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and Service of God

U.S. Senate Joins House In Rebuke Of Trump's Iran War

WASHINGTON — The Republican-led U.S. Senate served up a rare public check on President Donald Trump’s agenda Tuesday when it voted to approve a House-passed War Powers Resolution to end hostilities in Iran.

Senate approval marked the first time both chambers have agreed in a rebuke of Trump over his war in Iran.

The concurrent resolution, which passed 50-48, does not require the president’s signature and its enforceability has been a perennial topic of debate.

The Senate’s approval occurred against the backdrop of the administration’s peace deal negotiations with Iran, which have been criticized from both sides of the aisle.

Four Republicans joined Demo-

crats in voting for the measure: Lisa Murkowski of Alaska; Rand Paul of Kentucky; Louisiana’s Bill Cassidy, who recently lost his primary race after Trump endorsed an opponent; and Susan Collins, who’s fighting a tough reelection campaign in Maine.

Democrat John Fetterman of Pennsylvania voted no. Paul and Fetterman have broken ranks with their parties on several previous Iran War Powers Resolution votes.

Republican Sens. Mitch McConnell of Kentucky, who was recently hospitalized, and Dave McCormick of Pennsylvania did not vote. McCormick was with Trump on a trip to Pennsylvania.

Debate over impact Trump administration officials, including Secretary of State Marco



Rubio, argue that War Powers Resolutions are not constitutional.

The U.S. Supreme Court in 1983 ruled against the validity of congressional measures that do not require a president’s signature.

Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., said Congress “stood up to Donald Trump and voted to end his costly, unnecessary, and devastating war with Iran.”

“Let me be clear: for the first time, this resolution has passed both chambers of Congress and does not require the President’s signature. The message from the only branch of government with the power to declare war is unmistakable: the Trump administration must withdraw U.S. forces from hostilities in Iran. The pressure on Republicans mounts,” Schumer said in a statement following the vote.

Rep. Gregory Meeks, D-N.Y., who sponsored the original resolution that passed the House on June 3, said the measure is binding and the president “must cease all hostilities against Iran.”

“Regardless of what President Trump says, this measure is binding under the War Powers Resolution, and I will explore all legal avenues to ensure the Executive complies with the will of Congress. Congress never authorized this failed war, and the president certainly has no authority to continue it indefinitely without our consent as the Constitution demands,” Meeks, the top Democrat on the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, said in a statement.

The White House declined to comment on the vote.

Louisiana Man Becomes 1st In Region Functionally Cured Of Sickle Cell

THE GUARDIAN—A young southeastern Louisiana man recently became the first person in his region to be functionally cured of sickle cell disease, clearing the way for him to continue pursuing his dream of a career as a commercial pilot, according to his medical team.

Daniel Cressy’s successful completion of curative gene therapy at Manning Family Children’s hospital in New Orleans on Monday generated a measure of optimism within his state, which produces more cases of sickle cell disease per capita than any other in the US, according to the medical center.



Daniel Cressy at the Manning Family Children’s Hospital

siana, grew up with ambitions of piloting commercial airline jets, but he eventually learned the Federal Aviation Administration would not consider licensing him because he had been diagnosed with sickle cell disease since his infancy.

Predominantly affecting African American people, the genetic blood disorder can cause chronic pain, frequent hospitalizations and shorten life spans.

Those who inherit the disease can be at risk for life-threatening complications amid the altitudes at which pilots fly. But, thanks to advancement allowing genetically modified stem cells to be altered, people with sickle cell disease can be treated before it begins destroying their organs.

And, when Cressy said he learned from the FAA that he could pursue becoming a pilot if he could cure his sickle cell disease, he assessed his options.

He said he settled on gene editing therapy, for which Manning Family Children’s Hospital had received approval. Undergoing the process took

two years – and in late 2025, it required collecting cells from Cressy’s body and sending them to Scotland to be genetically modified, the hospital said in a news release.

The hospital said it got the cells back in March. Cressy was then admitted to the hospital’s Center for Cancer and Blood Disorders, which treated him with chemotherapy to eliminate his sickle cells. It subsequently infused his genetically modified cells into his body.

Cressy spent a month in inpatient recovery and being monitored at the hospital. Then, on Monday, he rang a ceremonial bell at the hospital and was declared the first from the US’s Gulf coast region to undergo gene editing therapy utilizing Casgevy’s CRISPR/Cas9 technology and be functionally cured of sickle cell disease.



CORRECTION: THE DOMINIQUE MOODY ACT AND THE PARALLELS WITH STATE GOVERNMENT INEFFICIENCY

By Jheri Hardaway
Staff Writer

Two weeks ago, we reported on House Bill 1144, also known as the Dominique Moody Safety Act. The correct primary sponsors are Representatives Carla Cunningham (U-Mecklenburg), Allen Chesser (R-Nash), Mike Colvin (D-Cumberland), and Donny Lambeth (R-Forsyth).

UPDATE: HARNETT COUNTY SUMMER MEALS UPDATE

Starting June 15th, Harnett County has expanded its Summer Meals Program and added two additional meal distribution locations to better serve students and families this summer. Free nutritious meals are available for children and teens ages 18 and under. The following locations in Dunn and Lillington have been added to help ensure summer meals are accessible to all.

- Dunn Public Library from 11:30-12:00 pm
110 E. Divine St., Dunn, NC 28334
- Harnett County Library from 12:00-12:30 pm
455 McKinney Pkwy., Lillington, NC 27546

TONS OF NC ELECTIONS CHANGES CRAMMED INTO ONE OMNIBUS BILL

CAROLINA PUBLIC PRESS - While a group of lawmakers considered the latest version of a wide-ranging elections omnibus bill, a couple dozen protesters waited outside, holding their phones to their ears to hear what was happening inside the committee room.

When lawmakers dispersed, they held up red flags and booed in disapproval, bringing the spirit of the World Cup to Raleigh.

The 36-page elections omnibus bill, House Bill 958, touches on scores of election issues, including ballot counting deadlines, ranked choice voting and the auditor’s involvement in elections.

Tuesday’s version tacked on a dozen pages to the last version of the bill, presented in July 2025. Bill sponsor Rep. Hugh Blackwell, R-Burke, emphasized that it was still a “work in progress.” Democratic committee members Reps. Pricey Harrison, D-Guilford, and Phil Rubin, D-Wake, worked with Blackwell over the weekend on a few changes, he said. There could be more on the way.

For example, he said he wants to find compromise on provisions banning county and state election board members from “encouraging or promoting turnout in any election.”

Rep. Shelly Willingham, D-Edgecombe, voted with Republicans to move the bill forward. He will be a key vote if the bill passes and is ultimately vetoed by the governor.

Blackwell said he expects a House vote as early as Wednesday, but the bill was removed from the House Rules committee Tuesday, so it will likely take longer to reach the floor. The Senate could then approve the bill as is or amend it, which would take more time. The governor would then decide whether to veto the bill, and if he did, it would return for a veto override vote. Lawmakers plan to end this year’s legislative session before the July 4 holiday, so there isn’t much time left.

There was no time for public comment during Tuesday’s committee meeting. Protesters gathered outside the legislative building instead.

One protester, Kathy Martin, called it a “voter suppression bill.” Another, Deborah Oronzio, said the Democrat-suggested changes were positive but not substantive. She felt like Republicans made minor changes just to “keep them calm.”

“I’m not sure that we can pick one thing that has any good in it, and that’s what infuriates me, because they position it like, ‘Oh, this is gonna help us with the integrity of our elections,’ and they don’t want to listen to data,” she said.

Election integrity activist and Lee County election board member Jay DeLancy said he’s very excited about some parts of the bill, but not satisfied with others.

“There’ll never be enough integrity, but that’s why we fight,” he said. “It’s like a tug of war.”

Giving voters, local election boards more time

The first part of the bill loosens certain deadlines lawmakers tightened in late 2024 in a controversial, wide-ranging law touted as a Hurricane Helene recovery bill.

Before the 2024 law passed, county election boards had until the day before county canvass, held 10 days after Election Day, to count absentee and provisional ballots. Voters had the same amount of time to fix certain ballot or registration issues if they, for example, forgot to bring a valid photo ID to the polls and had to vote provisionally.

After the law passed, they had three days to finish the job.

County election staff told Carolina Public Press at the time that the deadlines were impossible to meet without pulling consecutive all-nighters.

Lawmakers listened. The omnibus gives county election boards until the fifth business day after Election Day — the following Tuesday — to count

Congress Passes Landmark Legislation

POLITICO—The landmark 21st Century ROAD to Housing Act, Congress’ first comprehensive housing legislation in decades, aims to boost housing supply and home buying amid an affordability crisis that has made homeownership increasingly difficult for a growing number of Americans. The bill also, for the first time ever, sets legal limits on the ability of large investors to buy single family homes.

The House passed the bill 358-32. The Senate approved the legislation on Monday 85-5. And Trump signed the bill at the Capitol on Wednesday, according to a White House official.

Only Republicans voted “no” on the bill, including several House Financial Services members: Reps. Ralph Norman of South Carolina, Warren Davidson of Ohio and Byron Donalds of Florida.



House Republicans and the House passed its own version of the bill in February.

Trump early this year inserted his own demand that any housing legislation must contain a provision cracking down on the ability of large Wall Street investors to buy up single-family homes. The Senate overwhelmingly passed a bill including that measure in March. The House in May passed a version of the legislation with a stripped down

provision targeting large investors.

Senate Banking Chair Tim Scott (R-S.C.) and ranking member Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.), House Financial Services Chair French Hill (R-Ark.) and ranking member Maxine Waters (D-Calif.) and the White House were finally able to come to an agreement on a bicameral bill last week, setting the bill on a swift path to become law.

During debate ahead of the House vote Tuesday, House Financial Ser-

vices Chair French Hill (R-Ark.) said that he and ranking member Maxine Waters (D-Calif.) “believe there are several points the Treasury should consider as it examines the congressional intent” in the implementation of the provision in the bill seeking to limit private equity involvement in the single-family housing market.

Hill said that nonprofits and community land trusts should not be included in the definition of a large institutional investor and that the bill language should not be interpreted to require any entity to divest from any homes before or after the implementation of the bill, among other clarifications.

In addition to navigating negotiations over the first-ever restrictions on large Wall Street investors in the housing market, lawmakers also had to find consensus on a range of other sticking points, including a ban on the Federal Reserve issuing a digital currency and a slate of community banking deregulation initiatives.

The legislation overcame a last-minute threat from Rep. Anna Paulina Luna (R-Fla.) who posted on X that she and others would be voting no on the legislation and would “vote to shut the floor down” until “we fight for [the] SAVE America Act.” Luna also urged in an X post that Trump veto the bill “until they attach the SAVE America Act to it.”

Family of 1-year-old killed by police at a Walmart in Mississippi wants video

AP NEWS - A Mississippi family whose 1-year-old child was killed when police fired into a moving vehicle said Monday they want authorities to release video showing whether officers were in danger of being struck when one of them opened fire.

The shooting has sparked outrage in the small city of Senatobia, where some say it’s the latest in a series of troubling encounters between police and Black residents.

Kohen Wiley was riding with his mother and another woman in a Walmart parking lot on June 14 when police responded to a shoplifting call. The family says they were driving away, while the officers say the car was heading toward them.



“I watched my baby take his first breath, and I watched my baby take his last breath,” Vellesiya Wiley said at a news conference Monday.

The other woman in the car, whose name has not been released, suffered “critical injuries,” according to the Mississippi Bureau of Investigation, which is handling the inquiry.

Standing alongside Kohen’s parents and grandparents at a local church, civil rights attorney Ben Crump told reporters Monday that the best way to determine whether the officers were at risk is to publicly release any body camera, dash camera or Walmart security camera

Tons of NC Election Changes —CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

absentee and provisional ballots and allow voters to fix their ballots and registrations.

In some cases, boards can take a bit longer. If they have reason to believe a provisional voter's ballot shouldn't count, they can wait until the canvass to make a decision. Challenged ballots also might take more time to address.

Instead of shortening the counting process on the back end, bill drafters tried to give county election staff more time to begin counting certain early, absentee and provisional ballots on Election Day, as long as they don't reveal any results until polls close.

Guilford County Election Director Charlie Collicut said pushing back the deadline to count provisional ballots will be "tremendously helpful for all counties."

"Their original timeline just did not give us the administrative time that we needed to give quality research and presentation to the

boards," he said.

North Carolina Democratic Party Chair Anderson Clayton said the deadline change only fixed a problem lawmakers created for themselves. She would prefer to return to a 10-day period to cure, or fix, ballots that might be missing something.

"It doesn't surprise me when you just saw Phil Berger lose an election by less than 23 votes, give or take, and he only had three days to go out there and actually try to count ballots and be able to cure ballots in that sense," she said. "So, I mean, I do think that Republicans understand that some of the laws that they put into place do not benefit them and they're trying to retroactively change them."

No encouraging turnout

The latest version of the omnibus would bar county and state election board members from "encouraging or promoting voter turnout in any election."

This provision isn't new. While it appeared in an early version of the bill, it was removed in the last 2025 version after criticism that the ban was too vague.

Collicut isn't sure whether Guilford County Board of Elections members have done anything that would fall under this umbrella, but it's unclear. Would a board member get into trouble for saying one polling place was better than another because it would likely produce higher turnout during debate? What about if they posted the early voting schedule on the county website or Facebook page?

"It's just too subjective," he said. "If they want to restrict some of that, then I think they need to be more specific — what does that mean?"

State Board and county election board business

A series of provisions would impact State Board and county election board business.

One would require the DMV to provide Social Security numbers to the State Board of Elections for list maintenance and voter registration purposes on a monthly schedule.

The State Board would also be allowed to retain private counsel when it gets involved in litigation, and the documents associated with that counsel would not be public record.

Martin said she feels like decision-making will be more opaque as a result.

They are getting 25 positions exempt from certain political neutrality rules, which means Executive Director Sam Hayes could hire people who align with him politically or ideologically.

