

WakeMed and Its Commitment to Wake County

To the community we are proud to serve:

Over the past several weeks, we’ve heard from our community about the incredible ways WakeMed has impacted countless lives — ours, yours and those we love. Thank you for putting your trust in the talented caregivers at WakeMed and for supporting this organization. This connection to the individual members of our community is exactly what makes WakeMed unique and why each of us considers it such an honor and privilege to serve as a volunteer member of the WakeMed Board of Directors.

As members of this Board, we are entrusted with the immense responsibility of helping guide and safeguard the community treasure that is WakeMed. Over the past three years, we have invested tremendous time and effort into determining how best to ensure the organization’s success in the decades to come while serving the health and well-being needs of our growing community. Collectively, we represent many different industries and perspectives, but we are aligned on this: **We believe that combining with Atrium Health is the right next step for WakeMed and Wake County.**

Here is why:

Mission First. Always.

WakeMed’s mission is to improve the health and well-being of the community by providing outstanding and compassionate care to all. That commitment has not changed and will not change.

For more than 65 years, WakeMed has been your hospital — and ours. Built by this community, for this community, to ensure access to care for everyone in Wake County. As a Board, we have the responsibility to not only protect that legacy but build upon it by ensuring WakeMed is able to serve patients and their families when they need us most — a commitment we intend to keep for generations to come. Our mission is closely aligned with that of Atrium Health. While many of you may not know Atrium Health, rest assured the commonality of our missions is central to every aspect of this combination.

Last fiscal year, WakeMed’s unreimbursed cost to provide charity care for underserved members of our community exceeded \$100 million. This is a significant community service we are proud of — and will only continue to grow through this new agreement. As part of the Atrium Health system, WakeMed will increase eligibility for charity care and financial assistance for patients from our current policy of 300% of the federal poverty level to 400%, making discounted care available for an additional 226,000 Wake County residents.

This combination **preserves our mission** and ensures we can continue to take care of patients and their families, regardless of their ability to pay.

Local Leadership. Local Decisions.

Health care is a local business — driven by the needs of a community and delivered by clinicians who understand their patients and deliver care in the best interest of those they serve. In evaluating the best path forward for WakeMed, maintaining local leadership was paramount. No one understands the needs of Wake County like those of us who live here. No one can protect the interest of the patients we serve like those of us who are, in fact, patients and loved ones of patients.

This combination will protect WakeMed’s local leadership and governance. WakeMed will continue to have a volunteer Board, with a majority of representatives appointed by Wake County (just like it is today) and required to live in Wake County. These local representatives will ensure accountability for the meaningful commitments Atrium Health is making in conjunction with this opportunity. Our hospitals will be run by local leadership and we remain committed to our nearly 13,000 team members.

This combination **protects** decision-making that is rooted in the needs of this community.

Building for Wake County’s Future

Wake County has always put their trust in WakeMed to provide high-quality care when it is needed most and we are honored to have earned this trust. Our community is growing rapidly, and so are the demands on our health system. More families mean more patients and an increased need for mental health care, specialty services, and advanced treatment options.

By coming together with Atrium Health — another nonprofit, mission-driven organization — we will be better positioned to strengthen health care in Wake County by improving access and affordability; expanding new services and programs; and serving more community members through enhanced care and community partnerships. Our hospitals, Trauma Centers, Children’s Hospital, Rehabilitation Hospital, the mental health and well-being hospital under development in Garner, and other facilities are not going anywhere — they will only continue to grow and provide more services to our community.

This combination **supports** WakeMed’s focus on expanding access to high-quality, affordable care for all, right here at home.

Investment. Not Purchase.

As a not-for-profit, WakeMed’s income over expenses is reinvested in the organization, our staff, our facilities and services. Financial stewardship has put WakeMed in a strong operating position — but where we are today does not ensure a strong tomorrow.

Meeting the burgeoning health care demands and responding to industry changes requires significant, seven-figure investments in our hospitals and outpatient facilities, infrastructure and technology. As a smaller, independent system, our options to access these funds are limited. We do not have the cash reserves or the borrowing power necessary. In the long term, independence becomes unsustainable. Integrating with Atrium Health is an opportunity to combine our resources with those of a larger, financially strong system, while retaining our assets.

This combination offers the **capital infusion** we need, on our own terms.

Join the Conversation

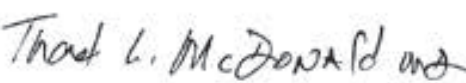
We know this is an important decision and we encourage our community to ask questions, share feedback and let your voice be heard about how we can best serve our community. We are committed to being present, accessible and responsive.

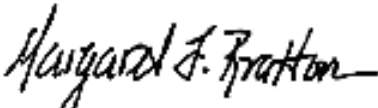
In recent weeks, we have met with residents, community leaders and elected officials and will continue to do so. We value the opportunity to listen and learn, to ensure that our patients and families remain at the center of every decision we make.

This community built something remarkable in WakeMed. Our responsibility is to protect it — and make it stronger — a promise we will keep for decades to come.

Best Regards,

On Behalf of the entire 2026 WakeMed Board of Directors


Thad L. McDonald, MD, Chair


Margaret F. Bratton, Vice Chair


Mary Nash Rusher, Secretary



Black Teachers Improve Outcomes For All Students, But The Profession Remains Largely White Despite Results

THE CONVERSATION - Having Black teachers and other educators of color improves students' classroom experiences, research shows. They often serve as role models, set high academic expectations and teach material that connects to students' lives outside of schools. This can lead to higher standardized test scores, better school attendance and more classroom engagement – particularly when it comes to students who share their teacher's racial or ethnic background, but also for all students.

Yet over the past four decades, the teacher workforce has barely become more diverse, even as the student population has changed. In the late 1980s, about 70% of public school students and over 85% of teachers were white. Today, the public teacher workforce is still around 80% white, compared with fewer than 50% of students. I am a scholar of education policy who studies policies affecting Black and other teachers of color, including strategies for diversifying the teacher workforce.

My colleagues and I recently published two studies that help explain why the teacher diversity gap is so difficult to close, despite programs designed to do so. Even with local district and state-funded teacher recruitment programs that aim to bring in more teachers of color, it is not easy to reverse a workforce gap that took decades to create. Black teachers were pushed out of classrooms during school desegregation in the 1950s through 1970s, resulting in long-lasting effects that shape how a classroom looks today. This legacy is rarely discussed in



teacher recruitment policies that state they support diversity goals. As a result, they often fail to confront or address the racial inequalities that created the gap in the first place. A history that still shapes the workforce In 1954, the Supreme Court's Brown v. Board of Education ruling struck down state-sanctioned segregation in public schools. The landmark decision opened school doors for students of color. But desegregation also closed many doors for Black teachers. Before this ruling, teaching was one of the most accessible and respected professions available to Black Americans, especially Black women, who taught in segregated Black schools. Most other fields, from law to medicine, were largely closed to Black workers by formal exclusion and discrimination. Teaching became one of the few

reliable paths to middle-class stability. In the 1960s and 1970s, many segregated Black schools across the South and border states closed or merged with white ones. As this happened, thousands of Black teachers and principals were dismissed or demoted. Some estimates put the number of educators pushed out of the profession as high as 100,000. Desegregated schools in those same regions often kept white teachers and let Black teachers go, a pattern that education scholar Leslie Fenwick has called "Jim Crow's pink slip." A common strategy Today, all 50 states, in addition to Washington, have "Grow Your Own" programs – public initiatives to recruit local community members, including current students or school staff, into teaching positions.

Grow Your Own programs have roots as far back as the 1940s, led by the country's largest teachers union and a network of high school clubs. The basic idea is simple: Because teachers are more likely than other professionals to work near their hometowns, recruiting local community members into teaching may help grow the teacher workforce. Educators raised near the schools they teach in often better reflect the demographics of the communities they serve than teachers who come from farther away. In recent years, most of these teacher recruitment programs have focused on encouraging high school students to pursue a teaching career through elective courses that introduce students to teaching as a career. Other types of Grow Your Own programs include college scholarships where recipients commit to teaching in the same geographic area or state following graduation. Some programs support classroom aides and other school staff who want to become full-time teachers by enrolling them in required university-level teacher-preparation coursework. By definition, nearly every program intends to expand the teacher workforce. About half also list increasing diversity as an explicit goal. While Grow York Own programs are gaining popularity at state and district levels, unfortunately there is no good national count of how many people participate in them. The Teacher Academy of Maryland Since 2004, nearly 2,000 high school students per year have enrolled in the Teacher Academy of Maryland, a program my colleagues and I study. These students take high-school-level classes on child

development and teaching, alongside their regular coursework. They complete internships in nearby K-12 classrooms, and they can simultaneously earn college credits that transfer to a teacher-preparation program. The hope is that more high school students will decide to become teachers – a possible solution to a declining teacher workforce. The Teacher Academy of Maryland also is part of a statewide policy push to diversify the teaching profession. Against this backdrop, my colleagues and I asked three questions in one study published in 2026: Does the Teacher Academy of Maryland actually increase the number of new teachers? Does it diversify the teacher workforce? And what can other states and programs learn from

a program like this? We compared students who had the option to join the Teacher Academy of Maryland program with students just a couple of years older who attended the same high school, but graduated before the program began in that school. Students enrolled in a school offering the program were about 45% more likely to become teachers than their older peers who did not have the option to join the program. We interpret this effect as large, especially since only 1.4% of Maryland high school students overall become teachers. The program helped students finish high school and enroll in college. It also steered some students who might have become classroom aides toward full-time teaching positions.

Racial Wealth Gap Widens As Many Workers of Color Lack Retirement Savings

The racial wealth gap is widening as many workers of color go without retirement savings. The median wealth gap between Black and Hispanic families and white families expanded by about \$50,000 between 2019 and 2022, according to research from The Pew Charitable Trusts. The typical white family had \$240,000 more wealth in 2022 than the typical Black family and \$223,000 more than the typical Hispanic family. Much of that disparity is caused by white families saving more for retirement than members of other racial and ethnic groups, Pew said. Retirement savings, not home equity, is the largest driver of American household wealth, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. To help close the racial wealth gap and ensure more people save for retirement, Pew has been advocating for the creation of state and city-sponsored automatic retirement programs to help cover the more than 50 million Americans who don't have retirement plans through work. Those programs, called automatic Individual Retirement Accounts, or IRAs, have been growing in popularity: More than 1.2 million workers across the 15 states with active programs have collectively saved \$3 billion for retirement through state-sponsored plans, according to tracking from the Georgetown University Center for Retirement Initiatives. Minnesota recently launched its auto-IRA program that aims to cover workers at all employers with five or more employees. Hawaii's program is set to launch this year, with Washington state starting its plan next year. Those programs often capture lower-income workers who tend to be Black and Hispanic, said John Scott, director of Pew's retirement savings project. "I think these programs are doing what they're supposed to do, which is really reaching those workers who have their access to retirement benefits cut off just by virtue of where they work," he said. Auto-IRA programs require most employers without retirement offerings to set up payroll deductions for their workers, but do not require any employ-

(See **WEALTH GAP**, P. 10)

NC Insurance Mogul —CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

Central Prison and 43 in Harnett County, with Pasquotank adding 21 officers. Leslie Cooley Dismukes, secretary of the Department of Adult Correction, said at a press conference that the early results show promise but also stated hiring alone will not solve the crisis. The system includes 55 facilities statewide, and while recruitment efforts—such as expanded

advertising and targeted outreach—have increased applicant flow, retention remains the central challenge. "People are not staying on the job if they can't make ends meet," she said. Lawmakers have begun to acknowledge the scale of the issue. A budget framework announced in May includes a proposed average 15.4% salary increase for correc-

tional officers. Without meaningful changes, officials warn that the state may face difficult decisions, including the potential closure of additional facilities. Craggy Correctional Center, just North of Asheville, is already scheduled to close, with incarcerated individuals set to be transferred and employees offered positions elsewhere.

Stein and DAC leadership are urging the General Assembly to pass a comprehensive budget that includes substantial double-digit pay raises (such as a proposed 15% raise) for all correctional and supervisory staff. Floor debates and final votes on a state budget—which holds the funding for these correctional officer pay raises—are expected to occur in the coming weeks.



Support Small & Local Businesses



ABE JONES
Attorney at Law

3401 Wendell Boulevard
Wendell, N.C. 27591

919-817-2714 (office) 919-817-2711 (cell)
legalaaffairs@abejoneslaw.com

Fax: 919-366-6770

 **LAW OFFICES OF ABE JONES**



BOX

ELECTRIC

Wiring North Carolina One Box At A Time

Website: [HTTPS://Box-Electric.com](https://Box-Electric.com)



Jack's

Seafood & Soul Food

LOCALLY OWNED SINCE 1976

Two Locations

1516 New Bern Ave
Raleigh, NC 27610
919-755-1551

5416 Rock Quarry Rd
Raleigh, NC 27610
919-329-8125

\$1.00 OFF

any take-out or dine-in combo order. Must present coupon at time of purchase.

offer exp 6/30/2026

Accident & Injury Law

BECTION

THE BECTION LAW GROUP, PLLC

Automobile Accidents • Truck & Motorcycle Accidents
Wrongful Death • Slip and Falls
Real Estate Loan Closings



919.856.0414 www.bectonlaw.com



Lea Funeral Home

2500 Poole Road
Raleigh, NC 27610
(919) 231-1000

"Professional Service With Personal Care"

*Call or Visit Us. We also offer Cremation Services & Pre-need Arrangements.
You can reserve Our State-of-the-Art Banquet Facilities for your next event*



We Only Build Garages and Out-Buildings

Carolina Custom Builders

Stu Daugherty
Owner

Visit us at:
HOME IMPROVEMENT CENTER

4905 Departure Dr
Raleigh, N.C. 27616
(919) 790-1234
FAX (919) 790-1010
www.carolinacustombuilders.com
carlinacustom@bnetmail.com



Steven L. Lyons Funeral Home

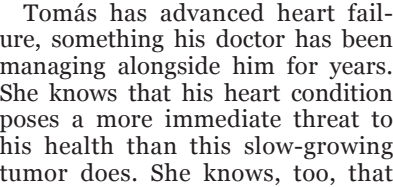
"Trust ~ Service ~ Compassion"
1515 New Bern Avenue
Raleigh, NC 27610
stevenlyonsfuneralhome.com
(919)831-2596 Phone



Dr. Chatgpt Is Getting Remarkably Good At Diagnosing Health Problems, But Actual Doctors Are Still Better At Treatment Options

When a patient appears with a

Marcus has no other significant health conditions. His doctor knows this, and knows Marcus well enough

