

LIGON SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI CELEBRATES 45TH ANNUAL REUNION

The First Cosmopolitan Baptist Fellowship Hall was the venue for the 45th J.W. Ligon Senior High School Alumni Reunion. Hundreds of Ligon graduates and guests filled the hall talking about days of yesteryear, taking pictures, as well as reconnecting with each other, and enjoying the songs that were favorites to the Classes of 1954-1972. The traditional reflection and memorial of classmates deceased was performed. Three high school graduates were the recipients of the J. W. Ligon Alumni Association Scholarship Awards. They included: Leanna Sutton, Cardinal Gibbons High Grad.; Kamryn Hinton, South Garner High Grad.; and Glitter Banks, Athens Drive Magnet School Grad. We wish them well in their endeavors.

There was a display commemorating our teachers and administrators, whose commitment to go the extra mile in educating us, continues to be a source of inspiration. We continue to be favored and eternally grateful when any of them are able to attend.

Finally, no reunion would be complete without a tasty meal, and the J. W. Ligon Alumni Association Reunion committee out did themselves this year with a caterer who delivered a soul food menu that many attendees are still talking about. A special thanks to the committee and J.W. Ligon Alumni President Toney Bethea for making the occasion one to remember.

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NCDOT HOSTING A PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE

A PROPOSAL TO CONSTRUCT A GRADE SEPARATION AT THE EXISTING CROSSING OF NCRR/NORFOLK SOUTHERN AT SOUTH ENGLISH STREET, CLOSE THE HOLTS CHAPEL ROAD AT-GRADE CROSSING AND CONSTRUCT A NEW LOCATION CONNECTOR ROAD IN GREENSBORO, GUILFORD COUNTY

STIP Project No. P-5747

GREENSBORO - The N.C. Department of Transportation is hosting a public meeting to discuss the proposal construct a grade separation at the existing crossing of NCRR/Norfolk Southern H Line at South English Street, subsequently closing the Holts Chapel Road at-grade crossing and constructing a new location connector road in Greensboro, Guilford County.

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**.

By Mail:

Gregory Blakeney

NCDOT- Senior Rail Project Development Engineer

1553 Mail Service Center

Raleigh, NC 27699-1553

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 magallagher@ncdot.gov as early as possible so arrangements can be made.

Those who do not speak English, or have a limited ability to read, speak or understand English, may receive interpretive services upon request prior by calling 1-800-481-6494.

Aquellas personas no hablan inglés, o tienen limitaciones para leer, hablar o entender inglés, podrían recibir servicios de interpretación si los solicitan llamando al 1-800-481-6494.

Four Major Bills, State Budget Signed

By Jordan Meadows

Staff Writer

Gov. Josh Stein signed four bipartisan bills into law Monday at the Executive Mansion, capping the General Assembly's short session with legislation addressing gang violence, the state's involuntary commitment system, housing affordability and a sweeping overhaul of how North Carolina hires and retains state employees.

"Today I am proud to sign into law four bills," Stein said. "Each will make North Carolina stronger in different ways. They'll be making North Carolina safer, lowering housing costs and improving public services."

One moment of the signing ceremony came with Jaleeyah's Law, named after 13-year-old Jaleeyah Tune of Goldsboro, who was shot and killed in December 2025 in what lawmakers described as a random act of gang violence days before Christmas.

House Bill 1173 strengthens North Carolina's criminal gang laws by lowering the threshold for law enforcement to identify and charge someone as a gang member, more clearly defining what constitutes gang activity, and funding additional prosecutors and investigators for gang cases. The legislation marks some of the most significant changes to the state's gang laws since the Gang Suppression Act passed in 2008.

Stein also signed House Bill 1104, a broad revision of the state's invol-



untary commitment process that emerged from a separate set of tragedies. The bill follows Iryna's Law, a judicial reform package passed after the August 2025 killing of Iryna Zarutska, who was stabbed on a Charlotte commuter train by a man with a documented history of mental illness and prior criminal charges.

The earlier law required more suspects to receive psychiatric assessments in hospital emergency rooms, but hospital leaders objected, citing safety concerns for staff and patients. House Bill 1104 responds to those concerns by allowing psychiatric evaluations to be conducted in county jails through telehealth rather than in emergency departments. It also doubles the maximum

length of court-ordered outpatient treatment from 90 days to 180 days, creates a new inpatient capacity-restoration program for defendants found incapable of proceeding to trial due to serious mental illness, and requires further studies on mobile crisis units and examiner training.

"We see far too often that mental health crises are funneled through the justice system instead of the mental health treatment system," said Health and Human Services Secretary Dev Sangvai.

Rep. Tim Reeder, a Republican from Pitt County and a physician who chaired the House Select Committee on Involuntary Commitment and Public Safety that developed the legislation, said the committee

worked to balance public safety with the treatment needs of people in crisis.

"Too many individuals cycle repeatedly through emergency departments, jails, and treatment facilities without really getting consistent quality treatment," he said.

On housing, Stein signed House Bill 162, which prohibits most local governments from requiring developers to include a minimum number of off-street parking spaces in new construction. Supporters of the measure argued that mandatory parking minimums drive up construction costs and ultimately raise rents, with Stein citing estimates that such requirements can add between \$200 and \$300 per month to what residents pay.

The law also allows local governments to offer developers voluntary incentives for stormwater control measures that go beyond existing state requirements, a provision that drew support from both housing advocates and conservationists. North Carolina is projected to be more than 750,000 homes short of what it needs by 2029.

"We need to remove unnecessary and expensive barriers, like burdensome parking lot requirements that lead to higher housing costs," Stein said.

The fourth bill Stein signed, Senate Bill 1041, the Public Workforce Modernization Act, represents what

(See **FOUR BILLS**, P. 12)

Alcohol Is One Of The Most Dangerous Drugs, Yet Its Presence Is Ubiquitous

THE CONVERSATION—Few substances are as deeply woven into everyday life as alcohol. It is a fixture at holiday celebrations, work-related social gatherings, sporting events, airports, and brunch or dinner tables. A raised glass for a toast, the ubiquitous wedding open bar or drinks shared during a Fourth of July celebration all demonstrate how deeply alcohol has become embedded in social customs and cultural traditions.

Yet alcohol contributes to millions of deaths globally each year and is linked to cancer, liver disease, unintentional accidents, violence and,

importantly, dependence and addiction. Despite this, the disconnect between alcohol's cultural role and its serious health burden is striking.

Although drinking patterns vary substantially across countries, an estimated 2.3 billion people worldwide consume alcohol. It is deeply integrated into social life across the globe, despite its well-documented health risks.

As a physician working in addiction medicine, I regularly care for patients whose alcohol use affects nearly every organ system. It is often not until these patients end up admitted to the hospital that they learn the impact of alcohol on various parts of their body besides their liver.