Another provision would set minimum training standards for poll workers and require University of North Carolina's School of Government to work with the State Board to develop a county board member training curriculum.

County boards could not count the ballots of voters who died between casting their vote and 11:59 p.m. the day before Election Day. This comes after a few Democratic board members got into trouble for counting some votes of dead North Carolinians.

Omnibus dealing with potential noncitizens

The State Board of Elections has started using the federal Systemic Verification for Entitlements (SAVE) system to identify potential noncitizens on North Carolina's voter roll.

Their proposed process for challenging these potential noncitizens, which includes an opportunity for voters to defend their eligibility, is currently in the middle of the rule-making process and will likely be approved this summer.

The SAVE system is not perfect; it often generates false positives, which worries some election activists who think there is a greater risk of removing eligible voters from the rolls than noncitizens.

The omnibus outlines the voter challenge process when the SAVE system identifies potential noncitizens, or other ineligible voters.

Many of the noncitizens who were improperly registered to vote in the past have said they were confused about their eligibility or unknowingly registered. The bill attempts to fix part of that issue by explicitly requiring officials at the Division of Motor Vehicles or other voter registration agencies to stop processing voter registration applications if, after asking whether the person is a US citizen, they say no or do not answer.

Democracy Out Loud representative Mark Swallow doesn't like the idea of trying to improve election integrity with unproven tools.

"We know that the SAVE database has its issues, so to base it all on that is wrong, and there's no transparency on what databases they're actually using."

Deed Fraud Can Cause Vulnerable Detroiters To Lose Their Homes

THE CONVERSATION—Buying her first home on Detroit's far east side in 2021 was the moment when a lifelong dream finally came within reach for Kim Page.

"I accomplished something that I always wanted to do," said Page, who grew up in the city. "I always wanted to buy my own home since I was like 18. I never wanted to rent from anyone."

Page said she had saved US\$15,000 and used \$3,800 in cash to buy the single-family brick house on Britain Street. The house, owned by a friend planning to move out of Detroit, was "damaged pretty bad," Page recalls. But the house was hers to care for, and she was determined to fix what was broken.

For the next several years, Page poured her sweat and paychecks into the property. Working first as a welder at automotive supplier Fisher Dynamics, and later as a phlebotomist, she paid for a dumpster, windows, a door, ceiling repair and an awning above her front porch. Page invested \$27,000 in needed repairs and, in 2022, happily moved in.

"I just was in shock," Page said. "I can't believe somebody really did this to me."

Page reached out to me for help in March 2025. I'm a housing attorney, assistant professor at Michigan State University College of Law and director of the Housing Justice Clinic. I have represented dozens of victims of deed fraud.

I have also studied how property recording systems respond — or, more accurately, fail to respond — to fraud. My work examines how procedural gaps in title systems disproportionately harm elderly, low-income and minority homeowners.

Nationwide, deed fraud — also called quit claim deed fraud or home title theft — is a growing problem, including in New York, Boston, Miami and Philadelphia.

Exactly how big a problem it is, is hard to know. The FBI does not track deed fraud specifically, instead grouping it into a larger category of real estate crimes.

From 2019 through 2023, 58,141 victims in the U.S. reported \$1.3 billion in losses relating to real estate crime, the FBI says. However, that number is likely undercounted because many people don't know where to report it, are embarrassed they were victims or don't know yet they have been targeted.

In Detroit, deed fraud may be particularly prevalent because so many housing deals are made in cash and many properties owe back taxes. The Wayne County Mortgage and Deed Fraud Unit has tracked more than 13,000 inquiries regarding deed fraud and has opened over 2,300 cases throughout Wayne County since 2005.

Committing deed fraud is remarkably simple.

A deed is the legal document that transfers ownership of a home or other real property from one person to another. When a home is bought or sold, a deed is legally drawn up to reflect the transfer of ownership. That deed is then recorded with a county register of deeds, providing public notice of who legally owns the property.

A fraudster can forge the signature of the real owner — sometimes someone who is deceased. They can file a deed that appears valid on its face but isn't.

They then record that false deed with a county register of deeds, the local government office that keeps public land records and other documents showing ownership, claiming title to property they do not actually own.

Fraudsters often target vulnerable people and properties, including elderly owners, families dealing with inherited homes, and houses that appear vacant or neglected, such as those behind on property taxes.

The incentive is clear: Once a fraudster appears to hold title, they

can try to sell the property to an investor or an unsuspecting buyer looking for stable housing. I have seen fraudsters secure as much as \$50,000 from one deal when they obtained a mortgage based on a fraudulent deed. One notable case of fraud targeted Elvis Presley's former estate, Graceland.

In Michigan and most other states, recording offices do not have authority to substantively review a deed to determine whether it is fraudulent. If the document complies with technical formatting requirements, such as margin and font size, it must be recorded. Once stamped and indexed, the deed appears legitimate and can easily trick desperate buyers, investors, financial institutions and even

police officers, lawyers and judges.

In other words, the recording process is largely administrative, not investigative. The government office accepts and files the document without first verifying that the person signing it actually had the legal right to transfer the property.

That means a fraudulent deed can enter the public record, look valid to the outside world and remain undiscovered for months or even years.

Detroit is vulnerable

The housing market helps explain why Detroiters are more vulnerable to deed fraud.

Homes in Black neighborhoods nationwide are systematically undervalued compared with similar homes in white neighborhoods. Black bor-

rowers are also more likely to be denied conventional mortgage loans. Detroit is about 73% Black, with a median household income of roughly \$39,000 and a poverty rate exceeding 30%.

In a market where access to traditional financing is uneven and home prices are relatively low, cash sales accounted for 4 in 10 sales in February 2024.

Lenders, brokers and title companies act as informal gatekeepers when people purchase a home using a mortgage. In cash sales, those actors are absent, and there are fewer opportunities to detect irregularities in the documented history showing how title passed from one owner to the next over time.

1 Year Old Killed in Miss. —CONT. FROM PG 1

video.

"If that is the truth, then show us that," Crump said. "The longer you delay releasing the video, the more distrustful we become."

The Mississippi Bureau of Investigation declined to comment on what videos investigators have or whether they would be released, agency spokesperson Bailey Martin said Monday.

"This case has been made a top priority," Martin said in an emailed statement, "and we currently have multiple agents working tirelessly to ensure every aspect of the investigation is thoroughly examined."

The agency says the officers weren't hurt. Senatobia Police Chief Harold Vanderford did not return a phone message seeking comment Monday.

State investigators gave an initial account of the shooting last week, saying that when Senatobia police arrived at the Walmart, they found two women and a child getting into a car and driving away.

"Officers attempted to stop the vehicle, but the driver drove in the direction of the officers, almost striking one. An officer then discharged their weapon and the vehicle fled the scene," the agency statement said.

Kohen's mother has said the shoplifting call was over a box of diapers that her friend was carrying — and that she believes her friend had paid for the diapers. State investigators declined to comment on those details.

Crump questioned why police didn't let the car go and take down the license plate number.

"They were called over a box of diapers and a family now has to bury their baby," Crump said Monday. "You cannot put those two things next to each other and call it reasonable policing."

Crump also said an independent autopsy would be performed.

While there's no question the child was shot by police, he said, details about the angles at which any bullets



struck the child could yield clues as to whether the officer fired from in front of the car or off to the side — and therefore whether that officer was in any danger.

Policing expert Ian Adams, who teaches criminal justice at the Uni-

versity of South Carolina, told The Associated Press last week that police should know that "shooting into a moving vehicle is a very bad idea and one to be avoided at almost all costs," noting the danger to passengers and other bystanders.

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DISCOVER NETWORK

By Judaea Ingram

Special To The Carolinian

RALEIGH, N.C — Line dances broke out across the North Carolina State Fairgrounds, children competed in dance-offs and the aroma of food from Black-owned food trucks filled the air as hundreds gathered Saturday for NC Throw Down's Juneteenth Grand Cookout.

The event, held from 2 p.m. to 10 p.m., brought together community members from across the Triangle to celebrate Juneteenth through food, music, art and fellowship. Featuring Black-owned vendors, live performances and family-friendly activities, the gathering felt less like a public event and more like a large family reunion.

Rows of Black-owned food trucks served a variety of dishes as visitors waited in line to sample local flavors. Nearby, vendors displayed merchandise ranging from custom T-shirts and purses to handmade jewelry and artwork, creating opportunities for attendees to support Black-owned businesses while celebrating the holiday.

Entertainment remained at the center of the celebration throughout the day. Local artists performed for the crowd while attendees danced, sang and enjoyed the festive atmosphere. Two groups of young Black women took the stage with energetic dance performances that drew cheers and applause from spectators gathered around the performance area.

One of the event's most eye-catching attractions was a live painting demonstration by artist Ra James. Throughout the day, attendees watched as James created a piece featuring a raised brown fist, a symbol often associated with Black pride, resilience and unity. The artwork attracted a steady crowd as visitors stopped to watch the creative process unfold.

Families were a major part of the event's success. Children participat-



ed in activities designed specifically for younger attendees, while a kids dance-off quickly became one of the day's most popular attractions. Parents, relatives and friends gathered around to cheer on participants as they showcased their best moves.

As the afternoon turned into evening, line dances formed throughout the fairgrounds as attendees of all ages joined together. Classic cookout songs filled the venue, prompting singalongs and creating moments that connected multiple generations through music and shared cultural traditions.

"This is my kind of therapy," attendee Diavian McNeil said while taking in the festivities.

McNeil's comment reflected the mood throughout the event, where community members embraced an

opportunity to relax, celebrate and connect with one another.

The celebration also featured a special appearance by Capella Grey, the New York artist best known for his hit song "Gyalis." His appearance added another layer of excitement to an already energetic atmosphere as attendees gathered near the stage for live entertainment.

While music, food and entertainment were major attractions, the event also served as a celebration of Juneteenth's historical significance. The holiday commemorates June 19, 1865, when enslaved African Americans in Galveston, Texas, learned they were free, more than two years after the Emancipation Proclamation was issued.

Today, Juneteenth celebrations across the nation honor freedom,

resilience and the enduring contributions of Black Americans. At NC Throw Down's Juneteenth Grand Cookout, those themes were reflected through artistic expression, entrepreneurship and community fellowship.

As the sun set over the fairgrounds, the energy remained high. Music continued to play, families lingered and dance circles remained full as attendees celebrated well into the evening.

For many in attendance, the Juneteenth Grand Cookout represented more than a holiday event. It was an opportunity to support Black-owned businesses, embrace cultural traditions and celebrate the sense of community that remains at the heart of Juneteenth observances across North Carolina.

Business & Finance



Microsoft, Chevron Plan One Of The Largest Gas-Powered Data Centers

CNBC—Chevron will fuel a massive Microsoft data center in West Texas with natural gas under a 20-year agreement, the oil major announced Monday.

The data center, called Project Kilby, is expected to consume nearly 2.7 gigawatts of electricity, equivalent to the power needed to run about 2 million homes.

Most of the electricity will come from large gas turbines supplied by Chevron’s partner, GE Vernova Caterpillar will also provide turbines. The power is dedicated to the data center and will not be connected to the electric grid.

“There’s really no competition with local electricity consumers,” Jeff Gustavson, president of Chevron new energies, told CNBC. “In fact, over time, as we have excess power, we plan to push that into the grid to help stabilize it.”

Project Kilby has not started construction in Reeves County yet. Chevron expects to make a final investment decision on the project later this year. The data center would start receiving power in 2028.

Microsoft’s partnership with Chevron comes as it undertakes a massive buildout of data centers to power artificial intelligence applications. It plans \$190 billion in capital expenditures this year, 61% more than in 2025.

Microsoft’s embrace of natural gas through a partnership with the oil industry shows a willingness to invest in fossil fuels to meet its electricity needs.

The rapid growth of AI “requires energy infrastructure that can scale quickly and reliably,” Noelle Walsh, Microsoft’s president of cloud operations and innovation, said in a statement Monday.

For its part, Chevron is positioned to quickly and reliably deliver natural gas from the Permian Basin, located in West Texas and southeastern New Mexico, to data centers at a competitive cost, Gustavson said in a statement.

Microsoft has invested primarily in renewable energy to offset carbon-dioxide emissions from its data centers. But now it’s also searching for alternative power sources than can more reliably meet the 24/7 demand of its data centers. It turned, for example, to nuclear power in 2024 by investing in the restart of the Three Mile Island nuclear plant in Pennsylvania.

Lumbree Tribal Voters Reject Casino Despite I-95 Land Deal

LUMBERTON, N.C, (WTVD) -- In the first major vote since gaining federal recognition, members of the Lumbee Tribe have rejected an amendment that would have cleared the way for a plan to develop a casino and entertainment complex in Robeson County.

A majority of Lumbee voters opposed the plan to build a casino, hotel and golf complex on tribal land off Interstate 95.

As of 10 p.m. tuesday, 62%of voting-age members had voted against moving forward with the amendment.

Tribal Chairman John Lowery said he was proud of voter participation in the decision.

"We're just proud of everyone for coming out and voting and being part of the democratic process, being a part of this decision which allows you to decide how we move forward," Lowery said.

Ahead of the vote, some supporters argued the project would generate revenue for programs such as education, health care and housing, while also competing with potential casinos in neighboring South Carolina.

"And we're in a perfect location for it. Casinos, not just about gambling. You know, there is the entertainment business. The Lumbees have purchased land that's in a perfect location for entertainment right off 95, 240 acres. Cultural activities, a museum, a water park, a golf course. You know, it's going to be a lot more than a casino," said Wanda Burns-Ramsey, a Lumbee Tribe member.

Despite those arguments, voters ultimately rejected the proposal.

Lowery acknowledged disappointment with the outcome.

"Tonight, a majority of the Lumbee people have spoken, and they have said no to progress and have decided to stay with the status quo or simply staying with the way things are," he said.