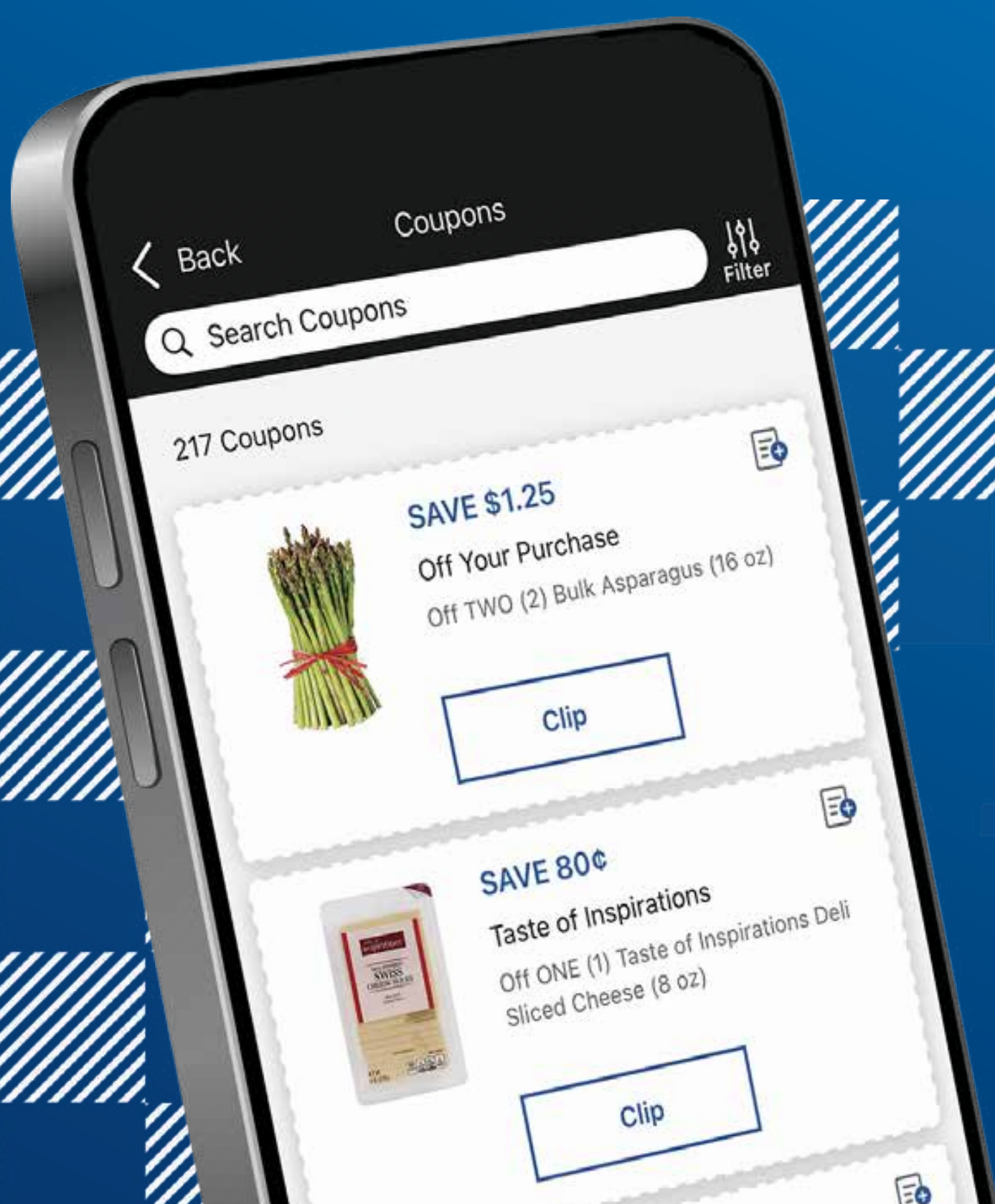


Some risk can be measured. For chest pain, doctors use scoring tools that estimate a patient's short-term likelihood of a heart attack based on their symptoms and test results. AI

This is where diagnosis and management part ways. The father of the feverish toddler probably got a useful answer: AI has seen enough feverish toddlers in the medical literature to make a reasonable call. But knowing what to do next, including when to stop watching and start worrying, is a conversation best had with your doctor.

FOOD LION

Clip coupons
picked just for you

A smartphone is shown at an angle, displaying the Food Lion app's 'Coupons' section. The screen has a dark header with a 'Back' arrow, the word 'Coupons', and a 'Filter' icon. Below the header is a search bar with the text 'Search Coupons'. The main content area shows '217 Coupons'. Two coupons are visible: the first for Bulk Asparagus (16 oz) offering a \$1.25 discount, and the second for Taste of Inspirations Deli Sliced Cheese (8 oz) offering an 80¢ discount. Each coupon includes a product image and a 'Clip' button. The background of the entire image is a blue and white checkered pattern.

Arts & Culture

Preserving Nina Simone's Legacy For Future Generations

By Judaea Ingram

Special to the Carolinian

More than two decades after her passing, Nina Simone remains one of the most influential artists in American history. Known for her powerful voice, exceptional musical talent, and unwavering commitment to social justice, Simone's impact continues to be felt across generations.

While audiences around the world recognize her as a legendary singer, songwriter, and civil rights activist, many North Carolinians take pride in the fact that her story began in the small town of Tryon.

Today, efforts to preserve Nina Simone's legacy are helping ensure that future generations understand not only her artistic achievements but also her role in shaping conversations about race, equality, and social change.

Born Eunice Kathleen Waymon in 1933, Simone demonstrated remarkable musical talent from an early age. Raised in Tryon, she began playing piano as a child and quickly gained recognition for her abilities.

Family members, teachers, and supporters saw extraordinary potential in the young musician. She received classical piano training and dreamed of becoming a concert pianist, a career path that was rarely accessible to Black musicians at the time.

Her early experiences in North Carolina would have a lasting impact on her life and career.

Like many African Americans living in the South during the era of segregation, Simone witnessed racial discrimination firsthand. Those experiences helped shape her understanding of injustice and would later influence both her music and activism.

Although she initially pursued classical music, Simone eventually



found success in jazz clubs and performance venues. It was during this period that she adopted the stage name Nina Simone and began building a career that would make her one of the most respected artists of her generation.

Her unique style blended classical music, jazz, blues, gospel, folk, and soul into a sound that was entirely her own.

Songs such as "Feeling Good," "I Put a Spell on You," and "Mississippi Goddam" showcased not only her vocal abilities but also her willingness to tackle difficult social issues through music.

Unlike many performers of her era, Simone often used her platform to address racial injustice directly.

As the Civil Rights Movement gained momentum during the 1950s and 1960s, Simone became increasingly outspoken about inequality and discrimination. Following tragic events such as the bombing of the

16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, Alabama, she began writing and performing songs that challenged audiences to confront racism and injustice.

Her music became a powerful form of protest.

At a time when many public figures avoided political controversy, Simone embraced difficult conversations. She believed artists had a responsibility to speak honestly about the issues affecting their communities.

That commitment earned her admiration from many supporters and established her as one of the most important artistic voices of the Civil Rights Movement.

Today, her influence extends far beyond music.

Contemporary artists across multiple genres continue to cite Simone as an inspiration. Her willingness to blend artistic excellence with social advocacy has influenced singers, songwriters, actors, activists,

and community leaders around the world.

Her story also serves as an important reminder of the challenges Black artists have faced throughout American history.

In recent years, efforts to preserve Simone's legacy have gained renewed attention.

One of the most significant projects has been the restoration of her childhood home in Tryon. Preservationists, historians, and cultural organizations recognized the importance of protecting the property because of its historical and cultural significance.

The home represents more than the birthplace of a famous musician. It tells the story of a young Black girl from rural North Carolina whose talent, determination, and courage helped her overcome barriers while leaving a lasting impact on the world.

Historic preservation advocates say protecting sites connected to African American history remains critical.

For decades, many landmarks associated with Black history received limited recognition or funding. As a result, some sites were lost or fell into disrepair. Efforts to restore places such as Nina Simone's childhood home help ensure that important stories remain visible for future generations.

Visitors who explore these spaces gain a deeper understanding of the people who shaped history.

For young people, Nina Simone's story offers valuable lessons about perseverance, creativity, and self-expression.

She pursued excellence despite significant obstacles. She remained committed to her principles even when doing so carried professional risks. Most importantly, she demonstrated the power of using one's voice

to advocate for change.

Educators often point to Simone as an example of how art can influence society.

Her music continues to inspire conversations about identity, justice, and human rights. Decades after many of her most famous performances, her message remains relevant.

As North Carolina continues to celebrate its rich cultural heritage, preserving the legacy of Nina Simone remains an important responsibility.

Her story belongs not only to the

state where she was born but also to the broader history of American music and civil rights.

By protecting historic sites, sharing her achievements, and introducing new generations to her work, communities can ensure that Nina Simone's legacy continues to inspire for years to come.

From a small town in North Carolina to stages around the world, Nina Simone's journey serves as a powerful reminder that talent, courage, and conviction can leave an impact that lasts far beyond a lifetime.

Fela's Legendary 'Zombie' Album Fifty Years Later



LAGOS, Nigeria (AP) — When in 1976 teenager Yunusa Yau and his friends grew tired of Nigerian soldiers' high-handedness in their school, they turned to a satirical song — "Zombie," by Fela Kuti, the title track of his album released that year.

By then, the military had been in power for a decade, following a coup. A brutal civil war killed at least three million people, rocking the fledgling democracy of the resource-rich nation after independence from Britain in 1960.

The military ruler, Olusegun Obasanjo, had sent soldiers to high schools across the country to enforce discipline, a measure of how successive juntas ruled the country. Fela was constantly sparring with the authorities, through open-air sessions of searing commentary at his clubhouse, subversive lyrics and confrontation with officers.

But with the release of "Zombie," the gloves were off. "Zombie no go turn, unless you tell 'em to turn (Zombie) / Zombie no go think, unless you tell 'em to think," he sang over his signature polyrhythmic composition, mimicking a martial parade with commands to march, salute and fire.

The stage was set for a showdown between him and the junta.

Fela chronicled life under Nigerian military rule

"In a way, we saw him as a symbol of our own nascent attempt to protect our limited horizon of freedom," Yau, now 66 and an Abuja-based political activist, told The Associated Press.

Yau said the song's lyrics became a protest not only against soldiers but against teachers whom the students did not love in their school in the northwestern part of Nigeria.

Born in 1938, under colonial rule, Fela is arguably one of Nigeria's greatest artists. His musical career spanned more than four decades, from the late 1950s to the 1990s. Fela, who died in 1997, was posthumously honored with a Lifetime Achievement Award at the Grammy Awards in February.

Afrobeat was the brainchild of Fela and the legendary drummer Tony Allen. It was an instrument-driven genre that blended West African traditional rhythms with Black American sounds such as jazz and funk.

As much as he was an artist, Fela was the ultimate chronicler of life under Nigeria's military leadership. From 1966 onward, one coup followed another, with only brief intervals of civilian rule, until the return to democracy in 1999.

"Zombie" was originally released as a two-track album with a duration of 25 minutes and 24 seconds. Music critics say it stands out as the most distinctive among Fela's political releases. The other track, "Mister Follow Follow," is another song about blind obedience to authority and the status quo.

"It was his definitive album. It was one of his boldest moments on record," Lemi Ghariokwu, a long-term Fela collaborator who designed the album cover, told the AP. "He was very much vexed by the actions of the military government. When he was composing the song, we asked him if it was going to be a direct attack song, and he said yes."

Now a fixture of global popular culture, the zombie comes originally from West and Central African mythology, a figure helplessly inhabited by the spirits of the dead and under their influence. In 1982, Michael Jackson drew on zombie imagery for the choreography of his video for "Thriller."

Broken promises of prosperity from oil riches

When Nigeria gained independence in 1960, expectations were high, especially since the discovery of some of the world's biggest oil deposits, mainly in the Niger Delta. For most people, though, the oil boom did little to improve their economic prospects.

The military rulers who seized power in 1966 would use that failure as a pretext to maintain their hold on power, accusing the civilian government of corruption and squandering the nation's wealth.

Fifty years later, little has changed, analysts say. The military looms large in Nigerian public life. Six people, including soldiers and police officers, are currently charged with an attempt to overthrow President Bola Tinubu's government.

Even after military rule had ended, it left a legacy of an overly powerful political class and a lack of development, which Fela railed against.

According to the Nigeria Bureau of Statistics, 63% of Nigerians now live in what is called multidimensional poverty — not only cash-poor but lacking access to basic amenities, with a high youth unemployment rate. The nation currently faces a complex security crisis from Islamic militant and criminal groups that carry out widespread killings and kidnappings.

"Fela was actually ahead of his time, because he seemed to have foreseen the kind of rot and decay that the military class would leave Nigeria in," music critic Dami Ajayi said. "Fela was already saying to everyone that these guys who are here are going to ruin your country; you cannot allow a zombie to be in charge of everything around you."

Fela's achievement remains unmatched

The release of "Zombie" brought swift and brutal consequences for Fela. The military government sent 1,000 soldiers to his residence, a compound that he had declared independent from Nigeria and not subject to the country's laws, and burned it down.

His mother, Funmi Ransome-Kuti, a prominent activist, sustained injuries in the raid that led to her death, and the artist himself was also badly hurt.

"Zombie" was banned from the airwaves, and there were reports of arrests for people who defied the junta by playing it in public, at parties or clubs or on a speaker.

Other Nigerian artists have attempted to criticize the government's excesses, in genres including reggae, fuji and pop, but critics say none of them have provoked the same level of confrontation. Fela's gripes are still present, but Nigeria's storied musical tradition leaves little room for protest to reach mainstream and commercial success.

Fifty years on, the impact of "Zombie" is hard to overstate.

"The consequences of that record are well-documented, and I don't think anybody is that brave to critically criticize the government like that," Ayomide Tayo, a Nigerian music and pop culture critic, said. "The epic scale at which Fela did it has not been replicated."

Boots Riley's Film 'I Love Boosters' Is A Wild And Surrealist Social Satire

AP NEWS - Boots Riley holds nothing back in his audacious, surrealist social satire "I Love Boosters." The film is a go-for-broke expression of wild imagination and social consciousness that's impossible not to admire for its wacky, bold vision, with teleporting, high fashion snobbery and pyramid schemes.

Here is a movie where we get Keke Palmer, Naomi Ackie and Taylour Paige leading a vigilante shoplifting operation, Demi Moore as a toxic girl boss, Don Cheadle as a sleazy lifestyle evangelist, Will Poulter as a fussy store manager and LaKeith Stanfield as a discount brand model with a strange accent and a hypnotizing stare. It sounds like fun, right? Like a raucous, madcap ride through the inequities of the fashion business from the executive suite, down to the retail store where the goods are sold and the Chinese factories where they're made? And on a certain level it is all of that, but one thing it is not is very funny. "I Love Boosters" can be amusing and clever, but the laugh-out-loud comedy just isn't quite there. And it doesn't help that the film goes more off the rails as it progresses to a climax that is less rousing than mind-numbing.

The thing is, "I Love Boosters" does start on a strong, albeit minor key as we're introduced to the Velvet Gang, Corvette (Palmer), Sade (Ackie) and Mariah (Paige) and their booster operation, stealing overpriced designer wares from high end stores and selling them for a steep discount on the street. There's a kind of a Robin Hood sensibility to it all. Mariah calls it



"Triple F," or "Fashion Forward Filanthropy." She knows how to spell philanthropy, she deadpans; This is branding.

But despite the colorful surroundings, there's a pervasive hopelessness in this off-kilter world that looks a lot like our own. Corvette, particularly, feels outside of it all, as a woman who dreams of being a designer herself but is currently squatting in a closed fast food chicken shop and being haunted by a boulder of debt (like, literally). It doesn't help that the founder she idolizes, Moore's Christie Smith, has become obsessed with stopping the boosters. To Christie, a genius megalomaniac, they're the big problem with her business and not the fact that her store employees are being paid a pittance and her facto-

ry employees even less. The people who work at the factories are also getting sick from sandblasting the denim. And yes, these are all real things.

Eiza González's vaping Violeta becomes the face of the store employees forced to use their own paychecks to buy their uniforms. Poppy Liu's Jianhu, who teleports herself from China to the Bay Area, is that for the factory workers. This oddball group of five women band together to get revenge against Christie. Again, this all sounds like it should be a fun time, but the film is too busy jumping around and throwing ideas and concepts at the screen (teleporting somehow the least distracting of them) for us to spend much time just hanging out with these vibrant personalities.