Newer evidence challenges assumptions about what was long considered "safe drinking." Even moderate drinking carries risk and is not as harmless as people, including experts, once thought.

Many people associate alcohol risk primarily with addiction or legal complications such as driving while intoxicated. However, its effects extend far beyond this, into nearly every aspect of a person's well-being.

While alcohol may transiently improve mood and ease social anxiety, long-term alcohol use can lead to a worsening of mood, cognition and sleep, which can further compound use.

A 2021 literature review found that consuming approximately two standard drinks roughly doubles the odds of sustaining both motor vehicle and non-motor vehicle injuries. The review also found that heavy episodic (binge) drinking can increase the risk of injury by 20- to 50-fold, depending on the amount of alcohol consumed and the type of injury. While alcohol's effects on the liver are well known, it can also lead to gastrointestinal complications and heart disease.

The World Health Organization estimates that 2.6 million deaths each year are attributable to alcohol, accounting for nearly 1 in every 20 deaths worldwide.

While many people recognize the risks of alcohol addiction, people are generally much less aware of the links between alcohol use and cancer risk.

The World Health Organization classifies alcohol as a Group 1 carcinogen, — the same category as tobacco and asbestos. In other words, these are agents classified as having sufficient evidence that they cause cancer in humans.

In 2025, a U.S. Surgeon General advisory emphasized that alcohol increases the risk of at least seven can-

cers and called for updated warning labels. It concluded that alcohol increases an individual's risk of developing seven types of cancer, including cancers of the breast, colorectal, liver, oral, esophagus and larynx.

Yet fewer than half of Americans recognize alcohol as a risk factor for cancer, particularly for cancers such as breast cancer that are not commonly associated with alcohol use.

The relationship between alcohol and cancer is nuanced. Throughout the 1990s and early 2000s, observational studies suggested that moderate alcohol consumption might offer cardiovascular benefits.

Over the past decade, however, higher-quality studies have challenged those findings, suggesting that much of the apparent benefit may have reflected differences in the health and lifestyles of moderate drinkers rather than a protective effect of alcohol itself.

According to the Dietary Guidelines for Americans, current evidence increasingly suggests that even low levels of alcohol may increase cancer risk.

The guidelines acknowledge that adults should "consume less alcohol for better overall health." However, the most recent version of the guidelines for 2025-2030, updated in January 2026, removed the previous recommendation to limit intake to no more than one drink per day for women and two for men. It also omitted explicit discussion of alcohol's links to cancer.

These changes have drawn criticism from public health experts, who argue that the revised language downplays the growing evidence of alcohol-related harms and provides less specific guidance to consumers. Against this backdrop, Dr. Mehmet Oz, Administrator of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, characterized alcohol as a "social lu-

bricant" that brings people together, rather than emphasizing its well-established health risks.

That may be true physiologically, at least temporarily, but it obscures the fact that relying on alcohol as a social lubricant can lead to chemical and psychological dependency. In my view, statements to that effect are shortsighted, prioritizing short-term social effects over more insidious and long-term issues, including addiction.

While many dangerous mind-altering substances are hidden from public perception, alcohol is often placed at the center of it — a trend that shows no sign of changing imminently.

Further, large companies often profit from ads that appeal to young people.

Looking back at the history of tobacco smoking provides some helpful insights. In 1965, 42.4% of the U.S. population smoked. By 2022, that figure had dropped to 11.6%.

This dramatic decline did not happen because of a single intervention, but through decades of accumulating scientific evidence, public education campaigns, warning labels, restrictions on advertising, smoke-free policies, higher tobacco taxes and shifts in social norms. Together, these efforts transformed smoking from a widely accepted social behavior into one broadly recognized as a major health risk and, correspondingly, less socially accepted.

Although alcohol consumption has modestly declined in recent years, it remains deeply embedded in social life in ways cigarette smoking no longer is.

People often assume that if a substance is legal, common and widely socially accepted, as well as encouraged, then it must also be safe. But public health history suggests those assumptions can and should change.

Jaleeyah's Law —CONT. FROM PAGE 1

when they've committed no acts of violence? Why don't they get the right to freedom of religion like other religions groups in America? The definition of a gang or a gang member needs to be evaluated and shared widely. At the conclusion of the Citizen's Academy we were encouraged to give feedback. The leadership of the Harnett County Sheriffs Office expressed gratitude for the feedback and noted that they don't know unless someone tells them.

I hope this knowledge empowers law enforcement leaders to be more culturally aware and transparent with what they see that alarms them so we can grow as a community. Dr. Randall Pinkett said, "If you are not

prepared to make your organization more receptive to all people of all backgrounds then you will not be competitive in the 20th century."

As a Black American growing up in conservative Cary, North Carolina I was raised to be considerate and aware of all cultures. Jaleeyah's Law is important to help us maintain safety, I hope that we also make room for cultural understanding as well. The way the law is written, a teen or young adult could post something that is interpreted as gang-related and end up with "Enhance penalties for persons convicted of certain felonies if the offense was committed as part of criminal gang activity."



Business & Finance

USA Is Shrinking Its Workforce At The Worst Possible Time

By Andrew Tisch

Forbes Contributor

The United States is entering an era of slowing population growth and tightening labor supply — yet national policy is moving in the opposite direction, sharply reducing the very inflows of workers and consumers that have powered the economy for decades.

The debate over immigration has become highly polarized, but that focus obscures a more fundamental economic issue: the growing mismatch between America's demographic needs and its current trajectory. The central misunderstanding is this: reducing immigration does not reallocate jobs to U.S.-born workers — it reduces the overall size of the economy that creates those jobs. Fewer workers also means fewer consumers, fewer businesses and less demand across the system.

We are cutting off the supply of dynamic, hardworking and entrepreneurial people who built this country, staff its hospitals, farms and construction sites, file patents, start businesses and pay the payroll taxes that keep Medicare and Social Security alive for tens of millions of aging Americans.

Current policy choices are reducing immigration on a large scale, and data shows the economic implications of this shift.

In 2025, for the first time in at least half a century, the United States recorded negative net migration. More people left the U.S. than arrived.

Brookings Institution researchers estimate the net flow was between 295,000 and 10,000 people for the year, and they project it will remain negative through 2026. Even more optimistic government projections suggest only a slow, partial recovery in migration over the following decade.

The Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas estimates that 2025 GDP growth was between 0.75 and 1 percentage point below what it would have been under previous immigration projections.

Monthly payroll growth slowed to an average of just 29,000 jobs between October and December of last year, compared with 166,000 per month in 2024. Research from the National Foundation for American Policy projects that current immigration policies will reduce cumulative



GDP by \$1.9 trillion between 2025 and 2028 and by \$12.1 trillion by 2035 — roughly \$34,000 lost per American.