Is The American Dream Fading? It Depends On Your Neighborhood

NC NEWSLINE - A child’s zip code shouldn’t determine whether they escape poverty, but it often does, said Kala Gibson, executive vice president and chief corporate responsibility officer at Fifth Third Bank.

The Detroit native who oversees corporate citizenship work at the bank, which includes community development and community impact banking, said too many places still exist where children are robbed of opportunities to live the American dream because of where they grew up and the color of their skin.

“You can talk to a child and just ask them, where they’re born, their zip code, what school district they’re in and you have a 50% chance of being correct ... that they’re not getting out of poverty, and that’s sad,” Gibson said.

Gibson made his remarks in Chapel Hill last week during the Kenan Institute of Private Enterprise’s fourth annual Conference on Market-Based Solutions for Reducing Wealth Inequality. The conference featured experts from the public and private sectors and academia who discussed new ways in which businesses can contribute to inclusive economic growth in the U.S.

Conference host LaChaun Banks, a professor in the UNC Kenan-Flagler Business School, set the tone for the event that is aimed at reducing income inequality.

“The American dream should not be dependent on zip code, family circumstances or family wealth,” Banks said.

Conferees, Banks said, share a common belief that economic opportunities and upward mobility matter.

“We’ve witnessed a lot of innovation and technological advancement, but as you all know alongside

that success, we’ve also seen disparities of wealth, opportunity and economic stability,” Banks said. “For many people, economic growth has felt distant from their daily reality.”

Gibson’s work at Fifth Third Bank — the nation’s ninth largest bank — is deeply personal, he said, because he grew up in a community where there were few opportunities to escape poverty.

Banks have a “high responsibility” to help people achieve the American dream, he said.

“If you’re not in a financial system, you have no ability to be able to own a home, to build wealth, build equity, retire comfortably or see your kids go to college or vocational school,” Gibson said.

Gibson highlighted Fifth Third Bank’s Neighborhood Program, a multiyear initiative created in 2021 to provide nine historically African American neighborhoods across seven states with capital, expertise and technical support to build equitable growth and create economic mobility.

Each neighborhood was eligible to receive up to \$20 million. By the time the program ended in December 2025, Fifth Third Bank had made \$409.2 million in direct investments into the nine neighborhoods.

The investment leveraged many millions more and resulted in construction of 603 affordable multifamily units and 124 affordable for-purchase homes. More than 500 homes were also preserved.

The Historic West End community in Charlotte was one of the nine neighborhoods that took part in the initiative. The work there focused on preserving homes, anti-displacement strategies and the creation of affordable mixed-income housing.

“We were really focused on home-

NC House Passes Legislation To Resolve The Rocky Mount–Nash County Dispute

By Jordan Meadows

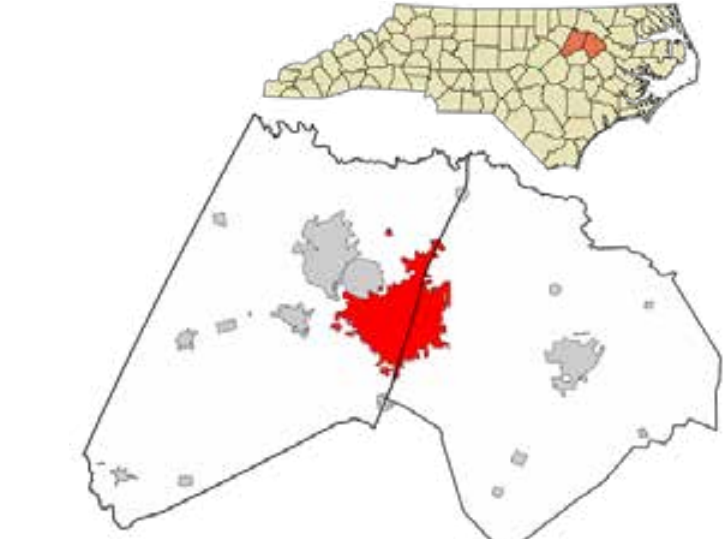
Staff Writer

A proposed restructuring of hotel occupancy taxes in Nash County and the City of Rocky Mount is moving forward under NC House Bill 332, legislation designed to resolve long-standing disputes over how tourism revenue is collected and spent.

The bill would significantly change how room occupancy taxes, including fees added to hotel stays, are distributed in the portion of Rocky Mount located in Nash County. Currently, Nash County levies a 5% occupancy tax on accommodations countywide, including hotels within city limits. Of that total, the first 3% is directed to the Nash County Tourism Development Authority (TDA), which must spend at least two-thirds of its funds on tourism promotion and the remainder on tourism-related projects. The remaining 2% is transferred to the City of Rocky Mount, but with a major limitation: the city cannot spend those funds without prior approval from the county’s tourism authority.

City officials have argued that this arrangement restricts Rocky Mount’s ability to invest in tourism independently, particularly since most hotel stays in the county occur within city limits. House Bill 332 seeks to resolve that tension by restructuring the system.

The legislation would reduce Nash County’s authority to levy occupancy taxes from 5% to 3%, eliminating the extra 2% currently earmarked for



Rocky Mount. In its place, the bill creates a new taxing entity known as “Rocky Mount District R,” which includes only the portion of the city located in Nash County.

Under the proposal, District R would be authorized to levy its own 3% occupancy tax, with revenues going directly to a newly established Rocky Mount District R Tourism Development Authority. Like the county TDA, the new authority would be required to spend at least two-thirds of its funds on tourism promotion, with the remaining portion eligible for tourism-related infrastructure and projects. If implemented, the change would increase the total hotel tax rate in the Nash County portion of Rocky Mount from 5% to 6%, combining the county’s 3% tax with

the district’s new 3% levy.

Supporters say the shift is less about raising taxes and more about giving the city direct control over its share of tourism revenue.

The legislation also includes safeguards intended to standardize governance and prevent conflicts of interest. Elected officials would be prohibited from serving on either the county or district tourism boards, aligning the measure with long-standing Occupancy Tax Guidelines established by the North Carolina House Finance Committee.

The bill was introduced in March 2025 by State Representative Allen Chesser (R-Nash) as a local measure, meaning it applies specifically to Nash County and Rocky

Card Program To Steer Cash Payments To Single Mothers In Government Housing

NATIONAL - One of the few Black-owned banks in the United States is introducing a debit card aimed at helping single mothers who live in government-subsidized housing escape poverty.

The Bank King Card debit card will be offered beginning Friday in honor of Juneteenth by Redemption Bank, which will make a donation from every account opened to nonprofits that will steer the funding to needy families.

“Bank King Card represents a new regenerative banking model that starts with investing in mothers who are a few hopeful dollars away from breaking out of poverty, and opening up America’s vaults of opportunity that have been closed to too many for too long,” Redemption Holding Co. chair and Chief Executive Ashley Bell said.

A 2026 report by the Urban Institute and the Jeremiah Program says households led by single mothers experience widespread economic and caregiving hardship.

Redemption Bank, based in Holladay, Utah, says it intends to make fixed-amount donations based on new Bank King Card account openings. The amount will be determined an-

nually by the bank’s board of directors and will not be based on the amount of card purchases, according to Redemption Bank.

Nonprofits that provide direct-cash services would apply for grants through a foundation developed to make sure the money gets to those who need it most.

“What we’ve seen is these guaranteed income programs have been a jolt out of poverty for women around the country, including many women of color,” Bell said.

Every dollar helps

Money given directly to needy mothers and children is overwhelmingly spent to cover necessary goods or services, according to Chastity Lord, president and chief executive of the Jeremiah Program, which works to improve economic mobility for single mothers.

But it also does so much more, she said.

“It provides dignity,” Lord continued. “It ensures summer learning, not leaving kids at home. It increases nutrition. It allows the mom to make powerful decisions that benefit their children and their families instead of

making decisions to just get by.”

A pilot program through the Ohio Mother’s Trust funneled \$500 each month for a year to 32 single mothers in the Columbus, Ohio, area.

For Juanita Amakor of Columbus, the cash she received through the Ohio Mother’s Trust allowed her to catch up on bills and pay rent.

“It’s the breathing room it gives you, knowing there is something extra coming in. It relieves a lot of anxiety,” said Amakor, 36, who has a 7-year-old daughter. “This help goes a long way, even if it was for something as little as being able to take my child to the grocery store, to the clothing store.”

In Michigan, Rx Kids gives women a one-time allocation of \$1,500 during pregnancy, followed by \$500 per month throughout the child’s first months. The \$1,500 can be used on food, prenatal care, rent, cribs or other needs. The \$500 monthly stipend can be spent on formula, diapers or childcare.

Kinea Wright and her family received funding through the Rx Kids program in Flint. It helped with some bills, diapers for her newborn daughter and other needs, especially after

her husband was injured in a forklift accident.

“Initially, (the money) was put up for a rainy day,” said Wright, 46. “I didn’t know the rainy day would come sooner than we thought. It was a blessing in disguise.”

A year ago, Redemption Holding Co. completed its acquisition of Utah-based Holladay Bank & Trust, making it the first time a bank has been owned by a Black-led investment group in the Western U.S.

At the time, Redemption Bank had roughly \$65 million in assets. It primarily focuses on commercial lending and small business loans. Bernice A. King, the youngest child of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., is a co-founder and senior vice president of the bank.

“Economic opportunity must be practical, accessible and rooted in the needs of families,” King said. “Bank King Card is an innovative way to support that work. It creates a practical opportunity for people to align their financial choices with their values while supporting mothers, children and families working toward long-term stability.”

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ownership and making sure there wasn’t displacement because a lot of times with these types of initiatives, there’s a significant amount of displacement, particularly as it relates to our seniors,” Gibson said.

Neighborhoods in Cincinnati, Cleveland and Columbus in Ohio, Chicago, Tampa, Florida, Indianapolis, Atlanta, and Louisville, Kentucky were also part of the bank’s program. “What you would find in all of these neighborhoods is that they’re all just sitting on an island,” Gibson said. “Typically, they’re financial islands, meaning they’re not a financial center or bank anywhere to be seen.”

Gibson said such communities are usually also food deserts without a grocery store and without access to healthcare nearby.

“They are literally deserts,” he said. “Sometimes, they are right

smack dab in the middle of these upper mobility neighborhoods.”

In an interview with NC Newsline, Gibson acknowledged the bank’s motives aren’t solely altruistic.

“We want individuals in all neighborhoods to be customers in Fifth Third,” Gibson said. “In order to do that, you have to go into the neighborhoods, you have to listen to what people need and then you try to match your products to their problem that needs to be solved.”

A fading dream

A cornerstone of the American dream is that any child, through hard work, has a chance to earn more than their parents, said Gregory Bruich, a lecturer and adviser in economics at Harvard University.

It’s a lot tougher for children to escape poverty today than it was in 1940 when 92% of children born that year went on to earn more than their

parents, Bruich said.

“You look at what’s happened over time, you can see that there’s been a dramatic fading of the American dream, such that for children born in the 1980s, and we’ve updated the series through 1990, it’s essentially turned into a 50-50 shot whether you’re gonna make more money than your parents,” Bruich said.

Bruich is a research principal at Opportunity Insights, a non-partisan research and policy institute based at Harvard University that uses “big data” to analyze the root causes of economic inequality and develop solutions to help families escape poverty.

Communities with lower poverty rates such as Chapel Hill produce better outcomes for children, Bruich said. Two-parent households also generally produce better outcomes,

he said.

“What’s interesting about that result is it looks like it’s something about the community as opposed to your own family,” Bruich said. “So, even if you look at kids who have two parents in a household, if they grow up in a neighborhood where it’s more single parents, their outcomes are worse, so it’s not so much about your own family.”

Communities that produce better outcomes for low-income children also have better schools and social capital, which Bruich said proves the African proverb that it takes a village to raise a child.

He said reducing segregation, making strategic investments in low-income neighborhoods and helping low-income families make better use of housing vouchers can also improve outcomes for low-income people.

Studies show that mixed-income neighborhoods that have become increasingly popular benefit low-income children more than their parents, who often do not see their incomes increase. A mixed-income community blends market-rate homes with dedicated affordable or subsidized units.

“It looks like this is a great program,” Bruich said. “It looks like incomes in these areas go up a huge amount, but it turns out that that’s mostly driven by those mixed income features of the development.”

Tax data and census data show that children who grew up in mixed-income communities have better economic outcomes than their parents, he said.

“This is looking at the average incomes for the kids who were living in these neighborhoods before the revitalization and then after the revitalization. You can see a tremendous impact,” Bruich said.

A United States Spying Law Expires Amid Distrust Of Trump

NC Newsline — For the first time in nearly two decades, Congress missed a deadline for reauthorization of a key surveillance authority, raising questions about whether the U.S. government can continue to monitor certain communications.

Lawmakers have regularly approved short- and long-term extensions for Section 702 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act since 2008, clearing the way for intelligence agencies to collect and analyze electronic communications from people living in other countries.

The government says it uses the program to secure information that can protect the United States or its citizens from attacks by foreign powers, terrorism, weapons of mass destruction, the trafficking of illegal drugs and other threats.

Intelligence agencies aren't supposed to target U.S. citizens but lawmakers across the political spectrum and civil liberties organizations have repeatedly raised grievances with how officials handle the information they get when an American is part of a targeted conversation.

Even though lawmakers let Section 702 lapse on June 12, the annual certification from the court that oversees the program should allow intelligence agencies to keep collecting data, experts say.

Kia Hamadanchy, senior policy counsel at the American Civil Liberties Union, said during an interview with States Newsroom that Congress included a safety net in a previous authorization that planned for this exact scenario.

"We feel pretty confident that there will be no immediate consequences," he said. "The way the statute is crafted, it basically says if there is an existing certification, you can continue Section 702 surveillance until that certification expires."

That won't happen until March



2027.

Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Chuck Grassley, R-Iowa, agreed with the assessment there are safeguards in place, but he contended members of Congress should not have taken the risk of letting that section of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act expire.