It is a crime that this is only Riley's second produced movie. Though it might not reach the crackling heights of his debut, "Sorry to Bother You," his imagination is still on fire. Unlike so much of what's out there, "I Love Boosters" has both style and substance, which is worth something even if it doesn't land perfectly (or capably inspire any kind of revolution). In a marketplace full of content and franchises, here is a filmmaker with something to say and an interesting way to say it.

"I Love Boosters," a Neon release in theaters Friday, is rated R by the Motion Picture Association for "strong sexual content, brief drug use, nudity and language throughout." Running time: 115 minutes. Two and a half stars out of four.

Nourished By The Movement Makes Waves

By Jheri Hardaway

Staff Writer

Durham, NC - On Friday night in downtown Durham, the North Carolina Black Alliance cultivated an atmosphere of fullness, wellness, and excellence at the Lincoln on Greer. With a tasty VIP dinner featuring area staples like Dame's Chicken and Waffles, Corner Boys BBQ, Full Street Catering, and many more, we knew we were in for a treat.

This immersive experience coincides with the 25-year celebration of NCBA in supporting the movement that keeps OUR communities nourished. This inter-generational cultural experience highlighted



how, across generations, food has nourished more than our bodies. It has sustained organizing, fueled conversations, and created spaces where ideas, strategy, and joy could live side by side. From church basements and living rooms to front porches and family cookouts, these gathering places have always been part of how movements grow. Nourished by the Movement was an immersive evening where food, culture, and history come together in celebration of the people, places, and traditions that have sustained Black movements for generations. The energy of the cookout, the warmth of the family table.

The space was crafted carefully to allow event goers to move through

thoughtfully curated spaces inspired by nostalgic Black gathering places while enjoying a culinary experience rooted in the spirit of fellowship, care, and celebration. Nourished by the Movement was presented in partnership with Taste of BLK. This was a great opportunity to slow down, connect, and reflect on the power of community. Food, fashion, and innovation motivated and entertained all attendees. The North Carolina Black Alliance has demonstrated consistent excellence in bringing people together in times of celebration, information, and activism. We encourage you to follow their social media pages and get involved in their events and activism statewide.



Preserving The Art Of Discovery

Your Subscription To The Carolinian Newspaper Is Just A Click Away!



Community

100 Black Men of Triangle East Hosts Annual Dayla Fundraiser For Youth

By Jordan Meadows

Staff Writer

An elegant afternoon gathering in Northeast Raleigh carried a deeper purpose beneath the music, networking, and celebration.

The 2026 Dayla, hosted by 100 Black Men of Triangle East on Saturday at Hibiscus Event Venue, brought together community leaders, families, alumni, and supporters to invest in the future of Black youth across Wake and Durham counties.

The Dayla has served as the organization's signature fundraising event for decades, but attendees emphasized that it functions as more than a social occasion. It is a central piece of how the group sustains its year-round work—mentoring, education, and community-based programming offered at no cost to the young people it serves.

Proceeds from the event directly support initiatives such as Saturday Academy, Parent Academy, Collegiate 100, scholarship awards, and a broader framework built around the organization's "Four For The Future" pillars: mentoring, education, health and wellness, and economic empowerment.

Throughout the afternoon, the



event blended celebration with recognition, highlighting scholarship recipients, honoring standout mentees and members, and showcasing the organization's ongoing impact.

While the atmosphere featured food, entertainment, and fellowship, the underlying focus was on sustaining and growing programs that guide students in grades 6 through 12 through critical stages of development. Mentors within the organization provide hands-on support in areas ranging from leadership and financial literacy to college readiness, career exploration, and personal wellness.

"Our Dayla is more than a celebration," said President CJ Guion of 100 Black Men of Triangle East. "It is an opportunity for the community to come together in support of the young people and families we serve. Fundraising events like this allow us to continue offering impactful programming free of charge to mentees while expanding our reach and deepening our impact."

A virtual silent auction, launched several days before the event, allowed supporters from anywhere to participate. Items included a photography experience with world-renowned photographer Bradford in

New York or Miami, a one-night stay at the Carolina Inn, and a private wine class at Total Wine, among other offerings. The hybrid approach reflected a broader strategy to widen engagement and ensure that distance did not limit participation in the organization's mission.

"This project underscores our mission to uplift and support the communities we serve," he said.

That mission has continued to grow in visibility and reach in recent months.

The chapter secured a \$15,000 Women Who Give a Hoot community grant and drew regional attention through media features highlighting its youth programming, including its Annual Cooking Competition. Leaders say those milestones are part of a steady expansion built on partnerships, consistency, and a focus on tangible outcomes for young people and their families.

Founded in 1997 as part of the national 100 Black Men of America network, the Triangle East chapter has positioned itself as a longstanding presence in Wake and Durham counties. Its approach centers on mentorship as both a practical tool and a long-term investment—connecting youth with role models who can help navigate academic challenges, social pressures, and career decisions.



A THIRSTY SQUIRREL DRINKS FROM A SPRINKLER NOZZLE IN RESEARCH TRIANGLE PARK AMID DROUGHT CONDITIONS ON MAY 28. PHOTO BY STEVE WORTHY.

NC Remains In Extreme Or Severe Drought Level

RALEIGH - Recent rainfall helped improve drought conditions in some parts of the state, but most of the state remains in extreme or severe drought, according to the N.C. Drought Management Advisory Council. The exceptional drought classification has been removed.

"The weekend rains were beneficial in much of the state," said Klaus Albertin, chair of the DMAC. "For the first time in months, we actually saw the rainfall deficits drop a little. We still have a long way to go, but for the short term, soil moisture and stream flows have increased. The drop in reservoir elevations slowed as a result of the rain, but water demand is still higher than inflows to many water supplies."

The southern Piedmont and western part of the state saw the heaviest rains, and in some cases, precipitation improved the drought classification by one category, according to Albertin. Rain gages near Asheville recorded nearly 8 inches of rain in the week through Wednesday, based on data from the Southeast Regional Climate Center.

"The northern Piedmont, including the drainage areas for Falls Lake and Jordan Lake, once again saw less than normal rainfall amounts," Albertin said. "We are hopeful that the recent rains are an indication that the dry pattern we experienced since last August is shifting towards a more typical pattern for North Carolina."

Water reservoir levels, streamflows and other measures are still much below normal. The public should check with their local water supply system for any information on water use restrictions that may be in place.

Rainfall totals since August of last year in Boone and in Raleigh are still down approximately 18 inches compared with historical averages for the same period, according to the NC State Climate Office. Rainfall totals recorded by gages in the Raleigh area are at record-low levels for the last six months, based on data from the Southeast Regional Climate Center. According to the state's network of monitoring wells, groundwater levels are near record lows in many areas of the state based on records going back as far as 1965.

“Reclaiming Our Legacy” Examines Reparations & The Racial Wealth Gap

By Torrie Walker

Special to the Carolinian

Conversations surrounding reparations, economic justice, and Black empowerment will take center stage on June 7th during an event hosted in partnership with the Kemetic Cultural Science and System of Unity (KCS-SU), a community organization rooted in African Center education, cultural awareness and collective empowerment.

The discussion will bring together economist, reparations scholar and author Dr. William A. Darity Jr., co-author of *From Here to Equality: Reparations for Black Americans in the Twenty-First Century*, KCSSU founder and CEO Kevin “Brother Ausar” Bobbitt, and Baba Wautella Ibn Yusuf, who serves as N’COBRA National Co-Chair and Chair of the National Reparations Leadership Assembly, as they reflected on the meaning behind the theme “Reclaiming Our Legacy.”

For Brother Ausar, the idea of reclaiming legacy begins with comforting historical erasure and rebuilding a sense of identity that has been disrupted across generations.

He connects the process to the African principle of Sankofa, which emphasizes the importance of reaching back into history to move forward with purpose.

"History has been lost and stolen and it has impacted us in a negative way," Brother Ausar said. "Reclaiming our history is basically doing Sankofa — retrieving what has been lost historically."

For him, that restoration extends beyond historical knowledge and into present-day healing and empowerment. Reclaiming legacy, he argued, also requires internal repair alongside collective action.

Dr. Darity focuses on what he describes as ongoing efforts to reshape or erase accurate accounts of historical truth.

He warns that debates over race, education and policy are increasingly tied to broader attempts to control public understanding of the past.

"There is an active effort to destroy an accurate historical record of what has happened in the United States," he said, pointing to political resistance against frameworks such as critical race theory and diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives.

According to Darity, these debates are not simply academic but reflect deeper conflicts over how history is interpreted and taught.

The Economic Case for Reparations

In a recent discussion with *The Carolinian*, a central focus was the feasibility of reparations and the long-standing racial wealth gap. Darity challenged the idea that reparations are either economically impossible or politically unrealistic, arguing instead that opposition is often moral rather than financial.

"There are two different kinds of criticisms that are lodged against reparations," he said. "One set says it's wrong to do it. The second set says it can't be done."

He argued that the federal government has the capacity to fund large-scale reparative policies, with economic constraints primarily tied to inflation rather than affordability.

"The federal government doesn't have any financial constraint whatsoever," Darity said. "The only limit on federal spending is the potential infla-

(See **RECLAIMING OUR LEGACY**, P. 8)

A Legacy of Leadership: Celebrating Stephfon Walton’s Historic IBM Career

By Jheri Hardaway

Staff Writer

Cary, NC - An inspiring chapter of an impactful story has closed in Research Triangle Park. Stephfon Walton formally retired from IBM after an extraordinary journey spanning over 41 years. For more than four decades, Stephfon has been a foundational pillar of our local tech landscape, anchoring massive global operations and mentoring countless professionals along the way. His story is the definition of a dream realized. Leaving Southwest Louisiana as a young man, Stephfon graduated from Southern University in 1984. He shared how profound it was to welcome his mother to North Carolina so she could tour the very manufacturing facilities her son was helping



to lead as an engineering manager. This was a beautiful and impactful moment of pride that fueled his lifelong passion for excellence.

Throughout his legendary tenure at IBM, Stephfon led a multi-billion-dollar business impact from RTP to Taipei. From managing flagship modular server portfolios that drove hundreds of millions in revenue to directing high-performance computing initiatives that shaped the market, his technical and business acumen was unmatched. Stephfon always puts people and partnership first.

Stephfon is looking at retirement not as a goodbye, but as a beautiful continuation of his purpose. This next chapter is all about giving back and celebrating family. He is stepping right into deep civic engagement through his contin-

ued volunteer leadership with Kappa Alpha Psi and the Kappa Foundation of Cary, focusing heavily on youth mentorship. He is also shifting to literary pursuits, as he looks forward to dedicating time to lifelong learning and publishing children's books, including a very special book authored by his mother in honor of her grandsons.

Of course, there will also be plenty of time to sharpen his golf game, travel, and make lasting memories with his grandchildren, including many well-deserved walks on the beach with his beautiful partner and best friend, Debra.

Uncle Stephfon, the entire community, and I celebrate you! Thank you for showing us what it means to lead with deep integrity, elevate everyone around you, and turn every opportunity into a lasting legacy. Cheers to your next great chapter!

Juneteenth Celebrations Across North Carolina Continue To Grow Larger

By Judaea Ingram

Special to the Carolinian

As communities across North Carolina prepare for Juneteenth celebrations later this month, organizers are expecting another year of large crowds, educational programming, and cultural events that honor both history and progress.

Juneteenth, observed annually on June 19, commemorates the day in 1865 when enslaved African Americans in Galveston, Texas learned they were free. Although President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation in 1863, news of emancipation did not immediately reach all enslaved people. More than two years later, Union soldiers arrived in Texas to enforce the order, marking a moment that would later become known as Juneteenth.

Today, Juneteenth serves as a celebration of freedom, resilience, and the enduring contributions of African Americans. Across North Carolina, communities have embraced the holiday through festivals, concerts, educational events, vendor markets, and family-friendly activities.

In recent years, Juneteenth has experienced significant growth nationwide. Since becoming a federal holiday in 2021, awareness of its historical significance has increased, encouraging more communities to organize events that celebrate Black history and culture.

Throughout North Carolina, cities large and small are preparing for celebrations. Raleigh, Durham,



Charlotte, Fayetteville, Greensboro, and Winston-Salem are among the communities expected to host events featuring live entertainment, local vendors, food trucks, health resources, and educational exhibits.

For many attendees, Juneteenth offers an opportunity to learn about a chapter of American history that was not always widely taught in schools.

"History helps us understand where we have been and where we are going," said one community organizer during a previous Juneteenth celebration. "Juneteenth gives people an opportunity to come together, learn, and celebrate."

Beyond its historical significance, Juneteenth has also become an important platform for Black-owned businesses. Vendor markets have become a staple of many celebrations,

allowing entrepreneurs to showcase products ranging from clothing and artwork to books and specialty foods.

Small business owners often view Juneteenth festivals as opportunities to connect directly with customers while highlighting the importance of economic empowerment within the community.

Many celebrations also feature local artists, musicians, dancers, and spoken word performers. These cultural showcases provide opportunities for creatives to share their talents while educating audiences about African American traditions and experiences.

For young people, Juneteenth can serve as both an educational and inspirational experience. Community leaders often use the holiday to encourage youth engagement, leadership development, and civic



SALTWATER

SEAFOOD & FRY SHACK

4 FENTON STREET RALEIGH, NC 27604
919.834.1813
www.saltwaterseafoodnc.com

RESTAURANT OPEN

TUESDAY-FRIDAY 10:30am - 6:30pm SATURDAY 10:30am-5:30pm

BONE-IN FISH SPECIAL
\$8.50

MARKET OPEN
MARKET HOURS: T-F 9:00-7:00/SAT. 8:30-6:00
SUNDAY 9:00-4:00

Ag-Grow-Culture

The Window Sill Garden Has Been Completely Reimagined

By Bethan Grylls

Food Manufacture UK

Tech company Home Harvest is reimagining the leafy greens and herb category with the introduction of a smart indoor farm for the home.

The innovation comes several years after vertical farming hit mainstream headlines attracting investors as a way to produce crops in a more controlled, sustainable environment.

While products exist that enable people to grow food indoors on a much smaller scale, Home Harvest claims to be the first to bring a 'connected' contained system where all the agronomy is automated.

Scaled down vertical farming

The mini at-home vertical farms run on low voltage using around £2 of electricity a month. They come in two sizes, kitted out with either three trays or one; upon which the crops can be grown. The larger one is about the size of mini fridge, although much slimmer, whilst the smaller model measures around the same as a large microwave - both come in funky, modern colours.

How Home Harvest works
Once equipped with a unit (around £339), owners simply order their 'seed mats' - a recyclable tapestry-like fabric with seeds and fertiliser



woven in - place these into the trays, and fill the tank with water.

The seed mats (which are bought via a subscription model; around £10-15 a month) are designed with particular recipes and goals in mind, from Italian herbs, to prenatal health, gut health, and vitamin-focused sets.

The seed mats packs arrive with a QR code, and by using the accompanying Home Harvest app, users can log which crop they're growing; with the lighting, temperature and humidity all automated accordingly.

The larger units allow for three different types of crop to be grown simultaneously, with the app able to adjust each section to the right environment.

Cameras monitor crops from

within the 'farms', so users can take pictures of their crops and view and share time lapses of their progress. The app also provides key information about when to harvest, alongside recipe suggestions against what a user is growing.