Local data shows similar effects. A new National Bureau of Economic Research study found that for every ICE arrest, six likely undocumented male workers stop working. The study also found employment declining among U.S.-born men with less education in areas with high numbers of ICE arrests, as businesses scale back and reduce demand for all workers.

Immigration has accounted for almost half of U.S. labor force growth since 1995 and, in recent years, virtually all of it, because the native-born working-age population is barely growing. For a look at what happens when a country faces both low birthrates and limited population growth, demographers often point to examples such as Japan and China. China's population, for instance, is projected to decline from about 1.4 billion to roughly 800 million by the end of the century — a shift driven by long-term demographic trends rather than any single policy choice.

Immigrants do not just fill positions; they create demand. They rent apartments, buy groceries, start businesses and hire employees. Businesses feel reduced immigration as both a loss of workers and a loss of customers.

One of the most immediate consumer impacts is appearing in food prices, where labor shortages in agriculture are beginning to influ-

ence costs. Foreign-born farmworkers make up 68% of the agricultural workforce, about 42% of whom are unauthorized immigrants.

When you remove that labor force, you do not replace it with those eager to spend 12-hour shifts in sweltering fields. The Trump administration's Labor Department acknowledged this in an October 2025 Federal Register filing, warning that "near total cessation of the inflow of illegal aliens presents a sufficient risk of supply shock-induced food shortages" — and that unemployed Americans "will not make themselves available in sufficient numbers, even at current wage levels, to fill the significant labor shortage in the agricultural sector."

One economic analysis projects that current immigration policies could drive a 14.5% increase in food and beverage prices from 2024 to 2028. The Americans most hurt by food inflation tend to be the same working-class voters who were promised that immigration restrictions would improve their economic lives. The economic effects are trending in the opposite direction of what many voters were led to expect.

As of 2024, 46% of Fortune 500 companies were founded by immigrants or their children, including Apple, Amazon and DoorDash.

Between 1990 and 2016, immigrants, who made up only 16% of the U.S. inventor workforce, produced roughly 23% of all patents. These are not incidental contributions. They are structural to American economic dynamism. Turning off that tap does

not just reduce the labor supply — it reduces the flow of ideas, risk-taking and ambition that make American capitalism work and ensure we lead the world in innovation.

Social Security and Medicare are pay-as-you-go systems. Today's workers fund today's retirees. The 2025 Social Security Trustees Report projects that the retirement trust fund will be insolvent by 2033, at which point retirees would face an automatic 23% benefit cut. The Medicare Hospital Insurance trust fund is projected to be depleted in the same year. Those projections were set in December 2024 — before the sharp drop in immigration — so the real outlook is almost certainly worse.

The trustees' report makes the relationship explicit: reducing long-run net migration by half would worsen Social Security's long-run actuarial deficit by 25%. One analysis estimated that current immigration policies could cost Social Security and Medicare \$4 billion in 2025 alone, rising to \$27 billion annually by 2034. It could push the trust fund's exhaustion date up by about a year.

For those who worry that immigrants drain public finances, the evidence points the other way. A Cato Institute report found that from 1994 to 2023, immigrants paid more in taxes than they received in benefits across all levels of government.

One recent bipartisan proposal in Congress, backed by 35 sponsors, is the Dignity Act of 2025. Introduced by Republican Rep. María Elvira Salazar of Florida and Democratic Rep. Veronica Escobar of Texas, the bill would secure the border, reform the asylum system and create a seven-year Dignity Program that protects eligible undocumented immigrants from deportation. Participants would be able to work and live openly if they maintain good conduct and make restitution payments to the federal government.

The proposal does not include blanket amnesty or a path to citizenship through the Dignity Program, a provision intended to address concerns among some conservative lawmakers. Under the bill, long-term residents who have paid taxes, raised children and avoided serious criminal offenses could remain in the country and continue contributing to their communities.

America last enacted comprehensive immigration reform in 1986. While the Dignity Act is narrower in scope, it reflects an effort to address widely acknowledged gaps in the current system.

Public concern about border security remained high entering 2025,

even as federal data showed a significant decline in unauthorized border crossings compared with prior decades. Policymakers now face the dual challenge of maintaining border security while ensuring the labor force remains strong enough to support economic growth.

Buy Stamps Now: USPS Is Hiking Prices In July



MassLive—The United States Postal Service is raising the price of "Forever stamps" within weeks, so if you plan on mailing anything out, you may want to buy a book before the new rates go into effect.

Starting July 12, the price of a First-Class Forever stamp is going up 4 cents — from 78 cents to 82 cents, now approved by the Postal Regulatory Commission.

That means a book of 20 stamps is currently sitting at \$15.60 — but come July, that rate increases to \$16.40.

The increase is part of a broader 4.8% hike across mailing services that also raises domestic postcard prices from 61 to 65 cents and international letter rates from \$1.70 to \$1.75.

But the Forever stamp isn't the only rate seeing a bump.

The move comes at a time of serious financial turbulence for the USPS.

In March testimony before the House Oversight subcommittee, Postmaster General David Steiner warned that USPS could run out of cash within 12 months without congressional intervention.

"Less than a year from now, the Postal Service will be unable to deliver the mail if we maintain the status quo," Steiner told lawmakers.

The agency has posted net losses nearly every year since 2007, including a \$9.5 billion loss in fiscal 2025.

Mail volume has fallen by nearly half since 2006 — from 213 billion pieces to roughly 109 billion today — gutting the revenue base that once sustained the postal service.

Steiner has floated potential fixes including reducing delivery to five days a week and raising stamp prices further — potentially to 90 or 95 cents.

A GAO report released the same day as the March hearing called USPS's business model "unsustainable" and said congressional action would likely be necessary.

Congress has not yet acted.

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Cvmsdc’s BOC26 Invites Small Businesses To Envision A Future Built On Innovation, Access and Collaboration

As the business landscape accelerates toward a future shaped by artificial intelligence, digital transformation, and rapidly shifting market demands, the CarolinasVirginia Minority Supplier Development Council (CVMSDC) is calling on small businesses and corporate partners to prepare for what comes next.

That call to action will take center stage August 2–4, 2026, when CVMSDC hosts its 49th annual Business Opportunity Conference (BOC26), sponsored by Allstate, at The Westin RaleighDurham Airport. The three-day gathering is designed not only as a conference, but as a catalyst—an immersive experience where small busi-

nesses, minority business owners, corporate partners, government agencies, and community partners converge to build relationships, exchange ideas, and chart a shared path forward.

The theme, Futurism, challenges attendees to look beyond the present moment and imagine the next era of supplier development, innovation, and economic opportunity. The event is positioned as a three-day experience designed to connect business owners with major corporate partners, government agencies, and industry leaders who are ready to do business, emphasizing that it is where “the right people, the right conversations, and the right opportunities all come together.”

