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WASHINGTON (AP) — One of the stars of the American firmament once advised citizens of all stripes how to express their love of country. Mark Twain's long-ago words capture how Americans are stepping out this week to wish their nation a happy milestone birthday.

"Our patriotism is medieval, outworn, obsolete," Twain wrote in 1905. "The modern patriotism, the true patriotism, the only rational patriotism, is loyalty to the Nation all the time, loyalty to the Government when it deserves it."

In these rabidly partisan times, those who think President Donald Trump deserves their support and those who don't are joining in celebration of the 250th anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration of Independence. Whether all the partying to come gives the nation a breather from disunity or aggravates it is an open question.

It's a proud and loud moment,
sown with division and doubt.

Love of country comes in different flavors, of course. Some love it as is. Some love what it could become and press on with their activism and protest in pursuit of history's call for a "more perfect union." Some love what it used to be and might be once more — the underpinning of MAGA.

But overall, belief in American ex-



ceptionalism has waned. More people in the U.S. think there are better countries in the world than those who think the United States is the best. That's according to an April poll by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research that found 44% endorsing the United States as just one of the best.

This is not the America of, say, Teddy Roosevelt, whose presidential library Trump is visiting in North Dakota on Wednesday. Roosevelt mirrored the brashness and ambition of a country surging in innovation, industry, influence, military muscle and spirit.

In its place is a country where the

president is his own brand of brash, but millions of the people he leads wonder if it's all coming apart.

For the 250th, the division starts at the top, with two organizations claiming to be the one leading the commemoration and all but ignoring the other.

A decade ago, Congress created the bipartisan America250 group and charged it by law with planning the country's local, national and international events for the 250th. Trump stepped on that with an executive order making his Freedom 250 group "the" national organization in charge.

Marquee events like the Fourth of July fireworks at the National Mall,

the parade of tall ships in New York and the Great American State Fair along the National Mall are the province of Trump's Freedom 250. Musical stars who had been lined up for the splashy opener of the fair last week withdrew, concerned Trump, a Republican, would make the festivities political and very much about him.

He stepped forward to fill the void, declaring himself the “No. 1 attraction,” and he delivered a speech there June 24 on American glory and his achievements. He’ll headline the official July Fourth events in the capital as well, for what he called “the most spectacular TRUMP RALLY of them all.”

America250, meantime, put together America's Block Party — a series scheduled simultaneously around the country anchored by a Fourth of July benefit concert in Los Angeles hosted by Queen Latifa, with Chris Stapleton and the Smashing Pumpkins among the acts.

By congressional mandate, America250 also sank a 900-pound (400-kilogram) time capsule in Philadelphia with items from all states and branches of government, to be pried open in 250 years.

The people of 2276 will then see a major league baseball lineup from 2026, poems from Alabama, Illinois, Kentucky and more, postcards from

Colorado and Maine, beaded artwork from Montana, an Oklahoma belt buckle, a message in a vintage Coca-Cola bottle, a pocket Constitution signed by the U.S. justices, a George Washington Lord's Prayer gold medal from Utah given out at the Wedding of the Rails event celebrating completion of the Transcontinental Railroad in 1869, and more.

In Philadelphia, where the found-

ers signed the declaration and birthed the nation, 250 people will form the contours of the Liberty Bell in a parade with 50 marching bands and Miss America delegates, formerly called contestants, representing every state.

Though there are official events galore, it's not as if Americans, of all people, need the government to show them a good time.



PROTECTING DEMOCRACY: REP. RODNEY PIERCE PROPOSES CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO GUARD EARLY VOTING

By Jheri Hardaway

Staff Writers

Raleigh, NC — In an effort to shield the state's electoral process from constant partisan shifting, State Representative Rodney Pierce (D-Halifax, Northampton, Warren) hosted a press conference to introduce House Bill 1240, a landmark legislation proposing a constitutional amendment to permanently guarantee North Carolinians the right to vote early in person.

The bill, primarily sponsored by Pierce alongside Representatives Marcia Morey (D-Durham), Renee Price (D-Caswell, Orange), and Zack Hawkins (D-Durham), seeks to lock in the core features of North Carolina's widely used early voting system before partisan maneuvers can erode them. If passed by a three-fifths majority in both chambers, the historic amendment will head directly to the ballot for final approval by voters statewide.

The proposed constitutional amendment establishes strict baseline protections for voters:

Constitutional Minimum guarantees a baseline right to a minimum of 14 days of in-person early voting for primary and general elections. Same-Day Registration explicitly preserves and protects a voter's right to register and cast a ballot on the same day during the early voting window. Weekday Operational Standards mandates that weekday polling sites remain open continuously until at least 6:00 P.M. or 7:30 P.M. to accommodate working schedules. Local Board Autonomy preserves the complete authority of local county boards to determine exact polling locations, resource allotment, and optional Sunday operations. State Funding Authority maintains the General Assembly's constitutional authority to appropriate matching funds to help counties cover election administration costs.

"Early voting isn't a partisan issue, it's how North Carolinians vote," Rep. Pierce stated during the press briefing, noting that voters across urban, rural, and suburban communities have fully embraced the system.

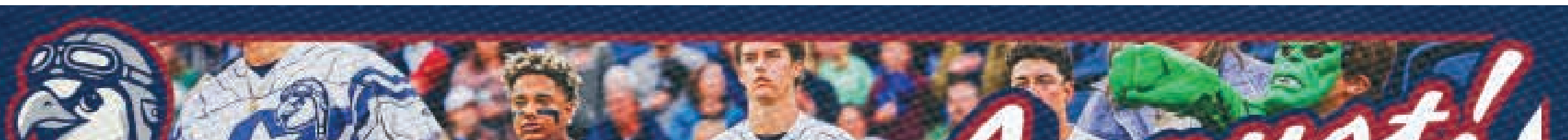
Pierce backed his constitutional push with staggering data from the State Board of Elections. During the most recent primary election, more than 712,000 North Carolinians cast their ballots during the early window, marking the highest voter turnout ever recorded for a midterm primary in state history. Furthermore, Pierce cited historical data where early and mail-in engagement reached an average of 71% statewide. "If this is the way that people have chosen to engage in our democracy, then we should try to make sure that we keep it in place and that we protect it," Pierce urged.

Co-sponsor Representative Marcia Morey emphasized that the constitutional amendment shouldn't even have to be a battle, but it has become necessary given the state's recent history of voter suppression efforts. Morey pointed out that standard state primary turnout frequently hovers around a dismal 20%.

"There's something wrong," Morey said, arguing that the legislature's focus should be on making it easier for eligible voters to choose their leaders. Morey also referenced a recent U.S. Supreme Court ruling affirming that ballots postmarked before Election Day but arriving afterward should legally be counted, signaling that the state must continually build outward transpar-

(See **COLLECTIVE IMPACT**, P. 2)

(See **PROTECTING DEMOCRACY**, P. 2)

A promotional banner for the Wilson Warbirds baseball team. The banner features a collage of images: a cartoon warbird mascot on the left, a player in a blue and white uniform swinging a bat, and a group of players in the background. The text "Baseball In August!" is written in a large, stylized, cursive font with a red outline. Below this, a dark blue banner contains the text "Marvel Theme Night, Kids Run The Bases Every Night, Fireworks Every Friday & Saturday!". At the bottom, a white box contains the website "WILSONWARBIRDS.com/tickets".

The Often Overlooked Contributions Of Many Black Revolutionary War Patriots That Helped Shape America

By **Jordan Meadows**
Staff Writer

Before the American Revolution, numerous freed African Americans supported the anti-British cause. One of the most notable figures was Crispus Attucks, a multiracial sailor who had escaped slavery and is believed to be the first person killed in the Boston Massacre in 1770. Both free and enslaved Black Americans also served in local militias, particularly in the North, defending their communities against Native American attacks.

As the Revolution unfolded, some Black men had already joined the rebels as minutemen — members of organized militia companies in New England trained in weaponry, tactics, and military strategies during the war. These minutemen were renowned for their readiness to mobilize at a moment’s notice. They were prepared to be called into action if British troops in Boston initiated hostilities.

In 1775, General Washington initially prohibited African Americans from serving in the Continental Army, but later reversed his decision due to pressing manpower

needs. Some slave owners permitted enslaved individuals to enlist in exchange for promises of freedom, although many were returned to slavery after the war’s end.

In 1775, during the battles of Lexington and Concord, Black men answered the call and fought alongside Patriot forces. Among them, Prince Estabrook was wounded, standing out as one of the few Black soldiers engaged in the Battle of Lexington. At the Battle of Bunker Hill, Black soldiers fought bravely alongside their white compatriots, including notable figures like Peter Salem, Salem Poor, Barzillai Lew, Titus Coburn, Alexander Ames, Cato Howe, and Seymour Burr.

Many of them, whether enslaved or free, were eager to join the Patriot cause, hopeful that it would lead to their freedom or the expansion of their civil rights. Beyond their roles as soldiers, Black men also served as guides, messengers, and spies during the conflict. Throughout the war, approximately one-fifth of the soldiers in the northern army were Black. At the pivotal Siege of Yorktown in 1781, which marked a decisive victory for the American forces in the war, about one-quarter of the entire American



army consisted of Black men.

Among the celebrated Black patriots was Jack Peterson from New York, whose quick thinking played a crucial role in repelling British forces. Peterson’s actions disrupted Benedict Arnold’s treacherous plans and directly contributed to the capture of Major Andre.

Due to shortages in manpower at sea, both the U.S. Navy and the British Navy enlisted Blacks into their ranks. In contrast to concerns in southern colonies about arming enslaved individuals for the army, there were fewer hesitations about employing Black men as pilots and ammunition handlers on ships. In state navies, several Blacks even rose to the rank of captain; South Carolina counted a substantial number of Black captains among its maritime forces.

However, not everyone supported the cause of the aspiring United States. In 1779, a British Army officer issued the Philipsburg Proclamation, which declared that all enslaved people owned by Patriots, regardless of age or gender, would be accepted at British lines. This led to a significant increase in the number of enslaved Blacks fleeing to join the British forces, resulting in the formation of many regiments during this period. One of the largest regiments composed of escaped African Americans was the Black Company of Pioneers, a unit specializing in pioneer work.

Among those who joined the British was Harry Washington, a

40-year-old stablehand and one of seventeen enslaved people from Mount Vernon who escaped a British warship. In 1782, during the Siege of Charleston, Harry contributed by constructing defensive earthworks. While most “Black Loyalists” were assigned to non-combat support roles, by the war’s end in 1783, Harry was among 3,000 African Americans evacuated by the British to settle in Nova Scotia in Canada.

On the other side of the war stood James Lafayette, a pivotal figure as a spy for the Patriots during the American Revolution. Born into slavery in Virginia, Lafayette defied the odds by learning to read and write both English and French. He played a crucial role as a spy, operating undercover as an escaped enslaved man to gather British intelligence, initially under Benedict Arnold and later under General Cornwallis. His intelligence gathering was instrumental in providing critical details of British troop movements before the Battle of Yorktown.

Despite his contributions, James was not freed at the war’s end like some enslaved men who fought for the American cause. This was because he was considered a spy rather than a soldier, and therefore not covered by the Virginia Assembly’s act that freed certain enslaved individuals who had fought in the war.

The desire for freedom among Black women did not begin with the American Revolution but was significantly amplified by it, motivating thousands to seek liberation from slavery during this period. The presence of British troops presented opportunities with less oversight, enabling enslaved women to align themselves with the ideals of liberty espoused by white revolutionaries in their struggle against oppression.

For those who remained enslaved and did not flee, many were hired out and played vital roles in supporting the Patriot war effort. Their labor was essential and underscored their substantial contributions to the fight for American independence. These women’s efforts, whether through seeking freedom or supporting the war effort, left a lasting impact on the Revolutionary War era and the quest for equality and liberty in American history.

Elizabeth Freeman made history as the first African American woman to successfully file a lawsuit for her freedom in Massachusetts in 1781. Lawyers in the area strategically chose her case as a “test case” to challenge the constitutionality of slavery under the new Massachusetts Constitution. This landmark case marked the beginning of a series of “freedom suits” that ultimately led the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court to abolish slavery in the state.

Evidence suggests that Freeman became aware of these legal arguments when her master hosted political gatherings at his home and when constitutional documents were read aloud in public. Amidst the turmoil

of the war, the jury ruled in Freeman’s favor, granting her freedom and awarding her 30 shillings along with trial costs.

Another one of these staples is Phillis Wheatley, an enslaved African American living in Boston, who had a knack for literary talents. She took up the pen and became one of the earliest published female authors in America, as well as the first African American woman to achieve this distinction. Her collection of poems, “Poems on Various Subjects, Religious and Moral,” published in 1773, gained popularity on both sides of the Atlantic.

Wheatley’s poetry often centered on themes of patriotism and human virtues. In 1775, she penned a notable poem dedicated to George Washington titled “To His Excellency, George Washington,” which she personally read to him in 1776 at his headquarters in Cambridge, Massachusetts, where he was leading the Continental Army in besieging the British.

Wheatley’s visit was at Washington’s invitation, highlighting her significance and recognition even during the revolutionary era. In 1778, upon the death of her master, Wheatley obtained her freedom. Her literary accomplishments not only paved the way for future African American writers but also contributed to the broader cultural and intellectual landscape of America during the Revolutionary War period.

The American Revolution was not merely shaped by African Americans; they actively influenced its course, altering outcomes and motivations for those striving for freedom. From early dissent against British rule to pivotal moments on the battlefield, Black individuals played pivotal roles with lasting impact.

Both free and enslaved people made significant contributions as soldiers, laborers, and intellectuals, highlighting their desire for freedom and civil rights while challenging societal norms and advocating for abolition. The “Founding Era” showcased African American influence that catalyzed broader aspirations for equality and justice in American society, and eventually, around the world.

PROTECTING DEMOCRACY

Continued from page 1



ency rather than restricting access.

Voters rely on the stability of early voting windows to plan around their work schedules and family responsibilities. HB 1240 seeks to provide long-term certainty by explicitly establishing a constitutional minimum of 14 days of in-person early voting for both primary and general elections while firmly protecting same-day voter registration. Pierce revealed that the 14-day timeline was born out of extensive collaboration with the North Carolina Association of Directors of Elections. While local election directors desired some reduction from the typical 17-day stretch to alleviate local county budget and staffing burdens, their primary focus was on permanent, structural stability.

As a former educator who taught for a decade, Pierce expressed deep frustration with the General Assembly’s habit of altering election procedures without consulting the professionals who actually run them. “Too often, here in Raleigh, we change laws without including the input of the people who actually are going to be responsible for carrying out the laws,” Pierce said, calling the trend an insult to professionalism.

Crucially, the bill doesn’t mandate costly new burdens; it does not force Sunday voting, dictate a minimum number of physical sites, or mandate new state appropriations, leaving local control intact. The push for voter protections occurred amidst a chaotic backdrop in the General Assembly, as legislative leaders dropped a massive, 600-plus-page state budget bill just 45 minutes prior to the press conference. While Democratic leaders admitted they had not yet had the opportunity to fully parse the fine print, Representative Cynthia Ball (D-Wake), the deputy leader of House Democrats, noted that early reviews of the text revealed unexpected structural changes. Most notably, the proposed budget strips a substantial number of vital positions away from the North Carolina Department of Commerce. Ball called the cuts highly unexpected and indicated they would likely draw severe opposition as the budget positions for a floor vote.

