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Stories Of Black And Indigenous Patriots Come Into Focus As The United States Remembers The American Revolution

LEXINGTON, Mass. (AP) — Charlie Price says he didn't learn much about the American Revolution in school. He knew about George Washington, the Battle of Bunker Hill and that the patriots won. It wasn't until he joined the Lexington Minutemen — a group of Revolutionary War reenactors — that he realized there's so much more to the story.

The Lexington Minutemen marked the anniversary of the Battle of Lexington in Massachusetts on Saturday, April 18th, as they do every year. Thousands of people — some in colonial costumes, gathered on the Lexington Green to witness the historic clash, many booing the British troops and cheering on the patriots. The battle, which marked the start of the American Revolution 251 years ago, ended with eight Americans killed and 10 wounded — the dead scattered on the grounds as the British marched off.

Among the soldiers represented there was Prince Estabrook, an enslaved man who joined his white neighbors on Lexington Green in April 19, 1775, as British troops approached. He was wounded that day but went on to serve in multiple deployments throughout the war.

"I wasn't surprised that we didn't know about it," said Price, a 95-year-old Black Korean War veteran who played the role of Estabrook for 50 years. "I was surprised that there was one Black soldier out here."

As America prepares to celebrate its 250th anniversary, Estabrook

and other patriots of color are being celebrated through programs nationwide that aim to tell a more complete story of the birth of the nation.

Museum exhibits, documentary films and lectures have traditionally focused on the white leaders of the American Revolution, such as Washington, Benjamin Franklin and Paul Revere.

Christopher Brown, a British

Empire historian at Columbia University, said the Revolution has long been portrayed as a "simple story and a moral story that celebrates American origins and that looks to the American past in a kind of idealized version of what the present is."

But in recent decades, "a more accurate view of the past" has emerged that showcases the diverse collection of men and women who played criti-

cal roles in the fight for freedom.

"There were Black men in the ranks who were fighting in Concord and Lexington and fought on Bunker Hill," he said. "They knew all of the work that women were doing to support the revolutionary effort. The fact that we didn't know that is more of a sign of our lack of curiosity and the need for greater research."

The National Park Service esti-

mates that by the end of the Revolution more than 5,500 patriots of color — including Black and Indigenous people — served on the colonial side, while many runaway slaves fought for the British.

"Finding this out, I was very proud," said Jason Roomes, a descendant of three formerly enslaved men from Rhode Island, Cato, Pero and Caesar Rome. Roomes learned in his 40s all three Black men fought in the American Revolution for the colonial side.

"Proud that my family has been here and fought for the creation of this United States," he said.

The stories of Black patriots cannot be told without mentioning slavery, which was legal at the time in all 13 Colonies. Some Blacks who fought were enslaved and others fought in the hopes of gaining freedom. Indigenous soldiers made similar calculations, even as tribes fought for their very survival.

But despite the documented military diversity of that time, efforts to promote such stories are under pressure. The Trump administration has ordered the removal or censorship of some exhibits highlighting the history of slavery and enslaved people,

the Civil Rights Movement and the mistreatment of Indigenous people.

Roger Davidson, Jr. an associate professor of history at Bowie State University, said failure to recognize that important part of history can impact communities of color today.

"If you're not seen as having contributed to society, to the military, to any of it, then people can sort of overlook you," Davidson said. "It plays into, and I hate to put it this way, but it plays into some people's biases. Why should we pay any attention to you in the present day, politically, socially, economically, if you have not contributed?"

MA250 has handed out millions of dollars in grants to commemorate the battles across Massachusetts that helped lead to America's independence. Among the beneficiaries is the Black Heritage Trail in Concord that highlights the lives of Black residents in the town during the Revolution.

Museum exhibitions celebrating Black patriots have also received grants. Among those highlighted is Crispus Attucks, a sailor of African and Indigenous ancestry who died

(See PATRIOTS, P. 9)



Why Black Immigration Looks So Much Different In The U.S. Than In Europe

By Jordan Meadows

Staff Writer

The immigration systems of the United States and Europe have produced dramatically different outcomes for Black and Caribbean populations, shaped by law, geography, and fundamentally different ideas about race, citizenship, and national identity.

While major European cities such as Paris have highly visible Black populations tied to decades of colonial migration, the pathways that created those communities differ sharply from the modern immigration structure of the United States, which admits large numbers of African and Caribbean immigrants through permanent legal channels each year.

Much of Europe's modern Black population grew out of the post-World War II period, when several European countries recruited workers from former colonies and overseas territories to help rebuild their economies. Those migration waves created multigenerational communities that remain concentrated in major urban centers today.

But current immigration policies across much of the European Union are far more restrictive toward non-European migration than many Americans realize. European immigration systems generally prioritize movement within the EU itself, making legal entry for low- and medium-skilled migrants from Africa and the Caribbean considerably more difficult.

In Europe, legal pathways for non-Europeans often rely on temporary student visas, asylum claims, sea-



sonal labor programs, or highly specialized employment sponsorships. Critics argue that these systems make long-term residency and citizenship more difficult to obtain for many migrants compared to the United States' more permanent immigration structure.

The U.S. system, by contrast, contains several mechanisms that have significantly expanded African and Caribbean immigration over the last several decades. One of the most distinctive is the Diversity Visa Lottery, which allocates 55,000 green cards annually to countries with historically low rates of immigration to the United States. African nations are among the largest beneficiaries of the program, accounting for a substantial share of lottery recipients each year.

Family reunification policies have

also accelerated the growth of Black immigrant communities in the United States. Once immigrants become citizens or lawful permanent residents, they can sponsor close relatives including spouses, children, parents, and siblings. As African and Caribbean immigrant populations have grown, those sponsorship networks have expanded alongside them, creating a self-sustaining pattern of legal migration.

According to federal immigration data and research from the Pew Research Center, the United States grants hundreds of thousands of permanent visas annually to immigrants from Africa and the Caribbean combined. Caribbean nations account for a particularly large share of new lawful permanent residents, led by countries such as the Domini-

can Republic, Haiti, and Jamaica. African immigration has also surged in recent decades, especially from countries including Nigeria, Ghana, Ethiopia, and Kenya.

The United States also attracts large numbers of highly educated African professionals and students through employment and university pathways. Skilled worker visas and student-to-work programs have allowed thousands of doctors, engineers, nurses, researchers, and technology professionals from African nations to settle permanently in the U.S.

Beyond immigration policy itself, analysts say one of the biggest differences between the United States and Europe lies in how race is understood socially and politically.

In the United States, race is treated as a recognized demographic and legal category that government agencies, employers, universities, and researchers routinely track and measure. Americans commonly identify through racial or ethnic subgroups such as African American or Afro-Caribbean, reflecting a national framework that openly acknowledges communal identity.

Across much of Europe, governments historically have emphasized a more universal model of citizenship centered on national identity rather than racial categorization. Many European countries place far less emphasis on collecting racial data or formally recognizing ethnic subgroups within public institutions. Supporters of that approach argue it promotes national unity and discourages racial division, advertising to minors.

NC Lawmakers Weigh In On The Supreme Court Dismantling of the Voting Rights Act

By Jheri Hardaway

Staff Writer

North Carolina General Assembly - In a monumental 6-3 decision that has sent shockwaves through the American South, the U.S. Supreme Court has effectively dismantled key protections of the landmark Voting Rights Act (VRA). The ruling, which centers on the case *Louisiana v. Calais*, upends decades of precedent and makes it significantly harder for minority voters to challenge racially discriminatory voting maps and laws. The court's conservative majority ruled that race-neutral partisanship can be used as a valid defense for redistricting, even when it results in the dilution of minority voting power. The decision has left civil rights advocates and North Carolina legislators reeling, with many warning that the state is entering a new era of "Jim

Crow-style" electoral barriers.

North Carolina State Representative Phil Rubin (D-Wake), a former federal prosecutor and constitutional law expert, did not mince words regarding the court's intervention. "I'm really scared for our future when you have a Supreme Court that thinks it knows better than the Congress of the United States that enacted the Voting Rights Act," Rubin said. "Congress enacted the VRA because of its determination about unconstitutional and awful barriers to voting for minority communities. To have a Supreme Court come and chip away at it and basically say, 'We know better, is dangerous.'"

Rubin took particular aim at Chief Justice John Roberts, suggesting that the "balls and strikes" judicial philosophy Roberts famously championed during his confirmation is a thing of the past. "The opinion is obviously a

travesty. It's not the law. It is power," Rubin stated. "And I hate to see that. But I also know that in the long run... we're going to win and we're going to see it through to fix it."

Representative Garland Pierce (D-Hoke/Scotland), one of the longest-serving members of the General Assembly and a lifelong minister, described the ruling as a "heart-breaking" reversal of progress. "It's taken us back. And folks say way back to, you know, Jim Crow and all of that," Pierce said. "The Supreme Court is a gang of six that made a decision that's going to affect us going forward. It's heartbreaking, heart-wrenching, because you have older people who remember when it was like that, and now they're like, 'What? We're there again?'"

Pierce noted that the immediate fallout is expected to affect at least 20 minority members of state and

federal bodies across the South as states move to redistrict under the new, more lenient guidelines. While the legal setback is severe, North Carolina lawmakers are urging their constituents not to succumb to "disenchantment." Pierce emphasized that the primary tool remaining for the public to fight back is the vote itself. "Elections have consequences. The reason why we're dealing with now is that people did not vote," Pierce warned. "You have to continue to battle and fight."

Despite the "challenging and difficult" days ahead, both Representatives Rubin and Pierce expressed eternal optimism. As the state prepares for its next cycle of redistricting battles, the message from Raleigh is clear: the fight for the ballot is no longer just in the courts, it is in the hands of the voters.



NC HOUSE BILL 1144 - DOMINIQUE MOODY SAFETY ACT FILED AFTER "SYSTEMIC FAILURE"

By Jheri Hardaway

Staff Writer

Raleigh, NC - In an emotional press conference on Tuesday, May 5th, a bipartisan group of North Carolina lawmakers introduced House Bill 1144, also known as the "Dominique Moody Safety Act," following a harrowing investigation addressing abuse and neglect, regarding the death of a six-year-old girl who was allegedly tortured and kept in a cage for extended periods of time. The bill, primarily sponsored by Representatives Carla D. Cunningham (Un-Mecklenburg),

Mike Colvin (D-Cumberland), Allen Chesser (R-Nash), and Donny Lambeth (R-Forsyth) seek to overhaul how the Department of Social Services (DSS) handles high-risk abuse and neglect cases through the creation of a specialized "Statewide Escalation Team."

The legislation is named after Dominique Moody, a girl born in 2018 who lawmakers expressed had been failed by the very systems designed to pro-

(See NC HOUSE BILL 1144, P. 2)

NC LAWMAKERS SCRAP EMINENT DOMAIN PROVISION IN BILL AFTER OUTCRY FROM LOCAL LEADERS

NC NEWSLINE - The North Carolina General Assembly voted Wednesday to advance a bill making changes to several local laws after removing a controversial section that would've allowed one county to seize property from others.

Senate Bill 214, or "Various Local Provisions VII," previously contained a segment permitting Franklin County to claim property in Halifax, Vance or Warren counties "without the consent or approval" of the other county's local government.

Democratic House lawmakers and local leaders sharply criticized the bill on Tuesday, saying no jurisdiction should have that power.

Republican leaders in both chambers withdrew the measure from their calendars Tuesday afternoon and sent it back to conference committee to be revised. The House and Senate voted Wednesday on a new version that did not include the eminent domain provision.

Rep. Rodney Pierce (D-Halifax) was one of the most vocal critics of the provision. He was gratified that it was removed from the final version of the bill.

"For one county to have the audacity to say that we're going to come to the state legislature to get the power to condemn or acquire your property without the consent of your elected county officials is absurd," Pierce told NC Newsline on Wednesday.

The House voted 74-39 to tentatively approve S214, and will take a final vote next Wednesday. The Senate tentatively approved it 44-0, with final approval expected Thursday.

House Speaker Destin Hall (R-Caldwell) said the provision's removal shifts the responsibility for a solution to local leaders.

"The local folks were still negotiating those issues, and so ultimately, we felt like it'd be better to give them a chance to resolve it amongst themselves," Hall said.

Removing the eminent domain provision allows the other local changes in the bill to move forward, said Rep. Allen Chesser (R-Nash).

"We think that it's appropriate to get a timely response to the local communities that are involved," Chesser said.

NC HOUSE BILL 1144

Continued from page 1

tect her. According to testimony provided during the filing, Dominique was placed in the custody of a maternal aunt in Mecklenburg County in 2019. Between 2019 and December 2025, Social Services received five separate reports of abuse and neglect. All were deemed "unsubstantiated." Law enforcement visited the home 59 times over those four years, roughly 14 times a year. Yet no intervention occurred. On December 16, 2025, Dominique died. She weighed only 27 pounds. "Her sister participated in a forensic interview," Representatives shared. Investigations confirmed Dominique was kept in a cage, and that adults would whoop her with a belt, a stick, or a pole. It was revealed that adults would put a bag over her head and tape her eyes so she could not see them eat.

Lawmakers are calling the case a "systematic failure" and are proposing a \$550,000 allocation to fund six specialist positions within the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). These specialists will act as an "Escalation Team," modeled after the RAMS program at UNC Chapel Hill (which currently only focuses on children ages 0-3). The new team would monitor abuse and neglect cases for children up to age 17 across the state, providing an extra layer of expertise and state-level oversight to local DSS offices. "This is not about condemning local case workers," said Rep. Colvin. "It's about adding the support and policy enhancements needed to save one life. If we can save one life, it'll be worth this call to service."

Beyond the new task force, the bill mandates increased training for social workers. Currently, lawmakers noted that some social workers receive as little as 4% of their training specifically on identifying the nuances of abuse and neglect. The bill aims to significantly increase that percentage to ensure signs of chronic abuse, like the scars and fractures found on Dominique, are caught before they turn fatal. Lawmakers admitted they are currently navigating "legal hurdles" as litigation surrounding Dominique's death has made some records inaccessible to the Oversight Committee. Furthermore, a backlog in the Mecklenburg County court system could delay public discovery of the full facts for years.