This year’s agenda reflects that ambition. From a VIP Welcome Reception and Scholarship Swing Golf Tournament to hands-on workshops, a Freedom Park tour, the Business Connections Roundtable, and the annual CVMSDC Awards Reception, BOC26 blends education, inspiration, and meaningful engagement. Multiday activations such as The Launch Point will offer curated resources and realtime support for business owners seeking to strengthen their capabilities and competitiveness.

CVMSDC President & Chief Engagement Officer Dominique Simpson Milton underscores the urgency of preparing for the future now. “Futurism requires more than



imagination—it requires alignment. As the business landscape and technology evolve with unprecedented speed, small businesses and corporate partners must move forward together with shared purpose,” Milton said. “When our goals are connected, supplier development becomes a powerful engine for resilience, sustainability, and longterm economic growth. BOC26 is where we prepare for what’s next—by building the relationships that will shape the future of business.”

CVMSDC Board Chair Jonathan Wilkins, supplier diversity program executive at Presidio, said, “Small businesses bring agility, creativity, and thought leadership—qualities that corporations need now more

than ever in this rapidly evolving business landscape. When CVMSDC corporate partners and SBEs align their goals, together, we’ll unlock a powerful system of shared success and prosperity. BOC26 is not just about preparing for the future, it’s about shaping it together.”

For nearly five decades, CVMSDC has championed economic inclusion through its four pillars: advocacy, certification, connections, and development. BOC26 continues that legacy, serving as one of the Council’s most impactful platforms for strengthening supplier development and expanding opportunities for small businesses and certified Minority Business Enterprises across the region.

Standing Room Only In Raleigh With Batch And Abrams

By Jheri Hardaway

Staff Writer

Raleigh, NC — It was a standing-room-only crowd in Raleigh as North Carolina Senate Democratic Leader Sydney Batch took the stage alongside national voting rights champion, attorney, and author Stacey Abrams for an intensive, data-driven Jeopardy themed conversation on the political landscape. Way more innovative than standard campaign events, the fundraiser served as an evidence-based dissection of the most critical policy issues facing North Carolina and the nation, from systemic healthcare structural failures to coordinated threats against the judiciary and voting infrastructure.

The forum underscored a singular theme: true leadership does not dis-

tort the facts for comfort, it empowers communities by confronting brutal truths with an actionable strategy for progress. The evening kicked off with audience members selecting policy categories to guide the discussion. The first critical issue raised focused on the North Carolina State Health Plan and the state’s obligation to provide affordable, accessible healthcare to public employees and retirees without shifting the burden to them via increased premiums and co-pays.

Leader Batch addressed the crisis directly, pointing to fifteen years of fiscal management under opposing legislative leadership that failed to protect the state’s infrastructure, “We waited over a decade to have Medicaid expansion,” Batch stated, drawing a direct line between systemic policy delays and rising costs



for private policyholders. “It isn’t about the fact that it’s going to just go down because all of a sudden we remove people from the rolls. All of us with private insurance are going

to continue to pay the price because the uninsured are the most vulnerable.”

Batch, a cancer survivor who received treatment at UNC, shared a

profound personal perspective on the geographic disparities embedded in the healthcare system, noting she met patients traveling from Nash County and the coast because vast swathes of North Carolina have become medical deserts.

The policy conversation grew sharper when analyzing the raw data of the current state budget. Batch highlighted the stark economic reality of a state maintaining a minimum wage of \$7.25 an hour, amounting to just \$15,080 a year for an individual working 40 hours a week for 52 weeks without a single day off. Despite this, she noted, the legislature’s current budgetary trajectory imposes higher co-pays and premiums on the expansion population and state employees.

Stacey Abrams echoed these concerns by providing data from Geor-

gia, a state that spent \$80 million on a partial Medicaid expansion model, two-thirds of which was swallowed by administrative costs rather than direct patient care. “Medicaid expansion is life-saving care,” Abrams urged, noting that Georgia’s refusal to fully expand Medicaid has left it with some of the worst maternal mortality rates in the nation and led to the systemic closure of rural and metropolitan hospitals alike.

In North Carolina, Batch noted that while progress has been made, such as extending postpartum Medicaid coverage for pregnant women from 60 days to 12 months. New hurdles like retrogressive three-month lookback periods and complex work requirements threaten to alienate families from seeking care.

(See **SYDNEY BATCH**, P. 7)



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Autoimmune Diseases Can Strike Any Part Of The Body

(AP) — Our immune system has a dark side: It's supposed to fight off invaders to keep us healthy. But sometimes it turns traitor and attacks our own cells and tissues.

What are called autoimmune diseases can affect just about every part of the body — even the brain — and tens of millions of people. While most common in women, these diseases can strike anyone, adults or children, and they're on the rise.

New research is raising the prospect of treatments that might do more than tamp down symptoms. Dozens of clinical trials are testing ways to reprogram an out-of-whack immune system. Furthest along is a cancer treatment called CAR-T therapy that's had some promising early successes against lupus, myositis and certain other illnesses. It wipes out immune system B cells — both rogue and normal ones — and the theory is those that grow back are healthier. Other researchers are hunting ways to at least delay brewing autoimmune diseases, spurred by a drug that can buy some time before people show symptoms of Type 1 diabetes.

“This is probably the most exciting time that we've ever had to be in autoimmunity,” said Dr. Amit Saxena, a rheumatologist at NYU Langone Health.

Here are some things to know. What are autoimmune diseases? They're chronic diseases that can range from mild to life-threatening, more than 100 with different names depending on how and where they do damage. Rheumatoid arthritis and psoriatic arthritis attack joints. Sjögren's disease is known for dry eyes and mouth. Myositis and myasthenia gravis weaken muscles in different ways, the latter by attacking how nerves signal them. Lupus has widely varied symptoms including a butterfly-shaped facial rash, joint and muscle pain, fevers and damage to the kidneys, lungs and heart.

It can even hijack the organ that makes us “us” — the brain, with what's called autoimmune encephalitis.

They're also capricious: Even patients faring well for long periods can suddenly have a “flare” for no apparent reason.

Why autoimmune diseases are so difficult to diagnose

Many start with vague symptoms that come and go or mimic other illnesses. Many also have overlapping symptoms — rheumatoid arthritis and Sjögren's also can harm major organs, for example.

Diagnosis can take multiple tests, including some blood tests to detect antibodies that mistakenly latch onto healthy tissue. It usually centers on symptoms and involves ruling out other causes. Depending on the disease it can take years and seeing multiple doctors before one puts the clues together.