An N.C. General Assembly Veto Axes Historically Underutilized Businesses

By **Jheri Hardaway**
Staff Writer

Raleigh, NC — The Historically Underutilized Businesses (HUB) program works to increase the number and types of businesses competing for state contracts, helping the government get the best value for taxpayer dollars. The HUB Office was originally established by law during the 2001 Legislative Session to educate and encourage women-owned and minority-owned businesses on how to compete for contracts with state and local government agencies.

The HUB Office was established to educate HUB firms on how to do business with the state of North Carolina and help eliminate barriers that reduce access to opportunities for HUB firms to participate in the marketplace, so that companies may bid for state government contracts. Additionally, the HUB office was charged with implementing strategies to increase the amount of goods and services acquired by state agencies from certified HUB firms; encourages purchasing officers and capital project coordinators within the state agencies, departments, universities, and community colleges to identify and utilize HUB

vendors, contractors, and service providers; and provides resources for HUB firms. The aspirational goal was 10%.

Tammie Hall-Roberts, the former Assistant Secretary and Director of the Office for Historically Underutilized Businesses, emphasised, “The strength of North Carolina’s economy depends on ensuring that businesses have the opportunity to compete. The HUB Program has always been about expanding competition, strengthening supply chains, and helping taxpayers receive the best value through a broader, more competitive marketplace. When more businesses are equipped to participate in public contracting, communities benefit through business growth, job creation, and increased economic activity. Regardless of policy changes, investing in the competitiveness and capacity of small businesses remains essential to North Carolina’s long-term economic success.”

With these efforts halting, not only are businesses in a delicate position, but so are the jobs of more than ten employees and contractors working for the North Carolina Department of Administration in the HUB program. The role of the community now is to create opportunities that can assist HUB’s evolve and become

more competitive. Trying to destroy the competitive edge is detrimental to our collective success.

Although this has been painted as an African American avenue to business traction, the last disparity study demonstrates that white females are the largest beneficiaries of HUB resources. Certification as a HUB vendor provides greater exposure for business opportunities in state procurement and contracting. The names of HUB firms are listed in the Vendor Link System, which is widely used by state agencies, universities, community colleges, local schools, local governments, institutions, and the public to locate historically underutilized businesses for goods, services, and construction.

The NC Department of Administration’s Office for Historically Underutilized Businesses (HUB) hired Griffin & Strong, P.C (GSPC) to conduct a disparity study on the availability and utilization of minority and women-owned business enterprises and examine relevant evidence of race or gender-based discrimination in Department of Administration contracting. In 2021, the GSPC study found statistically significant underutilization of minority and woman-owned firms in all five (5) Industry Categories of NC

State Agency contracting. Support for this statistical data was further reinforced by anecdotal reports and documented marketplace inequities.

The recommendations from the report concluded to first, strengthen the HUB Program by including full-time HUB Coordinators within each Agency, and strengthen the HUB Office’s enforcement authority. Next, review and revise Home Rule Requirements to give local jurisdictions more flexibility in applying Good Faith Effort and establishing Small Business Reserve programs. Lastly, institute MWBE Subcontracting Goals in addition to Annual Goals based upon Availability.

The North Carolina Medical Society reported, “The state of North Carolina allocated \$1 million for the NC DOA Disparity Study. In the 2021 legislative budget, \$500,000 in recurring funds alongside a \$175,000 nonrecurring allocation were directed to the Office for Historically Underutilized Businesses (HUB) to implement the study’s recommendations.” As the North Carolina Legislature decided to ignore these recommendations, no state or federal elected official has spoken out about the job loss or the opportunity cost related to this blow to HUB contractors.

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e-mail: info@caro.news

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DISCOVER NETWORK

KYS Consulting Group, introduced attendees to her Collective Impact Framework, using a potluck dinner to explain how organizations can work toward the same objective without duplicating efforts.

"A common agenda is the menu. Shared measurement is the table. Mutually reinforcing activities are the signature dishes. Continuous communication is the family group chat, and the backbone organization is the host house," Smith said.

Smith reminded attendees that rescue is only one step in a survivor’s journey. Long-term recovery depends on access to safe housing, legal assistance, counseling, employment opportunities and trusted advocates. That message was reinforced later in the conference as survivors courageously shared portions of their own experiences, reminding attendees that healing often continues long after someone leaves an exploitative situation.

Between presentations, attendees visited the resource expo featuring organizations dedicated to every stage of a survivor’s journey, from prevention and legal advocacy to emergency shelter, long-term hous-

ing, counseling and employment assistance. The expo gave participants an opportunity to speak directly with service providers, ask questions and learn what resources are available across North Carolina.

Coordinated by NCCAHT board members, including Kara Griffin of Catholic Charities Diocese of Charlotte, the expo featured organizations such as Legal Aid of North Carolina, Safe House Project, Shield North Carolina, Fields of Hope, Magnolia Hope, Project LIGHT, Gate Beautiful and Mission to El Salvador. Among the attendees was author John Das, who shared Daughter Arise: A Compelling Book About Redemption, Restoration and Recovery. Das described the book as both an apology to women and a call toward restoration, inspired by the women in his own life. It is a message of choosing healing after trauma that offers another perspective on escaping but also rebuilding a life afterward.

Between sessions, attendees learned about important resources they could immediately put into use within their own communities. One resource that drew particular attention was TraffickCam, a free smart-

phone application that allows travelers to upload photographs of hotel rooms. Investigators compare those images with photos found in online trafficking advertisements, helping identify locations where victims may be exploited.

Presenters challenged several common misconceptions about trafficking, reminding attendees that it rarely resembles the kidnappings often portrayed in movies. Victims do not fit a single profile, and many continue attending school, working jobs or interacting with the public while being exploited. Rather than looking for one obvious warning sign, community members were encouraged to recognize patterns such as someone appearing fearful or controlled by another individual, being unable to speak for themselves, lacking possession of identification or personal belongings, appearing malnourished or showing signs they cannot freely leave a workplace or living situation.

Those messages were reinforced by survivors who courageously shared portions of their own stories. Their experiences served as powerful reminders that trafficking often begins with manipulation rather than force

and that recovery is rarely a single moment of rescue. Instead, healing often requires long-term access to safe housing, counseling, legal advocacy, employment opportunities and a network of trusted people willing to walk alongside survivors as they rebuild their lives.

Experts stressed that recognizing those warning signs is only the first step. Members of the public should never attempt to confront a suspected trafficker directly. If someone appears to be in immediate danger, call 911. For non-emergency situations, assistance is available through the confidential National Human Trafficking Hotline, which operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Help is available by calling 1-888-373-7888, texting 233733 (BEFREE) or visiting www.humantrafficking-hotline.org. Trained advocates can connect victims, survivors and concerned community members with local resources, guidance and support.

As the conference concluded, one message remained clear: combating human trafficking requires more than awareness. Attendees gained a clearer understanding of what “collective impact” actually means.

Business & Finance

Ownership Over Access: Several Key Takeaways From The Greensboro Business League Executive Round Table

By Jheri Hardaway

Staff Writer

Greensboro, NC — “The civil rights movement won the right to sit at this lunch counter, but the challenge of the 21st century is ownership of the lunch counter.” This striking sentiment captured the foundational theme of the Greensboro Business League’s (GBL) Executive Round Table, hosted on Tuesday, June 23, at the stunning Center for Creative Leadership. Co-hosted by Gerry McCants, Co-Founder, and Earl Jones, Co-Founder of the GBL, and Wilson Lester, Managing General Partner of Partners In Equity, the interactive summit gathered entrepreneurs from near and far, public officials, and banking executives to confront a persistent paradox: despite political representation and massive collective spending power, proportional economic equity remains an unreachd milestone for many Black communities. The conversation moved rapidly past systemic grievances, pivoting toward raw data, structural banking mechanics, and a blueprint for localized wealth retention.

Capital Rights versus Civil Rights were a theme of the opening conversation. Wilson Lester set a sobering tone for the morning, urging the audience to recognize the regulatory

leverage already at their disposal. He highlighted the critical importance of the Community Reinvestment Act (CRA) of 1977, noting that federally insured banks have an absolute legal obligation to reinvest a percentage of their deposits back into low-to-moderate-income (LMI) communities. Lester reminded attendees that structural advocacy requires baseline market participation, “Knowledge is power because they have an obligation... But you have to be the ones to be the advocate and actually apply, actually go to these banks and financial institutions.”

The keynote speaker, B. Libre Kafele (known simply as Libre), an urban development advisor and author of Capital in the City and Who Pays for Development, expanded the macro-economic view. Kafele highlighted a sobering national reality: while Black consumer spending power has reached \$1.7 trillion nationally, with North Carolina capturing an estimated \$70 billion of that market share, the wealth frequently fails to circulate within the neighborhoods that generate it.

According to Kafele’s research across legacy cities like Detroit, Baltimore, Denver, and St. Louis, municipalities do not fail strictly due to crime or systemic incompetence, but rather due to metropolitan extraction, a process where infrastructure



layout and historical policy choices draw wealth away from urban cores to benefit outer suburban communities. Libre tied these historical patterns directly to modern-day Greensboro. Without deliberate local intervention, this deficit accelerates displacement and gentrification, particularly in historically Black sectors like East Greensboro. Kafele passionately advocated for underutilized structural tools such as Community Land Trusts (CLTs) to preserve land ownership and stabilize long-term affordability.

A central focus of the roundtable

panel, which featured Jonathan Rosato, founder of Trace Impact Solutions, and retired military consultant Dr. Anthony Wade, was the severe capital gridlock facing small Black-owned businesses. Rosato illuminated a major systemic mismatch in commercial real estate lending: Major traditional banks often look for a minimum commercial loan threshold of \$5 million. The typical Mom-and-Pop expansion, salon, or neighborhood asset acquisition usually requires between \$200,000 and \$2 million. This middle tier is frequently deemed too small for commercial banking giants,

yet too large for a singular Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI) to absorb without over-leveraging its balance sheet. Rosato challenged the financial ecosystem to embrace intentional risk-tolerance and expand CDFI capacity to support cash-based or unconventional business models.

The banking sector met the challenge with transparency. Kasey Hayes, Vice President of Business Banking at Bank of America, called for aggressive financial literacy and infrastructure building among local business owners, urging entrepreneurs to leverage certified public accountants (CPAs) to establish pristine financial records. Similarly, Kelvis Johnson, Sr. Vice President and Sr. Commercial lender of M&F Bank highlighted their unique position as both a historic Minority Depository Institution (MDI) and a CDFI, reminding attendees to actively hold local institutions accountable for local reinvestment.

The City of Greensboro Economic Development Office has introduced the RISE (Revitalize, Invest, Strengthen, and Expand) program, a \$4 million commercial loan participation initiative designed to spark property redevelopment along designated corridors like East Market Street, Gorrell Street, and Gate City Boulevard. By acting as a sec-

ondary gap funder alongside financial institutions such as M&F Bank, United Community, First Bank, and TowneBank, the city helps entrepreneurs bridge financing shortfalls—for example, covering a \$300,000 gap on a \$2 million project where a bank underwrites only \$1.7 million. Eligible for property acquisition and improvements, including HVAC updates, facade overhauls, and structural site cleanups, business owners can find further application details and geographical maps on the municipal portal at www.greensboro-nc.gov/riseinfill.

The overarching takeaway from the GBL Executive Round Table was clear, uncompromising, and highly motivating: the economic rescue of local communities will not be engineered by external saviors. The summit successfully bridged the gap between macro policy and localized street-level execution. By forcing municipal leaders, financial underwriters, and grassroots creators into a single room, the Greensboro Business League proved that the tools for sustainable equity, whether via the CRA, expanded CDFIs, or the city's new RISE initiative, already exist. The remaining mandate is for local entrepreneurs to aggressively organize their financials, claim these resources, and build an economic ecosystem designed to last.

How To Talk About Money With Your Kids In This Age

NEW YORK (AP) — At the grocery store, Jamie Corum sets a two-minute timer for her 10-year-old daughter to look around. Then she resets it to 10 minutes so her daughter can choose one thing to buy, making sure she considers her budget and how much tax she'll have to pay.

Corum and her wife have made it a priority to teach financial lessons to their three children, using engaging activities to encourage their interest in topics like saving and budgeting.

“My goal is for them to have a healthy relationship with money and not have insecurities,” said Corum, an Austin, Texas-based cybersecurity professional.

Not everyone feels as confident. Money can be a difficult conversation, especially if parents don’t feel totally comfortable with the topic themselves. But Jennifer Seitz, director of education at Greenlight, a family personal finance app, said that’s starting to change.

“This generation is really committed to doing better for their kids even though a majority of parents don’t feel equipped,” Seitz said.

There are more banking products available to help parents think about



their children’s financial futures, including debit cards for kids that can be used under parental supervision and apps that gamify money to make it approachable for kids.

Some people actually start learning while they are parenting, like Nasema McElroy, a nurse who became a money content creator. When McElroy’s oldest daughter was a year old, she felt inspired to learn more about

personal finance to pay off debt. As she learned more, she started to share her knowledge with friends and then a wider audience online.

“I started just from wanting to share the lessons that I was learning about money with my friends because I felt like we learn so late in life and then we all had daughters,” McElroy said.

Many parents want to start talking

about finances with their children because they didn’t have financial education growing up, Seitz said.

Here are some expert recommendations if you want to start talking about money with your kids:

Talk about money openly and often

Money conversations can feel uncomfortable, especially if your family didn’t encourage them. But if you want your children to engage with money in a healthy way, it’s best to talk about it, said Carrie Joy Grimes, a personal finance expert and founder of WorkMoney, a personal finance

nonprofit.

“Have conversations about money in front of your kid to normalize it,” Grimes said.

In Corum’s family, the topic of money has become part of their daily lives.

“We talk about how we have a budget for the house, that everything that their mom and I bring into the house has an assignment, a job,” Corum said.

A great way to start is by talking about the cost of things, said Courtney Pettway, CEO and founder

of KidVestors, a financial literacy platform for children. Pettway recommends asking questions like: What does this item cost? Why do you want this item? Is it a need or a want? And if they’re getting an allowance, you could ask: How long would it take for you to save up for this item?

At the dinner table, while you’re at the grocery store, when you travel or shop for clothes, take day-to-day situations and turn them into money lessons.

(See *MONEY*, P. 9)

SAU Faces Critical Bankruptcy Hearing As Scrutiny Intensifies

By Jordan Meadows

Staff Writer

Saint Augustine’s University (SAU) is financially restructuring as the Raleigh-based historically Black university appears in federal bankruptcy court on Tuesday for a formal Chapter 11 hearing tied to its ongoing effort to stabilize operations amid mounting debt, lost accreditation, and federal scrutiny over millions in grant funding.

The hearing comes roughly two months after SAU filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection in April, a move university leaders described in court filings as a “voluntary bankruptcy filing” intended to “strengthen its financial foundation” over the long term. The filing, however, revealed the scale of the institution’s financial distress: between \$50 million and \$100 million in total debt, including \$14.4 million owed to the Internal Revenue Service, and between 200 and 999 creditors.

Court documents show SAU’s assets are valued broadly between \$1 million and \$500 million, though much of that value is tied to its 105-acre Raleigh campus. University officials have acknowledged they are considering selling portions of the property as part of a broader restructuring strategy to satisfy creditors. Bankruptcy counsel has indicated that Chapter 11 proceedings are designed specifically to allow institutions like SAU to reorganize debt, shed unprofitable leases and contracts, and restructure operations into a more sustainable financial model.

At a prior hearing in May, SAU’s bankruptcy attorney noted the university had only about \$426,000 in cash on hand, underscoring the immediate liquidity crisis driving the restructuring effort.

