passing the right tests, holding the right position, none of that makes a person worthy. And failing in those areas does not make a person unworthy either. Worth is not determined by success or failure. Too many of us have been taught otherwise. And when life does not go the way we expect, we look outward for someone to blame instead of looking inward to understand. Love does not work that way. Love begins within. And when we learn to live from that place, we begin to see differently. I will be the first to say, I do not have all the answers. Some of this is my attempt to understand. But one thing I am certain of is this. Love is the answer. No matter the question. And love and judgment cannot live in the same space.

Forgiveness is what allows us to move forward in peace. It does not mean we ignore what happened. It means we choose not to let it harden us. Even Jesus, in one of the most painful moments of his life, said, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." If we are honest, that is a level of love most of us are still trying to reach. But we can get there. If we are willing to choose it.

MAN KILLS 8 CHILDREN

Continued from page 1

control — or at least put "red flag" measures in place. But Republicans have routinely blocked such legislation.

Investigators were not aware of other domestic violence issues involving Elkins, said police spokesperson Chris Bordelon.

Elkins had served in the Louisiana National Guard from 2013 to 2020, said guard spokesperson Lt. Col. Noel Collins. Elkins held the rank of private and had no deployments, Collins said.

The violence started before sunrise Sunday. Authorities said the shooting erupted before dawn at two homes.

Elkins shot a woman in a neighborhood south of downtown, and opened fire a few blocks away at the home where the children were targeted, police said. Elkins' nephew was among the slain children, according to the Caddo Parish coroner's office.

One of the victims, 5-year-old Braylon Snow, was getting ready for preschool graduation next month, said Laurance Guidry, president and CEO of Caddo Community Action Agency, which runs the Head Start program where Braylon was a student.

"They have the cap and gowns just like you would have when you were graduating from high school," Guidry said.

Mourners lit candles for the victims Sunday night in a nearby parking lot.

"It just makes you take your children and hug them and hold them and tell them how much you love them because you just don't know," said Kimberlin Jackson, who attended the vigil and is an advocate at the Head Start program where one of the victims was a student. She said the last time she saw him was Friday.

A relative says they were a joyful family. Francine Monro Brown, a cousin of Shaneiqua Elkins, said she would often see the children playing in the yard on Sunday mornings when she drove past the house on her way to church.

"Happy children, joyful children. Shaneiqua is a great mother. She provided a great home for the kids," Brown said as she stood near a growing memorial of stuffed teddy bears, flowers and pink and blue balloons.

Betty Pugh, another cousin of Shaneiqua Elkins, said she was always with her children. "That was the way we were taught: to love our kids, to take care of our kids. And that's what she did," Pugh said.

The mayor of Shreveport, a city of about 180,000 residents in northwestern Louisiana, called it one of the city's worst days.

The shooting was the deadliest in the U.S. since January 2024, when eight people were killed in a Chicago suburb, according to a database maintained by The Associated Press and USA Today in partnership with Northeastern University.

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 Pavla
Pavla 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
The undersigned, having qualified as Executor of the Estate of RICHARD ROBERT HOFFMAN, 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 23, 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 23rd day of April, 2026
Jillian Orans
Executor of the Estate of Richard Robert Hoffman
c/o Jillian E. Brevorka, Esq.
Attorney for the Estate
Hodgson Russ LLP
7 Corporate Center Court
Suite B
Greensboro, NC 27408
4/23, 4/30, 5/7, and 5/14/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File No.: 26E000443-310
Having qualified as EXECUTOR of the Estate of RUFUS KENNY HEADING, 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 24, 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 23rd day of April, 2026.
Carolyn James Wheeler a/k/a Sue Wheeler c/o Law Office of Anne Page Watson PLLC
3400 Croasdaile Drive, Suite 205
Durham, NC 27705
4/23, 4/30, 5/7, and 5/14/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 13th day of April, 2026, as Executor of the Estate of WALKER WAYNE GUTHRIE, 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 24th day of July 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 April 23, 2026.
Rupinder Singh Gill
EXECUTOR
ESTATE OF Walker Wayne Guthrie
c/o Rupinder Singh Gill, Attorney
Walker Lamb, PLLC
Post Office Box 51549
Durham, North Carolina 27717
4/23, 4/30, 5/7, and 5/14/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk

