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Dedicated to the Spirit
and Service of God



Each year America celebrates two freedom days as Spring transitions to Summer. July 4th is the celebration of America freeing itself from British rule, and Juneteenth celebrates America freeing its slaves from Confederate rule.

Millions of dollars are poured into the celebration of British independence each year, while efforts to erase the history of slavery in America charges on.

Despite the erasure efforts, the rollback of DEI and algorithmic segregation, African Americas are a proud and progressive group.

The NMAAHC posted: Frederick Douglass once famously asked, “What to a slave is the Fourth of July?” To honor the anniversary of the freedom granted to those enslaved African Americans, we’ve pondered a similar question, “What is the significance of Juneteenth to

the Black community?” Mary Elliott, a Curator of American Slavery, answered the question:

Juneteenth is important, because it reminds us of what we came through and what we can achieve.

The reason General Order Number 3 existed and the Union Army fought to enforce the Emancipation Proclamation, is because slavery existed. It’s important to remember what we went through and that we were

able to get out of the bondage of slavery as a nation. It’s an important reminder and it’s important that we understand what it took. It’s also important that the Juneteenth holiday survives. It allows each generation to reflect what more there is to do. Juneteenth places Black people at the center of the conversation about freedom, it’s meaning and manifestation in this nation.

July 4th is about liberty, but it was

an imperfect liberty, because slavery still legally existed in the nation. I personally recognize both holidays because these are important moments in our shared history.

We should regularly consider the evolution of the meaning of freedom as we look at certain moments in the nation’s past and present. Someone can deeply appreciate why Juneteenth was important for the Poor People’s Campaign. Why Juneteenth

is important in relation to the events that happened with the death of George Floyd. Why Juneteenth is important when we think about enforcing our rights to vote and how we define citizenship in this nation.

Juneteenth should really be a rallying call for all of us to think about the meaning of freedom, particularly regarding African Americans, as well as to the nation and the rest of the world.

DOE Shifts Focus On Dismantling Special Education And Civil Rights

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump’s administration on Tuesday accelerated its dismantling of the Education Department, delegating much of its work to protect the nation’s at-risk students in a move that carves away the vast majority of its functions for other agencies to handle.

The Department of Justice will take on enforcement of civil rights in education, while the Department of Health and Human Services will oversee special education, administration officials announced.

The two agencies involved — the Office of Special Education and Re-

habilitative Services and the Office for Civil Rights — defend the rights of children with disabilities and those who experience discrimination based on race, sex or religion. Advocates worry the change could mean lapses in communication for families and school officials who need help.

Trump, a Republican, campaigned on shutting down the Education Department, saying he would “move education back to the states where it belongs.” While only Congress can close the department, Trump’s education secretary, Linda McMahon, a billionaire and former CEO of World Wrestling Entertainment, has formed

agreements with other federal agencies to handle much of her department’s work.

McMahon said the agreements align federal responsibilities with the agencies best positioned to support them.

“The Trump Administration has been clear: as we scale back federal micromanagement when it hinders success, we are equally committed to bolstering the efficacy of federal oversight where it is essential,” McMahon said in a written statement.

Critics warn of impacts to student services

Advocates said the changes would

create uncertainty around services relied upon by millions of students and families.

“As is too often the case, traditionally underserved students — including students with disabilities, Black and Latino students, multilingual learners, students from low-income backgrounds, and students in rural communities — will bear the greatest burden created by this reckless decision, to which the disability and civil rights communities have already been vehemently opposed,” said a written statement from EdTrust, a

(See **DOE SHIFTS FOCUS**, P. 2)



DURHAM TO ACTIVATE STAGE 2 WATER RESTRICTIONS NEXT WEEK DUE TO WORSENING DROUGHT CONDITIONS

WUNC NEWS - The city of Durham has announced Stage 2 water restrictions will go into effect starting next Monday as drought conditions worsen.

It comes as two of the city’s drinking water reservoir levels—Lake Michie and Little River Reservoir—have dropped.

What you should know about Stage 2 Water Restrictions in Durham:

- No spray irrigation of landscapes with city water is allowed.
- No drip irrigation of landscapes.
- Car washing is limited to compliant commercial facilities.
- Large water users are asked to reduce water usage by 30%.
- No new landscape-exemption licenses will be issued during Stage 2.
- Stage 2 restrictions remain in effect until both reservoirs return to full levels.

Violations may result in enforcement actions as allowed under city ordinance.

Drought conditions

Durham’s upgrade in water restrictions comes as part of the Triangle and Triad are experiencing exceptional drought conditions, which is worse than extreme drought. According to the North Carolina drought monitor, Chapel Hill is off to its driest start of any year, dating back to 1893.

Meanwhile, the city of Raleigh is increasing its enforcement of Stage 1 water restrictions over the next few weeks.

“What it will entail will be more thorough patrols, usually early in the morning or late at night, because that typically is where a lot of folks will be irrigating,” said Ed Buchan, the assistant director with Raleigh Water.

He said those who violate the water restrictions could face a civil penalty up to \$200 for multiple offenses or even getting their water deactivated.

He is urging residents in Wake County to conserve water by adhering to the following restrictions:

- Outdoor use
- For folks with automatic or manual sprinklers, water lawns only between midnight and 10 a.m. Odd-numbered addresses should water on Tuesdays and even-numbered addresses on Wednesdays.
- For those with hose-end sprinklers, use them from 6 to 10 a.m. or 6-10 p.m. on Tuesdays or Wednesdays.
- Households with handheld hoses and drip irrigation can water lawns anytime.
- Fix plumbing or service leaks within 48 hours after written notice.
- Indoor use
- Restaurants will serve tap water only upon request.
- Hotels, motels and B&Bs will ask guests to reuse towels and bedsheets if they are staying more than one night.
- Buchan said other tips to help conserve water include taking shorter showers, washing clothes when there is a full load as well as washing dishes or running the dishwasher when there is a full load.
- Right now, Raleigh’s reservoir Falls Lake remains at 69%. For Stage 2 water restrictions to be triggered, the reservoir would have to be at 45%.
- Buchan said another reason to move to Stage 2 would be if there are operational issues in the terms of meeting irrigation demand on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.
- Meanwhile, outside the Triangle, Rocky Mount is also now requesting Stage 2 conservation, as the Tar River Reservoir has 84% of its water supply remaining.

‘Black Voters Matter’ Advocacy Day At The North Carolina General Assembly

By Jordan Meadows

Staff Writer

A series of events across Raleigh this month has brought together Black leaders, organizers, and community members to focus on advocacy, youth development, and long-term political engagement.

On Tuesday, the organization Black Voters Matter hosted a day of advocacy at the North Carolina General Assembly, centered on the leadership and voices of Black men. Organizers described the gathering as both a policy-driven effort and a space for connection, reflection, and strategy-building.

“This is a space for Black men to come together, build community, and advocate on critical issues impacting us—gun violence, economic opportunity, housing and voting rights,” organizers said.

Participants engaged directly with lawmakers while taking part in discussions focused on mental health, community healing, and policy priorities.

The day of action reflects a broader effort by Black Voters Matter and the North Carolina Black Alliance to build sustained political power through year-round organizing rather than limiting engagement to election cycles.

Advocacy efforts have focused on a range of issues affecting Black communities across the state, including expanding health equity, protecting voting rights, increasing access to economic opportunities, addressing housing affordability, and combating gun violence.

Through initiatives like statewide bus tours and community events, they aim to reach rural and historically underrepresented communities. Their “We Won’t Black Down” campaign, for example, has brought



voter registration drives and town halls to smaller towns often overlooked in traditional political outreach.

In addition to legislative advocacy, organizers are also investing heavily in youth engagement. Efforts include outreach at historically Black colleges and universities, as well as large-scale voter mobilization events designed to energize younger generations.

“We need to start reimagining what this country and its governing documents look like,” April England-Albright, Chief of Staff and Co-Founder of Black Voters Matter, said. “We know that there are aggressive efforts to redefine this nation into a nation that existed in 1776. We’re creating a program to help Black imagination to think about what America is beyond the 14th Amendment and to make sure

our protections aren’t linked to the benevolence of others.”

The advocacy day follows another major community event earlier in the month: The 2026 Dayla, hosted by 100 Black Men of Triangle East, held last Saturday at Hibiscus Event Venue—inviting community leaders to invest in the future of Black youth across Wake and Durham counties.

“Our Dayla is more than a celebration,” said CJ Guion, president 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.”

Funds raised support mentoring initiatives, educational programs,

and community-based services provided at no cost to participants. Leaders say these programs are critical to addressing opportunity gaps and creating long-term pathways for success among Black youth.

The North Carolina Black Alliance held a mobilization call with faith leaders and members of historically Black fraternities and sororities on Tuesday evening focused on election protection and get-out-the-vote strategies for 2026. The call aimed to unify efforts across organizations and develop a coordinated voter mobilization strategy in advance of upcoming elections.

Together, these events reflect a broader, interconnected strategy: investing in youth, strengthening community networks, and translating that foundation into sustained political engagement and policy advocacy in North Carolina.

The plan is intended to serve as a living document that can adapt to changing land-use trends, agricultural needs and community priorities while helping preserve Wake County's agricultural future.

Don't let hackers dampen the celebratory spirit this summer. Watch out for email invitation scams.

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taxpayer resources fixated on where employees sit and illegally trying to shutter the Department of Education,” Murray said in a written state-

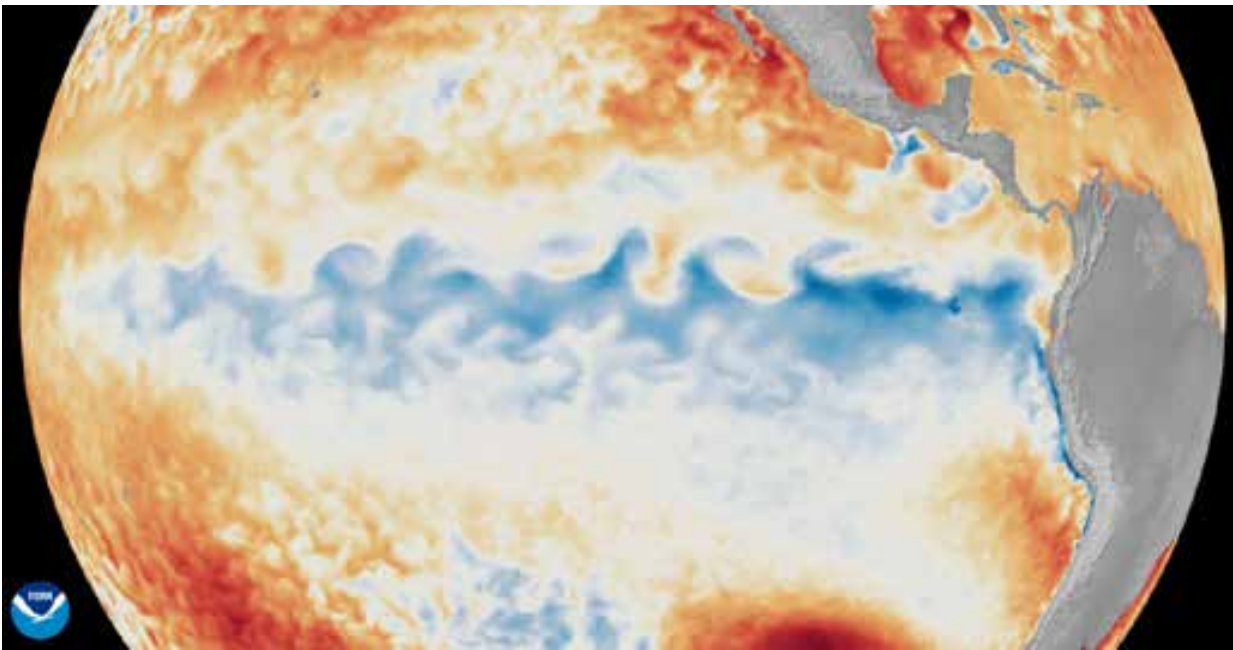


The backdrop to all of this is a sport still grappling with its own

None of that history erases because the Carolina Hurricanes won the Stanley Cup. But it does make the Hurricanes' championship season worth reading on more than one level. This was a team that won because of its defense, and two of its most reliable defensemen are Black men who had to outwork every obstacle the sport put in their way to get here.

“The IDEA is intended to equip students as they learn alongside their peers, not cure them — the HHS is not prepared to oversee and admin-

"I think we agree on the problem," Coco said. "We have stark disagreement on the solution and these transfers today don't feel like a solution to that problem."