SAU’s accreditation officially expired on May 15, leading to the transfer of all remaining students and effectively leaving the university

without an enrolled student body. In a major shift, university leadership also discontinued litigation tied to its accreditation status, ending a legal fight that had stretched more than two years.

Adding further pressure, federal agencies are now conducting a detailed review of SAU’s use of more than \$30 million in grant funding across 34 federal awards.

According to federal court filings, the U.S. Department of Education, Commerce Department, and other agencies have demanded detailed documentation of how funds were spent, particularly those intended for student support, infrastructure upgrades, and institutional modernization.

Among the grants under review are more than \$13 million from the Department of Education since 2020 aimed at strengthening management and fiscal operations; over \$2 million for historic preservation projects, including campus chapel restoration; and nearly \$2 million from the Department of Commerce in 2023 to expand internet bandwidth and connectivity infrastructure

The government’s filing requests that SAU provide current debt records tied to federal funding, documentation proving appropriate use of grant money, and a witness to answer questions under oath regarding financial decisions.

During a prior hearing, an attorney representing multiple federal agencies directly questioned Board Chair Sophie Gibson about possible misuse of funds. Gibson acknowledged uncertainty about specific allocations, stating that internal investigations were ongoing, while also noting that some funds may have been used for payroll rather than their intended purposes.

Court filings also reveal overlapping financial disputes involving contractors and vendors connected to federally funded projects. One company involved in chapel restoration

work has sued SAU for unpaid bills tied to preservation efforts. Meanwhile, two IT firms contracted to improve campus network systems claim they are owed more than \$25 million combined, with both cases now active in Wake County courts.

At a late May bankruptcy hearing, federal attorneys aggressively questioned university leadership about how grant money was managed and whether federal funds were misallocated.

In one exchange, attorney Benjamin Higgins asked whether outstanding debts were connected to the use of grant funds.

Chairwoman Gibson responded that she could not confirm specifics and reiterated that internal investigations were ongoing, while suggesting some funds may have been redirected to payroll.

The court also heard that SAU had effectively ceased operations as a traditional residential institution, with zero enrolled students following the loss of accreditation.

In an earlier ruling, the court approved a \$200,000 emergency loan from the Self-Help Ventures Fund to keep the campus minimally operational during the bankruptcy process. University counsel is expected to return to court this week seeking additional borrowing authority, a move intended to sustain basic operations while restructuring negotiations continue.

Federal agencies are expected to continue reviewing SAU’s grant records following a court-imposed deadline requiring full documentation of spending. A follow-up court appearance is expected next month, where additional findings from federal investigators will likely be presented.

For now, the university stands at the center of one of the most consequential higher education financial collapses in North Carolina in recent years.



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The purpose of this project is to enhance mobility and improve safety with the removal of the at-grade crossings. The purpose of this meeting is to provide interested citizens with information on the project and gather public input on the proposed design.

Project details and maps can be found on NCDOT's project input website at publicinput.com/english-street-separation. The information will be available at the meeting allowing for one-on-one discussions with NCDOT staff, but there will be no formal presentation.

The meeting will be held from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. on July 14 at New Hope Baptist Church, 304 S English Street, in Greensboro.

People may also submit comments by phone at 984-205-6615 project code 4075, email english-street-separation@publicinput.com, or mail at the address shown below by July 31, 2026.

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Gregory Blakeney
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NCDOT will provide auxiliary aids and services under the Americans with Disabilities Act for disabled people who wish to participate in this meeting. Anyone requiring special services should contact Tony Gallagher, Environmental Analysis Unit, at 1598 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1598, 919-707-6069 or mgallagher@ncdot.gov as early as possible so arrangements can be made.

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‘Colored Confederates’: The Debate On Black Participation in the Civil War South

By Jordan Meadows
Staff Writer

The question of whether African Americans served as soldiers in the Confederate military remains a controversial topic in Civil War history, dividing historians, archivists, and heritage activists, despite most institutions concluding the idea a myth at worst and a misunderstanding at best.

North Carolina historian and museum curator Earl Ijames has spent years researching and speaking on what he describes as “Colored Confederates,” a term he uses to refer to enslaved and free people of color who he argues participated in Confederate military structures.

In a 2010 lecture, Ijames pointed to early federal policy and wartime conditions as context for his argument. “During the first Congress of the United States, one of the first laws that was passed was the 1792 Federal militia act, which disallowed any future service of African-Americans or people of color in the US Army,” Ijames said.

He added that this legal exclusion shaped wartime outcomes for people of color and contributed to cases where free Black men aligned with Confederate forces under local conditions rather than formal enlistment structures.

Ijames also described cases of free men of color in North Carolina who he said made voluntary choices to join Confederate units early in the war, citing family testimony and local records.

“Daniel and Milford Brooks were free men of color in Cleveland County ... and they preferred to join and walk 17 miles to Shelby, North Carolina to join a Confederate Army at

the beginning of the war,” he said.

Ijames has further argued that Black laborers and service members should be understood within a broader definition of military participation, citing examples from Confederate records, pension applications, and oral histories. In his interpretation, the presence of African Americans in Confederate camps, artillery units, and support roles reflects a more complex wartime reality than traditional battlefield narratives suggest.

However, this interpretation is sharply disputed by many other historians, who argue that the available evidence does not support the claim that enslaved or free Black men served as Confederate soldiers in any formal or voluntary military sense.

According to historian John Coski of the American Civil War Museum, the core disagreement stems from how the term “soldier” is defined and applied to historical records.

“There is no question that tens of thousands of enslaved and free African Americans served with Confederate armies as body servants, laborers, teamsters, hospital workers, and cooks. But were these men ‘soldiers’ in any real sense of the word? Partisans of the ‘Black Confederate’ viewpoint answer in the affirmative,” Coski said.

But he rejected that conclusion, arguing that labor roles within Confederate armies did not constitute military enlistment.

“But were African American laborers in the Confederate army formally enlisted in the army, equipped with uniforms, arms, and accoutrements, and paid for their own work, as were African Americans in the U.S. Army? No,” Coski said. “Their status was that of enslaved or marginally free laborers serving in capacities in a



military setting analogous to their roles in civilian life.”

Coski and other historians point to Confederate policy and late-war legislation as evidence that formal Black enlistment did not occur in significant numbers until very late in the war, when the Confederacy authorized limited recruitment in 1865 under desperate conditions. Even then, they argue, the numbers were small and did not resemble standard military service.

Critics of Ijames’ interpretation also argue that pension records and post-war testimony are often misread or reflect altered terminology used decades after the Civil War. In some cases, historians note, the language in Confederate pension applications was modified to reflect service “with” units rather than formal enlistment. The debate has also taken on a broader cultural dimension, with historians arguing that claims of widespread Black Confederate soldiers have at times been used to reshape public understanding of slavery and Confederate memory.

As Coski noted, “the argument supporting ‘Black Confederates’ is typically related to the modern debate about slavery and Confederate heritage.”

At the same time, scholars such as Ervin L. Jordan Jr. have acknowledged rare and complex cases in which African Americans may have been present in combat situations alongside Confederate forces, though they emphasize that these cases do not equate to formal military service or enlistment.

As research continues, historians on both sides agree on at least one point: thousands of African Americans were present in Confederate armies in some capacity, whether as enslaved laborers, camp servants, or support personnel. The central dispute remains whether those roles can or should be defined as military service, and what that distinction may mean for our understanding of American history.

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Wake Co. Pushes Opioid Settlement Toward Treatment

By Jordan Meadows

Staff Writer

Community members, county officials and local treatment providers gathered Wednesday morning at the McKimmon Center at NC State University for Wake County's annual opioid settlement community meeting, an event meant to both report back on how the county has spent its share of national opioid settlement funds and gather input on where that money should go next.

Wake County is set to receive more than \$67 million in opioid settlement funds over an 18-year period running from 2022 to 2038, money drawn from a series of national legal settlements with pharmaceutical manufacturers and distributors found to have fueled the opioid crisis through the marketing and distribution of prescription painkillers. The funds can only be used to address the opioid epidemic, and any spending plan requires formal approval from the Wake County Board of Commissioners.

"No amount of funding or programming can undo the years of harm done to our community from the opioid crisis," Wake County Commissioner Cheryl Stallings said. "However, these resources can offer a critical opportunity for healing and restoration. But they must be guided by the voices of those impacted the most."

Officials at the meeting pointed to a year's worth of work funded by the settlement dollars. In fiscal year 2025, the county said opioid settlement money helped support 4,075 recovery support contacts, paid for 134 free buprenorphine prescriptions, and put 4,710 naloxone kits into circulation. Panelists also highlighted two newer additions to the county's response: North Carolina's first mobile opioid treatment program and a newly opened recovery café and hub, both designed to reach people who might otherwise never walk into a traditional treatment

Community Secures Key Funding To Fight Poverty

By Jheri Hardaway

Staff Writer

Lillington, NC - Driving meaningful change requires both a deep commitment to the community and a willingness to evolve. That spirit of enduring dedication and forward momentum was on full display at the latest board of directors meeting for Johnston Lee Harnett (JLH) Community Action. The inspiring session brought together long-serving members, agency leaders, and community advocates, all unified by a shared mission: securing grant funding and local contributions to directly combat the root causes of poverty across Johnston, Lee, and Harnett counties. By working smart and collaborating closely, the agency continues to execute vital programs that uplift vulnerable populations and improve life for all area citizens.

Their key programs are transformative. First, Community Service Block Grant S.T.A.R.S. Program. The S.T.A.R.S. Program is a self-sufficiency program designed to help low-income residents in Johnston, Lee, and Harnett counties identify and eliminate barriers that have prevented them from becoming independent. S.T.A.R.S. areas of concentration include: Employment, Education, Housing, Financial Literacy (budgeting), and goal-setting.

Next, JLH Community Action Head Start/Early Head Start Program. This three-county, comprehensive child development program is designed to meet children's and families' needs through licensed center-based care. The primary goal of the Head Start/Early Head Start programs is to provide quality, developmentally appropriate learning experiences for children from birth to five years of age. Early Head Start/Head Start provides a comprehensive child development program that addresses the individual, physical, educational, nutritional, mental, social, and emotional development of infants, toddlers, and preschool participants. The program also serves the needs of pregnant mothers during prenatal and post-delivery. Additionally, the Weatherization Assistance Program is a Federal program managed by the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality. It is designed to help residents who meet federal low-income guidelines to lower their energy usage and costs. This is achieved by home weatherization and client education. Weatherizing a home involves conducting an energy assessment to identify the most cost-effective energy improvements that need to be performed on the dwelling, and then making those improvements at no cost to the household. "We are known by the state for spending money, because we get it and we spend it," Executive Director Ruby R. Bryant said. "There are so many needs in our community."

Finally, Rapid Re-housing is a program designed to house homeless individuals and/or families that HUD defines as people who are living in a place not meant for human habitation, in emergency shelter, in transitional housing, or in an existing institution where they temporarily reside (streets, car, or shelter). The consumers will come into the office with their valid license or ID, social security numbers of everyone who will be living inside the home, and a letter from someone who knows they are HUD-defined homeless. The client will then complete an application; the application will be submitted to a committee outside of the agency for approval. The program provides case management for a year once a consumer is enrolled in the program.

On a celebratory note, the agency has already been conditionally approved for the upcoming fiscal year's grant funding. The committee reported that they successfully distributed well-deserved end-of-year financial incentives to the hardworking Head Start staff during the first payroll run in May. Executive Director Ruby Bryant presented a comprehensive update on a massive agency-wide modernization push, proving that JLH Community Action is firmly focused on the future. For the first time in its history, the agency has completely abandoned paper forms for its health insurance open enrollment, successfully transitioning to a fully digital platform via Employee Navigator. Despite initial hesitation about moving away from a 20-year routine with Blue Cross Blue Shield, Bryant reported immense success with their new provider, Aetna. "Tomorrow is the last day, and we have less than 10 people who have yet to enroll," Executive Director Rouse shared enthusiastically, "It is digital; it is the way everybody's going... You can't be afraid of it anymore. Everybody chooses their own benefits, they see the price, and it's just laid out."

The organization is confident that healthcare and competitive pay will bring quality and caring employees to JLH Community Action Head Start/Early Head Start Program. Head Start representatives issued an urgent call for job applicants across all three counties as the program launches an aggressive recruitment campaign. The agency is actively seeking local applicants, including recent high school graduates, for positions that offer a five-day work week, paid holidays, comprehensive benefits, and clear paths for upward mobility. To combat regional teacher shortages, JLH Community Action is partnering with local childcare academies to provide full training in early childhood education for uncertified hires. Additionally, the agency is actively adjusting teacher salaries to remain competitive with local public school systems. Applicants must be able to pass a standard background check, physical, and local registry screening.

Looking ahead, board members highlighted several upcoming community initiatives like their Back-to-School Bash, August 9, from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at Clayton High School. The event is open to all surrounding areas with no strict qualifications, though children must be present to receive supplies, free haircuts, and hair braiding.



"Although we're seeing a decline, we're still seeing more overdoses than before COVID," Kitlas said.

That modest downward trend follows a \$8 million infusion of new settlement money the Board of Commissioners approved earlier, drawn from two additional settlement agreements: one with Purdue Pharma and the Sackler family expected to bring \$6.94 million to the county over 15 years, and another with eight generic opioid manufacturers expected to bring roughly \$1.11 million over a decade. Those additional dol-

lars push the county's total expected settlement funding to nearly \$76 million.

"This funding represents more than just dollars, it gives us the ability to continue building a coordinated, community-wide approach to ending this epidemic," Stallings said of the newer settlement money. "With these additional resources, we can accelerate the progress we've started and continue saving lives."

The county's newly established Behavioral Health Department has taken the lead on directing the settle-

ment funds in partnership with community providers, with a particular focus on expanding naloxone access, strengthening treatment and recovery programs, building out recovery housing, and lowering barriers to behavioral health services generally. Since July 2024, county staff said they have trained more than 345 people on how to administer naloxone and have distributed more than 1,000 naloxone kits.

Other speakers at Wednesday's meeting included Pete Rubinas of SMART Recovery, Megan Peevey of

Arise Collective, and Cherene Caraco of Promise Resource Network, each representing organizations that partner with the county on treatment and recovery work funded in part by the settlement dollars.

Wake County first joined the national opioid settlement in November 2021, agreeing at the time to roughly \$67.7 million over 18 years. North Carolina as a whole is expected to receive about \$1.37 billion from the broader settlement, including an estimated \$150 million from the Purdue and Sackler agreement and about \$23 million from the generic manufacturer settlements.

Under the terms of the state's distribution agreement, 85 percent of settlement funds flow directly to local governments for use on opioid remediation programs.

County officials said the bulk of the money remains years away from being spent, with payments continuing through 2038, and they emphasized that the longer funding horizon gives providers a rare opportunity to plan multi-year programs rather than rely on the short-term grants that have historically defined addiction treatment and recovery funding. Staff said the county will continue to hold public input sessions, run community surveys and issue competitive solicitations — including recent requests for proposals tied to opioid-use education and prevention — as it shapes how future allocations are spent.

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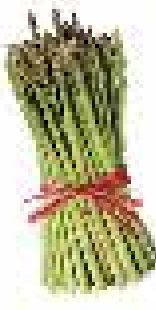
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Arts & Culture

Lauryn Hill Honored, Janet Jackson Stuns, Teyana Taylor And Druski Makes History At This Year's BET Awards

LOS ANGELES (AP) — After watching a 20-minute tribute celebrating her groundbreaking career, Lauryn Hill surprised the BET Awards audience Sunday with an impromptu performance of her 1998 classic “Ex-Factor” after accepting the Living Legend Icon Award before closing the show with “Everything Is Everything.”