"There's a dangerous assumption that the program will function seamlessly if this statute expires on Friday," he said. "While I hope the certifications issued a few months ago will still apply in the event of the statute lapsing. This is not a certainty. There will be high-stakes litigation and a very real possibility that intelligence collection will cease at least temporarily. And in this work of intelligence gathering, minutes do matter."

Pulte announcement

Republicans and Democrats have worked for the past few months to broker consensus on another years-long reauthorization with overhauls. Those negotiations included significant debate about what the government should do when Americans are part of the conversations swept up by intelligence agencies.

But President Donald Trump's announcement that Bill Pulte would temporarily run the Office of the Director of National Intelligence

following Tulsi Gabbard's exit raised concerns on Capitol Hill and stopped negotiations.

Democrats said someone trustworthy must lead the ODNI even for a brief amount of time, while Republicans argued the two issues shouldn't be linked and that letting Section 702 lapse represents a national security risk.

Senate Select Committee on Intelligence Chairman Tom Cotton, R-Ark., said not extending the program for a few weeks while lawmakers work out their differences on a longer-term bill could have severe, even fatal, consequences.

"Well over half of every item in the president's daily brief is derived from Section 702," he said. "It has stopped terrorist attacks, it stopped the flow of deadly drugs into our country, it's protected our troops overseas, it's allowed us to rescue troops overseas."

Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., contended that having Pulte temporarily run the ODNI even though he has "zero relevant experience" would place "Americans in danger."

"We need real leadership in the intelligence community, not a national security novice sent to undermine the work of intelligence professionals," he said.

Schumer added that Pulte couldn't be expected "to speak truth to power, to conduct objective analysis, to resist efforts to politicize the intelligence community in a job where facts are so important, and the president knowing the real facts are so important."

Trump's choice of Jay Clayton as his official nominee for the role June 11 as both chambers of Congress ended their work week didn't ease concerns or clear the way for a short-term extension of Section 702.

"Pulte has to go. He cannot be in the DNI role," Schumer said. "Our national security is too important."

More problems

Pulte's short-term assignment, however, isn't the only roadblock to a long-term reauthorization.

Oregon Democratic Sen. Ron Wyden said substantial changes must be made and that "there just have been too many abuses of Americans' rights across multiple administrations" under the authorities provided by Section 702.

"Every day that 702 is in effect without reforms is a day that Americans' rights are under threat," he said. "I believe Americans deserve new guardrails. If Congress is going to extend these authorities, and that is what we're talking about, those guardrails are essential. And at a minimum, Americans deserve transparency about how these surveillance powers have been abused."

The House Freedom Caucus, a group of far-right Republicans led by Maryland Rep. Andy Harris, has also pressed for overhauls.

"Congress can, and should, continue seeking reforms to Section 702 without endangering national security," it posted on social media. "Necessary reforms – including warrant requirements for searching Americans' private communications, consistent with the Fourth Amendment – can also be passed

by Congress without endangering national security."

The Freedom Caucus added that it's "nonsense" for anyone to "claim that once Section 702 expires, lawsuits by communications and tech companies could suspend intelligence collection."

The Jury Duty Scam

The so-called "jury duty scam" periodically makes its rounds in North Carolina, especially around the holiday season. Elderly North Carolinians are often targeted and particularly vulnerable to this scam, but anyone can be duped by the clever perpetrators. Members of the public have reported being scammed out of thousands of dollars. In reality, per North Carolina statute the penalty for disobeying a jury summons is currently \$50.00 for each time a juror fails to appear.

How the Scam Works

The scam has evolved over the years, but the premise is usually the same. The caller will:

- Claim to be a judge or member of the court, local police, local sheriff's office, or a federal agency
- Often use the name of a real judge or officer obtained from a public source, and may even use a fake Caller ID of that office
- Often use details about you obtained from a public source
- Claim you have failed to appear for jury service or jury duty
- Claim you are in contempt of court or that a local or federal warrant has been issued for your arrest
- Claim that to avoid arrest and jail, you can pay a fine or bond typically requested in the form of a pre-paid debit or gift card, which makes it impossible to retrieve your money and difficult to track down the scammer
- Ask you to meet them at your local courthouse, police department, sheriff's office, or some other location
- Convince you to stay on the phone with them while you purchase pre-paid debit and / or gift cards and read the numbers back to them to confirm the purchase
- Ask you to confirm your identity by soliciting personal information, including your name, birth date, Social Security number, credit card number, and other personal or financial information

How to Protect Yourself

If you receive such a call, HANG UP without providing any information about yourself or taking any action. Trust your instincts. If the call does not feel right, hang up and do not engage the caller. You may be pressured into staying on the phone to purchase a money order, pre-paid debit card, or gift card, but you should resist and hang up. If asked to do so, please do not leave your home or place of work to meet the caller at any location, including your local courthouse or sheriff's office.

Report any suspicious calls (or emails) to your local Sheriff's Office. Victims may also report it to the N.C. Attorney General's Office or call 1-877-5-NO-SCAM. You can also report any scams and suspicious communications to the Federal Trade Commission (FTC).

You can confirm if you have been selected for jury service or failed to appear by contacting the clerk of superior court office in your county.



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The Push To Hold Plastics Producers Accountable In NC

NC HEALTH NEWS - In recent years, North Carolina environmentalists and researchers have raised more red flags about how much plastic debris is accumulating in the environment — in creeks and parks and on roadsides. This comes alongside awareness of how those plastics are increasingly showing up inside the human body.

Research reveals possible links between microplastics and hormone disruption, cancer and heart disease, and researchers studying plastic particle debris — some so tiny it can be inhaled and is invisible to the naked eye — are sounding a warning to single-use plastic producers and industry lobbyists who point to the absence of a definitive link between plastics and human health harms. The evidence, said Trisha Vaidyanathan, science director at Beyond Plastics, and other scientists at the forefront of plastic health research, is building.

“It’s important to remember that the absence of definitive proof or harm is not the same thing as proof of safety.”

Advocates have lobbied for legislation, published reports on the quantity, types and financial costs of plastic debris and its cleanup, and tracked growing federal awareness of the problem.

Federal officials took a concrete step forward in April, when the EPA released a draft contaminants list that designated microplastics as a priority contaminant group for the first time. This recognition could move plastic debris from scientific watchlist to active regulatory scrutiny, which could put drinking water standards on the horizon.

Researchers have identified 16,000 chemicals used in plastic production, at least 4,200 of which are considered highly hazardous to human health or the environment, according to the PlastChem Report, a peer-reviewed database published in 2024. Of those hazardous chemi-

icals, only 980 have been regulated globally — leaving more than 3,600 unregulated.

In North Carolina, local efforts to ban plastic bags or impose fees on them were dealt a decisive blow when a provision buried in the 2023-24 state budget — backed by the North Carolina Retail Merchants Association and passed by the General Assembly — stripped municipalities of the authority to regulate single-use plastic bags, cups and other packaging.

The moment reflects a broader reckoning over plastic waste: The science is hardening, federal regulators are paying closer attention and advocates are pressing for systemic change, even as legislation to hold producers accountable has repeatedly stalled at the General Assembly.

That’s, in part, what animated a summit on June 12 in Durham all about “circularity.” One goal: to explore the potential health harms posed by plastic waste, possible policy remedies and what a circular economy might look like in practice.

Closing the loop? Advocates of a circular economy seek to disrupt the “take, make, dispose” mindset, instead opting for an approach that designs products and packaging to be reused, repaired or recycled.

The framework extends beyond plastics to electronics, textiles and appliances, and it increasingly overlaps with the right to repair movement — a connection explored in an earlier session at the summit that examined consumers’ growing push to fix broken devices, mend older garments or transform them into something new rather than discard them.

For advocates thinking about plastic waste, circularity offers a framework for rethinking not just how plastics are managed at the end of their life, but how they are made in the first place.

One policy tool gaining traction



in that effort is extended producer responsibility. The idea is to shift the financial burden of waste management from municipalities and taxpayers onto the companies that created the packaging in the first place.

Durham City Councilman Matt Kopac, who advises companies and nonprofits on sustainability issues professionally, offered a plain-language explanation at the June 12 summit.

“It’s kind of making this invisible visible [by] assessing fees for materials and making producers pay by weight and by component,” Kopac said during his opening remarks at the third annual Circularity Summit, sponsored by Circular Triangle, a lo-

cal nonprofit. “That money paid by producers is then collected and used to reinvest into recycling systems to make it easier to collect and have those materials available for a next life.”

It’s not that far-fetched an idea. Many states now have some form of extended producer responsibility legislation on the books, including laws around plastic packaging.

Kopac added that extended producer responsibility also creates a financial incentive for companies to move away from using packaging materials that have poor health profiles or no viable end-of-life pathway. The approach, he noted, is already being applied to textiles and electronics.

In North Carolina, though, legislative solutions have not yet had success.

House Bill 882, titled “Break Free From Plastic and Forever Chemicals,” would establish an extended producer responsibility program for packaging materials, ban toxic substances including PFAS and phthalates from packaging, and prohibit intentionally added PFAS in food containers. Introduced in April 2025 by Rep. Pricey Harrison (D-Guilford), the bill was referred to the House Rules Committee, where it has stalled. An earlier version of the bill died in the same committee in 2023.

The last time North Carolina passed any legislation making producers liable for waste was with passage in 2007 of a bill regulating discarded computer equipment.

Where circularity gets complicated Taylor Price, global sustainability senior manager at AptarGroup and a member of Durham’s Environmental Affairs Board, offered a manufacturer’s perspective on what circularity looks like from inside a plastics company.

Aptar makes the kinds of plastic components that rarely get named in debates about plastic waste but are everywhere: lotion pumps, sports caps, lipstick packaging, asthma inhalers and more. With plastic making up roughly 95 percent of its raw materials, the company has a direct stake in how those plastics are de-

signed, used and recovered, she said.

“We are really thinking about plastic as our biggest raw material,” Price said, “and so we’re really thinking about designing our products to be just better — manufacturing them better.”

Price said Aptar began focusing on the circular economy around 2018, and that circularity is now one of the company’s three main sustainability pillars, which shapes everything from zero-waste manufacturing programs to partnerships aimed at designing products for recyclability and incorporating recycled content.

But she was candid about the complexity of the challenge. Price used the closure and valve on the Heinz ketchup bottle that sits upside down in your refrigerator as an example of the complexity of the problem. She noted that Aptar only makes the closure and valve. The bottle comes from another supplier. The label from another. The tomatoes, sugar and salt from still others.

“I think a lot of people don’t realize how many partners go into making one package,” she said. Moving an entire supply chain toward circularity, she noted, requires manufacturers to collaborate sometimes with direct competitors.

“We really have to partner together, almost work with our peers and work with our competitors, so to speak, to really make that system more useful, to build a better system.”

CASA NC Wellness Day Connects Raleigh Residents To Housing, Healthcare and Community Support



By Torrie Walker

Her Campus, Howard University

RALEIGH, N.C. — For many residents, finding affordable housing, health-care or mental health support can feel overwhelming. At CASA NC’s Annual Community Wellness Day on June 12, community organizations came together to make those resources easier to access.

Held at CASA NC’s Sun Hill location in Raleigh, the event connected residents with housing information, health screenings, behavioral health services and community resources all in one place.

“This is our third year of hosting a Community Wellness Fair,” said Joyce Hicklen, who has worked with CASA NC for 22 years. “Not only do we provide supportive housing for individuals who have disabilities, who may have experienced homelessness, who may have been incarcerated, but we also have a program called BHIT, the Behavioral Health Intervention Team.”

Through its Behavioral Health Intervention Team, CASA helps residents navigate challenges that extend beyond housing, including access to health-care, food assistance and other support services.

“We found within the last few years that there’s just not enough case managers and there’s not enough social workers to serve every human being,” Hicklen said.

Organizations from across the region participated in the event, offering information on healthcare, behavioral health services, veterans resources and affordable housing opportunities.

Among them was Southeastern Healthcare, which provides integrated community-based care for seniors, adults with disabilities and underserved populations throughout North Carolina.

“We offer services focused on community health, senior adult services and behavioral health services,” said Selena Uribe, a representative with Southeastern Healthcare.

Southeastern Healthcare provides certified peer support services, psycho-social rehabilitation, individual and group therapy, adult day health programs and other community-based services designed to connect residents with care and support.

“We connect underserved communities and populations to needed resources within Wake County,” Uribe said.

The organization also educates residents about health screenings, senior services and wellness programs while encouraging healthy lifestyles and preventive care.

Housing remained one of the event’s central focuses. CASA NC offers affordable housing opportunities across Wake, Durham and Orange counties for individuals experiencing homelessness, people with disabilities, veterans and young adults aging out of foster care.

Through partnerships with local agencies and referral organizations, CASA NC helps connect some of the region’s most vulnerable residents with stable housing opportunities.

“We work with people that are homeless, disabled, veterans and foster kids that are aging out,” said Tara Pouncey, senior director of operations at CASA NC.

According to Pouncey, CASA NC partners with organizations including the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, SouthLight, Alliance Health and local housing authorities to connect residents with housing opportunities.

Residents generally pay approximately 30% of their income toward housing costs, helping make housing accessible for individuals living on fixed incomes or disability benefits.

Housing specialists are available to assist applicants throughout the process, helping them locate required documents and complete applications when needed.

“We made the application process very smooth and very easy,” Pouncey said.

Throughout the event, attendees visited resource tables, spoke with service providers and collected information about programs available in the community. Organizers said the goal was to ensure residents know where to turn when they need assistance with housing, healthcare or behavioral health services.

As affordable housing, healthcare and behavioral health needs continue to grow across Wake County, organizers said events like Community Wellness Day are about ensuring residents have somewhere to turn for support.

“What we do is we come in and bridge the gap,” Hicklen said.