Usually El Ninos form in the summer, peak in the late fall or early

"Instead of scared, we can ask people to be prepared," Columbia's Ehsan said.


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Farmer Kamal Bell Presents Juneteenth’s ‘Roots of Discovery’

By Jordan Meadows

Staff Writer

Kamal Bell, a North Carolina farmer, educator and founder of Sankofa Farms, delivered a talk Tuesday at the North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences in Raleigh, offering a personal and historically grounded look at agriculture, food systems and the future of farming.

Bell, who describes himself as a “Food Systems Architect,” spoke about his journey into agriculture, the structural challenges facing farmers today, and the cultural and historical significance of land ownership—particularly within Black communities.

“One of the questions that I had was: how can I always be in a position to help my family and then my community?” Bell said during the talk. “And that question ended up coming out to be to become a farmer.”

Founded while Bell was a student at North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University, Sankofa Farms in Efland, NC—roughly a half hour drive NW of Durham—has grown into an agricultural and edu-



cational hub focused on food access, environmental stewardship and youth development.

Bell emphasized that modern farming requires far more than traditional labor:

“Now that it’s 2026, I use the word farmer, but I think a proper title would be Food Systems Architect,”

he said. “Because now you just can’t be on the tractor and produce food... you have to be more diverse as a farmer.”

Throughout the event, Bell tied his personal story to broader historical trends, particularly the dramatic loss of Black-owned farmland over the past century. He pointed to U.S. De-

partment of Agriculture data showing that Black farmers once owned millions of acres of land that have since largely disappeared.

“Something happened to 17 million acres of land,” Bell said. “And when you think about freedom and struggle and progression of the people... you have to have land.”

Bell also discussed systemic barriers within agriculture, including his own experience fighting for access to land through federal programs.

“I actually ended up having to go and battle the USDA because I was denied my farm... I ended up winning,” he said. “But there’s a policy piece here... there’s a land loss piece here... all these different systems here that made me think about why farming would be so important.”

A former middle school agricultural teacher, Bell stressed the role of education in reshaping how younger generations view farming. He described working with students who had been written off by society and seeing them thrive through hands-on agricultural programs.

“These young men would come to my class, they would learn about agriculture... and we ended up seeing

some great results,” he said.

Bell emphasized that one of the biggest challenges facing the industry is a lack of youth engagement and a limited pipeline into agricultural careers. He also warned that larger structural changes—including market instability, climate variability and shifts in global trade—are reshaping the food system in ways many Americans are not prepared for.

Bell encouraged attendees to think more critically about where their food comes from and whether current systems are sustainable.

“I think the first thing could be for us to start identifying where our food is coming from,” he said. “I don’t think Walmart and large chains will always be the simple answer.”

In discussing his own path, Bell traced his decision to become a farmer back to his college years, when he studied Black history and philosophy and was moved by Elijah Muhammad’s question, “What can you do for your people?”

That decision came despite skepticism from peers.

“One of the things I heard whenever I told somebody I wanted to be

a farmer was that you’re going to be a poor farmer,” Bell said.

Bell also spoke about the steep learning curve involved in agriculture, noting that it took nearly a decade for him to feel confident in his work.

“I think it’s taken me like 10 years to be like, ‘I know what I’m doing,’” he said. “If a person was really seriously committed... I think they can do it in about three years.”

In addition to farming, Bell has expanded his work into cultural storytelling and education. He co-authored a children’s book with his son, “Akeem Keeps Bees,” which highlights Black youth engagement in agriculture and science.

“It debunks a lot of the ideals of us not being present in our children’s lives,” Bell said. “Our whole family is in the book... our interest in science and nature.”

The book has sold more than 10,000 copies and received national recognition.

“My introduction to agriculture and farming was slavery and sharecropping. It’s a huge turnoff,” he said. “So now we want to rewrite that history for the next generation.”

Music, Dance and Spoken Word Bring Juneteenth Celebration to Knightdale

By Dominique Heath

Staff Writer

KNIGHTDALE, N.C. — Music filled Knightdale Station Park while dancers took the stage, spoken word artists shared stories and residents joined together in celebration during the Town of Knightdale’s annual African American Festival on June 13. Held in recognition of Juneteenth, the festival transformed the park into a showcase of African American culture through live performances, food, art and community engagement. Despite temperatures climbing into the 90s, families gathered beneath umbrellas and tents throughout the afternoon and evening, settling into lawn chairs as performers took the stage and vendors welcomed visitors.

The day’s entertainment opened with a performance by the Spade Music Group featuring Joshua Harris, setting the tone for an event centered on artistic expression. Later, spoken word artist Petrina Bryant, known professionally as Trina Thoughtz, captivated attendees with a performance that blended storytelling, reflection and empowerment, demonstrating the enduring role spoken word continues to play within Black cultural traditions. The celebration of culture extended beyond music and poetry. During the Divine Nine Roll Call hosted by

DJ Fatz The Governor, members of historically Black fraternities and sororities proudly stood to represent their organizations. The moment highlighted the legacy of Black Greek-letter organizations and their longstanding contributions to leadership, service and community building.

Dance remained a central part of the festival throughout the evening. Performers from Expressions in Rhythm Studio showcased their talent before an attentive crowd, while a later line dancing session led by Z-Fitness invited attendees to become part of the entertainment themselves. Residents left their seats and gathered near the stage, turning the area into a community dance floor as music played across the park.

The festival also recognized local youth, including members of the Lady Knights football program, whose accomplishments were celebrated before the crowd. The recognition reflected the event’s commitment to highlighting the next generation alongside established artists, performers and community leaders. Away from the stage, attendees explored a variety of vendor booths featuring handcrafted products, jewelry, clothing, baked goods, wellness items and specialty beverages. Community organizations and local businesses lined the festival grounds, providing opportunities

for residents to learn about local resources while supporting entrepreneurs.

Food remained another important part of the celebration. Vendors including Beef Street and a Pig, Devour, Fancy Faye’s, Lil’s Cheesesteaks, Taste of Baltimore and WaffleDup served a variety of options throughout the day, while frozen treats and lemonade vendors helped festivalgoers stay cool in the summer heat. Long lines formed at several food trucks as attendees sampled offerings between performances.

As the evening progressed, the crowd continued to grow in front of the amphitheater stage. Musical performances by Klaxton Brown and headliner Elle Varner brought attendees closer to the stage, closing out a day that showcased the many ways culture can be expressed through music, movement, storytelling and shared experiences.

While Juneteenth commemorates the emancipation of enslaved African Americans in the United States, Knightdale’s African American Festival demonstrated how that history continues to be honored through living traditions. From spoken word and music to dance and community gathering, the event highlighted the creativity, resilience and cultural contributions that continue to shape communities across North Carolina.



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As the only Black Justice serving on the North Carolina Supreme Court, I carry the weight and legacy of this day with me. Juneteenth is a reminder of what has been withheld, and what we are still fighting to secure. It’s a reminder that we must work to ensure that justice is never optional, never deferred, and never denied.

Vote November 3rd Election Day

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SpaceX Stock Soars In Its Debut Making Elon Musk, An African-American, The Worlds First Actual Trillionaire

NEW YORK (AP) — Elon Musk became the world's first trillionaire after shares of his rocket company SpaceX soared in Wall Street's biggest initial public offering of stock.

Shares in SpaceX jumped more than 19% after opening for trading Friday, a sign that investors are looking past the billions the company is losing and instead betting that its massive investments in satellites, orbital data centers and artificial intelligence will pay off in the future.

SpaceX opened around midday at \$150 a share, then rose to around \$168, before finishing the day just below \$161. That price gave the company a market value of \$2.1 trillion, making it the sixth largest public U.S. company — larger even than its founder and CEO's other big business, the electric vehicle maker Tesla.

Between his holdings in SpaceX and Tesla, where he is also CEO, Musk is now worth an estimated \$1.1 trillion, according to Forbes.

Musk says SpaceX, founded in 2002, is going public now because it needs money to fund its ambitions of putting satellites and data centers in space and eventually establishing a colony of people on Mars.

He marked the opening of trading on Nasdaq by joining a ceremonial bell ringing from Starbase, the South Texas home of SpaceX.

He reiterated his lofty goals "to make life multiplanetary."

"Not just a few astronauts, I mean literally you," Musk said. "Whoever you are watching this, SpaceX wants to be able to take you to the moon, take you to Mars and ultimately beyond."

Known for his technological breakthroughs, as well as wild claims and missed deadlines, Musk was able to whip up enthusiasm for the IPO. The typical company going public

has seen a 7% jump in its first day of trading, from 1980 through 2025, according to Jay Ritter, a professor at the University of Florida's Warrenton College of Business.

Institutional and retail investors alike jumped at the opportunity to buy a piece of the company at \$135 per share before trading began. The \$75 billion in proceeds SpaceX raised easily topped the previous record IPO from oil giant Saudi Aramco in 2019. In addition to establishing a one-million person Martian colony, the company has promised to save humanity by establishing other outposts in space, launch data centers the size of football fields into orbit and outdo rivals Anthropic and OpenAI in the race to make money from artificial intelligence.

To reach its goals, SpaceX needs billions more than it currently takes in from its rocket and satellite business. Between the start of 2025 and March 31, 2026, the company, formally known as Space Exploration Technologies Corp., lost \$8.7 billion.

Betting on SpaceX is in many ways a bet on Musk himself. In an unusual arrangement that has drawn criticism from shareholder watchdogs, he holds 82% interest in a special B class of shares, giving him sweeping power to control the company even though his ownership stake is about half that.

"There's a lot of hype, but I see the faith that investors have in Musk," said Yordys Coro, an IT support contractor in Miami as he watched his \$14,000 investment in SpaceX shoot up to \$17,000 in just a few hours. "I'm going to hold on."

Wall Street bankers that helped take SpaceX public are also enthusiastic about the company — and the big fees they will earn — but not everyone thinks the stock price is justified.

Documents that some of its business plans rest on "unproven technologies." It also indicated that another part of the company, its artificial intelligence business called xAI, has no clear path to profitability and is burning cash to catch up with rivals.

On a livestreamed conference Thursday with the CEO of JPMorgan Chase, one of the investment banks making big money off the IPO, Musk offered few details.

He entertained the crowd with talk of "moon hotels," a future Martian colony and a network of Earth-

orbiting data centers powered by the sun. But when asked about plans for his flagship chatbot offering Grok, he pivoted to talking about his satellites.

Still, Musk has pulled off the seemingly impossible before.

The now-trillionaire — on paper at least — made his initial fortune by creating two companies, Zip2 and PayPal, that netted him about \$200 million at sale. He used that money to start SpaceX and invest in Tesla, and defied the odds by creating a space company that figured out how to reuse rockets and a car company

that made electric vehicles cool.

Musk has realized vast sums of wealth for himself, much of it in stock he has yet to cash in or grants for shares he'll only receive if Tesla or SpaceX hit ambitious performance targets.

His recent pay package from Tesla was so large it even drew criticism from the Vatican. At Tesla, he's worried shareholders by fighting with regulators or dividing his attention between multiple companies and last year by taking a role in the Trump administration.

NC Business Committee for Education Launches Twelve New Careers Electric Summer Academies

(RALEIGH) The North Carolina Business Committee for Education (NCBCE), through the generous support of the Siemens Foundation's groundbreaking \$9.5 million total investment into the Careers Electric initiative, is launching 12 Summer Electrical Academies skilling 220 students at community colleges across North Carolina. In February, Governor Stein and the Siemens Foundation launched the program to train 25,000 North Carolinians for electrical careers within 10 years.

"North Carolina's greatest strength is its people, and the state's continued growth starts with an investment in our future workforce," said Governor Josh Stein. "These electrical academies will prepare the next generation of electrical professionals, create opportunities for students, and support the long-term growth of our economy."

Each academy is a partnership between a community college and one or more local school districts, with employer partners serving as

work-based learning hosts and pre-apprenticeship sponsors. Each student will enroll in one or two community college electrical courses for college credit, earn industry-valued credentials, participate in hands-on work experiences with local employers, and complete a registered pre-apprenticeship. Upon completing the academy, the student will be positioned to enter entry-level employment through registered electrical apprenticeships or continue their education toward a certification or an Associate Degree in Electrical Systems Technology at their community college.

Each student will receive a \$2,000 completion stipend, along with support services including career coaching, financial literacy instruction, and employability skills training. All necessary instructional materials will be provided at no cost to students.

Earlier this week, ABB announced its commitment to joining the Careers Electric Coalition as a co-chair with

the Siemens Foundation, providing a strategic pledge of \$1 million over the first two years to support the coalition's efforts to scale electrical workforce development nationwide. More information about founding partners can be found here.