Introduced by Ice Cube, the eight-time Grammy winner was honored with performances at Los Angeles’ Peacock Theater from SZA, Doechi, Lizzo, Queen Latifah, Common, her children Selah Marley and Zion Marley, who revisited songs from Hill’s stellar catalog while she stood smiling, singing along and applauding throughout the tribute.

After she accepted the honor, Hill encouraged artists to embrace their gifts and remain true to their purpose.

“I fight for y’all,” Hill said. “And fighting for y’all is me fighting for myself, it’s me fighting for my children, it’s me fighting for my community.”

The Living Legend Icon Award recognizes pioneers whose work has remained culturally essential across generations. Hill first emerged as a member of the Fugees before releasing her landmark solo debut, “The Miseducation of Lauryn Hill,” featuring classics including “Doo Wop



most acclaimed voices.

Sylvia Rhone honored for shaping generations of artists

Music executive Sylvia Rhone received the BET Ultimate Icon Award in recognition of her groundbreaking leadership and lasting impact on the music industry.

Presented by Kelly Rowland, the honor celebrated Rhone’s trailblazing career as the first Black woman to lead a major record company owned by a Fortune 500 corporation. A video tribute featured messages from artists including Missy Elliott and Busta Rhymes, highlighting her role in helping develop the careers of performers such as Tracy Chapman, Brandy, Erykah Badu, Lil Wayne, Kid Cudi, Future, Travis Scott and Tyler, the Creator.

While accepting the award, Rhone dedicated the honor to the artists and creative teams she has worked alongside throughout her career.

“Tonight’s honor bears my name, but it really belongs to all of us who create culture,” she said.

Rhone also used the moment to urge the music industry to protect artists as artificial intelligence reshapes the business.

“We make the algorithm. The algorithm doesn’t make us,” she said. “We must honor the musician. We must compensate the creator.”



Raleigh's Juneteenth Celebration

Spring Hill in Dix Park in Raleigh was the location for the City’s 2026 Juneteenth Celebration on June 20th. Vendors of food, artwork and HBCUs were there to greet people who came out to celebrate. The main stage, with WRAL’s Ken Smith as emcee, had dance, history reenactments & lessons, plus music for those who came out Saturday. Also, descendants of Ned Hunter, formerly enslaved on the Spring Hill Plantation (Dix Park is on the grounds of the plantation) , came to talk about family history and display how many who were part in the U.S. Armed forces in their family’s history.



praised Taylor’s relentless work ethic and artistic range, highlighting her Golden Globe win for best supporting actress in “One Battle After Another” and calling her gifts “God-given.”

The Icon of the Year Award recognizes a creative force whose influence is shaping culture. Taylor has evolved from a multiplatinum recording artist into an award-winning actor, director, producer and choreographer.

Accepting the honor, Taylor reflected on her two-decade career.

“I worked my (expletives) off 20 years,” she said. “So I’m not accepting what I’ve earned with arrogance. I’m accepting what I’ve earned with

gratitude.”

BET Awards remembers Clive Davis, Richard Smallwood and other trailblazers

The BET Awards paused to honor influential figures from music and entertainment who died over the past year during an emotional in memoriam tribute.

Erica Campbell of Mary Mary introduced the segment by reflecting on the enduring legacies left behind by those who died, paying special tribute to the late gospel composer Richard Smallwood, whose music she said strengthened her faith. She also remembered the late music executive Clive Davis, who died earlier

The Influence Of Rose Butler Browne

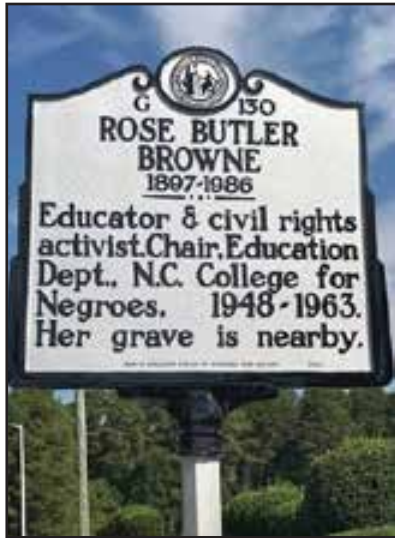
By Jordan Meadows
Staff Writer

Educator and civil rights advocate Rose Butler Browne played a key role in advancing educational access in North Carolina and across the United States during the 20th century.

Born in Boston in 1897, Browne was raised in a family that emphasized education despite financial hardship. In her autobiography, Love My Children, she described the influence of her great-grandmother, whom she called the “High Priestess,” as central to her development and determination to succeed.

In 1939, Browne became the first Black woman to earn a doctorate in education from Harvard University, marking a significant milestone at a time when both racial and gender barriers limited access to advanced degrees. Browne’s career included teaching and administrative roles at institutions such as Virginia State University before she moved to North Carolina, where she would have her most lasting impact.

At North Carolina College—now North Carolina Central University—she was appointed chair of the Department of Education in 1948. In that role, she led major developments, including expanding teacher training programs, guiding accreditation efforts, and helping establish what became the state’s



first doctoral program in education. Her work at the university also included physical and programmatic expansion. Browne advocated for improved facilities and resources for education students, contributing to the construction of new academic spaces and strengthening the institution’s ability to prepare future educators.

Beyond campus, Browne was active in statewide and community initiatives. She introduced literacy efforts such as a “Pleasurable Reading Program,” aimed at improving reading engagement and outcomes among students. She also participated in civic and service organizations

including Alpha Kappa Alpha, the Girl Scouts and the Young Women’s Christian Association. Her work extended into public policy when she was appointed by former Gov. Terry Sanford to serve on a committee studying the needs of children with developmental disabilities.

Earlier in her career, Browne took a public stand against racial inequities in teacher pay while working in West Virginia. She refused to recommend her students for positions in school systems that paid Black teachers less than their white counterparts.

“What resulted was that Negro education became an afterthought on

the part of the board of education... and consequently Negro teachers were paid correspondingly lower salaries,” Browne said.

Her stance drew attention to proposed changes in racial discriminatory salary practices.

Browne consistently emphasized the connection between education and economic mobility.

“The opportunity for upward mobility is the single most essential factor in guaranteeing social justice,” she said. “And the way Negroes can assure themselves of this is through education.” She also maintained a strict personal standard in her work, stating, “I’m not a compromiser... I have never reconciled myself to a substandard effort or below par achievement.”

After retiring from North Carolina College in 1963, Browne remained active in education at the local level.

In Durham, she operated a child care center at Mount Vernon Baptist Church, where her husband served as pastor. The program focused on preparing preschool-aged children for formal schooling, continuing her emphasis on early education and long-term academic success.

Browne died in 1986 and is buried in Durham. Her contributions continue to be recognized in North Carolina and beyond, including honors at North Carolina Central University and Rhode Island College, where a residence hall bears her name.

Wells Becomes 2nd Black Miss SC 's Teen

Columbia, S.C. – Logan Wells, a rising senior from Columbia, South Carolina, has been crowned Miss South Carolina’s Teen, becoming just the second African American woman to earn the title in the past 24 years. Her historic victory follows the groundbreaking achievement of Danielle Wilson, who was crowned in 2002 and remained the only African American titleholder until Wells’ recent win.

Wells will now represent South Carolina on the national stage as she competes for the title of Miss America’s Teen this September.

A passionate advocate for service, leadership, and youth engagement, Wells is the founder of Fresh Friends, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting volunteerism among young people and creating meaningful connections through community service. Since launching the organization in 2024, Fresh Friends has engaged students from multiple schools in service initiatives throughout South Carolina. The organization was recently recognized at the South Carolina Statehouse, where its volunteers received resolutions from both the South Caro-



tors, community, and the Miss South Carolina Organization, said Logan Wells. “As the second African American young woman to hold this title in the last 24 years, I recognize the significance of this moment and the responsibility that comes with it. I hope to inspire young people across our state to lead with purpose, serve others wholeheartedly, and never be afraid to pursue their dreams. I am excited to represent South Carolina at Miss America’s Teen and continue using my platform to promote volunteerism, leadership, and meaningful community impact.”

Through her participation in the Miss South Carolina Organization, Wells has earned more than \$29,000 in scholarship funding while developing skills in leadership, public speaking, and advocacy.

Academically, Wells has distinguished herself as one of South Carolina’s top students. She maintains an impressive 5.31 GPA while pursuing a rigorous course load at Heathwood Hall Episcopal School. Her many honors include induction into the prestigious Cum Laude Society, selection for the Yale Univer-

sity Women’s Leadership Initiative High School Cohort, and receiving the Yale University Book Award. She was also named a finalist in the 13th Annual South Carolina High School Writing Contest, and her essay, On My Drive Home, was published by the University of South Carolina Honors College.

Beyond the classroom, Wells excels as a Varsity Cross Country and Track athlete and Varsity Sideline Cheerleader. She is an active member of Jack and Jill of America and has participated in international service work through a mission trip with Bold Hope, further strengthening her commitment to helping others and making a positive impact around the world.

As Miss South Carolina’s Teen, Wells plans to continue promoting volunteerism, youth leadership, and civic engagement while inspiring young people across the state to use their talents and voices to serve their communities.

Her historic achievement serves as a powerful reminder that representation matters and that the next generation of leaders is already making an impact throughout South Carolina.



Wake County Omegas Hold Second Annual Event To Honor Educators

Area educators representing Wake, Johnston and Lee Counties were honored on Sunday, hosted by the Noble Aspirations Foundation, in partnership with the Xi Mu Mu Chapter (Cary, N.C. of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Incorporated and the Alliance of Black School educators. The chapter honored three teachers and three principals representing the three county region.

WTVD-ABC 11 weekend anchor and reporter, Bianca Holman served as Mistress of Ceremonies for the event.

The teachers who received the “William (Bill) Curry Teacher of the Year” award were: Virginia Williams (Johnston County), Jakiah Bulluck (Lee County), and Katrese Credde (Wake County).

The school administrators who received the “Toussaint Avent Sr. Principal of the Year” award were: Keith Faison (Wake County), James Beasley-Mungin (Lee County), and Sandra Morris (Johnston County).

The awards were named in honor of the late William Curry, who served as an educator in Franklin and Wake County for over 37 years. Toussaint Avent Sr. served several years as a school administrator, before retiring with a distinguished career with the State of North Carolina.



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Community

Moore County Legislators Are Forcing Division: Pinehurst’s Silence Is Loud

By Jheri Hardaway

Staff Writer

For generations, municipal elections in the state's smaller towns have operated on a simple premise: neighbors voting for neighbors based on local issues, free from the toxic polarization of national party politics. Senate Bill 876 aims to dismantle that tradition by forcing a mandatory partisan framework onto all 11 municipalities in Moore County, as well as its school board.

Senate Bill 876 features several mandates impacting Rowan County, Chowan County, Harnett County, and Moore County, which is our focus due to the divisive potential of this legislation. First, a partisan switch requiring all 11 municipalities in Moore County and the Moore County Board of Education to transition from nonpartisan to partisan elections starting in 2028. Additionally, election postponements. SB 876 cancels the county's 2027 and 2029 municipal elections, pushing them to 2028 and 2030 to align with even-numbered election cycles. Also, term extensions. This bill extends the terms of all currently serving municipal and school board officials by one year to accommodate the shifted schedule. Finally, unaffiliated requirements like stricter ballot access rules, forcing unaffiliated candidates to complete a petition process to appear on the ballot.

To understand what this means for everyday citizens, The Carolinian sat down with a group of local residents, elected officials, and community advocates to discuss how this legislative overreach will affect the people and why the state's massive block of independent voters is being locked out of the room. "At its core, the critique of SB 876 is that it represents an escalation beyond traditional gerrymandering. Instead of merely redrawing lines to favor one party, the bill actively alters the rules of engagement for local democracy. This is beyond gerrymandering," the community advocate explains. "They are weaponizing local elections, from town boards across nine different municipalities to school boards, to make it so you simply cannot run for office unless you force yourself into a Republican or Democrat box."



Moore County is home to the internationally renowned Pinehurst Resort. Known globally for its world-class golf courses and luxury hospitality, the area is historically conservative. However, local critics argue that the Republican-controlled County Commission and state lawmakers are no longer satisfied with a natural majority; they are seeking dominance. "Even a natural majority isn't good enough anymore," a resident notes. "They need everything to be legally and systematically controlled by Republicans. In a place like Pinehurst, which welcomes people from all over the world, the local political leadership is sending a chilling message: If you are not part of the Republican party, you are not welcome."

The greatest irony of SB 876 is how sharply it diverges from the actual demographic reality of North Carolina. Registered unaffiliated or independent voters now constitute the largest voting bloc in the state, outnumbering both registered Democrats and Republicans. By forcing municipal elections into a partisan primary system, the law creates intentional, systemic barriers for these independent voters and candidates. Under the new rules, an unaffiliated candidate can no longer simply file to run for their local town board; they must successfully navigate a grueling petition process just to get their name printed on the ballot.

Charlotte African American Book Festival Celebrates Black Literature

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Readers, writers and families gathered inside the historic Second Ward Gymnasium on Saturday as the fourth annual Charlotte African American Book Festival returned to the Queen City, transforming the venue into a vibrant celebration of Black literature, literacy and culture.

Hosted by Virginia Business Expo Corporation, the free festival welcomed community members from across the Charlotte area for a day centered on books, education and meaningful connections between authors and readers. Throughout the event, attendees filled the gymnasium as they browsed vendor tables, met featured authors, purchased books and participated in discussions highlighting the impact African American voices have had on literature for generations.

Now in its fourth year, the festival was created to provide African American authors, publishers and bookstores with a platform to share their work while encouraging literacy and increasing visibility within the literary community. Organizers built the event around three key pillars: entertainment, education and impact, with the goal of inspiring conversations about representation, storytelling and the importance of preserving Black literary traditions.

The gymnasium remained busy throughout the afternoon as visitors explored books spanning a wide range of genres, including fiction, nonfiction, memoirs, poetry, children's literature, self-help and spiritual works. Families, aspiring writers and longtime readers took advantage of opportunities to meet authors,



have books signed and learn more about the creative journeys behind the stories.

Among the featured authors was Liorna Ligon, who introduced readers to her book, Blueprint of Balance. Poet Watson John also connected with attendees while sharing his book, The Mind of Me. John wore Poetry Matters Apparel, reflecting the festival's celebration of poetry and creative expression while engaging readers throughout the event.

Children and adults alike found books that reflected diverse experiences and perspectives, reinforcing the festival's mission of making Black literature accessible to readers of every age. Guests also enjoyed live entertainment, including a dance performance that added energy to

the celebration and encouraged attendees to remain engaged throughout the day.

Author Tiffany also participated in the festival, sharing the message behind her book, Little Me Big You, which encourages readers to look beyond appearances and treat others with understanding and compassion. "Had a great time at the Charlotte African American Book Festival," Tiffany shared following the event. "I enjoyed sharing the mission of my book, 'Little Me Big You.' Have you ever been judged or judged by others? If so, this book is for YOU. This book is for everyone."

In addition to author meet-and-greets and book signings, attendees had opportunities to network with writers, publishers and fellow read-

ers while discovering new literary voices. Discounted books, photo opportunities with authors, live entertainment and door prizes created an atmosphere that was both educational and family friendly.