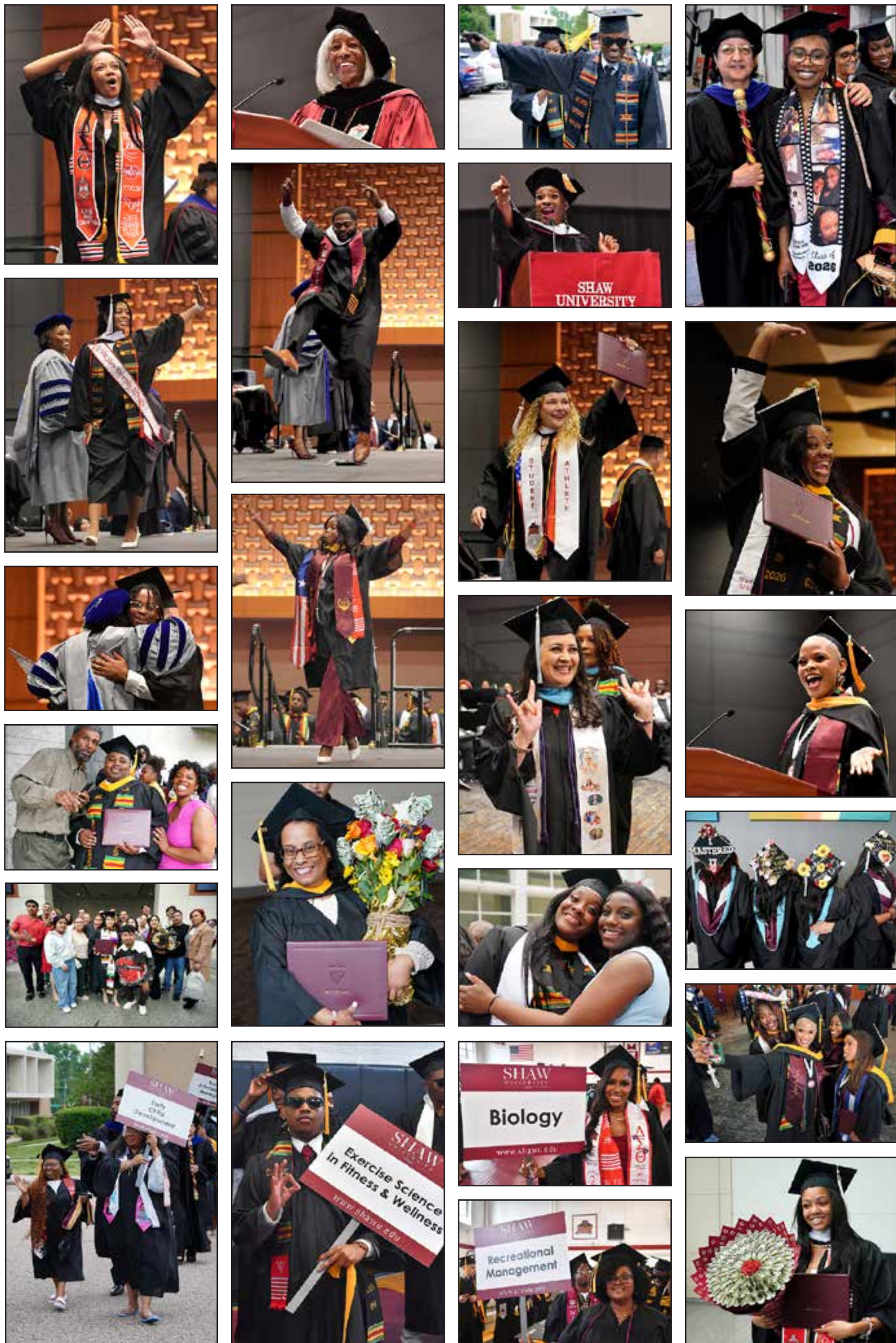
Despite these hurdles, the sponsors are urging Senate colleagues to move quickly. "We can't wait five or six years for prosecutions to tell us what went wrong," said Rep. Cunningham. "More children are exposed to these situations every day. We must let Dominique's death be the catalyst for change now."

The bill is expected to move to committee later this month. Lawmakers urged the public and the press to "keep their calendars open" for potential oversight hearings as the session continues.



Shaw University Class Of 2026 CONGRATULATIONS!

Photos By Steve Worthy



Cheers, celebration and the exclamation of "I'm a doctor, y'all!" was part of the Shaw Commencement which took place in Downtown Raleigh on May 9th, 2026. One Hundred Fifty-Two grads, including those from the School of Divinity, before turning their tassels, listened to feature speaker Edwina Findley Dickerson; actress, author, and motivational speaker who inspired the audience. Mrs. Dickerson was given the Doctorate of Humane Letters, and to her many achievements, she can add the title of Doctor to her list!

Congratulations to the Shaw University Graduating Class of 2026!



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Business & Finance

Nearly 50,000 Lake Tahoe Residents Must Find New Power Source After Energy Co. Redirects Lines To Data Centers

Yahoo Finance—Lake Tahoe doesn't know where its power will come from after next ski season—and it's a major problem for the 49,000 residents who call the region home.

The Sierra Nevada tourist hub—home to ski resorts, lakeside casinos, and roughly 25 to 28 million annual visitors—is facing an energy crisis with a familiar culprit: the data centers powering the AI boom.

NV Energy, the Nevada utility that has supplied the bulk of Lake Tahoe's electricity for decades, told Liberty Utilities—the small California company that services the region—that it will stop providing power after May 2027. The reason? NV Energy needs the capacity for data centers. As in: the energy supplier for the Lake Tahoe region is telling the utility company that it has less than a year to find another power source.

Northern Nevada has become one of the fastest-growing data-center corridors in the country. Google, Apple, and Microsoft have either built or are planning facilities around the Tahoe-Reno Industrial Center east of Reno. The Desert Research Institute, using data from NV Energy's 2024 Integrated Resource Plan, found that the 12 data center projects located overwhelmingly in Northern Nevada could drive 5,900 megawatts of new demand by 2033. At a regional business event last fall, NV Energy's director of business development called the moment "unprecedented," saying the company was eager to serve the new industrial load but that it would not "impact our existing customer base."

But Liberty's 49,000 California customers may already be bearing the cost. Liberty Utilities generates about 25% of its power from solar facilities it owns in Nevada. The other 75% comes from NV Energy, and that source will no longer be supplied to the region by this time next year.

"It's like we don't exist," Danielle Hughes told Fortune. Hughes is a North Lake Tahoe resident, CEO of the nonprofit Tahoe Spark, and a supervisor within the California Energy Commission's Efficiency Divi-

sion.

What makes Tahoe's crisis so difficult is that no single regulator oversees the entire chain from power generation to customer bills.

Liberty is a California investor-owned utility. Its customers live in California and pay rates approved by the California Public Utilities Commission. But Liberty's grid sits inside NV Energy's balancing authority, connects to NV Energy at 38 points, and relies entirely on Nevada transmission lines, according to a Liberty filing with state regulators. Liberty's territory is a small sliver along California's eastern border, sitting within NV Energy's balancing zone rather than the California Independent System Operator, which coordinates the grid for virtually every other ratepayer in the state.

Building a direct connection to California's grid would require a new transmission line west over the Sierra, a project Liberty President Eric Schwarzrock said would cost "hundreds of millions of dollars" with significant land impacts.

The CPUC approves Liberty's rates and procurement requests, but it

cannot order NV Energy to keep selling wholesale power or dictate how Nevada plans for data centers. That falls to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, which regulates interstate transmission and wholesale electricity sales. With NV Energy and Nevada regulators controlling the upstream grid, the result is a system where California sets the rules, Nevada runs the wires, federal jurisdiction applies to the wholesale market, and no single entity is accountable for the outcome.

In March 2026, Liberty asked the CPUC to authorize an expedited request for proposals for replacement energy beginning June 1, 2027. In that filing, Liberty said NV Energy had cited data centers in the Tahoe-Reno Industrial Center area and northern Nevada transmission constraints, among other reasons, for ending full-requirements service.

Hughes and the Sierra Club's Tahoe Area Group want the commission to reject that approach and instead open a full proceeding. In an April 1, 2026, letter to CPUC commissioners shared with Fortune, Sierra Club Vice Chair Tobi Tyler

argued that the scale of the procurement—affecting 49,000 ratepayers dependent on an isolated, rapidly transforming grid—demands the transparency and public participation that only a formal proceeding provides. Tahoe Spark's underlying protest states that "California does not produce a Liberty-specific forecast of demand, peak conditions, or procurement needed for numerous California communities in a high wildfire risk area."

"You need to open a full proceeding and do a transparent process and understand what we look like in California policy, and what the long-term game is," Hughes said. Even regulators are still sorting through the legal boundaries, she added: "They're basically trying to decide what to do right now, or even what they legally can do."

Even the regulators are still sorting through the legal boundaries, she added: "The procurement will have to be approved by the CPUC. They're basically trying to decide what to do right now, or even what they legally can do."

Data centers used 22% of Nevada's

electricity in 2024, and that share could rise to 35% by 2030. In NV Energy's own 2024 resource plan, about 75% of major-project load growth is attributed to data centers, according to Sierra Club expert testimony filed with Nevada regulators and reviewed by Fortune, and most of it is concentrated in Northern Nevada—using the same system that feeds power to Lake Tahoe.

NV Energy is building Greenlink West, a 525-kV, \$4.2 billion transmission line from Las Vegas to Yerington, expected online in May 2027. Schwarzrock said Liberty would be "first in the waiting line" when Greenlink opens, giving it access to a wider pool of energy providers. But that timeline matches the contract deadline exactly, leaving almost no margin for error. About 70% of the project's costs will be borne by Southern Nevada customers.

But this is nothing new, at least according to NV Energy.

Katie Jo Collier, a spokesperson for the utility, said the transition was rooted in a longtime understanding with Liberty "well before

data center load growth was a consideration," calling it "a planned transition for many years, not a reaction to recent developments." NV Energy sold its California electric assets to Liberty in 2009 and agreed to keep supplying power temporarily. That arrangement was extended in 2015, again in 2020, and once more in late 2025, and each time because Liberty had not yet secured an independent supply, a timeline corroborated by regulatory documents reviewed by Fortune.

But independent experts have questioned whether NV Energy's own demand projections are reliable. In testimony filed with Nevada regulators in Oct. 2024, energy economist Rose Anderson of Synapse Energy Economics warned that NV Energy's major-project load forecast is "highly uncertain" and that existing customers could end up paying for infrastructure built to serve industrial demand that never materializes.

Rates were already climbing. The supply crisis arrives on top of an existing affordability fight. In its

(See **DATA CENTERS** P. 11)

North Carolina Senate Moves Bill To Slash Requirements for Natural Hair Care Licensing

By Jordan Meadows

Staff Writer

North Carolina lawmakers advanced a bill that would dramatically reshape how the state regulates natural hair braiding and other textured-hair services, cutting hundreds of required training hours down to just 10 hours focused on infection control.

NC Senate Bill 808, which has cleared key Senate committees and passed the full Senate, would replace the state's current 300-hour natural hair care license with a simplified certification process requiring a short training course and exam. The measure also creates a separate licensing track for hair design services and reduces overall cosmetology training re-

quirements from 1,500 hours to 1,200.

Supporters say the changes are long overdue for an industry that has historically been tied to Black cultural practices and entrepreneurship, particularly among Black women who make up a large share of braiders and natural hair specialists across the state.

"This is about removing unnecessary barriers and expanding opportunity," said Alamance Community College cosmetology instructor Hilary Cook. "You are removing barriers and expanding opportunity."

Natural hair care under the bill includes services such as braiding, twisting, wrapping, locking, and extensions—techniques that are widely used in Black communities across North

Carolina. Advocates argue that requiring hundreds of hours of cosmetology training—much of it focused on chemical treatments—has made it harder for many Black stylists to enter the profession legally or start small businesses.

Sen. Amy Galey, one of the bill's primary sponsors, said she has heard from constituents who feel weighed down by the current system.

"I want to be sure that women get into the workforce and that we don't put irrational barriers in their way," Galey said.

Sen. Natalie Murdock highlighted that "more than 30 states do not regulate natural hair care services," noting that North Carolina's approach is stricter than much of the country. "So many stylists I know who leave their

jobs so that they can go to school and get all of the requirements have feedback that they think it's burdensome compared to other states," Murdock said.

But the proposal has also sparked concern from regulators and cosmetology educators who argue that the reduced training could weaken public health protections.

Lynda Elliott, executive director of the North Carolina Board of Cosmetic Art Examiners, warned lawmakers that the proposed 10-hour requirement may not be sufficient.

Natural hair care applies to all textures and nationalities," Elliott said. "People of every background seek these services, like braiding, twisting, locking and hair extension. So

someone that does not have any knowledge... needs to understand how to do this safely."

Some opponents say infection control training is especially important because braiding and scalp-based services involve close physical contact with clients, and inadequate training could increase the risk of sanitation issues. Elliott has recommended expanding the requirement to as much as 100 hours. Despite those concerns, Senate Republicans backing the bill say they are confident in the reduced requirements.

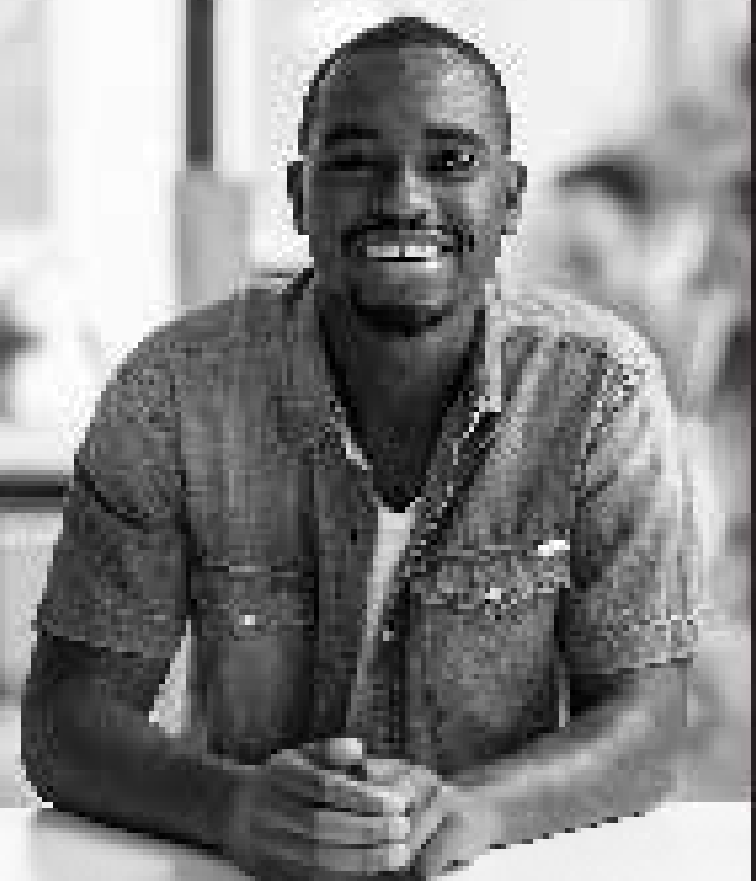
"We've looked into it, and we felt comfortable that the path we're on is the appropriate one," said Sen. Tim Moffitt, another sponsor of the legislation.