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Arts & Culture

Forgotten No More: Remembering Hattie Wooten Lewis, A Pioneer Who Provided Safety For Weary Black Travelers

By Torrie Walker
Her Campus, Howard University

The building is gone. The guests who once filled its rooms are long gone. Even the name of the woman who built one of Raleigh's most important Black-owned hotels has largely faded from public memory. But nearly a century ago, Hattie Wooten Lewis opened the doors of the Lewis Hotel, creating a refuge for Black travelers navigating the hardships of segregation and leaving behind a legacy that deserves to be remembered.

Nearly 80 years after her death, much of Hattie Wooten Lewis's story has slipped from the historical record. Yet through the memories and family documents preserved by her great-niece, Janette Hodge, Lewis's contributions as a pioneering Black businesswoman continue to survive.

"A lot of people, even in the Raleigh community, do not know about their contributions," Hodge said.

The Lewis Hotel, located at 218–220 E. Cabarrus Street, was built in 1919 by Needham Lewis and his wife, Hattie Wooten Lewis. At a time when Black Americans were systematically excluded from white-owned hotels and boarding houses, the couple recognized a pressing need and an-

swered it. The hotel became one of only two establishments in Raleigh listed in the Negro Motorist Green Book, the essential travel guide that helped Black Americans navigate a country that too often refused to serve them. As a result, the Lewis Hotel became not just a local institution, but a recognized safe haven throughout the region.

"She built the hotel for travelers that were coming through," Hodge said. "They would have a safe place to live. So it was like a safe haven."

Hattie Lewis was also an alumna of Shaw University, the historic Black university located just blocks away, and her connection to the school shaped the hotel's identity from the very beginning. She made it a point to open her doors to Shaw students, offering them a proper place to live, eat and feel at home during their time away from their families.

In this way, the Lewis Hotel was never just a business. It was an act of community investment.

But the hotel's reach extended well beyond the campus. Its guest list read like a who's who of Black American music and entertainment. Among those who passed through its doors were Sam Cooke, Nat King Cole,

Erskine Hawkins, Fats Waller, Louis Armstrong, Ella Fitzgerald and band members associated with both Cab Calloway and Duke Ellington. During an era when segregation limited where Black performers could stay, the Lewis Hotel offered a welcoming place to rest between shows.

"It was a time in history when we as African Americans could not stay at white institutions and establishments, so we had to do things on our own," Hodge said.

For Black performers touring the South, finding safe and welcoming accommodations was never guaranteed. The Lewis Hotel, and later the DeLuxe Hotel, was exactly the kind of anchor they could count on.

When Hattie Wooten Lewis died in 1945, she passed the hotel to her nieces, who had originally come to Raleigh to attend Shaw University and had made it their home. Beadie Lucille Griswold Paige, who inherited primary stewardship of the property, carried the legacy forward under a new name: the DeLuxe Hotel.

Under her leadership, the hotel gained broader recognition, becoming a member of the Nationwide Hotel Association, connecting it to a broader network of Black-owned establishments across the country. As

desegregation opened new opportunities for travelers and entertainers, the DeLuxe Hotel eventually transitioned into a boarding house while continuing to serve the community.

The building that housed so much of that history is no longer standing. In 1992, it was destroyed by fire, taking with it the last physical remnant of what Hattie Wooten Lewis had built.

Still, Hodge believes the story deserves to be told.

She describes her great-aunt as "a trailblazer" who was "way ahead of her time."

As Raleigh continues to grow and change, Hodge hopes future generations will learn about the sacrifices and accomplishments of people like Lewis, whose contributions helped shape the city long before many of its current landmarks existed.

"So that younger generations will know," Hodge said. "A lot of people do not know about the many sacrifices that people made to make life better for the younger generation."

Reflecting on both Hattie Wooten Lewis and her mother, Beadie Lucille Griswold Paige, Hodge offered one final thought.

"They just don't make people like that anymore."



Harnett County Trailblazer Awards Honors Local Leaders

By Jheri Hardaway
Staff Writer

Lillington, NC – The 2nd Annual Harnett County Trailblazer Awards, presented by the Harnett County African American Heritage Center (NCAAHC) on June 19th, was a spirit-filled celebration of community success and endurance. Hosted at the Harnett County Resource Center, the event served as a profound tribute to those who have paved the way for future generations. The organization's goal continues to be, "celebrate your name, your sacrifice, your work, your flame. For Harnett County proudly stands today, because you helped lead the way".

This year's ceremony honored a diverse group of leaders and institutions whose contributions span local government, faith, education, and business. Honorees included April Gaudlen, the City of Dunn's first female Mayor Pro Tem; Vocalist and Choral Director Roy Lee Harris; Rev-



erend Floyd W. Wicker Jr.; and the Lillington First Baptist Church. Also recognized for their dedication were Melanie Steward, lovingly known as Mama Moses; the Shawtown



Alumni Association; and educator and community leader Linda Sturdivant. The list of distinguished recipients further included David Earl & Annette McAllister, author Jimmy



Ragland, Murchison Chapel Ame Zion Church, church leader Effie B. Woodard, Deborah's Catering, and Walker Funeral Home and Cremation. All honorees were present and



excited, which made each moment even more special.

The evening featured powerful remarks by visionary founder Desi L. Campbell and Board of Directors

co-chairs Carlene White and Denise Thurman. Their messages informed and inspired the lively crowd, emphasizing the rich history, heritage, and inherent greatness of Harnett County. This second annual gala builds upon the legacy established by the inaugural "In Their Footsteps Legacy Project" held in June 2025, which honored figures such as Tony Spears and the Harnett County NAACP, and centenarian Beatrice Bailey-Hill.

The Harnett County African American Heritage Center continues to serve as a vital resource for genealogical research and community empowerment. By fostering a deeper understanding of ancestral roots and cultural identity, the NCAAHC enables individuals and families within the African American community to celebrate and connect with their rich heritage. For more insight and to stay in the know about upcoming events, please visit AfricanAmericanExperience.org.



On last Wednesday evening award-winning journalist, professor, and author Nicole Carr visited Quail Ridge Books in Raleigh for an interview with ABC11's Joel Brown about her new book, *The Price of Exclusion*. The interview took place before a packed audience, with Carr sharing insights on the book's examination of inequality, opportunity, and the impact of exclusion on communities. Following the discussion, she met with attendees and signed copies of her book.



"Fire of Freedom" Brings Abraham Galloway's Fight for Equality to Life

By Judaea Ingram
Special To The Carolinian

WAKE FOREST, N.C. — More than a century after Abraham Galloway fought for freedom, citizenship and equality, his story returned to the stage through a powerful one-man performance highlighting the life and legacy of one of North Carolina's most influential figures.

On Friday, June 19, the Alston-Massenburg Center hosted "Fire of Freedom," a theatrical performance that explored the life of Galloway, an enslaved man who escaped to freedom before becoming a Union spy, abolitionist and political leader during the Civil War.

The performance, which took place from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., used storytelling and historical interpretation to introduce audiences to Galloway's journey and the risks he took while fighting for freedom and equal rights.

Actor Mike Wiley brought multiple voices to life during the production, portraying different perspectives connected to Galloway's story. With minimal set design and a focus on performance, Wiley guided audi-

ences through the challenges Galloway faced as he worked to challenge slavery and advocate for the rights of formerly enslaved people.

Galloway's story began during a time when enslaved African Americans were denied basic freedoms and opportunities. After escaping slavery, he became involved in efforts to support the Union during the Civil War, using his intelligence and courage as a spy.

His work extended beyond the battlefield. Following the Civil War, Galloway became involved in politics and pushed for citizenship, voting rights and equal treatment for Black Americans during Reconstruction. "Fire of Freedom" highlighted those different chapters of his life, showing audiences that Galloway's fight did not end once he reached freedom. Instead, his mission expanded into a lifelong commitment to creating a more equal society.

The production used theater as a way to preserve history and make the past feel immediate. Rather than presenting Galloway only as a historical figure, Wiley's performance showed him as a person who faced difficult choices, uncertainty and



danger while fighting for a future he believed in.

The timing of the performance also added significance, taking place on Juneteenth, a holiday that commemorates the end of slavery in the United States and celebrates freedom, resilience and Black history.

For many communities, Juneteenth has become an opportunity not only to celebrate but also to reflect on the stories of those who fought for freedom before them. Galloway's life represents that struggle, showing how formerly enslaved people became leaders in the fight for justice after emancipation.

Through "Fire of Freedom," audiences were given a chance to learn about a North Carolina figure whose contributions have often received less attention than other Civil War-era leaders.

The performance demonstrated how historical storytelling can connect generations, using art as a tool to educate, preserve memory and encourage conversations about freedom and equality.

Abraham Galloway's legacy continues to serve as a reminder that freedom was not simply granted, but fought for by individuals willing to risk everything. His story reflects the courage, leadership and determination that shaped the history of Black Americans in North Carolina and across the nation.

By bringing Galloway's journey to the stage, "Fire of Freedom"

Honoring Thomas Day, An Innovative & Influential Craftsman

By Jordan Meadows
Staff Writer

A Juneteenth celebration at the North Carolina Museum of Art on Friday highlighted the life and legacy of Thomas Day, a free Black cabinet-maker whose artistry shaped architectural style across North Carolina in the decades before the Civil War.

Attendees gathered to learn of Day's contributions not only as an artisan, but as a businessman, community figure, and symbol of Black achievement in the antebellum South. Born in 1801 to free parents in Virginia, Day would go on to become one of the most prominent cabinetmakers in North Carolina.

By the 1820s, he had settled in Milton, a small town in Caswell County, where he established a cabinet shop that would grow into one of the largest and most respected in the state. His work blended classical

European styles — particularly Greek Revival and Empire — with flowing forms that became uniquely associated with his workshop.

Day's business served an elite clientele, including political leaders and wealthy planters seeking to display status through finely crafted interiors. He produced not only furniture, but also architectural elements such as staircases, mantels, window frames, and intricate interior woodwork. Today, his craftsmanship is still visible in roughly 80 homes across North Carolina and Virginia.

At a time when most African Americans were enslaved, and free Black individuals faced severe legal and social restrictions, Day owned property, operated a thriving business, and even trained white apprentices. He became a major stockholder in a local bank and acquired multiple properties in and around Milton, including his residence and



workshop in the historic Union Tavern building.

In 1830, after marrying Aquilla Wilson in Virginia, Day had to petition the North Carolina General Assembly to allow his wife to legally

enter the state due to laws restricting the movement of free Black people. The petition, supported by dozens of white citizens, described Day as an industrious and respected member of the community.



A Signature Thomas Day Style

Day contributed to the interiors of public and institutional buildings, including work associated with the University of North Carolina during the 1840s. He also crafted furnishings for churches in Milton, including the Presbyterian Church, where

he and his family worshiped. Despite decades of success, Day's business faced financial hardship in the late 1850s amid a national economic downturn and the persistent limitations placed on free Black entrepreneurs.

Though he managed to recover with the help of his business partner Dabney Terry, Day disappeared from public records around 1861 and is believed to have died that year.

Scholars and historians have come to recognize Day as one of the foundational figures in North Carolina's furniture-making tradition. His work has been featured in major exhibitions, and he was posthumously inducted into the American Home Furnishings Hall of Fame in 2024.

At the Juneteenth event, speakers and organizers emphasized how Day's story proved both the possibilities and constraints of Black life in early America.

Community

BLACKOUT Author Showcase Celebrates Black Stories and Representation at NC’s First Black-Owned Bookstore

By Judaea Ingram
Special To The Carolinian

RALEIGH, N.C. — Books became a bridge between generations Saturday as Liberation Station Bookstore hosted the BLACKOUT Author Showcase, bringing together Black authors, young readers and families for a celebration of storytelling, culture and representation.

The free event took place June 20 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Liberation Station Bookstore, located at 430 Hill St. The bookstore, recognized as North Carolina’s first Black-owned bookstore, provided the backdrop for a day centered on Black literature, creativity and community connection.

The showcase brought together Black authors from across the region while creating a space for readers to discover stories centered on Black experiences. Families browsed books, met authors and connected with creators who are working to expand representation in children’s literature.

One featured organization at the event was Legend’s Library, which officially debuted during the BLACKOUT Author Showcase. The brand focuses on introducing young readers and families to Black children’s literature through books, apparel and community programming.

Throughout the event, children

and their parents gathered to support the launch, browsing books and purchasing copies while smiling and engaging with the creators behind the stories. The excitement from families reflected the importance of having spaces where young readers

can connect with books that represent their identities and experiences. Legend’s Library was created to highlight real authors, real stories and real culture while encouraging children and families to build a deeper connection with reading.

“Every child deserves a library that looks like them,” said Tiyya Dunn, creator of Legend’s Library.

Dunn said the brand was created because representation in children’s literature is essential to helping young people see themselves reflected in the

stories they read.

“We built this brand because representation in children’s literature isn’t just important, it’s essential,” Dunn said. “This launch is the beginning of something much bigger than a book. We’re building a movement around Black stories, Black authors and the next generation of readers.”

The BLACKOUT Author Showcase featured opportunities for attendees to explore books by Black authors, meet writers and learn more about the creative process behind the stories they share.

For young readers, events like the showcase provide opportunities to encounter characters, families and experiences that reflect their own lives. For authors, these spaces create direct connections with the communities they hope to reach.

Liberation Station Bookstore has become more than a place to purchase books. As a Black-owned literary space, it serves as a gathering place where conversations about culture, history and identity can happen while providing a platform for Black writers and creators.

The event also emphasized the importance of supporting Black

authors and independent literary spaces. Bookstores and community organizations play a role in preserving stories, encouraging literacy and making sure diverse voices are included in conversations about publishing.

The showcase reflected a larger conversation about the role of representation in education and storytelling. When children see diverse characters and perspectives in books, it can help strengthen confidence, curiosity and a deeper connection to reading.

Beyond the pages of a book, the BLACKOUT Author Showcase represented a celebration of community. Families, authors and readers came together around a shared belief that Black stories deserve to be preserved, published and passed on to future generations.

