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A New Fight For Racial Representation After Justices' Voting Rights Act Ruling

JACKSON, Miss. (AP) — At 16, Edward Blackmon Jr. was arrested during a protest for voting rights in his Mississippi hometown. He was loaded with schoolmates into a truck once used to haul chickens and was left in the summer heat before spending three nights in an overcrowded jail cell without a bed. It was a moment that set him on a path to become a civil rights lawyer and one of the first Black lawmakers elected in the state since Reconstruction. Blackmon was part of a generation of Black Americans across the South who fought in courtrooms and in the streets to dismantle barriers to voting and achieve political representation in a region scarred by the legacy of slavery and its aftermath. One of the crown jewels of that

struggle, the Voting Rights Act, was hollowed out this week by the U.S. Supreme Court. The court's conservative majority said states should not rely on racial demographics when drawing congressional districts, a ruling that opened the door to transforming how political power is distributed and making it harder for minorities to get elected. The majority opinion described racism as a problem of the past. Others saw the decision as another example of its resurgence — “a defibrillator to the heart of Jim Crow,” as one Louisiana politician put it. Blackmon's son, Bradford, a 37-year-old state senator in Mississippi, said how the political lines are drawn “shapes who has a real chance before anyone ever votes.” “It's just sad that we made progress and then they are always trying

to roll it back when it shows that minorities are making more progress than I would guess that those in charge think that they're allowed to make,” he said. The elder Blackmon, now 78, said he was resigned to the reality that the fight of his youth is not over. “It's just another cycle — an ongoing struggle without a foreseeable ending,” he said. The case, involving a challenge to Louisiana's congressional map, clarified how the Voting Rights Act can be used to contest district lines that may weaken the voting power of Black residents. For many Black Americans, the decision was a death knell for a cherished pillar of the Civil Rights Movement. Before the Voting Rights Act of 1965, Black voters in the Deep South had no guaran-

tee of equal access to the ballot. Within a year of its passage, more than 250,000 Black Americans had gained the right to vote. By 2024, nearly 22 million Black voters were registered nationwide, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. The United States is now witnessing the unraveling of nearly a century of organizing, civil disobedience and personal sacrifice by ordinary people who helped build Black political power to heights unseen since Reconstruction. Veterans of the voting rights movement — people who bled with John Lewis on the 1965 march in Selma, Alabama, that became known as Bloody Sunday or marched with the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. — are seeing those hard-won victories stripped away from their descendants.



NC Students Urge Lawmakers To Pass “Solly's Law”

By Jordan Meadows

Staff Writer

More than 30 students from 14 counties across North Carolina gathered at the North Carolina General Assembly on Wednesday as part of the Tobacco 21 (T21) Coalition. Their goal was to press lawmakers into adopting stricter nicotine regulations and advance House Bill 430, known as “Solly's Law.” The legislation is named after Solomon Wynn, a New Hanover County high school student who died in 2023 from complications related to vaping. His stepmother, Charlene Zorn, has since become a leading advocate for tighter restrictions and joined students at the legislature.

The bill would raise the legal age for purchasing tobacco and vaping products to 21, establish a statewide permitting system for retailers to allow stronger local enforcement.

North Carolina remains one of only six states where individuals can legally purchase nicotine products at age 18, and one of just eight states that does not require retailers to obtain a permit to sell them. Without licensing, there is no comprehensive list of vape shops operating in the state.

At the same time, youth usage remains high: 21.4% of North Carolina high school students use e-cigarettes, a rate roughly double the national average. Nearly 23,000 high school students smoke, and nearly one million adults in the state are smokers, most of whom began before age 18. Tobacco use is linked to 14,200 deaths annually in North Carolina, accounting for nearly one-third of cancer deaths, while smoking-related health care costs total \$4.42 billion each year, including about \$1 billion in Medicaid expenses paid by taxpayers. Meanwhile, the tobacco industry spends \$429.6 million annually marketing its products in the state—more than \$1 million per day.

Students who traveled to Raleigh described firsthand the normalization of vaping among their peers.

“Unfortunately, this seems to be the new norm, and there are countless cases where kids are introduced to vaping in early middle school or even elementary school in some circumstances. People around me want to quit but feel like they can't because of the extremely addictive nature of nicotine products,” said Ben Lanier, a member of the Tobacco 21 Teen Council.

Another student advocate, Pranika Senthil of Cabarrus County, questioned whether lawmakers are responding to the issue with enough urgency:

“Young people aren't just making careless choices. We're being constantly exposed in ways that make these products feel harmless and easy to access, which means we really need adult help.”

Lawmakers supporting the bill, including Rep. Donnie Loftis (R-Gaston) and Rep. Grant Campbell (R-Cabarrus), tied youth vaping to broader public safety concerns.

Loftis pointed to a December 2025 incident in Winston-Salem in which a fight over a vape pen between teenagers resulted in a fatal stabbing, as well as other cases involving robberies of vape and THC products.

“We've now progressed from just a simple vaping issue among teenagers. This is a deadly game among young people,” Loftis said. “It is way past time for

(See **SOLLY'S LAW**, P. 2)

Harnett County Commissioners "Slow Down" With Data Center Moratorium

By Jheri Hardaway

Staff Writer

Lillington, NC - In a standing room only meeting marked by passionate pleas for environmental justice and fiscal transparency, the Harnett County Board of Commissioners voted Monday to implement a temporary development moratorium on data centers. The unanimous “yes” vote effectively hits the pause button on a burgeoning industry that critics argue threatens the county's water supply, power grid, and rural character. The moratorium will remain in place while the county updates its Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) to address the specific impacts of these high-consumption

facilities. It was a busy meeting; not only did commissioners approve a one-year moratorium on data centers, but they also committed \$110 million to reduce PFAS in the water supply and adopted a new policy allowing officials to remove certain public comments from county social media pages.

The public hearing saw a parade of residents, activists, and experts who challenged the narrative that data centers are an economic windfall. Leading the opposition, Kameka Dempsey, an advocate for environmental justice, drew from her personal history as a former data center worker to warn of “economic extraction.” “The companies that want to build data centers in Harnett County



are not coming here because they love us,” Dempsey told the board. “They are coming here because our land is cheap, our water is accessible, and so far, our local government hasn't said no.”

Dempsey cited data from the UNC Media Hub and Penn State Extension, noting that 85% of North Carolina's new electricity demand over the next 15 years is projected to come from data centers. She warned that the massive water consumption ranging from 10,000 to 5 million gallons per day could strain local infrastructure to its breaking point.

Benita Harrington, President of the Harnett County NAACP, urged

(See **HARNETT COUNTY**, P. 7)

Why Supreme Court Justices Are Appointed For Life Terms And How We Can Change It

By Jordan Meadows

Staff Writer

The idea of lifetime appointments to the U.S. Supreme Court begins with a very specific institutional problem the framers were trying to solve: how to create a judiciary strong enough to check the other branches, but not so politically entangled that it simply mirrored them. In the Federalist Papers, Alexander Hamilton argued that courts would be the “least dangerous branch” precisely because they lacked control over the purse or the sword. At the time, this was not theoretical—early justices had little influence, the Court heard very few cases, and figures even questioned whether the institution had any real “energy, weight, and dignity.”

Hamilton's defense of lifetime tenure—appointments “during good behavior”—was rooted in this concern for independence.

Critics, especially the Anti-Federalists, warned that unelected judges with life tenure could become unaccountable and threaten liberty. But Hamilton's response reframed the issue: the danger was not that judges could act politically, but whether institutional design minimized that risk better than the alternatives. If judges had to face reelection or reappointment, they would have incentives to please the political branches or public opinion.

Lifetime tenure, by contrast, insulated them from those pressures, allowing them to enforce constitutional limits even when doing so was unpopular. This insulation was especially important in moments of what Hamilton feared most—bursts of “popular passion,” when a majority might support actions that violated constitutional principles. In that scenario, only a judiciary independent from both politicians and the public could serve as an effective check.

Even after Chief Justice John Marshall established judicial review in *Marbury v. Madison* (1803), the Court rarely struck down federal laws

for decades. It was not until *Dred Scott v. Sandford* (1857) that the Court asserted that kind of power again, widely regarded as one of the Court's least-constitutional arguments, reinforced fears that an independent judiciary could also act disastrously.

But what Hamilton envisioned as the least dangerous branch has become one of the most consequential institutions in American governance, regularly deciding issues central to public life. At the same time, the structure of lifetime tenure has evolved in ways the framers did not anticipate: for the first 180 years of U.S. history, justices served an average of about 15 years. But beginning in the late 20th century, justices often serve 30 years or more. This shift is driven by a combination of younger appointments and longer lifespans.

This change has intensified the political stakes surrounding the Court, and because vacancies are unpredictable and infrequent, each nomination has become what many describe as “constitutional hardball,” exemplified by events like the Sen-

ate's refusal to consider Merrick Garland in 2016, followed by the rapid confirmation of Amy Coney Barrett in 2020 under different political circumstances.

Recent ethical controversies involving justices have raised questions about accountability in a system where members of the Court can serve for decades with limited formal oversight. At the same time, public trust in the Court has declined.

Another concern tied to lifetime tenure is strategic retirement. Justices are aware that the timing of their departure can influence who replaces them, often aligning their retirement with a politically favorable president and Senate. Thurgood Marshall famously resisted retiring under a president whose judicial philosophy he opposed.

Age and cognitive decline have also entered the discussion. As justices serve longer, many remain on the bench into their 80s. While this does not apply uniformly, the absence of a mandatory retirement age or term limit leaves no structural mechanism to address potential declines in capacity.



St. Augustine's Univ. Files For Chapter 11 Bankruptcy Protection

By Cash Michaels

Contributing Writer

Just when many thought that St. Augustine's University (SAU) in Raleigh was well on the road to overcoming its problems, comes word that the private Episcopalian HBCU has filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection to address its massive debt. Doing so, SAU's Board of Trustees said in an announcement, is a “deliberate and strategic step to advance the University's long-term sustainability while addressing current financial realities.”

According to the Chapter 11 filing last week in federal court, SAU had \$50 million to \$100 million in financial liabilities to 345 creditors, with assets between \$100 million and \$500 million.

SAU's largest single debt is \$14 million to the Internal Revenue Service, along with millions owed to several other federal agencies and private vendors. The school is disputing its top 20 creditors, and they have until August 25th to prove their claims.

In doing so, the Self-Help Ventures Fund, a nonprofit group that helps underserved communities with financing challenges, agreed to loan SAU millions to meet many of its obligations, provided the school cut ties with two of its board members who previously served as chairman and vice chairman.

But in the process, the school must give up its legal battle to retain its eligibility for permanent accreditation for now, the very thing it needs to remain a viable, competitive educational institution. Without accreditation, SAU cannot receive federal student financial aid.

Instead, SAU has announced that it will implement teach-out agreements for current students to finish their studies at other schools. That, along with non-degree nursing and technical certificates, and apprenticeship programs.

The SAU Board of Trustees calls attempt to keep the school open “a new path forward” and “building a pathway toward accreditation.”

SAU's Interim President Dr. Jennie Ward-Robinson has resigned, and Dr. Verjanis A. Peoples has taken her place.

In a statement, SAU said, “SAU will work collaboratively with stakeholders, including creditors, donors, alumni, and community partners, to provide meaningful opportunities for supporters of the institution to contribute and play an active role in its continued progress and success.”

“These steps position the University to move forward with clarity and purpose, continuing its mission of preparing students academically, socially, and spiritually for leadership in a complex, diverse, and rapidly changing world.”

"SOLLY'S LAW"

Continued from page 1

this bill to be moved into the committee process so that North Carolina can feel good about protecting these young teenagers."

He also cited a North Carolina Department of Revenue report that found nearly 25,000 illegal vape and tobacco products being sold in the state, along with evidence that some vape shops are acting as distribution hubs for more dangerous substances.

Recent law enforcement investigations across the state have underscored those concerns. In Union County, authorities seized over five pounds of tianeptine—sometimes referred to as "gas station heroin"—along with more than 10 pounds of marijuana and approximately \$100,000 in counterfeit THC products. In Johnston County, arrests were made after six minors became sick from THC-infused gummies purchased at a vape shop; testing showed some products exceeded the state's legal THC limit. In Stokes County, a multi-month investigation known as "Operation Found Out" led to the seizure of 53 pounds of marijuana, psilocybin products, and over \$18,000 in cash, with several store managers facing trafficking charges. Additional cases in Garner and Apex involved THC products marketed as legal CBD but containing far higher concentrations than permitted by law.

Law enforcement officials say the lack of a permitting system complicates their ability to monitor and regulate these businesses.

"There is no body that has any administrative control or sanctioning authority against these businesses," said North Carolina Alcohol Law Enforcement Director Bryan House.

"Criminal vaping is becoming an epidemic in this country," said Rich Marianos, former assistant director of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. He pointed to the rise of unregulated vape products entering the U.S. market and argued that some retailers are involved in wider criminal activity.

Marianos also highlighted youth-targeted marketing strategies, noting, "It's marketed as something that's cool, flavorful — more like a treat." He added that enforcement cases are widespread and measurable: "It's not anecdotal. You can point to specific seizures, specific arrests, specific quantities."

However, critics say that raising the legal age to 21 won't meaningfully stop youth access; underage users already obtain vaping products through informal networks—friends, older peers, or illicit sellers. Some also raise concerns about overregulation and the burden on small businesses. Requiring permits, inspections, and stricter enforcement could disproportionately affect independent vape shops and convenience stores, especially in rural areas.

Advocates have called for policy changes including stricter licensing require-

Keeping Brothers and Sisters Together in Foster Care

Sponsored—Across North Carolina, thousands of children rely on foster families for safety and stability. For many, their strongest bond is with a sibling who has shared the same experiences. When children enter foster care, siblings are often their only constant presence. Yet keeping siblings together in the same foster home can be difficult when there aren't enough families able to welcome multiple children. More foster families who can welcome siblings are critically needed across the state.

When children enter foster care, siblings often turn to one another for comfort. They share a history others may not fully understand and can help each other navigate unfamiliar moments.

Despite the importance of these relationships, siblings are sometimes placed in separate foster homes because not enough families can take more than one child. In some cases, younger children are placed more quickly, while older siblings wait longer. That separation can be especially difficult when older children feel responsible for looking after their younger siblings. Although visits and phone calls can help maintain connections, they can't fully replace the comfort of living together.

"Being in the substitute care system was really hard, but having my sister with me made things a lot easier. Home is not a place, but people, and being around my sister is when I feel most like myself. Whenever we were separated, I had a really hard time readjusting, and even now, it is hard for us to see each other. That relationship, or lack thereof now, is critical and should have been protected."