File No.: 26E000430-310
Having qualified as ADMINISTRATOR of the Estate of EMMANUEL KWAME GBEDEE, 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 24, 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 23rd day of April, 2026.
Eneye Gloria Gbedee, Administrator
1405 Cozart Street
Durham, NC 27704
4/23, 4/30, 5/7, and 5/14/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File No.: 26E000418-310
Having qualified as ADMINISTRATOR of the Estate of CARL MICHAEL FUQUAY, SR., 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 26, 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 23rd day of April, 2026.
Lakesha Berting Royster
Administrator
823 N. Mangum St. Apt. 521
Durham, NC 27701
4/23, 4/30, 5/7, and 5/14/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND DEBTORS OF LINDA SAAREMAA
All persons, firms and corporations having claims against Linda Saaremaa, late of Durham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit them to William R. Loeser as Executor of the decedent's estate on or before July 25, 2026 c/o Melissa Parthemore, Attorney at Law, 1414 Raleigh Rd., Ste. 203, Chapel Hill, NC 27517, or be barred from their recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment to the above-named Executor.

This the 23rd day of April 2026.
William R. Loeser, Executor
c/o Melissa Parthemore, Atty.
Trust Counsel
1414 Raleigh Rd., Ste. 203
Chapel Hill, NC 27517
4/23, 4/30, 5/7, and 5/14/2026
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.: 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.: 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

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 JOHNETTA 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
All persons, firms and corporations having claims against RONALD COOPER, DECEASED, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before July 15, 2026, or this notice along with the appropriate general statute will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the deceased are asked to make immediate payment. This the 16 day of April, 2026. All correspondence should be to the Estate of Roanld Cooper, c/o Florence A. Owens, Attorney, P.O. Box 51263, Durham, NC 27717.
4/16, 4/23, 4/30, and 5/7/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

SMALL CLAIMS
In The General Court of Justice
District Court Division
File No: 26CV002125-310
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.: 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.: 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.: 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 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.

A: MARTIN ARRIAGA BELMAN, DEMANDADO.
SE LE NOTIFICA QUE SE HA PRESENTADO UN ESCRITO SOLICITANDO UNA MEDIDA

DURHAM COUNTY

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.: 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

THE UNDERSIGNED, having 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.
ABBY BEVAN, EXECUTOR
ESTATE OF ROSE ANNE WALLACE AKA ROSEANNE HESTON WALLACE
c/o Shirley M. Diefenbach, 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 MARGARET MARY ASHWORTH, AKA MARGARET M. ASHWORTH, AKA PEGGY

ASHWORTH, 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 OF MARGARET MARY ASHWORTH
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

In The General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk

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 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 Governess 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, firms, and corporations indebted to said Estate, please make immediate payment.

This the 2nd day of April, 2026.
James Lee, Jr., Administrator
c/o John W. Perry, Attorney for the Estate of Delores Dukes- Lee
Post Office Drawer 2051
Durham, North Carolina 27702
Telephone: (919) 683-8685
4/2, 4/9, 4/16, and 4/23/2026

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

ON SLOW 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

WAKE COUNTY

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
WAKE COUNTY

NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION

File No. 22CV0014078-910
MELONIE E. JEFFERYS, Plaintiff
v. OSCAR O. OGBUNAH,
Defendant

TO: OSCAR O. OGBUNAH
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 Absolute Divorce.

You are required to make defense to such pleading not later than forty (40) days from the date of first publication of this notice, and upon your failure to do so, the Plaintiff will apply to the Court for the relief sought.

This the 23rd day of April, 2026.

Melonie E. Jefferys, Plaintiff
8337 Wynnwood Court
Raleigh, NC 27616
4/23, 4/30, and 5/7/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
WAKE COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

File No.: 26E000830-910

Having qualified as Administrator of the Estate of EMILY BRINKLEY, deceased, late of Wake County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons, firms, and corporations having claims against the estate of said decedent to exhibit them to the undersigned at the address shown below on or before the date which is three (3) months from the date of first publication of this notice, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms, and corporations indebted to said estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This the 16th day of April, 2026.

Myca Adams, Administrator
Estate of Emily Brinkley
201 Citrine Ct
Knightdale, NC 27545
4/16, 4/23, 4/30, and 5/7/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
WAKE COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

The undersigned having qualified as Limited Personal Representative of the Estate of SANDRA KAY TSCHOPP, Deceased, late of Wake 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 19th 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 16th day of April, 2026.