Roy Wyatt, CEO and owner of Virginia Business Expo Corporation, said the festival represents an opportunity for the community to celebrate the depth and diversity of African American literature.

"The festival is an opportunity for individuals to connect with Black professionals in the literary field," Wyatt said. "By celebrating African Americans' contributions to literary culture, we make a conscious decision to see past color, but experience their humanity, drive, intellect, passion, diversity and depth of their experiences."

Beyond introducing readers to new books, organizers hope the annual festival continues strengthening relationships between authors and the communities they serve. By creating a welcoming space where stories can be shared, discussed and celebrated, the event encourages literacy while highlighting the voices that continue to shape American literature.

As the festival concluded, attendees left with more than signed books and photographs. They departed with new perspectives, meaningful conversations and a greater appreciation for the power of storytelling. With another successful year in the books, the Charlotte African American Book Festival continues to grow as a destination for readers, writers and families seeking to celebrate Black literature and its lasting impact on culture and community.



Ques Give \$7,000 In Scholarships To W-S Seniors

WINSTON-SALEM, NC — The Psi Phi chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc. recently handed out \$7,000 in scholarships to Winston-Salem/Forsyth County high school seniors. A total of seven students were presented \$1,000 that can be used toward their college fees and tuition.

"We were proud to honor these young men and their families at our chapter's June meeting," said Terry Colaire, chairman of the chapter's scholarship committee.

Chapter Basileus Richard Watkins said, "These scholarships are yet another affirmation of Psi Phi pouring into our youth and uplifting our community. Congratulations to each of the scholarship recipients, their families, and Brother Colaire and Brother Green for a job well done."

Scholarships winners are Ethan Bailey (Parkland High School), Jarrian Benson (West Forsyth High), Calvin Rice (North Carolina Leadership Academy), Cameron Simmons (Reagan High School), Kyle G. Pemberton (Forsyth County Day), Lieyton Pilson (Forsyth County Day) and Sterlyne Graham (Winston-Salem Street School).

These scholarships illustrate how Psi Phi continues to support the community. The chapter recently made a \$500 donation to St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital.



Wendell Top Ladies Mark 20th Anniversary

On the past Saturday, 6June, The Wendell Top Ladies & Top Teens had an End of The Year event to celebrate 3 Top Teens high school graduates & 2 Top Ladies college graduates. The highlight of the event was a Founder's Day Rededication Tea & a 20year Chapter celebration. In addition to the National Founder's Day acknowledging the Founders, the Organizer of the Wendell Chapter was acknowledged, along with the Charter members in attendance. A congratulatory 20year greeting in a sisterly relation video was received from Actress Angela Bassett. A video highlighting The Top Teens activities was also presented as the Wendell Chapter continues as a 5Star Chapter, as part of a nonprofit National organization, providing top service to the Youth & adult in the community. The Wendell Chapter is also proud to be the home chapter of the National TTA President & the National 1st Vice President.

Omeegas Highway Clean Up



On Saturday June 06, 2026, The Durham Beta Phi Chapter of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. participated in a highway clean up along Fayetteville Street/Highway 54 as part of its ongoing commitment to community services. The brothers dedicated their time and energy to removing litter and debris, helping to enhance the appearance and safety of this heavily traveled corridor. The highway clean up reflects the Fraternity's core principles of manhood, scholarship, perseverance & uplift and it's dedication to the community & environment.

UPI STEM Committee Celebrates Students' Year of Achievement



On June 04, 2026, The UPI Stem Committee held it's end of the year celebration at the Salvation Army Boy's & Girl's Club in Durham, N.C. The event brought together students' families, staff, and community supporters to recognize a year in learning creativity, achievement in science, technology, engineering and mathematics. (STEM). Students participated in hands-on activities designed to strengthen their critical thinking, problems solving, teamwork and innovation. The event allowed the students to see their projects and activities they participated in with the UPI Stem Program.

57th Annual Lumbee Homecoming Celebrates Heritage, Family And A Historic New Chapter

By Judaea Ingram

Special To The Carolinian

PEMBROKE, N.C. — Thousands of Lumbee citizens and visitors from across North Carolina and beyond are returning to Pembroke this week as the 57th Annual Lumbee Homecoming transforms the community into a celebration of Native American heritage, family traditions and cultural pride.

Running from June 26 through July 4, the nine-day celebration is recognized as one of the largest and most anticipated Native American cultural events in the Southeast. The annual gathering brings together generations of Lumbee families for a week filled with pageantry, music, food, athletic competitions, cultural programming and opportunities to honor the history and future of the Lumbee Tribe.

This year's celebration carries added significance as it marks the first Lumbee Homecoming since the tribe received federal recognition, giving organizers and community members another reason to celebrate a milestone many generations spent decades working to achieve.

The festivities officially began June 26 with a new Kick-Off Celebration and Fireworks Show, launching more than a week of events that



showcase the traditions, resilience and vibrant culture of the Lumbee people.

While Homecoming has grown into one of southeastern North Carolina's signature celebrations, its roots date back nearly six decades. The event officially began in 1968, one year after Cheryl Ransom Locklear was crowned the first Miss Lumbee. What started with a beauty pageant has since evolved into a week-long cultural celebration that draws thousands of attendees each year.

For many Lumbee families, Homecoming is more than an annual festival. It is a homecoming in the truest sense, bringing together relatives and friends who travel back to Pembroke from across the country to reconnect with loved ones, celebrate shared traditions and pass those traditions on to younger generations.

Throughout the week, visitors can experience a variety of activities highlighting Lumbee history and culture. The Lumbee Homecoming Outdoor Market features local vendors, artists and small businesses, while

exhibits at the Museum of the Southeast American Indian provide opportunities to learn about the tribe's rich heritage. The celebration also includes the second annual Chicken Cook-Off Contest, athletic competitions, pageants at the Givens Performing Arts Center, cultural lectures and live musical performances.

One of this year's featured events is the eighth annual Lumbee Film Festival, scheduled for July 6. The festival highlights original films created by Native American filmmakers, with a special emphasis on Southeastern tribal communities and members of the Lumbee Tribe. Presented through a partnership between the Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina and the Cularorus Film Foundation, the festival continues to create opportunities for Native storytellers to share their perspectives through film.

Festival Director Cheyenne Oxendine said the event welcomes both Native filmmakers and movie lovers alike.

"The Lumbee Film Festival is for Native American filmmakers and for anyone who loves movies," Oxendine said. "This year's films cover important topics the world needs to hear, and we need to share."

The festival reflects Homecoming's

(See LUMBEE, P. 9)

Church

Texas Approves Mandatory Bible Readings In Public Schools

THE CONVERSATION—On June 26, 2026, the Texas State Board of Education approved a required reading list for public schools, including selections from the Bible. The 9-5-1 vote, mostly split along Republican and Democrat party lines, stems from a 2023 state law that required Texas to create a list with at least one mandatory reading per grade level. Ultimately, the board produced a list of more than 200 readings, which include about a dozen biblical texts. It also requires material

from literary and public figures such as Charles Dickens, William Shakespeare, Martin Luther King Jr. and Margaret Thatcher. Critics argue that mandatory Bible readings in public schools violate the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, which bars the government from “an establishment of religion.” These opponents maintain that the readings impermissibly promote religion, particularly Christianity, while violating the free exercise rights of students who belong to other reli-

gions, or none. Litigation over the use of the Bible in American public schools began over 150 years ago – with the outcome often depending on a lesson’s purpose. The first reported case on the Bible in U.S. public schools was in 1872, when the Supreme Court of Ohio affirmed a ban against religious instruction in public classrooms. Conversely, 50 years later, the Supreme Court of Georgia upheld an ordinance to start school days with readings from the King

James Version of the Bible. Bible reading first reached the U.S. Supreme Court in 1963, in School District of Abington Township v. Schempp. This case, from Pennsylvania, was consolidated with a similar dispute from Maryland, Murray v. Curlett. Opponents in both cases challenged mandatory Bible readings and prayer at the start of school days. The plaintiffs argued that these activities violated the establishment clause of the First Amendment: that “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion.” The justices struck down both practices, finding that they did not have a secular purpose and that their main effect was to advance religion. Attempting to allay concerns they were anti-religious, the justices declared, “It certainly may be said that the Bible is worthy of study for its literary and historic qualities. Nothing we have said here indicates that such study of the Bible or of religion, when presented objectively as part of a secular program of education, may not be effected consistently with the First Amendment.” Justice William Brennan’s concurrence added, “The holding of the Court today plainly does not foreclose teaching about the Holy Scriptures or about the differences between religious sects in classes in literature or history.” In the following decades, lower

courts invalidated classes as violating the establishment clause if the subject matter promoted Christianity – teaching it as religious truth rather than discussing the Bible’s literary and historical qualities. In 1981, for instance, the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals banned an elective Bible course in Alabama. Two years later, the 8th Circuit summarily affirmed an order invalidating a program in Arkansas that allowed students to take voluntary Bible classes during school hours. In 1996, a federal trial court in Mississippi invalidated Bible study classes taught in a rotation with music, physical education and library courses, plus another called A Biblical History of the Middle East. In these three cases, the courts agreed that the classes were unacceptable because they advanced Christianity. Returning to Texas, the board’s new reading list is far from inclusive. Proposed passages mostly come from translations of the Bible that Protestant Christians use, as well as one from a Jewish publisher. The list does not include translations used by Catholics or sacred texts from non-Jewish and non-Christian faiths. Biblical texts on the list include a picture-book adaptation of the David and Goliath story for elementary students and passages about Adam and Eve for older students. The required readings

also include excerpts from multiple books of the Bible – Jonah, Psalms, Lamentations and Genesis – for students in middle and high school. As of now, parents who object to their kids reading these texts may opt their children out of specific readings if they conflict with their religious or moral beliefs. As Brennan noted in Abington, the Supreme Court “plainly does not foreclose teaching about the Holy Scriptures or about the differences between religious sects in classes in literature or history.” Still, there is a significant difference between objectively teaching about religion and teaching of religion from a faith perspective. Expanding students’ horizons and advancing tolerance by exposing them to religious perspectives is a good intention. Yet the breadth of selections is hardly inclusive, given its focus primarily on Christianity, to the exclusion of other faiths. With 67% of adults in Texas identifying as Christians, 26% as unaffiliated and 6% belonging to other faiths, I believe the board could have developed a list that represents the state’s religious variety. Implementation of the program will be staggered, starting in elementary schools in 2030, for Texas’ more than 5 million students – about 10% of the national total. I expect the Bible readings will face legal challenges, likely sooner rather than later.

Obituaries

ARCHIE HICKS

Archie Hicks was born on August 28, 1947, in Wake Forest, NC to the late Callie Anderson and Charlie Hicks. His parents welcomed him with much joy and love, unaware that he would leave an indelible mark on his community, his family, and all those whose lives he touched.

Archie was a proud graduate of J.W. Ligon High School, class of 1966. He possessed a thirst for knowledge and adventure that propelled him forward when he was drafted into the U.S. Army. He served honorably until receiving a medical discharge in 1969. Eager to build his future, Archie began working for the U.S. Postal Service, while attending night classes at North Carolina Central University. His dedication to serving others and the Raleigh community never wavered until his retirement in 2000.

On Feb. 22, 1968, Archie embarked on one of life’s greatest journeys when he married his first love, Eva M. Bost. The union was blessed with two daughters, Sharon and Kimberly Hicks. As a loving husband and devoted father, he built a life rooted in love, integrity, and hard work. Although their



marriage did not last, Archie and Eva remained steadfast friends as they successfully co-parented their daughters. To know Archie was to experience his warmth, generosity, unwavering support, and unforgettable smile. He was a pillar of his community, a trusted friend, and a guiding force for those who sought his wisdom. His compassion extended well beyond his family, reaching friends, neighbors, customers, and anyone in need. Archie never met a stranger. On June 3, 2026, Archie’s earthly

journey came to an end. As Scripture reminds us, “To be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord.” Although he has departed this earthly life, the kindness, love, and generosity he shared continues to live on in the hearts of all who knew and loved him. Archie was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Lara Ann Hicks; his eldest brother, Joseph Hicks; and his nephew, Paul Hicks. He leaves to cherish his memory his wife, Andraedese Mack-Hicks; his brother, Ernest Hicks (Faye); is sister, Julia Walton; his daughters, Sharon Hicks-Robinson (W. Russell) of Durham, NCV, and Kimberly Ramirez (Jose) of Fairview Heights, Illinois; his bonus sons, Rodney Singletary and Reginald Singletary of Zebulon, North Carolina; his bonus daughter, D’ Andrea Mack of Raleigh, North Carolina; six grandchildren: Julian Hooker, Joshua Ramirez, Josiah Ramirez, Jasmine Whitley, Anaiah Hicks, and Patience Ballard; two nieces: Kea Alexander of Garner, North Carolina, and Ursula Walton of Los Angeles, California; one nephew, Christopher Tabron; and a host of other relatives, cousins, extended family members, and dear friends who will continue to carry forward his legacy and spirit.

SERMON of the WEEK



By: Overseer-Elect Demetrius Hunter/Dr. Frank Weaver (Sermon-Notes)
God’s Recommendation Letter
Job 1:7-8 KJV -7 And the LORD said unto Satan, Whence comest thou? Then Satan answered the LORD, and said, From going to and fro in the earth, and from walking up and down in it.
8 And the LORD said unto Satan, Hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil?
Having a good reference when looking for employment can be the key that unlocks the door to a career or job. We like to have people with a good report of our character and work habits to offer their opinion of how we would do on a job. Ironically, a lot of us call on the pastor to give his recommendation,

as his opinion we feel, will ensure us getting a shot at the job we want. I would like to bring out some points to this well-known biblical account of Job. Job’s story has been told and retold many times. Terms like the patience of Jobor, the faith of Job are terms we hear as a result of the impact his story has on so many. While many know the end of the story as it pertains to Job, I would like to examine the start of this story.
I. The Devil Takes No PTO: So many times, we feel that when it rains it pours. Just when we get past one thing it seems like another is right there. We must understand that the devil has one mission: To steal, kill and destroy. He never gets tired. He is like the Energizer Bunny he keeps going and going. God asked Satan where he was coming from. His response lets us know that one thing that we can count on is the devil being the devil. So many times, we act as if that suffering is not promised. We will be counted as sheep to the slaughter. Men will say all matters of evil against you for the sake of Christ. But remember that the suffering of this present time cannot be compared to the glory that God has for us.
II. When God Recommends You: Let’s be clear Job did nothing to deserve what he was about to go through. God recommended Job to the devil. God saw something in Job that gave him confidence in how Job would react to the storms of life. In other words, favor ain’t

fair. Someone said that God gives His toughest test to His strongest people. We have to understand that as we grow in faith God will recommend us. Yeah, they are acting crazy on the job because God recommended you. God will use you to show His real power. The testimony always comes after the test. Can God recommend you for the next miracle? God is sending out recommendation letters. Is your name on one?
III. Remember No One is Like You: In a time when everyone is trying to be like everybody else. Remember God made you different. God recommends individuals. The first thing God said about Job was that there was no one like him. God knows what you can take. He knows what you can bear. The biggest mistake we can make is trying to be like everyone else. As long as you are being who God made you, you have all that you need to make it through. Sister Rivers used to sing the song, “Lord, You Made Me You Know Who I am”. With God on my side, I got all that I need. Greater is he that is in me than he that is in the world!
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.