As more creators continue developing books that center Black experiences, events like the BLACKOUT Author Showcase demonstrate the impact of creating spaces where those stories can be celebrated.

For attendees, the day was not only about discovering new books. It was about building a stronger connection between readers and the stories that represent them.



Raleigh Alumni Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Receives \$10,000 Community Service Grant



Wake County Launches Reentry Pilot As Homelessness Slightly Declines

By Jordan Meadows
Staff Writer

A recent report in Wake County showed that more than 1,000 people were experiencing homelessness in early 2026.

Newly released 2026 Point-in-Time Count data identified 1,050 people experiencing homelessness across Wake County, including 307 individuals living unsheltered and 743 staying in shelters or transitional housing; slightly lower than the 1,127 counted in 2025. The annual count, required by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, was conducted Jan. 22 during a White Flag weather alert, when dangerously cold temperatures prompted expanded emergency shelter efforts.

“Behind every number is a person, a story, and often a crisis that pushes someone into homelessness,” said Commissioner Cheryl Stallings. “Living outside or in unstable conditions is not safe or sustainable for anyone. The Point-in-Time Count helps us better understand the needs in our community and work towards solutions.”

In early June, a long-standing encampment near Exit 290 off Interstate 40 was cleared by the N.C. Department of Transportation after eviction notices were posted. Residents, including an Army veteran who had lived at the site for more than a decade, were forced to relocate.

Part of Wake County’s response is the Cornerstone Center in Raleigh, which operates a specialized bridge housing program designed to stabilize chronically homeless individuals with significant physical and mental health needs. The facility includes 20 furnished units and serves as the “front door” to perma-



programming that can reach up to 40 hours per week, combining job readiness training with supportive services aimed at helping individuals rebuild routines and transition into the workforce.

The county has partnered with organizations, including Capital Area Workforce Development, Wake Tech, Goodwill and StepUp Ministries to expand opportunities.

Vice Chair Safiyah Jackson praised the program’s focus on second chances and economic mobility:

“It’s wonderful when we can expand our opportunities for second chances, and we know how critical housing is to that,” Jackson said.

Jackson also encouraged deeper collaboration with local nonprofits, asking whether officials had explored partnerships with organizations like Passage Home that offer self-sufficiency programs.

Commissioner Susan Evans echoed support for the initiative: “One of the most important [pieces] that we sometimes don’t talk about is improving upward mobility,” Evans said. “Giving them opportunities is going to be a huge part of them being able to be stable once we get them into housing.”

Beyond employment, the program is structured around what Flynn described as “social drivers of health,” a broader framework that includes access to education, healthcare, community support, and economic stability.

Officials reported early progress from the pilot, which began in March and currently serves eight participants. Cornerstone has already seen individuals transition successfully into permanent housing, with some residents stabilizing medically, reconnecting with family or securing employment in a matter of weeks.

nent supportive housing, offering short-term stays alongside intensive services such as case management, vocational counseling, peer support, and assistance in securing long-term housing vouchers.

During a Wake County Affordable Housing Committee meeting on Monday morning, officials highlighted Cornerstone’s role within a broader system of care and outlined a new pilot program focused on individuals with recent involvement in the criminal justice system.

“HUD is showing that they’re really leaning into the transitional housing model, which Cornerstone’s been doing well for decades,” Erin Flynn, Wake County Continuum of Care (CoC).

The program specifically targets individuals who meet the definition of chronic homelessness — those who have been homeless for at least a year or repeatedly over several years — while also living with disabling health or behavioral conditions.

Flynn said the county is now shifting additional attention toward people reentering the community after incarceration, a group she described as often overlooked.

“We want to look for a population that’s kind of slipping through the cracks a little bit with folks who have been justice involved,” Flynn said. “We’re going to prioritize to match Wake County’s strategic goal of the reentry population.”

Under the pilot, participants must meet traditional homelessness criteria while also having recent involvement in the criminal legal system. She defined that group as individuals “currently or have been involved in the last 24 months engaged with the criminal legal system,” adding that “this is a population that we believe that their incarceration or justice involvement has maybe been hindering that” path to stable housing.

The initiative also introduces a stronger emphasis on employment as a pathway to long-term stability. Participants receive structured

Houston Texans' Brandon Codrington Returns Home to Inspire Young Athletes

By Judaea Ingram
Special To The Carolinian

RALEIGH, N.C. — Hundreds of young athletes filled the fields at Broughton High School on June 20, eager to sharpen their football skills under the guidance of someone who once stood exactly where they are today.

Houston Texans defensive back Brandon Codrington returned to his former high school to host his second annual Free Youth Football Camp, providing local youth with an opportunity to learn the fundamentals of the game while receiving mentorship from a player who turned perseverance into a professional football career.

Held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., the camp welcomed children of various ages for a day of drills, competition and instruction. Alongside fellow coaches and volunteers, Codrington worked directly with participants, teaching techniques and valuable lessons that extended beyond the football field.

Throughout the camp, young athletes rotated through stations



designed to improve speed, agility and football fundamentals. Cones were arranged across the field for footwork drills, while coaches led one-on-one instruction and group training sessions. Participants

remained engaged throughout the day, enthusiastically embracing every challenge and opportunity to improve.

The camp atmosphere balanced hard work and fun. Young athletes

pushed themselves through drills and competitions before gathering for pizza provided by camp organizers. At the conclusion of the event, participants were recognized for their efforts with mini trophies celebrating their achievements.

Among the awards presented was “The Best Energy Award,” recognizing athletes who consistently brought enthusiasm and positivity throughout the day. The recognition highlighted one of the camp’s core messages: effort and attitude matter just as much as talent.

For many parents in attendance, the camp represented more than an opportunity for football instruction. It was a chance for their children to learn from someone who overcame obstacles and achieved success through dedication and perseverance.

Codrington’s story serves as an example of what can be accomplished through hard work and belief in oneself.

A graduate of Broughton High School, Codrington’s path to pro-

(See **YOUNG ATHLETES**, P. 12)



Black America Is Already In A Recession

Even worse, the Black recession isn't driven natural market cycles alone. It is the predictable outcome of the deliberate policy choices of the Trump administration — choices that have aggressively dismantled the very protections meant to advance equity

At the same time, the administration has abandoned federal support for disadvantaged businesses. Critical institutions—among them the Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI) Fund and the Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA)—have been targeted for defunding or dismantling altogether. These programs have been lifelines, offering capital and technical assistance to Black entrepreneurs who

Even before the latest dismal jobs report, the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies had already declared 2025 “a regression and recession” for Black Americans. In its State of the Dream 2026 report, the authors wrote, “Instead of aggressive leadership in dismantling structures of racial inequality, we are witnessing regressive leadership that is slashing

Policy experts often refer to Black Americans as the “canary in the coal mine” — the first to feel the impact of economic stress. If that analogy holds, the warning is clear: a broader national recession is not far behind. But acknowledging that Black America is already in recession is not merely a prediction about the future; it is a call to confront what is unfolding in the present. The question now is whether policymakers will heed that warning — or continue to ignore the communities already bearing the brunt of the nation’s economic retreat.



The 39th Annual HBCU Scholarship Banquet celebrated academic achievement, leadership, and the legacy of Historically Black Colleges and Universities while raising funds to support student scholarships. The event brought together community leaders, educators, alumni, students, and supporters to recognize outstanding scholars and reinforce the importance of access to higher education.

The 2026 Fatherhood Cont.



**STANDING ON THE
PROMISES OF GOD IN A
KNOCKED-DOWN POSITION**
Sermon By: Bishop-Elect Wil-
liam “Billy” Eli Ratcliff

There were complaints about widows being overlooked in the food distribution ministry. [Not ours across the street] But, the

About that time, an old high school buddy (that he hadn't seen

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



The 2026 Fatherhood Conference in Raleigh, brought together fathers, families, community leaders, educators, health professionals, and advocates to celebrate the vital role of fathers in strengthening families and communities. The conference featured engaging keynote speakers, panel discussions, and workshops focused on responsible fatherhood, parenting skills, mental health, economic mobility, co-parenting, and family engagement.

Father of the Year: Dr. Terrance Ruth



Practical Biblical Principles

had made a good or best choice about something, but it didn't turn out that way. Today some people would be "hard pressed" to answer, so to speak, if they were asked, "What has been the greatest choice you've ever made in your life up until now?" Before attempting to answer the question, many would initially reflect upon their marriages, having children, choosing a job, moving to a different location, divorce and other critical events of their life before giving an answer.

Life's greatest choice has to do with God and your commitment to Him. Today, the servant, Joshua, places this issue of "greatest choice" squarely in our faces, so to speak, when he says, "...choose you

Fourth, it is logical choice. When you consider all that the Lord has done for you; when you consider all of the trials, out of which He has brought you through, it is logical that you would choose to serve Him. Joshua said of himself, “As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.” What’s your choice? (Joshua 24:15).



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The advertisement features a dark background. At the top, there are two black and white portraits of men in suits and ties, flanking a central logo. The logo consists of a stylized dome or arch structure above the word "Haywood" in a large, elegant script font, with "FUNERAL HOME, INC." in a smaller, sans-serif font below it. Below the portraits and logo, a white horizontal line separates the header from the main text. The main text, "Our family serving your family for 110 years", is written in a large, white, serif font. At the bottom, there is a dark horizontal band containing the website address, physical address, and phone number in white text.

Editorials

Editorial Policy

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

NORTH CAROLINA HOME BUILDERS ASSOCIATION: BUILDING HOUSES AND BUYING POLITICIANS ACROSS THE STATE

By Jheri Hardaway

Developer contributions to the North Carolina General Assembly have resulted in policies that have depleted the local government’s ability to tax developers. The results are in, developers and politicians win, while tax-paying citizens hold the bag. When analyzing this Board of Elections data against the political promises of "representing the people," a stark contradiction emerges: by taking builder money and voting down impact fees (one-time charges on developers to pay for the infrastructure required by new housing growth), these elected officials are directly forcing local counties to raise property taxes on everyday citizens to cover the costs. Impact fees are needed now more than ever. An analysis of how this money shapes tax policy and shifts the financial burden of growth onto local communities highlights several key takeaways.

Many of the top recipients on this list campaign heavily on platforms of fiscal conservatism and keeping taxes low. However, their legislative actions on development fees do the exact opposite for local taxpayers. Understand that when a new subdivision is built, it creates an immediate need for expanded infrastructure, new schools, wider roads, expanded water and sewer lines, and extra emergency services. If a county cannot charge an impact fee to the developer to offset these costs, the money must come from somewhere else. The only baseline funding mechanism left for counties is the local property tax. We are living the result. Elected officials protect developer profit margins at the state level, while local county commissioners are forced to hike property taxes or issue public debt to pay for the infrastructure the new residents require.

The NCHBA is strategic; they heavily fund the exact positions capable of killing local impact fee legislation before it can even be voted on. The top three gatekeeping recipients are Sen. Bill Rabon (\$47,800), Sen. Phil Berger (\$42,600), and Rep. Destin Hall (\$34,300). These legislatures hold absolute control over the legislative calendar and committee assignments. If a fast-growing county, for example, Harnett, asks the General Assembly for local authority to implement impact fees, these leaders can ensure the bill dies quietly in committee without a floor vote. This year, during the Harnett County Legislative Luncheon, when a county commissioner asked Rep. Howard Penny about impact fees, he emphasized there was no point in bringing it to the floor.

Rep. Julia Howard (\$12,800) serves as Finance Senior Chair and Chair of the House Select Committee on Property Tax Reduction and Reform) directly influencing property tax policy and development incentives. Meanwhile, figures like Rep. Jeff Zenger (\$12,300) are members of the House Select Committee on Property Tax Reduction and Reform and Chair of Housing and Development. Their explicitly stated reasons for receiving funds center on "streamlining permitting" and reducing builder "red tape," which often translates to stripping local governments of the power to charge developers for infrastructure.

These actions leave the people of North Carolina, particularly in fast-growing areas, with rapidly increasing property taxes and unsustainable infrastructure struggles. The data demonstrates a distinct trend of investing heavily in politicians representing the state's explosive growth corridor. Because state lawmakers have systematically restricted or voted down local impact fee authority, these exact counties are suffering from overcrowded schools and severe traffic congestion. The builders pocket the profits from the rapid expansion, while long-term residents see their quality of life decline or their tax bills rise to subsidize that growth. Lawmakers can claim they are "pro-business" and against "new fees," but by depriving county leaders of the ability to charge impact fees, they are ensuring that existing homeowners finance the corporate growth. The money tracked in the North Carolina State Board of Election Campaign Finance database of transactions that committees have received shows exactly who is being paid to keep that system in place. So what’s next? If you’ve been following politics long enough, you know the likely next strategy is to hide this publicly available information. Que the election suppression and relaxed campaign finance requirements.



“There’s your problem. See that tiny little rivet? We should replace everything in your car except that.”



WE DON'T CALL IT IMMIGRATION

Like most of us, over the years I have had friends whose family immigrated from various places. Most of my friends were born in America or arrived as very young children. Some were offsprings of foreign students who came and never left. Each has a story particular to their familial culture of shared residences with family members who acted as “sponsors,” providing shelter, acting as interpreters of both language and environment, and assimilation coaches. I have heard more often than I like to admit conversations amongst African Americans shaded with disdain and rooted in envy of how “they” come to America barely speaking English and are able to start businesses financed through banks that routinely deny Black Americans.

Having grown up on Chicago’s largely black South Side, I did not think of the many ethnic neighborhoods that made up the city as segregation. Instead, it was like traveling without leaving home. The streets that ran from the “neutral zone” of The Loop (downtown) south out of the city into the suburbs linked neighborhoods of merchants, restaurants, churches, schools. Weekends saw diverse crowds spending money, enjoying the culture like tourists. Although different, these communities shared the immigrant experience unlike the African American community.