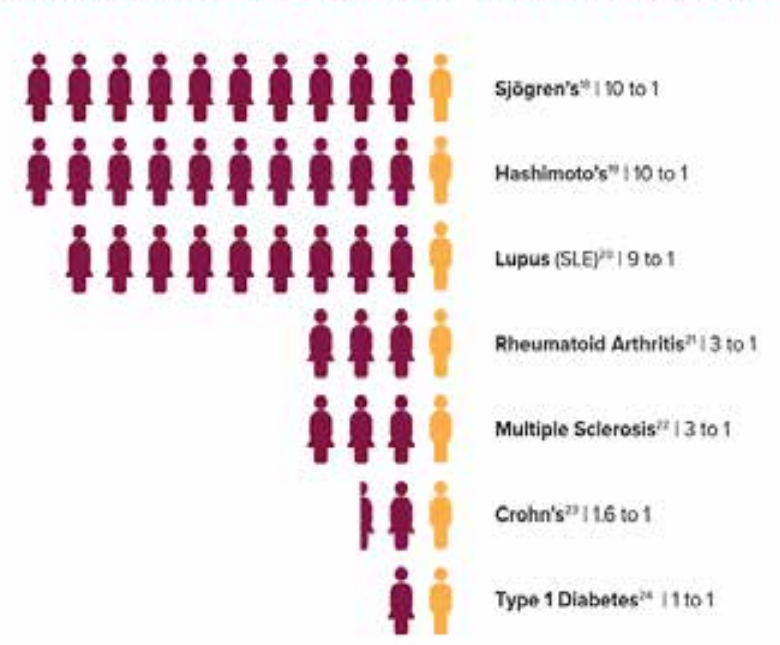
There are efforts to improve. The National MS Society is educating doctors about newly updated guidelines to streamline diagnosis of multiple sclerosis. And scientists are discovering a growing list of rogue antibodies responsible for the memory loss, seizures, even psychosis that can signal autoimmune encephalitis. That's helping doctors better identify it.

How the immune system gets out of whack

The human immune system is a complex army with sentinels to detect threats like germs or cancer cells, a variety of soldiers to attack them, and peacemakers to calm things down once the danger is over. Key is that it can distinguish what's foreign from what's “you,” what scientists call tolerance.

Sometimes confused immune cells or antibodies slip through, or the peacemakers can't calm things down after a battle. If the system can't spot and fix the problem,

Autoimmune Diseases: Women vs. Men



autoimmune diseases gradually develop.

Autoimmune diseases are often set off by a trigger

Most autoimmune diseases, especially in adults, aren't caused by a specific gene defect. Instead, a variety of genes that affect immune functions can make people susceptible. Scientists say it then

takes some “environmental” trigger, such as an infection, smoking or pollutants, to set the disease into motion.

Scientists are zeroing in on the earliest molecular triggers. For example, white blood cells called neutrophils are first responders to signs of infection or injury — but abnormally overactive ones are

suspected of playing a key role in lupus, rheumatoid arthritis and other diseases.

New research links a virus to lupus

Among infectious triggers, scientists already know the Epstein-Barr virus can set some people on the path to multiple sclerosis — and new evidence links it to lupus, too.

Just about everybody gets that virus by young adulthood and after the initial infection, it still hides out, inactive, in the body. Stanford University researchers found a hiding place is in a tiny proportion of the immune system's B cells. They found that occasionally, in some people, the virus nudges certain B cells into an inflammatory state that can spur an autoimmune chain reaction.

The research doesn't explain why 95% adults have been infected with Epstein-Barr yet only a small fraction of the population gets lupus. But it's a new clue into how infections can have a lasting impact on the immune system.

Women are at highest risk for autoimmune diseases

Women account for about 4 of 5 autoimmune patients, many of them young. Hormones are thought to play a role. But also, females have two X chromosomes while males have one X and one Y. Some research suggests an abnormality in how female cells switch

off that extra X can increase women's vulnerability.

But men do suffer from autoimmune diseases. One especially severe one named VEXAS syndrome wasn't discovered until 2020. It mainly affects men over 50 and in addition to typical autoimmune symptoms it can cause blood clots, shortness of breath and night sweats.

Certain populations also have higher risks. For example, lupus is more common in Black and Hispanic women. Northern Europeans have a higher risk of MS than other groups.

Treatment for autoimmune diseases is complicated

According to investment research company Morningstar, the global market for autoimmune disease treatments is \$100 billion a year. That's not counting doctor visits and such things as lost time at work. Treatment is lifelong and, while usually covered by insurance, can be pricey.

Not so long ago there was little to offer for many autoimmune diseases beyond high-dose steroids and broad immune-suppressing drugs, with side effects that include a risk of infections and cancer. Today some newer options target specific molecules, somewhat less immune dampening. But for many autoimmune diseases, treatment is trial and error, with little to guide patient decisions.

Tiny Celebrations Bring Hope To NICU Families On The 4th



By Judaea Ingram

Special To The Carolinian

For many families across the Triangle, the Fourth of July meant backyard cookouts, parades and fireworks. For others, the holiday was spent beside incubators and hospital bassinets, celebrating milestones far different from those planned.

At WakeMed Raleigh Campus and UNC Health Rex, nurses helped make Independence Day a little brighter for families with babies in the neonatal intensive care unit by dressing their smallest patients in festive red, white and blue outfits. Stars, stripes, miniature top hats and even a tiny Statue of Liberty crown transformed the newborns into symbols of celebration while creating lasting memories for parents navigating one of the most emotional chapters of their lives.

The heartfelt tradition coincided with America's 250th anniversary, offering families a moment of joy during a time often filled with uncertainty.

While many newborns spend their first days at home with family, babies admitted to the NICU require specialized medical care because they are born prematurely, have low birth weights or face other health complications. For parents, the experience can be emotionally and physically demanding as they balance hope, fear and the anticipation of bringing their child home.

Recognizing those challenges, nurses and hospital staff at both Raleigh hospitals found a meaningful way to celebrate the holiday, reminding families that even small moments can make a lasting difference.

Patriotic blankets, festive hats and handcrafted accessories decorated the newborns' bassinets, bringing smiles to parents and loved ones who may have expected a very different first Independence Day with their children. The keepsake photographs offered families a chance to celebrate an important milestone while documenting their babies' resilience and strength.

Although the decorations lasted only a short time, the memories created are likely to remain with families long after their hospital stay ends.

Holiday traditions have become a meaningful part of life inside many neonatal intensive care units, where nurses often decorate for seasonal celebrations, birthdays and special occasions. These moments provide more than colorful photographs. They offer emotional support and help families create positive memories during a period that can otherwise be defined by medical procedures and uncertainty.

For health care workers, those celebrations are another way of caring for patients beyond medicine. Small gestures such as holiday outfits, milestone cards and commemorative photos recognize that every family deserves moments of happiness, even within a hospital setting.

The Independence Day celebration also highlighted the dedication of NICU teams whose work often extends beyond clinical care. Nurses, physicians and support staff not only care for some of the region's most vulnerable patients but also strive to create an environment where parents feel supported, encouraged and connected to their newborns.