— Elysia L., Moore County
When siblings are placed together in the same foster home, they maintain a vital sense of family and identity. That continuity can help children feel more secure as they adjust. Siblings placed together often support one another through transition. Their bond can ease fear, anxiety, and loneliness, helping children adjust more quickly. Keeping



siblings together also helps preserve relationships that can remain meaningful throughout a child's life.

The Foster Parent Role
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 while families work toward reunification or another permanent plan. They work closely with social workers, birth families, and other professionals to help children stay supported. Foster parents also help create an environment where siblings can continue supporting one another while adjusting to a new home.

The Path to Fostering
The process of becoming a foster parent involves several steps. The first is learning about the foster care role. Prospective foster parents can attend information sessions or

speaking with local agencies to better understand what fostering involves and what placements may fit their household.

The next step is choosing a licensed agency to guide families through the process. Agencies provide training, coordinate placements, and offer ongoing support.

After selecting an agency, prospective foster parents complete training and meet required standards. Training prepares families to support children who may have experienced trauma and to work closely with professionals involved in a child's care.

Next, an assessment of the home and the family's preparedness to foster is conducted. During this stage, agencies review the home environment, discuss household routines, and confirm that safety requirements are met. Once licensed, families may begin receiving placement calls and providing care.

Foster families in North Carolina receive support through programs

and resources designed to help them succeed. Organizations such as the Foster Family Alliance of North Carolina offer opportunities for community, training, and peer support. Programs like Success Coach are available post-permanency to help navigate challenges and build stability.

Foster parents also receive financial assistance to help cover everyday expenses, and youth in foster care receive Medicaid coverage for medical and behavioral health services.

Children and teens in foster care also receive support as they prepare for adulthood. Programs such as NC LINKS help youth build life skills, including financial literacy, career exploration, and planning for independence.

Educational support is available through programs like the Education and Training Voucher (ETV) Program and NC Reach scholarships, which help eligible students pursue college or vocational training.

Together, these programs help young people build a pathway toward opportunity.

Fostering siblings is about more than providing a place to stay. It is about preserving family bonds and offering children the stability of staying together during a difficult time. Keeping siblings together can be especially important in maintaining cultural connections, shared traditions, and a sense of identity that helps children feel grounded.

Foster parents can also play an important role in helping children stay connected to extended family members—supporting relationships with relatives and encouraging those meaningful connections to continue.

By opening your home to siblings in foster care, you can help keep families together. North Carolina offers 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 help siblings stay together when they need each other most.

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HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!

Business & Finance

From East Hargett Street To Modern Raleigh, Black-Owned Businesses Continue Expanding Across The City

East Hargett Street in downtown Raleigh was once known as “Black Main Street,” a thriving commercial corridor in the early 20th century where more than 50 Black-owned businesses operated at its peak. The area included medical and law offices, a hotel, restaurants, barbershops, and retail stores, serving as a central hub for Black economic life during segregation.

Today, remnants of that history remain visible through sidewalk murals along East Hargett Street that highlight the legacy of Black entrepreneurship and the businesses that once defined the area. While the landscape of downtown Raleigh has changed significantly, the influence of that era continues to shape conversations about ownership, opportunity, and economic access in the city.

As Raleigh has grown, Black-owned businesses have expanded across different neighborhoods, building new spaces for commerce, culture, and community engagement. From bookstores and boutiques to food, fashion, and creative services, these businesses continue to reflect both cultural heritage and modern entrepreneurship.

One example is Liberation Station Bookstore, North Carolina’s first



Black-owned children’s bookstore. Recently reopened in Historic Oakwood, the store is owned by Victoria Scott-Miller and specializes in children’s literature centered on Black children and families, offering a curated space focused on representation in early reading.

In downtown Raleigh, Nashona operates as a boutique featuring vibrant African fabrics and handcrafted goods inspired by Tanzanian culture. Owned by Lillian K. Danieli, the shop reflects a blend of cultural heritage and contemporary design, offering clothing and textiles rooted

in traditional craftsmanship.

Another downtown initiative, the Pop-Up Shops on Wilmington Street, was created through a partnership between Downtown Raleigh Alliance and Wake Tech Entrepreneurship & Small Business Center. The program provides short-term retail space and business training for minority and women-owned businesses, helping entrepreneurs test concepts in a high-visibility area with the goal of transitioning into permanent storefronts. One of the program’s success stories includes Unorthodox Vintage, which began as a pop-up vendor be-

fore expanding its presence.

Other Black-owned businesses across Raleigh also reflect the diversity of entrepreneurship in the city. Sir Castle Tees, located on South Street, specializes in custom and resale sneakers including Jordans and Yeezys, while also offering customization services that incorporate design effects such as heat- or UV-sensitive color changes. Owner Michael Phillips began customizing shoes as a hobby in high school and has since built a strong online following.

In tailoring and formalwear, Greenwood South Bespoke Suiting and Tailors has become longstanding Raleigh fixture, offering alterations and custom tailoring services under owner Brian, who has worked in the industry for decades.

In the floral industry, TG Floristry focuses on sustainability and equity by sourcing flowers from local farms and BIPOC growers. Owned by Tiera George, the business emphasizes intentional design and community-centered sourcing practices.

Food and agriculture also remain central to Black entrepreneurship in the region. The Black Farmers’ Market operates on a rotating schedule between Raleigh and Durham, connecting local farmers directly with consumers. With fewer than 2% of

U.S. farmers identifying as Black, the market provides an avenue for supporting Black agricultural producers while increasing access to fresh food in the Triangle area.

In the culinary space, ORO Restaurant and Lounge, owned by chef Chris Hylton, has become a notable part of downtown Raleigh’s dining

scene, offering shareable dishes designed for group dining experiences.

Meanwhile, in the broader regional food and baking scene, Bestow Baked Goods in Holly Springs, owned by Heather Sutton, has gained attention for custom desserts and event catering that emphasize personal detail and presentation.



Jolly's Catering Brings Comfort Food Onto The Streets Of Raleigh

RALEIGH, N.C. — Customers step up to the window at Jolly’s Catering as the smell of fried chicken, seasoned collard greens, and slow-cooked sides fills the air, turning an ordinary food stop into a familiar routine for many in Raleigh.

Jolly’s Catering is a Raleigh-based soul food truck and catering business known for its hearty comfort dishes and steady local presence. Founded in 2014, the business was named after James A. Shufford Sr., honoring its roots and family connection.

The truck serves a menu rooted in Southern comfort cooking, including fried chicken, collard greens, macaroni and cheese, and candied yams. One of its most recognizable items, the Big Mama Wrap, combines several signature dishes into a single handheld meal that reflects the business’s home-style approach.

Operating under the motto “Chase the Taste,” Jolly’s emphasizes flavor and familiarity, drawing in customers who often already know what they plan to order before they arrive.

During visits to the food truck, the pace remained steady but relaxed, with customers moving through the line while exchanging brief conversations with staff. Many appeared to be repeat visitors, suggesting a loyal customer base built through consistency and word of mouth. One customer, Herman Jones, described long-term loyalty to the business, saying, “Been chasing the taste for years now and Jolly’s is truly unmatched in delivering smiles wherever I’ve had the pleasure of following this food truck.”

Food trucks like Jolly’s have become an increasingly visible part of Raleigh’s small business landscape, offering accessible dining options while also serving as entry points for entrepreneurship. For many operators, mobile food service provides a way to build a customer base without the overhead of a traditional restaurant.

As Raleigh continues to grow, businesses such as Jolly’s Catering highlight how food can function as both service and connection point. Through familiar flavors and consistent presence, the business contributes to the city’s evolving food culture while maintaining a strong sense of accessibility and community.

A Troubling Pattern of Racial Disparities In Wells Fargo’s Mortgage Lending

By Jheri Hardaway

Staff Writer

Charlotte, NC — Wells Fargo’s mortgage lending patterns demonstrate significant racial disparities in Charlotte and across North Carolina, according to a new report released by Americans for Financial Reform Education Fund, North Carolina United Power for Action/NC Industrial Areas Foundation, Organized Power in Numbers, and UNITE HERE North Carolina. The study analyzed nearly 25,000 North Carolina mortgage applications and over 16,000 mortgage loans at Wells Fargo between 2020 and 2024 and found racial disparities across several key metrics.

This is not Wells Fargo’s first time being in hot water for questionable banking practices. Wells Fargo denied Black, Latino, and Asian mortgage applicants about twice as frequently as white applicants. Wells Fargo rejected 22.5% of Black applicants, 25.6% of Latino applicants, and 20.3% of Asian applicants, compared with 10.3% of white applicants between 2020 and 2024. These racial disparities persisted even when controlling for income. People of color comprise the majority of the popula-



tion in 27.3% of North Carolina census tracts, but Wells Fargo took only 15.4% of its mortgage applications and made only 14.3% of its loans in these areas. On a personal note, I was denied a mortgage loan from Wells Fargo in 2021, despite having excellent credit. As I moved forward in the lending process, I was later approved for \$100,000 over what I was seeking from Wells Fargo with a different financial institution.

“The report underscores just how far away Wells Fargo is from cleaning up its long history of customer abuses. Regulators must immediately investigate this disturbing new evidence of racial disparities in Wells Fargo’s mortgage lending,” said Senator Elizabeth Warren

North Carolina is facing a significant housing affordability crisis. Roughly two-thirds of residents can’t afford to buy a home, and home

prices have risen steeply across the state. Wells Fargo is the largest bank mortgage lender in the state, but its mortgage applications and loans have fallen by over 70% between 2020 and 2024. Some of the decline is undoubtedly tied to the rising interest rate environment.

“As a Latina woman who works at Wells Fargo, this report is personal. These are my people being denied the opportunity to own a home, to build generational wealth, to leave a legacy to their families— and at two to three times the rate of their white counterparts with the same income, that doesn’t feel like an accident. That feels like redlining,” said Danielle Olivias, a Wells Fargo teller from a unionized branch in Artesia, New Mexico, that is currently in bargaining for their first union contract. “Workers see what is going on. We sit with these families, we know their stories because we live it. We know what this bank is capable of, and we know when something isn’t right. But without a union, we have no protected way to speak up about it. That is why workers across the country are fighting to unionize, not just for ourselves, but for our communities. My people deserve better, and so do we.”

N.C. Commerce Invites Public Feedback To Help Identify New Opportunity Zones

RALEIGH, N.C.—The North Carolina Department of Commerce invites local governments, economic development professionals, and all members of the public to review and provide recommendations on a set of candidate areas across the state that could eventually be certified as North Carolina’s new Opportunity Zones. Governor Josh Stein tapped the Department to solicit broad input regarding which of the qualifying low-income census tracts hold the most potential to attract investment and economic and housing development opportunities for the state.

“The Opportunity Zone program attracts dynamic capital investment into areas of the state that need it most,” said Commerce Secretary Lee Lilley. “The renewal of this federal program will help us expand housing supply, spur community-driven development, and create new jobs in North Carolina

The Opportunity Zone program was first created in 2017 as part of federal tax legislation, authorizing each state to designate up to 25 percent of its total low-income census tracts as qualified Opportunity Zones. Low-income census tracts are areas where the poverty rate is 20 percent or greater and/or family income is less than 80% of the area’s median income. The legislation created a tax break for qualified investors who wish to re-invest unrealized capital gains, avoiding standard capital gain tax obligations. The program was originally set to stop accepting new investments after December 31, 2026, but it was recently reauthorized under Public Law 119-21 and made permanent, with new tract and Zone designations now called for every 10 years.

In the new round, North Carolina has a pool of 807 low-income census tracts to choose from and will be able to nominate 202 tracts to become

North Carolina Opportunity Zones. The new process provides an opportunity to strategically align federal tax incentives with state and local economic development priorities. Local leaders and people providing feedback should follow three state level guidelines when evaluating eligible census tracts for their ability to support long-term economic competitiveness and community revitalization.

1. Business Development and Job Creation

◦ Prioritize census tracts with strong potential to attract or expand businesses in high growth, high wage sectors such as advanced manufacturing, technology, life sciences, clean energy, and other targeted high wage industries.

◦ Consider tracts containing industrial sites, including mega sites, certified sites, or select sites previously identified and prioritized by Commerce or the Economic Develop-

ment Partnership of North Carolina (EDPNC).

◦ Consider tracts with economic development projects underway with additional investment needed when the OZ 2.0 designations are in effect.

2. Strategic Local Revitalization

◦ Prioritize tracts supported by documented local plans and/or recent investments for community revitalization, industrial site redevelopment, mixed-use projects, or other community-driven initiatives.

3. Pathways to Increased Housing Supply in High Need Areas

◦ Prioritize tracts where OZ designation can meaningfully expand housing supply, particularly areas near major employment centers or transit corridors, locations with recent public infrastructure investments, identified sites targeted for significant housing development, and areas with documented regional housing needs.



Workers Memorial Day Observed In Raleigh With 196-Bell Tribute

RALEIGH, N.C. — On Tuesday, April 28, workers, union members, and community leaders gathered at Nash Square near the Fallen Firefighters Memorial to observe Workers Memorial Day. The event honored those across North Carolina who were sickened, injured, or killed on the job while renewing calls for stronger workplace safety protections. During the memorial service, a bell was tolled 196 times, representing each worker in the state who died in 2024, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

North Carolina State AFL-CIO President Braxton Winston addressed concerns about federal efforts to weaken workplace safety enforcement, including the role of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration. Faith leaders, including Rev. Jennifer Copeland, Imam Sami Kocak, and Rabbi Noah Rubin-Blöse, offered prayers for workers and their families.

Spirit Airlines Built A Model The Industry Copied. Then It Collapsed

Spirit Airlines, the scrappy discounter that once rattled the industry with cheeky ads and rock-bottom fares, took its final flight after 34 years of upending the business of flying.

Once worth as much as roughly \$5.5 billion on the stock market, the airline known for its bright yellow planes said Saturday it had shut down after its final flight departed from Detroit and landed safely in Dallas.

“For more than 30 years, Spirit Airlines has played a pioneering role in making travel more accessible and bringing people together while driving affordability across the industry,” CEO Dave Davis said in a statement. The announcement comes after

two bankruptcy filings in as many years that allowed Spirit to repay lenders. That was followed in recent months by a final, mad-dash scramble to save money by cutting routes, squeezing concessions from unions and pursuing a potential financing deal with the Trump administration that could have provided a lifeline had it panned out.

But in the end, higher jet fuel prices triggered by the Iran war drained cash from the business at an accelerating pace, forcing it to call it quits.

“This is tremendously disappointing and not the outcome any of us wanted,” Davis said.