Tony T. Tschopp, Limited Personal Representative
Estate of Sandra Kay Tschopp, Deceased
Robert A. Idol, Esquire
IDOL LAW, PLLC
Attorney at Law
PO Box 51759
Durham, NC 27717
(919)401.5151
4/16, 4/23, 4/30, and 5/7/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
WAKE COUNTY

NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION

In The General Court Of Justice
District Court Division

File No.:25CV031964-910
ANGELA BRANCH, Plaintiff v.
JEFFREY ROY WHITLEY, SR.,
Defendant

TO: JEFFREY ROY WHITLEY, SR.

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 an Absolute Divorce.

You are required to make defense to such pleading within 40 days after the first date of publication of this notice, or the Plaintiff will apply to the Court for the relief sought.

This the 9th day of April, 2026.

Angela Branch, Plaintiff
100 Westover Drive
Knightdale, NC 27545
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.: 26CV007157-910
CAPITAL MOTORS, Plaintiff
v. UNKNOWN, Defendant

TO UNKNOWN OWNER OF A 2011 BMW X3, VIN: SUXWX5CX59BL712081:

TAKE NOTICE that a pleading seeking relief against you has been filed in the above-entitled action. The relief sought is enforcement of a motor vehicle lien pursuant to N.C.G.S. 44A.

You are required to make defense within 40 days after the first date of publication, or the Plaintiff will apply to the Court for the relief sought.

A hearing is scheduled for May

18, 2026 at 1:30 PM in Courtroom 3D, Wake County Courthouse, 316 Fayetteville Street, Raleigh, NC.

This the 9th day of April, 2026.

Capital Motors, Plaintiff
2757 Capital Blvd
Raleigh, NC 27604
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.: 26CV011839-9100
SHAW & SON'S ENTERPRISES LLC, Plaintiff v. UNKNOWN OWNER, Defendant

TO: UNKNOWN OWNER OF A 1967 CHEVROLET, VIN: F58B121967

TAKE NOTICE that a pleading seeking relief against you has been filed in the above-entitled action. The relief sought is enforcement of a possessory lien on a motor vehicle in the amount of \$9,745.00, plus storage charges of \$50.00 per day.

You are required to make defense to such pleading within 40 days after the first date of publication, or the Plaintiff will apply to the Court for the relief sought.

A hearing is scheduled for May 5, 2026 at 1:30 PM in Courtroom 3D, Wake County Courthouse, 316 Fayetteville Street, Raleigh, NC.

This the 9th day of April, 2026.

Shaw & Son's Enterprises LLC
1819 Poole Road
Raleigh, NC 27610
(919) 427-2755

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.: 26E000188-910

Having qualified as EXECUTOR of the Estate of EILEEN DALY HOWARD A/K/A EILEEN D. HOWARD, 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.

Dan Ross Howard Jr., Executor
1008 Starita Court
Apex, NC 27502

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.: 25E004567-910

Having qualified as ADMINISTRATOR of the Estate of FLETCHER BURNETTE 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

Classifieds

WAKE COUNTY

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

FORECLOSURE

NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY
NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE
Special Proceedings
No. 26SP000131-310

Substitute Trustee: Philip A. Glass
Date of Sale: May 6, 2026
Time of Sale: 2:30 p.m.
Place of Sale:
Durham County Courthouse
Description of Property:
See Attached Description
Record Owners: Jose Tehandon Juarez and Lazara Diaz
Address of Property:
102 Citrine Ct.
Durham, NC 27703
Deed of Trust:
Book : 8837 Page: 674
Dated: December 30, 2019
Grantors: Jose Tehandon Juarez and Lazara Diaz
Original Beneficiary: State Employees' Credit Union
CONDITIONS OF SALE:

This sale is made subject to all unpaid taxes and superior liens or encumbrances of record and assessments, if any, against the said property, and any recorded leases. This sale is also subject to any applicable county land transfer tax, and the successful third party bidder shall be required to make payment for any such county land transfer tax. It is the intent of the holder of the above Deed of Trust that the execution, delivery and recordation of a Trustee Deed to the holder as high bidder shall not merge with any superior Deeds of Trust held by the holder of the above Deed of Trust, and that the holder of said superior Deed of Trust shall continue to enjoy all rights and remedies set forth in said superior Deed of Trust, including the right to foreclose either by judicial action or under power of sale contained in the superior Deed of Trust.