"In the future we plan to utilise AI to monitor the size of crop, check plant health, understand the speed of growth and indicate the best time to harvest," co- founder Hedley Aylott said.

"By tracking exactly what a person grows, when they harvest it, and how their biometrics respond, Home Harvest will create the world's most granular database on 'Live-Nutrition' efficacy."

So long salad aisle?

The innovation is designed to increase accessibility to extremely fresh and diverse produce - from microgreen radish, to chervil, to fenu-greek- whilst offering a sustainable alternative that eliminates waste, food miles and pesticides.

But what does this mean for manufacturers operating in the category.

Aylott was split, saying the invention isn't intended to replace bagged salads, but at the same time, Home Harvest users will be able to replace sections of their supermarket shop with cheaper, fresher and more sustainable alternatives.

Proffering a single seed mat, roughly the size of an A5 sheet of paper, he told Food Manufacture: "In this mat is 2kg bag of lettuce seed - that is 50 trucks worth of lettuce."

Waste has been a big driver for Aylott and his co-founder Andrew Johnson, who was the brains behind the Living Salad brand (wherein shoppers buy a potted plant salad) which launched into retailers in 2005.

"Having worked in the salad industry for many years I know firsthand the amount of waste produced by the sector as well as the environmental impact," Johnson said.

"Around 30% of leafy salad crops planted are consumed, with the rest of the crop wasted.

"The UK imports about 1,000 trucks of leafy salads weekly from Southern Europe and Africa, with approximately 400 trucks' worth being thrown away."

The Home Harvest units have been four years in the making and are set to launch this summer across the UK and US.

And while Aylott said the units are not yet a full replacement to the herbs and bagged leafy greens, he is optimistic that they will shake-up the category.

"Today nobody's looking for this



Hedley Aylott and his Home Harvest co-founder Andrew Johnson,

product because they don't know it's possible," he said.

"But I think there will a moment when Home Harvest reaches a tipping point and people will know what's possible. If it's that easy and it saves you money, why wouldn't you do it?"

Referencing the punchy flavours of the crops Food Manufacture got to try first-hand, he added: "It will make people question the progeny of what they're eating and whether it is healthy for them, and how much goodness there really is in it".

Aylott said the future goal is for

the units to be as ubiquitous as the kettle, with the models built into kitchen cabinetry like ovens.

"Everyone will grow their own - why wouldn't they? It's responsible to the planet, your health, your family, your wallet," he said on the future.

This creation could certainly disrupt the fresh greens category. But it will be a matter of how well it's marketed, the useability of the tech, and how convenient consumers deem it.

So far, Home Harvest has raised £1.2 million in investment and continues to raise funds.

USDA Secretary Rollins Made Her Third Visit To NC On Monday

The department of agriculture secretary visited a Craven County family-owned farm in eastern North Carolina on Monday. U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Brooke Rollins came down from Washington DC to sit with farmers and community leaders at a round table. The discussion's aim was to inquire about the needs of the farmers. She brought with her the Acting U.S. Secretary of Labor Keith Sonderling.

The media was not allowed to participate in the roundtable discussion, however we got an idea of what the farmers needs were. Their needs were the same as all farmers needs. But, all

farmers were not there. There were no minority farmers in attendance.

Some very important announcements were made during the press conference that took place after the round table. One of the biggest announcements is that the Department of Agriculture has created a new Office of Seafood dedicated specifically to the fishing industry.

During a press conference, Rollins said she was concerned about the impact of Chinese imports on the U.S. seafood industry.

"We really do not have much investigation at the borders as their food's



coming in. If it gets turned away they just go to another port, get it in another way, and that's really, really hurting our beautiful American fish and shellfish and oysters," Rollins said.

Sec. Rollins also acknowledged the painful fuel and fertilizer costs that are crippling our farmers. She proposed that, "We're now gonna be permitting more fertilizer plants than we've permitted ever in American history, because we've offshored so much fertilizer over the last couple of decades."

Rollins said maintaining the health of North Carolina's \$111 billion dollar agriculture industry is a matter of national security.

"If we lose the opportunity and the ability to feed ourselves, we lose freedom in America," she remarked. "We'll all be speaking Chinese at some point in the future. That's how important this is. We lose our country unless we solve this issue."

Though the Secretary said many of the right things, follow up has always been a weakness of the USDA when it comes to our farms. However, Rollins' team was adamant about helping ALL farmers get through this "short blip" and return to strong, profitable production in American agriculture.

The New SNAP Rules Requiring That Benefits Be Used At Stores Selling Healthier Food Could Backfire And Make Matters Worse

By Benjamin Chrisinger

Tufts University

The more than 250,000 shops and stores that accept Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits as payment for groceries will have to meet tougher requirements starting on Nov. 4, 2026, according to new U.S. Department of Agriculture rules. Any retailers that accept SNAP benefits from their customers will have to stock a wider variety of food, some of it perishable.

Government officials said they introduced the new standards to make it easier for Americans who receive SNAP benefits, which help people pay for groceries, to select more nutritious options.

As a community health scholar, I've been following these and other changes to SNAP, the largest and most important government program for helping Americans get enough to eat. While expanding access to healthy food is a worthy goal, I fear that these new rules could have the opposite effect for people who are enrolled in SNAP.

More kinds of dairy, produce, grains and protein

Until now, small shops and big stores alike have had to stock at least three items in each of four staple food categories if they want to be able to accept SNAP benefits: dairy, produce, grains and protein.

Under the stricter new rules, all retailers accepting SNAP as payment must sell at least seven kinds of food in each of those four categories. And they need to offer at least one perishable variety in three of the four.

The rules will expand some ways that retailers can meet USDA requirements. For example, the government will accept plain, seasoned and shelf-stable meats as separate items that count as protein. And specialty retailers, such as bakeries

and produce markets, will remain exempt from having to fulfill all the requirements.

But certain items that currently meet the requirements, such as beef jerky for protein or butter for dairy, no longer will.

Supermarkets and other big stores that sell groceries won't need to do anything different to comply with the rule changes. But many convenience stores, corner markets, bodegas and other small stores will have to make changes if they want to continue to accept SNAP benefits.

What's at stake

A big industry group that represents convenience stores and an anti-hunger organization are both warning that instead of making it easier for low-income people to follow a balanced diet, the new USDA rules might lead many small shops to stop accepting SNAP benefits.

That's in part due to other changes those small retailers face.

More than 20 states have begun to restrict what people can buy with their SNAP benefits. Selling banned items to shoppers paying with SNAP benefits can jeopardize a store's ability to accept those benefits.

These rules prohibit sales of soda, with some states also banning the sale of energy drinks, candy, desserts or processed foods to anyone paying with SNAP benefits. Some states,

including Tennessee, are proposing additional, more complex restrictions based on ingredient lists.

Retailers will have to update their checkout systems to prevent SNAP payments on banned items, and educate staff and customers about the changes. Rather than police purchases, some stores might instead decide to stop accepting SNAP. This could leave communities with fewer options to spend SNAP benefits.

Fewer people are getting SNAP benefits

These aren't the only challenges retailers that accept SNAP benefits face. Nationwide, the number of people who get those benefits fell by about 10% between June 2025 and February 2026, from about 42 million to 38 million. This decline isn't happening because fewer Americans need help paying for groceries.

The big tax and spending package that President Donald Trump signed into law in 2025 is responsible. It restricted SNAP eligibility for some age groups and expanded the reach of SNAP's work requirements.

With fewer Americans using SNAP, retailers can expect lower sales. This could be a big problem for stores whose customers rely heavily on SNAP. It's possible that some of these stores could close.

While losing food retailers will make shopping with SNAP less con-

venient, it also could be bad for their former customers' health. Research shows that people enrolled in SNAP have healthier diets when they have better access to retailers that accept SNAP as payment. And cutting their benefits has the opposite effect.

Helping small shops offer healthier options

This isn't the first time the government has sought to make it easier to buy healthier food at small stores in low-income communities. State and local governments and researchers have worked for over a decade with the owners of those shops to procure, stock and sell healthier products.

Examples include the Healthy Corner Store Initiative in Philadelphia and Camden, New Jersey; collaborations between city officials and researchers in Baltimore; and a state-funded program to purchase equipment and health-promotion materials for small stores in rural North Carolina.

Often, these programs have assisted store owners with a mix of expertise, funding and logistics, such as new shelving and refrigeration.

While there have been successes, researchers that have evaluated these programs have found that there are many obstacles.

Role of small stores

Many smaller retailers are not familiar with how to source and stock healthier food, especially produce, and may question whether these products will sell. These initiatives are often funded on a temporary basis, meaning that store owners must maintain any changes on their own after a program ends.

For example, a refrigerator purchased for fresh fruits and vegetables can easily be repurposed to hold bottles of soda.

Efforts to get small shops to sell more nutritious food work best when

vestment while balancing national security interests — ensuring that America's future remains firmly in American hands."

USDA has previously reported that the states with the largest Chinese holdings include Texas (123,708 acres), followed by North Carolina (44,263 acres); Missouri (42,905 acres); Florida (12,555 acres); and Virginia (4,654 acres).

The Virginia-based Smithfield Foods Inc., one of the largest pork producers in the world, was bought by a Chinese meat company in 2013 for billions of dollars. Now, Smithfield Inc. is the second largest Chinese holder of agricultural land in U.S., with tens of thousands of acres, according to USDA.



Lawmakers Seek Crackdown On China-Owned U.S. Farmland

CBS News—President Trump's face-to-face meeting this week with Chinese President Xi Jinping comes as members of Congress are calling for a crackdown on China's ability to acquire U.S. farmland, citing national security concerns.

Mr. Trump arrived in Beijing on Wednesday for a highly anticipated summit with Xi, which is expected to focus on trade, energy, Taiwan and the war with Iran. Ahead of his visit, a bipartisan group of lawmakers introduced new legislation that aims to close what they described as "dangerous loopholes" allowing foreign adversaries like China to purchase American farmland and real estate near U.S. military bases. "Food security is national se-

curity, and we cannot allow foreign adversaries like China to buy up American farmland near our most sensitive military and critical infrastructure sites," Rep. John Moolenaar, a Michigan Republican who heads the Select Committee on China and led the bill's introduction, said in a statement.

The bill has backing from members of both parties, with Democrats such as New Jersey Rep. Josh Gottheimer and California Reps. Julia Brownley, Jimmy Panetta and Mike Thompson signing on.

A Trump administration official told CBS News that tracking foreign land ownership continues to be a priority, including reviewing how states compile data on the

matter.

More than 40 million acres of agricultural land in the U.S., about 2% of the nation's total, is owned by foreign entities, according to the latest assessment by the Department of Agriculture as of December 2024. Chinese investments amount to less than 1% of foreign-held land in the U.S.

Last February, President Trump signed a national security memorandum that sought to restrict Chinese investments in strategic U.S. sectors, including technology, healthcare and agriculture. White House spokesperson Olivia Wales told CBS News that Mr. Trump "is committed to making the United States a premier destination for in-

Church

A North Carolina Megachurch Is Launching A College

NC Public Press - “Where calling meets college.” That’s the pitch of Elevation College, an offshoot of Matthews-based Elevation Church opening for students this fall.

The college will offer eight four-year bachelor’s degree programs in majors like pastoral care and counseling, production, biblical studies and digital media and design, as well as two-year associate degrees in general education and ministerial leadership.

Elevation is the largest church in North Carolina by number of campuses and by average weekly attendance, around 17,000 as of 2025, firmly cementing it as a megachurch — congregations of 2,000 or more weekly attendees.

But even with Elevation’s colossal size, as the book of Ecclesiastes says, two are better than one.

Elevation College will partner with Southeastern University, a Florida-based private Christian school affiliated with the Assemblies of God, one of the fastest-growing denominations today, in providing academic classes. Elevation’s 10 programs listed on its site link to existing degree programs at SEU, with all but two of them housed in the Barnett College of Ministry and Theology.

A match made in heaven All academic instruction and degree conferral will be provided by SEU, while Elevation College will serve “as a local community site providing mentorship and practicum experiences,” its website says. A practicum is an introductory, supervised internship experience that is often required for degree programs



like social work, education and counseling. According to the college, the practicums will be completed within Elevation Church.

“Through our Practicum Experience, students step into meaningful, hands-on opportunities each week, serving alongside Elevation Church staff and leaders while developing as servant leaders who love God and people,” the website states.

“Students can gain practical experience tailored to their degree program in areas like worship, production, youth ministry, creative, and campus ministry. Under the guidance of mentors, students are placed on ministry teams where they’ll receive coaching, weekly development, and real responsibility.”

Elevation students are fully enrolled at SEU, but their courses are delivered in a hybrid format designed around their chosen degree

path, SEU Chief of Staff Patrick Fitzgerald told CPP in an email.

“Depending heavily on a particular student’s major, some online courses will be offered exclusively for Elevation College students to foster local community building and focused peer collaboration and even contextual learning,” he wrote.

“Other online courses will combine Elevation students with the broader SEU student body to diversify their academic discussions, provide access to particular professors, and maximize course availability.”

Though Elevation College itself will not operate as an accredited institution, SEU is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges, the same organization that provides accreditation to hundreds of North Carolina universities and community colleges.

of the United States, is to offer a few practical majors like business technology and healthcare degrees. In both instances, Glanzer has seen such institutions expand over time.

What is unique about SEU is its emphasis on branch campuses, like Elevation College, Glanzer said. Some of the largest Christian colleges, such as Liberty University and Grand Canyon University, have their online programs to thank for their high enrollment numbers. But instead of taking the beaten path, SEU is instead growing its enrollment through its 200 site locations at churches across the country, including nine others in North Carolina.

“Southeastern is taking a different model in that they hire local professors to teach classes within the church, so it’s face-to-face but with the support of a local community as well, and they’re doing that in multiple church locations, actually all around the world, not just the United States,” Glanzer said.

“That’s really unique, and as a result Southeastern is actually seeing tremendous growth. (...) State universities have declined by about 4% in the last decade. Secular private

universities have declined 7%. Protestant universities have grown 11%, but Southeastern has grown even more than that. They’ve grown 200% in the past decade, from 2014 to 2024, largely using this creative model.”

Elevation will charge a little over \$8,000 for tuition and \$6,800 for housing per year, as well as a \$5,000 site fee that Elevation says will support ministry training, leadership development, classroom space, spiritual formation and student programming. At roughly \$20,000 per year, Elevation College will be cheaper than most of the state’s largest private universities and many of the public University of North Carolina System schools’ cost of attendance for in-state residents.

Tuition goes directly to their university to support instruction and degree conferral, whereas the site fee goes to Elevation. The two will also engage in a revenue sharing model that “supports the ongoing sustainability and growth of the program for both entities,” Fitzpatrick said.

Elevation plans to have between 30 and 50 students its first year based on

(See **NC MEGACHURCH**, P. 10)

Obituaries



CLARA RICHARDSON SCARBOROUGH

Clara Richardson Scarborough, 83, of Durham, North Carolina, passed away on Monday, May 18, 2026. A devoted wife, mother, educator, and community servant, Clara lived a life marked by an unwavering commitment to uplifting others, particularly young people searching for their place in the world.

A graduate of North Carolina Central University, where she earned degrees in Sociology, Psychology, and Career Counseling, Clara dedicated more than two decades to education, counseling, and community development. She served in various roles throughout Durham and Raleigh, helping students and young adults pursue education, job skills, personal

growth, and career opportunities.

Known for her impeccable style, grace, and elegance, Clara was a true fashionista who inspired confidence in the young women she mentored. Her poise and presence earned her

recognition in Jet and Ebony magazines during the 1960s and 1970s.