It began as Charter One Airlines, which ran vacation tours in the early



80s, then grew in popularity and profits two decades later with no-frills “unbundled” fares allowing travelers to forgo basic services — bag handling, seat selection, even the printing of tickets — or pay extra.

Proudly penny-pinching and irritatingly so for many passengers, Spirit was for years run by the famously frugal Ben Baldanza, who ordered his burgers plain, bristled at paying extra for pickles he didn’t want, and flew in the same cramped seats as his customers. He was unapologetic about the airline’s nickel-and-dime them, saying the issue wasn’t that Spirit was cheap, but that passengers were seeing an itemized bill for the first time — and

didn’t like it.

For all the complaints, though, Spirit’s model became so influential that giant airlines with decades more operating history and global destinations found they had to follow suit by slashing prices and introducing “basic economy” fares.

On its final day of operations, Spirit had safely flown more than 50,000 passengers, a company spokesperson said. The airline was also working to get more than 1,300 crew members back home. About 17,000 employees — some with more than 25 years at the airline — learned Friday they had lost their jobs, many finding out through media reports, the spokesperson said.

'Playing A Waiting Game:' Triangle Small Business Owners Hope To Receive Refunds From Illegal Tariffs

WUNC - In 2021, Karina Zimmerman opened Honeypress as a pop-up stationery store, where one could purchase high quality pens, wash tape, Studio Ghibli and Moomin planners, and Lunar New Year red envelopes. Zimmerman has a boundless passion for Asian stationery, but running the business has not been easy. Honeypress briefly had a brick-and-mortar location at Boxyard RTP, which closed in 2024. The last year was especially difficult for the shop after President Donald Trump imposed broad tariffs that hiked up the cost of imports from many countries. Zimmerman said that up to 70% of Honeypress' products are imported from Asian countries. "My business can't run without imports because the basis of it is Asian stationery — its appeal, its novelty, the quality is what people flock to," she said. On April 20, business owners flocked to the U.S. Customs and Border Protection's new online por-

tal to apply for tariff refunds. N.C. Attorney General Jeff Jackson last Friday urged businesses in the state to apply for them. "These tariffs cost North Carolina families and businesses \$3.5 billion," Jackson said in a press release. "That was money people needed for food, gas, and running their businesses. I hope eligible businesses act now to apply for refunds. The newly announced system is a good first step, but we need a faster process for refunds that doesn't burden businesses." Confusion around the online portal When Zimmerman tried to figure out how to use the portal, she found it confusing and learned that only "importers of record" were eligible to apply for refunds. Honeypress had worked through a brokerage firm, like DHL, FedEx, and UPS, to ship products to the U.S. Those companies are authorized as importers of record to apply for refunds.

"Now, I'm left to be at the mercy of these brokerage firms," Zimmerman said. "There's no guidance in terms of when we would be issued (the refund) or what they would consider as eligible. So for me, as a small business owner, I'm just playing a waiting game because I am powerless to do anything of my own." Zimmerman said the cost of paying tariffs, plus the removal of the de minimus trade exemption, ate roughly 30% to 40% of her profits. She tried to minimize price increases to Honeypress' products — however, to keep her profit margins consistent after factoring in shipping, broker fees and tariffs, a notebook that would have cost, say, \$8 to \$10 before tariffs had to increase to \$12 to \$14. Zimmerman said it's become increasingly difficult to sustain Honeypress as a business. "It's like (I'm) running the business for free or even at a deficit," she said. "I've seriously had to con-

sider whether or not I could keep going." "Free money" for importers Andrew Greenland, assistant professor of economics at North Carolina State University, is skeptical that businesses who worked through a third party will receive the refunds they're owed. "Someone will get something back," he said. "The broker who imported everything and has the paperwork that shows the documentation that they paid for the tariffs and sold the (goods) onto the business owner. Any of the subsequent reimbursement — that's going to have to be a negotiation between them and the broker. It's not obvious to me that that third party has any legal obligation to pay that back. Maybe you get it back if that broker thinks that not giving it to you would mean they lose subsequent business." Greenland further noted that it's not clear cut how much each person paid for the cost of the tariffs. The



primary importer has to pay the tariff, he said, but they might pass all of it or sometimes a portion of it down to the business that wants to sell the products, and that business passes on some of the costs to the consumer. But he asserted that for primary importers, the refunds are "free money." "Because if you're the primary importer and you pass all of the tariff costs on to people who are further down in your supply chain, well those people have already reimbursed you for the cost of your tariffs, right?" Greenland said. "So the rest of us end up paying for it. Meanwhile, you've lost businesses that have gone out because supply chains have gotten worse and costs have gone up for them." Since the online refund portal opened last week, about 15% of tariff refund claims have been rejected, according to a legal filing by U.S. Customs and Border Protection. Political climate forces business owners to be strategic Sam Ratto, who founded and has operated Videri Chocolate Factory in Raleigh's Warehouse District since 2011, largely imports cocoa beans from the Dominican Republic and Columbia, as well as Ecuador, Peru, Tanzania, and Guatemala. Ratto said he had to stop importing

cocoa beans from Vietnam, due to the high tariff rate imposed on Vietnamese goods. Ratto said he tried to work with vendors who had a relationship with U.S. Customs or a tariff agency, and, in anticipation of a potential refund process, Videri shifted away from working with vendors who didn't offer to pay the tariff. He said that he has a good relationship with his cocoa bean broker. "They started putting the tariff line item on all our invoices so they had a better shot of getting a refund if it ever came in," he said. He didn't have an exact figure for how much he paid in tariffs last year, but said "if we spent a couple hundred thousand dollars on the cost of goods last year, I'd say you're looking at an additional 20% to 50% of tariffs we did not budget for." "I think it's insane that somebody decided that they would pay for their tax cuts by taxing small businesses," Ratto said. "I think it's insane history is repeating itself in this way in the name of 'American security.' ... It's really difficult to keep going through these cycles as a business owner, but I love what I do and I love the community that I'm in. I make bean-to-bar chocolate and I'm going to keep trying to do that as long as I possibly can."

U.S. Sen. Thom Tillis To Speak At Campbell University Law School Hooding Graduation

By Jheri Hardaway
Staff Writer

U.S. Sen. Thom Tillis (R-N.C.) will offer the commencement address at Campbell University School of Law's 48th annual hooding and graduation ceremony on Friday, May 8, 2026, Dean J. Rich Leonard has announced. "I am proud to announce that Senator Tillis will serve as our hooding and graduation speaker as we celebrate 50 years as a law school," Leonard said. "He is an important voice in our national discourse." The celebration is scheduled for 10 a.m. at Memorial Auditorium in the Martin Marietta Center for the Performing Arts in downtown Raleigh. "It will be a true honor to speak at Campbell Law's commencement ceremony and to meet the next gen-

eration of North Carolina's attorneys," said Tillis, who was first elected to represent North Carolina in 2014 and is currently serving in his second term after being re-elected in 2020. "These graduates will provide remarkable leadership in our state and beyond." Tillis, who is a member of the Senate Finance Committee, Veterans' Affairs Committee, Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee, and Judiciary Committee, announced on June 29, 2025, that he would not seek re-election to a third term. He plans to finish his current term, which ends in January 2027. Before serving in the Senate, he was Speaker of the House in the North Carolina General Assembly, where he played an instrumental role in enacting job-creating policies and reforming North Carolina's tax and regulatory codes.

Tillis was born into a working-class family with his father, mother, and five siblings. During his childhood, his family was frequently forced to relocate wherever his parents could find work. After graduating from high school, Tillis was unable to afford college, so he took a job as a warehouse records clerk, earning minimum wage. He knows firsthand how difficult it is to raise a family while attending school at night, struggling to make ends meet. Through hard work and dedication, Tillis quickly moved up the corporate ladder, earning his degree at 36 and becoming a top-level executive at PricewaterhouseCoopers and IBM. His 29-year private sector career in technology and management consulting provided him with a deep understanding of policymaking and the

management of complex organizations. Since its founding in 1976, Campbell Law has developed lawyers who possess moral conviction, social compassion, and professional competence, and who view the law as a calling to serve others. Among its accolades, the school has been recognized by the American Bar Association (ABA) as having the nation's top Professionalism Program and by the American Academy of Trial Lawyers for having the nation's best Trial Advocacy Program. Campbell Law boasts nearly 5,000 alumni, who make their home in nearly all 50 states and beyond. In 2026, Campbell Law is celebrating 50 years of graduating legal leaders and 17 years of being located in a state-of-the-art facility in the heart of North Carolina's Capital City.



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Health and Wellness

North Carolina House Democrats Seek Bipartisan Support To Strengthen Food Security And Ban Dynamic Pricing

NC NEWSLINE -Buncombe Rep. Eric Ager says his new bill, titled "The Affordable Food Act," was inspired by a problem that is being felt in every county of the state: rising food and grocery prices.

"Wages have just not kept up with the cost of basic necessities," said Ager. "The same basket of groceries – cost goes up, same paycheck stretches less."

Beyond the affordability crisis, Ager says far too many families are unable to purchase fresh food.

House Bill 1057 would direct the Department of Health and Human Services to request a waiver from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) authorizing the state to operate a nutrition incentive program that would help families buy more fresh fruits and vegetables.

Ager says the bill would also address the state's food deserts, where residents live miles away from a full-service grocery store.

"Where transportation is limited, convenience stores become the default food system," said Ager. "Fami-

lies should have access to real food, not just whatever you can find on a convenience store shelf."

USDA data finds 11 food deserts in Buncombe County. Ager said that's about 23,000 residents in his own district who are unable to routinely access fresh, healthy foods.

H1057 supports mobile markets, food banks, nonprofits, local governments, and food co-ops willing to serve underserved areas.

"The grant program in this bill would help us bring food to the communities that need it most," explained Ager.

Rep. Ray Jeffers, a Person County farmer, said the legislation will also create a farmer stabilization program within the North Carolina Department of Agriculture to purchase food products grown or processed in North Carolina for distribution to public and nonprofit food assistance programs.

Jeffers says historically underserved producers and those operating small and mid-sized farms are more likely to stay in agriculture if



they have reliable buyers.

The bill also earmarks \$47 million in recurring funds for farmland preservation. North Carolina is losing 100,000 acres of farmland and forest land a year.

"Preserving working farms is not just about rural nostalgia. It is about our food supply, our rural economies, our family farmers, and our

state's long-term resilience," said Jeffers.

Rep. Garland Pierce (D-Scotland) signed onto the bill this week because a significant portion of his district covers Fort Bragg.

The proposed Targeted Military and Veteran Food Assistance Program in H1057 would provide \$140 million in recurring funds to address

food insecurity among members of the military, veterans, and military families.

"No one who served this country should struggle to feed their family," said Pierce.

In 2023, one in five military and veteran family families indicated some level of food insecurity, according to a study conducted for the Military Family Advisory Network.

Pierce said this was not charity, but an obligation the state owes to its military men and women.

"We ask their families to endure deployments, uncertainties, and sacrifice," said Pierce. "The least we can do is to make sure these same families are not left behind wondering how they will be able to feed their families."

One notable final section of the bill that would benefit consumers would prohibit retail grocery stores from using dynamic pricing. Dynamic pricing allows electronic price tags in stores to change based on demand, the time of day, and other market conditions.

Ager said while electronic shelf labels may be more efficient for retailers, the real-time pricing makes it harder for consumers to plan, compare, and budget.

"Families should not have to wonder whether the price of milk, eggs, bread or baby formula will change while they are walking through the store," said Ager. "Grocery shopping is not a stock exchange."

Earlier this month, Maryland became the first state in the nation to ban the practice of dynamic pricing, which includes consumers' personal data to set prices for goods or services.

Ager acknowledged the comprehensive legislation comes with a fairly large fiscal note, but he's hopeful to work across the aisle as the state budget is crafted.

"We do spend lots of money down here in Raleigh," Ager pointed out. "And to us, we ought to focus on the people, the farmers and the veterans who are the ones really needing help in this day and age."

Nc Senate Aims To Curb Medicaid Costs and Allow More Insight Into Hospital Charges

NC NEWSLINE - A state Senate committee advanced a bill Thursday that would limit the fees hospitals can charge Medicaid for outpatient care.

House Bill 727 would prevent hospitals tacking extra fees, called facility fees, to Medicaid bills when patients are treated outside some hospital settings.

To charge a facility fee under the bill, hospital systems will have to have treated patients in a main hospital or nearby building, a building with an emergency department, or an ambulatory surgical center.

Sen. Jim Burgin (R-Harnett) said this week that for years now, hospitals have been adding the fees to bills for outpatient office visits.

This is one of several bills legislators have promised to consider this year as they look to control rising Medicaid costs.

"This is a step toward trying to address fees, and especially facility fees, that are charged at facilities that have either been purchased or that are away from campus," Burgin told members of the Senate Health Care Committee this week.

The proposal is a narrower version of a provision included in a sweeping bill the Senate passed last year aimed at reducing healthcare costs. The Senate initially wanted to curb facility fees for other kinds of insurance, in addition to Medicaid. The state House did not consider that Senate bill.

Hospitals have objected to proposed facility fee limits. Josh Dobson, CEO of the North Carolina Healthcare Association — a group that represents hospitals — told legislators in March that facility fees help pay for medical staff, equipment, and supplies in hospitals and hospital-owned clinics, NC Newsline reported.

The Senate Health Care Committee also approved House Bill 390, which would allow the state's Medicaid managed care companies to ask hospitals for itemized bills when a patient's inpatient Medicaid charges top \$250,000, or in some cases where a patient's treatment costs more than expected.

Managed care plans can already ask for itemized hospital bills for charges over \$250,000, according to the state's guide for managed care billing. The bill the Senate committee endorsed Thursday would allow the managed care companies to ask for detailed hospital bills for unusually high charges even when that \$250,000 threshold isn't reached.

Sen. Benton Sawrey (R-Johnston) said the proposals are aimed at controlling costs and providing more transparency "so we have more information about what is, in fact, driving the costs."

With the state looking at paying an additional \$1 billion for Medicaid in the next budget year, it's fair to ask why costs are going up, Sawrey said.



UNC System awards over \$6.4 million to expand rural health care training programs across North Carolina

RALEIGH, N.C. – The University of North Carolina System has awarded over \$6.4 million in state-funded grants to help its universities, North Carolina Area Health Education Centers, and rural hospitals expand and establish new rural health care workforce training programs.

The funding comes from the UNC System Rural Residency Medical Education and Training Fund, established by the North Carolina General Assembly in the 2023 State Appropriations Act. The goal of the fund is clear: use flexible state dollars to train more health care providers in rural North Carolina and connect them to the communities that need them most.