The property to be offered pursuant to this Notice

of Sale is being offered for sale "AS IS, WHERE IS." THERE ARE NO REPRESENTATIONS OR WARRANTIES relating to the title or to any physical, environmental, health or safety conditions existing in, on, at or relating to the property being offered for sale, and any and all responsibilities or liabilities arising out of or in any way relating to any such condition are expressly disclaimed.

A cash deposit of 5% of the purchase price will be required at the time of the sale. Remote bidding will not be accepted pursuant to North Carolina General Statutes Section 45-21.25 (a). Credit bids on behalf of the Noteholder will be accepted. Any successful bidder shall be required to tender the full balance of the purchase price so bid in cash or certified check at the time the Substitute Trustee tenders to him a deed for the property or attempts to tender such deed, and should said successful bidder fail to pay the full balance purchase price so bid at that time, he shall remain liable on his bid as provided for in North Carolina General Statutes Section 45-21.30 (d) and (e). This sale will be held open ten (10) days for upset bids as required by law.

Residential real property with less than 15 rental units, including single-family residential real property: an order for possession of the property may be issued pursuant to G.S. 45-21.29 in favor of the purchaser and against the party or parties in possession by the clerk of superior court of the county in which the property is sold. Any person who occupies the property pursuant to a rental agreement entered into or renewed on or after October 1, 2007, may, after receiving notice of sale, terminate the rental agreement by providing written notice of termination to the landlord, to be effective on a date stated in the notice that is at least 10 days, but not more than 90 days, after the sale date contained in the notice of sale, provided that the mortgagor has not cured the default at the time the tenant provides the notice of termination. Upon termination of a rental agreement, the tenant is liable for rent due under the rental agreement prorated to the effective date of the termination.

Dated: 4/8/26
Philip A. Glass, Substitute Trustee
Nodell, Glass & Haskell, L.L.P.
Posted on 4/8/26

Exhibit A
BEING all of Lot 141,
Stonehill Estates Subdivision,
Phase 4, Plat Book 174, Page 377-380, Durham County.

Subject to easements, restrictions and rights of way of record, and utility lines and rights of way in existence over, under or upon the above-described property.

PIN: 0851-14-9033
Property Address: 102 Citrine Ct.
Durham, NC 27703
4/23 and 4/30/2026



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

MBE/WBE

Raven Builders needs MBE/WBE participation for the demo and construction of a tennis/pickleball courts, walkways, fencing and benches. Construction consists of restroom building including structural, mechanical, electrical and site development. Raven Builders will break down or combine elements of work into economically feasible units to facilitate minority participation. We will try to negotiate joint ventures to help increase minority participation. Raven Builders will also provide quick pay agreements to meet cash flow demands. Need bids by April 29th emailed to ravenbuilders24@gmail.com. Plans/specs may be viewed at our office (call 252-903-4166) or emailed to you.

D/M/WBE

SUBCONTRACTORS/SUPPLIERS WANTED

T. A. Loving Company (NC General Contractor License No. 325) is seeking certified DBE, MBE, and WBE subcontractors and suppliers for the **Paradise Road Waterline Extension** project for the Town of Edenton which bids on **April 29, 2026, at 2:00 PM**. Plans and specifications for this project are available at the following locations: T. A. Loving Company; 400 Patetown Road; Goldsboro, NC 27530 * Town of Edenton Municipal Office; 400 South Broad Street; Edenton, NC 27932 * The Wooten Company; 418 Evans Street, Suite 201; Greenville, NC 27834 * The Wooten Company's online Plan Room * Dodge Data and Analytics website * Construct-Connect website * Construction Journal website.

Potential subcontracting opportunities include but are not limited to surveying, clearing and grubbing, erosion control, and seeding. Please contact **Jeff Price** (jprice@taloving.com) if you are interested in submitting a proposal on any portion(s) of this project. Contact via phone 919-734-8400; fax: 919-736-2148; or email. All quotations will be accepted up to the closing time of the bid date. T. A. Loving Company is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer.