Why This Matters: A State and Nation in Need of Skilled Electrical Workers

Careers requiring electrical skills and licenses are among the fastest growing in North Carolina. According to state labor market data from the NC Department of Commerce, employment for electricians is projected to grow from approximately 25,800 to more than 28,500 from 2024 to 2034. Among occupations requiring electrical knowledge — from power-line installers and telecommunications technicians to electrical engineers and electronics repairers — North Carolina supports more than 70,000 electrical jobs, with growth projected in nearly every category.

The urgency is compounded by

the age of today's electrical workforce. The average age of a licensed electrician in North Carolina is in the upper 50s. Unless young people enter the trade in far greater numbers, the retirement of the current generation of skilled electricians will leave North Carolina employers, contractors, and communities without the workforce they need. The Careers Electric™ Summer Academies are a direct response to that reality.

"For years we've heard about the widening skills gap and growing worker shortages in skilled trades," said David Etzwiler, CEO of the Siemens Foundation. "Careers Electric provides a model to solve this — validating the solution in one state, then working together to scale it nationwide. Now we are thrilled to witness these pre-apprenticeship opportunities being developed and scaled to jump-start the promising careers of our young people while supporting the nation's infrastructure and innovation goals."



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Camping: Tips And Recipes For Nutritious Food On The Trail

(AP)—Few things feel better than a long hike in the woods, exhausting yourself as you soak in the fresh air and tranquility. Then, back to camp, where you chip away at those health benefits with packaged hot dogs slapped into a white-bread bun with a slice of plasticky processed cheese food.

It doesn’t have to be that way, said Aaron Owens Mayhew, a dietitian and long-haul trekker in Orcutt, California.

“It always made me sad that people who train so hard, they exercise, they eat well at home, and then they go backpacking and pick up honey buns,” Owens Mayhew said.

Getting outside generally improves

mental and physical health. But too often, campers and hikers resort to the convenience of processed foods high in saturated fat, salt and sugar.

Here’s how to rethink campsite cooking to eat healthy while acting healthy.

Eat outdoors what you eat at home

Many people rightly assume that a little processed food is fine, especially when you’re exerting outsize energy that can help counter excess calories. The problem lies in the way the body processes it, said Owens Mayhew, who founded Backcountry Foodie, a website dedicated to bringing nutrition to the trail.

Simple carbohydrates like sugary baked goods and candy bars can

cause rapid blood glucose spikes followed by a sharp drop, leaving hikers more fatigued than before. Meanwhile, heavily processed foods tend to be dense in calories but lacking the vitamins, minerals and protein the body needs to perform well.

A healthy diet can provide consistent energy throughout the day and improved recovery.

“I like to think of food as one variable that can be controlled, unlike a sprained ankle or bad weather,” Owens Mayhew said.

She said the best way to eat in the wilderness is to find ways to continue eating the food you normally do at home. Instead of frying bacon and eggs on the fire because that’s what you did at camp as a kid, have that bran cereal you eat every morning, this time with powdered milk (find it in the baking aisle).

Many of the recipes on Owens Mayhew’s website are healthier versions of her family’s classic recipes, including tuna casserole, garlic-Parmesan noodles and sweet potato casserole. As a supplement to grilled meat or fish, she suggested packing instant brown rice, quinoa and cous-cous, which are lightweight, healthy and require only boiled water.

To boost flavor, add fresh ginger, herbs, or garlic or onion powder. Adding nuts, dried mushrooms, grated Parmesan, sun-dried tomatoes or dried fruit turns the starch into a meal of its own.

Cooking at camp is much harder



than when you’re comfortably home in your kitchen, so winging it is usually a bad idea, said Rashad Frazier, founder of Camp Yoshi, a gourmet adventure outfitter.

Well before a trip, take time to plan meals and prep as many ingredients as will stay fresh in zip-top bags or containers. Chopping onions

or grating fresh ginger at home frees time to enjoy the sunset and spend time with family when you’re outdoors.

“There’s no extra bonus points for cutting onions and making mango chutney at camp,” he said.

Frazier’s cookbook, “Cook Out,” devotes a section to pantry ingredi-

ents that can be prepped at home. His universal spice mix, salsa verde, chutneys, curry paste, pickled onions and other flavor boosters pack a punch without adding many calories. They can be mixed and matched, he said, with whatever meat, vegetables or grains you have.



By Bo Tefu

California Black Media

California’s birth rate has fallen to its lowest level on record, dropping well below the threshold needed to maintain population growth and signaling a major demographic shift that could reshape the state’s economy, schools, workforce and political influence in the decades ahead.

A new report from the Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC) found that the state’s total fertility rate declined from 2.21 children per woman in 2007 to 1.48 in 2023 — far below the “replacement level” of 2.1 children per woman needed to sustain a population without migration.

“The significance of falling so far below replacement level cannot be overstated,” the report states. “It signals a fundamental shift in the state’s demographic trajectory.”

Researchers project that by 2038, deaths will outnumber births in California, ending a long period in which natural population growth helped drive the state’s expansion. Without increased immigration or a rebound in birth rates, population growth could stagnate or decline.

The report found that declining birth rates among younger women are largely responsible for the trend. Birth rates among women ages 20 to 24 fell by 54% between 2008 and 2023, while teen birth rates dropped nearly 90% since 1991. Researchers described the decline in teen births as a major public health success.

Birth rates declined across all racial and ethnic groups, with the steepest drops occurring among Latina women, particularly those born outside the United States.

The phenomenon is not unique to California. Birth rates have fallen in all 50 states, and every state now has fertility rates below replacement level.

“The decline in birth rates is one of the most important developments of recent decades and will structure policy debates for decades to come,” the report concludes.

Among the most immediate impacts could be shrinking school enrollment. PPIC projects California’s public school population will decline by roughly 630,000 students by 2038, while longer-term concerns include labor shortages, an aging population and the potential loss of congressional representation.

Nearly Half Of Adults Struggled To Afford Healthcare

STATELINE - Forty-six percent of U.S. adults — regardless of insurance type — reported struggling to afford healthcare last year, according to a report released Wednesday by the Urban Institute, a nonprofit research think tank.

The report analyzed findings from a December 2025 survey of 10,000 working-age adults across the nation. Funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the research comes at a time of U.S. cost-of-living concerns and economic woes.

Uninsured adults were most likely — 60% — to report at least one affordability problem.

Researchers defined affordability challenges as: trouble paying family medical bills in the past year, a family member not getting healthcare they needed due to costs, or the family having medical debt at the time of the survey.

Almost 40% of adults with private employer coverage, roughly 54% of those with Marketplace or plans, and 57% of adults with Medicaid reported having problems affording medical care.

More than a third — about 35% — of all surveyed adults said a family member had unmet healthcare needs because of costs.

The survey also found disparities in care affordability.

Adults with disabilities, for example, were more likely to have trouble affording healthcare for their families at almost 69% of those surveyed, compared with 40% of adults without disabilities. And the majority of Black and Hispanic adults reported struggling to afford care, compared with about 42% of white adults and 28% of Asian adults.

Health conditions also coincided with affordability troubles: More than 7 in 10 people who suffered strokes reported problems affording care for their families, followed by 70% of those with COPD, chronic bronchitis or emphysema, and about 64% of those with cancer and heart disease.

Half of adults living in the South — a region home to several states that haven’t expanded Medicaid eligibility — and those in rural areas of the country also reported affordability challenges, in contrast with roughly 45% of adults in urban areas.

Survey results also showed about 1 in 5 adults with private health insurance coverage reported large increases in insurance premiums — but adults with individual Marketplace plans were nearly twice as likely to report large premium increases as those with employer coverage.

According to health policy research organization KFF, the average Marketplace deductible surged by about \$1,000 per person this year, as more enrollees shift to higher-deductible plans after enhanced subsidies expired.

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A cartoon illustration of a man with dark skin, wearing a yellow suit, a white shirt, a red tie, and a brown fedora. He is holding a newspaper in his right hand. The background is black.

FOODLION

Clip coupons picked just for you

A smartphone screen showing the Food Lion app interface. The screen displays a list of coupons. The first coupon is for asparagus, offering a \$1.25 discount on two bulk asparagus (16 oz) packages. The second coupon is for Taste of Inspirations Deli Sliced Cheese, offering an 80-cent discount on one package (8 oz). Each coupon has a 'Clip' button. The background of the ad is blue with a white and blue checkered pattern.

Arts & Culture

Style, Culture, & Brotherhood: Inside the Epsilon Rho Lambda Beautillion



By Jheri Hardaway

Staff Writer

There is a distinct, palpable energy that fills the room when our community gathers to pour into our young people. It is an atmosphere where preparation meets opportunity, and where historic traditions form the foundation for future success. That exact excellence was on full display at the "Young Men Leading With Purpose" Beautillion, hosted by the Brothers of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., Epsilon Rho Lambda Chapter.

From the immaculate coordination to the impactful words of the guest speakers, the evening was a beautifully executed masterclass in what it looks like to build a supportive village. To grasp the weight of the evening, one must understand history. Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., holds the distinction of being the first intercollegiate Greek-letter fraternity established for African Americans, founded at Cornell University in 1906 by seven visionary college men known as the "Jewels". What began as a vital support system for minority students facing racial prejudice has grown into a global brotherhood dedicated to scholarship, fellowship, good character, and the uplifting of humanity. The Beautillion directly aligns with these overarching fraternity goals. It serves as the formal culmination of the "I Am Alpha" program, a series of transformational self-development and improvement workshops



designed to fortify the personal, social, and academic well-being of local high school students. Through more than nine months of dedication, these young scholars are paired with mentors and role models, training them to step forward as the next generation of leaders.

The event itself was an absolute vibe, balancing high-class formal tradition with genuine community joy. My face hurt from smiling. Fort Bragg's Iron Mike Conference Center was packed with suits, dresses, and proud fiends and family. The evening ran seamlessly under the direction of the Master of Ceremonies, Brother Bryan Johnson, a dynamic Fayetteville native and Coastal Carolina and Fayetteville State alumnus whose professional accolades and community service made him the perfect voice to guide the night.

Every detail was thought through and executed with excellence. The smooth choreography by Bruington of the Dance Academy, the sharp soundtrack provided by DJ Chris Parker, and the crisp photography by Phil Woods captured a milestone moment for the families involved. Even the sharp haircuts and trims—secured through local styling partners—and the formal white gloves donated by Bridal and Pageant Connection ensured the young men looked every bit the part of emerging leaders

A particularly moving moment of the evening came when the fraternity acknowledged "the village"—asking the parents, family members,



educators, and friends to stand alongside the Alpha brothers. The program emphasizes that while the Beautillion is a spectacular grand finale, the fraternity's commitment to these young men doesn't stop at high school graduation. In Alpha, mentorship is a lifelong resource that follows them into their collegiate and professional years.

Many distinguished guests were on hand to celebrate, including North Carolina State Senator Val Applewhite, Fayetteville City Council Member Malik Davis, and guest speaker and Alpha Brother Retired Col. Donald Porter. The heart of the evening was, of course, celebrating the hard work the participants put in over a rigorous nine-month period, spanning workshops, community events, and Sunday afternoon rehearsals. The camaraderie and mutual support among the cohort were palpable as the final awards were announced:

Beaus of Distinction: Mr. Glenn Brooks Jr. and Mr. Elijah Harvin were both honored for their exceptional growth and dedication throughout the program.

Fourth Runner-Up: Mr. Camden Graham

Third Runner-Up: Mr. Christian Brown

Second Runner-Up: Mr. Machi Fox

First Runner-Up: Mr. Andre Evans

2026–2027 Beau of the Year: Mr. Nicholas Carey, who received a well-deserved standing ovation from the



entire room.

The evening also shone a light on the next wave of talent, introducing two junior Beaus, Lewis Little, a standout 8th-grade scholar-athlete. Also, Oscar Robledo, a rising 9th-grader entering early college, proving that the pipeline of excellence is always growing.

Events like the Epsilon Rho Lambda Beautillion remind us how vital youth mentorship is to the health of our communities. The leadership principles highlighted throughout the night: integrity, empathy, collaboration, and civic responsibility, are exactly what our society needs more of.

If you know a young man who would benefit from a community of positive role models, structured life-skills workshops, and an unforgettable experience that transitions them toward manhood, keep an eye out for future iterations of the "I Am Alpha" program. Programs like this exist all over the country. A simple internet search for local chapters of Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), Divine Nine fraternities, or sororities like Alpha Kappa Alpha, Delta Sigma Theta, Zeta Phi Beta, or Sigma Gamma Rho, which all came out to support the event, can unlock incredible mentorship, scholarship, and youth development programs right in your backyard. Let's keep supporting our young scholars and ensuring they have the tools to go out, make long-lasting impacts, and boldly lead with purpose.