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Teachers Loyal To Schools, But Warn Of 'Unsustainable' Workloads

NC NEWSLINE - North Carolina teachers remain committed to their classrooms, but many feel hampered by heavy workloads and student behavior challenges, according to a preliminary state survey released Wednesday.

The survey, presented to the State Board of Education, is conducted every two years by the state Department of Public Instruction. It drew responses from 102,640 educators, a 90.5% response rate.

Teachers report strong pride in their schools and plans to stay. But they also describe dissatisfaction with low pay, limits on time, challenges in managing student conduct and gaps in support for students with higher needs.

They reported working an average of 9.3 hours a week outside the school day, often at night and on weekends.

"I think we would be remiss if we did not acknowledge that teachers are making the time. It is simply uncompensated," said Kimberly Jones, former Teacher of the Year and a State Board of Education member.

Student behavior stood out as a daily challenge, especially in middle and high schools. In high schools, 64% of teachers reported drug or



tobacco use as a problem, and 77% cited tardiness and skipping class.

Teachers also pointed to growing needs among students, including those with disabilities and multi-lingual learners, and said they need more support to meet those demands.

Even with those concerns, most teachers reported positive views of their schools. About 93% said their school is a great place to work and learn. Roughly 84% said they plan

to stay at their current school, and about 91% said they plan to keep teaching next year.

Teachers who said they plan to leave — about 5% — reported far worse conditions across nearly every area, including time, leadership and student conduct.

School leadership drew generally positive marks, particularly for instructional support, with 91.8% of teachers saying they are encouraged to use new skills. But fewer said they

trust school leaders or feel they have a voice in decisions, areas the report links to retention.

"The trust in your leadership makes a whole difference as an educator," said Rachel Candaso, a former Teacher of the Year and member of the State Board of Education. She said teachers stay in schools where they build trust with peers, but that retention is closely tied to principals.

"That trust goes back to your principal and the conditions they create. That's a big thing for teachers when they stay in a school or even in a district — the level of trust they have with the people on top," Candaso said.

Teachers also said they often lose planning time during the school day because they are asked to cover other classes.

"As a high school teacher, I cannot fathom being with my students the majority of the day or having no intentional and protected instructional planning time. It is not best practice," Jones said. "It's not sustainable for the profession overall. Our teachers need that time to collaborate."

The survey included about 36,000 written comments, many focused on

pay, staffing, resources and workload. Teachers described supportive school environments but pointed to broader challenges, including funding and staffing shortages.

This year's results also come alongside a pilot survey of principals in 11 districts.

More than three-quarters of principals said they work at least 51 hours a week, with most reporting

additional work outside the school day. Nearly all said their district is a good place to work.

Principals cited student behavior, time demands and the challenge of supporting a wide range of student needs as top concerns. State officials plan to expand the survey statewide this fall so districts can compare teacher and school leader perspectives.

Government Affairs Reception Projects Political "Fortification"

By Jheri Hardaway

Staff Writer

Raleigh, NC - Feed, cure, defend was the sentiment NC Chamber leadership echoed as business leaders and state legislators gathered at the NC Chamber's Government Affairs Reception. This brief but deep dive into a political landscape defined by "fortification" rather than just polarization was enlightening. The event, which serves as a premier networking hub for North Carolina's decision-makers, featured a political briefing from veteran strategists David Avella and Megan Hayes. David Avella, Chairman of GOPAC, challenged the common narrative that the country is undergoing a political realignment. Instead, he argued, we are seeing a "political fortification." Meghan Hays, veteran Democratic strategist and principal of West Shore Strategies, brought forth a much more wait-and-see sentiment.

"Republican states are becoming more Republican, and Democratic states are becoming more Democratic," Avella said, noting that two-thirds of state legislatures across the country are now controlled by supermajorities. However, Avella pointed to North Carolina as a rare exception, a "fortified" Republican-leaning state that remains highly competitive in swing districts. Echoing a plethora of Republican talking points, Avella then conceded that while the state generally favors Republicans, the path to victory lies with independent voters.

Democratic strategist Megan Hayes highlighted that the true battle for the future of North Carolina is being fought in the suburbs. She described a widening "urban versus rural" gap that is reshaping candidate selection. "The battlegrounds, especially in North Carolina, have become the suburbs," Hayes said. "It's about people moving here and what their beliefs are. We are seeing college-educated populations moving down from the Northeast, and that is going to be a boom for Democrats moving forward." Hayes emphasized that for Democrats to succeed in this environment, their policies must remain moderate to appeal to those new residents who may be put off by the "extreme" labels often applied to national politics.

With the U.S. Senate race looming, both strategists agreed that North Carolina remains a "Republican-favorable" state, but one that is not immune to national headwinds. Despite the "noisy" and "tribal" nature of current American politics, both strategists offered a note of optimism. Hayes pointed to the increased involvement of young people and the necessity of compromise in split-government scenarios. Avella reminded the audience, "We keep surviving because ultimately, voters are in charge."

NC Chamber President Gary Salamido closed the briefing by emphasizing that while politics may fluctuate, the role of the business community remains constant. He touted North Carolina's consistent ranking as a top state for business, attributing it to intentional policy choices like competitive taxes and infrastructure investment. "Business is where innovation happens, it's where people find purpose and dignity through work," Salamido said. "Whether it's agriculture, life sciences, or our new defense initiative, this work requires leadership and engagement from everyone in this room." The reception concluded with a call for continued partnership between policymakers and the business community to ensure North Carolina remains a national leader in economic growth.

Sen. Murdock Takes On Rising Stillbirth Rates

By Jordan Meadows

Staff Writer

A bill moving through the North Carolina General Assembly aims to address what lawmakers and advocates describe as a growing stillbirth crisis across the state.

Senate Bill 909, known as the Building Understanding of Movement in Pregnancy Act, or BUMP Act, would require the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services to provide free, standardized education on stillbirth prevention to pregnant patients and training for prenatal care providers statewide. Introduced by Natalie Murdock alongside co-sponsors De-Andrea Salvador and Sophia Chitlik, the legislation focuses heavily on fetal movement tracking and early intervention during pregnancy.

Under the proposal, educational materials would be evidence-based and available in English, Spanish, and other languages as needed. The materials would include information on warning signs requiring urgent

medical attention, stillbirth risk factors such as infections, hypertension, and diabetes, and guidance on how expectant mothers can access care, including after-hours services.

"This act requires DHHS to provide standardized and evidence-based educational materials to pregnant patients for stillbirth prevention," Murdock said in a press conference on Thursday.

Murdock said the legislation would also require the state to develop or procure training for prenatal care providers focused on fetal movement education beginning at 28 weeks of pregnancy. The training would cover response protocols for decreased fetal movement, including same-day evaluation, infection-related risks such as syphilis, and placental and umbilical cord complications. The bill directs that training be offered both virtually and in person.

"This is a common-sense approach that strengthens care, supports parents, and saves lives," Murdock said.

The legislation comes as North Carolina continues to report higher-

than-average stillbirth rates. According to supporters of the bill, approximately 708 babies are stillborn in North Carolina each year and the state's stillbirth rate has remained largely unchanged since 2009.

Murdock said counties including Anson, Edgecombe, Sampson, Lenoir, and Vance face some of the highest risks, with Black mothers in North Carolina experiencing stillbirth at roughly twice the rate of other groups.

A major component of the bill is the launch of a statewide "Count the Kicks" public awareness campaign, which would receive \$200,000 in recurring funding beginning in the 2026-27 fiscal year. The initiative is designed to teach expectant parents to monitor fetal movement during the third trimester using tools such as a mobile app, kick-count tracking bracelets, or paper charts.

"Parents track how long it takes to feel a set number of movements and learn what is normal for their baby so they can quickly recognize and report any changes that may signal

distress," Murdock said.

Supporters of the legislation say education and awareness can make a measurable difference. Emily Levin, a mother advocating for the bill, said improved awareness and provider training can help prevent tragedies. "There are solutions to the stillbirth crisis in North Carolina," Levin said. "Every provider also deserves to have the training and resources needed to improve outcomes for their patients."

The BUMP Act would appropriate \$400,000 in recurring state funding to the Department of Health and Human Services' Division of Public Health beginning in the 2026-27 fiscal year. Half of the funding would support patient education materials, while the remaining funds would be used to train prenatal care providers on stillbirth prevention protocols.

Senate Bill 909 passed its first reading in the North Carolina Senate and was referred to the Senate Committee on Appropriations/Base Budget for further review.



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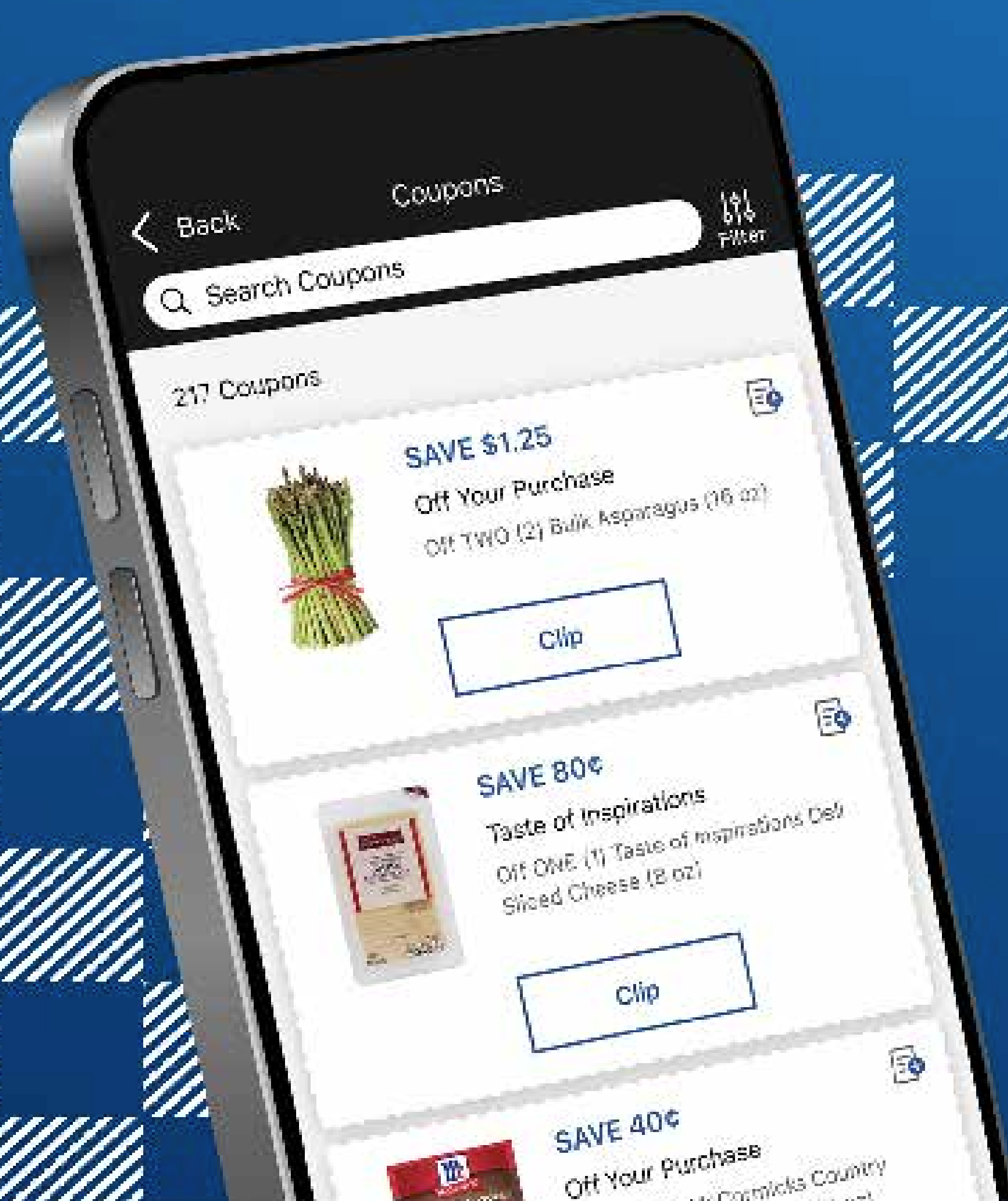
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Arts & Culture

In The Triangle, People Are Making Media Physical Again

WUNC - Michael Wilkerson uses a flip phone.

That may not immediately strike anyone as strange until they find out that Wilkerson is a junior at UNC-Chapel Hill. He got his first phone in middle school, and it wasn't until his first year in college that he realized: "I hate my phone."

"My phone died one day, and I still went out and hung out with my friends," he said. "I realized that life went on, you know? I didn't need it."

Wilkerson isn't alone. A 2024 study by Pew Research Center found 95% of teens have access to a smartphone. About 4 in 10 teens said they spent too much time on their phones or social media. Roughly the same number reported having taken steps to reduce their screen time.

Social media is rife with content about teens and young adults embracing physical media. Take the Triangle's own Angeline Richard, who has amassed over 46,700 TikTok followers by posting content on nostalgia and physical media.

She said she's seen the prices for nostalgic physical media jump in recent months, as internet trends ironically encourage people to get off their phones and off of streaming services.

Then there's The Newsagent's in downtown Raleigh, a newly opened vintage media store whose co-owner, Neetzan Zimmerman, has a background as a digital journalist. He's hoping to curate a space where people will engage with media outside of algorithms and media companies.

There's certainly still an audience for the vintage market: Vinyl sales are on a 19-year growth streak, according to a 2025 report published by the Recording Industry Association of America. Physical media sales still account for 12% of total US revenue.

So, what's going on with physical media? We sat down with Wilkerson, Richard and Zimmerman to learn more about their stories and what attracts them to analog.

"I'm more connected out in the world."

Wilkerson had tried a few different ways to get off his phone. One day, as a first-year student, he challenged himself to take the bus from Chapel Hill to Raleigh without using his phone. He also tried leaving his phone in his room to hang out with friends.

But no matter how he tried to get off of social media throughout college, he said, he was unsuccessful.

"It was just so easy, so easy to be like, 'Oh, I wonder what happened on Instagram tonight,' and then just re-download it and scroll, and five minutes, and then 30 minutes have gone by," Wilkerson said.

What changed for Wilkerson was the passing of his father the summer after his first year at UNC. His mother had died in eighth grade, and losing another parent changed who he was, Wilkerson said.