Throughout her life, Clara remained active in professional, civic, and community organizations, including the Durham Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated. She touched countless lives through her decades of service, quiet strength, and deep belief that every person deserves the opportunity to thrive.

She was preceded in death by her father, David Richardson, and her mother, Geneva Richardson Brown. She is survived by her son, J.C. “Scottie” Scarborough IV; grandsons Logan Matthew Scarborough and Samuel Johnathan Scarborough; and a host of siblings, nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews, extended family members, and friends.

Practical Biblical Principles

WHEN PEOPLE PERISH Read: Proverbs 29:10-18

By: John L. Caldwell, Pastor New Jerusalem Baptist Cathedral Over the years this proverb - “Where there is no vision the people perish” has been misinterpreted. This is because the traditional version in the King James Bible states: “Where there is no vision the people perish” (Proverbs 29:18). This has often been translated as a wise person must have a five-to-twenty-year plan for the future if they do not wish to become defunct as an organization or a person. In short, one must have a future plan for their life on hand, or one will perish. There is nothing wrong with planning for the future. This helps one set up goals for which to strive for. Something to look forward to. The above proverb is not saying this.

However, the word “vision” does not refer to one’s ability to formulate future goals or plans. Instead, it is a synonym for the prophetic word itself. The real interpretation of the word “vision” in this instance is what a prophet “does” and not necessarily what He sees. In other words, a prophet’s vision may well show what he is to do or perform.

Israel endured times when the prophetic word was silent- there was no word from the Lord. When Samuel was a young boy, “in those days the word of the LORD was rare” (1 Samuel 3:1). For all the times Israel rejected the word, God sent a famine on the earth: not a famine of food and water, but an even more serious famine: a famine of the word of God (Amos 8:12; 2 Chronicles 15:3; Psalm 74:9).

Besides “vision” a second key word has been misunderstood in this

verse: the word “perish.” This word does not refer to the perishing of churches or one’s life due to inactive planning for the future. However, this can happen due to other circumstances not presented in the text. Nor does it mean the perishing of an unevangelized heathen who will die in their sin if someone does not reach them quickly. A fact which can be true on other grounds.

This word “Perish” as translated in the King James Version means to “cast off all restraint,” not perish or die. It clearly warns that where the word of God is silenced, not spoken, or heard so that it no longer offers control, guidance or comments on the local situation, the results are terrifying. The population becomes ungovernable as they cast aside all that is decent and civil for that which their own baser appetites wish to indulge in.

The best picture of how this takes place can be found in Exodus 32:25. While Moses was absent for a mere forty days on Mt. Sinai receiving the Law of God, the people began to fear that he would never return. Without the input of the prophetic word, the people began to get out of control. They cast off all restraints and began to dance about a newly formed golden calf. They ate and drank and indulged in open immorality, apparently recalling what they had seen in Egypt.

Without the announcement of the word of God, teaches this text, the people will become unrestrained, disorderly, and grossly obscene in their manner of life. The verb means to “let loose,” that is to let one’s hair down,” whether literally or figuratively (Leviticus 13:45; Numbers 5:18; Judges 5:2).

SERMON of the WEEK



NOTHING By Bishop-Elect William Eli Ratcliff

Last Sunday I preached. Friday, I preached the eulogy for Brother William Haynes, Jr.—God bless his soul. And now, once again, the Lord has me standing behind this sacred desk. Since this is my third sermon in a week, I asked the Lord, “Lord, what am I going to preach about?” The Lord said, “NOTHING.”

Now, don’t misunderstand me. The Lord did answer me. What He told me was that the title of today’s message is “NOTHING.” So, as they say, “Here goes NOTHING.”

Our text comes from 1 Timothy 6:7: “For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out.”

As I get older, my wife tells me more often than she did when I was twenty-five, “You can’t remember nothing.” Without arguing, I tell her, “Well, I remembered to pay the bills. The lights are still on, the water is still running, and nobody’s looking for me!” Let me pause right there so I don’t get in trouble. Ever since we’ve been married, she has always paid the bills and her tithes when she could. I thought it was important to say that because I don’t want to have to walk home after church. The Bible teaches that a threefold cord is not easily broken. When we keep Jesus in the middle of our marriage and finances, our union remains strong.

Let me share a true story that may help us understand this message. When I was a little boy, the insurance man came knocking at our door. My mother quietly moved to the back of the house and told my little brother, “Tell him I’m not home.” My brother opened the door, looked at the white insurance man holding his briefcase, and listened as he asked, [with a southern accent] “Sonny, is your mother home?” My brother replied, “She said she ain’t here,” and promptly shut the door.

Church, some things are so funny—or so frightening—that we never forget them. Likewise, Genesis chapter 3 records something humanity should never forget. Adam and Eve disobeyed God, and what He created perfect was brought down by sin. My first point is simple: The devil wants to bring you to nothing.

When God created Adam and Eve, everything was perfect. There was no sickness, pain, death, struggle, or worry. But through disobedience, sin entered the world. Since then, the devil’s mission has been to destroy what God created. He wants to destroy families, faith, hope, and joy. Jesus said the thief comes only to steal, kill, and destroy.

The devil wants you to believe you’re nothing, worth nothing, and can accomplish nothing. People may call you nothing and treat you as if you’re nothing. If you’re not careful, you’ll begin believing what they say. But never forget that God created you in His image. You are not what people call you; you are what God says you are. As Rev. Jesse Jackson famously declared, “I Am Somebody!” The old saints would say, “Lord, You made me, and You know who I am.”

My second point is this: God can take nothing and make something.

When Adam sinned, God reminded him that he came from the dust and would return to dust. Dust seems insignificant. Nobody gets excited about dust, and most of us spend our lives trying to get rid of it. Yet God saw something in the dust. Scripture says He formed man from

the dust of the earth, breathed into him the breath of life, and man became a living soul.

If God can make a man out of dust, He can make something out of your situation. He can make something out of your failures, mistakes, and disappointments. The same God who spoke light into darkness is still working miracles today. While the devil wants nothing from nothing to leave nothing, God specializes in taking nothing and making something. Because of that, I’ve made up my mind that I’ll let nothing separate me from the love of God—not trouble, hardship, sickness, disappointment, people, the devil, death, or life itself; Nothing! Let us continue growing in God’s grace so that nothing in this world can separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus. Not money. Not material things. NOTHING! [How about you?].

So, when the devil tells you you’re nothing, remind him that God made you. When people tell you you’re nothing, remind them that Jesus died for you. And if God isn’t through with you yet, your story isn’t over yet.

My soul says yes, and I’m glad my soul is anchored in the Lord, and I pray yours is too. Let us say together: “I’ll let nothing separate me—not friends, family, or fame.”

Psalm 139:14 says, “I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvelous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well.”

If you didn’t understand this message, hopefully it’s God’s Will to give me another sermon next week. However, I’m going to keep on praying for you. This is the end of this message because I have NOTHING else to say.

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

The Carolinian

N.C.'s Twice-Weekly African American Newspaper

SUBSCRIBE TODAY

☐ Yes, I Want A 1 Year Subscription For**\$45.00**

☐ Yes, I Want A 2 Year Subscription For**\$75.00**

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY STATE ZIP

PHONE

EMAIL

Make checks payable to The Carolinian Newspaper

Mail your subscription form and payment to PO Box 25308 Raleigh, NC 27611

H.U.B.'s Decreasing Numbers A Concern

Cash Rental Deal Set For Nov

Report Projects 438 Smallfolk

GOP Says Sen. Can Treat Them

Backup Sevensfield Thrilled In Raleigh

H.U.B.'s Decreasing Numbers A Concern

Cash Rental Deal Set For Nov

Report Projects 438 Smallfolk

GOP Says Sen. Can Treat Them

Backup Sevensfield Thrilled In Raleigh

“Our family serving your family for 110 years”

www.haywoodfh.com

2415 S Wilmington Street Raleigh, NC 27603

919-832-2835

“Our family serving your family for 110 years”

www.haywoodfh.com

2415 S Wilmington Street Raleigh, NC 27603

919-832-2835

Editorials

Editorial Policy

Unsigned editorials in this space are the opinion of the newspaper. All other opinion pieces, including those from regular columnists, are the opinion of the writers themselves. The Carolinian strives to provide provocative commentary that is likely to spur thoughtful debate, regardless of whether we agree with it.

“IT’S THE CULTURE STUPID!!!!”

By Val Atkinson

The Democrat Party has yet to figure out what drove Trump and his acolytes to their current position. It wasn’t just inflation. It wasn’t simply immigration. And it surely wasn’t because millions of Americans suddenly became constitutional scholars overnight. No; what drove this political transformation was something much deeper, more emotional, and far more powerful:

It Was Culture!

This is the battlefield upon which the next general election will be fought.

For years now, many white Americans — particularly working and middle-class voters — have felt as though the country they grew up in is slipping away from them. Demographic changes, multiculturalism, changing gender roles, racial reckoning, immigration, and the steady erosion of traditional power structures have created an enormous sense of cultural anxiety. Donald Trump did not create that anxiety. He weaponized it.

Trump understood something Democrats still refuse to fully acknowledge: People will tolerate economic uncertainty longer than they will tolerate cultural displacement.

That is why voters who disliked his behavior still voted for him. That is why many evangelicals overlooked moral contradictions. That is why Project 2025 and authoritarian rhetoric did not immediately disqualify him in the eyes of millions. They believed — rightly or wrongly — that Trump was fighting to preserve a version of America they recognized culturally.

Meanwhile, Democrats approached politics largely through policy papers, legislative accomplishments, and institutional arguments. They talked about infrastructure, GDP numbers, healthcare statistics, and democratic norms while Republicans talked identity, belonging, fear, patriotism, and cultural survival. One side spoke to the head. The other side spoke to the gut. And unfortunately in politics, the gut usually wins.

The next general election will not simply be about Republicans versus Democrats. It will be about two competing visions of America itself. One vision sees an increasingly diverse, multicultural nation where political power is broadly shared and where old hierarchies continue to fade. The other vision seeks to preserve a more traditional cultural order rooted in nationalism, Christianity, rigid borders, and an older racial and social framework that many white voters still find comforting.

That conflict is now consuming nearly every political issue in America. Immigration is no longer just about border policy — it is about identity. Education is no longer simply about academics — it is about whose history and values define America. Voting rights are no longer merely procedural debates — they are struggles over who gets political power in a changing nation. Even reproductive rights, LGBTQ issues, and public education have become proxies in a much larger cultural war over who America belongs to. And Trump and his Republican Acolytes understand this perfectly.

The recent primaries once again demonstrated Trump’s dominance over the Republican Party. Incumbents and traditional conservatives are increasingly vulnerable if they are perceived as insufficiently loyal to the movement. Fear of being “primaried” has become Trump’s enforcement mechanism over elected Republicans from local school boards all the way to Congress. The next general election therefore becomes more than a contest for offices. It becomes a referendum on the cultural direction of America itself.

The next election will determine whether America continues evolving toward a genuine multicultural democracy... or whether fear of that future pushes the nation further toward authoritarian nationalism.

And make no mistake about it:

IT’S THE CULTURE STUPID!!!!

Eight Ways to Relax

By Jasmine Deloatch

- So, we’ve had the heavy conversations and we’re feeling the state of dating, family dynamics and relationships in 2026. We honestly just need a BREAK. Well here’s a light and airy 8 Ways To Relax for those that feel the heaviness of this year.
1. Create a go-to place for hard days. Where is the most peaceful place for you? Do you live near a beach, have a dock with flowing water nearby, is your backyard a hiatus, or do you simply have a peaceful room in your house that you could retreat to?
 2. Get more sleep! Sometimes all you need is a bit more sleep. It’s an easy necessity to overlook, but adding a few hours to each night will help.
 3. Drink more water. This is another easy necessity that we often forget. The signs of dehydration aren’t as obvious and we overlook our bodies’ need for water.
 4. Find a new hobby. Make sure that it’s one that you actually enjoy. This should be something that you look forward to, not another task to loathe.
 5. Connect with nature. Nature helps us to remember that the world is bigger than our human problems. Spending time with animals and hiking in the mountains reminds us just how small our problems are.
 6. Make a list of what you worry about in life. Highlight what you can change. Focusing on things that we can improve gives us direction and confidence.
 7. Find something to nurture. It could be as big a responsibility as a dog or as small as a pet fish. Waking up with something that relies on you to help it live gives you purpose.
 8. Start journaling. There’s all types of journaling, religious journaling where you can write to God about your needs, creative journaling where you can draw and plan for the future or simple daily notes that pour out your feelings each day instead of bottling them up.
- Hope this helps! And remember there’s always a light at the end of any dark tunnel.



A CELEBRATION OF LIFE

In high school, I wrote a term paper entitled, “The High Cost of Dying.” As a teen, I knew NOTHING about dying, funeralizing, or really much of anything relegated to “grown folks business.” At the time, I had never attended a funeral and had a distant, dispassionate perspective of death and the loss of a loved one. My father chose to let my mother represent our family at these times and I stayed at home with him. I had no idea how much of a big deal these life events were in the African American community.

I’ve come to believe that you can tell a lot about a people by how they send their loved ones home. Every culture has its own way of honoring the dead, and those rituals—whether solemn, celebratory, or somewhere in between—tell a story about what that community believes about life, legacy, and the ties that bind us. As I’ve gotten older, I’ve found myself paying closer attention to these differences, not out of morbid curiosity, but out of a deeper desire to understand what we’re really saying when we gather to mourn.

When I moved to Mississippi after college, I became acquainted with the Black Southern traditional funerals. They were not quiet affairs. They were then, and continue to be full-bodied, full-throated expressions of grief and gratitude. We cry, we shout, we sing, we testify. We bring casseroles and pound cakes, and we pack the church until the ushers have to pull out folding chairs. And then, after the final “amen,” we gather again for the repast—a meal that is as much about comforting the living as it is about honoring the dead. That’s our way. It’s communal. It’s spiritual. It’s rooted in the belief that nobody leaves this world alone.

But step outside our community, and you’ll find rituals that look very different. In parts of Korea, families hold a Jesa, an ancestral rite where food is offered to honor the spirit of the departed. In Ghana, funerals can be multi-day celebrations with music, dancing, and elaborate coffins shaped like fish, airplanes, or Bibles—symbols of the life the person lived or the dreams they carried. In Mexico, Día de los Muertos turns remembrance into a vibrant celebration, with marigolds, sugar skulls, and altars built to welcome loved ones back for a brief visit. And in some Indigenous communities, funerals are deeply tied to the land, emphasizing the return of the body to the earth and the continuation of the spirit.

What strikes me is that while the rituals differ, the purpose is the same: to make meaning out of loss. To say, “This person mattered.” To help the living take one step forward when their hearts feel stuck in place.

I think about how our own traditions have evolved. Many of us remember when funerals were all-day affairs, when the choir sang until the walls shook, when the pastor preached a full sermon, and when the obituary was long enough to be its own booklet. I am reminded of my aunt’s funeral in New Orleans in the 1990’s. This was my mother’s closest sibling who had lived in New Orleans where she was born for her entire life. My great nephew then living in New Orleans joined me for the full-out, four-hour church service at Second Mount Calvary Missionary Baptist Church, the Thornton family’s home church. It was held on a Friday night with the burial and repast scheduled for Saturday. I thought I was being tortured as I listened to a parade of pastors, mostly retired preach including one who began with, “I didn’t know Ms. Moland...” and impromptu vocal renderings from a woman I swear had to have been a caberet singer. There were several people, old as black pepper, who told funny, messy, even inappropriate stories of many decades of life shared with my aunt. It was comforting. It was often humorous. It was long.