As fireworks lit the skies across North Carolina, the celebrations inside WakeMed Raleigh and UNC Health Rex were quieter but no less meaningful. For families spending the holiday in the NICU, a tiny patriotic outfit, a keepsake photograph and the kindness of hospital staff served as reminders that hope can be found even during life's most difficult moments.

While Independence Day marked a national celebration of freedom, it also became a deeply personal milestone for parents waiting for the day they can finally take their newest family members home.

I think this is much stronger than simply reporting, "NICU babies wore patriotic outfits." Instead, it uses the holiday to tell a broader story about resilience, compassionate care, and the experiences of families with newborns in intensive care.

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Arts & Culture

Community Stories Exhibit Explores The People And Places That Shaped North Carolina's Black Heritage

By Judaea Ingram

Special To The Carolinian

RALEIGH, N.C. – History is often remembered through major events and well-known figures. At the Gregg Museum of Art & Design, a new exhibition instead turns the spotlight on the bookstores, family businesses, neighborhoods and everyday people whose perseverance helped shape Black life across North Carolina.

Opening July 2 and on view through Feb. 27, 2027, Community Stories: Sustaining North Carolina's Black Heritage presents a series of vignettes exploring spaces of dignity, belonging, safety and imagination within Black communities. Through historical photographs, contemporary images, artwork and artifacts from community partners, the exhibition examines how generations of Black North Carolinians preserved culture, built thriving communities and created opportunities despite systemic barriers.

Rather than following a traditional historical timeline, the exhibition weaves together stories of resilience, entrepreneurship, creativity and family to show how ordinary spaces became extraordinary centers of community life.

Among the featured installations is Freedom Books: A Legacy of Resistance, curated by NC State University professor Ajamu Dillahunt-Holloway. The vignette explores the history of Freedom Books, Raleigh's first Black bookstore, founded in 1984 by Ajamu and Rukiya Dillahunt.



More than a bookstore, Freedom Books served as a gathering place for political organizing, discussions on racial justice and meetings for Black Workers for Justice. The exhibition also highlights the role of the Dillahunt family's daughters, Dara, Kemba and Safiya, who helped operate the business after school, demonstrating how community leadership and activism often begin within

families.

The exhibition also celebrates The Otey Family Legacy, honoring generations of women whose influence extended well beyond the sewing table.

Rooted in Raleigh's historic East Hargett Street business district, the Otey-Kay sisters became respected seamstresses whose craftsmanship served both Black and white debu-

tales during segregation. Their work represented more than fashion. It reflected entrepreneurship, excellence and a commitment to serving the community despite limited opportunities for Black-owned businesses. Today, descendants of the family continue that tradition of civic engagement and public service.

Another featured vignette, A Tour in Color, spotlights historical re-

Ways W.E.B. Du Bois Used Art As Activism

PBS.org—W.E.B. Du Bois (1868–1963) was one of the most influential intellectuals in the fight for civil rights.

Born just a few years after the Emancipation Proclamation and dying on the eve of the March on Washington, he left behind a rich body of work that merged artistry with a clear political purpose. “I do not care a damn for any art that is not used for propaganda,” he famously declared. Here are eight key works that exemplify how Du Bois turned art into activism.

1. The Paris Exposition (1900)
In the 1890s, while studying in Berlin, a young Du Bois began to establish himself as a sociologist. Those two years abroad were formative, exposing him to life beyond the United States and a different vision of how Black people could be perceived and treated. Less than a decade later, he crossed the Atlantic again for the Paris Exposition.

For the event, Du Bois curated “The Exhibit of American Negroes,” a groundbreaking display of Black American life and achievement. Over a period of six months, more than 50 million people passed through the Exposition, where he showcased albums, photographs, and remarkable visual work.

He turned data visualization into

an art form, creating colorful hand-drawn charts, graphs, and maps that illustrated Black progress since emancipation in education, land ownership, and business. At a time when white supremacist narratives sought to depict Black Americans as inferior, Du Bois used art and data to challenge those myths before an international audience. The exhibit earned widespread praise in the American press and won a grand prize, while Du Bois himself received a gold medal.

2. The Souls of Black Folk (1903)
This landmark work by Du Bois was far more than another book in his growing body of scholarship. It blended essays, history, personal reflection, Negro spirituals, and fiction, merging art and intellect in a way that had not been done before. Early in the book, Du Bois introduces some of his most influential ideas, including double consciousness, twoness, and the veil. These were concepts that would shape Black thought for generations.

Each chapter opens with quotations from Negro spirituals, emphasizing Du Bois’s belief in music and oral tradition as forms of history and cultural memory. As poet and scholar Elizabeth Alexander explains, “He is saying Black people not only have a literary heritage, we also have a sung and spoken heritage, an oral tradi-

tion.”

Du Bois also used fiction as a form of protest within the book. Its thirteenth chapter, “The Coming of John,” tells the tragic story of a Black man whose education and ambition are crushed by the realities of white supremacy in the Jim Crow South, showing that education alone could not overcome structural racism.

3. The Crisis (1910–Present)
One year after helping found the NAACP, Du Bois became the founding editor of its official magazine, The Crisis. The title was intentional. As he wrote, “the problem of the twentieth century is the problem of the color line,” and the crisis of the color line was the crisis of America. The magazine reached a broad audience, blending photography, visual art, poetry, and literature to celebrate Black achievement across economic, political, and cultural life. It also served as a platform to confront injustice. Sociology professor Aldon Morris observes, “In many Black homes, there were two publications that stood above all others. One was the Bible and the other was The Crisis magazine.”

As editor, curator, and writer, Du Bois used The Crisis as both a cultural showcase and a political sounding board during some of the most turbulent moments in American history, from World War I to racial riots

and lynchings after the war. He also helped lay the groundwork for the Harlem Renaissance by publishing emerging writers such as Langston Hughes, Countee Cullen, and Zora Neale Hurston.

The Crisis remains a powerful political and cultural tool and the oldest continuously published Black-oriented magazine in existence.

4. The Star of Ethiopia (1911)
When the state of New York sought to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation, Du Bois envisioned and constructed a massive historical pageant called The Star of Ethiopia. The production traced the history of African peoples from pre-colonial civilizations through emancipation, serving as a direct corrective to racist depictions of Black history and culture. With more than 1,000 performers, it ran for several hours and required an enormous team to bring it to life.

Staged in baseball fields and large venues in cities such as New York, Philadelphia, Washington, D.C., and Los Angeles, the pageant drew tens of thousands of spectators. For Black audiences, it offered a new way to see their history through a more positive and imaginative lens. For white audiences, it provided a broader and more accurate understanding of African and African American history.

searcher and public service leader Demetrius Hunter, whose work uses genealogy as what he calls “restorative storytelling.”