International African American Museum in South Carolina To Furlough All Of Its Staff

THE GUARDIAN - The International African American Museum (IAAM) in Charleston, South Carolina, announced on Wednesday that, beginning in July and lasting through 31 December, all of its staff will be furloughed. The 20-daylong furlough will be staggered over the months and impact all levels of staff, including the museum's leadership. The museum will remain fully operational, museum officials said.

The decision comes as the museum faces "financial pressure", the IAAM said in a statement.

"We are navigating a shift in the political and funding environment that has made financial operations uniquely more challenging for our institution. This action is being taken to reduce expenses and avoid layoffs while we



refocus on sustainable revenue growth and fundraising efforts," the statement reads.

"We know this affects our employees and their families in real ways. Keeping this team together and supporting them through difficult times is why we chose this path rather than deeper cuts."

The IAAM opened on 27 June 2023 in Charleston after two decades of planning. The museum sits on Gadsden's Wharf, along the Cooper River waterfront, where about 40% of Africans who were trafficked in the Middle Passage and enslaved in the United States first landed in the country.

Earlier this year, the museum surpassed half a million visitors since its opening almost three years ago.

Serena Williams Set To Make Wimbledon Return In Doubles With Her Sister Venus

ESPN—Serena Williams is set to make her return to Wimbledon in women's doubles with sister Venus, it has been confirmed.

The pair have been given a wild card into the Championships, beginning on June 29, as Serena continues her comeback.

The 44-year-old played her first match since 2022 last week at Queen's, winning one round alongside Victoria Mboko before the Canadian was forced to pull out through injury.



The Williams sisters are six-time doubles champions at Wimbledon, winning their last title on their most recent appearance together a decade ago.

Serena is set to continue her return to the sport on Tuesday as she competes in the women's doubles at the Berlin Open alongside Karolina Muchova.

After Tuesday's match at Queen's Club in west London, Williams insisted she was taking things "a day at a time" but said she enjoyed the winning return to competitive action.

JUNETEENTH PLAYLIST: HIP HOP SONGS PAYING HOMAGE TO NEGRO SPIRITUALS

By Jheri Hardaway

Staff Writer

Happy Juneteenth to all. As we celebrate freedom and reflect on the enduring resilience of the Black experience, here is a gift for your ears. The following curated selection of hip hop tracks does more than just entertain; these songs serve as a bridge across generations, featuring soulful riffs and powerful tributes to the timeless negro spirituals that provided hope and strength during the darkest chapters of American history. These references are admirable and show that these artists value our shared history.

Corde Grandma's House from his debut album The Lost Boy. This rendition of "Trouble in My Way/Jesus Will Fix It" moves through eras with a tasteful, timeless melody. You can tell they felt that, "I had to moan sometimes," very deeply. Give it a listen, you will not be disappointed. Its recorded history dates back to 1952, recorded by the pioneering gospel quartet The Dixie Hummingbirds on the Peacock Records label. Rev. James Cleveland recorded a massive, uplifting choir version of the track with the Southern California Community Choir on their album In the Ghetto, achieving a grand, mass-choir arrangement of the beloved song.

Next, we have Ludacris and his 2004 smash with Timbaland, "The Potion." The beat hops with fun drums and an innovative shrinking sound effect. With Ludacris' big energy, this song is very Black and prideful, making it ideal for your Juneteenth playlist. By the time we work our way to the third verse, we're greeted with a familiar tune in the Americana capsule, "Pick a Bale." Originating in the early 19th century, it was sung by enslaved people, sharecroppers, and prisoners to set a rhythmic pace for back-breaking labor in the American chattel slavery system. History shares that this tune was first recorded in 1933 by Black prison workers in Texas. The tune was included in the 1934 anthology American Ballads and Folk Songs compiled by music archivist John Lomax. It came to popularity following a 1940s recording by the Black folk singer Lead Belly, and became even more widely known during the 1950s and 1960s, when it was separately recorded by Harry Belafonte and Johnny Cash.

After the historic bridge, Ludacris shares his transparent third verse, reclaiming the ditty and following it with the following lyrical exercise that speaks to today: "Still working like a slave, learning tricks of the trade. In a ghetto state of mind, say I'm rich and I'm paid. Pickin' records like cotton in the thick of the day. Till I'm spoiled and I'm rotten in a sinister way. Life no different than those on minimum wage. More money but still locked in a similar cage. Either losers of tomorrow or we winners today. Digest that and there's really nothin' missin' to say."

Rounding out our big three, we have Kanye West's "I'll Fly Away." This soulful rendition is an ode to the "Jesus Walks" and transparent news brief era of West's career. As his views have evolved and we currently refer to him as 'Ye', yet this classic has remained solid as it was when first recorded between 1929 and 1932, by Albert E. Brumley. "I'll Fly Away" is widely considered the most recorded gospel song in history. The legend goes that it originated as a daydream while Brumley was picking cotton, serving as an anthem of escapism from economic struggles, systemic oppression, and earthly trials.

Music has always been a medium to express culture, communicate messages, and create change. These are hip hop songs, but they are also references to history in contemporary music that are soulful and impactful to this day. Enjoy your Juneteenth!



PEPPER POT STEW WAS SURVIVAL FOOD FOR THE POOR AND A PATH TO FREEDOM FOR BLACK WOMEN IN EARLY PHILADELPHIA

The Conversation - Americans typically commemorate the nation's birthday with hot dogs and hamburgers. Instead, I think we should mark the 250th anniversary of the United States with a hearty bowl of pepper pot stew.

In the 18th and 19th centuries, pepper pot stew was a popular street food. A dish of Afro-Caribbean origin, it was typically made with tripe and other cheap cuts of meat mixed with vegetables, hot peppers and other spices.

Enslaved Africans likely brought the dish to Philadelphia from the Caribbean in the 18th century, when the two regions were tightly connected through trade.

As a historian of women and labor in the early republic, I have learned how important impoverished and ordinary individuals were to the country's founding. Cooking and preparing food, spinning and weaving cloth, washing and mending clothes, and caring for the sick were just some of the kinds of labor that supported the fledgling nation. Much of this work was carried out by marginalized women who are often overlooked in national commemorations.

One such woman I've researched represents both the possibilities and sharp limitations of freedom in that era. She was a pepper pot seller in Philadelphia known to us only as Dina.

Pennsylvania, like many northern states, responded to the Declaration of Independence's rhetorical commitment to liberty by enacting a gradual emancipation law. On the day the law went into effect in 1780, however, its provisions freed no one. Children born to enslaved mothers before March 1, 1780, would remain enslaved for the rest of their lives. Children born after that date remained in bondage until they were 28 years old. So-called "slaves for life," the status Dina held, would have had no hope of gaining legal freedom.

In the face of this grim reality, some, like Dina, seized freedom for themselves.

She slipped away from her enslaver, Rev. James Anderson, in Middletown, Chester County, sometime in 1785 or 1786 and made her way to nearby Philadelphia.

Almost all of the information we have about Dina comes from a notice Anderson placed in a local newspaper offering a reward for her return. Each detail is stained with his opinions about the woman he held as property. Anderson described Dina as "lusty," a word that can be interpreted in a number of ways.

White people generally held insidious ideas about Black women's sexuality in this period. In the 18th century, lusty also meant insolent, which might have conveyed Anderson's frustrations with Dina's unwillingness to accept his authority over her. The word also could refer to health and vigor, so it's possible Anderson was describing Dina's physique and general affect.

Nonetheless, the advertisement exemplifies the paradox of liberty and enslavement at the nation's founding.

It is impossible to know how familiar Dina was with Philadelphia, or if she had friends or family there when she arrived. She might have simply decided that her best chance of avoiding recapture was in an urban area where she could blend in with the free Black community that was growing rapidly due to migration from neighboring states and people manumitted by their enslavers. Dina might have imagined she could tuck herself into the hustle and bustle of this incredibly dense city more easily than in a thinly populated rural area.

After Dina got to Philadelphia, she made an interesting decision. Instead of finding more discrete employment, such as working as a domestic, she supported herself by selling pepper pot stew in one of the city's markets. According to Anderson, she had been seen "numerous times" over the past 18 months.

One of many Black women selling the dish, Dina could essentially hide in plain sight from Anderson and anyone who hoped to collect the US\$4 reward he offered.

It is unclear how long she was able to evade Anderson, but the fact that she maintained her freedom for at least a year and a half is remarkable. Philadelphia's vagrancy docket is full of examples of freedom seekers who were apprehended almost immediately.

Dina's ultimate fate is unknown. After Anderson's three newspaper notices, she disappears from the archive. She may have been captured and returned to Anderson. Or it's possible that working as a pepper pot seller allowed her to gain her freedom permanently.

Opportunity in Philly's informal economy

Spiraling war debt and inflation during the 1780s fell heavily on the neediest Americans. In Philadelphia, impoverished people often subsisted on bread. Affordable, hearty street food like pepper pot stew would have offered important nutrients and perhaps pleasure from a good meal. By providing cheap, nourishing food for working Philadelphians, pepper pot sellers could be seen as participating in a kind of informal mutual aid.

However, city officials characterized some market activities during this period as "riotous and disorderly" and imposed stricter regulations around when and where pepper pot sellers could operate. Boisterous gatherings of Black and white working-class people might have seemed potentially threatening or disruptive to city leaders.

Dina's role as an informal trader echoed across the 19th century. Many Black women took up the pepper pot trade, and some earned decent incomes. These women, in turn, contributed to a range of charitable, religious and abolitionist organizations that formed the backbone of a vibrant Black Philadelphia. They also helped support their families, even in an economic order that devalued Black women's labor.

JUNE BOOK RAFFLE

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Community

Anti-Trafficking Conference Feat. Kiricka Yarbough Smith

By Jordan Meadows

Staff Writer

The North Carolina Coalition Against Human Trafficking (NCCAHT) hosted its statewide “Collective Impact: NC Anti-Trafficking Conference” on Tuesday at Campbell University’s Oscar N. Harris Student Union in Buies Creek. The one-day event included service providers, law enforcement, educators and community leaders from across the state to strengthen collaboration and develop a more unified response to what experts describe as a complex and rapidly evolving criminal industry. At the center of the conference was keynote speaker Kiricka Yarbough Smith, a leading figure in North Carolina’s anti-trafficking movement whose career spans more than two decades in social work and advocacy. Smith currently serves as Human Trafficking Program Director for the North Carolina Council for Women and Youth Involvement and has held leadership roles with the North Carolina Coalition Against Sexual Assault and the NCCAHT. Her work has focused on building statewide systems of support,



training law enforcement and service providers, and addressing the intersections of trafficking with domestic violence, sexual assault, child abuse and systemic inequities. Smith’s path into anti-trafficking work was shaped by her early career in mental health and developmental disability services, where she witnessed firsthand the impact of interpersonal violence on families and communities. A native of Roxboro in Person County,

she has emphasized the disproportionate impact trafficking has on Black and Brown communities, particularly in rural areas where resources are limited and oversight is often weaker. “As a black woman from rural North Carolina, I felt more and more compelled to do the work,” Smith said. “A larger percentage of trafficking victims are African American.” Her work has consistently emphasized that trafficking does not exist in isolation but emerges from broader patterns of poverty, housing instability, substance use and systemic neglect. NCCAHT focuses on the concept of “collective impact,” a framework that calls for shared goals, coordinated strategies and sustained collaboration among stakeholders of a community, not just law enforcement. She has identified one of the state’s biggest challenges as a lack of coordination across agencies, with organizations often operating in silos despite pursuing similar goals. “We have so many passionate people doing really good work,” she said, “but human trafficking is such a complex issue that it’s hard to address it effectively without a unified system.”

Smith also points to geographic disparities in how trafficking is identified and addressed. While urban centers such as Charlotte, Raleigh, Fayetteville and Wilmington report higher numbers of cases, advocates believe trafficking is significantly underreported in rural communities. These areas present ideal conditions for traffickers due to isolation and limited access to services. Labor trafficking, in particular, is often overlooked, with cases emerging in industries such as agriculture, food processing and personal care services. The conference featured speakers including leaders from organizations such as the Charlotte Metro Human Trafficking Task Force, the NC Demand Reduction Task Force, Safe Alliance and Goodwill Industries of Eastern North Carolina. The urgency of the issue is underscored by data from the National Human Trafficking Hotline, which ranks North Carolina ninth in the nation for reported trafficking cases. In response, state lawmakers are advancing legislation aimed at improving prevention, enforcement and victim support. “I think in North Carolina, we’ve been

recognizing the issue and responding to it for the last 10 years,” Smith said. “But I feel like we’re at a turning point—we have the data, we have policies, our legislators have been pretty good at passing some really good policies related to trafficking here in North Carolina.”