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

Submit jobs to
ads@caro.news

D/M/WBE

SUBCONTRACTORS/SUPPLIERS WANTED

T. A. Loving Company (NC General Contractor License No. 325) is seeking certified DBE, MBE, and WBE subcontractors and suppliers for the **Design-Build – Southeast Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant Expansion – Early Works Package 3C – ELECTRICAL** project for **Onslow Water and Sewer Authority** which bids on **April 28, 2026, at 2:00 PM**. Electronic copies (.pdf) of the Bid documents for this project can be obtained using the following link:

ONWASA Southeast Reg. WWTP Improvements DB EWP 3C-Electrical Package <https://taloving.sharefile.com/share/view/s7c0857f0225548819d1dbaf08b8a6679/f07ee02e-36f3-4797-a119-b3772ffc70c9>

Potential subcontracting opportunities include but are not limited to surveying, electrical, HVAC, and roll up doors. Please direct any questions or quotes to **Tyler Sutton** (tsutton@taloving.com; or onwasadb@taloving.com) if you are interested in submitting a proposal on any portion(s) of this project. All quotations will be accepted up to the closing time of the bid date. T. A. Loving Company is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer.

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

D/M/WBE

SUBCONTRACTORS/SUPPLIERS WANTED

T. A. Loving Company (NC General Contractor License No. 325) is seeking certified DBE, MBE, and WBE subcontractors and suppliers for the **Foreman Bundy Reverse Osmosis Water Treatment Plant Upgrade to 3.0 MGD** project for **Pasquotank County** which bids on **May 21, 2026, at 11:00 AM**. Plans and specifications for this project are available at the following locations: T. A. Loving Company; 400 Patetown Road; Goldsboro, NC 27530 * Pasquotank County Courthouse; 206 East Main Street; Elizabeth City, NC 27909 * Green Engineering, PLLC; 303 Goldsboro Street, East; Wilson, NC 27893 * ConstructConnect website.

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

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

Harvard Slavery Researchers are quitting — CONT. FROM PAGE 6

back of the transatlantic trade, so did the college. One of the largest donations made in the early years of the college came from the Caribbean: a group of colonists who had recently arrived in the Bahamas to develop plantations and enslave Indigenous people gave a gift of local dyewood. This offering, coordinated by an early Harvard graduate, sold for the equivalent of more than \$20,000 in today's dollars and enabled the college to expand to a third building.

The transatlantic economy, and subsequent enrichment of the college, began with Indigenous land dispossession, murder and enslavement. In the 1630s, Winthrop had overseen the massacre of at least 700 Indigenous people during the so-called Pequot war. He enslaved at least seven people for his own use and distributed others among friends, a group which included at least three fellow Harvard leaders and benefactors — letting them choose their favorites.

Winthrop began trafficking humans even before moving to the New World. His son Henry was part of the first British settlement in Barbados in 1627, three years before the elder Winthrop would sail across the Atlantic, and wrote to his father asking for people to work on his tobacco plantation. Winthrop procured two children, writing in a letter that he "knew not what to do for their binding," because they were too young "to walk or write".

Enslaved people were becoming the currency of a massive game of quid pro quo stretching across New England, Europe and the Caribbean, where family and alumni ties oper-

ated as de facto business networks. When Winthrop's son Stephen went on a trading mission to Bermuda in 1638, for example, he carried with him a letter of introduction from Hugh Peter, a fellow colonist and member of Harvard's board of overseers.

In his book *Sugar and Slaves*, the late historian Richard Slator Dunn calculates that by the late 17th century, at any given time nearly half the trading ships in the Caribbean were from New England and more than half of the ships in Boston were involved in the West Indian trade. "It was a deeply integrated economic space," said Sven Beckert, a Harvard historian. "But the rich part, the dynamic part of this space, was in the Caribbean, not [Boston]."

"I see our people getting rich" Antigua is only 100 sq miles large — a "small place" in the words of Jamaica Kincaid, the Antiguan novelist and Harvard professor, yet at the height of its colonial period, it was covered with more than 200 sugar plantations. The remains of these plantations, large stone mills used to grind sugar, still dot the landscape "like freckles", as Agnes Meeker, a local historian, puts it.

In the 17th century and through the beginning of the 19th century, at least six different plantations in Antigua were owned by early Harvard benefactors or leaders who, in sum, enslaved at least 362 people and potentially more than 600 people, according to estimates produced by Richard Cellini, an independent researcher, and his team before they were fired. Cellini, who had been hired by Harvard to identify enslaved

people tied to the university and their descendants, had travelled to Antigua last January along with a group of researchers. Upon their return, the entire team was fired without explanation, though Cellini believes the university was afraid because they had found "too many slaves" and could be bankrupted as a result, he told the Guardian last year.

Sarah Kennedy O'Reilly, university spokesperson, disputed Cellini's statement, saying that no such instruction had ever been issued. "There is no directive to limit the number of direct descendants to be identified through this work," she wrote.