Hunter’s research traces family histories, including his own ancestors connected to the former Spring Hill plantation, now the site of Dix Park. Through guided tours, historical research and his work with the Black Farmers Hub, he connects audiences to Black neighborhoods, agricultural spaces and businesses throughout the Triangle while restoring stories that have too often been overlooked.

The exhibition also examines travel during segregation through Oasis Spaces: North Carolina 1933-1966, a traveling exhibition curated by the North Carolina African American Heritage Commission.

Centered on The Negro Motorist Green Book, the display explores the statewide network of Black-owned hotels, restaurants and businesses that provided safe places for African American travelers during the Jim Crow era. Historical photographs paired with contemporary images demonstrate how these “oasis spaces” fostered both safety and economic opportunity while strengthening Black communities across North Carolina.

Another section highlights North Carolina Freedom Park, the state’s first park dedicated to the African American struggle for freedom.

Designed by the late architect Phil Freelon, the park features five walkways leading to the Beacon of Freedom, a 45-foot illuminated sculpture. Along its pathways, visitors encounter the “Voices of Freedom,” a collection of quotations from influential Black North Carolinians whose contributions helped shape

the state’s history. To commemorate the park’s significance, the exhibition includes portraits by photographer Samantha Everette featuring Freedom Park caretakers and members of the Freelon family.

Complementing these stories are works from the Gregg Museum’s permanent collection, including a handmade guitar by Freeman Vines. The instrument reflects the exhibition’s broader themes of creativity, craftsmanship and cultural expression that have sustained Black communities across generations.

Although each vignette focuses on a different chapter of North Carolina history, together they paint a broader portrait of perseverance. They reveal how bookstores became centers of activism, family businesses fostered economic independence, genealogy reclaimed forgotten narratives and public spaces continue to honor the ongoing pursuit of freedom.

At a time when conversations about history and cultural preservation continue across the nation, Community Stories: Sustaining North Carolina’s Black Heritage offers an opportunity to reflect on the people and places that shaped North Carolina long before their stories appeared in textbooks. Through photographs, artwork and personal narratives, the exhibition reminds visitors that history is not confined to museums or archives. It lives on in neighborhoods, families and communities that continue to inspire future generations.

Community Stories: Sustaining North Carolina’s Black Heritage is on view through Feb. 27, 2027, at the Gregg Museum of Art & Design on NC State University’s campus in Raleigh. Admission is free and open to the public.

56 Youth Graduate High School at Juvenile Justice Facilities

RALEIGH — Overcoming setbacks, obstacles and adversity, 56 youth in Division of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention facilities graduated from high school in June, earning their diploma or high school equivalency.

“I want to offer my sincere congratulations to these graduates for achieving this tremendous milestone,” said DJJDP Deputy Secretary William Lassiter. “For many of these youth, a high school education may have once seemed far out of reach. But by their own efforts, and with the guidance of our dedicated teachers and staff, these young people have taken an important step toward a brighter future.”

Throughout June, DJJDP held graduation ceremonies at eight facilities across the state, with 19 graduates at Cabarrus Development Center/Juvenile Detention Center in Concord; 10 at Rockingham YDC in Reidsville; nine at Chatham YDC in Siler City; six at Lenoir YDC in Kinston; five at Richmond-Jenkins JDC in Hoffman; three at Perquimans JDC in Hertford; three at C.A. Dillon JDC in Butner; and one at Wake JDC in Raleigh. Video footage from the graduation at Richmond-Jenkins JDC is available on the NCDPS YouTube channel.1

“This is a great moment for these kids,” said DJJDP Director of Education Services Casey Corey. “A lot of them face trauma and a lot of hard circumstances, but education has afforded them an opportunity to have a level foundation for whatever comes next for them.”

For the young people who graduated this month, surrounded by family and loved ones, the occasions were a reminder that one’s past circumstances need not define their future. For L, a student at Richmond-Jenkins JDC, that future includes a career in the medical field. Even before graduation, she had already started online college courses while in the facility.

“When I first came here, I knew what I wanted to do and that I needed to graduate. I was very determined to get my education,” L said. “School was harder for me. Since I’ve been here, I’ve been working on my anger. Being in public school and trying to stay out of trouble was really a hard task for me. I ended up stopping going to school, I did what I did, and I got locked up. Here, I get more of the one-on-one help that I need.”

Alternative Environment Fosters Success

When youth are admitted to a juvenile detention center or are committed to a youth development center post-adjudication, they bring a wide range of educational experiences. While some have done well in a traditional school environment, others have struggled.

Student data indicates that when most youth enter Juvenile Justice classrooms their test scores tend to be significantly below grade level. Some have faced disruptions to their education, either because of life circumstances beyond their control, or due to suspensions or expulsions. While attending school in JDCs and YDCs, these students often demonstrate significant academic gains.

“When our students come to us, they come to us with strengths,” said James Futrell, DJJDP Director of Accountability. “In an alternative setting, such as our spaces here in Juvenile Justice, students are going to have more one-on-one attention and various supports to help them emotionally and make sure they’re doing well overall by addressing the whole child.”

Teachers Make a Difference

To meet the educational needs of youth in its custody, DJJDP operates its own local education agency (LEA), subject to the same state and federal mandates as a traditional school system. While youth development centers employ a full staff of teachers, guidance counselors, media coordinators and administrators, juvenile detention centers employ smaller numbers of teachers, who teach a full range of classes to students.

“We’re here to help people,” Corey said. “Our staff are committed to making sure that kids have the opportunities that they would have in their local community. Our job is to make sure that when kids return to the community, they don’t recidivate and come back to us. Our staff do outstanding work, our leadership gives us the resources we need to be successful, and DJJDP is just a great place to work.”

For teachers interested in a career move, working in a DJJDP classroom offers several perks. On average, class sizes are much smaller than traditional settings, with fewer than 12 students in a class. The school year is 185 days, with a summer session of 40 days. Teachers are employed 12 months per year and pay is aligned to the state teacher salary schedule, plus a six-percent supplement, which may be greater in some locations. Most importantly, DJJDP teachers make a positive, lasting impact on the lives of young people who need it the most.

“It makes me proud seeing these kids go from not believing in themselves to having a diploma in their hands and believing that they can do anything they set their minds to,” said Laurice Evans, lead teacher at Richmond Learning Academy. “For some of them, this is their first achievement. I’ve had kids who say, ‘If I had a teacher like you in high school, maybe I wouldn’t be here.’ That means a lot to me.”

By Jordan Meadows

Staff Writer

Edmonia Lewis, widely considered the first sculptor of African American descent to achieve international prominence, is receiving renewed attention more than a century after her death, following a pair of recognitions: a commemorative stamp issued by the United States Postal Service and a posthumous degree awarded by Oberlin College in Ohio. Lewis, who was born on the Fourth of July 1844 near Albany, New York, built a career that spanned the Civil War era and the late 19th century, producing marble sculptures that drew on her dual African American and Mississauga Ojibwe Native American heritage at a time when Black women had virtually no foothold in the American art world.