THE DIFFERENCE A LIFELINE CAN MAKE

Jamie (name changed) arrived at the Women’s Center in 2024 based on a recommendation from her caseworker, after a difficult chapter in her life left without a support system or housing to lean on. Jamie describes that time in her life as, “hot, thirsty, and stressful.” With limited options available, the Women’s Center became something Jamie didn’t expect: a place where people genuinely cared. The relationships Jamie has built here have made all the difference. Staff members like Amy Smith and Sophie Glaesner have been especially essential in her journey. In Jamie’s words, “Amy and Sophie have been a lifeline to me - just putting people and resources in my path so that I don’t have to be in my car.” Jamie describes the staff and community at the Women’s Center as “optimistic, very caring, and compassionate.” Even as Jamie continues to navigate the challenges ahead, she remains focused and grounded. “Stay to yourself, keep your head down. Every

Senate Bill 1007, currently under consideration in the Senate Judiciary Committee, proposes a coordinated statewide system for collecting and sharing trafficking-related data among law enforcement agencies, service organizations and policymakers.



day is a guiding light here.” she says. We are grateful to Jamie for sharing her story. If you’d like to help women like Jamie in our community, please consider donating to the Women’s Center. Financial support, physical supplies, and your time as a volunteer all help us to serve women experiencing homelessness in Wake County.

Peach Fest Celebrates Carolina Peaches & Summer Traditions At Phillips Farms

CARY, N.C – One of North Carolina’s sweetest summer traditions returned to Cary this weekend as families gathered at Phillips Farms for their annual Peach Fest celebration. Held only once each year, the festival welcomed visitors from across the Triangle to enjoy fresh Carolina peaches, homemade desserts, local vendors, and family-friendly attractions. The event transformed the farm into a celebration of agriculture, community, and summertime fun, giving guests the opportunity to spend quality time together while enjoying one of the state’s most beloved seasonal fruits. From the moment visitors entered the grounds, peaches were at the center of the experience. Fresh Carolina peaches were available throughout the festival, along with a variety of peach-inspired treats. Guests lined up for Mama Sue’s homemade peach cobbler, a longtime favorite among returning visitors. Other popular offerings included peach lemonade, peaches and cream served over pound cake, and a new peach vanilla ice cream that helped attendees cool off during the warm weekend temperatures. For many guests, the food is one of the main reasons they return year after year. “Phillips Farms is one of my favorite spots. The peach cobbler made by Mama Sue is my favorite,” said attendee Megan. The festival also featured specialty vendors offering unique twists on the peach theme. Lizzie’s Apple at-



tracted visitors with its peach cobbler and other sweet treats, while food vendors and local businesses provided additional options throughout the weekend. Among the featured food vendors was Taco Jazz by A Toda Madre food truck, which drew crowds looking for savory options to complement the festival’s sweet offerings. While the peaches may have been the star of the show, the event offered much more than food. Admission included access to the Phillips Farms Family Fun Park, where children and families spent the day exploring attractions across the property. Popular activities included face painting, a petting zoo, a giant bounce pillow, slides, and a train ride that carried young guests through the farm grounds. To help visitors stay comfortable in the summer heat, Phillips Farms

operated sprinklers and misters throughout the fun park area. Children could run through the water while parents relaxed nearby, creating a welcoming atmosphere that encouraged families to spend the day outdoors together. Visitors said the event’s family-centered environment is what makes it stand out from other festivals. “This event embodies what North Carolina is all about. It’s all kid friendly and family oriented,” said attendee Hailey. That spirit could be seen throughout the weekend as families gathered around picnic tables, children laughed while exploring the attractions, and friends shared peach desserts under the summer sun. Beyond the entertainment, Peach Fest also served as a celebration of North Carolina agriculture. Peaches remain one of the state’s most recog-

nized summer crops, and events like Peach Fest help connect consumers with local farms and the agricultural traditions that continue to shape communities across the state. The festival also provided local vendors and small businesses with an opportunity to showcase their products and connect with customers. From food trucks to specialty dessert vendors, many businesses benefited from the steady crowds that filled the farm throughout the weekend. For Phillips Farms, the annual event has become more than a seasonal attraction. It has grown into a community gathering that brings together people of all ages to celebrate local agriculture, family traditions, and the simple joys of summer. Throughout the weekend, guests could be seen carrying baskets of fresh peaches, sipping peach lemonade, and enjoying slices of peach cobbler while children raced between attractions. The combination of fresh food, outdoor activities, and family entertainment has helped make Peach Fest one of the most anticipated events of the summer season in the Triangle. As summer continues across North Carolina, Peach Fest offered a reminder that some of the season’s best memories are often found close to home. For one weekend each year, Phillips Farms becomes a destination where families can unplug, enjoy the outdoors, and celebrate a fruit that has become a symbol of North Carolina summers. Judging by the crowds that filled the farm this weekend, that tradition remains as popular as ever.





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JUNETEENTH EVENTS

Thursday, June 18, 2026

Juneteenth Tours at Pope House Museum
10:00 am to 3:00 pm | FREE | Pope House, Raleigh

Juneteenth Film Screening at the Nasher
6:00 pm to 8:00 pm | FREE | Nasher Museum of Art, Durham

Zebulon Juneteenth Opening Ceremony
6:30 pm to 8:00 pm | FREE | Zebulon Community Center

Friday, June 19, 2026

Juneteenth Tour at Stagville
9:00 am to 2:30 pm | FREE | Stagville State Historic Site

Juneteenth Day Party at Chavis
10:00 am to 4:00 pm | FREE | John Chavis Memorial Park (Raleigh)

Juneteenth Tours at Pope House Museum
10:00 am to 3:00 pm | FREE | Pope House, Raleigh

Seeds of Freedom: Juneteenth at Oak View
10:30 am | FREE | Historic Oak View County Park

Dedication of Freedmen’s Schoolhouse in Smithfield
11:00 am | FREE | First Missionary Baptist Church, Smithfield

Juneteenth at Marbles and Moore Square
12:00 pm to 5:00 pm | FREE | Marbles Kids Museum, Raleigh

Honoring Juneteenth In Our Courts
12:30 pm to 4:00 pm | FREE | NCCU Student Center

Juneteenth at City of Raleigh Museum: History Lecture
2:00 pm to 3:30 pm | FREE | City of Raleigh Museum

Chapel Hill-Carrboro Juneteenth Celebration
4:00 pm to 8:00 pm | FREE | Hargraves Community Center, Chapel Hill

Juneteenth Celebration at RTP
5:00 pm to 9:00 pm | FREE | Hub RTP

Juneteenth Night Party at Chavis
5:00 pm to 9:00 pm | FREE | John Chavis Memorial Park (Raleigh)

Juneteenth Flag Raising Ceremony
5:30 pm | FREE | CCB Plaza, Durham

A Juneteenth Celebration with Eve Botanical Lounge at the Durham Visitor Info
6:00 pm to 8:00 pm | FREE | Durham Visitor Info Center

Morrisville’s Music in the Park: Sahara Reggae Band (Juneteenth celebration)
6:00 pm to 9:00 pm | FREE | Indian Creek Park in Morrisville

Federal Government Seeks To Halt The First US Reparations Program For Black People

(AP)—The federal government on Tuesday asked a judge to halt the United States’ first reparations program that offered Black people in a small Illinois city \$25,000 for 20th century race-based housing discrimination, joining an existing lawsuit that called the program unconstitutional. The program, launched in Evanston, Illinois in 2021, is the first and only one of its kind in the U.S., allotting \$20 million to Black residents — their direct descendants — who lived in the city between 1919 and 1969 and suffered housing discrimination because of city ordinances, policies or practices. Residents, regardless of race, who experienced discrimination due to the city’s policies or practices after 1969 also qualified. The city has already distributed over \$7 million — using revenue from a local tax on legal marijuana sales — to hundreds of people in \$25,000 increments to be used for home repairs, down payments on property, and interest or late penalties on property in the city. The U.S. Department of Justice called the program “racially discrimi-

natory” in a court filing Tuesday, saying that it violated the Equal Protection Clause of the U.S. Constitution because it allotted different benefits on the basis of race. “There are sound ways for a city to remedy past discrimination or direct resources to its most vulnerable citizens and neighborhoods. Simply handing out money based on race, however, is not the answer,” Harmeet Dhillon, the assistant attorney general of the Justice Department’s Civil Rights Division, said in a statement. Approximately 14% of the city’s roughly 76,000 residents are Black, according to the U.S. Census, with 11% identifying as more than one race. A majority of the city’s Black residents live in the city’s Fifth and Second Wards, which are historically low-income areas, according to a 2024 study on the reparations program. Reparations has been a hot-button issue across the country since the abolition of slavery in 1865. But it has become especially polarizing in recent years after momentum grew for similar programs across the country in the wake of George Floyd’s death in police custody in 2020. At least



In this Nov. 25, 2019 file photo, Alderman Robin Rue Simmons, 5th Ward, proposes a reparations fund during a City Council meeting in Evanston, Ill.

five states, including California, New York and Maryland, and more than a dozen cities, including Boston, Detroit and Philadelphia, have created have created task forces or commis-

sions to study slavery reparations. But none have gone as far as Evanston to actually distribute resources. Robin Rue Simmons, who pioneered the program in Evanston and now leads the committee that presides over the funds, said that the lawsuit and the federal government’s support is a “fear tactic” aimed at dissuading other governments from pursuing similar programs. Michael Bekesha, one of the attorneys who initially sued the City of Evanston on behalf of six plaintiffs in May 2024, said in an interview that applicants weren’t required to demonstrate that they were specifically harmed by the City of Evanston, leaving race as the only criteria. His clients would all be eligible for the program if they were Black, he said. Bekesha said Evanston’s program is different from those in the past, pointing to the program that compensated Japanese people after the U.S. government imprisoned over 100,000 people in internment camps during World War II, or the people in Chicago who were paid after being tortured by the city’s police department between the 1970s and the early 1990s.



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Church

The Reasons Why Christians Should Celebrate Juneteenth

By Andrea Bradford
Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary

What is Juneteenth? Juneteenth, celebrated on June 19th, marks a significant milestone in American history, commemorating the emancipation of enslaved African Americans. The day derives its name from a combination of “June” and “nineteenth,” the date in 1865 when Major General Gordon Granger arrived in Galveston, Texas, to announce the end of the American Civil War and the abolition of slavery in the United States. This announcement came more than two and a half years after President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863, declaring that all enslaved people in Confederate-held territories were to be freed. Despite the Proclamation, enforcement of the order was limited, and many enslaved individuals remained unaware of their freedom until Granger's arrival. On that day, Granger publicly read General Order No. 3, which formally announced to those in Texas that all enslaved people were free. This revelation was a moment of immense joy and celebration for the formerly enslaved individuals and their families, signaling the end of a painful chapter in American history. Juneteenth has evolved into a significant celebration for many, while for others, it has brought existing divisions to light. Nevertheless, the understanding of Juneteenth can be regarded as a profound reflection of God's response to the earnest prayers of countless Black individuals who endured the hardships of bondage. In many Black communities in the United States, this day is often affectionately referred to as “Jubilee Day.” In biblical tradition, as outlined in Leviticus 25, a Jubilee year signifies a distinct period of release

and restoration that occurs every 50 years. This sacred time encompasses the emancipation of enslaved individuals, the forgiveness of debts, and the reinstatement of land to its original owners. While the themes of debt and land ownership don't closely correspond with Juneteenth, the emancipation of enslaved individuals certainly does. Juneteenth's Theological Implications Juneteenth holds profound theological significance, particularly within Christian traditions. It invites contemplation on essential themes such as liberation, justice, delayed fulfillment, communal memory, and divine providence. At its core, Juneteenth celebrates the idea of freedom, specifically, the liberation from bondage and the affirmation of human dignity. This theme resonates strongly with the biblical narrative of the Exodus, which depicts God's deliverance of the Israelites from slavery in Egypt. For many Blacks, particularly during the 18th and 19th centuries, the story of Exodus provided a meaningful framework for understanding both their suffering and their aspirations for hope. Enslaved preachers often drew parallels between themselves and Moses, while Pharaoh represented the oppressive forces of the slaveholding class. In this context, Juneteenth emerges as a significant moment when the promise of divine deliverance is ultimately realized, albeit after a painful delay. This observance echoes the biblical assurance that God remains attentive to the plight of the oppressed. Delayed Justice One of Juneteenth's most profound theological implications is the concept of delayed justice. The people of Galveston remained enslaved for more than two years after legal emancipation. This delay raises questions about the nature of justice and theodicy: Why does