More than \$4.4 million dollars from that fund will support 21 grants that feature interprofessional student training across several disciplines, including medicine, nursing, clinical psychology, social work, speech language pathology, occupational therapy, pharmacy, and dentistry. Another \$1.3 million will support the development of a rural family medicine residency program at UNC Health Blue Ridge in Morganton, and a rural general surgery program partnership between Southeastern Area Health Education Center and Novant Health in Pender and Brunswick counties.

"Educating doctors, nurses, and health professionals to serve our state is one of the University's most important responsibilities," said UNC System President Peter Hans. "Every North Carolinian deserves quality care close to home, and we are committed to that mission."

Other grant-funded projects build new training pathways around the state.

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill's Military Education Immersion Center will use \$200,000 to create rural training tracks for military health care professionals to work with surgical residents and physician assistant graduates, helping more providers gain experience at rural UNC Health hospitals where there are staffing shortages.

Several grants address behavioral health and substance use treatment. UNC Pembroke received nearly \$400,000 to help more social workers treat people with substance use disorders in southeastern North Carolina.

In the high country, Appalachian State University and Mountain Area Health Education Center's rural family medicine program will use nearly \$200,000 to train family medicine residents alongside graduate nursing students and others in a clinic that cares for children with behavioral and developmental needs. This experience prepares graduate students and family medicine residents to confidently care for young patients in areas that lack pediatricians.

As part of this initiative, the UNC System Office will partner with the Sheps Center to provide technical assistance to grantees. Rural workforce outcomes will also be tracked and evaluated.

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Arts & Culture

Motown Girl Group Martha And The Vandellas Recorded A Civil Rights Era Anthem And Fought For Fair, Equal Pay

THE CONVERSATION - The CBS television show "It's What's Happening Baby" aired a music video featuring Martha and the Vandellas performing their hit song "Nowhere to Run" to kick off its national broadcast dedicated to Detroit on June 28, 1965.

In the video, the Detroit-based trio sang about how they could not escape missing an ex-lover after a breakup while sitting in a white Mustang moving slowly down the assembly line in the Ford Motor Co.'s River Rouge plant.

As a cultural and labor historian, I see the "Nowhere to Run" video as an iconic testament to Detroit's reputation as the "Motor City" and the role of the autoworker in the American imagination.

Motown founder and CEO Berry Gordy, Jr. worked on the Ford assembly line and used it as inspiration for Hitsville U.S.A., the famed headquarters and music recording studio that served as a space to train performers and perfect the "Motown sound" for the masses.

Martha and the Vandellas were part of Motown's illustrious roster of artists in the 1960s. Initially comprised of Martha Reeves, Rosalind Ashford and Annette Beard, and with members changing over the next three decades, they helped establish the Black "girl group." They presented themselves as working class in videos like "Nowhere to Run."

Their classic anthem "Dancing in the Street" reflected the revolutionary mood of civil rights protesters, especially Black Americans in the 1960s. As lead singer, Reeves also emerged as

a pioneering R&B "diva," helping pave the way for Black female solo vocalists like Whitney Houston, Janet Jackson, Mary J. Blige and Beyoncé.

A patient path to stardom

Martha Reeves was born in Eufaula, Alabama, on July 18, 1941. Soon after, her family moved to Detroit's east side. Music occupied a central place in her life from childhood.

Reeves writes in her 1994 memoir, "Dancing in the Street: Confessions of a Motown Diva," about her father serenading her mother with his guitar while she was pregnant with Martha. Her mother, Ruby, also sang. Reeves' parents passed their love for music to her, and she sang in her church choir and aspired to a life of performance.

"At that young age I was already hooked on pleasing the crowd with my singing," Reeves wrote.

Reeves graduated from Northeastern High School. As a teenager, she used fake IDs to get into night clubs to watch singers perform, and she sang in open mics and talent shows. She scored her first break after earning a three-night performance at the 20 Grand, a popular Detroit night club located on 14th Street and Warren Avenue.

It was after one of those performances when she met William Stevenson, Motown Records' executive for discovering new talent. Stevenson invited Reeves to the label's headquarters.

Reeves came to the studio, but she didn't audition for reasons that aren't entirely clear today. Instead, Stevenson told her she could answer her phones. That's how she got a job in the A&R Department and began working with other Motown artists.



In 1957, Reeves joined her first group, the Del-Phis. Formed by Edward "Pops" Larkins, the Del-Phis also included leader Gloria Jean Williamson, Rosalind Ashford and Annette Beard.

Reeves soon caught another break.

In September 1962, Stevenson called for her to fill in for Mary Wells in a Marvin Gaye studio session. Reeves enlisted the other Del-Phis, and they performed so well that they became the supporting vocal group for Gaye.

After the Del-Phis toured with Gaye and recorded "I'll Have to Let Him Go," Gordy offered Reeves, Beard and Ashford a recording contract. The

group also took on a new name, Martha and the Vandellas.

Martha and the Vandellas enjoyed commercial success soon after, with songs like "Come and Get These Memories," "Quicksand" and "Heatwave."

An anthem for revolution set to a groove

"Dancing in the Street," written by Gaye, Stevenson and Ivy Jo Hunter, was released in the summer of 1964 and became a signature hit for Martha and the Vandellas.

Reeves wrote in her autobiography that she did not like "Dancing in the Street."

How Harriet Tubman, Philadelphia Abolitionists Coordinated Dangerous Journeys To Freedom

By Jordan Meadows

Staff Writer

Thousands of teachers, school staff, custodians, parents, and public education advocates flooded Halifax Mall in downtown Raleigh on Friday, filling the Halifax Mall behind the Legislative Building before marching around the Capitol in what organizers and observers described as one of the largest educator rallies in North Carolina history.

The demonstration—organized by the North Carolina Association of Educators under the banner "Kids Over Corporations"—forced at least 22 school districts across the state to cancel classes due to staff absences.

The crowd, largely dressed in red, carried signs and chanted as they circled the Capitol, continuing a statewide "Red for Ed" movement that has now produced major teacher rallies in 2018, 2019, and again in 2026.

But where previous rallies unfolded against a backdrop of ongoing budget negotiations, this one arrived at a moment of compounding crisis—a state without a finalized budget, a Supreme Court that had just gutted a landmark education funding lawsuit, a teacher pay ranking that has sunk to 46th in the nation, and a projection that North Carolina will be the only state in the country where average teacher pay actually declines in the coming school year.

"Enough is enough," said NCAE President-elect Christina Cole, a Wake County special education teacher. "Today, all of these bad actors are on notice, and we demand they put kids first."

North Carolina's average teacher salary stands at approximately \$59,971, roughly \$16,500 below the projected national average. The state ranks 46th nationally in average teacher pay and 38th in starting pay, which currently sits around \$41,000. To match Georgia, the highest-paying state in the Southeast, North Carolina teachers would need a raise of roughly 21%. The Education Law Center recently ranked North Carolina dead last in funding effort relative to state wealth, a metric that captures not just how much a state spends on education but how much it spends given what it could afford to spend.

In Wake County, home to Raleigh and the state's largest school district, the pressure is acute. As of August



2025, some categories of teaching positions carried a vacancy rate of 35.6%. The district employs more than 10,000 teachers and has been hiring aggressively to fill gaps, with the most critical shortages in special education, math, and science.

The rally drew participants from at least 14 North Carolina counties, including Buncombe, Cabarrus, Chatham, Durham, Forsyth, Guilford, Harnett, Lee, Moore, New Hanover, Onslow, Orange, Pitt, and Wake. Students from across those counties also made the trip to the General Assembly to participate in advocacy alongside their teachers.

Rockingham County Sheriff Sam Page traveled to Raleigh to stand with educators, offering a law enforcement perspective that undercut any attempt to frame the rally as a narrowly partisan or urban concern: "We're first in flight, we need to be first in education," Page said. "The biggest thing is, a lot of our teachers feel disrespected. They're underpaid, underfunded, and they need more support in the schools."

Jason Johnson, named North Carolina's Principal of the Year for 2025, described what teacher pay actually looks like on the ground as a daily reality for educators juggling multiple jobs to make ends meet. "I have multiple teachers that work multiple jobs—Walmart, Costco, Old Navy, gas stations," Johnson said. "Teacher pay has to be a focus."

The voices extended beyond the classroom. Daniel Webb, a custodian for New Hanover County Schools, spoke to the physical deterioration of school facilities that goes hand in hand with chronic underfunding.

"I'm tired of going to my building — opening up in the mornings, the sound of the alarm — and seeing more band-aids than bricks," Webb said. "I'm tired of having to do the work of three custodians and getting paid for one."

Ceil O'Loughlin, a retired Wake County educator who spent three decades in the classroom, made the trip to Halifax Mall to demand higher wages for the teachers who came after her.

Jenny Easter, president of the Forsyth County Association of Educators pushed back against any framing of the rally as a partisan exercise.

"It does not matter if your county is blue, if it is purple like we are, or if it is red," Easter said. "We all came together to fight for what our schools deserve, our students deserve, and what our people who work in them deserve."

Running beneath virtually every speech and conversation at the rally was a set of overlapping policy grievances that educators argue have compounded into a systemic crisis. The first is the state's Opportunity Scholarship voucher program, which allows families of any income level to use state funds at private schools. North Carolina allocated approximately \$625 million to the program this school year, serving more than 106,000 students. For public school advocates, that figure represents money drained from a system already ranked last in the country for funding effort.

Governor Josh Stein's proposed budget would phase out the voucher program entirely, and he has also put forward a "Critical Needs Bud-

get" that would raise starting teacher pay to \$53,120 by the 2026-27 fiscal year—a move his office says would make North Carolina the most competitive state in the Southeast for starting teachers.

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"Republicans are committed to quality education for all students and empowering families with the best education options," Mercer said. "The left-wing special interests, like NCAE and the national unions, are not aligned with the vast majority of North Carolina teachers—those who want the best for their students and don't want to be used as political props."

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Museum Unveils New Exhibit: Shaping Our Future

Durham, N.C. — The Museum of Life and Science has opened its newest exhibit, From Here On: Shaping Our Future, an immersive experience designed to spark conversation about the future of the planet. Featuring both indoor and outdoor elements, the exhibit invites visitors of all ages to engage with ideas around climate, sustainability, and collective action.

Centered on some of today's most urgent environmental challenges, the exhibit expands the Museum's approach to science education by

helping guests better understand climate change while exploring pathways toward a more sustainable and equitable future. Museum leaders say the goal is not only to inform, but to inspire.

"Climate change is an issue of great concern for our youth on local and global scales," said President and CEO Carrie Heinonen. She noted that updates to the Museum's Weather gallery evolved into a broader effort to address climate topics and encourage visitors to imagine hopeful futures.

The exhibit combines hands-on activities, immersive technology, and storytelling to highlight both global data and local innovation. A centerpiece is "Science on a Sphere®," which visualizes human impacts on Earth, alongside "En-ROADS," an interactive climate simulation that translates user decisions into evolving musical compositions.

Creative engagement is also central to the experience. In the "Imagine" area, visitors can design cities, create posters, and contribute to a collective artwork, while younger

guests explore in a dedicated play space. Additional features highlight North Carolina-based environmental efforts and offer interactive opportunities for reflection and action.

Extending outdoors, the "Climate Patio" demonstrates sustainable design through features like rainwater capture, a green wall, and temperature-regulating structures. Now open to the public, From Here On: Shaping Our Future encourages visitors to explore solutions, collaborate, and recognize their role in shaping what comes next.

However, she made it her own, and Reeves later acknowledged that the song embodied the spirit of civil rights protests.

"It became the anthem of the decade," Reeves wrote.

She was right.

At the time of the song's release, the Civil Rights Movement was in full swing. Black Americans in Harlem took to the streets to protest the killing of 15-year-old James Powell by an off-duty New York Police Department officer.

The 1960s set off a string of "long, hot summers" as racial tensions intensified. Black folks in the Watts neighborhood in Los Angeles in 1965 protested in the streets in response to police violence.

More than 100 protests were organized in response to Martin Luther King Jr.'s assassination in 1968, from Chicago to Washington and Baltimore.

Detroit erupted a year earlier, in July 1967, after Detroit police officers raided a "blind pig," or an unlicensed bar, on 12th Street.

The iconic opening lines of "Dancing in the Street" announced a new attitude among Black folks: "Calling out around the world/ Are you ready for a brand new beat?"

The high-octane, optimistic song is laced with slogans interpreted as invitations to take action. Martha and the Vandellas' declaration that "Summer is here and the time is right for dancing in the street" reflected Black Americans' willingness to not only march, but to take measures in their own hands and fight for equality and justice.

Battle for fair pay and recognition

The late 1960s and early 1970s were a time of transition for Reeves and the Vandellas. The Supremes were on the rise and threatened to displace them as the most prominent girl group on the Motown label. Reeves also experienced creative differences with Motown executives and struggled with drug addiction. Then, in 1972, Gordy

moved Motown to Los Angeles so he could try his hand at filmmaking.

Martha and the Vandellas broke up later that year after the release of their album, "Black Magic." However, Reeves continued as a solo artist, releasing five albums, including her self-titled debut "Martha Reeves" in 1974, "The Rest of My Life" in 1976 and "We Meet Again" in 1978, among others.

Martha Reeves and the Vandellas, along with many Motown artists, experienced a resurgence in popularity during the 1980s. Motown Records' 25th anniversary show in Pasadena, California, in 1983 launched them back into the mainstream. The group reunited and started performing again in 1989.

Also, Reeves and the group sought to resolve their old conflicts with Motown Records. Reeves and various members of the Vandellas sued Gordy and Motown in 1989 for unpaid royalties. Motown Records settled the suit in 1991 for an undisclosed amount.

Four years later, the B-52s inducted Reeves and the Vandellas into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

The diva archetype

Martha and the Vandellas played a vital role in laying the foundation for future all-Black female groups like En Vogue, TLC, SWV and Destiny's Child.

They helped set the standard for turning songs about the trappings of love and heartbreak into anthems. Reeves embraced being an "R&B Diva" long before music critics applied the persona to singers like Mary J. Blige and Beyoncé. Reeves was not just a larger-than-life vocal presence; she showed future generations of Black female vocalists that, to be a diva, one must have control of one's own career.

"We became the Vandellas and with me being the only lead singer, my name was put out there because I did all the work," Reeves said in a 2020 interview. "I did all the singing ... I managed to just come up with my own destiny, with my own future in show business."