Today, some families choose smaller services or cremation. Some livestream funerals for relatives who can’t travel. Some hold celebrations of life instead of traditional services. Change isn’t necessarily a loss—it’s a reflection of how our communities adapt while still holding on to what matters.

But I’ll tell you this: no matter how the format shifts, the heart of our ritual remains the same. We show up. We bring food. We speak their name. We wrap the grieving in love until they can stand again. That’s a cultural inheritance worth protecting.

When we look at the funeral practices of other cultures, we’re reminded that grief is universal, and the way we honor it is beautifully diverse. And in a world that often feels divided, there’s something comforting about knowing that every culture, in its own way, is trying to answer the same question: How do we say goodbye while still holding on?

FUNdraising Good Times

By Mel & Pearl Shaw
Saad & Shaw

NONPROFIT MENTAL HEALTH – IT’S NOT EQUALLY EXPERIENCED

The conversations around mental health have changed dramatically over recent years, and some of the stigma associated with having a mental health condition has lessened. But we can do more. We can do more for ourselves, our friends and family members, our neighbors,

and co-workers. The “more” begins with understanding, listening, learning about the available resources, and recognizing when those around us are in need.

Words and phrases such as “depression,” “bi-polar,” “anxiety,” and “post traumatic stress disorder” are part of our communication but do we really know what they mean? How are we educating ourselves? And how are we understanding the interactions between individual mental health, our economic situation, immigration status, public policy, and family situations to name a few variables?

Here’s what we know when it comes to nonprofits and mental health. First, there are many nonprofits dedicated to researching mental health and identifying treatments and new or combined therapies. There are organizations committed to providing referrals, information, and treatment. We also know that individuals working within nonprofits and those served by nonprofits are living with mental health conditions. NAMI, the National Alliance on Mental Illness, is a national, grass-roots organization with a long history of supporting people affected by mental illness. Whether you are suffering, or living with someone who is, there is a program and support for you.

We also want to share information related to “burn out” which impacts so many working-people’s lives, including those who work at nonprofits. We talked with Cait Donovan, co-host of FRIED: The Burn-out Podcast in an earlier column, and we recommend her blog and column as a resource and a tool for creating personal – and workplace – change. It’s this latter component of burnout – and mental health – that we want to encourage you to think about as part of Mental Health Awareness Month. While “burn out” is not a mental health illness or condition, it can exasperate people’s mental health, and it is an environmental and organizational condition that can leave people feeling exhausted, stressed out beyond belief which can contribute to physical and mental health issues. And it affects different people differently.

WEALTH GAP

Continued from page 4

er match. Employees are automatically enrolled, but can choose to opt out, leading to higher participation rates than if workers were required to opt in to save with the plans.

Employees often contribute post-tax earnings to Roth IRAs, which means they can generally withdraw all or part of their contributions (but not investment returns) without penalties or taxes. That allows workers to not only start building retirement accounts, but to save up for unexpected or emergency expenses, Scott said.

That may also help states persuade workers to stay enrolled in automatic retirement plans.

Georgetown’s tracking shows about 35% of California participants opted out of that state program, while more than 37% opted out of the Illinois program.

In addition to a formal survey, Pew hosted an online discussion to ask Black, Hispanic, Asian American/Pacific Islander, and Native American/Indigenous workers about their views on wealth. Many of those workers did not view wealth in terms of the classic definition of assets minus debts. They instead prioritized financial security, which they saw as a more important goal than simply building wealth.

“What came through in these comments was that wealth to them is really security, and security in the sense of I have some certainty in my life about the income that’s coming in and the bills that have to be paid,” Scott said. “And I don’t really have to wonder if I’m going to have enough at the end of the month after paying off everything that I owe.”

While many people argue against allowing any withdrawals from retirement accounts before workers hit retirement age, Scott said more flexible programs such as the state-sponsored auto-IRAs provide workers with more security.

“You have to meet people where they are,” he said. “And the reality is that if we’re going to ask people to save for the long term, we need to help them build that resilience for the short term.”

NC MEGACHURCH

Continued from page 9

its capacity for student housing, Drew said. According to its website, students are required to live in newly built townhouses, located in Charlotte.

Church history lesson

Elevation was a member of the Southern Baptist Convention, the largest Protestant denomination in the United States, until it left in 2023. While the church didn’t provide a reason, it came after the SBC had voted to remove several churches for having women pastors. Married duo Steven Furtick and Holly Furtick co-founded Elevation, and Holly occasionally delivers sermons.

“You will find that our Statement of Beliefs on our website is very much in line with the Baptist Faith and Message — we have no intention of changing those core beliefs,” Elevation said in its letter.

“(…) We pray that we will continue to be able to work alongside many SBC churches in the coming years. We know there is much we can do more effectively in partnership than we can do alone.”

Elevation now operates as a nondenominational church but, as promised, its beliefs and practices are still largely aligned with Southern Baptist teachings, so it might seem odd to partner with SEU. But Warren Bird, one of the United States’ leading researchers of large and growing churches, said the SBC and Assemblies of God think similarly about core issues.

“The Southern Baptist and Assemblies of God denominations are fully aligned on core evangelical doctrines, such as: Who is Jesus? Is the Bible the inspired Word of God? And how does someone get forgiven by God and spend eternity in heaven?” Bird told CPP in an email.

“They differ primarily on issues of local church autonomy, the role of spiritual gifts today such as speaking in tongues, and level of emphasis on the Holy Spirit.”

SEU partnering with churches, many outside of their own denomination, is unusual but attractive, Glanzer said. It allows students to have an in-person element while still offering the benefits of an online education that so many are seeking out today.

Classifieds

CHATHAM
COUNTY

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
CHATHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
ALL PERSONS, firms and corporations having claims against KAY CANNON ALFORD, deceased, of Chatham County, NC, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before September 4, 2026, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 4th day of June, 2026. Neill Edward Alford Jr., Executor, c/o Bagwell Holt Smith P.A., 111 Cloister Court, STE 200, Chapel Hill, NC 27514.

6/4, 6/11, 6/18, and 6/25/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
CHATHAM COUNTY

NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION
In the General Court of Justice, District Court Division
File No: 26CV000351-180

To: SEGUNDO GUEVARA EUCEDA, 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 July 1st , 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, FRANCIA MAIDELYN FUENTES MALDONADO, will apply to the court located at 40 E Chatham St, Pittsboro, NC 27312 for the relief sought.

This, the 21st day of May, 2026.
Aneta Pavál
Pavál Law Offices, PLLC
Telephone: (919) 410-6690
5/21, 5/28, 6/4, and 6/11/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
CHATHAM COUNTY

NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION
In the General Court of Justice District Court Division
File No: 26CV000546-180

To: JULIO CESAR HERNANDEZ-MADRID, 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 July 1st , 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, NUVIA YANETH PINEDA-MEJIA, will apply to the court located at 40 E Chatham St, Pittsboro, NC 27312 for the relief sought.

This, the 21st day of May, 2026.
Aneta Pavál
Pavál Law Offices, PLLC
Telephone: (919) 410-6690
5/21, 5/28, 6/4, and 6/11/2026

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
In the General Court of Justice, Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File No.: 26E000133-310

THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 9th day of February, 2026, as Executor of the Estate of TILDEN HAZARD MONTANT, 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 4th day of September, 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 4th day of June, 2026.
John Douglas Trimmer, Executor
c/o Bagwell Holt Smith P.A.
111 Cloister Court, Suite 200
Chapel Hill ,NC 27514
6/4, 6/11, 6/18, and 6/25/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
File No: 26E000361-310

Having qualified as Public Administrator of the Estate of ERIK VONBRUNN, deceased, of 414 E. Main St., 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 September 5, 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 4th day of June, 2026.
Jeffrey L. Austin
Public Administrator
Law Office of Jeffrey L. Austin, PLLC
500 Westover Dr. #32043
Sanford, NC 27330
6/4, 6/11, 6/18, and 6/25/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice, Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File No.: 26E000450-310

THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 15th day of April, 2026, as Administrator of the Estate of JETHRO BARBER, 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 4th day of September, 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 4th day of June, 2026.
Diane Cleo Barber, Administrator
926 Jerome Rd.
Durham, NC 27713
6/4, 6/11, 6/18, and 6/25/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
File No: 26E000653-310

Having qualified as Ancillary Administrator of the Estate of WILLIAM F. MARTIN, JR., deceased, of 6818 Iron Gate Dr., Bahama, NC 27503 and 1203 Jamestown Rd. Unit H2, Williamsburg, VA 23185, 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 September 5, 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 4th day of June, 2026.
Jo-Ann Wagner, Ancillary Administrator
c/o Jeffrey L. Austin
Law Office of Jeffrey L. Austin, PLLC
500 Westover Dr. #32043
Sanford, NC 27330
FOR PUBLICATION: The Carolinian
6/4, 6/11, 6/18, and 6/25/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice, Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File No.: 26E000432-310

THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 19th day of May, 2026, as Executor of the Estate of LLOYD FRANKLIN REDICK, 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 4th day of September, 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 4th day of June, 2026.
Kathryn Anne Young, Executor
2913 Gretmar Drive
Durham, NC 27705
6/4, 6/11, 6/18, and 6/25/2026

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
ESTATE OF JEFFERY RICHARD MITALY
FILE NO. 26E000616-310

ALL PERSONS, firms, and corporations having claims against Jeffery Richard Mitaly, deceased, of Durham County, N.C., are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before September 4, 2026, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 4th of June, 2026. Marlene Mitaly f/k/a Marlene Renee Muller, Administrator of the Estate of Jeffery Richard Mitaly, c/o Amanda Honea, Attorney, 1255 Crescent Green, Suite 200, Cary, NC 27518.
6/4, 6/11, 6/18, and 6/25/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice, Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File No.: 25E000608-310

THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 7th day of May, 2025, as Executor of the Estate of JAMES BRADLEY 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 4th day of September, 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 4th day of June, 2026.
Alysia M. Smith, Executor
6710 Banks Rd.
Mebane, NC 27302
6/4, 6/11, 6/18, and 6/25/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice, Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File No.: 26E000584-310

THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 11th day of May, 2026, as Executor of the Estate of WILLIAM DOUGLAS WYATT, 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 4th day of September, 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 4th day of June, 2026.
Virginia Woods Wyatt, Executor
4300 Rocky Creek Drive
Durham, NC 27704
6/4, 6/11, 6/18, and 6/25/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION
In The General Court of Justice Superior Court Division
File No. 26CV006018-310

YESENIA CAROLINA ORTIZ GUTIERREZ, Plaintiff v. JOSE MARIO SOLORZANO MORALES, Defendant

TO: JOSE MARIO SOLORZANO MORALES

TAKE NOTICE that a Complaint has been filed against you in the above-entitled action. The nature of the relief being sought is an Order of Permanent Custody of your minor child, Gloria Guadalupe Solorzano Ortiz.

You are required to file an Answer, including any defenses to this pleading, within forty (40) days after the first date of publication of this Notice with the Clerk of Superior Court of Durham County. Upon your failure to do so, the Plaintiff will apply to the Court for the relief sought in the Complaint. This the 4th day of June, 2026.
Yesenia L. Polanco-Galdamez, Attorney for Plaintiff
Polanco Law, P.C.
411 Andrews Road, Suite 130
Durham, NC 27705
(919) 294-8032
6/4, 6/11, and 6/18/2026

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY SMALL CLAIMS In The General Court of Justice, District Court Division
FILE NO: 26CV004754-310
Phaeton Motorwerks, Plaintiff v. Owner of Carolina Preowned Motors 1528 S Miami Blvd Nov 2024, Defendant
TO: Owner TAKE NOTICE that a Small Claims action has been filed against you by Phaeton Motorwerks regarding a motor vehicle left for repairs and not claimed. You are required to appear before a Magistrate in Durham County as follows: Date: Friday July 10, 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 1st day of June 2026. Phaeton Motorwerks 4122 Bennett Memorial Dr STE 101 Durham NC 27705
Harriett70@hotmail.com
6/4, 6/11, and 6/18/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION
In The General Court Of Justice District Court Division
In re: BOYD KEYES, 26SP 0238-310

TO: The unknown father of a baby girl born January 1, 2026, in Gastonia, Gaston County, North Carolina. Respondent TAKE NOTICE that a Petition for Adoption was filed on the 5th day of March 2026, with the Clerk of Superior Court for Durham County in Durham, North Carolina, in the above-entitled special proceeding. The Petition relates to a female child born on January 1, 2026, at Caromont Regional Medical Center in Gastonia, Gaston County, North Carolina. The birth mother's name is Ashley C. High. She is a 17-year-old African American woman with brown naturally curly hair and brown eyes who is 5'6" tall. The child was conceived on or about April 11, 2025, in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina.

TAKE NOTICE that you are required to make defense to such pleading no later than forty (40) days after the date of the first publication of this notice which is the 14th of July 2026 exclusive of such date. Upon your failure to do so, the Petitioners will apply to the Court for relief sought in the Petition. Any parental rights that you may have will be terminated upon the entry of the decree of adoption. This the 4th, 11th, and 18th, of June 2026. Milan T. Pham, Attorney for Petitioners NC Bar # 27599 NicholsonPham PLLC, 113 Broadway Street, Durham, North Carolina 27701.
6/4, 6/11, and 6/18/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION
In The General Court Of Justice District Court Division
FILE NO.: 26CV005523-310

Nilda Catalina Carias Mendez v. Oscar Raul Osorio Asencio
To: Oscar Raul Osorio Asencio

Take Notice that a Complaint has been filed against you in the Civil Action described above, in the General Court of Justice, District Court Division, by the Plaintiff herein, the nature of which is as follows: The Complaint seeks an Order of Permanent Custody of your minor child,Oscar Osorio Carias. You are required to file an Answer including any defenses to this pleading within forty (40) days from the date of first publication of this Notice with the Clerk of Court of Durham County. If you fail to do so, you may not receive further notices, and the plaintiff will seek the relief sought herein.

Publication begins This is the 4th day of June 2026.
Yesenia L. Polanco-Galdamez, Attorney for Plaintiff
411 Andrews Road, Suite 130
Durham, NC 27705 (919) 294-8032
Published June 4, June 11, and June 18, 2026.

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice, Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File No.: 26E000146-310

THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 20th day of May, 2026, as Administrator of the Estate of ISAAC HARRIS AMADOR, 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 29th 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 28th day of May, 2026.
Emerson Bernabe Amador
Administrator
208 Lenox Ave., #238
Westfield, NJ 07090
5/28, 6/4, 6/11, and 6/18/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice, Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File No.: 25E001313-310

THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 13th day of

October, 2025, as Executor of the Estate of ELAINE EVANS DURHAM, 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 29th 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 28th day of May, 2026.
Ashley Michelle Durham, Executor
4430 Sunny Court
Durham, NC 27705
5/28, 6/4, 6/11, and 6/18/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
The undersigned, having qualified as the Administrator of the Estate of WILLIAM LEONARD HARRELL, deceased, of Durham NC, hereby notifies all persons, firms, and corporations having claims against the said estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before June 28th 2026, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery.

All persons indebted to the said estate will make immediate payment to the undersigned. This the 23rd day of May, 2026.