liberation not come swiftly? Why must the oppressed wait? These questions are not merely historical, but also deeply theological. The prophets of the Hebrew Bible, such as Habakkuk and Isaiah, often grappled with delayed justice. In the words of the prophet Habakkuk: “How long, Lord, have I called for help, And You do not hear? I cry to You, ‘Violence!’ Yet You do not save” (Habakkuk 1:2, NASB). This verse expresses the prophet's plea to God about the ongoing injustice and violence in the world, and it voices his passionate query of why God is not intervening. Juneteenth thus serves as a call to remain steadfast in faith, even when freedom is not immediately attainable. It reflects the tension between the “already” and the “not yet” that pervades Christian eschatology. The Image of God Secondly, Christian theology holds that all people are made in the image of God (Imago Dei), which implies inherent dignity and worth. The very existence of slavery is a theological contradiction, a rejection of that divine image. Millard J. Erickson, author of Christian Theology, declares, “Because all are made in the image of God, nothing should be done to encroach upon another's legitimate exercise of dominion. Freedom should not be taken from humans. This means, most obviously, that slavery is improper.” Juneteenth is a day of reclaiming that image, a collective assertion of dignity by a people long denied their humanity. It challenges Christians to examine how institutions have betrayed the core of their faith by upholding systems of oppression. Remembrance Thirdly, the act of remembering is deeply spiritual. Throughout Scripture, God calls people to remember, not just their triumphs but their trials. Juneteenth is both a celebration and a lament. On the

one hand, the day is a celebration of freedom, and on the other, it's an opportunity to lament its delay and the suffering that preceded it. Theologically, lament is not despair; it is an act of faith that God hears and answers. Juneteenth invites a communal memory that is honest, redemptive, and oriented toward justice. It reminds believers that the road to liberation includes acknowledging pain and confronting uncomfortable truths. Redemption Lastly, the story of Juneteenth also offers a vision of redemptive history. While the delay in freedom can be hard to understand, the eventual arrival of justice represents a form of historical and theological reconciliation. In Christian theology, redemption

is both personal and communal, restoring right relationships. Juneteenth calls on the church to participate in that redemptive work by advocating for racial justice, equality, and reconciliation in contemporary society. Why Should All Christians Acknowledge Juneteenth? As Christians, we should celebrate God's remarkable acts throughout history and honor the significance of Juneteenth alongside American Independence Day, Veterans Day, Memorial Day, and the legacy of Martin Luther King Jr. Each of these observances reflect sacrifice and resilience, including Juneteenth, which acknowledges the struggles of enslaved individuals whose contributions have shaped our

nation's identity. By celebrating Juneteenth, we recognize their humanity and the profound impact of their experiences on our collective history. If you haven't already, let Juneteenth enter your holiday repertoire as a chance to celebrate God's work in the life of our nation. Moreover, let us allow Juneteenth to serve as a bridge to foster understanding and empathy within our diverse communities. By engaging in meaningful conversations about race, history, and justice, we can help bridge divides and work towards a future where unity prevails within the Christian community. Embracing the lessons of the past allows us to work toward a more equitable and compassionate society for all.

Obituaries



ROBERT MOORE, JR.

Robert Moore, Jr. ascended into eternal rest on March 12, 2026, surrounded by the love of his family. Affectionately known as “junior,” “Rob,” “Robmoe,” and “Dudley,” he was born on Sept. 5, 1948, in Nash Co., NC, to the late Roger Moore, Sr. and Annie Morris Moore. He was the eldest of four children, lovingly guiding his siblings Jimmie Ray, Carolyn Denise, and Eric Wayne. Robert was a proud member of the J.W. Ligon High School Class of 1966 and cherished the lifelong friendships he formed there. He faithfully attended the annual J.W. Ligon Alumni Reunion, reconnecting with classmates and friends year after year until he health declined. He learned the value of hard work early in life while spending summers farming along side his siblings and relatives in rural Wilson and Nash Counties. After graduating high school, he attended NC A&T Sate University before beginning a distinguished career in the automotive industry. Starting as a salesperson, he went on to hold numerous leadership roles with Ford, Lincoln, Nissan, and Mazda dealerships, including sales manager, online sales manager, and finance manager. His dedication and excellence earned him multiple leadership and performance awards throughout a career that spanned more than 35 years. He

retired in 2013. Robert accepted Christ at a young age and joined Red oak Grove Baptist Church in Stanhope, NC. In later years, he became an active and devoted member of Rush Metropolitan AME Zion Church (now Amanah Rush AME Zion). There, he served faithfully on the usher/Greeter Ministry, the Trustee Road, and as director of the local Christian Education Dept. within the Central North Carolina Conference, he also served as Second Vice President of the Lay Council, Conference Marshal, and Usher. On February 17, 2007, Robert married Brenda M. Moore, and together they built a life filled with love, companionship, and adventure. They enjoyed traveling with close

friends and often took spontaneous day trips to the North Carolina coast for lunch. Robert and his “traveling crew” created cherished memories on trips to Atlanta, GA, Charleston, SC; Key West FL; Las Vegas, NV; Savannah, GA; Charlotte, NC; Destin, FL; Pensacola, FL; Hilton Head, SC; and the Grand Canyon. A passionate sports enthusiast, Robert enjoyed everything from football to NASCAR to golf, and even curling. He was a loyal supporter of the Carolina Panthers and UNC football and basketball teams. He leaves to cherish his memory his devoted wife, Brenda M. Moore of Garner, NC; his children, Cherrol D. Moore and Chad D. Moore (Whitney of Raleigh, NC; bonus daughters, Leah Woods Newton (Robert) and Kimberly N. Woods, both of Garner, NC; grand daughter, Savannah of Raleigh, NC, and bonus grandchildren, Robert Jr., Jace, and Kane of Garner, NC; siblings, Jimmie Ray Moore, Sr. of Raleigh, NC, and Carolyn Denise Moore and Eric Wayne Moore (Kimberly), both of Durham, NC; one uncle, Percy Perry of Wilson, NC; three aunts, Joyce Ricks of Wilson, NC, Shirley Willis (Andrew) of Chesapeake, VA, and Mae Austin of Greenville, NC; four nephews Jimmie Ray Moore Jr. (Angela) of Columbia, SC, Shyllon Moore of Atlanta, GA, Elliott Moore and Edward Moore of Durham, NC and a host of loving relatives and friends.

Women’s Day Celebration at Lincoln Park Holiness Church



By Jamar McKiver

The Annual Women's Day Celebration was held at Lincoln Park Holiness Church on Sunday, June 14, 2026. The theme for the occasion was "Women of Grace," based on Proverbs 31:25: "She is clothed with strength and dignity, and she laughs without fear of the future." Bishop-Elect William Eli Ratcliff is the pastor. The service began at 11:00 a.m. with Eldress-Elect Selena Hunter presiding. First Lady Chandullal Ratcliff warmly welcomed members and guests. The Lincoln Park Youth Community Choir, under the direction of Brother Tony Brown, provided inspiring music for the service. Musical selections included "I'm Ex-

pecting Great Things," led by Tahlia Ratcliff, along with "Everybody Clap Your Hands" and "Jesus Promised." The Women's Day guest speaker was Attorney Sherita Walton, who was introduced by Sister Aysia Perry. Her message, "Dress for Your Purpose," encouraged the congregation to embrace God's calling without fear. Attorney Walton emphasized that God's Word reveals our purpose and that we should never be afraid to walk in it. She challenged the audience by asking, "How do you dress for your purpose?" She explained that God desires for us to have the mind of Christ and a Christlike attitude that promotes spiritual and mental well-being. She also asked, "How is your heart dressed?" re-

mindng everyone that God wants us to have pure and clean hearts. She reassured the congregation that God has promised to care for His people and that His promises are trustworthy every day of the week. Her message concluded with the reminder that each of us must know and pursue our God-given purpose. Pastor Ratcliff commended the women for presenting an outstanding and inspirational service. To view the complete message, visit the Lincoln Park Holiness Church YouTube channel and watch this week's sermon. Like, subscribe, and share your thoughts in the comments as we connect and grow together in faith. We look forward to hearing from you.

Practical Biblical Principles

GRATITUDE INSTEAD OF ATTITUDE
Read: Matthew 15:35-39; Matthew 16:1-4; Luke 2:36-38
By John L. Caldwell, Pastor New Jerusalem Baptist Cathedral Throughout all of the gospel writings, and the epistle letters all of the writer's record Jesus putting strong emphases upon being thankful to God. Emphases of thanks were given before the start of communion, and on the occasion when the Lord fed the five thousand. Jesus never failed to thank His Father for the blessing being bestowed upon Him and the people He prayed for. These moments of thanks happened in and around the eating of food. The point Jesus was making here is that the daily need for the body to sustain itself if food and likewise the daily need for His followers of His is to always be thankful for the spiritual blessings God has promised us. Sometimes as practicing Christians, we often forget what our daily needs are.

There was the woman, who had an issue of blood for so long and she touched the bottom of Jesus' garment and was instantly healed. The fear that she experiences immediately afterwards was not one of fright, fearing repercussions from Jesus, because she invaded His space, it was the fact that she knew immediately her body was changed and healed (Luke 8:47-48). She no longer felt the discomfort of pain and cramping she had once felt in her body. This lady didn't hesitate to show gratitude in spite of the fact that she had broken a forbidden social protocol by touching a man in public, who was not her kinsman. Her gratitude overcame her frightful attitude for she was forgiven of her sins, as well as healed completely. There were the ten lepers camping off of the road, which leads from Galilee to Samaria. They were out casts and were forbidden to mingle with the population (Luke 17: 11-16). They met Jesus as He passed through a certain village and cried out to Him to have mercy on them. Without hesitating Jesus gave them simple instructions to go and show themselves to the local priest without engaging them. In a sense, Jesus performed this act of healing on the run, so to speak. Jesus' mind was set upon getting to Jerusalem. It was the leper's mournful attitude of need which caught our Lord's ear and attention. As Jesus continued onward toward Samaria, He noticed one of the lepers had turned back to Him, having realized that he was totally healed immediately. The former leper fell down at the feet of the Lord and gave Him thanks (Luke 17:15-18). The leper's sorrowful attitude soon turned into gratitude. This we cannot say about the other nine lepers. Jesus told the leper that his faith has made him whole. Meaning that he was forgiven of his sins, as well as his body was totally healed (Luke 17:19). Then there was the Prodigal son, as told in the parable by Jesus. The young son's attitude was one of dis-

respect toward his father. He was also unthankful at this point in his life when he asked his father for his inheritance before the proper time came. This young man didn't care, nor did he place any value on the fact that his father had provided for him all of his growing- up life and provided for him in the future in terms of providing for him a lifetime inheritance which would carry him through life. The young man left home and wanted to be on his own and out from his father's care. As a good father would always do, he will not go against his son's free will choice to leave home. The “hog pen” experience finally brought the young man back to a sense of rational thinking and he decided it was best for him to return home, not knowing whether or not his father would welcome him back. The father did welcome him back with open arms and much joy. The son once was lost, but now he is found. In this parable, the father is God, the Father (Luke 15:4). Isn't this just like our human nature to break away from God's tender care simply because it seems boring until we get out in life and on our own? Then our lives become a different story. God welcomes us back with open arms and we experience a period of mercy and grace without having to be “drilled,” as to why we left in the first place. If this is our plight and life's experience, then our attitude should be filled with much gratitude and praise (Luke 15:7).

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Separate sealed BIDS for the construction of 2023 Maury WWTP Improvements Contract No. 1 - Maury WWTP Improvements will be received by the ENGINEER at the Longleaf Pine Conference Room in the Greene County Office Complex, 229 Kingold Boulevard, Suite D, Snow Hill, NC 28580 until 2:00 PM Eastern Daylight Time, August 11, 2026, and then at said office publicly opened and read aloud.

The INFORMATION FOR BIDDERS, BID FORM, CONTRACT PLANS, SPECIFICATIONS, BID BOND, PERFORMANCE AND PAYMENT BONDS, and other CONTRACT DOCUMENTS may be examined at the following locations:

Greene County Office Complex, 229 Kingold Boulevard, Suite D, Snow Hill, NC 28580

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

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

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

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

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

Copies of the CONTRACT DOCUMENTS may be obtained at the office ofMcDavid Associates, Inc. located at 3714 North Main Street, Farmville, NC 27828-0049 upon a non-refundable payment of \$150.00 for each set.