Music & Vendors Fill Greensboro's Elm Street For 1st Saturday Stroll

GREENSBORO, N.C. — On the first Saturday of each month, the 300 block of Elm Street in downtown Greensboro transforms into a pedestrian hub filled with music, vendors, food, and family-friendly activities designed to bring the community together outdoors. What is typically a busy city corridor becomes a walkable stretch where residents slow down, explore, and engage with local businesses and entertainment.

The First Saturday Stroll features a rotating mix of local vendors and small businesses offering everything from clothing and jewelry to fresh food and handmade goods. Tables and tents line the street as visitors move between booths, stopping to browse items, talk with vendors, and sample food from participating businesses. The event also includes live music, dancing, and interactive activities for children, along with information guides that help visitors navigate participating vendors and attractions.

This month's programming reflected that variety, with spaces dedicated to games for children, pop-up entertainment, and vendors showcasing both new and returning local products. Music played throughout the block as attendees gathered in clusters, creating a steady flow of foot traffic between storefronts and street vendors.

Whether visiting for the first time or returning as a regular downtown guest, organizers say the Stroll is designed to encourage residents to explore what downtown Greensboro has to offer in a relaxed, open-air environment. The recurring nature of the event helps maintain visibility for small businesses while also creating a consistent community gathering space in the heart of the city.

First Saturday Stroll on Elm continues to serve as a recurring activation of the city's downtown corridor, bringing consistent foot traffic to small businesses while creating a community-centered space for entertainment and engagement. The event not only draws residents into the downtown area but also helps reinforce the connection between local commerce and public space.

Rob Overman, interim executive director of Downtown Greensboro Incorporated, said events like the Stroll also reflect the economic challenges facing small businesses.

"Anytime there's economic uncertainty, the first people to suffer are small businesses," Overman said.

"If you look at the sales receipts and the profit margins from the last couple of years, it really is getting tough for folks."

The mix of entertainment and commerce throughout the event highlights both the vibrancy and the vulnerability of local business communities. While crowds bring energy and visibility to the downtown area, business owners continue to navigate rising costs, shifting consumer spending habits, and competition for attention in an increasingly digital marketplace.

Still, organizers and vendors alike say events like the First Saturday Stroll remain important for sustaining connection between residents and the local business ecosystem. By bringing people into shared public space, the event offers more than shopping or entertainment—it creates a recurring moment where community life, local culture, and economic activity intersect in real time.

Community

North Carolina Teachers Rally, One Of Largest Protests In State History



By Jordan Meadows

Staff Writer

Thousands of teachers, school staff, custodians, parents, and public education advocates flooded Halifax Mall in downtown Raleigh on Friday, filling the Halifax Mall behind the Legislative Building before marching around the Capitol in what organizers and observers described as one of the largest educator rallies in North Carolina history. The demonstration—organized by the North Carolina Association of Educators under the banner "Kids Over Corporations"—forced at least 22 school districts across the state to cancel classes due to staff absences. The crowd, largely dressed in red, carried signs and chanted as they circled the Capitol, continuing a statewide "Red for Ed" movement that has now produced major teacher rallies in 2018, 2019, and again in 2026.

But where previous rallies unfolded against a backdrop of ongoing budget negotiations, this one arrived at a moment of compounding crisis—a state without a finalized budget, a Supreme Court that had just gutted a landmark education funding lawsuit, a teacher pay ranking that has sunk to 46th in the nation, and a projection that North Carolina will be the only state in the country where average teacher pay actually declines in the coming school year.

"Enough is enough," said NCAE President-elect Christina Cole, a Wake County special education teacher. "Today, all of these bad actors are on notice, and we demand they put kids first."

North Carolina's average teacher salary stands at approximately \$59,971, roughly \$16,500 below the projected national average. The state ranks 46th nationally in average teacher pay and 38th in starting pay, which currently sits around \$41,000. To match Georgia, the highest-paying state in the Southeast, North Carolina teachers would need a raise of roughly 21%. The Ed-

ucation Law Center recently ranked North Carolina dead last in funding effort relative to state wealth, a metric that captures not just how much a state spends on education but how much it spends given what it could afford to spend.

In Wake County, home to Raleigh and the state's largest school district, the pressure is acute. As of August 2025, some categories of teaching positions carried a vacancy rate of 35.6%. The district employs more than 10,000 teachers and has been hiring aggressively to fill gaps, with the most critical shortages in special education, math, and science.

The rally drew participants from at least 14 North Carolina counties, including Buncombe, Cabarrus, Chatham, Durham, Forsyth, Guilford, Harnett, Lee, Moore, New Hanover, Onslow, Orange, Pitt, and Wake. Students from across those counties also made the trip to the General Assembly to participate in advocacy alongside their teachers.

Rockingham County Sheriff Sam Page traveled to Raleigh to stand with educators, offering a law enforcement perspective that undercut any attempt to frame the rally as a narrowly partisan or urban concern: "We're first in flight, we need to be first in education," Page said. "The biggest thing is, a lot of our teachers feel disrespected. They're underpaid, underfunded, and they need more support in the schools."

Jason Johnson, named North Carolina's Principal of the Year for 2025, described what teacher pay actually looks like on the ground as a daily reality for educators juggling multiple jobs to make ends meet. "I have multiple teachers that work multiple jobs—Walmart, Costco, Old Navy, gas stations," Johnson said. "Teacher pay has to be a focus."

The voices extended beyond the classroom. Daniel Webb, a custodian for New Hanover County Schools, spoke to the physical deterioration of school facilities that goes hand in hand with chronic underfunding.



"I'm tired of going to my building — opening up in the mornings, the sound of the alarm — and seeing more band-aids than bricks," Webb said. "I'm tired of having to do the work of three custodians and getting paid for one."

Ceil O'Loughlin, a retired Wake County educator who spent three decades in the classroom, made the trip to Halifax Mall to demand higher wages for the teachers who came after her.

Jenny Easter, president of the Forsyth County Association of Educators pushed back against any framing of the rally as a partisan exercise.

"It does not matter if your county is blue, if it is purple like we are, or if it is red," Easter said. "We all came together to fight for what our schools deserve, our students deserve, and what our people who work in them deserve."

Running beneath virtually every speech and conversation at the rally was a set of overlapping policy grievances that educators argue have compounded into a systemic crisis. The first is the state's Opportunity Scholarship voucher program, which allows families of any income level to use state funds at private schools. North Carolina allocated approximately \$625 million to the program this school year, serving more than 106,000 students. For public school advocates, that figure represents money drained from a system already ranked last in the country for funding effort.

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KC Current Edges NC Courage 2-1 in Front of Sellout Cary Crowd

The NC Courage fell 2-1 to the Kansas City Current in a National Women's Soccer League matchup on May 2, 2026, in Cary, N.C., in front of a sellout crowd of 10,031.

First-half action featured strong defensive and midfield battles, with Hannah Bettfort competing against Kayla Sharples, while Chioma Okafor and Manaka Matsukubo pressured Kansas City's attack led by Michelle Cooper and Debinha.

Kansas City secured the win behind a first-half goal from Cooper, holding off the Courage to take all three points. (Photo by Steve Worthy)



NCCU Swears In Robert E. Gaddy As The School's New Chief of Police

Brother Robert E. Gaddy was officially sworn in as Chief of Police at North Carolina Central University on Friday, April 17, 2026, during a formal ceremony held on campus in Durham, N.C.

The event brought together family members, university leadership, and fraternity brothers to mark the occasion. The oath of office was administered by fraternity brother Michael Morgan, and the ceremony concluded with remarks from fraternity brother Jacob Bagley.

Gaddy, a member of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity's Beta Phi Chapter in Durham, now steps into his role leading campus law enforcement at NCCU.

HARNETT COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Continued from page 1



Raleigh Nonprofit Uses Small Cash Grants To Help Lift People Out Of Homelessness

NC NEWSLINE - Tristin Taylor grew emotional as she recalled slipping into homelessness after debilitating migraines caused her to lose her job.

Taylor, 63, had been a regional salesperson for a high-end skin care line, earned a good salary and considered herself solidly middle class. After burning through her savings, she landed in the shelter. She rode Raleigh city buses to pass the time because the shelter where she slept closed its doors at 7 a.m., and didn't reopen them until 4 p.m.

"It was just traumatic," Taylor said. "It really was the worst thing I've ever been through in my life."

About 18 months ago, a week before Thanksgiving, Taylor was able to leave the shelter with help from the Cooper Charitable Foundation, a Raleigh-based nonprofit that provides housing stability grants to help people experiencing homelessness move into permanent housing.

The foundation was created in 2024 by John Cooper, president and CEO of Cooper Tacia, a Raleigh-based general contracting



firm. Cooper founded the nonprofit to honor his grandmother, who he says set an example of "giving to others."

The \$2,500 Taylor received from the foundation was the answer to her prayers.

"It was just a miracle that day," Taylor said. "I fell to my knees and was like, 'There is a God.'"

With a deadline to move out of the shelter approaching, Taylor had worried that she would be pushed onto the streets. She didn't have an income, so she couldn't pay rent or the upfront costs to move into an apartment. Taylor had been approved for Social Security disability benefits, but the monthly checks had not yet begun to come.

The Cooper Foundation stepped in with a housing stability grant to help Taylor with first month's rent, security deposit and last month's rent. The typical grant averages about \$2,500, according to the foundation.

The upfront cost to move into permanent housing is what often keeps people trapped in homelessness, said Mary-Ann Baldwin, the foundation's executive director and a former Raleigh mayor.

Baldwin said the foundation has helped 311 people — including 163 children — secure or maintain housing since launching its first fundraiser in June 2024.

When Baldwin began working at the foundation, she wrongly believed that most grants would go to help families and individuals avoid evictions.

"That has been the opposite of what has happened," Baldwin said. "Ninety percent of our grants have been awarded to people who are working. They can afford the monthly rent. What they can't afford is the security deposit, first and last month's rent, and a utility deposit."

the board to view the issue through the lens of civil rights. "Historically, communities of color, rural residents, and low-income families have too often borne disproportionate environmental burdens," Harrington said. She shared that if data centers are ever allowed, at least 40% to 50% of the jobs must be filled by local residents, with strict annual disclosures on energy and water use.

Resident Marge Moreton echoed these concerns, specifically pointing to the sensitivity of the Cape Fear River watershed. "No amount of tax revenue is worth compromising the safety of our water supply," Moreton said. "Some things are not for sale."

The meeting wasn't only about data centers. A significant portion of the gallery was present to protest a "blindsiding" 2026 real estate reappraisal that has seen some mobile home owners' tax bills skyrocket by over 1,000%. Jerry Rivas, a resident who described his property tax increase as "punitive," warned commissioners of the political consequences. "If you people let this crap stand, I promise you, not a single one of you will be reelected," Rivas said.

Others, like Richard Chapman, called for a "poverty inventory" to help the county understand the true extent of food insecurity and homelessness before committing to large-scale industrial projects.

County Manager Brent Trout clarified that the moratorium is a legal necessity to allow the county time to draft protections. Currently, Harnett's UDO does not have specific language to regulate data centers, leaving the county vulnerable to "by-right" development. "The purpose of the moratorium is to delay anything from happening until we get a UDO in place that protects the county," Trout explained.

As the meeting adjourned, the message from the people of Harnett was clear: they are wary of "shiny apples" offered by outside corporations and demand a future that prioritizes their water, their land, and their pockets over speculative tech growth.



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Glenford E. Mitchell Walked The Walk His Entire Life

Glenford Eckleton Mitchell (3 March 1935 - 7 February 2026) was a Jamaican-American Bahá'í who served on the National Spiritual Assembly of the United States and the Universal House of Justice.

Mitchell moved to North Carolina in the United States to attend HBCU Shaw University in the winter-spring 1957 session, supported by the Baptist Women's Convention of North Carolina, already presenting on the "oneness of mankind" at meetings.

He was part of the first Local Spiritual Assembly of Raleigh, NC, being elected chairman. This helped fulfill a US-specific goal of the Ten Year Plan to raise the number of assemblies from about 170 to 300 while at the same time joining in a worldwide expansion of the religion. He was also visible that summer including giving the keynote talk for the "Race Amity Day" event, recalling the first conference which had been called for by 'Abdu'l-Bahá for 1921 in Washington, DC, and at the local commemoration of the Martyrdom of the Báb.

From 1958 he was annually noted as an honor student at Shaw, became editor of the Shaw Journal, served on the student legislature, helped plan and present at civil rights conferences, and other services at Shaw, was a registered student counselor, on the Who's Who list, and an honored member of the student council.

Meanwhile, he often gave talks or was visible at Bahá'í events. In 1959 articles under his by-line were published in *The Carolinian*, (a newspaper serving the African American community,) including an autobio-



graphical statement:

"Glenford Eckleton Mitchell hailed from the British West Indian island of Jamaica. Jamaica, with its area of 4,411 square miles, is the largest British possession in the West Indies. It has a population of about one and a half million. Called "The Land of Wood and Water," Jamaica claimed recognition as one of the most enchanting playgrounds in the world and "the place where the rum comes from".

A great portion of its revenue is derived from its staple products: rum cane sugar, and bananas, but the island enjoys a lucrative tourist trade all year round.

In January 1957, he enrolled at Shaw University. He is pursuing a double major in English and Business. Business training, he feels, is a necessity for everybody in these times. "It enables one to cope with this economy-conscious world in which we live."

After his graduation from Shaw

University next May, Glenford hopes to pursue a course in journalism at Syracuse University in New York. His dream is to establish a newspaper business in some virgin territory where newspapers do not exist. He plans to achieve this goal in Africa [or] some Latin-American country.

He found America a very interesting place but had no intention of living there. He was convinced that his services and contributions to humanity can and would serve a greater purpose in underdeveloped areas. "In this age, we have to think in the broad terms of service to the world of humanity." It is no wonder that Glenford was so determined to serve where the need was most urgent, because as a member of the Baha'í World Faith, he was taught that work in the spirit of service to humanity is worship.

He graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in business education from Shaw University in 1960. In 1961 he was in New York still visible giving talks, and pursuing a Masters Degree at the Columbia School of Journalism where he was also admitted into the fraternity of those students. He graduated in 1962, the same year his co-authored book, *The Angry Black South: Southern Negroes Tell Their Own Story*, was published.

The book includes writings and interviews from six Black Americans on topics such as desegregation, college student activism, and the effects of racism; all focused on the overall theme of racial discrimination. At the same time, in 1962 Mitchell began his professional career in the publication industry working as the

assistant editorial director of Maryknoll Publications, a non-profit Catholic-based institution, and becoming executive secretary of the Maryknoll Bookclub in New York, serving in both roles for one year, then working as an early assistant editor of the magazine *Africa Report*.