Undeniable fact: our ancestors did not immigrate to America – they were kidnapped, trafficked, and forced into a system designed to erase their names, their languages, their families, and their futures. We are not the children of immigrants. We are the descendants of people who survived the largest human trafficking operation in history.

The immigrant story is built on choice, memory, and continuity. Our story is built on forced displacement, cultural erasure, family rupture, and reconstruction of identity to enforce submission and control. While immigrants negotiated assimilation, we negotiated survival.

America’s relationship with African people began with ownership, not welcome. After emancipation, it shifted to control, not inclusion. The relationship shifted from owning Black bodies to controlling Black futures. Meanwhile, immigrants – though often mistreated – were ultimately placed on a path toward belonging. That path narrowed sharply after 2017.

In the late 19th – early 20th century European immigrants (Irish, Italian, Jewish, Eastern European) were initially seen as “undesirable,” but they were still seen as potential Americans. They arrived with culture intact – language, religion, food, rituals. They formed ethnic enclaves (communities) that preserved identity while building political power. Over the years their assimilation efforts were rewarded, and many were absorbed into the category of “white.”

The 1965 Immigration and Nationality Act opened the door to immigrants from Asia, Africa, Latin America, and the Caribbean. These groups faced racism but they entered a society where citizenship was possible and where their children could claim an American identity without erasing their heritage. Immigrants were often mistreated – but they were invited, processed, and eventually accepted. African American were never invited and never given a clean path to belonging.

In 2017, all that “Kumbala” posture toward immigrants shifted sharply. Suddenly there were travel bans targeting specific national and religious groups. Family separations at America’s borders shocked the world. Asylum restrictions tightened dramatically. Because of the enhanced access to communication, hate rhetoric that framed immigrants as threats rather than contributors. Public sentiment became more polarized, and refugee admissions dropped to historic lows. For the first time in generations, America’s traditional idea of the U.S. as a place of welcome (from the base of the Statute of Liberty, Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to be free...Blah, Blah, Blah), was openly challenged at the federal level.

This shift did not make immigrants’ experience identical to that of African Americans, but it did expose to the world how conditional America’s welcome as always been. Welcome to our world.

Other Viewpoints

THE MOU IS JUST AWFUL
By Ian Haworth

Last week, my column dealt with President Donald Trump's declaration that the "Deal with the Islamic Republic of Iran is now complete" — it isn't — and the release of the White House's "Talking Points" related to the already infamous "Memorandum of Understanding" that has been signed and is now being sold (unconvincingly) by Vice President JD Vance who has suddenly reappeared on the scene.

And as we expected, the MOU — which was supposedly so amazing that the Trump administration refused to publish it until after it was signed — is just awful, demonstrating in 14 vomit-inducing points why Donald Trump has essentially lost the war that he started. All of it is built on the insane assumption that any agreement with the Iranian regime is worth more than the paper it's printed on. It is also fattened up by the inclusion of an awful lot of promises regarding the respect of sovereignty, the refraining of interfering in each other's internal affairs, and commitments to future negotiations. This also basically amounts to nothing.

But the MOU does involve some immediate actions. Unfortunately, every single one of them benefits Iran and Iran alone.

The first point delivers the "immediate and permanent termination of military operations on all fronts, including in Lebanon," with a final deal "confirm(ing) the permanent termination of the war on all fronts, including in Lebanon." Not only is it beyond bizarre to start a war and then beg Iran to agree to its end, but the fact that two combatants in the ongoing war in Lebanon (Israel and Iran's proxy, Hezbollah) were not invited to

sign this MOU, let alone engage in its preceding negotiations, is hugely telling.

The fourth point rewards Iran for its predictable closure of the Strait of Hormuz, with the U.S. "begin(ning) the removal of its naval blockade and any disturbances or impediments against" Iran... "immediately." And that's before we consider the promise to "fully" end the naval blockade within 30 days, and to remove U.S. forces from the region after the final deal — a final deal that Trump will no doubt be absolutely desperate to achieve.

The fifth point is another empty promise, this time for Iran to use its "best efforts" to the guarantee the safe passage of commercial vessels, and acts as the opposite of a palate cleanser to prepare us for the sixth point: the development of a \$300 billion-plus plan "for the reconstruction and economic development" of Iran. But don't worry! Vance has informed us that this money will go to buying American crops, or something.

Point seven is equally horrific, with the U.S. looking to "terminate all types of sanctions" leveled against Iran as "part of the final deal," with both Iran and the U.S. "acknowledging the critical importance of the sanctions termination issue." Iran thinks it's important to remove sanctions against them? No way!

Point eight is comedy gold — Iran's promise not to "procure or develop nuclear weapons" — while point nine promises the maintenance of the "status quo" of Iran's nuclear program. The status quo is that Iran will keep developing nuclear weapons, Iran will keep lying to us about developing nuclear weapons, and we will keep believing them.

As if promises of billions of dollars weren't enough, point 10 outlines another "immediate" undertaking: the issuing of waivers for Iran to resume the export of oil. Then, point 11 involves the unfreezing of Iranian funds and assets "upon the implementation of this MOU."

The remaining three points are mere administrative notes regarding the monitoring of the MOU and the nature of a future deal.

This, ladies in gentlemen, is what the author of the "The Art of the Deal" managed to deliver after voluntarily launching this war in the first place. That is until a secret 15th point is uncovered, in which Trump promises to give Iran a free gym membership, a basket of mini muffins and one of his kidneys.



I LOVE BARACK OBAMA

I hope you were able to see it through the opening of the Obama Center in Chicago last week. If you did not, try to find it on YouTube. It was a remarkable contrast to the Flag Day celebration, the military parade, and the atmosphere we have become accustomed to seeing from our nation's leadership.

What struck me most was the love, the smiles, and the lack of sarcasm. It was refreshing. People came from all over the country and the world. There were everyday citizens, community leaders, people from small towns, students, and world-class entertainers. The Obama Center promises to be a place where people can gather, learn, and be inspired to add their own gifts to the progress of the world. I cannot tell you how many times I have heard women say, "I want a man like Barack Obama." My response has always been the same: then you must also be willing to be a woman like Michelle Obama. It reminds me of the old saying, "If you want the prize, you have to be willing to pay the price." Frankly, I believe God created Michelle and Barack for each other, but also for us to observe. Not because they are perfect, but because they demonstrate what partnership, growth, sacrifice, and purpose can look like when two people are committed to something larger than themselves.

One of the things I have always found interesting is how hard some people worked to find a scandal during the Obama years. They searched and searched, and the biggest controversy they could find was that Barack Obama wore a tan suit to a press conference. At the opening celebration, several people wore tan suits. I suspect that was not an accident. It made me laugh. What I have always appreciated about Barack Obama has very little to do with politics. I admired the way he protected his family. When he realized that public life was becoming uncomfortable for his daughters, he adjusted their exposure. He understood that being a president was one thing, but being a father was another. I admired the way he treated Michelle, not as someone standing behind him, but as a true partner standing beside him. I admired the way Michelle spoke at the celebration and became emotional while reflecting on their journey together. Those moments remind us that strength and vulnerability can exist at the same time. I admired the fact that Barack Obama could cry publicly and not be ashamed of it. He cried after the murders at Mother Emanuel Church in Charleston. He cried after the tragedy at Sandy Hook. He understood that leadership is not about pretending you do not feel. Leadership is about caring enough to feel. Some men think they must appear tough at all times. They believe showing emotion makes them weak. I think the opposite is true. It takes strength to care. It takes strength to grieve. It takes strength to let people see your humanity.

I also appreciated that Obama mentioned people like John McCain and Mitt Romney, people with whom he disagreed politically, but whom he still respected as fellow Americans. He reminded us that disagreement does not have to become hatred. Just because someone sees the world differently than we do does not mean they are evil. Sometimes it simply means they have had different experiences that led them to different conclusions. That is a lesson our country desperately needs to remember. My hope is not that people become Barack Obama. My hope is that people become the best version of themselves. The Bible teaches that God made us for relationship, purpose, and growth. Whether we are married, single, divorced, widowed, or somewhere in between, we are all here to learn something. Maybe we are learning how to stay. Maybe we are learning when it is time to leave. Maybe we are learning compromise. Maybe we are learning boundaries. Maybe we are learning how to become who God created us to be.

The Obamas have had to grow through challenges just like everyone else. Their marriage did not become strong by accident. It became strong because two people were willing to work on themselves while growing together. That is true for all of us. So while I enjoy being inspired by Barack and Michelle Obama, I do not want to own them or place them on a pedestal. I simply appreciate what they represent. And if you aspire to be anything, aspire to become the person God intended you to be from the beginning.

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.: 26E000395-310

THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 9th day of April, 2026, as Administrator of the Estate of HENRY LOUIS WADDELL, 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 25th 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 25th day of June, 2026. Sabrina Carrington, Administrator c/o Floyd B. McKissick, III, Esq. McKissick & McKissick 835 N Mangum Street Durham, NC 27701

6/25, 7/2, 7/9, and 7/16/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

In the General Court of Justice, Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File No.: 26E000403-310

THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 2nd day of June, 2026, as Administrator of the Estate of ALICE CURINGTON, 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 25th 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 25th day of June, 2026. Kimberly J. Lanski, Administrator c/o Floyd B. McKissick, III, Esq. McKissick & McKissick 835 N Mangum Street Durham, NC 27701

6/25, 7/2, 7/9, and 7/16/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

RE: THE ESTATE OF CHESLEIGH ELOYD LYONS 26E000502-310

Having qualified as AFFIANT of the Estate of CHESLEIGH ELYOD LYONS aka Chesleigh Lyons deceased, Durham County, North Carolina, the undersigned does hereby notify all persons, firms, and corporations having claims against the estate of said deceased to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 23rd day of September 2026, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. This the 25th day of June, 2026.

RENEE LYONS, AFFIANT
DSR Legal, PLLC PO Box 51596
Durham, NC 27717

6/25, 7/2, 7/9, and 7/16/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

In the General Court of Justice, Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File No.:

THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 10th day of June, 2026, as Executor of the Estate of VIRGINIA H. WIDMARK, 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 25th 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 25th day of June, 2026. Sara Widmark, Executor c/o Zachary A. Marks, Esq. Wyrick Robbins Yates & Ponton, LLP 4101 Lake Boone Trail, Ste. 300 Raleigh, NC 27607

6/25, 7/2, 7/9, and 7/16/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Having qualified as the Personal Representative of the Estate of MARIAN LOUISE JENKINS, late of Durham County, North Carolina, the undersigned does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the estate of said decedent to exhibit them to the undersigned in care of the attorney for the estate, Sonya Linton, Magnolia Legal, 3001 Academy Rd., Ste 120, Durham, NC 27707, on or before the 25th 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.

Christopher Mark Charles Jenkins
File #: 26E000648-310
Attorney for Estate:
Sonya Linton
Magnolia Legal
3001 Academy Rd., Ste 120
Durham, NC 27707

6/25, 7/2, 7/9, and 7/16/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

In the General Court of Justice, Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File No.: 26E000696-310

THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 9th day of June, 2026, as Executor of the Estate of CHARITY NAOMI JONES, 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 25th 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 25th day of June, 2026. Wilma Carolyn Jones, Executor 662 Wallace Fork Rd. Roanoke, NC 27870

6/25, 7/2, 7/9, and 7/16/2026
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 PO 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@jeffaustinlaw.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.

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 qualifed 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

DURHAM COUNTY

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

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
NC SB No. 57349
6/11, 6/18, and 6/25/2026

ORANGE COUNTY

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA ORANGE COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
The undersigned having qualified as Executor of the Estate of JANET JOYCE DILIBERTO, Deceased, late of Orange County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the Estate to Exhibit them to the undersigned at the office of IDOL LAW, PLLC, PO Box 51759, Durham, North Carolina 27717, on or before the 28th day of September, 2026, or this Notice will be in bar of their recovery.
All persons indebted to the Estate will please make immediate payment.
This is the 25th day of June, 2026.
David J. Diliberto, Executor, Estate of Janet Joyce Diliberto, Deceased
Robert A. Idol, Esquire IDOL LAW, PLLC Attorney at Law
PO Box 51759 Durham, NC 27717 (919)401.5151
6/25, 7/2, 7/9, and 7/16/2026

WAKE COUNTY

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA WAKE COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice, Superior Court Division Before the Clerk
File No.: 25E004887-910
THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 9th day of June, 2026, as Executor of the Estate of RANA KHURSHID, 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 25th 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 25th day of June, 2026.
Salman Rizwan, Executor
c/o Richard F. Prentiss, Jr.
4 Consultant Pl.
Durham, NC 27707
6/25, 7/2, 7/9, and 7/16/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA WAKE COUNTY
NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION
In The General Court Of Justice District Court Division
File No. 26CVD006758-910
VENDA M. KITTRELL, Plaintiff v. SHAWN M. SKETTERS, Defendant
TO: SHAWN M. SKETTERS
TAKE NOTICE that a pleading seeking relief against you has been filed in the above-entitled action. The nature of the relief being sought is an Absolute Divorce.
You are required to make defense to such pleading 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 25th day of June, 2026.
Venda M. Kittrell, Plaintiff
3121 Marclony Way
Raleigh, NC 27610
6/25, 7/2, 7/9, and 7/16/2026
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
kayleeaneacia@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. WAEEL ALSAFADI, Defendant
TO: WAEEL 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 Armendariz, Esq
Attorney for Plaintiff
Armendariz 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

Classifieds

SEEKING OPERATIONS MANAGER

Avista Pharma Solutions Inc. d/b/a Cambrex seeks SAP Operations Mgr in Durham, NC to lead SAP systems, including migrations and S4 HANA implementation. Reqs: Bach degree (or foreign equivalent) in Comp Sci, Soft Eng, Ind Eng, MIS, Mech Eng, Manuftng des or rel field + 7 yrs SAP application management exp. Resume to april.collazo@cambrex.com; ref. SAP Operations Manager



THE AWARD-WINNING PRINT & ONLINE FAMILY FEATURE

 Find Kid Scoop on Facebook

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KID SCOOP CAREERS SERIES

JOBS POWERED BY THE SUN

What do you want to be when you grow up? Have you ever thought about working in the field of solar energy?