All PROJECT related questions should be in writing to rbm@mcdavid-inc.com.

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

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

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

The total CDBG program is funded with \$3,000,000.00 in CDBG funds which represent 100% of the total CDBG program costs. The total CDBG funding amount of \$3,000,000.00 is a governmental disclosure required by the CDBG program and not the proposed construction cost for contracts referenced by this advertisement.

No BIDDER may withdraw his/her BID within ninety (90) days after the actual date of the opening thereof.

The OWNER reserves the right to reject any and all BIDS. BIDDER shall be properly licensed under Chapter 87, General Statutes of North Carolina. Small, minority, women, Historically Underutilized Business (HUB), and Section 3 (low income) businesses and labor surplus area firms are encouraged to submit BIDS.

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

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

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

A pre-Bid conference will be held at 2:00 pm on July 28, 2026 in the Longleaf Pine Conference Room in the Greene County Administrative Complex, 229 Kingold Boulevard, Snow Hill, NC 28580. Prospective BIDDERS are encouraged to attend this pre-bid conference as part of their good faith efforts.

This information is available in Spanish or any other language upon request. Please contact Kyle J. DeHaven at (252) 747-3446 or at 229 Kingold Boulevard, Suite D, Snow Hill, NC 28580 for accommodations for this request.

Esta informacion esta disponible en español o en cualquier otro idioma bajo peticion. Por favor, pongase en contacto con Kyle J. DeHaven al (252) 747-3446 o en 229 Kingold Boulevard, Suite D, Snow Hill, NC 28580 de alojamiento para esta solicitud.

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June 24 2026
Kyle J. DeHaven
County Manager
Greene County



D/M/WBE

SUBCONTRACTORS/SUPPLIERS WANTED

Pipeline Utilities, Inc. (NC General Contractor License No. 325) is seeking certified DBE, MBE, and WBE subcontractors and suppliers for the **Brown Water Treatment Plant Filter Effluent Bypass Pipe Installation** project for the **City of Durham, Department of Water Management** which bids on **June 25, 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 * CDM Smith; 4130 Parklake Avenue, Suite 350; Raleigh, NC 27612 * Accent Imaging; 8121 Brownleigh Drive; Raleigh, NC 27612.

Potential subcontracting opportunities include but are not limited to surveying, demolition, hauling, erosion control, and seeding. 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.

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 **Ames Street 24 Inch Valve Replacement** project for the **Fayetteville Public Works Commission** which bids on June 25, 2026, at 2:00 PM. Plans and specifications for this project are available at the following locations: T. A. Loving Company; 400 Patetown Road; Goldsboro, NC 27530 * Fayetteville Public Works Commission, Administrative Building, 955 Old Wilmington Road, Fayetteville, NC 28301 * Fayetteville PWC Procurement website * Fayetteville State University Construction Resource Office website * NC Institute of Minority Economic Development (NCIMED) website.

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

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

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T. A. Loving Company (NC General Contractor License No. 325) is seeking certified DBE, MBE, and WBE subcontractors and suppliers for the **E. M. Johnson Water Treatment Plant Ozone Upgrades** project for the **City of Raleigh Public Utilities Department** which bids on **July 7, 2026, at 10:00 AM.** Plans and specifications for this project are available at the following locations: T. A. Loving Company; 400 Patetown Road; Goldsboro, NC 27530 * City of Raleigh Public Utilities Department; One Exchange Plaza, Suite 620; Raleigh, NC 27601 * Black & Veatch International Company; 175 Regency Woods Place, Suite 200; Cary, NC 27518 * Dodge Data and Analytics website * ConstructConnect website * Construction Journal website * NC Institute of Minority Economic Development (NCIMED) website.

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

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

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From First in Flight to Future of Flight: JetZero Breaks Ground In Greensboro

By Judaea Ingram

Special To The Carolinian

GREENSBORO, N.C. – More than a century after North Carolina earned the title "First in Flight," state leaders say the next chapter of aviation history may be taking shape in Greensboro.

Gov. Josh Stein joined lawmakers, local officials, and business leaders Monday at Piedmont Triad International Airport to celebrate the groundbreaking of JetZero's first commercial airplane manufacturing facility, a project expected to create more than 14,500 jobs and bring billions of dollars in investment to the Triad region.

State officials have described the development as the largest economic development project in North Carolina history based on job commitment.

For much of the ceremony, speakers repeatedly referenced North Carolina's aviation heritage while emphasizing a new vision for the state's future.

"Today a great new chapter in North Carolina's storied history of flight is taking off," Stein said in a statement. "JetZero's decision to build here is a vote of confidence in North Carolina's workforce, our universities and community colleges, and our long aerospace tradition."

Stein continued the theme by declaring that North Carolina is "not only First in Flight; we are also the future of flight."

The California-based aerospace company plans to construct an 8-million-square-foot manufacturing facility on more than 600 acres at Piedmont Triad International Airport. The development will also include The Hub, a 108,000-square-foot headquarters and research center that will serve as a focal point for innovation and operations.

The facility will manufacture JetZero's Z4 blended-wing aircraft, a first-of-its-kind commercial airplane design that combines the wings and



fuselage into a single structure. The company says the design will improve fuel efficiency while reducing emissions, offering a new approach to commercial aviation.

Supporters believe the project could place North Carolina at the forefront of next-generation aircraft manufacturing.

Leaders at the groundbreaking repeatedly emphasized that North Carolina's willingness to invest in infrastructure helped secure the project. State officials highlighted years of preparation at Piedmont Triad International Airport and efforts to ensure the land was ready for large-scale industrial development.

They argued that those investments helped demonstrate that North Carolina is a state willing to partner with businesses looking to make long-term commitments.

The economic impact is expected to be substantial.

Over the next decade, JetZero is projected to create more than 14,500 jobs in Guilford County. According to state officials, the average annual salary at the company will be \$89,341, and no position will pay less than \$18.75 per hour.

The project is also expected to create thousands of indirect jobs

through suppliers, contractors, transportation providers, restaurants, retailers, and other businesses that support large manufacturing operations.

To secure the project, state and local governments approved significant incentive packages tied to performance benchmarks. North Carolina's incentive package could total \$1.17 billion over 10 years, while Guilford County approved incentives worth nearly \$76 million over a 20-year period. The Greensboro City Council also approved additional incentives based on job creation goals. All incentives are contingent upon the company meeting employment and economic development targets.

Local leaders expressed optimism that the investment could transform not only Greensboro, known as the Gate City, but the entire Piedmont Triad region.

Many hope the facility will serve as the foundation for a larger aerospace ecosystem that attracts suppliers, technology companies, research organizations, and additional aviation-related businesses. Some officials have gone even further, expressing hopes that the Triad could become a global epicenter of aviation innovation.

The project's timeline has faced

some adjustments. Originally targeting portions of the project for completion in 2027, company and state officials now expect some milestones to shift into 2028 due in part to delays related to state budget funding. Despite those challenges, enthusiasm surrounding the project remains high.

The groundbreaking marks another step in the transformation of Piedmont Triad International Airport into a major aviation manufacturing center. Already home to several aerospace companies, the airport has steadily expanded its role within the industry over the past decade.

For North Carolina, the project represents more than a new factory. It is an opportunity to build upon the state's aviation legacy while creating thousands of jobs for future generations.

More than 120 years after the Wright brothers made history at Kitty Hawk, leaders gathered in Greensboro with a similar sense of possibility.

The state's nickname may always be First in Flight, but if JetZero's vision becomes reality, North Carolina could soon be known for something more: helping shape the future of flight.

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

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.: 26E000612-310
THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 21st day of May, 2026, as Administrator of the Estate of NICOLAS DANE NORBOGE, 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 18th 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 18th day of June, 2026.
Emily Catherine Norboge, Executor
c/o Jennifer Woy, Esq.
Wyrick Robbins Yates & Ponton, LLP
4101 Lake Boone Trail, Ste. 300
Raleigh, NC 27607
6/18, 6/25, 7/2, and 7/9/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice, Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File No.: 26E000639-310
THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 27th day of May, 2026, as Administrator of the Estate of BRENDA LEWIS, 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 18th 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 18th day of June, 2026.
Janelle Alease Terry, Administrator
504 Kings Lake Way
Durham, NC 27703
6/18, 6/25, 7/2, and 7/9/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Having qualified before the Clerk of Superior Court of Durham County as Public Administrator of the Estate of ANGELA RENEE SIMPSON, this is to notify all persons, firms, and corporations having claims against the Estate to send them, duly itemized and verified, to P.O. Box 51429, Durham, NC 27717, on or before the 18th day of September, 2026, (three months after the date of this Notice) or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery.

All persons, firms and corporations indebted to the Estate are requested to make prompt settlement with the undersigned.
This the 18th day of June, 2026.
Robert E. Levin
Public Administrator of the Estate of Angela Renee Simpson, Deceased P.O. Box 51429
Durham, NC 27717
6/18, 6/25, 7/2, and 7/9/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

PUBLISHED NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Having qualified as Administrator of the Estate of ROBERTA BROWN ALEXANDER A/K/A PEGGY ROBERTA BROWN ALEXANDER, late of Durham, Durham County, North Carolina, (26E000685-310) the undersigned does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the estate of said decedent to exhibit them to the undersigned c/o The Banks

Law Firm P.A., Winchester Place, Suite 110, 4309 Emperor Boulevard, Durham, North Carolina, 27703, on or before the 18th day of September, 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 15th day of June, 2026.
Gwendolyn Gantt, Executor of the Estate of Roberta Brown Alexander
David Tarbet, Attorney
The Banks Law Firm PA
4309 Emperor Blvd. Ste: 110
Durham, NC 27703
6/18, 6/25, 7/2, and 7/9/2026
Mail Affidavit to:
6/18, 6/25, 7/2, and 7/9/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS:
The undersigned, having qualified as Executor of the Estate of GREGORY EDMUND KENNINGTON, JR., aka GREGORY EDMUND KENNINGTON, aka NED KENNINGTON, aka G. EDMUND KENNINGTON, JR., Deceased, late of Durham County, North Carolina, does hereby notify all persons, firms, and corporations having claims against the estate to exhibit the same on or before September 16, 2026, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment.

Dated June 18, 2026.
ELIZABETH ANN DUM KENNINGTON, Executor
c/o Attorney Heather Hazelwood
P/O Box 61182
Durham, NC 27715
6/18, 6/25, 7/2, and 7/9/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION
In the Superior Court Division, Before the Clerk
File No. 26SP000433-310
Jeffrey L. Austin, Public Administrator of the Estate of Georgieon Tisdale Steele, deceased, Petitioner, v. Webster O. Steele, Respondent.

To: WEBSTER O. STEELE, and if he is deceased, then his legal representatives, heirs, and assigns, and any and all other interested parties, without exception, who may have a claim to or interest in the estate of Georgieon Tisdale Steele, deceased, or the real property located at 1011 Da Vinci Street, Durham, NC 27704:

Take notice that a pleading seeking relief against you has been filed in the above-entitled action. The nature of the relief being sought includes: (1) an order requiring the surrender of estate funds in the amount of \$22,960.52 to the Public Administrator; (2) an order granting the Public Administrator possession, custody, and control of the real property located at 1011 Da Vinci Street, Durham, NC 27704; and (3) an order authorizing the sale of said real property, pursuant to N.C.G.S. §§ 28A-9-3, 28A-13-3, 28A-15-1(a), and 28A-17-1.