He continued to make appearances at Bahá'í events in various places, coming to be known as the chairman of the Spiritual Assembly of Washington DC, serving on the National Teaching Committee, as

well as being part of delegations or a contributing author to various works published by the religion, as well as speaking at other venues. Among these was the funeral of Ali Kuli Khan. In 1966 he was employed as an instructor in English and Journalism at HBCU Howard University in Washington D.C. and in the Upward Bound program in Indiana State University in Terre Haute.

In 1967 Mitchell became the managing editor of the Bahá'í World Order Magazine and in 1968 he was elected

to the National Spiritual Assembly of the United States and served as Secretary. While serving on the National Assembly, Mitchell also served in a number of other capacities including as secretary of the Trustees of the Bahá'í Publishing Trust, secretary of the board of directors of the Bahá'í Home in Wilmette, chairman of the National Teaching Committee, director of the National Department of Youth and Student Activities and still as chairman of the Local Spiritual Assembly of Washington, D.C.

Celebrating the Preservation of Good Hope Baptist Church with Shotwell Community

KNIGHTDALE, N.C. — Wake County officials and community members gathered May 3 to honor the preservation of Good Hope Baptist Church, a historic cornerstone of the Shotwell community with deep roots in African American history. The celebration marked the church's official recognition as a historic landmark, along with its adjacent cemetery, highlighting its decades-long role as a place of faith, resilience, and community connection.

Originally founded by African American congregants shortly after the Civil War, Good Hope Baptist Church traces its beginnings to 1878, when members purchased land in what is now Shotwell and built a small sanctuary. Over time, the surrounding area grew into a hub of Black life and culture, including the establishment of a school for Black children, a Rosenwald School in the 1920s, and the Union Society of Shotwell Lodge No. 14. The current brick structure, completed in 1957 and designed by Raleigh architect C. Eugene Savage, stands as a lasting symbol of that legacy.

During the Preservation Celebration, hosted at the church on Smithfield Road, the Wake County Historic



Preservation Commission presented landmark plaques and unveiled a roadside marker recognizing Shotwell's historic African American community. The event also kicked off Wake County's observance of Preservation Month, emphasizing the importance of protecting

historic spaces and the stories they hold. Through partnerships with organizations like Capital Area Preservation, county leaders say efforts will continue to ensure places like Good Hope Baptist Church remain preserved and celebrated for generations to come.

SERMON of the WEEK



A CERTAIN WOMAN WITH A CERTAIN ISSUE
Bishop-Elect William Eli Ratcliff, Sr.
Text: Mark 5:25-34

As we approach Mother's Day, I want to say something about a woman in the text who was trying to approach Jesus. The Bible doesn't tell us things like her age, race, occupation, or marital status. All it reveals is that she was a CERTAIN woman with a CERTAIN issue.

Every woman reading this Sermon is a certain woman, probably with a certain issue and maybe not just one, but many. But there is a Certain MAN in this text that she pressed her way to... believing He could do what nobody else could do.

She didn't know everything—but she knew enough to say: "If I can just touch His garment—I shall be made whole." (And although she had CERTAIN ISSUES...SHE ALSO WAS CERTAIN THAT Jesus could heal her). I'm sure His reputation for healing had reached her. And now she has made up her mind to REACH Him.

BUT...Let me say this to everybody:

- You don't have to be in the choir
 - You don't have to be on the Deacon's Board
 - You don't have to have a title
- But if you can get close enough to Jesus, He will connect with you!

FIRST: SHE HAD A PROBLEM THAT PEOPLE COULDN'T FIX

- She suffered 12 long years—12 years of pain...12 years of disappointment... 12 years of going from doctor to doctor.

The Bible says she spent all she had—and instead of getting better, she got worse! That means she was broke, weak, frustrated, and out of

options. Furthermore, we ourselves live in a time when people still have issues that our Government could fix but won't.

Nevertheless, there are some things that only God can handle, let's "Try... God's care!" Many people in America have reached their limit—but when people of faith reach their limit sooner or later, we know God will step in! NO MATTER HOW LONG IT TAKES!

SECONDLY: SHE HAD PRESURE—BUT SHE PRESSED ANYWAY

The Bible says there was a crowd around Jesus. That means she had obstacles:

- People in her way
- Weakness in her body, and besides, according to the Mosaic law, she wasn't even supposed to be in the crowd. But she didn't let that stop her. She had enough strength left to press.

Think about it, when life presses you, you've got to press back! When the Government squeezes you, your family, and your children, you've got to press back! Press past your pain. Press past your past. Press past people. Press past negativity, because your blessing is on the other side of your pressing!

Keep pressing, I say that especially for: Mothers, future mothers, single mothers, grandmothers, great-grandmothers, stepmothers who stepped up, and spiritual mothers who prayed somebody through!

FINALLY: SHE HAD FAITH THAT CONNECTED WITH JESUS

She said, "If I can just touch His garment..." And when she touched Him, the Bible says that her issue dried up immediately — then Jesus stopped and said, "Who touched me?"

The disciples said, "Lord, everybody's touching you!" But Jesus said, "No—somebody touched me differently. I felt virtue leave my body." [And that virtue was POWER!] However, everybody around Jesus wasn't connected—but one woman was!

You can be in the crowd and still not be connected. But when you reach Him by faith—something will happen! So, "Get connected!"

Let me tell you a story—about an old God-fearing woman who would go out on her porch every day and say, "Thank You, Lord!" Her neighbor was an atheist and said, "There

is no God!" One day, she ran out of food and prayed, "Lord, I need groceries." The atheist heard it—and the next morning, there were bags of groceries on her porch!

She started shouting, "Thank You, Jesus!" Then the atheist popped up and said, "Aha! I bought those groceries—there is no God!" But that old woman dragged those grocery bags inside, fixed herself a hot meal, and prayed: "Lord, thank you for putting food in my refrigerator and freezer and canned goods on my empty shelves... thank you for providing... and not only did you give me the strength to cook but you made the Devil pay for it!"

The old folks would sing: Without Him, I would be nothing. Without Him, I would fail. Without Him, I would be drifting like a ship without a sail.

Who, reading this Sermon, knows what it is to be in this woman's shoes?

- Although she was penniless—she wasn't faithless!
- Although exhausted, she wasn't excluded!
- Although pressed—she pressed through!
- Although stressed, she came out blessed!\

Keep on pressing, don't give up. Don't throw in the towel. How are you doing now? Aren't you still here? Aren't you still standing? Are you still praising! If your struggle didn't break you, it's because YOU PRESSED YOUR WAY... AND YOU MADE IT THROUGH!

WOMEN, it may get hard in school, at home, on the job, or maybe in a broken relationship; but if you know how to REACH OUT and STRETCH OUT to Jesus—Do it, because He has the POWER to heal your body, the POWER to fix your problems and situations, and the POWER to turn things around!

Keep pressing—The same Jesus from Mark 5—is still working right now! If you believe it—Keep pressing on!\

To experience the full message, please visit www.youtube.com/@lincolnparkholinesschurch1913 and watch this week's Sermon. We encourage you to Like, Subscribe, and share your thoughts in the comments so we can connect and grow together in faith. We look forward to hearing from you.

Practical Biblical Principles

BEING CLOSE TO GOD

Read: Galatians 4:1-7

By: John L. Caldwell, Pastor

New Jerusalem Baptist Cathedral Galatians 3:26 says, "For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male of female; for you all are one in Jesus Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise."

In the context of the day, despite his position as an heir, a child was as a slave-with no rights in the household- until the father decides it was time for that child to enter into his rights of his inheritance.

Likewise, the law functioned as a guardian for God's people until the appointed time determined by God, the Father. The coming of Christ freed believers to receive their spiritual inheritance and live as mature sons and daughters of God.

Calling God "Abba" reflects two key elements: intimacy and obedience. In this text, Paul is setting up the procedures or guidelines, whereby, the child of God can refer to God as "Abba."

"Abba" conveys intimacy, confidence, and dependence, reflecting a relationship where the child feels secure and cared for by the parent. Abba is always paired with Father in scripture, emphasizing both personal closeness and divine authority.

It is not merely a term of affection; it also acknowledges God's authority and our willingness to submit to His will. Through Christ, Believers share His Sonship and can relate to God as children relate to a caring Father.

God desires an intimate relationship with His children. Allowing them to approach Him with confi-

dence, dependence, and obedience.

At times, in our daily walk of faith, it appears that God seems to be so far away. He seems to be unreachable when we pray. This leaves us with a feeling of a child being abandoned and left alone.

Paul is very much aware of such feelings in the life of a Christian. This is why he addresses this issue to encourage the child of God to get them out of this "dark place."

Paul starts with reminding us of the fact that we are a child of God providing we have accepted Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior. Even though we were born into sin and have committed sin, we truly cannot call ourselves a child of God. However, because of what Christ did for us on the cross, cancelling all sin from the past, presence, and future, we can choose to be free from our sin and claim the inheritance as a son or daughter by accepting Jesus Christ as our personal Lord and Savior. Under these circumstances God will soon declare Believers as His sons and daughters.

God desires an intimate relationship with His children. Allowing them to approach Him with confidence, dependence, and obedience.

As a child of God, having accepted Jesus as your Lord and Savior, we can feel free to address God as "Daddy." Just as we address our earthly father whom we love and trust. Believers can address God as "Daddy." This may make us uncomfortable initially addressing God as Daddy. God understands yet He wants us to call Him Daddy. He wants us to feel and know that we are His inheritance. God has no grandchildren, only children.

We should want to get close enough to God so that we can feel free enough to call God, "Daddy." This way God will never appear to be far

away. We all have felt the closeness and the comfort of our parents growing up and even as adults. God want us to feel the same way about Him-close, warm, and close like a child being held close to mama's warm bosom or daddy's strong hands.

It is the devil who strives for the child of God to feel lost and abandoned. And he will do all he can to make the child of God feel lost and abandoned as a motherless and fatherless child. The devil tried to do this to Christ as He prayed in the Garden for the Father to relieve Him of the upcoming pain. Yet in agony, Christ still felt close to the Father and called out to Him as Daddy (Mark 14:35-36).

It is the responsibility of the child of God to claim his or her rightful inheritance in Christ. This we do by faith because Christ died for us and gave us His place in the Father's kingdom when He died on the cross. When we repent and accept Christ into our lives, we then become sons and daughters of God in a real spiritual and physical sense. God will declare us to be His sons and daughters because of what Christ did on the cross. It is nothing we can do to deserve this honor. It is all because of what Christ has done for us on the cross. In doing what He did, Christ made it possible for us to feel comfortable in calling God, Daddy.

For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are the sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of Adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father." (Romans 8:15).

The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children then heirs- heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.



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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.

Vetting the Vote: Questions on Over Candidate Oversight

By: Jheri Hardaway

As election cycles intensify, the rigor of candidate vetting within North Carolina's major political parties and beyond has come under intense scrutiny. From disgraced former Congressman George Santos, who was released from federal prison in October 2025 after President Trump commuted his 87-month sentence for wire fraud and identity theft, to North Carolina's convicted child sex predator Harvey Lee West Jr., who pleaded guilty in 2000 to five counts of taking indecent liberties with a child, who is background-checking candidates? Despite being required to register as a sex offender, West became an influential figure in the North Carolina GOP, serving as chairman of the 1st Congressional District Committee. Lee also serves on the party's Plan of Organization Committee. Reports indicate Lee was appointed to these roles by former NC GOP Chairman and current Gubernatorial candidate Michael Whatley.

The question stands, what are our two major political parties doing to ensure the candidates are who they say they are, have the affiliations and credentials they list on endorsement surveys? Despite the North Carolina Democratic Party maintaining a staff of 20 plus, recent reviews of primary slate files revealed demonstrable inconsistencies, raising questions about how thoroughly candidates are being screened before reaching the ballot. The issue intensifies with down-ballot races as candidates can essentially list degrees and affiliations and receive endorsements by filling out an online form and having the right connection inside a party or organization. The ease with which discrepancies can be overlooked either by oversight or design remains a pressing concern for voters seeking transparency from both Republican and Democratic leadership.

With such incredibly high stakes for the community, who will stand in the gap to confirm or deny claims made by candidates? Alongside free and fair elections, there is a strong need for accountability and clarity in the people who step up to lead our communities. Until then, it is the job of the voters to ensure the people they elect are who they say they are. Leadership mandates integrity. With fabricated degrees and questionable personal histories during the campaign cycle by some candidates, how can we realistically expect honesty or integrity if that is the foundation of a person's leadership? As citizens, we should ask more of our political parties and more of our candidates. Honesty is the best policy. I encourage voters to do the research before bubbling in any name, regardless of political party.



THE "NOT" SUPREME COURT

This month of May is National Mental Health Month, and it really could not have come at a better time, because there is a lot of craziness going on right now that is being passed off as good sense, and it is coming from people we call leaders. When I was a child, I truly believed that leaders were smart, that they knew what they were doing, but now that I am an adult, I have had to put away that kind of thinking, because what I am seeing does not line up with that belief at all.

Insanity, to me, is actually very simple. It is not dealing with reality. So when I hear decisions being made that suggest racism no longer exists, especially in places where history clearly tells us otherwise, I find myself asking, what reality are they living in, and what are they actually seeing, because it cannot be the same thing that I am seeing. Have they not heard what has been said out loud over the past few years, have they not seen the reactions, the applause, and the division that has followed, and when people can look at something that is right in front of them and still deny it, I honestly do not know what else to call that.

Last month, I spent time talking about the contributions of African and African American people, the brilliance, the resilience, the inventions, and the ways we have helped shape this country and the world, whether it is in medicine, safety, architecture, or simply making everyday life easier. We have helped people live longer, we have helped build systems that people rely on daily, and we have contributed in ways that are undeniable, so it confuses me how a society can benefit from those contributions, use them every single day, and still try to deny or erase the very people who made them possible, because that is not just bias, that is a complete disconnect from reality.

And when I see someone in power acting as though everything belongs to them, as though they are the source of everything, or that their name needs to be placed on everything, I do not see leadership in that, I see control and ego, because no human being has absolute control over another, and believing that you do is not strength, it is instability.

There is a prayer that many of us have heard, about accepting the things we cannot change, having the courage to change the things we can, and having the wisdom to know the difference, and when you really think about it, that is where peace lives, and that is where sanity lives.

I was also thinking about this when I read about August Wilson, because here was a young man who did excellent work, and instead of being affirmed, he was told it could not possibly be his, and rather than shrinking or trying to prove himself to someone who had already decided who he was, he walked away and chose to educate himself, going to the library every day and becoming who he was meant to be, not because someone approved of him, but because he refused to be defined by someone who did not understand him.