Replace the missing words.

JOBS

STORING

WORLD

BUSINESSES

POWER

ENERGY

ELECTRICITY



Find the two suns that match.



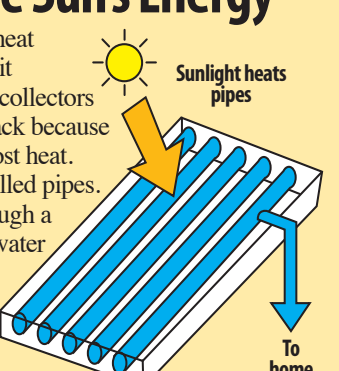
A Solar Power Job is a Good Career!

Replace the missing vowels to find out the many ways working in solar energy is a good career.

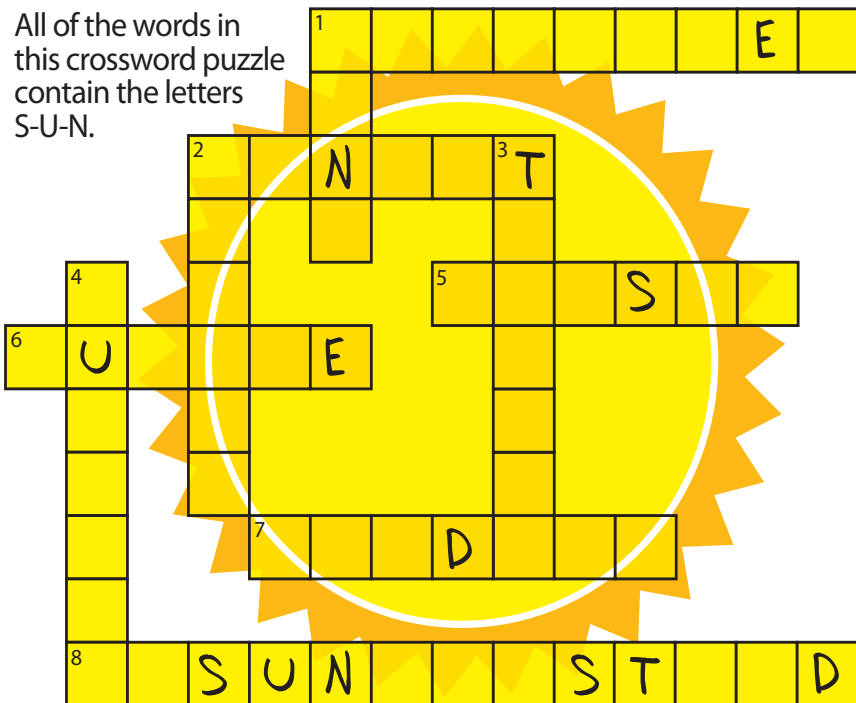
- You get to h_lp supply people with the p_wer they n_d in th_r h_m_s, sch__ls and b_siness_s.
- Your w_rk h_lps to r_d_ce the imp_cts of cl_m_te ch_nge.
- The p_y is v_ry g__d.
- Th_re will be l_ts of jobs in this f__ld in the f_t_re.

Capturing the Sun's Energy

Solar collectors capture heat during the day and store it through the night. Often collectors are flat boxes painted black because that color absorbs the most heat. Inside are small, water-filled pipes. The sun heats water through a glass cover. The heated water is pumped into homes, providing hot water and heat. This is called Active Solar Energy.



All of the words in this crossword puzzle contain the letters S-U-N.



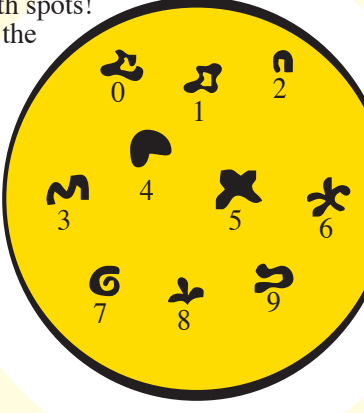
Kid Scoop Puzzler

The sun is covered with spots! Use the spots to solve the mystery questions.

How far is the sun from the Earth?
22 million miles (149.6 million km)

How long does it take the sun to make one complete rotation?
28 Earth days

What is the diameter of the sun?
864,000 miles (1.4 million km)



WARNING! Never look directly at the sun as this can damage your eyesight!

Double Double Word Search

Find the words in the puzzle. How many of them can you find on this page?

BATTERIES
SUNLIGHT
STORING
SYSTEMS
HOMES
CLIMATE
ENERGY
FUTURE
SOLAR
POWER
HEAT
WORK
HELP
SUN
PAY

H	O	M	E	S	I	S	S	A	P
S	E	I	R	E	T	T	A	B	T
U	M	E	E	R	F	O	S	C	H
N	R	E	I	U	K	R	O	L	G
P	N	F	T	R	U	I	L	I	I
T	O	U	O	S	T	N	A	M	L
A	R	W	P	A	Y	G	R	A	N
E	P	L	E	H	U	S	R	T	U
H	E	Y	G	R	E	N	E	S	S

Standards Link: Letter sequencing. Recognize identical words. Skim and scan reading. Recall spelling patterns.

REPORTER'S CORNER

Choose a story in this newspaper. Cut out the headline or write the headline in the box below.

HOW did the reporter find out this event had happened? (Who told the newspaper editors?)

What questions did the reporter ask for the story?

What other questions would YOU ask people involved in this event?

Attention Teachers! Download the Kid Scoop Reporter's Corner Guide for Teachers at www.kidscoop.com.

Standards Link: Reading/Writing: Understand "newspaper" format for articles.

KID SCOOP'S MISSION

Children are born curious. From their earliest days, sensory exploration brings delight and wonder. New discoveries expand their minds. When they unlock the joy of reading, their world widens further. Magic happens.

Kid Scoop opens the doors of discovery for elementary school children by providing interactive, engaging and relevant age-appropriate materials designed to awaken the magic of reading at school, at home, and throughout their lives.

For more information about our literacy non-profit, visit kidscoopnews.org

Kid Scoop VOCABULARY BUILDERS

This week's word: CAREER

The noun career means a job or field of work that someone does over many years.

My mom has a 20-year career in the banking industry.

Try to use the word career in a sentence today when talking with your friends and family members.

Sports

Hurricanes Fans Flood Raleigh for Historic Stanley Cup Celebration

RALEIGH, N.C. — "North Carolina, come on and raise up."

As the opening lyrics of Petey Pablo's iconic anthem blasted through downtown Raleigh, an estimated 150,000 fans sang along at the top of their lungs, transforming the city into a sea of red during the Carolina Hurricanes' Stanley Cup championship celebration.

Air horns echoed through the streets, marching bands energized the crowd and chants of "Let's Go Canes" erupted from every direction as supporters packed sidewalks, parking decks and intersections throughout downtown. According to city officials, the celebration marked the largest crowd ever gathered in downtown Raleigh history.

The championship parade began at 11 a.m. near Hillsborough and St. Mary's streets before making its way through downtown and ending at City Plaza on Fayetteville Street about an hour later. Long before the first players appeared, fans lined the parade route dressed in Hurricanes jerseys, waving team flags and eagerly awaiting the arrival of the Stanley Cup.

Wherever you looked, there was red. Families gathered along barricades, fans crowded onto parking decks for a better view and supporters filled every available space along the parade route. The excitement was impossible to miss as thousands celebrated a championship that united communities across North Carolina. One of the most memorable sights came from Hurricanes fan Megan

Collins of Knightdale, who attended the parade dressed as the Stanley Cup itself.

"I'm losing my voice. I'm losing my mind," Collins said.

For Collins, the championship celebration represented a once-in-a-lifetime experience.

"It's been one of the most incredible experiences of my whole life," she said.

Throughout the crowd, fans shared stories about what the moment meant to them. One supporter reflected on attending the Hurricanes' Stanley Cup celebration 20 years ago alongside his father when the franchise captured its first championship in 2006. Being able to return two decades later and experience another championship parade

with his dad, he said, meant the world to him.

That sense of family and shared history was present throughout the day. Parents hoisted children onto their shoulders, friends embraced after spotting players and longtime fans reflected on years of supporting the franchise through both victories and disappointments.

As the parade rolled through downtown, air horns sounded continuously while chants of "Let's Go Canes" echoed from block to block. Marching bands filled the streets with music, adding to an atmosphere that felt more like a citywide festival than a traditional parade.

The loudest moments came when players proudly lifted the Stanley Cup into the air. Each appearance of the

iconic trophy triggered another wave of cheers from the massive crowd, with fans screaming, waving and recording the moment on their phones.

Many supporters watching from parking decks leaned over railings to wave at players below, while those along the streets stretched for a better view of the championship team.

The celebration continued at City Plaza with a team rally featuring players, coaches and special guests. Before the Hurricanes took the stage, Gov. Josh Stein delivered remarks that generated one of the day's biggest reactions.

"The next time you go to a Canes game, you are going to feel the Storm Surge before you even hit the parking lot," Stein told the crowd. "Because by the power vested in me

as governor, that stretch of Edwards Mill Road is now known as Hurricanes Highway."

The announcement was met with loud cheers as fans celebrated both the championship and the team's impact on North Carolina. For many in attendance, the day still felt surreal.

I am still in disbelief," one fan said while waiting for the rally to begin. That sentiment could be heard throughout downtown Raleigh as supporters soaked in every moment of the historic celebration.

The Hurricanes' championship run brought together fans from across the state, and the record-setting turnout demonstrated just how deeply the franchise has become woven into North Carolina's identity. What was once considered an un-

conventional hockey market has developed into one of the NHL's most passionate fan bases.

As the rally concluded and fans slowly made their way home, the sounds of celebration remained. Air horns continued to blare, chants still echoed through the streets and groups of fans lingered downtown, unwilling to let the moment end.

For one unforgettable afternoon, Raleigh belonged to the Hurricanes. Through the music, the marching bands, the sea of red and the thunderous chants of "Let's Go Canes," the championship celebration became more than a parade. It became a memory shared by generations of fans, including one father and son who, 20 years later, found themselves celebrating hockey history together once again.



The Raleigh Firebirds Rebrand And Become The Carolina Firebirds, Expanding Their Legacy In NC

By Jheri Hardaway
Staff Writer

Raleigh, NC – The Raleigh Firebirds are proud to announce an exciting new chapter in the team's history: effective immediately, the organization will rebrand and compete as the Carolina Firebirds. This transition reflects the Firebirds' commitment to engaging and uniting basketball fans, athletes, and communities across the entire state of

North Carolina.

Since their inception, the Firebirds have been dedicated to excellence on and off the court, making a lasting impact in Raleigh and beyond. By officially expanding their brand to "Carolina," the Firebirds aim to create opportunities for more fans to connect with the team, participate in regional basketball development, and share in the excitement of professional basketball.

"As the Carolina Firebirds, we are

thrilled to embrace a broader identity that welcomes fans from every corner of our amazing state," said Wade Harris, Team Market Owner. "This change allows us to deepen our outreach, develop new partnerships, and inspire even more youth to get involved in the game we love."

To celebrate the rebranding, the Carolina Firebirds will announce a series of statewide initiatives, including basketball clinics, community events, and special themed game

nights highlighting the diverse culture and pride of North Carolina.

The Firebirds invite all North Carolinians to join them on this new journey, whether courtside or in the community, as they continue to soar to new heights as the Carolina Firebirds. For further information, please visit raleighfirebirds.net or contact Wade Harris, Team Market Owner at raleighfirebirds@gmail.com or text 919-830-0305.

YOUNG ATHLETES

Continued from page 7

professional football was far from guaranteed. Despite his talent, he did not receive significant recruiting attention coming out of high school. Rather than allowing that setback to define his future, he chose to bet on himself.

Codrington walked on at North Carolina Central University, determined to earn an opportunity. His commitment paid off when he received a full scholarship during his second year with the Eagles.

His success continued to grow throughout his collegiate career. During his time at NCCU, Codrington helped lead the Eagles to an HBCU national championship and established himself as one of the nation's top players. He finished his collegiate career as a four-time FCS and HBCU All-American, earning recognition as one of the most accomplished players in program history.

Although he was not selected in the NFL Draft, Codrington continued to trust the process. He signed as an undrafted free agent with the New York Jets before eventually joining the Buffalo Bills, where he spent two seasons. He is now a member of the Houston Texans.

Throughout the camp, Codrington shared lessons from his own journey, encouraging participants to believe in their potential regardless of the obstacles they may face.

"Chase your dreams. Do not let anyone put their fears and limitations on you," Codrington told the young athletes.

He also emphasized the importance of consistent growth and development, reminding campers that success is often built through small improvements over time.

"Every day you got to get better 1%," he said.

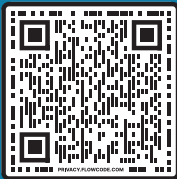
That message resonated throughout the day as campers worked through drills and listened attentively to coaches. For many participants, the opportunity to learn directly from an NFL player was a memorable experience. For Codrington, it was an opportunity to give back to the community that helped shape him.

By returning to the same field where his football journey began, Codrington demonstrated that success and service can go hand in hand. As the camp concluded and young athletes left with new skills, trophies and memories, they also departed with a powerful reminder that determination, hard work and self-belief can open doors that once seemed impossible.



Lottery Funds Fuel Graduation Dreams.

The North Carolina Education Lottery has raised over \$12 billion to support our schools, staff, and students across the state. Part of these funds help with the costs of attending a public university or community college in North Carolina through the Next NC Scholarship program. That means more access to higher education for more students across the state.



Visit MovingNCStudentsForward.com or scan the QR code to see how lottery funds have impacted your community. If lottery funds have benefited you or your student, submit your story to be entered for a chance to earn \$2,000!