Shurlanduis Crump , Administrator of the Estate of William Leonard Harrell
922 Armfield Ave
Albemarle, NC 28001
336-689-2742

5/28, 6/4, 6/11, and 6/18/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice, Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File No.: 26E000425-310

THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 29th day of April, 2026, as Administrator of the Estate of THOMAS CALVIN MARTIN, 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 29th 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 28th day of May, 2026.
Anthony Darryl Martin, Administrator
8500 Duvall Meadow Lane
Charlotte, NC 28216
5/28, 6/4, 6/11, and 6/18/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 20th day of May 2026, as Co-Limited Personal Representatives of the ESTATE OF SAMUEL BRUCE MANGUM A/K/A BRUCE MANGUM, Deceased, of Durham County, North Carolina, do hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said Estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 29th 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 28th day of May 2026.
DEBORAH MANGUM LOFLIN & DIANNE MANGUM HILL
CO-LIMITED PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES
ESTATE OF SAMUEL BRUCE MANGUM
A/K/A BRUCE MANGUM
c/o E. J. Walker, Jr., Attorney
Walker Lambe, PLLC
Post Office Box 51549
Durham, North Carolina 27717
5/28, 6/4, 6/11, and 6/18/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION
In The General Court Of Justice District Court Division
FILE NO. 25CVD00533-310

SARAH CAROLINE LE SUEUR, Plaintiff v. STUART WADE BENNETT JR., Defendant
TO: STUART WADE BENNETT JR.

TAKE NOTICE that a pleading seeking relief against you has been filed in the above-entitled action. The nature of the relief being sought is Absolute Divorce.

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

This the 28th day of May, 2026.
Sarah Caroline LeSueur
504 Watts Street, Durham NC 27701

5/28, 6/4, and 6/11/2026
FLOW VOLKSWAGEN OF DURHAM VERSUS JESSICA MARSHA CARUTHERS NOTICE OF SALE Take notice that a public sale will take plac on June 15th, 2026 at 10:00 am to satisfy a lien on the following vehicle: 2013 Volkswagen VIN# WVWBP7AN3DE517454. The location of the sale is Flow Volkswagen of Durham, 3823 Durham Chapel Hill Blvd, Durham, NC 27707.

Published: 5/28 & 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.: 26E000608-310

THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 19th day of May, 2026, as Executor of the Estate of LACY DOUGLAS TILLEY, 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 22nd 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 28th day of May, 2026.
Charles Howard Tilley, Executor
6221 Horse Fly Trl
Wake Forest, NC
5/28, 6/4, 6/11 and 6/18/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice, Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File No.: 26E000592-310

THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 12th day of May, 2026, as Executor of the Estate of ARTHUR JOEL PAGE, 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 22nd 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 21st day of May, 2026.
Susan Renee Marks, Executor
3921 Pixley Pritchard Rd.
Timberlake, NC 27583
5/21, 5/28, 6/4, and 6/11/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice, Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File No.: 26E000572-310

THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 7th day of May, 2026, as Executor of the Estate of JOANN SANDLING ADCOCK, 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 22nd 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 21st day of May, 2026.
Edward Earl Adcock, Executor
1412 Hounds Ear Rd.
Hillsborough, NC 27278
5/21, 5/28, 6/4, and 6/11/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
The undersigned having qualified as Executor of the Estate of ROBERT S. GEBELEIN a/k/a ROBERT SEAVER GEBELEIN, Deceased, late of Durham County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the Estate to Exhibit them to the undersigned at the office of IDOL LAW, PLLC, PO Box 51759, Durham, North Carolina 27717, on or before the 25th day of August, 2026, or this Notice will be in bar of their recovery.

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

This is the 21st day of May, 2026.
Hilary Kerr Enyedy, Executor, Estate of Robert S. Gebelein a/k/a Robert Seaver Gebelein, Deceased Robert A. Idol, Esquire IDOL LAW, PLLC Attorney at Law
PO Box 51759 Durham, NC 27717 (919) 401.5151

5/21, 5/28, 6/4, and 6/11/2026
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

DURHAM
COUNTY

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

Subscribe To The
Carolinian Today!
www.CARO.news

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

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 OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION
In The General Court of Justice District Court Division
File No. 25cv003549-910
CHARLENE MICHELLE MENDOZA, Plaintiff v. **MERLIN YONI MENDOZA**, Defendant
TO: MERLIN YONI MENDOZA
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 not later than forty (40) days after the first date of publication of this notice, and upon your failure to do so, the Plaintiff will apply to the Court for the relief sought.
This the 4th day of June, 2026.
Charlene Michelle Mendoza
4721 Worchester Place
Raleigh, NC 27604
(919) 986-0625
6/4, 6/11, and 6/18/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
WAKE COUNTY

NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION
In The General Court of Justice Superior Court Division
File No. 26CV008864-910
TANISHA WRIGHT, Plaintiff v. **APRIL PATRICK and HERO STAFFING, LLC**, Defendants
TO: APRIL PATRICK and HERO STAFFING, LLC
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 set forth in the Complaint filed in this action.

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 4th of June, 2026.
Gregory R. Williams
The Law Offices of Gregory Reynald Williams, PLLC
2232 Page Road, Suite 203
Durham, NC 27703
6/4, 6/11, and 6/18/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
WAKE COUNTY

NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION
In The General Court of Justice Superior Court Division
File No. 26CV008862-910
BYRON SANDERS, Plaintiff v. **APRIL PATRICK and HERO STAFFING, LLC**, Defendants
TO: APRIL PATRICK and HERO STAFFING, LLC

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 set forth in the Complaint filed in this action.

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 4th of June, 2026.
Gregory R. Williams
The Law Offices of Gregory Reynald Williams, PLLC
2232 Page Road, Suite 203
Durham, NC 27703
6/4, 6/11, and 6/18/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
WAKE COUNTY

NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION
In The General Court of Justice Superior Court Division
File No. 26CV008870-910
KEELAN BROWN, Plaintiff v. **APRIL PATRICK and HERO STAFFING, LLC**, Defendants
TO: APRIL PATRICK and HERO STAFFING, LLC

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 set forth in the Complaint filed in this action.

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 4th of June, 2026.
Gregory R. Williams
The Law Offices of Gregory Reynald Williams, PLLC
2232 Page Road, Suite 203
Durham, NC 27703
6/4, 6/11, and 6/18/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
WAKE COUNTY

NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION
In The General Court Of Justice District Court Division
FILE NO. 25CV036521-910
MARIELIS SABINA CABREJA HIDALGO, Plaintiff v. **JORGE ANTONIO CARRILLO**, Defendant
TO: JORGE ANTONIO CARRILLO
TAKE NOTICE that a pleading seeking relief against you has been filed in the above-entitled action. The nature of the relief being sought is Absolute Divorce.

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

This the 28th day of May, 2026.
Marielis Sabina Cabreja Hidalgo
4279 Lake Woodard Drive
Raleigh, NC 27604
5/28, 6/4, and 6/11/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
WAKE COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice, Superior Court Division Before the Clerk
File No.: 25E004341-910

THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 23rd day of January, 2026, as Administrator of the Estate of CAREY ALPHONSO WAINWRIGHT, 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 22nd 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 21st day of May, 2026.
Michellie Wainwright, Administrator
40 BP Court
Rocky Mount, NC 27804
5/21, 5/28, 6/4, and 6/11/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
WAKE COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
ALL PERSONS, firms and corporations having claims against BARBARA ANN HINTON, Deceased, of WAKE COUNTY, NC, are notified to exhibit the same

to the undersigned on or before AUGUST 21, 2026, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors

of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment.
This is the 21st day of MAY, 2026.
Sean C. Hinton, Administrator of the Estate, c/o MONROE JENKINS, PA
Post Office Box 12534
Durham, North Carolina 27709
5/21, 5/28, 6/4, and 6/11/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
WAKE COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice, Superior Court Division Before the Clerk
File No.: 25E004045-910

THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 12th day of November, 2025, as Executor of the Estate of MAJORIE LYNNETTE DEBNAM, 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 22nd 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 21st day of May, 2026.
Marie Georgette Debnam, Executor
1615 E. Davie Street
Raleigh, NC 27610
5/21, 5/28, 6/4, and 6/11/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
WAKE COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice, Superior Court Division Before the Clerk
File No.: 25E002273-910

THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 11th day of May, 2026, as Executor of the Estate of NATHANIEL GAY, 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 22nd 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 21st day of May, 2026.
Teresa Jacobs Gay Executor
c/o Mitchell Law Group, PLLC
2530 Meridian Parkway, Suite 100
Durham, North Carolina 27713
5/21, 5/28, 6/4, and 6/11/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
WAKE COUNTY

NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION
In The General Court Of Justice District Court Division
FILE NO. 26CVD011579-910
KATRICE ORDONEZ AGUILAR, Plaintiff v. **MARTIN ORDONEZ AGUILAR**, Defendant

TO: MARTIN ORDONEZ AGUILAR
TAKE NOTICE that a pleading seeking relief against you has been filed in the above-entitled action. The nature of the relief being sought is Absolute Divorce.

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

This the 21st day of May, 2026.
Katrice Ordonez Aguilar, Plaintiff
2512 New Hope Church Rd
Raleigh, NC 27604

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.: 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 SHEPERD DAVIDSON, Deceased, of Wake County, North Carolina, does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said Estate to exhibit them to the undersigned

on or before the 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

FORECLOSURE

AMENDED NOTICE OF SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEE'S FORECLOSURE SALE OF REAL PROPERTY
Durham County, NC
26 SP 00343-400

THIS AMENDED NOTICE OF SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEE'S FORECLOSURE SALE OF REAL PROPERTY (this "Notice") is given under and by virtue of an order of the Clerk of Superior Court of Durham County, NC entered April 28, 2026, authorizing foreclosure in the Special Proceeding entitled "In the Matter of the Foreclosure of the Deed of Trust from Ramarama Inc., Grantor" (the "Foreclosure Proceeding") which deed of trust was recorded in Book 9463, Page 454 in the Office of the Register of Deeds of Durham County, NC (the "Deed of Trust") and the power and authority contained in the Deed of Trust; and after a hearing pursuant to the provisions of Article 2A of Chapter , 45 of the General Statutes of the State of North Carolina; and under and by virtue of the power of sale contained in the above-referenced Deed of Trust; and because of default in the payment of the indebtedness secured by the Deed of Trust and failure to carry out or perform the stipulations and agreements therein contained and pursuant to the demand of the owner and holder of the indebtedness secured by the Deed of Trust, the undersigned, Substitute Trustee Services, Inc., will expose for sale at public auction to the highest bidder for cash on Tuesday, June 16, 2026 at 3:15 p.m, on the courthouse steps of the Durham County Courthouse, or otherwise at the customary place within such courthouse, located at 510 South Dillard Street, Durham, North Carolina 27701, the real property more particularly described as follows:

BEING all those certain lots, parcels, or tracts of land lying and being in Durham County, North Carolina, being more particularly described as follows:
LYING at the southwestern intersection of Roxboro Street and Pinecrest Drive, containing 9343.0 square feet, more or less, and being all of CITY TRACT NO. 950 as per plat and survey thereof on file in Plat Book 115 at Page 153 in the Office of the Register of Deeds of Durham County, to which plat reference is hereby expressly made for a more particular description of the same.

Said real property being believed, without representation or warranty, to be located at 2306 S. Roxboro Street, Durham, North Carolina 27707. The record owners of the real property as reflected on the records in the Office of the Register of Deeds of Durham County, NC not more than ten (10) days prior to the posting of this Notice is Ramarama Inc.

TERMS OF SALE:
The purchaser of the real property must pay, in addition to the amount bid, the following items: (i) the fee required by N.C. Gen. Stat.§ 7A-308(a)(1) of Forty-Five Cents (45c) per One Hundred Dollars (\$100) or major fraction thereof of the bid amount up to a maximum fee of Five Hundred Dollars (\$500), (ii) the excise tax on conveyances required by N.C. Gen. Stat. § 105-228.28 et seq. of One Dollar (\$1) per Five Hundred Dollars

(\$500) or fractional part thereof of the bid amount, and (iii) unpaid ad valorem taxes and assessments.

Pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat.§ 45-21.10(b), and the terms of the Deed of Trust, any successful bidder, other than the owner and holder of the indebtedness secured by the Deed of Trust (the "Lender"), may be required to deposit with the Substitute Trustee immediately upon conclusion of the sale a cash deposit not to exceed the greater of five percent (5%) of the amount of the bid or \$750. If the Lender is the successful bidder, the Lender shall not be required to make any deposit with the Substitute Trustee. Any successful bidder, other than the Lender, shall be required to tender the full balance purchase price so bid in cash or certified check at the time the Substitute Trustee tenders to such successful bidder a deed for the real property or attempts to tender such deed, and should said successful bidder fail to pay the full balance purchase price so bid at that time, such successful bidder shall remain liable on the bid as provided for in N.C. Gen. Stat. § 45-2 1.30(d) and (e).

The real property to be offered pursuant to this notice of sale is being offered for sale, transfer and conveyance "AS IS, WHERE IS." Neither the Substitute Trustee nor the Lender, nor the officers, attorneys, employees, agents, or authorized representatives of either the Substitute Trustee or the Lender make any warranty relating to the title or any physical, environmental, health, or safety conditions existing in, on, at or relating to the real property being offered for sale, and any and all responsibilities or liabilities arising out of or in any way relating to any such condition are expressly disclaimed. The real property is being sold subject to all liens, encumbrances, unpaid taxes, matters of survey, restrictions, leases and easements of record, unpaid assessments, and other matters of record, if any, which in each case may exist and be senior and superior to the lien of the Deed of Trust pursuant to applicable law.

SPECIAL NOTICE FOR LEASEHOLD TENANTS: If you are a tenant in the real property, be advised that an Order for Possession of the real property may be issued in favor of the purchaser. Any person who occupies the property pursuant to a rental agreement entered into or renewed on or after October 1, 2007, may, after receiving this Notice, terminate the rental agreement by providing written notice of termination to the landlord, to be effective on a date stated in the notice that is at least ten (10) days, but no more than ninety (90) days, after the sale date contained in this Notice, provided that the grantor/mortgagor has not cured the default at the time the tenant provides the notice of termination. Upon termination of a rental agreement, the tenant is liable for rent due under the rental agreement prorated to the effective date of the termination.