That kind of decision comes from knowing who you are, because when people begin to deny who they are and try to become something else just to fit into someone else's idea of worth, something shifts, and when a person begins to hate who they are, they are also rejecting the God who made them, whether they want to admit that or not.

You cannot hide from that truth, and you cannot outrun it either.

No court, no government, and no system is greater than God, and just because something appears to be winning does not mean that it is right, because we were not made free by systems, we were created free.

And there are consequences when we ignore that truth, even if we do not see them immediately or understand how they will show up, because history has already shown us that they do.

So maybe this month is not just about mental health in the way we usually talk about it, maybe it is about whether we are willing to deal with reality and be honest about what we see and what we know, because if we are not, then we are simply pretending, and pretending has never led any of us anywhere good.

Classifieds



ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

The North Carolina Department of Adult Correction has the following contract in Bertie County out for bid: C- C11853 Bertie Fire Alarm Replacement . The bid opening is scheduled for: Wednesday, 05/27/2026 . To obtain the Notice to Bidders, any Pre-Bid Requirements, and any Addenda visit: <https://evp.nc.gov/solicitations/details/?id=1e848d17-f431-f111-88b3-001dd800b811>

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Telecommunications Relay Services:711

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Professionally Managed by Community Management Corporation



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 **Wildwood Park Bridges and Boardwalks - Package B2** project for the **Greenville Recreation and Parks Department** which bids on **May 14, 2026, at 2:00 PM**. Plans and specifications for this project are available at the following locations: T. A. Loving Company; 400 Pate-town Road; Goldsboro, NC 27530 * City of Greenville website - Current Bid Opportunities or contact **Mark Nottingham: mnottingham@greenvillenc.gov** or 252-329-4242.

Potential subcontracting opportunities include but are not limited to surveying, demolition, clearing and grubbing, hauling, earthwork, erosion control, and seeding. Please contact **Justin E. Hill (jehill@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.

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS CDBG PROJECT

Town of Ayden
P.O. Box 219
Ayden, NC 28513

Separate sealed BIDS for the construction of Woodcrest Sanitary Sewer Improvements Contract No. 9 - Sanitary Sewer Improvements will be received by the ENGINEER at the Town Hall, 4144 West Avenue, Ayden, NC 28513 until 2:00 PM, June 2, 2026, and then at said office publicly opened and read aloud.

The CONTRACT DOCUMENTS may be examined at the following locations:

Ayden Operations Center, 4061 East Avenue, Ayden, NC 28513

McDavid Associates, Inc., 3714 North Main Street, Farmville, NC 27828-049

Dodge Data and Analytics, 2860 South State Highway 161, Suite 160, #501, Grand Prairie, TX 750527361 (View online at www.construction.com)

ConstructConnect, Attn: DPC, 30 Technology Parkway South, Suite 100, Norcross, GA 30092 (View online at www.constructconnect.com)

Construction Journal, 400 SW 7th Street, Stuart, FL 34994 (View online at www.ConstructionJournal.com)

Builders & Contractors Exchange, Inc., 1118 Azalea Garden Road, Norfolk, VA 235025612 (View online at www.bceva.com)

Copies of the CONTRACT DOCUMENTS may be obtained at the office of McDavid Associates, Inc. located at 3714 North Main Street, Farmville, NC 27828-0049 upon a nonrefundable payment of \$100.00 for each set.

This project is being funded in whole or in part by the Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG). All Federal CDBG requirements will apply to the contract: BIDDERS on this work will be required to comply with Section 109 and E.O. 11246 which prohibits discrimination in employment regarding race, creed, color, sex, or national origin. BIDDERS must comply with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Davis Bacon Act, Anti-Kickback Act, and Contract Work Hours and Safety Standards Act. The Town of Ayden is committed to and supportive of efforts to effectively maintain and/or increase the use of Small and Minority/Women-Owned Business, Veteran-Owned Business, and Historically Underutilized Businesses (HUB) contract participation for Construction Projects, services (including professional and consulting services) and commodities purchases, AND increase contract participation to offer employment, training and contracting opportunities in accordance with Section 3 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968 (24 C.F.R. Part 135).

No contract may be awarded to any contractor that is debarred, suspended or otherwise ineligible to participate in Federally assisted contracts or programs. Any contract awarded to a prime contractor or subcontractor that is found to be ineligible for award must be terminated immediately. Prior to contract award, prime contractors are to be actively registered, with no exclusions, with SAM.gov and not on NC Debarred Vendors list, to determine eligibility/debarment status.

The total CDBG program is funded with \$1,400,000.00 in CDBG funds which represent 100% of the total CDBG program costs. The total CDBG funding amount of \$1,400,000.00 is a governmental disclosure required by the CDBG program and not the proposed construction cost for contracts referenced by this advertisement.

This project is subject to the Build America, Buy America Act (BABA) requirements under Title IX of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA@), Pub. L. 117-58. Absent an approved waiver, all iron, steel, and construction materials used in this project must be produced in the United States, as further outlined by the Office of Management and Budget's Memorandum M-22-11, Initial Implementation Guidance on Application of Buy America Preference in Federal Financial Assistance Programs for Infrastructure, April 18, 2022.

NOTE: Iron and Steel is the phased approach to BABA that HUD implemented, manufactured products do not apply.

The OWNER reserves the right to reject any and all BIDS. BIDDER shall be properly licensed under Chapter 87, General Statutes of North Carolina.

Small, minority, women, veteran-owned, Historically Underutilized Business (HUB), and Section 3 (low income) businesses and labor surplus area firms are encouraged to submit BIDS.

This PROJECT is subject to the good faith efforts and goals for participation by minority businesses required by G.S. 143-128.2. The OWNER has adopted a verifiable ten percent (10%) goal for participation by minority businesses in the total value of the WORK.

BIDDERS shall, within the time frames specified in the BID documents, submit all required affidavits and documentation demonstrating that the BIDDER made the required good faith effort in compliance with G.S. 143-128.2. Failure to file all required affidavits and documentation within the required time frames is grounds for rejection of the BID.

Prospective BIDDERS who have been found guilty of discrimination within the last two (2) years are debarred from bidding.

A preBid conference will be held at 2:00 PM on May 19, 2026 in Ayden Operations Center, 4061 East Avenue, Ayden, NC 28513. Prospective BIDDERS are encouraged to attend this prebid conference as part of their good faith efforts.

This information is available in Spanish or any other language upon request. Please contact the Town Clerk at (252) 481-5817 or at 4144 West Avenue, Ayden, NC 28513 for accommodations for this request.

Esta información está disponible en español o en cualquier otro idioma bajo petición. Por favor, póngase en contacto con the Town Clerk at (252) 481-5817 o en 4144 West Avenue, Ayden, NC 28513 de alojamiento para esta solicitud.

The Fair Housing Act prohibits discrimination in housing based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, family status, and disability.

The OWNER is an EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER.

May 5, 2026

Stephen Smith
Town Manager
Town of Ayden



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Classifieds

CHATHAM COUNTY

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
CHATHAM COUNTY

NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION
In the General Court of Justice
District Court Division
File No: 26CV000489-180

To: KAIN JUBENCIO
HERNANDEZ-CHAJ, 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 June 17, 2026 said date being at least forty (40) days from the first publication of this Notice, and upon your failure to do so, the Plaintiff, HORTENCIA MARIA AGUSTIN-AMBROCIO, will apply to the court located at 40 E Chatham St, Pittsboro, NC 27312 for the relief sought.

This, the 7th day of May 2026.

Aneta Paval

Paval Law Offices, PLLC
Telephone: (919) 410-6690
5/7, 5/14, and 5/21/2026

CURRITUCK COUNTY

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
CURRITUCK COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS:
RE: THE ESTATE OF Sally Carroll – 26E000060-260

Having qualified as Administrator of the Estate of SALLY CARROLL, deceased, Currituck County, North Carolina, the undersigned does hereby notify all persons, firms, and corporations having claims against the estate of said deceased to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 5th day of August, 2026, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. This the 5th day of May, 2026.

Marvin Wilkerson, Executor
DSR Legal, PLLC
PO Box 51596
Durham, NC 27717
5/7, 5/14, 5/21, and 5/28/2026

DURHAM COUNTY

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 26th day of March 2026, as Executor of the Estate of MYRA M. HALL AKA MYRA ANN MANESS HALL, 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 8th day of August 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 7th day of May 2026.

KATHRYN H. BONE AKA
KATHRYN HALL BONE
EXECUTOR
ESTATE OF MYRA M. HALL AKA
MYRA ANN MANESS HALL
c/o Shirley M. Diefenbach, Attorney
Walker Lambe, PLLC
Post Office Box 51549
Durham, North Carolina 27717
5/7, 5/14, 5/21, and 5/28/2026

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

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

File No.: 26E000473-310

THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 4th day of May, 2026, as Executor of the Estate of MARGARET CHANDLER SMITH, 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 8th day of August, 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 7th day of May, 2026.

LANTY LLOYD SMITH
EXECUTOR
ESTATE OF MARGARET
CHANDLER SMITH
c/o Jennifer Dalman, Attorney
Walker Lambe, PLLC
Post Office Box 51549
Durham, North Carolina 27717

5/7, 5/14, 5/21, and 5/28/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

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

File No.: 26E000473-310

Having qualified as ADMINISTRATOR CTA of the Estate of ELEANOR MIMS, 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 August 8, 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 7th day of May, 2026.
Cynthia Young, Executor
2503 Davie Dr.
Durham, NC 27704

5/7, 5/14, 5/21, and 5/28/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

All persons, firms and corporations having claims against BERTHA RUTH BATTLE, DECEASED, of Nash County, NC, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before August 8, 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 7th day of May 2026. All correspondence should be to the Gerald Tyrone Battle, Administrator c/o Florence A. Bowers, Attorney, P.O. Box 51263, Durham, NC 27717.
5/7, 5/14, 5/21, and 5/28/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
File No: 25E001528-310

Having qualified as Administrator of the Estate of ALFRED FLESSNER, SR., deceased, of 3007 Pickett Rd #218, Durham, NC 27705, the undersigned does hereby notify all persons, firms, and corporations having claims against the estate of said decedent to exhibit them to the undersigned in care of the attorney for the estate on or before August 8, 2026, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery.

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

This the 7th day of May, 2026.

Kevin John Flessner and
Cassandra Flessner Kaiser
Administrators of the Estate of
Alfred Flessner, Sr.
c/o N. Vail Gardner, Esq.
Vail Gardner Law, PLLC
732 9th Street #621
Durham, NC 27705
5/7, 5/14, and 5/21/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

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

File No.: 26E000482-310

Having qualified as ADMINISTRATOR CTA of the Estate of KENNETH L. JONES A/K/A KENNETH LAMON JONES, 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 August 8, 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 7th day of May, 2026.

Joyce Jones, Administrator CTA
c/o Law Office of Anne Page
Watson

3400 Croasdaile Drive, Suite 205
Durham, NC 27705
5/7, 5/14, 5/21, and 5/28/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION
In the General Court of Justice
Superior Court Division
FILE NO.: 26CV001212-310

ELGIN GOMEZ, Plaintiff v.
AUGUSTO CESAR ALEMAN-
MARTINEZ, Defendant
TO: AUGUSTO CESAR ALEMAN-
MARTINEZ

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 damages for personal injuries arising from a motor vehicle accident due to alleged negligence.

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 7th day of May, 2026.

Lance E. Pickell, Esq.
Attorney for Plaintiff
SCHEHR LAW PLLC
101 N McDowell Street, Suite 200
Charlotte, NC 28204
5/7, 5/14, and 5/21/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

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

File No.: 26E000301-310

Having qualified as EXECUTOR of the Estate of JANICE ELAINE BURGESS, 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 31, 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 30th day of April, 2026.

Ronchadd Jarvell Wilkins, Executor
3007 Petty Road Unit 104
Durham, NC 27707
4/30, 5/7, 5/14, and 5/21/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

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

File No.: 26E000141-310

Having qualified as EXECUTOR of the Estate of DEBORAH H. JOLLY, 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 31, 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 30th day of April, 2026.

Syreeta Jolly, Executor
904 Arnette Ave.
Durham, NC 27701
4/30, 5/7, 5/14, and 5/21/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
File No: 26E000275-310

Having qualified as Executor of the Estate of DEBORAH G. BROGDEN, deceased, of 610 Trent Dr., Apt. # 306, Durham County, Durham, NC 27705, the undersigned does hereby notify all persons, firms, and corporations having claims against the estate of said decedent to exhibit them to the undersigned in care of the attorney for the estate on or before July 31, 2026, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery.

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

This the 30th day of April, 2026.

Heather B. Brooks
Executor of the Estate of Deborah G. Brogden
c/o Jeffrey L. Austin
Law Office of Jeffrey L. Austin,
PLLC

500 Westover Dr. #32043
Sanford, NC 27330
4/30, 5/7, 5/14, and 5/21/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

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

File No.: 26E000482-310

Having qualified as EXECUTOR of the Estate of JULIA KING ALLEN, 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 31, 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 30th day of April, 2026.

Jonathan Gray Wilson, Executor
317 Monticello Ave.
Durham, NC 27707
4/30, 5/7, 5/14, and 5/21/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The undersigned, having qualified as Administrator of the Estate

of LARRY WOODSON APPLE, 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 30, 2026, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment.

Dated April 30, 2026.
Wynolia Catherine Apple,
Administrator
c/o Attorney Heather Hazelwood
PO Box 61182
Durham NC 27715
4/30, 5/7, 5/14, and 5/21/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The undersigned, having qualified as Executor of the Estate of BRUCE ALAN SCOTLAND, 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 30, 2026, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment.