God Is
Matthew 16:13-14
Read: Matthew 16:13-20
By: John L. Caldwell, Pastor
New Jerusalem Baptist Cathedral
The closest we can come to identifying God or Who or what God is can only be found in questioning or investigating Jesus. No one has never seen God. If He exists, He is invisible.

No one of this modern era has never seen Jesus. Nor do we know what He looks like. Our only source of what and who God may be is found in the bible. Of course, this means which or what God are we talking about.

Are we talking about a god we can create with our hands? A god who cannot speak, walk, or react to its creator, man? Are we talking about a god who is created by man’s hands and yet man bows down to it in submission while in fear and trembling?
Some fifty thousand years ago man began to realize there was something much bigger or stronger than he was when he began to realize he could not control the storms, winds, lightning. He could not control the rain when he needed it for his crops. In short, man realized that he could not control nature. Then the idea came about, well maybe I can appease this unseen force which is greater than he was. Man began to offer the best of what he had to this unseen force which overpowers him. It wasn’t long that man began to worship the elements in nature- the sun, moon, trees, waters, wind, lightnings (strikes), and then animal, the big and powerful ones. This soon culminated in the worship of animism- the belief that inanimate objects and natural phenomena possess a personal life or soul. Man began to worship many gods and to appease them. This eventually led to the creation of polytheism - worshipping many gods.
For a long time, polytheism was the religion of the day. In the mid14th century BCE (before Christ), there was an attempt to establish a one god religion by an Egyptian Pharoah, named Akhenaten (Amenhotep). Most of the Egyptian religious history was polytheism- Ra, Osiris, Isis, and Amun, etc.
Akhenaten built a city and gave the city his name. He then or-

dered the construction of temples dedicated to the only one god-the sun-disk Aten (the Sun). This effectively ended the worship of many gods. This saw the closures of the temple of many gods and their idol images.
This was monotheistic experiment in the ancient world. However, after his death, the old gods were restored, and the polytheistic system returned. The Greeks and the Romans began to worship many gods and created a pantheon of gods which still draw modern-day tourist to its cities today. Many mythological stories of gods were created and made great stories for literature today such as Zeus and Neptune.
Today there is still controversy and discussion as to who or is a god. Today much of this discussion comes from philosophers and astrophysicists. These sources, at times, follow atheistic thinking-man’s thinking against the thinking of someone or something greater than he. Hopefully, one can see why it was difficult for some nations to accept or transition to a one-god religion.
Yesterday’s gods showed off his strength and power to benefit only himself. Making man a slave. This of course, was all in the mind of man who thought nature was his master. The thought that there was a powerful god who would treat man as an equal almost to himself was far fetched from the mind of man. A god who would give his life to save the life of man who worshiped other gods was unthinkable, unlikely, and impossible.
There are many stories and ancient writings in the old world about gods. If we compare these old religious writings against the bible, the bible will not stand out as number one among the writings. In many instances it would be just another religious book. Question: Do we need a god?
In today’s world there are many who live as if there is no god or GOD. Today’s man, who is a free-will thinker, must make up in his mind if he would entertain a God or god in his life simply because there are forces in his life which are still greater than he that he will have to contend with.
It took some fifteen hundred years to write and pen the only source of God as we know of Him.

We find this in the Bible.
The Bible reveals God as the all-powerful, loving, holy Creator who exists as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and whose essence is love, truth, and justice. The Bible reveals God as Creator and Sustainer- the creator of all things, both visible and invisible. He made the heavens, the earth, and all living beings intricate designing the universe and humanity (Genesis 1:1; Colossians 1:16; Isaiah 45:12). The powerful God sustains life and provides for His creation, demonstrating His power, wisdom, and care.
As the story goes, Jesus, being the only source of identifying the only God and who He is, asked his disciples who do men think or say that I am? This question Jesus asked not to identify or put the spotlight on Himself but to prime the thoughts of His disciples as to who the only God was (Matthew 16: 13-14) The disciple had noticed that Jesus often prayed to an unknown power when He was by Himself. They eventually ask Jesus to teach them how to pray to this unseen and unknown power. This Jesus did.
Teaching the disciples how to pray along with the eventually filling of the Holy Spirit helped the disciples to be convinced there was a powerful God who introduced Himself to them in terms of empowering them to do miracles to help others in need and preach to those who would believe on Him as a real, living and unseen God. A God, Who could change personal circumstances, right every wrong against them, protect them, guide them, feed them when in need.
These men spent and gave their lives telling and writing to the known world about a real, unseen powerful living God who walked among men and offered them His best.
The question is still on the table, “Is there a Living God who wants us to be equal to Him? Or no God at all, except the ones created in the minds of men who wants to be a god themselves?
Only those individuals who have personally experienced God for themselves can ensure that there is a God and He is real and alive and believes He lives forever and offers eternal life to them as well. God is not real, or God is!



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Editorials

Editorial Policy

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

Fog of War: When Political Rhetoric Meets Strategic Reality

Armstrong Williams

One of the dangers of war is that political rhetoric often collides with strategic reality.

President Donald Trump spent years vehemently criticizing former President Barack Obama's Iran nuclear deal, arguing that it failed to permanently halt Iran's nuclear ambitions while providing the regime with economic relief and resources that strengthened its position throughout the Middle East. He called it one of the worst foreign policy agreements in modern American history. Millions of Americans agreed with him.

The criticism was straightforward. Iran, many argued, received billions of dollars in sanctions relief without permanently dismantling its nuclear infrastructure. The agreement may have delayed Tehran's ambitions, but it did not eliminate them. Critics believed the deal rewarded bad behavior, strengthened a hostile regime and ultimately left the world no safer than before.

Fast-forward to today.

After military strikes, escalating tensions and a conflict that many believed would fundamentally alter the balance of power in the Middle East, we appear to be arriving at a familiar destination: negotiations, concessions and an Iranian regime that remains standing.

That reality deserves a serious conversation.

Supporters of the administration will rightly point out that Iran has suffered significant military and strategic setbacks. Key facilities have been targeted. Military assets have been degraded. Iranian leadership has been forced to confront pressures unlike any it has faced in years. They argue that any future agreement will be negotiated from a position of American strength rather than diplomatic accommodation.

That argument has merit.

Yet critics are asking an equally important question.

If the ultimate result leaves the regime intact, preserves much of its regional influence, and opens the door to substantial economic relief or renewed access to international markets, how different is the final outcome from what Trump spent years condemning?

The contradiction is difficult to ignore.

For nearly a decade, Republicans argued that economic relief flowing to Tehran would inevitably strengthen the regime's ability to pursue its objectives. They warned that money is fungible. Every dollar used to stabilize the economy frees another dollar for military programs, regional proxies, missile development and, potentially, nuclear research.

Those arguments did not disappear simply because a Republican administration now finds itself navigating the same geopolitical realities that confronted its predecessors.

The hard truth is that wars are often easier to begin than they are to finish.

Military superiority does not automatically translate into political outcomes. Nations under immense pressure frequently prove more resilient than expected. Adversaries rarely collapse on schedule. They adapt. They absorb punishment. They find ways to survive.

History offers countless examples.

The United States entered Iraq expecting a democratic transformation of the Middle East. Instead, it encountered years of instability and unintended consequences. Afghanistan demonstrated that even overwhelming military power cannot always impose political outcomes on determined adversaries. Across generations, presidents of both parties have discovered that the battlefield and the negotiating table often produce very different realities.

That is the fog of war.

Expectations of decisive victory often give way to complicated settlements, imperfect compromises and unanswered questions.

The public is frequently promised clear outcomes. Reality delivers shades of gray.

The larger issue extends beyond Iran.

It speaks to a recurring tendency in American politics. Candidates often campaign by denouncing the perceived failures of those who came before them. They promise stronger leadership, tougher negotiations and better outcomes. Once in office, however, they encounter the same constraints, risks and geopolitical complexities that challenged their predecessors.

The choices suddenly become less ideological and more practical.

That does not mean every agreement is equal. Nor does it mean military action was unnecessary or ineffective. It simply means governing is more complicated than campaigning.

Today, the central question is not whether American military power remains formidable. It does.

The question is whether the current trajectory ultimately leaves Iran less capable of threatening its neighbors, sponsoring terrorism, destabilizing the region and pursuing nuclear ambitions than it was before this conflict began.

That is the only measure that will matter in the long run.

Political speeches fade.

Television appearances are forgotten.

Partisan celebrations eventually end.

What remains are the consequences.

If future historians conclude that Iran emerged weakened, constrained and less dangerous, the administration will have a compelling case that its strategy succeeded.



THE GOLDEN YEARS

By Judykay Jefferson

AMERICAS 250

With the one day devoted to Black emancipation having just passed, I find myself exploring my thoughts about our collective past. As America approaches its 250th birthday, this does this milestone means for those of us whose ancestors were never meant to be included in the original celebration. The Fourth of July has always been complicated for African Americans. In 1776, the same year the nation declared that “all men are created equal,” most of our people were still held in chains. And yet, from the very beginning, Black Americans have insisted on holding this country to the words it wrote down.

What many folks forget—or were never taught—is that African Americans fought in the Revolutionary War itself. Thousands of Black men, free and enslaved, took up arms in the hope that the new nation might honor its promise of liberty. Some fought for the Continental Army, others for the British, choosing whichever side offered the best chance at freedom. Their courage wasn't symbolic; it was strategic. They believed that if they shed blood for this country, the country might finally see their humanity. That belief didn't pay off immediately, but it planted a seed that generations have watered ever since.

When I think about the 250th anniversary, I don't see it as a simple celebration. I see it as a mirror. A mirror that forces us to ask whether America has grown any closer to the ideals it announced to the world in 1776. It took eighty-nine years for this new America to figure out that the enslavement of God's people was wrong. And yet, 250 years in we're still fighting for equity, justice, and inclusion.

Again, I ask, are we the America living the ideals of 1776?

For African Americans, the answer has always been layered. We have lived through slavery, Reconstruction, Jim Crow, the Civil Rights Movement, and the ongoing fight for voting rights and equal justice. We have pushed this nation forward at every turn, even when it pushed back.

When I look at today's young people—Black and white—I see something new. Many young Black Americans are skeptical of patriotic anniversaries, and who can blame them? They've seen police violence, economic inequality, and political division up close. They know the gap between the promise and the practice of American democracy. But they also carry a boldness that reminds me of earlier generations who refused to accept the world as it was.

At the same time, many young white Americans are more aware of racial history than their parents or grandparents ever were. They're reading, questioning, marching, and challenging the sanitized versions of America's past. They're not afraid to say the word “slavery” out loud. They're not afraid to talk about systems instead of just individual prejudice. That gives me hope—not because they have all the answers, but because they're willing to ask the right questions.

On the other side, there are many young people who identify as conservative, not out of hatred but more likely born from privilege, a false narrative of patriotism, and questionable religiosity. I don't believe they mean anyone harm but in this time of hyped-up demand for attention bombarding them at every turn, sifting through political rhetoric, fake news, and click-bait is just a lot. Often, they gravitate toward where others around them are with no other rationale than familiarity.

So as the fireworks go up and the speeches roll out for America's 250th, I'll be thinking about the long arc of our story. African Americans have always been part of the fight to make this country better than it was the day before. We have served, sacrificed, protested, built, and believed—sometimes against all evidence—that America could become the nation it claimed to be.

The 250th anniversary shouldn't just a celebration of independence. It's a reminder of the unfinished work. And if history tells us anything, it's that Black Americans will once again be at the center of pushing this country toward its better self.



A Different Voice

By Dorothy Shaw Thompson

HAITI REVOLUTION

When my son was seven years old, he became fascinated with the life of Toussaint Louverture, who led the slave rebellion that began in 1791. On January 1, 1804, after a 13-year revolution, Jean-Jacques Dessalines declared Haiti independent, making it the world's first independent Black republic and the first nation born from a successful slave revolution.

Toussaint Louverture was born on May 20, 1743, and died on April 7, 1803. He was a general and the most prominent leader of the Haitian Revolution. Though he died about a year before Haiti officially gained its independence, his leadership made that freedom possible. Napoleon Bonaparte initially admired Toussaint because of his military brilliance, but when he realized that Toussaint had become a powerful leader capable of inspiring his people, admiration turned into fear. As is often human nature, respect disappeared when power was threatened. Napoleon imprisoned him, a decision he later acknowledged as one of his greatest mistakes.

My son, even at seven years old, was so impressed with Toussaint Louverture that when his school held Heritage Day and students were asked to dress as someone they admired and explain why, he chose Toussaint. His teacher told him he had misunderstood the assignment and was supposed to dress as an Indian or a Pilgrim because, after all, it was Thanksgiving. But Tommy insisted that Toussaint Louverture was his heritage. After a conference with the teacher and principal, he was allowed to give his report about the leadership of this remarkable man whose courage helped abolish slavery in Haiti and whose nation's Constitution permanently outlawed slavery decades before Great Britain, France, or the United States.

Now it is 2026, and Haiti and the Haitian people are once again in the news. The Supreme Court has allowed the Trump administration to end Temporary Protected Status for hundreds of thousands of Haitian immigrants, along with others who had been allowed to remain here because returning to their home countries was considered unsafe.

When administration officials explain that TPS was "never meant to be permanent" and suggest that those protected could simply have

applied for visas, it sounds reasonable until one remembers the realities these families have been escaping and the barriers that often make those legal pathways impossible. To present options that many people cannot realistically pursue is, to me, another form of what we have come to call fake news.

Haiti remains under a U.S. travel advisory because of the violence there. Americans are warned not to travel there. So help me understand why, if the conditions are considered too dangerous for Americans to visit, they are somehow considered safe enough to send Haitian families back to live there.

And let us not forget the statements made about Haitians eating people's pets, cats, and dogs, accusations that were proven false. The purpose of those kinds of statements is to dehumanize people so that others care less about what happens to them. History has taught us that whenever people are first stripped of their humanity, it becomes easier to strip them of their rights.

First, the rhetoric focused on Hispanic and Latino immigrants. Now it focuses on Haitians. This administration appears to be at war with skin color while claiming Christian values that seem contrary to the teachings of Jesus.

Toussaint Louverture was a devout Catholic, as are many Haitians. So is Amy Coney Barrett, who has adopted two children from Haiti. I cannot help but wonder what conversations take place in households where love for individual Haitian children exists alongside decisions that affect hundreds of thousands of other Haitian families.

As we approach the celebration of 250 years since 1776, I find myself asking what democracy really means if history is erased, people of color are removed, detention centers expand, and families are separated while we celebrate freedom. Yes, there was 1776. But there is also 2026. And history is still being written.

LUMBEE

Continued from page 7

broader mission of celebrating Native voices across multiple forms of artistic expression while encouraging future generations to tell their own stories.

The celebration reaches its peak on July 4 with many of Homecoming's most anticipated traditions. Activities include a community parade, a traditional powwow, outdoor gospel singing, a vintage car show, a free carnival, a veterans sky show and the season premiere of the historical outdoor drama Strike at the Wind. The annual Kiwanis 5K and additional family-friendly activities round out a day that brings together residents, visitors and returning Lumbee families.

Beyond the scheduled events, Lumbee Homecoming serves as an annual reminder of the importance of preserving culture while strengthening community ties. Through music, storytelling, food, art and fellowship, the celebration provides an opportunity for visitors to experience the hospitality and traditions that have defined the Lumbee people for generations.

As thousands gather under this year's theme, "Welcome Home Lumbees," the celebration continues to honor the tribe's past while embracing its future. More than 57 years after its beginnings, Lumbee Homecoming remains a powerful expression of identity, resilience and the enduring importance of coming home.