His father had always been a fan of physical maps, a quality he passed on to Wilkerson. In the wake of his passing, Wilkerson said he wanted to be more independent and more connected to the world around him.

"Whenever I get rid of my phone, I feel like I'm more connected out in the world," he said. "There's smaller things that you realize."

At the start of March, Wilkerson decided to purchase a Jitterbug flip. The phone has everything he needs, he said. It's got a clock, calculator, camera, and even an FM radio that he can listen to with wired headphones.

He gave his phone to his girlfriend, who goes to Meredith College, and went completely without a



smartphone for a month. The biggest change he noticed during his time away was that he was able to focus more on school and friends, he said.

Smartphones don't always mean addiction, Wilkerson said. Some people can just control their screen time.

"But I then think that there are some people who have never lived without an iPhone, so you kind of don't know how much you're relying on it for," he said.

While he's not switching permanently, Wilkerson said he wants to figure out a way to integrate his flip phone into his life after the experiment. He's already done the same with lots of other physical media, including his film camera, his Walkman, and his MP3 player.

He even uses business cards to give his number out to new friends.

Wilkerson said his advice to people interested in switching to a physical media-based lifestyle is simple: Start by leaving your phone in your room.

"Is this why everybody's so mad?"

Because we just lack color?"

Though Angeline Richard had kept some of her most meaningful VHS tapes and DVDs from when she was younger, her progression towards physical media really began in the fall of 2023.

Richard said she grew frustrated with streaming services, tired of the non-stop ads, changes to her subscriptions, and on top of it all, her favorite media disappearing. Around that same time, she realized many of her favorite movies and TV shows were in thrift stores for only a few dollars.

"I was like, I'm paying \$12 a month for one subscription, and then \$10 for another one, and then, like, \$5 for another one, and then a free trial for another," Richard said. "I'm looking for all these movies on different platforms when I could just go to the thrift store."

She began to collect media, and after graduating from North Carolina Central University in 2024, began to post about her physical media collection,

specifically highlighting early 2000s tech and nostalgia.

Now, living in Princeton, N.C., Richard is a full-time content creator with almost 70,000 followers on Instagram and TikTok.

As of February, her physical media collection totaled 101 VHS tapes, 203 DVDs, 91 books and 24 CDs. She uses an iPod shuffle for music, a DVD player and VCR to watch content and consoles for gaming.

Richard said she saves \$50 to \$70 a month by owning her own media. She's only subscribed to Netflix to watch one of her favorite shows, "Bridgerton."

When she first started sharing her physical media collection, Richard said there weren't that many people creating similar content. She's noticed more online engagement around physical media, especially starting in the summer of 2025. People are connected to the sentimental stories behind physical media, she said.

Reconnecting with older content has reminded her how unique different art styles and illustrations can be, Richard said. She said she's noticed she has more color in her life, especially since modern media can look dull.

"It just made me think, 'Wow, is this why everybody's so mad?'" she said. "Because we just lack color?"

The biggest lesson people can take away from physical media is slowing down, Richard said, and taking the time to actually learn more about their interests and styles.

"Overconsumption has been so bad, especially when it comes to trends, people want to buy everything to be part of it," she said. "Everybody just wants to be part of something. That's just human nature."

"Who controls the access?"
Right off of Fayetteville Street sits

one of Raleigh's newest stores: The Newsagent's. Tucked inside its bright orange door sits a world of vintage physical media, coffee and nostalgia.

Husband-and-wife duo Neetzan Zimmerman and Yulia Shamis opened the store this spring with a unique goal: Helping people rediscover, preserve, and restore physical culture outside of digital algorithms.

Zimmerman's relationship with physical media traces back to his childhood, growing up in a remote socialist commune in Israel with no personal possessions. The only way he could really "access culture" was through a VHS player purchased by his dad. His grandmother would send him VHS tapes of popular shows, like The Simpsons.

Zimmerman said his love for physical media comes from both having difficulty accessing it and from growing to love the labor it takes to preserve it.

In the age of streaming, access is not guaranteed, Zimmerman said, because streaming giants get to decide what content audiences can access through rights and deals.

Many media corporations have no incentive to create physical manifestations of their content, he said, meaning there are fewer and fewer distribution channels for film and music. Then there are the pieces of media that never transferred to the digital realm at all.

"It's all about who has access, who's allowed to have access, who controls the access," he said.

Previously, Zimmerman was an online, digital content creator and journalist. His website, The Daily What, was acquired by early internet humor giant Cheezburger in 2010, and he worked in senior positions for websites like Gawker, The Messenger, and The Hill.

The Great Gatsby Production Brings Jazz-Age Spectacle, Sold-Out Run To The Durham Performing Arts Center

By Judaea Ingram

Special to the Carolinian

DURHAM, N.C. - Durham's performing arts scene was transported to the roaring twenties over the weekend as the touring Broadway production of The Great Gatsby completed a week of sold-out performances at the Durham Performing Arts Center, drawing more than 21,000 guests to the venue. The production, staged at the Durham Performing Arts Center, brought the world of F. Scott Fitzgerald's iconic novel to life through a blend of elaborate staging, period costumes, choreography, and live musical performance that captured the glamour and tension of Jazz Age America.

Audiences filled the theater throughout the run, with many performances reaching full capacity as the show continued to generate strong local interest. According to DPAC, the engagement welcomed over 21,000 guests across the week, underscoring the production's popularity in the Triangle.

From the moment the show began,



the production immersed audiences in a stylized depiction of 1920s opulence. Lavish party scenes, dramatic lighting transitions, and carefully choreographed ensemble numbers created a fast-paced theatrical experience that

mirrored the excess and emotion central to the story.

Audience members responded enthusiastically throughout the performances, with applause following musical numbers and key dramatic

moments. Many attendees embraced the theme of the production, arriving dressed in 1920s-inspired attire that matched the world unfolding on stage.

"I can't believe I'm in North Carolina. I am not in New York. I am not kidding," said one audience member dressed in full Great Gatsby-themed 1920s fashion, reflecting the immersive atmosphere inside the theater.

DPAC also highlighted the production's reception, noting strong audience engagement throughout the run. The show was described by organizers as part of a "spectacular" week of performances that consistently drew full houses.

Critics and reviewers echoed the audience response. Susie Potter of Triangle Arts Review described the production as "a decadent and dazzling production," while Cyndi Whisnant of Triangle Theatre Review noted, "The Great Gatsby gives audiences the champagne, the dancing, the costumes, the romance, and the spectacle."

Audience reactions on social media were similarly positive, with one

DPAC guest writing, "The Great Gatsby did not disappoint! Awesome show!!"

The production emphasized both spectacle and storytelling, balancing high-energy ensemble sequences with more intimate character-driven mo-

ments that explore ambition, identity, and disillusionment. The combination of music, choreography, and visual design created a continuous sense of movement that kept audiences engaged throughout the performance. Beyond the stage, the show



Queen Latifah Delivers High-Energy Commencement Address at NC A&T's Class of 2026 Ceremony

By Judaea Ingram

Special to the Carolinian

GREENSBORO, N.C. - The Class of 2026 at North Carolina A&T State University received an energetic and celebratory sendoff from Queen Latifah, who served as keynote speaker during commencement ceremonies held May 9 at First Horizon Coliseum in Greensboro.

Queen Latifah, whose career spans music, film, and television, is widely recognized as a pioneering figure in hip-hop and entertainment. She has earned multiple Grammy Awards, received an Academy Award nomination for her role in Chicago, and built an extensive career in film and television, including acclaimed work as an actress and executive producer. She also has a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame, reflecting her impact across decades in the industry.

From the moment she appeared, the atmosphere inside the coliseum shifted into celebration. Queen Latifah opened her address to the sound of her hit "U.N.I.T.Y.," prompting immediate cheers from graduates who stood to their feet as the arena erupted in excitement. Chants of "Aggie Pride" echoed throughout the venue as families and students responded to the moment.

Smiling and feeding off the crowd's energy, she acknowledged the atmosphere almost immediately. "Y'all got me hyped. The Queen is hyped," she said, drawing laughter and applause from graduates across the arena.

Throughout her remarks, Queen Latifah repeatedly centered the graduates as the focus of the day, emphasizing that the moment belonged to them. "Today is about y'all," she said, reinforcing the significance of their achievement and the transition they were stepping into.

Her speech focused heavily on self-belief, confidence, and the importance of defining success on one's own terms. She encouraged graduates not to limit themselves based on external expectations or conventional paths.

"Be delusional enough to call yourself something the world hasn't called you yet," she said, urging students to imagine possibilities beyond what others may have defined for them.

She continued by encouraging bold decision-making and personal trust, stressing the importance of intuition when navigating life after graduation. "Be brave enough to walk down that road that no one else can see but you," she said. "Say no, even when the world is telling you to say yes, or vice versa. Say yes if that is what your gut is telling you, even if the world is telling you no."

Queen Latifah also emphasized the value of surrounding oneself with supportive and encouraging people. She urged graduates to be intentional about their community, saying, "Find the people who believe in you and rock with them."

As she neared the end of her address, she shifted to a message of personal ownership and confidence, encouraging students to step fully into who they are meant to be. "Find a way to find your crowd, put it on, and rock that thing," she said.

She closed her remarks by directly addressing the graduating class, offering congratulations before ending on a final burst of school spirit: "Aggie Pride."

The keynote address stood out as one of the most energetic moments of NC A&T's commencement ceremonies, blending celebration, audience interaction, and motivational messaging as graduates marked the completion of their academic journey and the beginning of their next chapter.

Motown's Black Women Songwriters And Producers Were The Invisible Architects

THE CONVERSATION - During the 1960s, in a country divided by racial strife, the music of Berry Gordy Jr.'s Motown Records helped bring people together.

Motown was noted for star performers like Mary Wells, The Miracles, The Supremes, The Temptations, Martha Reeves and the Vandellas, Marvin Gaye and Stevie Wonder. But, behind the scenes, a talented group of lesser known women were driving the hits in Hitsville U.S.A.

I'm a scholar of popular culture and author of the biography "It's No Wonder: The Life and Times of Motown's Legendary Songwriter Sylvia Moy." Researching my book inspired me to find other women who contributed to the Detroit label's era of chart dominance and helped change the music industry, despite going largely unrecognized for their efforts.

I listened to Motown growing up, but it wasn't until 2021, while sitting at home during the pandemic, that I discovered Moy's history as the lyricist for Stevie Wonder and how she helped revive his early career.

Because Moy died in 2017, I wasn't able to speak with her for the book. Instead I researched her life by reading countless interviews she gave, along with talking to her former colleagues at Motown, family and ethnomusicologists, who are scholars that study music through the lens of culture.

Architect of the early sound

When Gordy was organizing his company, Janie Bradford was one of the original five founding members who arrived in 1958. She was the label's first secretary and its first female songwriter after co-writing, with Gordy, the song "Money (That's What

I Want)." That song was released on Tamla Records in 1959 and performed by Barrett Strong. When Motown was incorporated the following year, the song became the label's first hit record on the R&B chart and Billboard Hot 100.

Later, Bradford co-wrote "Contract on Love" for Wonder and "Too Busy Thinking About My Baby," first recorded by The Temptations and later, Marvin Gaye. Bradford, who later became Motown's director of writer's relations, teamed up with pianist Richard "Popcorn" Wylie in the early 1960s to form Janard, a small production company.

Bradford's collection of poetry is what captured Gordy's attention, so he encouraged her to be a songwriter. Her witty lyrics told stories about situations that most anyone could relate to - namely, money and love - blended with up-tempo, thumping beats.

Laying the foundation as a producer

Another key figure who paved the way with the Motown sound was Raynoma Gordy Singleton, who was married to Berry Gordy Jr. from 1960 to 1964. She organized Motown during its beginnings by completing the necessary paperwork to incorporate the business. Known as "Miss Ray" to some and "Mother Motown" to others, she located the legendary house at 2648 West Grand Boulevard that became the Motown headquarters and, decades later, the Motown Museum.

In her role as the label's first executive vice president, she established a tape library. A piano virtuoso and singer, the Cass Technical High School graduate wrote that she was able to play all string and wind instruments. As a result, she became the company's



SYLVIA MOY WAS A TRAILBLAZING MOTOWN SONGWRITER. L. BUSACCA/WIREIMAGE

first female arranger and producer by putting together its first backup vocal group, the Rayber Voices, in 1958.

"Producing records was where the action was controlled - and where the money was to be made," she wrote in her memoir, "The Untold Story: Berry, Me, and Motown," which aimed to reclaim her place in the Motown echelon.

During the 1960s, women weren't considered producers because of broader biases and norms in the male-dominated music industry. Even so, Miss Ray got credit for producing Jimmy Ruffin's song "Don't Feel Sorry for Me" in 1961.

Earning a producer's credit was a sign of legitimacy. Most producers received a songwriting credit and determined who received credit in the liner notes for their contribution to the recording.

While women mostly worked in

administrative roles at Motown, there still weren't any female full-time, in-house songwriters and producers. Like the rest of the music industry back then, Motown's internal structure was patriarchal with those positions.

The first certified female songwriter and producer

Yet this imbalanced gender dynamic at Motown didn't stop Sylvia Moy.

There hadn't been any women producers behind significant, popular songs at Motown until Moy arrived, according to interviews I conducted for her biography.

Motown was at its peak in 1964. Demand for new songs was intense. When the label's executives realized how skillfully the two audition songs Moy performed were composed, they decided that her future was in songwriting instead of singing.

(See **MOTOWN**, P. 11)

Community

March of Dimes, March for Babies Walk Brings Together Families, Survivors, and Advocates Across the Triangle

By Judaea Ingram

Special to the Carolinian

CARY, N.C. – Despite early rain and gray skies, families, healthcare workers, students, and community organizations gathered across the Triangle for the 2026 March for Babies walk, an annual event organized by March of Dimes to raise awareness and funding for maternal and infant health.

Participants arrived wearing purple and pink event shirts, while many children and families sported superhero capes bearing the words “March for Dimes.” As rain fell before the event began, volunteers distributed umbrellas while attendees gathered beneath tents and trees waiting for the walk to officially start. By the time opening remarks concluded, the sun had begun to break through the clouds.

The event, held during Mother’s Day weekend, focused on honoring families affected by premature birth, infant loss, NICU stays, and maternal health complications. Throughout the morning, walkers shared personal stories and reasons for participating, with shirts and signs memorializing loved ones and children who inspired their involvement.

One shirt worn by a participant read, “Still Walking with Rhea,” while another section of the event honored families participating in memory of children and relatives who had passed away. A butterfly release also paid tribute to loved ones remembered during the walk.