Dated April 30, 2026.
Paula A. Scotland, Executor
c/o Attorney Heather Hazelwood
PO Box 61182
Durham NC 27715
4/30, 5/7, 5/14, and 5/21/2026.
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 17th day of April 2026, as Executor of the ESTATE OF GEORGE THOMAS ARNOLD MORRIS, 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 31st 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 30th day of April 2026.
GEORGE THOMAS MORRIS
EXECUTOR
ESTATE OF GEORGE THOMAS
ARNOLD MORRIS
c/o E. J. Walker, Jr., Attorney
Walker Lambe, PLLC
Post Office Box 51549
Durham, North Carolina 27717
4/30, 5/7, 5/14, and 5/21/2026
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 31, 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 April 23, 2026.
Rupinder Singh Gill
EXECUTOR
ESTATE OF Walker Wayne Guthrie
c/o Rupinder Singh Gill, Attorney
Walker Lambe, 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 30th 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
4/30, 5/7, 5/14, and 5/21/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

SMALL CLAIMS
In The General Court of Justice,
District Court Division
FILE NO: 26CV004369-310

Los Primos Auto Repair LLC,
Plaintiff v. John Doe, Defendant
TO: John Do TAKE NOTICE that a Small Claims action has been filed against you by Los Primos Auto Repair LLC regarding a motor vehicle left for repairs and not claimed. You are required to appear before a Magistrate in Durham County as follows: Date: Thursday, June 4, 2026 Time: 2:00 PM Location: 3rd Floor Magistrates Durham County Courthouse 510 S. Dillard Street Durham, North Carolina If you fail to appear and defend against the claim, judgment may be entered against you. This the 23rd day of April 2026. Los Primos Auto Repair LLC 3433 Angier Ave Durham, NC 27703 (919) 7581899 Harriett70@hotmail.com
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

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 Lambe, 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.: 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.
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.: 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 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-Executors, 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 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.
TrustCounsel
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

DURHAM COUNTY

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. Bowens, Attorney, P.O. Box 51263, Durham, NC 27717. 4/16, 4/23, 4/30, and 5/7/2026

MECKLENBURG COUNTY

DISTRICT COURT
CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA
Case No. A-21-840173-C
Department No. 8

COAST HOTELS AND CASINOS, INC., dba THE ORLEANS HOTEL AND CASINO, a Nevada Corporation vs. MICHAEL BURG CIVIL SUMMONS

NOTICE!

YOU HAVE BEEN SUED. THE COURT MAY DECIDE AGAINST YOU WITHOUT YOUR BEING HEARD UNLESS YOU

FILE A RESPONSE WITH THE COURT WITHIN 21DAYS. READ THE INFORMATION BELOW CAREFULLY.

To the Defendant(s) named above:

A civil complaint has been filed by the Plaintiff(s) against you. Plaintiff(s) is seeking to recover the relief requested in the complaint, which could include a money judgment against you or some other form of relief.

The Complaint alleges that you failed to pay sums due and owning under an Arena Services Agreement dated July 26, 2023 and has alleged causes of action for Breach of Contract, Breach of the Covenant of Good Faith and Fair Dealing, and Unjust Enrichment.

If you intend to defend this lawsuit, within 21 days after this Summons is served on you (not counting the day of service), you must:

1. File with the Clerk of the Court, whose address is shown below, a formal response (typically a legal document called an "answer," but potentially some other response) to Plaintiff's complaint.

Regional Justice Center
200 Lewis Avenue
Las Vegas, Nevada 89155

2. Pay the required filing fee to the court, or file an Application to Proceed In Forma Pauperis and request a waiver of the filing fee.

3. Serve (by mail or hand delivery) a copy of your response upon the Plaintiff whose name and address is shown below.

If you fail to respond, the Plaintiff can request your default. The court can then enter judgment against you for the relief demanded by the Plaintiff in the complaint, which could result in money or property being taken from you or some other relief requested in Plaintiff's complaint. If you intend to seek an attorney's advice, do it quickly so that your response can be filed on time.

4/30, 5/7, and 5/14/2026

WAKE COUNTY

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
WAKE COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

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

File No.: 26E000188-910

Having qualified as EXECUTOR of the Estate of HENRY RUSSELL GATLING, 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 August 8, 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 7th day of May, 2026.

Elaine Jacobs Hampton, Executor
5501 Moss Hill Drive
Raleigh, NC 27616
5/7, 5/14, 5/21, and 5/28/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
WAKE COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

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

File No.: 26E000473-910

THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 4th day of May, 2026, as Executor of the Estate of BETTY SUE DAVIDSON A/K/A BETTY SHEPERD DAVIDSON, Deceased, of Wake 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 8th day of August, 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 7th day of May, 2026.

Kevin Mansfield Pardue, Executor
2637 Forestbluff Dr.
Fuquay Varina, NC 27526
5/7, 5/14, 5/21, and 5/28/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
WAKE COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

File No: 26E000701-910

Having qualified as Administrator of the Estate of OLIVIA SEAGROVES JORDAN, deceased, of 320 Perry St, Raleigh, NC 27608, the undersigned does hereby notify all persons, firms, and corporations having claims against the estate of said decedent to exhibit them to the undersigned in care of the attorney for the estate on or before August 8, 2026, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery.

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

This, the 7th day of May, 2026.

Rachel Jordan
Administrators of the Olivia

Seagroves Jordan
c/o N. Vail Gardner, Esq.
Vail Gardner Law, PLLC
732 9th Street #621
Durham, NC 27705
5/7, 5/14, 5/21, and 5/28/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
WAKE COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

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

File No.: 25E003678-910

THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 8th day of April, 2026, as Executor of the Estate of DOROTHY MORAS ALTMAN, Deceased, of Wake 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 8th day of August, 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 7th day of May, 2026.

Jane W. Maina, Executor
2010 Hodges Creek Dr. Apt 204
Raleigh, NC 27609
5/7, 5/14, 5/21, and 5/28/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
WAKE COUNTY

NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION

In the General Court of Justice
District Court Division

FILE NO.: 25CV019679-910

BRENDA EBERT, Plaintiff v. JAMES EBERT, Defendant

TO: JAMES EBERT

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 and Resumption of Former Name.

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 7th day of May, 2026.

Brenda Ebert, Plaintiff
5/7, 5/14, and 5/21/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
WAKE COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Having qualified as the Personal Representative of the Estate of STEVEN ROBERT DUKE, late of Wake 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,

Sonya S. Linton, Magnolia Legal, 3001 Academy Rd., Sute 120, Durham, NC 27707, on or before the 29th 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.

Thea Marie Craft
Personal Representative

File #: 26E001320-910
Attorney for Estate:
Sonya S. Linton
Magnolia Legal
3001 Academy Rd., Suite 120
Durham, NC 27707
4/30, 5/7, 5/14, and 5/21/2026.
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
WAKE COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF BONNIE LYNNE WHEATLEY

FILE NO 24E003243-910

All persons, firms and corporations having claims against BONNIE LYNNE WHEATLEY, deceased, of Wake County, NC, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before July 31, 2026, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 30th day of April, 2026. Emily Griffith, Administrator CTA, c/o Blue LLP, 205 Fayetteville St, Suite 300, Raleigh, NC 27601. The Carolinian, 4/30, 5/7, 5/14, and 5/21/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
WAKE COUNTY

NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION

File No. 22CV014078-910

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 Wynnewood 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

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
CASE NO.: 05-2025-DR-037416-XXDR-BC

THE MINOR CHILD: DIVISION: F
MILANEE MONA BELL

DOB: 07/26/2008

GEORGE BELL

Petitioner

NOTICE OF HEARING TO TERMINATE PARENTAL RIGHTS AND FINAL ADOPTION HEARING

TO: Gail Villanueva: Last Known Address: 447 Ballantyne Common Circle, Apt 103, Hendersonville, NC 28792

Physical Description:

• Height: 5'9"

• Brown hair

• Brown eyes

• Approx. 200 lbs

Children: Milanée Mona Bell (DOB: 07/26/2008)

• Place of Birth: Holmes Regional Medical Center, Melbourne, Brevard County

A Petition to Terminate Parental Rights And Petition for Adoption was filed on 10/22/25. You are being served with a copy of the petition along with this notice. A hearing on the petition will take place on May 22, 2026, at 9:00 a.m., presided over by Honorable Judge Dookhoo, via remote proceedings. The court has allocated 15 minutes for this hearing.

You are hereby notified that an action has been filed seeking the termination of parental rights to Milanée Mona Bell (DOB: 07/26/2008) pending their adoption.

You are required to serve written defenses to the petition upon the attorney for the petitioner, whose name and address are provided in the petition, and to file the original written defenses with the Clerk of the Circuit Court at the address P.O. BOX 219 TITUSVILLE, FL 32781-0219 no later than 20 days after the date of service of this notice.

If you fail to serve written defenses and file them with the Clerk within the specified time, a default may be entered against you for the relief demanded in the petition, which may include termination of parental rights concerning Milanée Mona Bell (DOB: 07/26/2008) pending their adoption. Court documents and information regarding this case are available for your review at the office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court. If you wish to access or obtain copies of these documents, you may contact the Clerk's office directly.

You are required to keep the Clerk of the Circuit Court informed of your current address at all times. Future papers and notices in this proceeding will be mailed to the address on file with the Clerk.

WARNING: Rule 12.285, Florida Family Law Rules of Procedure, requires certain automatic disclosure of documents and information. Failure to comply with Rule 12.285 may result in sanctions, including dismissal of pleadings, striking of claims or defenses, or other penalties as determined by the court.

Judge Dookhoo

<https://fl18.org/judgedookhoo>



PURSUANT TO SECTION 63.089, FLORIDA STATUTES, FAILURE TO SUBMIT A WRITTEN RESPONSE TO THIS NOTICE AND THE PETITION IN A TIMELY MANNER, AS WELL AS FAILURE TO APPEAR AT THE SCHEDULED HEARING, MAY RESULT IN THE COURT TERMINATING ANY PARENTAL RIGHTS YOU HOLD OR CLAIM CONCERNING THE MINOR CHILD.

DATED this 24th day of April 2026.

RACHEL M. SADOFF, CFCC

CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT

4/30, 5/7, 5/14, and 5/21/2026

D/M/WBE

SUBCONTRACTORS/SUPPLIERS WANTED

Pipeline Utilities, Inc. (NC General Contractor License No. 325) is seeking certified DBE, MBE, and WBE subcontractors and suppliers for the **Brown, London, and Jackson Streets Storm Drainage Improvements** project for the **City of Mebane** which bids on **May 22, 2026, at 10:00 AM**. Plans and specifications for this project are available at the following locations: Pipeline Utilities, Inc.; 2204-F Associate Drive; Raleigh, NC 27603 * Alley, Williams, Carmen, & King, Inc.; 740 Chapel Hill Road; Burlington, NC 27216-1179 * www.awck.com/resources/bidding-plans/

Potential subcontracting opportunities include but are not limited to surveying, hauling, asphalt paving, linework/pipe installation, CIPC, concrete forms, and concrete rebar. Please contact **Ethan Grissom (egrissom@pui-nc.com)** if you are interested in submitting a proposal on any portion(s) of this project. Contact via phone 919-772-4310; fax: 919-772-3261; or email. All quotations will be accepted up to the closing time of the bid date. Pipeline Utilities, Inc. 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.

REQUEST FOR BID

REHAB OF 3105-3115 WOODPECKER COURT

The City of Raleigh will accept sealed, written bids for the rehabilitation of the property located at 3105-3115 Woodpecker Court, Raleigh, NC 27610 until June 5, 2026, at 1:00 p.m. (EST). Bids can be submitted at the City of Raleigh's Housing and Community Development Department at 421 Fayetteville St, Suite 1200, Raleigh, NC 27601 at which time and place bids will be publicly opened and read aloud for the construction of the Rehab of 3105-3115 Woodpecker Court project.

A mandatory on-site pre-bid meeting will be held on May 12, 2026, at 11:00 a.m. (EST) at 3105-3115 Woodpecker Court, Raleigh, NC 27610. Information is also posted on the North Carolina Electronic Vendor Portal (eVP): <https://www.evp.nc.gov>. The City reserves the right to reject all bids.

D/M/WBE

SUBCONTRACTORS/SUPPLIERS WANTED

T. A. Loving Company (NC General Contractor License No. 325) is seeking certified DBE, MBE, and WBE subcontractors and suppliers for the **Brynn Marr Booster Pump Station** project for the **City of Jacksonville** which bids on **May 20, 2026, at 3:00 PM**. Plans and specifications for this project are available at the following locations: T. A. Loving Company; 400 Patetown Road; Goldsboro, NC 27530 * City of Jacksonville; Engineering Division of Public Services; City Hall; 815 New Bridge Street; Jacksonville, NC 28540.

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

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

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

Mother's Day

ILEAN SUTTON

Happy Mother's Day to Ilean Sutton. Thank you for all you do for your family and your Jack's Family. We love you!

ANNIE LEE HARRIS WILLIAMS

A devoted mother to her children and others. She is remembered with love and appreciation for the life's lessons she taught us.
- Frances Lonnette Williams and Mary E. Williams Sharpe

DEKHASTA BECTON ROZIER

Happy Mother's Day!
- Much Love,
Your Family

DONNA HAYWOOD

Happy Mother's Day
- Orrin Ray Haywood

DIANE HILL BECTON

You are a wonderful Mother, Grandmother, Mother-In-Law & Wife
- Elwood and your family

Lillian M. Hinton

In Memory
Loving, Caring and Nurturing
With Love, Your Children and Grandchildren

MELANIE LUCAS

Happy Mother's Day
- Zell Lucas

GENERAL MOTHER OPELIA BURRELL

Your wisdom and love will always be apart of us.
- Pastor William "Billy" Eli Ratcliff

MARGARET RATCLIFF

Happy Mothers day, you took great care of me. Now I pray that I can continue to do the same for you, with grateful love!
- Pastor William "Billy" Eli Ratcliff

JAYNETTE HOWARD

This Mother's Day, we honor First Lady Jaynette Whitt Howard of First Cosmopolitan Baptist Church for her faith, grace, and dedication to her family, church and community.
Happy Mother's Day to an extraordinary woman of faith and virtue.

ELWYNA HOLT

Happy Mother's Day from the Joseph Holt Family

WYOMA MOSES

To a wonderful woman, Happy Mother's Day
- Donald Moses

ANITA EARLS

Happy Mother's Day to my thoughtful wife, inspiring mother, caring grandmother, and fighter for justice. I love you
-Charles Walton

FLORENCE C. MANNING

Missing you everyday
- Danny K. Manning

REV. ROGERLINE P. WHITE

We love you Mother! We appreciate you!
- Your loving husband Sylvester A. White, Jr. and family Ulanda, Rebekah, Stacy, Jr. Yolanda, Patricia, Antonio, Londyn and Stacy III

CHANDULLAL RATCLIFF

Happy Mother's Day, to my Wonderful Wife, Caring Mother, Loving Grandma, and Awesome "First Lady"
- Love Pastor William "Billy" Eli Ratcliff

KATRICE LEASTON

A salute to our First Lady on Mother's Day
- From the First Congregational Church Family and Rev. Al Leaston

ANDREA SINGLETON

We are wishing the happiest of all Mother's Days to First Lady Andrea M. Singleton
-From Pastor Singleton and the Members of Martin Street Baptist Church

GWENDOLYN BRYANT

Celebrating a Life Well Lived Because you walked with God. Love Your Children and Grandchildren and Great grands

DR FELECIA WARD HARDY

- Dr. Everett B. Ward
From your children