MONEY

Continued from page 3

Teach children how to make money decisions

A key aspect of personal finance is knowing how to make choices with money. This can be taught by giving kids small amounts of money and allowing them to choose how to spend it, Grimes said.

"I gave (my daughter) enough money that she could make choices with it. So she learned early on that she had enough she could save up for something, so she could say no to things and say yes to other things," said Grimes. "Learning to say no, learning to hold money to yourself for long enough to get the thing you want, it's a really hard skill."

When giving children the opportunity to choose, it's crucial parents don't impart judgment on their decisions, said Bobbi Rebell, consumer finance expert at BadCredit.org, a personal finance website. Framing choices as personal preferences rather than right or wrong answers will build children's confidence in their decision-making process, she said.

Parents can find free financial literacy worksheets for children from Hands on Banking, a free financial education service by Wells Fargo.

Teach how to set financial goals

For many children, their first access to money is through an allowance. Whether it's saving for a new video game or a bicycle, setting a goal for their money can be a good way to teach children the value of saving.

"Recognizing the progress, seeing how close they're getting to the goal, visualizing the end goal, and then really celebrating when they achieve that goal can help them learn that when they can make small financial goals a reality," Seitz said.

Tip jars can be an analog way to track progress, Pettway said. Encourage your child to add a portion of the money they receive to a "savings" jar, an "investing" jar and a "giving" jar. As children see their jars getting full, they begin to be motivated to continue adding money.

It can also be beneficial to make children active participants in future plans, recommended Lindsay Bryan-Podvin, financial therapist and founder of Mind Money Balance, a financial wellness service. If, for example, your child wants to go to an expensive sports summer camp, encourage them to save a portion of the cost from their allowance or summer job.

Allow them to make mistakes

It's inevitable that kids will make mistakes while learning about money. These can be approached as opportunities to learn important money lessons that will be useful for their future, Rebell says. However, it's important that you let your children make the mistakes rather than solve issues for them.

"If you constantly bail them out, they're not gonna learn to manage it," Rebell said.

Bryan-Podvin also recommends that you avoid responding to mistakes in a negative way. Showing intense frustration or anger can hurt children's trust and make them feel like they cannot turn to their parents when they make normal mistakes.

"Help them learn how to manage their emotions, help them think about how they might do things differently," she added.

Get creative

Money can often seem boring, so making it fun, engaging, and entertaining can be the key to keeping your children's interest alive.

For example, when shopping for things like school supplies, Corum chooses an appropriate amount from her own budget for her daughter to decide which items she wants. However, when shopping for toys or other non-essential items, Corum gives her daughter a portion of her allowance or other extra money she might have from special chores.

Corum gave her children debit cards and uses a family personal finance app connected to the cards to distribute their allowances and monitor their spending. Her children have access to their debit cards through their own app portal where they can see their spending, save, invest and learn more about personal finance topics.

Apps like Acorns Early, Greenlight and BusyKid are among the most popular family personal finance apps.

Classifieds

CHATHAM
COUNTY

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
CHATHAM COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File No.: 26E000387-180
THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 29th day of June, 2026, as Administrator of the Estate of MAUREEN S. O'DELL A/K/A MAUREEN ELIZABETH O'DELL, Deceased, of Chatham 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 2nd day of October, 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 2nd day of July, 2026.
Kathleen O'Connor, Administrator
c/o Ethan C. Timmins
Patrick Law, PLLC
3805 University Drive, Suite A
Durham, NC 27707
7/2, 7/9, 7/16, and 7/23/2026

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.: 25E001332-310
THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 16th day of October, 2025, as Executor of the Estate of HELEN W. HUDSON, 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 2nd day of October, 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 2nd day of July, 2026.
Jilliene Joyner, Executor
10 Peridot Place
Durham, NC 27703
7/2, 7/9, 7/16, and 7/23/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
File No.: 26E000257-310
All persons, firms, and corporations having claims against RUDOLPH ANTHONY TEMPESTA, deceased of Durham County, are hereby notified to present them to Alexander B. Tempesta, Administrator of the decedent's estate, on or before October 2, 2026, in care of the undersigned Attorney at their address, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms, and corporations having claims against said Estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 2nd day of July, 2026.
7/2, 7/9, 7/16, and 7/23/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Having qualified as Administrator of the Estate of CAROLYN ANN KEITH, 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 present them to the undersigned attorney for the estate on or before October 2, 2026, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms and corporations indebted to the said estate are requested to make immediate payment to the undersigned.
This the 2nd day of July, 2026.
Kimberly J. Bass
Administrator
Adam G. Kerr
Kerr Law, PLLC
PO Box 10941
Greensboro, NC 27404
Telephone: (336) 808-5028
Fax: (336) 464-2819
7/2, 7/9, 7/16, and 7/23/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
File No.: 26E000754-310
THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 30th day of June,

2026, as Executor of the ESTATE OF GERALD DEVON ARTIS, 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 5th of October, 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 2nd day of July, 2026.
SHEREESE BANKS VICK FKA AMANDA BANKS, EXECUTOR
ESTATE OF GERALD DEVON ARTIS
c/o Jennifer Dalman, Attorney
Walker Lambe, PLLC
Post Office Box 51549
Durham, North Carolina 27717
7/2, 7/9, 7/16, and 7/23/2026
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 Georgeion 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 Georgeion 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. All persons indebted to said Estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This, the 11th day of June, 2026.
Matthew G. Hamrick, Executor
2238 Cherry Top Drive
Fuquay Varina, NC 27526
6/11, 6/18, 6/25, and 7/2/2026

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

NASH COUNTY

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
NASH COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Having qualified as the Personal Representative of the Estate of SHARONNE TINETTE MORGAN, late of Nash 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, Margaret Davis, Magnolia Legal, 3001 Academy Rd., Sute 120, Durham, NC 27707, on or before the 2nd day of October, 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.
Shayna D. Jamison
Personal Representative
File #: 25E000233-630
Attorney for Estate:
Sonya S. Linton/Margaret Davis
Magnolia Legal
3001 Academy Rd., Sute 120
Durham, NC 27707
7/2, 7/9, 7/16, and 7/23/2026

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

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WAKE COUNTY

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF RICHLAND
IN THE COURT OF COMMON
PLEAS
FIFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
Docket No.: 2026-CP-40-03480
Dawn P. Denton, Plaintiff, vs.
Gina V. Cox and Clayton K. Jones,
Defendants.
NOTICE OF FILING FOR
PUBLICATION
TO THE ABOVE-NAMED
DEFENDANT, GINA V. COX:
YOU WILL PLEASE TAKE
NOTICE THAT the original
Summons and Complaint in the
above-entitled action were filed in
the Office of the Clerk of Court for
Richland County, South Carolina,
for such relief as set forth in the
Complaint.

SUMMONS
(Automobile Collision - Negligence)
(Jury Trial Requested)
TO THE ABOVE-NAMED
DEFENDANTS:
YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED
and required to appear and defend
the action(s) set forth in the
Complaint herein, a copy of which
is served upon you, and to serve
a copy of your Answer or Motion
to the said Complaint on the Joye
Law Firm at 1333 Main Street, Suite
260, Columbia, South Carolina
29201 within thirty (30) days after
service hereof, exclusive of the
day of service, and if you fail to
appear and defend within the time
aforesaid, judgment by default will
be entered against you for the relief
demanded in the Complaint.
JOYE LAW FIRM, L.L.P.
By: s/Eliza L. Beck
Eliza Lynch Beck, Esquire
SC Bar No.: 104531
1333 Main Street, Suite 260
Columbia, SC 29201
Office: (803) 771-3100
Facsimile: (803) 451-4921
ebeck@joyelawfirm.com
Attorney for the Plaintiff
Columbia, South Carolina
Notice of Filing for Publication
dated: June 25, 2026
Summons dated: May 21, 2026
7/2, 7/9, and 7/16/2026
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. Prentis, 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

FORECLOSURE

NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY
Special Proceedings No.
25SP0001105-310
Substitute Trustee: Philip A. Glass
NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE
Date of Sale: July 15, 2026
Time of Sale: 2:30 p.m.
Place of Sale: Durham County
Courthouse
Description of Property: See
Attached Description
Record Owners: Jamilah Simon
Address of Property:
713 Quiet Woods Place
Durham, NC 27712
Deed of Trust:
Book : 9450 Page: 935
Dated: September 2, 2021
Grantors: Jamilah Simon, an
unmarried person
Original Beneficiary: State
Employees' Credit Union
CONDITIONS OF SALE:
This sale is made subject to all
unpaid taxes and superior liens
or encumbrances of record and
assessments, if any, against the
said property, and any recorded
leases. This sale is also subject to
any applicable county land transfer
tax, and the successful third party
bidder shall be required to make
payment for any such county land
transfer tax. It is the intent of the
holder of the above Deed of Trust
that the execution, delivery and
recording of a Trustee Deed to the
holder as high bidder shall not
merge with any superior Deeds
of Trust held by the holder of the
above Deed of Trust, and that the
holder of said superior Deed of
Trust shall continue to enjoy all
rights and remedies set forth in
said superior Deed of Trust,
including the right to foreclose
either by judicial action or under
power of sale contained in the
superior Deed of Trust.

The property to be offered
pursuant to this Notice of Sale
is being offered for sale "AS
IS, WHERE IS." THERE ARE
NO REPRESENTATIONS OR
WARRANTIES relating to the title
or to any physical, environmental,
health or safety conditions existing
in, on, at or relating to the property
being offered for sale, and any
and all responsibilities or liabilities
arising out of or in any way relating
to any such condition are expressly
disclaimed.
A cash deposit of 5% of the
purchase price will be required
at the time of the sale. Remote
bidding will not be accepted
pursuant to North Carolina
General Statutes Section 45-21.25
(a). Credit bids on behalf of the
Noteholder will be accepted. Any
successful bidder shall be required
to tender the full balance of the
purchase price so bid in cash or
certified check at the time the
Substitute Trustee tenders to him
a deed for the property or attempts
to tender such deed, and should
said successful bidder fail to pay
the full balance purchase price so
bid at that time, he shall remain
liable on his bid as provided for in
North Carolina General Statutes
Section 45-21.30 (d) and (e). This
sale will be held open ten (10) days
for upset bids as required by law.
Residential real property with
less than 15 rental units, including
single-family residential real
property: an order for possession
of the property may be issued
pursuant to G.S. 45-21.29 in favor
of the purchaser and against the
party or parties in possession by
the clerk of superior court of the
county in which the property is
sold. Any person who occupies
the property pursuant to a rental
agreement entered into or renewed
on or after October 1, 2007, may,
after receiving notice of sale,
terminate the rental agreement
by providing written notice of
termination to the landlord, to be
effective on a date stated in the
notice that is at least 10 days, but
not more than 90 days, after the
sale date contained in the notice of
sale, provided that the mortgagor
has not cured the default at the
time the tenant provides the notice
of termination. Upon termination
of a rental agreement, the tenant is
liable for rent due under the rental
agreement prorated to the effective
date of the termination.
Dated: 5/7/2026
Philip A. Glass, Substitute Trustee
Nodell, Glass & Haskell, L.L.P.
Exhibit A
BEING ALL OF LOT 6, BLOCK
HB, THE TOWNES AT COUNTY
CLUB HEIGHTS, ACCORDING
TO THE PLAT OF SURVEY BY
LINDA D. EDMUNDSON, P.L.S.,
ENTITLED, "PLAT OF SURVEY,
THE TOWNES AT COUNTRY CLUB
HEIGHTS," DATED DECEMBER 18,
2003 AND RECORDED IN PLAT
BOOK 160, PAGE 257 OF THE
DURHAM COUNTY REGISTRY, TO
WHICH REFERENCE IS HEREBY
MADE FOR A MORE PARTICULAR
DESCRIPTION.
Subject to easements,

restrictions and rights of way of
record, and utility lines and rights
of way in existence over, under or
upon the above-described property.
PIN: 0804-64-7971
Property Address:
713 Quiet Woods Place,
Durham, NC 27712
July 2, 2026 and July 9, 2026

FORECLOSURE

NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY
Special Proceedings No.
23SP000816-310
Substitute Trustee: Philip A. Glass
RE-NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE
SALE
Date of Sale: July 15, 2026
Time of Sale: 2:30 p.m.
Place of Sale: Durham County
Courthouse
Description of Property: See
Attached Description
Record Owners: Marcus Cleveland
and Samathryn Witham
Address of Property:
110 Covewood Court
Durham, NC 27713
Deed of Trust:
Book : 8439 Page: 145
Dated: May 31, 2018
Grantors: Marcus Cleveland and
Samathryn Witham
Original Beneficiary: State
Employees' Credit Union
CONDITIONS OF SALE:
This sale is made subject to all
unpaid taxes and superior liens
or encumbrances of record and
assessments, if any, against the
said property, and any recorded
leases. This sale is also subject to
any applicable county land transfer
tax, and the successful third party
bidder shall be required to make
payment for any such county land
transfer tax. It is the intent of the
holder of the above Deed of Trust
that the execution, delivery and
recording of a Trustee Deed to the
holder as high bidder shall not
merge with any superior Deeds
of Trust held by the holder of the
above Deed of Trust, and that the
holder of said superior Deed of
Trust shall continue to enjoy all
rights and remedies set forth in
said superior Deed of Trust,
including the right to foreclose
either by judicial action or under
power of sale contained in the
superior Deed of Trust.