According to organizers, the event supports programs and advocacy efforts aimed at addressing maternal

and infant health challenges in the United States, including NICU family support, prenatal care access, and maternal health research.

Members of several Divine Nine organizations participated throughout the event, joining fundraising teams and walking in support of maternal and infant health awareness. Among the participating groups, members of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. were recognized for raising the highest amount of funds during the event.

Children’s activities and entertainment remained active throughout the morning despite changing weather conditions. Families visited stations featuring face painting, finger painting, mini games, and dance activities as music played across the event grounds. Organizers also created hospitality areas for mothers that included mocktails, donuts, cookies, and more.

One of the event’s most emotional moments came during remarks from the 2026 ambassador family, the Oracle family, who shared their experience navigating life with a premature infant during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Kelly Oracle described giving birth to her daughter Emma at just 25 weeks, weighing only one pound. She recalled learning “a new language of oxygen levels, ventilators, and alarms,” while navigating the emotional isolation that often accompanies long-term NICU stays.

“What became so clear is that the NICU is more than caring for an infant,” Oracle said during her remarks. “Every baby comes with a full entourage, a story, a village.”



Oracle later explained that her experience ultimately inspired her professional path caring for babies and families facing similar circumstances. She described the emotional realities of supporting parents through trauma, uncertainty, and grief while celebrating moments of survival and progress.

“This work is not just my profession, but deeply personal,” she said.

Her daughter Emma, now six years old, was recognized during the event as a thriving NICU gradu-

ate. Oracle shared an emotional moment recalling Emma recently telling her, “Mom, want to know something crazy? I was born really early, but I’m now a totally normal kid.”

“If only she knew just how extraordinary she was,” Oracle said.

Throughout the event, organizers repeatedly emphasized the message that “every step counts,” reminding participants that the walk represented more than a fundraiser. Many attendees described the event as an opportunity to connect with families who

understand the emotional weight of NICU experiences, infant loss, and maternal health challenges.

A NICU graduates parade became one of the day’s defining moments, as families and children walked together while the song “Fight Song” played through speakers. During the parade, children who had spent time in the NICU walked alongside their families holding signs that read “I Was a NICU Baby,” followed by the number of weeks at which they were

born. Some children were born as early as 25 or 26 weeks, drawing emotional reactions and applause from attendees gathered along the walking path. Organizers and participants celebrated the children as “tiny but brave warriors,” recognizing both their survival and the journeys their families endured during extended NICU stays.

For many parents in attendance, the parade served as a visible reminder of how far their children had come since those early days surrounded by hospital monitors, ventilators, and uncertainty.

Katie Casey, state director for March of Dimes, acknowledged the personal motivations that brought many people to the event.

“Many of you have a personal reason for joining this walk today,” Casey told the crowd. “Together as we march, we are all moms and babies.”

As the one-mile walk officially began, families continued moving through the event grounds together while sharing stories, taking photos, and celebrating children whose journeys began in the NICU. For many attendees, the event served as both a celebration of survival and a reminder of the continued need for maternal and infant health advocacy.

By the end of the morning, the rain had cleared completely, leaving walkers gathered beneath sunny skies that contrasted sharply with the stormy start to the day. Still, participants said the weather reflected the spirit of the event itself: resilience, hope, and community support through difficult moments.



NC Black Alliance 25 Years

Celebrating 25 years, North Carolina Black Alliance (NCBA) hosted its 20th Annual NC Black Summit April 23-24 at the Marriott Crabtree Valley. The event featured a fireside chat comprising founding executive director Brad Thompson (left to right), outgoing executive director Courtney Crowder and newly named executive director Marcus Bass. NCBA team members (pictured) hosted Summit attendees at the governor’s mansion. Summit keynote speakers included social justice advocate Angela Rye and social media influencer Lynae Vanee.



Raleigh Unveils A Few Options For The New Bern Ave Former DMV Site

By Jordan Meadows

Staff Writer

Raleigh’s long-vacant former Division of Motor Vehicles headquarters on New Bern Avenue is moving closer to redevelopment, with city leaders now weighing multiple proposals centered on affordable housing, retail space, and community-focused development along the future New Bern Bus Rapid Transit corridor.

Demolition of the former DMV campus is roughly halfway complete, although city officials say the project has been delayed due to the scale of asbestos removal required on the site. Crews are now expected to finish tearing down the property by November.

The city purchased the roughly six-acre site in 2023 for \$20 million, aiming to maintain public control over a strategically located parcel in one of Raleigh’s fastest-changing corridors. City planners say the goal is to transform the property into a dense, transit-oriented development that also serves longtime residents and surrounding neighborhoods.

Over the last two years, officials have held dozens of community meetings and engagement sessions to gather feedback on what residents want to see built there, with affordable housing, neighborhood retail, public gathering spaces, and local business opportunities consistently ranking among the top priorities.

“This site is really an opportunity to shape growth in a way that benefits the community,” Raleigh Planning and Development Deputy Director Ken Bowers told city council during a recent presentation outlining possible

redevelopment options.

The city is currently evaluating three primary development scenarios, all of which include affordable housing components alongside market-rate apartments, townhomes, parking, and retail or community space. Each proposal relies in part on low-income housing tax credits to make the projects financially viable.

Under the first option, the city would pursue a 9% low-income housing tax credit to build 269 apartments, including 60 affordable units, along with 36 townhomes, 20,000 square feet of retail space, and roughly 300 parking spaces. City staff said this option would likely avoid the need for additional public subsidies beyond the city’s initial land purchase.

The second proposal would also include 269 apartments but would expand the affordable housing component to 110 units. That version would include 22 townhomes, retail space, and parking, but staff estimate it would require between \$6 million and \$10 million in additional public subsidies.

A third scenario would build 368 apartments, including 111 affordable units, along with 20 townhomes and nearly 450 parking spaces housed in a city-subsidized parking deck. Officials estimate that option would require between \$6.4 million and \$7.4 million in additional public funding.

Despite the city’s housing goals, officials acknowledged that current market conditions are complicating redevelopment plans. A surge in apartment construction across Raleigh has slowed rent growth, while construction costs and interest rates remain elevated, making multifamily housing projects more dif-



icult to finance.

“Unfortunately, where we are at in the market today is there is a glut of multifamily supply and still relatively high construction pricing and interest rates,” Bowers said.

City leaders say they are trying to avoid heavily subsidizing the project beyond the original \$20 million land acquisition. The next step will involve issuing a request for interest to gauge how much demand exists from private developers before moving into a formal request-for-proposals process.

Councilman Corey Branch, who represents the district that includes the former DMV site, said the aim is to incorporate as many of the community’s top priorities as possible into the final plan before the request for proposals is issued.

“We’re going to put as much as we can from the community group as far as what’s going on at that site,” Branch said.

Community advocates and nearby small business owners say they hope the redevelopment prioritizes accessibility and affordability beyond housing alone.

Raleigh continues to reshape the New Bern Avenue corridor ahead of the planned bus rapid transit line, which city leaders see as a major opportunity to expand housing density while connecting residents to jobs, services, and transit. Officials say the former DMV site could ultimately become one of the city’s most prominent examples of transit-oriented redevelopment focused on balancing growth with affordability.

Debate To Regulate Youth Social Media Use

By Jordan Meadows

Staff Writer

North Carolina lawmakers are advancing new legislation aimed at regulating minors’ access to social media, as advocacy groups and policymakers raise concerns about the possible effects of online platforms on young users.

House Bill 301, titled the “Social Media Protections for Minors Under 16,” would prohibit children under 14 from holding social media ac-

counts and require parental consent for those ages 14 and 15. The bill, which passed the House in a 106-6 vote last year, is now moving through the Senate after receiving a favorable report from the chamber’s education committee.

Under the proposal, social media companies would be required to terminate accounts held by minors under 14 and any accounts belonging to 14- and 15-year-olds who do not have verified parental consent within 30 days of detection. Lawmakers backing

the bill say the measure is necessary to address what they describe as growing harms associated with youth social media use, including mental health challenges and excessive exposure to algorithm-driven content.

“I just want to commend this effort to rein in what is extremely addictive technology, and to free our young people from dependence on social media, which is driving so much of what you said: isolation, depression, self harm,” said Sen.

Sophia Chitlik, D-Durham. “Any effort to regulate this, I think, is a good one.”

The legislation would also require platforms to implement age verification systems, allowing users to choose between anonymous age verification and standard methods, in order to confirm that account holders are at least 16 years old or have appropriate parental consent. Companies would be prohibited

(See **SOCIAL MEDIA**, P. 12)



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Church

Step Up Ministries Launches \$7.5M Campaign to Address Poverty

By Jheri Hardaway

Staff Writer

Raleigh, NC — In a region often ranked among the best for economic mobility, thousands of families in Wake County are still struggling to stay stable, not because they don't want to work, but because the barriers around them are too complex to navigate alone. StepUp Ministry is responding with a different kind of solution. The Raleigh-based nonprofit has announced the launch of Rooted & Rising, a \$7.5 million campaign to expand its whole-family model to help individuals and families move toward long-term economic mobility, reaching both parents and children with programming designed to break the cycle of poverty at its source.

The campaign has already earned public-sector support. In November, Wake County approved a \$550,000 Community Capital Grant for StepUp Ministry to replace its existing facility and help individuals rise out of pov-

erty. At the center of the campaign is a new 9,500-square-foot facility designed to scale that model, serve up to 1,000 individuals per week at full capacity, and help an estimated 1,000 Wake County residents move above the poverty line each year. "This work has never been just about employment," said Colisha C. Stanford, CEO of StepUp Ministry. "It's about helping people build a stable life. A job is one step. What people really need is a clear path forward and the support to stay on it." StepUp's approach is structured around that pathway. Participants begin with employment training through the organization's Employment Academy, but that's just the starting point. From there, they move into a 48-week Life Skills Academy focused on financial literacy, emotional health, goal-setting, and relationships. Long after initial progress, participants continue through the Next Steps Academy, where they receive ongoing coaching, leadership development, and community support.

What sets StepUp apart is how it provides programming for the entire family. While parents are learning how to build a budget, navigate employment, and create stability, their children, starting as young as six weeks old, are engaged in age-appropriate programming that reinforces those same concepts. Kids learn foundational skills such as needs versus wants, emotional regulation, and healthy routines, which create alignment at home and strengthen long-term outcomes. It's a model built for real life, not just resumes. Through more than 30 community partners, StepUp also connects participants to wraparound support that can address barriers such as housing instability, transportation, childcare, justice system involvement, and recovery. Those factors often determine whether someone can keep a job, not just get one. The results are consistent. In FY2025, participants earned an average of \$16.79 per hour, above the local poverty wage, while nearly 750

individuals and families engaged in StepUp programs. The organization has also seen a 55% increase in intakes, underscoring both the growing need for services and the strength of its approach. The new facility is designed to meet that growth with greater intention. Seventy-two percent of the space will be dedicated to programming, including a Skills Lab, digital literacy hub, and family-centered environments where parents and children can grow together. "This is about designing a space that

reflects the journey people are actually on," Stanford said. "When you support a parent, you support a child. When you support a family, you create stability that lasts." The Rooted & Rising campaign also includes a \$1 million Strength & Stability Fund to help ensure the expanded model remains sustainable as it grows.

To learn more about Rooted & Rising or make a gift to support StepUp Ministry's next chapter of impact, visit <https://www.stepup-ministry.org/rooted>. StepUp Min-

istry StepUp Ministry is a Raleigh-based nonprofit that helps individuals and families move from instability to sustained economic mobility through employment training, life skills development, and ongoing support. Through a whole-family, wraparound model, StepUp equips participants with the tools, relationships, and confidence needed to build lasting stability. Since its founding nearly 40 years ago, the organization has served more than 10,000 individuals across Wake County.

Family Festivities Mark Mother's Day Weekend At The Durham Bulls Game

By Judaea Ingram

Special to the Carolinian

DURHAM, N.C. — Weekend baseball at Durham Bulls Athletic Park carried a festive, family-centered atmosphere as the Durham Bulls hosted a home series against the Round Rock Express, highlighted by a Mother's Day celebration that blended baseball, special events, and community tradition in downtown Durham.

While the series itself was part of the regular Minor League Baseball schedule, Sunday's matchup stood out as the centerpiece of the weekend, with the organization offering a dedicated Mother's Day experience that extended beyond the game itself.

Ahead of first pitch on May 10, the Bulls hosted a Mother's Day brunch package that gave families a unique way to experience the ballpark. The offering included buffet access, seating in the third base party deck along with stadium seating in front of the deck, a Mother's Day rose for guests, and a visit from Wool E. Bull, the team's mascot.

The brunch menu featured a variety of ballpark and breakfast-style food options, including hot dogs, French toast, bacon egg and cheese bites, cheese egg bites, and hash browns. The combination reflected the casual but celebratory tone of the event, designed to bring families together before the game in a more relaxed, social setting.

Marketing for the event leaned into the theme of appreciation, with the team promoting the package as a way to celebrate mothers in a memorable way. "Still looking for something that says 'you're literally the best'?" promotional messaging noted, positioning the brunch and game experience as a full-day celebration. In addition to the brunch package, the Mother's Day weekend also included in-game recognition and fam-



ily participation on the field. Before Sunday's game, mothers and children were invited onto the field for a pregame celebration, where families walked along the baselines, took photos, and interacted with Wool E. Bull. The moment created a relaxed, joyful atmosphere before the start of play, with many families capturing photos in the outfield and near the dugouts.

As the game progressed, the stadium returned to its familiar rhythm of minor league baseball at DBAP. Fans filled the stands throughout the weekend series, continuing the Durham Bulls' reputation as one of the most consistent draws in Triple-A baseball.

Beyond Sunday's festivities, the weekend series included a fireworks show, adding another layer of entertainment to the home stand. The postgame display lit up the Durham skyline and extended the game-day experience beyond the final out, a staple attraction that continues to draw families and larger weekend crowds to downtown Durham. Throughout the series, the atmosphere at the ballpark reflected what has become a hallmark of Bulls games: a blend of sport, entertainment, and community engagement.

Fans moved through the concourse between innings, visited concessions, and participated in in-game entertainment while music and scoreboard features kept energy levels steady throughout the night.

The Durham Bulls, one of Minor League Baseball's most recognizable franchises, continue to serve as a cultural anchor in downtown Durham. The ballpark not only hosts baseball games but also functions as a social space where families, students, and longtime fans gather for shared experiences throughout the season.

For many attendees, the Mother's Day weekend stood out as more than just another series on the schedule. It was a combination of baseball, celebration, and family tradition that reflected the team's ongoing effort to turn games into full experiences.