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

This, the 19th day of June, 2026.
Jeffrey L. Austin
Public Administrator
Law Office of Jeffrey L. Austin PLLC
500 Westover Dr. #32043
Sanford, NC 27330
jeff@jeffaustinelaw.com
(919) 937-2737

6/18, 6/25, and 7/2/2026
NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

DEBORAH DIANE MORGAN, EMMETT LEGREY BATTEN, II, ROBERT LEE HARRELL, LISA ANN GRINSTEAD, DAVID W. MORGAN, DENNIS EARL MORGAN, ANNA NICOLE MORGAN, AVONNA FAYE HARRIS, JOHN RANDLOPH MORGAN, JACQUELINE BATTEN BAKER, and TERESA BATTEN SMITH V. MIDLAND CREDIT MANAGEMENT, INC., ANGELA MCLEAN, BOBBY BATTEN, JR., JAMES V. BATTEN, WILLIAM R. BATTEN, FRANCES B. THOMPSON, JODI BATTEN WOMBLE, LONNIE BAILEY, JOSEPH M. BAILEY, CYNTHIA BAILEY WILSON, BEVERLY BAILEY ROBINSON, DONNIE MAYO BATTEN JR., SHARYN BATTEN, JASON TODD BATTEN, and THE JOSEPH AND CATHERINE BAILEY REVOCABLE TRUST

NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION
In the General Court Division
Before the Clerk

26SP000561-310
Deborah Diane Morgan
Emmett Legrey Batten, II, Robert Lee Harrell, Lisa Ann Grinstead, David W. Morgan, Dennis Earl Morgan, Anna Nicole Morgan, Avonna Faye Harris, John Randolph Morgan, Jacqueline Batten Baker, and Teresa Batten Smith, Petitioners, v. MIDLAND CREDIT MANAGEMENT INC., ANGELA MCLEAN, BOBBY BATTEN, JR., JAMES V. BATTEN, WILLIAM R. BATTEN, FRANCES B. THOMPSON, JODI BATTEN WOMBLE, LONNIE BAILEY, JOSEPH M. BAILEY, CYNTHIA BAILEY WILSON, BEVERLY BAILEY ROBINSON, DONNIE MAYO BATTEN JR., SHARYN BATTEN, JASON TODD BATTEN, and THE JOSEPH AND CATHERINE BAILEY REVOCABLE TRUST, Respondents

To: Midland Credit Management Inc., Angela Mclean, Bobby Batten, Jr., James V. Batten, William R. Batten, Frances B. Thompson, Jodi Batten Womble, Lonnie Bailey, Joseph M. Bailey, Cynthia Bailey Wilson, Beverly Bailey Robinson, Donnie Mayo Batten Jr., Sharyn Batten, Jason Todd Batten, and The Joseph and Catherine Bailey Revocable Trust

Take Notice that a Petition for Release of Surplus Funds has been filed in the above action. The nature of the relief being sought is as follows: Petitioners are seeking release of surplus funds resulting from foreclosure of the certain property known as 1806 Haverford St. Durham, NC 27705.

You are required to make a response to such pleading no later than the 28th day of July, which is 40 days from the first publication of this notice. Upon your failure to file the pleading by the above date, the party seeking service against you will apply the Court for relief sought.

This the 9th day of June, 2026.
Ruth M. Allen
The Walls Law Group
5511 Capital Center Dr. Suite. 180
Raleigh, NC 27606
Phone: 919.647.9599
DATES OF PUBLICATION:
6/18, 6/25, and 7/2/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice, Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File No.: 26E000590-310

THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 19th day of May, 2026, as Executor of the Estate of CHARLES V. HAMRICK, 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 11th 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 11th day of June, 2026.
Matthew G. Hamrick, Executor
2238 Cherry Top Drive
Fuquay Varina, NC 27526
6/11, 6/18, 6/25, and 7/2/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION
In the General Court of Justice, District Court Division
File # 25CV013818-310
[CHILD CUSTODY PROCEEDING]
de LEÓN BARRIOS, Plaintiff v. CASTILLO AVILA, Defendant.

To Jairon Castillo Avila:
TAKE NOTICE that a pleading seeking relief against you has been filed in the aboveentitled action. The nature of the relief being sought is legal custody of the minor child Roberto Castillo de León, born 8/29/2014, be granted to Plaintiff. You are required to make defense to such pleading no later than July 22, 2026, said date being forty (40) days from the first publication of this notice. Upon your failure to do so, the party seeking service against you will apply to the Court for the relief sought.

This, the 11th day of June, 2026.
Katherine S. Moye of JusticeMatters, Inc., Attorney for Plaintiff
P.O. Box 58058, Raleigh NC, 27658
919-794-7511, Ext. 018.
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. 25CV003530-310
JULIAN HALL and GRACE HOUSING, LLC, Plaintiffs v. ABSOLUTE CONSTRUCTION GROUP, LLC; MECHANICS & FARMERS BANK; THE HARRIS COLLABORATIVE, PLLC; and JOHN DOE, Defendants

TO THE DEFENDANTS:
TAKE NOTICE that a pleading seeking relief against you has been filed in the above-entitled action. The nature of the relief being sought is as 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 Plaintiffs will apply to the Court for the relief sought.

This the 11th day of June, 2026.
Gregory Reynald Williams
The Law Offices of Gregory Reynald Williams, PLLC
2232 Page Road, Suite 203
Durham, NC 27703
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.: 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 Trimper, 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
Before the Clerk
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.

DURHAM COUNTY

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

GUILFORD COUNTY

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
GUILFORD COUNTY

NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION
In The General Court Of Justice District Court Division
FILE NO: 26CV013202-400
Anna Davis, Plaintiff, v. Timothy Leonard Davis, Jr., Defendant.
TO: Timothy Leonard Davis, 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 an Absolute Divorce based on a continuous one-year separation. You are required to make defense to such pleading not later than July 28, 2026, and upon your failure to do so, the party seeking service against you will apply to the court for the relief sought. This the 18th day of June, 2026.

Anna Davis
Plaintiff, Pro Se
104 Yester Oaks Way E. Apt. B
Greensboro, NC 27455
6/18, 6/25, and 7/2/2026

ROCKINGHAM COUNTY

NORTH CAROLINA
ROCKINGHAM COUNTY

NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION
In The General Court Of Justice District Court Division
26CV000217-780
ROBERT E. THIBODEAU III, Plaintiff, v. KRISTEN NICOLE BARNES and ANTHONY S. BASILE JR., Defendants.
To: ANTHONY S. BASILE JR.

TAKE NOTICE that a Complaint seeking to establish paternity, child custody, and attorney's fees

was filed on January 20, 2026 in the Office of the Clerk of District Court, Rockingham County, North Carolina.

You are required to make defense to such pleading no later than July 22, 2026 said date being forty (40) days from the first publication of this Notice, and upon your failure to do so plaintiff will apply to the Court for the relief sought.

This the 11th day of June 2026.

Casey Robinson,
Attorney for the Plaintiff
317 S. Greene Street
Greensboro, NC 27401
(336) 379-0539
NCSB No. 57349
6/11, 6/18, and 6/25/2026

WAKE COUNTY

DISTRICT COURT
CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA

NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION
CASE NO. D-25-710978-D DEPARTMENT F
KAYLEE ANECIA ADAMS, Plaintiff v. NATHANIEL BETANCOURT, Defendant
TO: NATHANIEL BETANCOURT

TAKE NOTICE that a Complaint for Divorce has been filed against you in the above-entitled action. The nature of the relief being sought is an Absolute Divorce. The parties were married on September 13, 2023, and have no minor children in common.

You are required to file a written response to the Complaint within twenty-one (21) days after service, as provided by Nevada law. Failure to respond may result in a default judgment being entered against you for the relief requested in the Complaint.

The Court has authorized service by alternate means, including publication, pursuant to its Order dated May 28, 2026.

DATED This 18th day of June, 2026.

KAYLEE ANECIA ADAMS, Plaintiff
3150 W. Twain Ave., Unit 333
Las Vegas, NV 89103
(725) 347-4552
kayleanecia@gmail.com
6/18, 6/25, and 7/2/2026

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF WAKE

SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION AND NOTICE OF HEARING
In The General Court Of Justice District Court Division
File Numbers: 26 Ja 172
In The Matter Of: I.g.s. (D.o.b.: 04/12/2010)

To: Dorothy Mae Stone, mother of I.G.S., a female child born on 04/12/2010, in Brooklyn, New York.

A Petition has been filed alleging that the juvenile named above is neglected and dependent.

NOTICE OF RIGHT TO A LAWYER: You have the right to be represented by a lawyer at all stages of the proceeding and, if you are indigent, an attorney will be appointed to represent you. If you desire counsel, you should contact Sherri Belk, an attorney provisionally-appointed to represent you, at 7413 Six Forks Road, #170, Raleigh, NC 27615, (919) 946-7582. At the first hearing, the Court will determine whether you qualify for a court-appointed lawyer. If you do not qualify, the lawyer named above will be released.

NOTICE OF HEARING: You are SUMMONED to appear on July 14, 2026 at 9:00 a.m., Courtroom 4C, 4th Floor, Wake County Courthouse, Raleigh, NC, for a hearing on the allegation of neglect and dependency.

IMPORTANT NOTICE: If the Court determines at the hearing that the allegations in the Petition are true, the Court will conduct a dispositional hearing to consider the needs of the juvenile and enter an Order designed to meet those needs and the objectives of the State. The dispositional Order, or a subsequent Order, may: remove the juvenile from the custody of the parents; order the parents to pay child support; place legal custody of the juvenile with a parent under certain conditions; require the juvenile and/ or the parents to receive medical, psychiatric, psychological or other treatment; order the parents to pay for treatment for the juvenile which is ordered; and upon proper notice and hearing and a finding based on the criteria set out in N.C.G.S. §7B-1111, terminate the parental rights of the parents.

This the 18th day of June, 2026.

WAKE COUNTY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
Kelsey Shamblin, Assistant Wake County Attorney
P.O. Box 550
Raleigh, NC 27602
(919) 856-5501
6/18, 6/25, and 7/2/2026

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
WAKE COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice,

Superior Court Division Before the Clerk
File No.: 26E001232-910

THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 30th day of April, 2026, as Administrator of the Estate of SERGIO HERNANDEZ MORA, 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 11th 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 11th day of June, 2026.

Patricio Hernandez-Mora, Administrator
c/o Jeffers Law Firm
PO Box 761
Raleigh NC 27602
6/11, 6/18, 6/25, and 7/2/2026

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
WAKE COUNTY

NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION
In The General Court of Justice District Court Division
File No. 25CV046978-910
NISREEN ABUJAYYAB, Plaintiff v. WAEL ALSAFADI, Defendant
TO: WAEL ALSAFADI

TAKE NOTICE that a pleading seeking relief against you has been filed in the following action: Divorce. The nature of the relief being sought is as set forth in the Complaint filed in this action.

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 11th day of June, 2026.

Nisreen Abujayyab, Plaintiff
6/11, 6/18, and 6/25/2026

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
WAKE COUNTY

NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION
In the District Court Division
File No. 25CV003836-500
CRUZ v. HIDALGO BELLO
TO ROBERTO A. HIDALGO BELLO:

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 for absolute divorce. You are required to make a defense to such pleading no later than July 21, 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, VANESSA LYNN CRUZ, will apply to the court for the relief sought.

This, the 11th day of June, 2026.

Yvonne Armendáriz, Esq
Attorney for Plaintiff
Armendáriz Law Office, PLLC
6110 Lake Wheeler Road
Raleigh, NC 27603
Office: (919) 656-1524
Yvonne@armendarizlaw.com
6/11, 6/18, and 6/25/2026

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
WAKE COUNTY

NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION
In The General Court of Justice District Court Division
File No. 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

Classifieds

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 **Cargill Lift Station 33 Structural Repair project for Fayetteville Public Works Commission** which bids on **June 10, 2026, at 2:00 PM**. Plans and specifications for this project are available at the following locations: T. A. Loving Company; 400 Patetown Road; Goldsboro, NC 27530 * Fayetteville Public Works Commission

Skills Lab, Administrative Building, 955 Old Wilmington Road, Fayetteville, NC 28301 * Fayetteville PWC Procurement website * Fayetteville State University Construction Resource Office website * ConstructConnect website (formerly iSqFt) * NC Institute of Minority Economic Development (NCIMED) website.

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

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

D/M/WBE

SUBCONTRACTORS/SUPPLIERS WANTED

T. A. Loving Company (NC General Contractor License No. 325) is seeking certified DBE, MBE, and WBE subcontractors and suppliers for the **Crabtree Interceptor Phase III Improvements project for the City of Raleigh Public Utilities Department** which bids on **July 14, 2026, at 2:00 PM**. Plans and specifications for this project are available at the following locations: T. A. Loving Company; 400 Patetown Road; Goldsboro, NC 27530 * City of Raleigh Public Utilities Department; One Exchange Plaza, Suite 620; Raleigh, NC 27601 * McKim & Creed, Inc.; 4300 Edwards Mill Road, Suite 200; Raleigh, NC 27612 * Dodge Data and Analytics website * ConstructConnect website * Construction Journal website * NC Institute of Minority Economic Development (NCIMED) website.

Potential subcontracting opportunities include but are not limited to surveying, demolition, hauling, asphalt paving, striping, traffic control, earthwork, erosion control, seeding, sodding, linework/pipe installation, jack & bore, tunneling, bypass pumping, dewatering, and flatwork. Please contact **Conveyance (conveyancebids@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.

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