The property to be offered
pursuant to this Notice of Sale
is being offered for sale "AS
IS, WHERE IS." THERE ARE
NO REPRESENTATIONS OR
WARRANTIES relating to the title
or to any physical, environmental,
health or safety conditions existing
in, on, at or relating to the property
being offered for sale, and any
and all responsibilities or liabilities
arising out of or in any way relating
to any such condition are expressly
disclaimed.
A cash deposit of 5% of the
purchase price will be required
at the time of the sale. Remote
bidding will not be accepted
pursuant to North Carolina
General Statutes Section 45-21.25
(a). Credit bids on behalf of the
Noteholder will be accepted. Any
successful bidder shall be required
to tender the full balance of the
purchase price so bid in cash or
certified check at the time the
Substitute Trustee tenders to him
a deed for the property or attempts
to tender such deed, and should
said successful bidder fail to pay
the full balance purchase price so
bid at that time, he shall remain
liable on his bid as provided for in
North Carolina General Statutes
Section 45-21.30 (d) and (e). This
sale will be held open ten (10) days
for upset bids as required by law.
Residential real property with
less than 15 rental units, including
single-family residential real
property: an order for possession
of the property may be issued
pursuant to G.S. 45-21.29 in favor
of the purchaser and against the
party or parties in possession by
the clerk of superior court of the
county in which the property is
sold. Any person who occupies
the property pursuant to a rental
agreement entered into or renewed
on or after October 1, 2007, may,
after receiving notice of sale,
terminate the rental agreement
by providing written notice of
termination to the landlord, to be
effective on a date stated in the
notice that is at least 10 days, but
not more than 90 days, after the
sale date contained in the notice of
sale, provided that the mortgagor
has not cured the default at the
time the tenant provides the notice
of termination. Upon termination
of a rental agreement, the tenant is
liable for rent due under the rental
agreement prorated to the effective
date of the termination.
Dated: 6/9/26
Philip A. Glass, Substitute Trustee
Nodell, Glass & Haskell, L.L.P.
EXHIBIT A
THE FOLLOWING LANDS AND
PROPERTY, TOGETHER WITH
ALL IMPROVEMENTS LOATED

THEREON, LYING IN DURHAM,
DURHAM COUNTY, NC TO WIT:
BEING ALL OF LOT
38, GRANDALE FOREST
SUBDIVISION, PHASE 1B, AS
SHOWN ON THE PLAT RECORDED
AT PLAT BOOK 128, PAGE 96,
DURHAM COUNTY REGISTRY,
TO WHICH PLAT REFERENCE
IS HEREBY MADE FOR A MORE
PARTICULAR DESCRIPTION.
THIS BEING THE SAME
PROPERTY CONVEYED TO
MARCUS CLEVELAND AND
SAMATHRYN WITHAM, A
MARRIED COUPLE, DATED
05/22/2015 AND RECORDED ON
05/22/2015 IN BOOK 7707, PAGE
283, IN THE DURHAM COUNTY
RECORDERS OFFICE.
Subject to easements,
restrictions and rights of way of
record, and utility lines and rights
of way in existence over, under or
upon the above-described property.
PIN: 0728-20-6416
Property Address: 110 Covewood
Ct. Durham, NC 27713
July 2, 2026 and July 9, 2026

FORECLOSURE

NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY
Special Proceedings No.
26SP000294-310
Substitute Trustee: Philip A. Glass
NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE
Date of Sale: July 15, 2026
Time of Sale: 2:30 p.m.
Place of Sale: Durham County
Courthouse
Description of Property: See
Attached Description
Record Owners: Karen Maria Clark
Address of Property:
1106 Brimstone Way
Durham, NC 27704
Deed of Trust:
Book : 9752 Page: 78
Dated: July 29, 2022
Grantors: Karen Maria Clark an
unmarried person
Original Beneficiary: State
Employees' Credit Union
CONDITIONS OF SALE:
This sale is made subject to all
unpaid taxes and superior liens
or encumbrances of record and
assessments, if any, against the
said property, and any recorded
leases. This sale is also subject to
any applicable county land transfer
tax, and the successful third party
bidder shall be required to make
payment for any such county land
transfer tax. It is the intent of the
holder of the above Deed of Trust
that the execution, delivery and
recording of a Trustee Deed to the
holder as high bidder shall not
merge with any superior Deeds
of Trust held by the holder of the
above Deed of Trust, and that the
holder of said superior Deed of
Trust shall continue to enjoy all
rights and remedies set forth in
said superior Deed of Trust,
including the right to foreclose
either by judicial action or under
power of sale contained in the
superior Deed of Trust.

The property to be offered
pursuant to this Notice of Sale
is being offered for sale "AS
IS, WHERE IS." THERE ARE
NO REPRESENTATIONS OR
WARRANTIES relating to the title
or to any physical, environmental,
health or safety conditions existing
in, on, at or relating to the property
being offered for sale, and any
and all responsibilities or liabilities
arising out of or in any way relating
to any such condition are expressly
disclaimed.
A cash deposit of 5% of the
purchase price will be required
at the time of the sale. Remote
bidding will not be accepted
pursuant to North Carolina
General Statutes Section 45-21.25
(a). Credit bids on behalf of the
Noteholder will be accepted. Any
successful bidder shall be required
to tender the full balance of the
purchase price so bid in cash or
certified check at the time the
Substitute Trustee tenders to him
a deed for the property or attempts
to tender such deed, and should
said successful bidder fail to pay
the full balance purchase price so
bid at that time, he shall remain
liable on his bid as provided for in
North Carolina General Statutes
Section 45-21.30 (d) and (e). This
sale will be held open ten (10) days
for upset bids as required by law.
Residential real property with
less than 15 rental units, including
single-family residential real
property: an order for possession
of the property may be issued
pursuant to G.S. 45-21.29 in favor
of the purchaser and against the
party or parties in possession by
the clerk of superior court of the
county in which the property is
sold. Any person who occupies
the property pursuant to a rental
agreement entered into or renewed
on or after October 1, 2007, may,
after receiving notice of sale,
terminate the rental agreement
by providing written notice of
termination to the landlord, to be
effective on a date stated in the
notice that is at least 10 days, but
not more than 90 days, after the
sale date contained in the notice of
sale, provided that the mortgagor
has not cured the default at the
time the tenant provides the notice
of termination. Upon termination
of a rental agreement, the tenant is
liable for rent due under the rental
agreement prorated to the effective
date of the termination.
Dated: 6/10/26
Philip A. Glass, Substitute Trustee
Nodell, Glass & Haskell, L.L.P.
Posted on 6/10/26
Exhibit A
Lying and being in the City
of Durham, Durham Township,
Durham County, North Carolina
and more particularly described as
follows:
All of Lot 24 in Magnolia Creek,
Phase 4 as shown on the plat
recorded in Plat Book 204, Pages
187-190, Durham County Registry,
to which plat reference is hereby
made for a more particular
description.
Subject to easements,
restrictions and rights of way of
record, and utility lines and rights
of way in existence over, under or
upon the above-described property.
PIN: 0833-38-0695
Property Address:
1106 Brimstone Way,
Durham, NC 27704
July 2, 2026 and July 9, 2026

Classifieds

D/M/WBE

SUBCONTRACTORS/SUPPLIERS WANTED

T. A. Loving Company (NC General Contractor License No. 325) is seeking certified DBE, MBE, and WBE subcontractors and suppliers for the Find-It – Fix-It Water Valve Replacement project for the Cape Fear Public Utility Authority which bids on July 14, 2026, at 11:00 AM. Plans and specifications for this project are available at the following locations: T. A. Loving Company; 400 Patetown Road; Goldsboro, NC 27530 * Cape Fear Public Utility Authority; 235 Government Drive; Wilmington, NC 28403 * Carolinas AGC Website * Dodge Data and Analytics website * ConstructConnect website * Construction Journal website * Hispanic Contractors Association of the Carolinas website * North American Procurement Council website * The Blue Book Building and Construction Network website * H2bid, Inc. website (www.H2bid.com).

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

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

Classifieds

FORECLOSURE

NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY
Special Proceedings No.
25SP000281-310
Substitute Trustee: Philip A. Glass
RE-NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE
SALE
Date of Sale: July 15, 2026
Time of Sale: 2:30 p.m.
Place of Sale: Durham County
Courthouse
Description of Property: See
Attached Description
Record Owners: Aaron J. Woodard
Address of Property: 892 Saratoga
Drive
Durham, NC 27704
Deed of Trust:
Book : 9830 Page: 981
Dated: December 7, 2022
Grantors: Aaron J. Woodard an
unmarried person
Original Beneficiary: State
Employees' Credit Union
CONDITIONS OF SALE:

This sale is made subject to all
unpaid taxes and superior liens
or encumbrances of record and
assessments, if any, against the
said property, and any recorded
leases. This sale is also subject to
any applicable county land transfer
tax, and the successful third party
bidder shall be required to make
payment for any such county land
transfer tax.

The property to be offered
pursuant to this Notice of Sale
is being offered for sale "AS
IS, WHERE IS." THERE ARE
NO REPRESENTATIONS OR
WARRANTIES relating to the title
or to any physical, environmental,
health or safety conditions existing
in, on, at or relating to the property
being offered for sale, and any
and all responsibilities or liabilities
arising out of or in any way relating
to any such condition are expressly
disclaimed.

A cash deposit of 5% of the
purchase price will be required
at the time of the sale. Remote
bidding will not be accepted
pursuant to North Carolina
General Statutes Section 45-21.25
(a). Credit bids on behalf of the
Noteholder will be accepted. Any
successful bidder shall be required
to tender the full balance of the
purchase price so bid in cash or
certified check at the time the
Substitute Trustee tenders to him

a deed for the property or attempts
to tender such deed, and should
said successful bidder fail to pay
the full balance purchase price so
bid at that time, he shall remain
liable on his bid as provided for in
North Carolina General Statutes
Section 45-21.30 (d) and (e). This
sale will be held open ten (10) days
for upset bids as required by law.

Residential real property with
less than 15 rental units, including
single-family residential real
property: an order for possession
of the property may be issued
pursuant to G.S. 45-21.29 in favor
of the purchaser and against the
party or parties in possession by
the clerk of superior court of the
county in which the property is
sold. Any person who occupies
the property pursuant to a rental
agreement entered into or renewed
on or after October 1, 2007, may,
after receiving notice of sale,
terminate the rental agreement
by providing written notice of
termination to the landlord, to be
effective on a date stated in the
notice that is at least 10 days, but
not more than 90 days, after the
sale date contained in the notice of
sale, provided that the mortgagor
has not cured the default at the
time the tenant provides the notice
of termination. Upon termination
of a rental agreement, the tenant is
liable for rent due under the rental
agreement prorated to the effective
date of the termination.

Dated: 5/18/26
Philip A. Glass, Substitute Trustee
Nodell, Glass & Haskell, L.L.P.
Posted on 6/10/26
Exhibit A

BEING all of Lot 41 as shown on
that plat entitled "The Villages at
Independence Park, The Lafayette
Phase III Subdivision," dated
January 30, 2018, prepared by
ECLS Global, Inc. and recorded in
Plat Book 198, Page 262, Durham
County Registry.

Subject to easements,
restrictions and rights of way of
record, and utility lines and rights
of way in existence over, under or
upon the above-described property.

PIN: 0833-47-2677
Property Address:
892 Saratoga Dr.
Durham, NC 27704
July 2, 2026 and July 9, 2026

D/M/WBE

SUBCONTRACTORS/SUPPLIERS WANTED

T. A. Loving Company (NC General Contractor License No. 325) is seeking certified DBE, MBE, and WBE subcontractors and suppliers for the **Big Branch 2 Pump Station** project for the **Town of Apex** which bids on **July 29, 2026, at 2:00 PM**. Plans and specifications for this project are available at the following locations: T. A. Loving Company; 400 Patetown Road; Goldsboro, NC 27530 * Town of Apex Water Resources Department; 105-B Upchurch Street; Apex, NC 27502 * Hazen and Sawyer; 4011 West Chase Boulevard, Suite 500; Raleigh, NC 27607 * ConstructConnect website.

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

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

D/M/WBE

SUBCONTRACTORS/SUPPLIERS WANTED

T. A. Loving Company (NC General Contractor License No. 325) is seeking certified DBE, MBE, and WBE subcontractors and suppliers for the **Poole Road and Martin Pond Road 24" and 30" Water Transmission Main** project for the **City of Raleigh Public Utilities Department** which bids on **July 16, 2026, at 2:00 PM**. Plans and specifications for this project are available at the following locations: T. A. Loving Company; 400 Patetown Road; Goldsboro, NC 27530 * City of Raleigh Public Utilities Department; One Exchange Plaza, Suite 620; Raleigh, NC 27601 * McKim & Creed, Inc.; 4300 Edwards Mill Road, Suite 200; Raleigh, NC 27612 * Dodge Data and Analytics website * ConstructConnect website * Construction Journal website * NC Institute of Minority Economic Development (NCIMED) website.

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

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

D/M/WBE

SUBCONTRACTORS/SUPPLIERS WANTED

T. A. Loving Company (NC General Contractor License No. 325) is seeking certified DBE, MBE, and WBE subcontractors and suppliers for the **Little Creek Resource Recovery Facility Rehabilitation & Replacement – Contract No. 2** project for the **City of Raleigh Public Utilities Department** which bids on **July 21, 2026, at 2:00 PM**. Plans and specifications for this project are available at the following locations: T. A. Loving Company; 400 Patetown Road; Goldsboro, NC 27530 * City of Raleigh Public Utilities Department; One Exchange Plaza, Suite 620; Raleigh, NC 27601 * Black & Veatch International Company; 175 Regency Woods Place, Suite 200; Cary, NC 27518 * Dodge Data and Analytics website * ConstructConnect website * Construction Journal website * NC Institute of Minority Economic Development (NCIMED) website.

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

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

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

D/M/WBE

SUBCONTRACTORS/SUPPLIERS WANTED

T. A. Loving Company (NC General Contractor License No. 325) is seeking certified DBE, MBE, and WBE subcontractors and suppliers for the **Crooked Pine Road Water Main Extension** project for the **Cape Fear Public Utility Authority** which bids on **July 21, 2026, at 11:00 AM**. Plans and specifications for this project are available at the following locations: T. A. Loving Company; 400 Patetown Road; Goldsboro, NC 27530 * Cape Fear Public Utility Authority; 235 Government Drive; Wilmington, NC 28403 * Carolinas AGC Website * Dodge Data and Analytics website * ConstructConnect website * Construction Journal website * Hispanic Contractors Association of the Carolinas website * North American Procurement Council website * The Blue Book Building and Construction Network website * H2bid, Inc. website (www.H2bid.com).

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

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

D/M/WBE

SUBCONTRACTORS/SUPPLIERS WANTED

T. A. Loving Company (NC General Contractor License No. 325) is seeking certified DBE, MBE, and WBE subcontractors and suppliers for the **Big Rockfish Creek Outfall – Contract II** project for **Fayetteville Public Works Commission** which bids on **July 6, 2026, at 5:00 PM**. Plans and specifications for this project are available at the following locations: T. A. Loving Company; 400 Patetown Road; Goldsboro, NC 27530 or via email.

Potential subcontracting opportunities include:

1) Plumbing – provide and install all materials required for new water service connection to residential customers, starting at the PWC water meter box (installed by TALCO) and ending with connection to an existing private water service at an existing private potable water well. Subcontractors will be responsible for all applicable permits and inspections from the local authorities having jurisdiction. There are currently eight approved addresses ready for connection along Lakeview Drive in Fayetteville, NC.

2) Well abandonment – provide all labor, equipment, and materials necessary to abandon existing residential potable water wells in accordance with NCDEQ requirements, along with providing all required well abandonment records and any associated documentation. Potential subcontractors to clarify if proposed scope of work includes removal and disposal of the existing well house/pumphouse, removal and disposal of existing well piping, removing the pump and providing it to the property owner, disconnecting any electrical components from the power source to the well pump, disconnecting and plugging existing plumbing, and properly disposing of waste generated during well abandonment activities, and any other incidentals necessary to complete the work. There are currently eight approved addresses for well abandonment along Lakeview Drive in Fayetteville, NC.

3) Thermoplastic pavement markings – provide and install thermoplastic pavement markings on newly restored NCDOT roadway. Location is at the dead-end of Waldos Beach Road in Fayetteville, NC. Estimated quantities of work include 300 LF of double-yellow (solid) striping and 600 LF of solid white striping. Potential subcontractors to clarify if proposed scope includes temporary traffic control; two-way traffic will need to be maintained at all times.

Please contact **Jason Savage (jsavage@taloving.com)** if you are interested in submitting a proposal on any portion(s) of this project. Contact via phone 919-734-8400; fax: 919-736-2148; or email. All quotations will be accepted up to the closing time of the bid date. T. A. Loving Company is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer.

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

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

D/M/WBE

SUBCONTRACTORS/SUPPLIERS WANTED

T. A. Loving Company (NC General Contractor License No. 325) is seeking certified DBE, MBE, and WBE subcontractors and suppliers for the **Kingsboro Waterline Extension** project for **Edgecombe County** which bids on **July 23, 2026, at 2:00 PM**. Plans and specifications for this project are available at the following locations: T. A. Loving Company; 400 Patetown Road; Goldsboro, NC 27530 * Edgecombe County Administrative Building; 201 St. Andrew Street; Tarboro, NC 27886 * The Wooten Company; 418 Evans Street, Suite 201; Greenville, NC 27834 * Dodge Data and Analytics website * ConstructConnect website.

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

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