As the series concluded, the weekend reinforced the Bulls' identity as more than a sports team, but as part of the city's broader community fabric. With themed events, special packages, and consistent fan engagement, Durham Bulls baseball continues to blend the game on the field with experiences that extend far beyond it.

SERMON of the WEEK



Lincoln Park Holiness Church "Mothers Are Special"

The Sunday Morning Worship Service on May 10, 2026, at Lincoln Park Holiness Church, under the leadership of Bishop-Elect William Eli Ratcliff, was a heartfelt Mother's Day celebration honoring mothers and their impact on families, churches, and communities.

Immediately after Sunday School, the Pastor and Overseer-Elect Demetrius Hunter baptized a young lady and her mother, who were both proud to have that divine experience on Mother's Day!

The beautiful service opened with a touching video presentation, "Blessed with a Mother Like You," by D'Andre Johnson. The Lincoln Park Community Youth Choir followed with the musical selection, "A Mom Like You."

The congregation was also blessed with outstanding liturgical dance performances by the youth of Lincoln Park. The Lovely Lilies ministered through dance selections, "Because You Loved Me" and "Thank You," while The Awesome Angels performed "I Remember Mama" and "Rain on Us."

Inspirational Mother's Day messages were delivered by General Mother-Elect Belinda Mckoy and Eldress-Elect Selena Hunter.

Speaking from the subject, "Mothers Are Special," General Mother-Elect Mckoy reminded the congregation that it takes a village to raise a child. She emphasized that mothers should be honored for their hard work, dedication, and commitment to their families and communities because "Mothers Are Special."

She acknowledged the many forms of motherhood, including church mothers, elderly mothers, young mothers, spiritual mothers, godmothers, grandmothers, great-grandmothers, stepmothers, aunts, and friends whose wisdom and prayers have guided generations.

Mother Mckoy explained that a mother is not only a female parent, but also a woman who nurtures, cares for, teaches, and provides guidance and authority similar to that of a parent. She noted that motherhood encompasses biological, legal, spiritual, and nurturing relationships.

Eldress-Elect Selena Hunter delivered a message titled, "We Must Stay

Impacting." She described motherhood as a sacred position in the hearts of families and communities. She encouraged mothers to continue training up children in the way they should go so that, as they grow older, they will not depart from it.

She also recognized the importance of elderly church mothers who help guide younger generations along the way. Hunter reminded the congregation that Jesus is the way and that believers must continue to stand in the gap for others. Although raising children in today's world is not easy, she stressed that mothers must continue making a positive impact.

After the benediction, Mother's Day gifts were presented to all mothers and women, young and old, in attendance, so they could either enjoy the gift themselves or give it to a living mother on this special day.

To experience the full message, visit Lincoln Park Holiness Church YouTube Channel to watch this week's sermon. Viewers are encouraged to like, subscribe, and share their thoughts in the comments as the ministry continues to connect and grow together in faith.

Practical Biblical Principles

HER WORK IS PRICELESS

Read: Proverbs 31:27

By John L. Caldwell, Pastor
New Jerusalem Baptist Cathedral

Mother's Day is a special opportunity to reflect on the love, faith, strength of the women who shape our lives. Today's message is a reminder to every mom - whether you're in the thick of raising toddlers, guiding teens, or praying for adult children - you are seen by God. His eyes are on you, and His heart is for you.

Some of the most important work in God's kingdom doesn't happen on a stage - it happens in the kitchen, next to a baby's crib, at school drop offs, combing hair, washing faces, and the warm encouraging hugs felt at momma's breast. Those forgotten words of wisdom, those new clothes on birthdays and holidays, attending school plays, hovering over a feverish and sick child, until healing comes. These acts of love and caring go on and on without charging a penny. Many Mothers work tirelessly behind the scenes, without, applause or recognition. Jesus teaches what's done in secret is seen by the Father.

Many Mothers wonder, "Does what I really do matter?" The answer is Yes!

Though Momma's work may go unnoticed by the world, it is never missed by the God Who sees in secret. Honoring Mothers is a spiritual act that pleases God and strengthens families. A mother who walks with God, loves faithfully, and serves her family with grace is a priceless gift. Scriptures reveal that her worth is more than rubies.

The church must be especially careful not to be all inclusive when it comes to honoring mothers. Otherwise, it would appear, that only those mothers who "get it done right" will be praised and honored. I'm convinced that Jesus would not want it this way. All mothers are worthy of being praised and honored.

Proverbs 31 ask the question, "Who can find a virtuous woman?" Then the text goes on to define a virtuous woman and her actions. Yet the text did not identify such a per-

son by name. Proverbs set the virtuous woman up as "ideal" to strive for and hopefully to obtain such a status. God gave Moses the TEN COMMANDMENTS for us to strive for. God knew from the beginning we are not perfect and never will be.

The reality is that all mothers are not "A" grade. Some mothers are B, C, D, E, F grade. All mothers are not rich like the Virtuous mother who is described as having the resources to take care of her family. There are mothers who have limited resources to take care of their families. Some even have less, thus the "B,C,D,E,F" grade moms; the fact that the devil is busy trying to destroy and take down every family he can get a hold of. The devil includes divorcee, dysfunctional, and churchless families and other traps which keeps a mother from rising to the "A" grade. The mother of the family is the devil's prime target ever since Eve had her encounter with the snake in the Garden.

What about those mothers who started out trying to get it right and for some reason didn't make the mark, doing the best they could do. What about the mother, who was abandoned by the father or man in the house. The mother is now left alone with one or more children.

What about the mother-head of household who was forced to take over the family all alone, and who worked and scrambled to make ends meet and was able to provide for the family until they were able to be on their own?

What about the single unmarried women who took charge and cared for those in her family when the parents weren't able to do so for whatever reasons.

What about the mother who had enough love adopting a child or several children? This is God's love in action.

God's love is found in all mothers regardless how they exercise or express their motherhood. Abortion should not be nowhere on our list. God surely doesn't have it on His list. The point to be made here on Mom's day is the fact that God created all women to be mothers, including those who cannot have children the

normal way for some reason and may have to revert to invitro fertilization to have a child. The Bible give us different looks at mothers in the bible.

What about Eve, when her son, Cain killed his brother, Abel. Did this make Eve an unfit mom? Did the Canaanite mother who initially took insults from Jesus, who called her dog, make the grade of a good mother when she sought healing for her daughter?

What about the mother who was willing to give up her birthright of her baby to keep the child from being split in half by Solomon's sword? What about the mother who chooses to put her child in a waterproof basket and put him in the waters of the Nile River, to keep him from being killed by his own family? What about that mother who put her hungry child under a desert bush and left him to die because she could not provide for him? And an Angel found them both. Was she an unfit mother? What about that mother who was willing to trust God and allow Him to use her body to birth a special child, who would come and save the world from sin, enduring social embarrassment having no husband and pregnant. Facing the law of Moses which requires a woman of her condition to be stoned to death? Is she fit to be a mother?

Besides, when God created the woman with reproduction capabilities, He did not specify that she be rich to bring up a child. Nor did He specify that she be poor to bring up a child. God said be fruitful and multiply. No one has the right to tell a mother how many children to have or when to have them.

The woman who watches over her household, being single or married is God's right hand. Any living thing which comes into this world must come through a mother. God fixed it this way.

We must be careful not to separate mothers into different categories and honor only the ones who make the grade, so to speak. God is no respecter of persons.

All mothers find grace and honor in the eyes of God.



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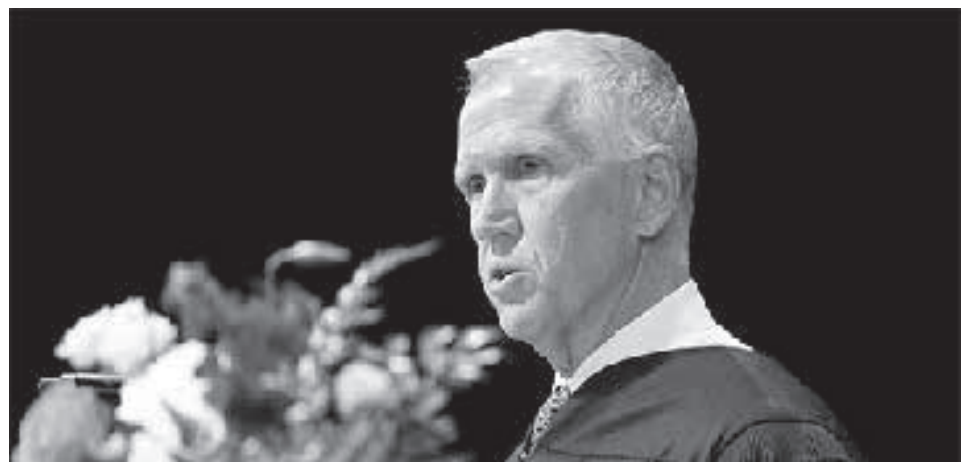
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Editorials

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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.



United States Senator Thom Tillis Delivers Wisdom at Campbell Law Graduation
By Jheri Hardaway

Raleigh, NC — In a graduation season marked by national political division, U.S. Senator Thom Tillis returned to his North Carolina roots Friday, May 8th, to deliver a commencement address that prioritized institutional stewardship and bipartisan cooperation over partisan rhetoric. Speaking to the Campbell University School of Law Class of 2026 inside the Meymandhi Hall, Tillis, who announced last year he will not seek re-election, offered a roadmap for professional success rooted in taking on the hard assignments first, earning trust, and finding common ground.

Tillis, whose own journey from a high school graduate working in a warehouse to the halls of the U.S. Senate is well-documented, urged the new lawyers to focus on building a reputation for reliability rather than seeking quick promotions. "Don't ask for a raise. Don't ask for a promotion. Ask for more work," Tillis told the graduates. "Ask for the assignment that scares you a little. In a good organization, you will build a reputation that you're not only focused on your own personal success, but that you know your ultimate success is inextricably linked to the institution's success."

The Senator emphasized that in the legal profession, trust is the only currency that matters. Invoking North Carolina's state motto, *Esse Quam Videri* (To be, rather than to seem), he warned graduates against the shortcuts of the modern era, specifically citing the rise of AI in legal research. "Don't get caught letting AI do your work unless you give it full credit," Tillis warned. "And if you do, ask yourself why you got into this profession. Be the thing, just don't look like it."

Drawing from his 12 years on the Senate Judiciary Committee, Tillis addressed the "noisy and tribal" nature of current American politics. He advocated for a pragmatic approach to conflict, arguing that the most effective leaders are those who seek a "sliver of common ground" rather than total victory. "The people who actually get work done are not the ones who make the most noise, or the ones you see on TV," Tillis said. "They are the ones who are willing to sit down with someone on the other side. That's how I got the Respect for Marriage Act done, how we got a real infrastructure bill done, and the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act." Tillis described these wins as the "sweet spot" of politics—where no one is entirely happy, but the results impact millions of lives.

Addressing the future of North Carolina, Tillis noted the state's rapid growth, which trails only Florida and Texas, and the legal complexities that come with such expansion. He challenged the graduates to stay in North Carolina to help navigate the looming crises in housing, infrastructure, and rural investment. "North Carolina is in a legitimately good place right now," Tillis noted. "But growth brings its own complications. We need lawyers who understand not just what the statute says, but what it's supposed to accomplish in the real world."

As he prepares to exit the Senate in January 2027, Tillis's speech felt like a defense of the institutional "status quo" he has spent a career protecting. He cautioned the new lawyers against the populist urge to "modernize" courts as a shortcut around the hard work of the law.

"I've watched institutions over my 65 years; they hold and thrive when the people inside them take their work seriously," Tillis concluded. "Voters are in charge. We've made it work for 250 years, and there's every reason to believe we've got 250 more right in front of us."

Behaviors that Lead to Divorce

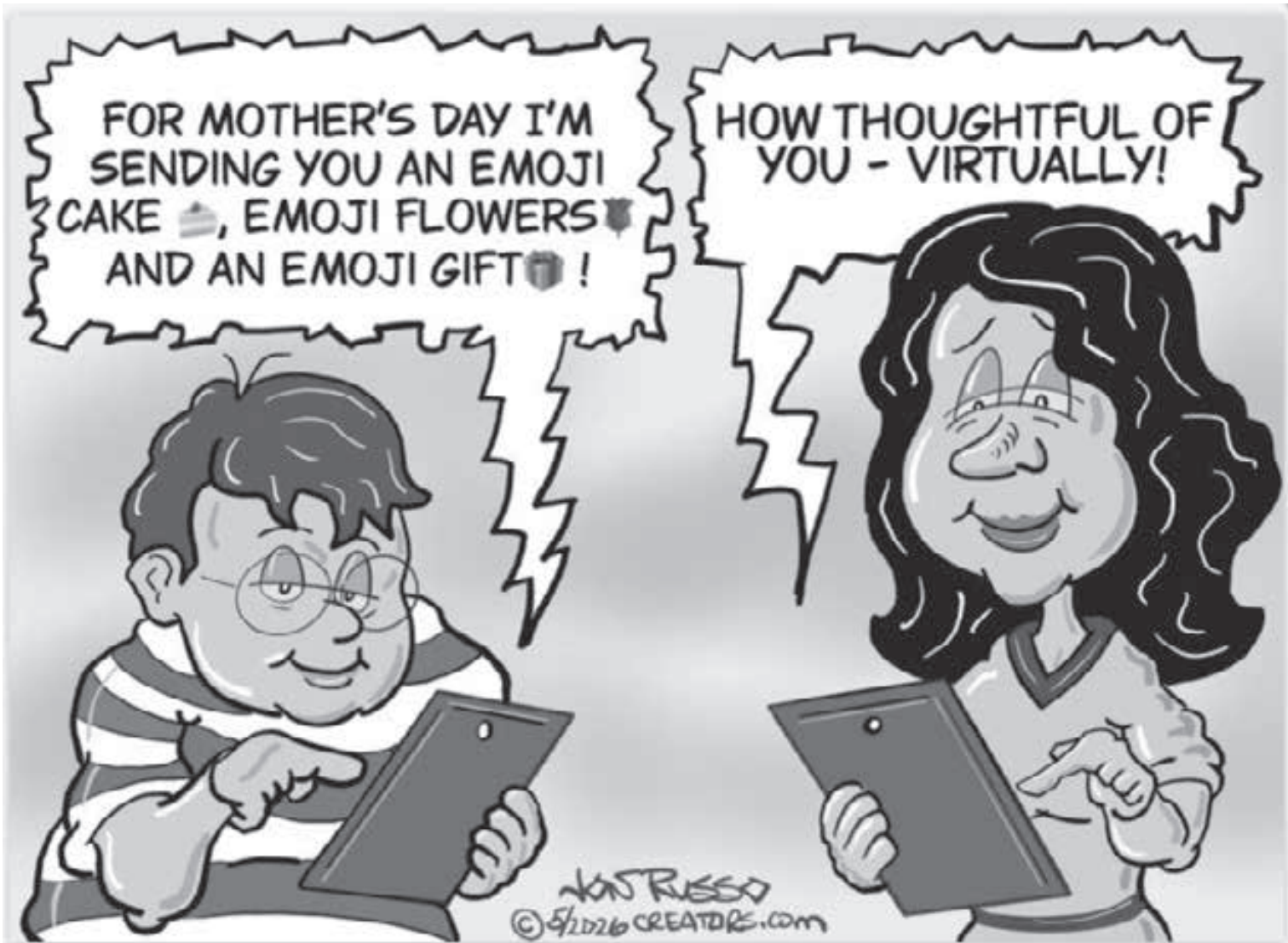
By Jasmine Deloatch

We cringe at the thought of divorce until it is looking us dead in the face. And then we ask ourselves, 'how did we get here?' There are certain behaviors that lead to divorce more frequently than others and many people have what the National Library calls a 'final straw' which are most commonly categorized as infidelity, domestic violence, and substance use.