This sale will be held open ten (10) days for upset bids as required by law.
/s/ C.L. Leader
Substitute Trustee Services, Inc.
Substitute Trustee
201 S. Mcpherson Church Rd., Ste 201
Fayetteville, NC 28303-4995

Exhibit A - Legal Description
LYING at the southwestern intersection of Roxboro Street and Pinecrest Drive, containing 9343.0 square feet, more or less, and being all of CITY TRACT NO. 950 as per plat and survey thereof on file in Plat Book 115 at Page 153 in the Office of the Register of Deeds of Durham County, to which plat reference is hereby expressly made for a more particular description of the same.
Publication: 5/28 & 6/4/2026



ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

The North Carolina Department of Adult Correction has the following contract in McDowell County out for bid: C- 11852 Marion Roof Replacement . The bid opening is scheduled for: Thursday, 06/25/2026 . To obtain the Notice to Bidders, any Pre-Bid Requirements, and any Addenda visit: <https://evp.nc.gov/solicitations/details/?id=fe719d2d-6e50-f111-bec6-001dd800b811>

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

FORECLOSURE

AMENDED NOTICE OF
SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEE'S
FORECLOSURE SALE OF REAL
PROPERTY

Durham County, NC
26 SP 00344-400

THIS AMENDED NOTICE OF SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEE'S FORECLOSURE SALE OF REAL PROPERTY (this "Notice") is given under and by virtue of an order of the Clerk of Superior Court of Durham County, NC entered April 28, 2026, authorizing foreclosure in the Special Proceeding entitled "In the Matter of the Foreclosure of the Deed of Trust from Ramarama Inc., Grantor" (the "Foreclosure Proceeding") which deed of trust was recorded in Book 9512, Page 150, in the Office of the Register of Deeds of Durham County, NC (the "Deed of Trust") and the power and authority contained in the Deed of Trust; and after a hearing pursuant to the provisions of Article 2A of Chapter 45 of the General Statutes of the State of North Carolina; and under and by virtue of the power of sale contained in the above-referenced Deed of Trust; and because of default in the payment of the indebtedness secured by the Deed of Trust and failure to carry out or perform the stipulations and agreements therein contained and pursuant to the demand of the owner and holder of the indebtedness secured by the Deed of Trust, the undersigned, Substitute Trustee Services, Inc., will expose for sale at public auction to the highest bidder for cash on Tuesday, June 16, 2026 at 3:15 p.m. on the courthouse steps of the Durham County Courthouse, or otherwise at the customary place within such courthouse, located at 510 South Dillard Street, Durham, North Carolina 27701, the real property more particularly described as follows:

BEING all those certain lots, parcels, or tracts of land lying and being in Durham County, North Carolina, being more particularly described on Exhibit A attached hereto and incorporated herein by this reference.

Said real property being believed, without representation or warranty, to be located at 2300 Pinecrest Road, 2304 S. Roxboro Street, and 2302 B and C S. Roxboro Street, Durham, North Carolina 27707. The record owners of the real property as reflected on the records in the Office of the Register of Deeds of Durham County, NC not more than ten (10) days prior to the posting of this Notice is Ramarama Inc. as to most of the aforementioned Property, and Roxboro Durham Partners, LLC as to a portion of the Property.

TERMS OF SALE:

The purchaser of the real property must pay, in addition to the amount bid, the following items: (i) the fee required by N.C. Gen. Stat.§ 7A-308(a)(1) of Forty-Five Cents (45c) per One Hundred Dollars (\$100) or major fraction thereof of the bid amount up to a maximum fee of Five Hundred Dollars (\$500), (ii) the excise tax on conveyances required by N.C. Gen. Stat. § 105-228.28 et seq. of One Dollar (\$1) per Five Hundred Dollars (\$500) or fractional part thereof of the bid amount, and (iii) unpaid ad valorem taxes and assessments.

Pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat.§ 45-21.10(b), and the terms of the Deed of Trust, any successful bidder, other than the owner and holder of the indebtedness secured by the Deed of Trust (the "Lender"), may be required to deposit with the Substitute Trustee immediately upon conclusion of the sale a cash deposit not to exceed the greater of five percent (5%) of the amount of the bid or \$750. If the Lender is the successful bidder, the Lender shall not be required to make any deposit with the Substitute Trustee. Any successful bidder, other than the Lender, shall be required to tender the full balance purchase price so bid in cash or certified check at the time the Substitute Trustee tenders to such successful bidder a deed for the real property or attempts to tender such deed, and should said successful bidder fail to pay the full balance purchase price so bid at that time, such successful bidder shall remain liable on the bid as provided for in N.C. Gen. Stat. § 45-21.30(d) and (e).

The real property to be offered pursuant to this notice of sale is being offered for sale, transfer and conveyance "AS IS, WHERE IS." Neither the Substitute Trustee nor the Lender, nor the officers, attorneys, employees, agents, or authorized representatives of either the Substitute Trustee or the Lender make any warranty relating to the title or any physical, environmental, health, or safety conditions existing in, on, at or relating to the real property being offered for sale, and any and all responsibilities or liabilities arising out of or in any way relating to any such condition are expressly disclaimed. The real property is being sold subject to all liens, encumbrances, unpaid taxes, matters of survey, restrictions, leases and easements of record, unpaid assessments, and other matters of record, if any, which in each case may exist and be senior and superior to the lien of the Deed of Trust pursuant to applicable law.

SPECIAL NOTICE FOR LEASEHOLD TENANTS: If you are a tenant in the real property, be advised that an Order for Possession of the real property

may be issued in favor of the purchaser. Any person who occupies the property pursuant to a rental agreement entered into or renewed on or after October 1, 2007, may, after receiving this Notice, terminate the rental agreement by providing written notice of termination to the landlord, to be effective on a date stated in the notice that is at least ten (10) days, but no more than ninety (90) days, after the sale date contained in this Notice, provided that the grantor/mortgagor has not cured the default at the time the tenant provides the notice of termination. Upon termination of a rental agreement, the tenant is liable for rent due under the rental agreement prorated to the effective date of the termination.

This sale will be held open ten (10) days for upset bids as required by law.

/s/ C.L. Leader

Substitute Trustee Services, Inc.
Substitute Trustee
201 S. Mcpherson Church Rd., Ste 201

Fayetteville, NC 28303-4995

Exhibit A - Legal Description

TRACT 1:

BEGINNING at the northwest corner of Pinecrest Drive and Summitt Street as shown on plat hereinafter referred to and running thence with Pinecrest Drive North 85 deg. 45' West 100 feet to an iron stake, the beginning of a curve; thence In a curved line in a clockwise direction having a radius of 240 feet a distance of 150 feet to an iron stake, the beginning of a curve; thence In a curved line in a counterclockwise direction having a radius of 240.5 feet a distance of 300 feet to an Iron stake; thence continuing with said street South 70 deg. 15' West 180 feet to an iron stake, the beginning of a curve; thence continuing with said street in a counterclockwise direction having a radius of 240.5 feet a distance of 188 feet , more or less, to the center of a branch; thence up said branch as it meanders about North 57 deg. 30' West 150 feet, more or less, to the corner of Alton J. Knight as it appears from Deed Book 207 at Page 365; thence with his line North S3 deg. 3' East 318.3 feet to an iron stake; thence continuing with his line South 87 deg. 3' East 30 feet to an Iron stake; thence continuing with his line South 87 deg. 18' East 630 feet to Summitt Street; thence with said street South 2 deg. 30' West 160.7 feet to the beginning and being Lots 7, 8, 9 and 10 and other land as shown on a plat of the property of J.S. Stewart, et als, dated May 1970 by Credle Engineering Company to which plat reference is hereby expressly made. A reference is also made to plat of Pinecrest Heights recorded in Plat Book 9 at Page 99 and to Deed dated July 18, 1952, from

Alton J. Knight and wife, to J.S. Stewart recorded in Deed Book 207 at Page 366 and to Deed dated July 18, 1952 from J.S. Stewart and wife to Alton J. Knight recorded in Deed Book 207 at Page 365, There is expressly excepted from the above property that triangular parcel of land at the northwest corner of Pinecrest Drive and Summitt Street as shown on plat of property required for widening Roxboro Street dated January 14, 1971, by Joseph H. Hemmerle, RLS.

TRACT 2:

BEGINNING at an iron stake in the western property line of South Roxboro Street, being the southeast corner of Lot 18 as shown on plat hereafter referred to and running thence with South Roxboro Street South 20 deg. 20' West 347 feet, more or less, to the center of a creek or branch; thence up the meanders of said creek about North 45 deg. 30' West 500 feet to a point; thence continuing up said branch as it meanders about North 66 deg. West 250 feet, more or less, to the southeastern side of Pinecrest Drive; thence with said street as it curves in a clockwise direction having a radius of 240.5 feet, a distance of 158 feet to an iron stake; thence North 70 deg. 15' East 180 feet to an iron stake; the beginning of a curve; thence continuing with said street as it curves in a clockwise direction having a radius of 210.5 feet a distance of 163.75 feet to the northwest corner of Lot 18; thence with said lot South 28 deg. 15' West 174 feet to the southwest corner of Lot 18; thence with said lot South 73 deg. 55' East 337.5 feet to South Roxboro Street, the point of beginning, and being Lots 15, 16, 17, 19 and 20 and other property as shown on plat of property of J.S. Stewart, et al, dated May, 1970, by Credle Engineering Company to which plat reference is hereby expressly made for a more particular description of same, SAVE AND EXCEPT (a) a strip of land 10 feet in width and extending along the northern edge of Lot 19 heretofore conveyed to Otelia J. Stewart, (b) a strip of land along the west side of South Roxboro Street as shown on plat of property required for widening Roxboro Street recorded in Plat Book 75 at Page 74 and conveyed to the City of Durham in Book 400 at Page 109, Durham County Registry, (c) that property known as 2310 S. Roxboro Street and described in Book 2506 at Page 940, Durham County Registry, (d) that property known as 2312 S. Roxboro Street and described in Book 2506 at Page 364, Durham County Registry, and (e) that property known as 2314 S. Roxboro Street and described In Book 2506 at Page 953, Durham County Registry.

Publication: 5/28 & 6/4/2026

Classifieds



ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

The North Carolina Department of Adult Correction has the following contract in Nash County out for bid: C- C11855 Support Buildings' Fire Alarm Replacement . The bid opening is scheduled for: Tuesday, 06/30/2026 . To obtain the Notice to Bidders, any Pre-Bid Requirements, and any Addenda visit: NC Department of Public Safety-RE-BID · eVP

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 Trent River Boring project for the City of New Bern which bids on June 8, 2026, at 4:00 PM. Plans and specifications for this project are available at the following locations: T. A. Loving Company; 400 Patetown Road; Goldsboro, NC 27530.

Potential subcontracting opportunities include but are not limited to surveying, seeding, and directional drilling. 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

Pipeline Utilities, Inc. (NC General Contractor License No. 325) is seeking certified DBE, MBE, and WBE subcontractors and suppliers for the Western Transmission Mian – Phase 2 project for the Town of Apex which bids on June 9, 2026, at 2:00 PM. Plans and specifications for this project are available at the following locations: Pipeline Utilities, Inc.; 2204-F Associate Drive; Raleigh, NC 27603 * Town of Apex Water Resources Department; 105-B Upchurch Street; Apex, NC 27502 * Black & Veatch International Company; 175 Regency Woods Place, Suite 200; Cary, NC 27518 * ConstructConnect website.

Potential subcontracting opportunities include but are not limited to surveying, hauling, asphalt paving, erosion control, seeding, linework/pipe installation, jack & bore, and flatwork. Please contact Ethan Grissom (egrissom@pui-nc.com) if you are interested in submitting a proposal on any portion(s) of this project. Contact via phone 919-772-4310; fax: 919-772-3261; or email. All quotations will be accepted up to the closing time of the bid date. Pipeline Utilities, Inc. is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer.

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

WANTED WBE, MBE & DBE BIDS

for the following job:

Division Four Letting

DD00524 Wayne Co. Bid Date: June 9th

Division Two Letting

DB00619 Beaufort Co. Bid Date: June 10th

DB00643 Beaufort Co. Bid Date: June 10th

NCDOT Central Letting

C205212 Pender Co. Bid Date: June 16th

C205213 New Hanover Co. Bid Date: June 16th

C204742 Pamlico Co. Bid Date: June 16th

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.

North Carolina Construction Booms
As Construction Worker Deaths Climb

By Jordan Meadows

Staff Writer

North Carolina's construction boom is reshaping the state's economy. But behind the surge in billion-dollar projects and record growth, a more troubling trend is emerging: construction workers are dying at increasing rates.

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 196 workers died on the job in North Carolina in 2024, a 10.7% increase from the previous year. The construction industry remains the most dangerous sector in the state, accounting for a disproportionate share of those deaths year after year.

In 2022 alone, construction-related fatalities made up roughly 21% of all workplace deaths in North Carolina, with falls, electrocutions, and workers being struck by equipment among the leading causes.

The demand for construction is reaching historic highs. In 2024, North Carolina recorded \$16.1 billion in economic development investments across 166 projects, including massive commitments from pharmaceutical, technology, and manufacturing companies. From a \$10 billion data center campus tied to artificial intelligence infrastructure to multi-billion-dollar biomanufacturing facilities, the scale and complexity of projects underway require highly specialized labor and accelerated timelines.

That pace is contributing to strain across the industry. More than 40% of contractors report significant backlogs and difficulty filling open positions, according to industry surveys. Labor shortages, combined with pressure to meet aggressive construction schedules, can create conditions where safety protocols are overlooked or inconsistently enforced.

Highway construction zones, where crews often work just feet from active traffic, have become increasingly hazardous.

A recent survey by the Associated General Contractors of America



found that 36% of North Carolina contractors reported experiencing five or more crashes involving moving vehicles in work zones over the past year. Another 20% reported at least one crash. Many contractors say distracted driving, speeding, and impaired driving are major contributors to the growing risks.

"Summer construction season means more crews working just feet away from active traffic," said Jeffrey Shoaf, chief executive officer of the association. "Drivers who speed or use their phones put both motorists and roadway workers at serious risk."

North Carolina added approximately 94,000 housing units in the past year—one of the largest increases in the country—as population growth drives demand for new development. Wake and Mecklenburg counties alone accounted for tens of thousands of those new units, placing even more strain on an already stretched construction workforce. At the same time, the nature of construction itself is changing. Today's projects are more complex than those of previous decades, often involving advanced manufacturing facilities, data centers with massive energy demands, and highly regulated pharmaceutical plants that require precision building standards.

Despite the growing risks, enforcement and oversight remain ongoing concerns. Advocates have called for stronger penalties and increased staffing for workplace safety inspections, noting that North Carolina has historically issued fewer "willful" violations—cases where employers knowingly disregard safety rules—than the national average. State officials say

more resources are needed to expand inspection capacity and improve compliance.

For workers and their families, the consequences of these gaps can be devastating. Construction jobs often provide stable, well-paying employment, particularly for workers without advanced degrees. But they also come with risks that, for some, prove fatal.

REQUEST FOR BID

REHAB OF 4213 GREENCASTLE COURT

The City of Raleigh will accept sealed, written bids for the rehabilitation of the property located at 4213 Greencastle Court, Raleigh, NC 27604 until May 15, 2026, at 11:00 a.m. (EST). Bids can be submitted at the City of Raleigh's Housing and Community Development Department at 421 Fayetteville St, Suite 1200, Raleigh, NC 27601 at which time and place bids will be publicly opened and read aloud for the construction of the Rehab of 4213 Greencastle Court project.

A mandatory on-site pre-bid meeting will be held on April 28, 2026, at 11:00 a.m. (EST) at 4213 Greencastle Court, Raleigh, NC 27604. Information is also posted on the North Carolina Electronic Vendor Portal (eVP): <https://www.evp.nc.gov>. The City reserves the right to reject all bids.



It’s never too late to own your first home.

More people are achieving homeownership later in life.¹ It can be your turn, too. If you’re ready for a home that fits this chapter—and the next—we’ll show you the way.

- Mortgage rate discount based on qualifying deposits and investments
- Down payment options as low as 3%
- Dedicated resources for first-time homebuyers



Call 855-630-5377 for personal guidance.

**Start your journey here.
Truist.com/BuyAHome**



¹ National Association of REALTORS®. (March 29, 2024). .2025 Profile of Home Buyers and Sellers. <https://www.nar.realtor/magazine/real-estate-news/nar-2025-profile-of-home-buyers-sellers-reveals-market-extremes>
🏠 Truist Bank is an Equal Housing Lender. ©2026 Truist Financial Corporation. TRUIST, the Truist logo and Truist Purple are service marks of Truist Financial Corporation. All rights reserved. Truist Bank, 214 N Tryon St., Charlotte, NC 28202