John Winthrop's youngest son, Samuel, arrived in Antigua in 1649 as one of the first four planters to settle permanently on the island. He had first tried to work as an agent and clerk for different trading companies in the Canary Islands before sailing to Antigua. "I have no fixed calling, not knowing what profession I should embrace," a young Samuel complained to his dad, but he knew he wanted to make money. "I see many of our people daily growing rich and raising themselves from nothing," he writes. He decides to go to the Caribbean, where the chances of getting rich are highest.

Samuel dropped out of Harvard before graduating, but he was an important benefactor. Before leaving Boston to begin his career, he and three other students made the first property donation in the university's history in 1645: land which is now the site of Widener Library.

Within a decade of settling in the West Indies and beginning to enslave

people, his plantation was producing tens of thousands of pounds of sugar annually for export. Almost all available land on Antigua was used to cultivate sugar, and the island was quickly transformed into a devastating slave society. Infant mortality rates were high, torture was used as a method of domination and enslaved people were frequently worked to death in order to produce the valuable commodity of sugar. Colonial rule and enslavement were routinely met with resistance, uprisings and organized attempts at rebellion.

In addition to helping create the island's planter class, he was a staunch advocate of expanding trade, gave away hundreds of acres of land to settlers and served as the lieutenant governor of Antigua. By the time he died, he was one of the wealthiest men on the island, enslaving 64 people on a 1,000-acre plantation called Groton Hall, named after his birthplace in England, and owning one-quarter of the island of Barbuda.

He was reliant on "our New England friends", as he told his father, to do business. In the Caribbean, wealth was concentrated through the intermarriage of a small number of planter families and alumni networks that facilitated business deals. Antiguan-born Thomas Oliver, who would go on to become a Harvard overseer and the lieutenant governor of the Massachusetts Bay Colony, built a mansion in Cambridge from wealth derived from the Caribbean. It is now the residence for Harvard University presidents, Elmwood.

Just 'a PR measure'
When Caitlin DeAngelis was hired

by Harvard in 2017 to produce a report for the precursor to the Harvard and the Legacy of Slavery Initiative, the independent researcher found the names of more than 200 people who were enslaved at Oliver's plantation in Antigua, including a 15-year-old boy named Richard Oliver.

She shared the source material with her supervisors, clearly showing the number of enslaved people along with their names, yet none appear in the final version of the Harvard and the Legacy of Slavery report, which claims the number is unknown. DeAngelis believed a decision was made to omit the names, using a technicality: the census of the estate was taken two years after Oliver died, though he passed ownership to his heirs. A spokesperson for the university said that "the data in the report was carefully researched and sourced, reflecting our best understanding at the time."

"They tend to limit the number of people that they acknowledge, rather than to read the historical record in a way that is expansive and more accurate," she said. "It's definitely evasive." As of the report's publication in 2022, the university had identified 41 Harvard enslavers and at least 70 enslaved people with ties to the university. By the time Cellini was fired in January 2025, his team had identified more than 900 enslaved people and nearly 500 living descendants — a number Cellini estimated could be about 10,000. The latest figures released by the university say the school has identified 1,314 formerly enslaved people and 601 living descendants, as of February.

DeAngelis said while she was a

researcher at Harvard and teaching courses, the president's office told her directly not to discuss her ongoing research with students, and that a course she was teaching called "Slavery at Harvard" was changed in the course catalogue to include a focus on abolition without her consent. A spokesperson for the university declined to comment.

"My understanding of Harvard's orientation towards its research was that it was a PR measure to limit both publicity and legal liability," DeAngelis said. "My job was not to use all of my skills as a historian to uncover the historical truth. My role was to hold down a desk that allowed Harvard to mislead the press about how serious they were about making reparations and confronting centuries of profiting from slavery."

This fall, DeAngelis and a group of scholars including Martin, the lecturer, published a report sponsored by the National Park Service about Black families enslaved by Harvard-affiliated families in Cambridge, Antigua and Jamaica. When multiple team members tried to connect with the Legacy of Slavery Initiative, given the obvious overlap in research and looking for some guidance from the university, they were shrugged off, according to Martin. "We were not surprised," she said. "It was more or less what we expected."

The Legacy of Slavery Initiative is a "window dressing", Martin said, "more performative than substantive". As a member of faculty, she admits to struggling with her role and responsibility.

She said: "It remains very opaque to us, what is possible."