According to the National Library of Medicine, the major contributors for divorce were lack of commitment, infidelity, and arguments. It also seems that accountability may be a hidden issue here as well. They also added that the majority of study participants blamed their partners for the failed marriage.

Divorce may seem like the only way out of a mental rut caused by a failing marriage, but according to Amato and Hughes and Waite, those who choose divorce, have higher levels of psychological distress, substance abuse, and depression, as well as lower levels of overall health compared to those who continued in their marriage. Could this be connected to the resistance of the divorcee to change the behavior causing the divorce? Could this same behavior occur and cause distress during solo living as well? Behaviors don't necessarily eradicate themselves when given a different environment, on the latter, they morph into different forms.

Seeking help before divorce is important. Couple's therapy, mentorship from successful married couples and self improvement are all things that may help when the 'D' word begins to come up in your marriage. The most interesting finding and an important take away from this article is that the distress and depression doesn't always end with divorce. Self improvement before signing the papers may just save your marriage. Remember, behaviors lead to divorce, not people. It is so important to separate the person from the behavior to view the situation with clear understanding. People are often held captive by their own behaviors that are unwanted even by them. However, it's important to remember that behaviors, with the right plan and the discipline to follow through can be eradicated when redirected.



LET'S HAVE A REAL CONVERSATION

Let me tell you what I'm seeing out here, because a whole lot of us are feeling the same thing, even if we haven't said it out loud. Everywhere I go, folks are talking about the same three pressures squeezing our lives: gas is high, groceries are high, and the help we used to count on is getting cut back or cut off. And when you're living on a fixed income, that's not politics — that's survival.

I hear it in the parking lot at Food Lion. I hear it at the pharmacy counter. I hear it at church after service, when we're standing around with our pocketbooks in our hands, trying to make sense of a world that keeps getting more expensive while our income stays the same. And the truth is, many of us are carrying burdens we didn't create, shaped by decisions made in Washington that land right here in North Carolina — right in our kitchens, our medicine cabinets, and our monthly budgets.

Now, when you ask federal officials why they're cutting Medicaid, SNAP, housing support, and the services that keep our elders fed and cared for, they've got a list of explanations ready. I've heard them all. And I want to walk you through them plainly, the way we talk at the kitchen table.

The first thing they say is, "We have to reduce the deficit." They talk about the national debt like it's a monster hiding under the bed. But here's what that sounds like to us: "We're balancing the budget on the backs of the people who can least afford it." Because the cuts aren't hitting billionaires. They're hitting us; seniors who need home-care hours, folks who rely on Medicaid to see a doctor, and families who need SNAP to keep food on the table. In North Carolina, that means hundreds of thousands of people — especially Black seniors — are carrying the weight of decisions they didn't make.

Then they say, "We're giving states more control." Now this one always makes me pause. They say cutting federal funding "empowers states." But what it really means is this: the federal government sends less money, and the state is left holding the bag. And when the bag is light, guess what gets cut first? Not highways. Not corporate tax breaks. It's home-care hours. It's adult day programs. It's transportation. It's food assistance. In North Carolina, we're already seeing cuts to home-care reimbursement and longer waiting lists for services. That's not empowerment. That's passing the bill down the line.

Next comes the line that makes many of us shake our heads: "Work requirements promote independence." I'm blessed. I work fulltime, but how do you tell an 82-year-old with arthritis and diabetes that they need to "work" to keep their food benefits or their health coverage? How do you tell a caregiver who's up all night with a spouse who has dementia that they need to "prove" they're contributing? For many of us, this argument feels like a slap in the face. We've worked. We've raised families. We've paid taxes. We've built communities. We don't need to be lectured about independence.

And then there's the old standby: "We're cutting down on waste, fraud, and abuse." Nobody supports fraud. But when officials use this line to justify cutting billions from Medicaid and SNAP, it feels like they're calling us the problem. The data shows most of the "waste" they talk about isn't coming from seniors, disabled adults, or low-income families. It's coming from administrative issues and corporate overbilling. But the cuts don't fall on corporations. They fall on people. People who need a home-care aide, a hot meal, a doctor's visit, or a safe place to live.

So, what does all this mean for our community? It means seniors in North Carolina are being asked to carry burdens we didn't create. It means gas prices go up because of global conflict, food prices go up because of supply chain pressure, and services go down because of federal cuts. And we're left trying to stretch the same Social Security check across a world that keeps getting more expensive.

But here's the part I want you to hear clearly: You're not imagining it. You're not overreacting. And you're not alone. What you're feeling is real. What you're seeing is real. And the impact on our community is real.

And we deserve to say so — out loud, together.



A BLACK WOMAN'S SMILE

My cousin Valerie sent me a video from YouTube called Make a Black Woman Smile, and it was profoundly, sadly beautiful. I did not cry, but I understood every word of it. As I listened, a man poetically described the Black woman's model and contribution to this country and the world, and he basically said that if you can make a Black woman smile, then you are gifted in intelligence and emotional health, and honestly, he was telling the truth.

He started in Africa with stolen human beings, auction blocks, slave ships, families ripped apart, husbands and sons hanging from trees, assassinated leaders, and then brought us all the way to the present day. So with this month celebrating mothers, nurses, teachers, and mental health awareness, it felt especially powerful and necessary to hear.

When Louise Lucas, the Virginia Democrat, led a successful effort against a gerrymandering plan, and then later faced investigations and attacks afterward, we understood that these struggles are not just history, they are still happening right now. When Patricia Nombuyiselo Noah endured abuse while protecting her son and helping him survive apartheid South Africa because he was literally considered "born a crime," we understood something else about Black women and endurance.

When Black female journalists challenged power, whether it was questioning segregation or confronting leaders who were uncomfortable being held accountable, we understood that Black women have been forced to stand in difficult spaces for a very long time. And when Wangari Maathai, an educated African woman, was beaten and jailed simply for helping women plant trees and restore their land, she still kept planting. By the time she died, millions of trees had been planted because she refused to stop.

That is the thing people do not understand about Black women. We bend, but we do not easily break. Our faith is stronger than people think, and our sense of purpose runs deeper than appearances. Even when we may not live to see change fully come, we keep doing our part anyway.

So when Trump insulted Rachel Scott, a respected journalist with major accomplishments and awards, because she asked him a question he did not want to answer, I was not surprised. Men like that often attack what they cannot outshine. He responded the way he did because he could not match her achievements, nor comfortably answer the question she asked.

Most Black women already know who they are and why they are here. We know that what is meant for us will not be stopped by somebody else's insults or labels. You can call us whatever you want, and many of us will still look at you and ask, "Were you talking to me?" because we have learned not to let other people define us.

You can negatively label our children, and we will still keep working with them until what we already know is inside of them reveals itself. That is why there is a teacher somewhere staying late after school. That is why there is a mother praying over a child. That is why there is a nurse comforting someone, a coworker encouraging someone, a church mother whispering hope into somebody's ear, or a neighbor reminding somebody not to give up. That is why so many helping professions are filled with Black women, because somewhere deep inside we understand purpose, responsibility, and care. And no, our bodies or our skin color do not make us better than anybody else. They simply remind us of who we are and what we carry. That is also why there are so many Black women in church. Count them next Sunday if you do not believe me, and do not forget the choir.

So this week, I celebrated Black women, wherever we are, and wherever we enter.

PATRIOTS

Continued from page 1

on March 5, 1770, when British troops fired on a crowd in what is known as the Boston Massacre. Another, Salem Poor, was born enslaved but purchased his freedom before fighting at Bunker Hill.

American Ancestors, a nonprofit history and heritage center in Boston that also received MA250 funding, opens its "Patriots of Color" exhibit next week, throwing a spotlight on the lives of 26 Black and Indigenous men and women who played a role in the American Revolution. They include: Prince Ames, a Black and Narragansett man from Andover, who was forced to join the Continental Army in place of his enslaver; and Paul Cuffe, a Black and Wampanoag businessman, who petitioned the Massachusetts government to reject taxation without representation.

Some of their descendants will attend the opening of the exhibition. "By telling these lesser known stories, we want to highlight that ordinary people made a tremendous difference in the arc of the country's history," Ryan Woods, president and CEO of American Ancestors, said.

Records about Prince Estabrook's life are scant, but according to the National Park Service, he was likely born in the Lexington area around 1740. His father was enslaved by landowner Benjamin Estabrook, so Prince was born into slavery.

It is unclear what his life was like before he trained as a soldier in the Lexington militia. The Park Service says he was serving under the command of Colonel John Parker on April 19, 1775, when his left shoulder was struck by a musket ball. He recovered from that injury and went on to serve eight years with the militia and the Continental Army.

After the Revolution, he was granted freedom and returned to Lexington, where tax records from 1790 indicate he joined Benjamin Estabrook's payroll as 'a non-white freeman.' It is unclear if he ever married, had children or owned property.

According to family records, he died in 1830, around the age of 90, and was buried in the same cemetery as Benjamin's son, Nathan, in Ashby, Massachusetts.

Price, who has handed reenactment duties to a younger colleague but still attends the early morning reenactment every year, says it is important to know about the soldier's life.

"Keep the story alive to make sure that everybody knows, everybody that we can get in touch with, everybody knows that Prince Estabrook was here," Price said. "He was a viable person. He did his role, he did his part in fighting for the country."

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Classifieds

BEAUFORT COUNTY

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF BEAUFORT

**NOTICE OF SERVICE OF
PROCESS BY PUBLICATION**
DANIELLE CARAMANICA
In The General Court of Justice
District Court Division
File No: 26-Ja-000012-060

IN RE: V.H.C., minor child.
TO: DANIELLE CARAMANICA,
mother of a Caucasian Female
child born on or about August
13, 2013, in Wake County, North
Carolina.

TAKE NOTICE that a Juvenile
Summons and Petition has been
filed for the above-described
juvenile, who is alleged to be
neglected.

You must prepare and file with
the Clerk of Superior Court of
Beaufort County a written answer
to the petition within 30 (THIRTY)
days of the first date of publication
of this summons, the 14th day of
May 2026. You must also serve
a copy of the answer on the
petitioner or its attorney.

The Beaufort County Department
of Social Services has alleged that
the above named juvenile is in
need of protective services. The
Court will conduct a hearing to
determine whether the juvenile is
in need of protective services. Notice
of the date and time and location
of the hearing will be mailed to you
by the petitioner after you file an
answer.

If you fail to file an answer, the
relief sought will be granted. The
petitioner will apply to the court for
the relief demanded in the petition.

You have a right to be
represented by counsel. If you
want a lawyer and cannot afford
one, the Court will appoint you one.
Matthew W. Jackson
Attorney for the Petitioner,
Beaufort County DSS
632 West Fifth Street
Washington, NC 27889

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
File No: 26E000540-310

All persons, firms and
corporations having claims against
FRED WILLIAM ASHCRAFT,
deceased, of Durham County, North
Carolina are notified to exhibit
the same to the undersigned on
or before the 14th day of August,
2026, or this notice will be pleaded
in bar of recovery. Debtors of
the decedent are asked to make
immediate payment.

This the 14th day of May, 2026.
Karen A. Cole, Administrator
Estate of Fred William Ashcraft,
Deceased

654 White Cross Road
Chapel Hill, NC 27516
5/14, 5/21, 5/28 and 6/4/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
File No: 26E000562-310

Having qualified as EXECUTOR
of the Estate of VIRGINIA COOKE,
deceased, of Durham, 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 15, 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 14th day of May, 2026.
Lorraine Cooke Rutt, Executor
1814 Hideaway Lane
Durham, NC 27712
5/14, 5/21, 5/28 and 6/4/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
File No: 26E000518-310

Having qualified as Administrator
CTA of the Estate of ROY LEE
BROOKS, deceased, of 701 Buxton
Street, Durham County, Durham,
NC 27713, 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 15, 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 14th day of May, 2026.
Jeffrey L. Austin
Administrator CTA of the Estate of
ROY LEE BROOKS
Law Office of Jeffrey L. Austin,
PLLC

500 Westover Dr. #32043
Sanford, NC 27330
5/14, 5/21, 5/28 and 6/4/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
File No: 26E000487-310

Having qualified as Public
Administrator of the Estate of
JOHN WESLEY LEE, SR.,
deceased, care of Diamond View
II, 280 South Mangum Street, Suite
130, Durham County, Durham,
NC 27701, 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 15, 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 14th day of May, 2026.
Jeffrey L. Austin
Public Administrator of the Estate
of John Wesley Lee, Sr.
Law Office of Jeffrey L. Austin,
PLLC

500 Westover Dr. #32043
Sanford, NC 27330
5/14, 5/21, 5/28 and 6/4/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In The General Court of Justice,

Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File No.: 26E000501-310

Having qualified as EXECUTOR
of the Estate of PATRICIA LEE
CHRISTIAN, 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 15, 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 14th day of May, 2026.
Carolyn Pulley, Executor
c/o Marion Law Office, PLLC
2741 University Drive
Durham, NC 27707
5/14, 5/21, 5/28 and 6/4/2026

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
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 the estate to exhibit 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.: 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 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

The undersigned, having
qualified as Executor of the Estate
of RICHARD ROBERT HOFFMAN,
deceased, late of Durham County,
North Carolina, does hereby notify
all persons, firms and corporations
having claims against said estate
to present them to the undersigned
on or before July 23, 2026, or this
notice will be pleaded in bar of
their recovery. All persons, firms,
or corporations indebted to said
estate will please make immediate
payment to the undersigned.

This the 23rd day of April, 2026
Jillian Orans
Executor of the Estate of Richard
Robert Hoffman

c/o Jillian E. Brevorka, Esq.
Attorney for the Estate
Hodgson Russ LLP
7 Corporate Center Court
Suite B
Greensboro, NC 27408

4/

DURHAM COUNTY

in writing, at the address shown below, on or before July 24, 2026, or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery.

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

This the 23rd day of April, 2026. Eneye Gloria Gbedee, Administrator 1405 Cozart Street Durham, NC 27704 4/23, 4/30, 5/7, and 5/14/2026 STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA DURHAM COUNTY

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

File No.: 26E000418-310 Having qualified as ADMINISTRATOR of the Estate of CARL MICHAEL FUQUAY, SR., deceased, late of Durham County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons, firms, and corporations having claims against the Estate to present them to the undersigned, in writing, at the address shown below, on or before July 26, 2026, or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery.

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

This the 23rd day of April, 2026. Lakesha Berting Royster Administrator 823 N. Mangum St. Apt. 521 Durham, NC 27701 4/23, 4/30, 5/7, and 5/14/2026 STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND DEBTORS OF LINDA SAAREMAA

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

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

GRANVILLE COUNTY

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA GRANVILLE COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

File No.: 26E000225-380 All persons, firms and corporations having claims against MAXINE GIBSON on or before August 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 14th day of May 2026. All correspondence should be to the Byron E. Cash, Ancillary Administrator c/o Florence A. Bowens, Attorney, P.O. Box 51263, Durham, NC 27717. 5/14, 5/21, 5/28 and 6/4/2026 STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA GRANVILLE COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
File No.: 25E000541-380 Having qualified as Administrator of the Estate of GLADYS CHRISTINE BLACKWELL, deceased, of 5205 Curl Lane, Creedmoor, NC 27522, 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 15, 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 14th day of May, 2026. Dana Watson Welborn Administrators of the Estate of Gladys Christine Blackwell c/o N. Vail Gardner, Esq. Vail Gardner Law, PLLC 732 9th Street #621 Durham, NC 27705 5/14, 5/21, 5/28 and 6/4/2026

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

NASH COUNTY

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA NASH 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. Bowens, Attorney, P.O. Box 51263, Durham, NC 27717. 5/7, 5/14, 5/21, and 5/28/2026

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.: 26E001197-910

THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 10th day of April, 2026, as Executor of the Estate of VIRGINIA HALLOCK LIDDLE, 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 15th 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 14th day of May, 2026. Roger F. Liddle, Executor 1101 Kinsdale Drive Raleigh, NC 27615 5/14, 5/21, 5/28 and 6/4/2026 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 SHEPHERD 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 15th 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 14th day of May, 2026. Kevin Mansfield Pardue, Executor 1038 Branch Line Lane Apex, NC 27502

5/14, 5/21, 5/28 and 6/4/2026 STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA WAKE COUNTY

NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION
In the General Court of Justice District Court Division

File No.: 26CV008530-910 SONYA WALLACE, Plaintiff v. ANTHONY DURANOL WALLACE, Defendant

TO: ANTHONY DURANOL WALLACE 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 within forty (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 14th day of May 2026. Sonya Wallace, Plaintiff (Pro Se) 5145 Dezola Street Apex, NC 27539 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.: 25CV025762-910 GLORIA AKPE, Plaintiff v. CHUKWUDI AKPE, Defendant

TO: CHUKWUDI AKPE 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 within forty (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 14th day of May 2026. Gloria Akpe, Plaintiff (Pro Se) 1513 North Raleigh Blvd Raleigh, NC 27610 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.: 26CV000818-910 DIANA LAURA PEREZ, Plaintiff v. LUIS ALONSO GONZALEZ GUEVARA, Defendant

TO: LUIS ALONSO GONZALEZ GUEVARA Take notice that a pleading seeking relief against you has been filed in the above-entitled action. The nature of the relief being sought is Child Custody/Visitation.

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

This, the 14th day of May 2026. Diana Laura Perez 5352 Pelican Pl Raleigh, NC 27610 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.: 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

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

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE EIGHTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR BREVARD COUNTY, FLORIDA

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://f118.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

MOTOWN

Continued from page 6

Discovered by William "Mickey" Stevenson and Marvin Gaye, Moy was hired as the first female in-house songwriter, competing with eminent colleagues like Smokey Robinson, Norman Whitfield and the songwriting trio Holland-Dozier-Holland who wrote 10 of the Supremes' chart-topping singles. Moy made more history in 1965 after co-writing and co-producing Stevie Wonder's "Uptight (Everything's Alright)."

While she received the songwriting credit and helped revive the teenaged Wonder's career, Moy wasn't given the producer's credit, unlike her two male counterparts, Stevenson and Henry "Hank" Cosby.

A lack of recognition stymied Moy's career opportunities. If a songwriter or producer wasn't credited, their value could not be validated or established, which made it harder for them to find work at other record labels.

According to my research, Moy revealed that she never got producer credit for any of her work while at Motown. This is why her legacy was buried for so long.

Other tunes she wrote for Wonder were "I Was Made to Love Her," "My Cherie Amour" and "With a Child's Heart," co-written with Vicki Basemore. Moy also wrote Marvin Gaye and Kim Weston's "It Takes Two" and The Isley Brothers' "This Old Heart of Mine (Is Weak For You)." Though songwriter Eddie Holland told me he gave her a co-writing credit for "This Old Heart of Mine," Moy's name was not listed on the record, only Holland-Dozier-Holland.

Interviews I conducted with Moy's family members and research from an ethnomusicologist suggest she was even an uncredited co-writer for Wonder's "Signed, Sealed, Delivered (I'm Yours)," his first song as a solo producer, and The Temptations' "Ain't Too Proud to Beg."

However, Holland denied this claim in an interview with me, though he also admitted that the song's late co-writer and producer, Norman Whitfield, presented him with the lyrics, and he wasn't sure where they came from.

Full credit along with creative control

In 1968, Valerie Simpson became Motown's first female songwriter to also receive a producer credit. This possibly happened because her songwriting partner was her husband, Nickolas Ashford.

Other famous female songwriters like Carole King, Ellie Greenwich and Cynthia Weil also had a prominent husband in the music industry. Sylvia Moy did not, which made what she did unprecedented. Simpson told Billboard in 2023 that the credit was difficult to attain because so few women were producers back then. It finally happened with the Tammi Terrell and Marvin Gaye song "Ain't Nothing Like The Real Thing," with Simpson getting credit for co-writing, co-producing and performing background vocals along with Ashford.

This was their third hit tune by Terrell and Gaye, who also recorded "Ain't No Mountain High Enough" and "Your Precious Love," in 1967. The following year, they had another hit with "You're All I Need to Get By," which Ashford and Simpson also co-wrote, co-produced and did background vocals on.

Simpson became the first Black woman to be inducted into the Songwriters Hall of Fame in 2002. Moy became the second in 2006.

DATA CENTERS

Continued from page 3

2025 general rate case, Liberty originally sought a 19.1% revenue increase—about \$37.51 more per month for the average residential customer, according to CPUC filings. The CPUC approved a smaller increase: 11.4%, with a 9.75% return on equity rather than Liberty's requested 11%.

The rate case spotlighted wildfire costs, insurance premiums, and infrastructure spending in a high-risk mountain region. The CPUC decision noted Liberty's wildfire exposure and its exclusion from California's AB 1054 Wildfire Fund, suggesting that rising insurance costs (quoted at over \$30 million alone) for small utilities could warrant future rule making.

Tahoe Spark opposed the rate-case settlement, arguing that it failed to examine the interstate wholesale power structure underlying the costs paid by California ratepayers. Hughes said the problem is not merely high rates but the way costs are allocated in a region where visitor demand, second homes, ski resorts, and development projects drive infrastructure needs that permanent residents pay for.

"We're the cost of being redistributed onto a declining community, and that is a crisis," Hughes said.

Hughes argues that Tahoe is treated as a wealthy vacation-home market even though its year-round residents include low-income communities and essential workers. "Even though we have low-income communities in both South Lake Tahoe and North Lake Tahoe, Kings Beach, both the Energy Commission and the California Public Utility Commission do not include us in any of their socioeconomic plans," she said.

Classifieds

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

WANTED WBE, MBE & DBE BIDS

for the following job:

Town of Garner

2026 Street Resurfacing Project

Contract: ENG 2026-03 Wake Co. Bid Date: May 20th

These projects may involve some or all of the following aspects of construction: construction survey, clear and grub, trucking, drainage, milling, paving, incidental concrete, fence and guardrail, signs, structures, traffic control, utilities, signals, pavement marking, erosion control and seeding. Bids can be emailed to stw.quotes@stwc Corp.com

Please contact S. T. Wooten at 252-291-5165,

Fax 252-243-0900 no later than 5:00 p.m. the day before the bid date.

The North Carolina Department of Transportation, in accordance with the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (78 Stat. 252, 42, U.S.C. 2000d to 2000d-4) and the Regulations, hereby notifies all bidders that it will affirmatively ensure that any contract entered into pursuant to the advertisement, disadvantaged business enterprises will be afforded full and fair opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, or national origin in consideration for an award. In accordance with other related nondiscrimination authorities, bidders and contractors will also not be discriminated against on the grounds of sex, age, disability, low-income level, creed/religion, or limited English proficiency in consideration for an award.

WANTED WBE, MBE & DBE BIDS

for the following job:

NCDOT Central Letting

C205106 Hyde/Beaufort Co. Bid Date: May 19th

C205187 Cumberland Co. Bid Date: May 19th

Division One Letting

DA00680 Northampton Co. Bid Date: May 20th

DF00527 Robeson Co. Bid Date: May 20th

Division Two Letting

DB00629 Beaufort Co. Bid Date: May 27th

Division One Letting

DA00666 Martin Co. Bid Date: June 3rd

DA00667 Martin Co. Bid Date: June 3rd

These projects may involve some or all of the following aspects of construction: construction survey, clear and grub, trucking, drainage, milling, paving, incidental concrete, fence and guardrail, signs, structures, traffic control, utilities, signals, pavement marking, erosion control and seeding. Bids can be emailed to stw.quotes@stwc Corp.com

Please contact S. T. Wooten at 252-291-5165,

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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 Mill Avenue Sewer Replacement project for the City of Jacksonville which bids on May 28, 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, demolition, asphalt paving, traffic control, erosion control, seeding, linework/pipe installation, and bypass pumping. Please contact Jeff Price (jprice@taloving.com) if you are interested in submitting a proposal on any portion(s) of this project. Contact via phone 919-734-8400; fax: 919-736-2148; or email. All quotations will be accepted up to the closing time of the bid date. T. A. Loving Company is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer.

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

D/M/WBE

SUBCONTRACTORS/SUPPLIERS WANTED

T. A. Loving Company (NC General Contractor License No. 325) is seeking certified DBE, MBE, and WBE subcontractors and suppliers for the Highway 58 Water & Sewer Extension - Contract A project for the Town of South Hill, Virginia which bids on May 21, 2026, at 2:00 PM. Plans and specifications for this project are available at the following locations: T. A. Loving Company; 400 Patetown Road; Goldsboro, NC 27530 * B&B Consultants, Inc.; 212 East Ferrell Street; South Hill, VA 23970.

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

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

D/M/WBE

SUBCONTRACTORS/SUPPLIERS WANTED

T. A. Loving Company (NC General Contractor License No. 325) is seeking certified DBE, MBE, and WBE subcontractors and suppliers for the Highway 58 Water & Sewer Extension - Contract B project for the Town of South Hill, Virginia which bids on May 28, 2026, at 2:00 PM. Plans and specifications for this project are available at the following locations: T. A. Loving Company; 400 Patetown Road; Goldsboro, NC 27530 * B&B Consultants, Inc.; 212 East Ferrell Street; South Hill, VA 23970.

Potential subcontracting opportunities include but are not limited to surveying, clearing and grubbing, hauling, asphalt paving, striping, traffic control, erosion control, seeding, linework/pipe installation, jack & bore, blasting, bypass pumping, and dewatering. 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.

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 16, 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 ("IDA"), 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 pre-Bid conference will be held at 10:00 AM on May 26, 2026 in Ayden Operations Center, 4061 East Avenue, Ayden, NC 28513. Prospective BIDDERS are encouraged to attend this pre-bid 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 14, 2026

Stephen Smith
Town Manager
Town of Ayden

Social Media Use—CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

from retaining or sharing personal identifying data after the verification process is complete, and they would be required to verify the relationship between minors and their parents or guardians during the consent process.

In addition to account restrictions, the bill targets specific platform features that lawmakers say contribute to addictive behavior among minors. Social media companies would need to disable functions such as infinite scrolling, autoplay videos, and certain push notifications for accounts identified as belonging to minors.

Critics of House Bill 301 argue that the bill raises significant concerns about the practicality of age verification. Opponents question whether social media platforms can reliably verify users' ages without collecting more sensitive personal data, potentially creating new privacy risks.

They also point out that determined users, especially teenagers, often find ways around verification systems. Similar laws in other states have faced challenges on First Amendment grounds, with critics arguing that restricting minors' access to social media limits their ability to communicate, access information, and participate in public discourse.

HB301 treats violations as unfair trade practices, with civil penalties of up to \$50,000 per violation. Families of affected minors would also be able to bring legal action against companies, seeking up to \$10,000 in damages per case.

The North Carolina Department of Justice would be responsible for investigating and enforcing compliance, with the possibility of additional punitive damages if a platform

demonstrates a "consistent pattern of knowing or reckless conduct."

"Today the threats are not predators — it feels like it's the algorithms," said Sen. Jay Chaudhuri, D-Wake, referencing his past work regulating early social media platforms. "I hope this is an opportunity ... not only for public education, but just to keep our democracy alive."

The Senate education committee added new provisions to the bill before advancing it, including a requirement that the State Board of Education update computer science standards to incorporate artificial intelligence instruction. The Department of Public Instruction would also be required to partner with North Carolina State University's Friday Institute for Educational Innovation to develop AI training requirements for educators, with

implementation expected to begin in the 2028-29 school year. Sen. Michael Lee, R-New Hanover, voiced support for the measure while acknowledging potential funding considerations.

The proposal comes as at least 19 states have enacted laws addressing youth access to social media or so-called "addictive feeds," though legal challenges have left enforcement uneven. At the federal level, several proposals are under consideration, including the Kids Online Safety Act, which would require platforms to prevent harms such as mental health disorders and harassment, and the Children and Teens' Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA 2.0), which would expand privacy protections and restrict targeted advertising to minors.