Her father was of Afro-Caribbean descent, and her mother was of Ojibwe and African American heritage. Both parents died before Lewis reached the age of nine, and she was raised by maternal aunts near Niagara Falls, where she spent several years selling Ojibwe baskets, moccasins, and embroidered goods to tourists. With financial support from her older half-brother Samuel, who found success in the California gold rush, Lewis enrolled at Oberlin College in 1859, one of the first institutions in the country to admit both women and students of color.

Her time at Oberlin was marked by repeated racial hostility. In 1862, she was charged with poisoning two



white classmates after they fell ill following a social outing. She was acquitted at trial for lack of evidence — the victims’ stomachs had never been tested, leaving no proof of poisoning — but was beaten and left for dead by unknown assailants before the verdict was reached. She later faced additional accusations of theft and left the college without a degree. Lewis moved to Boston in the midst of the Civil War, where she studied briefly under sculptor Edward Augustus Brackett after three other male sculptors refused to take her on.

She began producing portrait busts and medallions of prominent abolitionists, including William Lloyd Garrison and Charles Sumner,

and later made a bust of Civil War Colonel Robert Gould Shaw that sold well enough in plaster reproduction — one hundred copies at fifteen dollars each — to fund a move to Rome in 1865.

In Rome, Lewis established a studio and spent the bulk of her career producing work in marble. Unlike most sculptors of the era, who hired craftsmen to execute the final carving, Lewis did all her own stonework, a deliberate choice she made to ensure her work could not be dismissed as someone else’s.

Her Roman studio became a popular stop for Americans traveling in Europe, and she produced busts of Abraham Lincoln and Ulysses S. Grant alongside works rooted in her

Native American heritage, including a series of figure group sculptures inspired by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow’s epic poem The Song of Hiawatha, each depicting Native American life with care and specificity.

Her most ambitious piece, The Death of Cleopatra, was displayed at the 1876 Centennial Exhibition in Philadelphia. The three-thousand-pound marble sculpture was later lost for decades before being recovered in a Chicago suburb, covered in graffiti, and donated to the Smithsonian Institution in the early 1990s, where it remains on display today.

Lewis largely disappeared from the public record in the 1880s, and much of the latter part of her life remains undocumented.

She died on September 17, 1907, in London of chronic kidney failure and was buried at St. Mary’s Catholic Cemetery, in a grave that fell into disrepair before a crowdfunding campaign in 2017 financed its restoration. Oberlin College’s decision to award her a posthumous degree in 2022 acknowledged what the institution had denied her in life. And the U.S. Postal Service stamp marked the latest in a series of efforts to recover and formalize Lewis’s place in American art history.

Her work is now held by the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Detroit Institute of Arts, the Howard University Gallery of Art, the Smithsonian American Art Museum, and the Baltimore Museum of Art, among others.

Community

N. Carolina Releases Statewide First-Ever AI Roadmap

By Jordan Meadows

Staff Writer

North Carolina's AI Leadership Council released a statewide artificial intelligence strategic roadmap last Tuesday, offering the state's most comprehensive policy framework yet for how government agencies, workers and residents should navigate the growing influence of AI across public life.

The roadmap, developed over roughly ten months following Gov. Josh Stein's creation of the AI Leadership Council through Executive Order 24 in September 2025, organizes 17 strategic goals into three broad categories: protecting residents from AI-related harms, preparing the workforce and broader public for an AI-driven economy, and transforming state government services through responsible AI adoption.

"Artificial intelligence is already changing how we work, learn, and serve the people of our state, and North Carolina must lead with urgency and care," Stein said in the announcement. "Together, we can make North Carolina a place where innovation and trust move forward together."

The document arrives as AI's reach across industries, government services, and daily life expands. The roadmap acknowledges that shift. It states that AI creates genuine economic opportunities while simultaneously accelerating job displace-



ment, enabling new forms of fraud and misinformation, and raising serious questions about bias, privacy and public accountability.

On the protection front, the roadmap calls for strengthened safeguards for workers, consumers and critical public infrastructure. From January through September 2023, the FBI's Internet Crime Complaint Center received nearly 200 victim complaints related to AI-assisted scams targeting elderly residents, resulting in more than \$1.9 million in losses.

The workforce preparation dimension may be the roadmap's most

urgent component.

By 2029, according to figures cited in the document, roughly half of all U.S. jobs are expected to be transformed by AI, with 92 million positions globally projected to be displaced by 2030. The roadmap aims to position North Carolina to respond to that disruption through a statewide reskilling infrastructure, building on existing assets like the 2025 establishment of the Council on Workforce and Apprenticeship within the NCWorks Commission and programs such as NC State University's AI Academy, which has already partnered with more than 100

industry organizations and prepared more than 2,000 individuals for AI-related careers.

"AI will play a major role in the future of work, business, and economic competitiveness," said North Carolina Commerce Secretary Lee Lilley. "This roadmap positions North Carolina to help workers build new skills, help businesses responsibly adopt new tools, and help communities prepare for the economy of the future."

On the government transformation side, the roadmap focuses on using AI to improve the delivery of public services while putting governance structures in place to ensure that adoption

is both transparent and account-

NCDIT Secretary and State Chief Information Officer Nate Denny framed that challenge in terms of public trust.

"This is not just a technology plan. It is a plan to build public trust," Denny said. "People are relying on AI to interact with information, government services, and one another. That means North Carolina has a responsibility to put the right governance, safeguards, training, and transparency in place so AI is developed responsibly, deployed thoughtfully, and used in ways that improve lives."

Duke Energy's 2025 Integrated Resource Plan projects that total net load across its two North Carolina systems could increase between 16 and 60 percent over the next 15 years, a sharp contrast to the 7 percent increase the state saw over the previous two decades. Data centers, which serve as the physical backbone of AI systems, account for a significant share of that projected demand growth.

In response, Stein established an

Energy Policy Task Force to manage rising electricity demand while maintaining affordability and reducing carbon emissions. The task force released an interim report in February 2026 with nine preliminary recommendations aimed at balancing those competing pressures.

The council charged with producing the roadmap brought together stakeholders from the private sector, state government, education, and labor, reflecting an effort to ground the document's recommendations in the practical realities facing different parts of the state's economy. Each of the 17 strategic goals includes an implementation plan and timeline, with primary owners identified for each recommendation.

The release also coincides with a new legislative development. Earlier this Summer, the General Assembly established the North Carolina AI Caucus, a bipartisan coalition of legislators focused on AI policy and emerging technologies, suggesting the roadmap may find a receptive audience in the legislature as specific proposals move toward implementation.

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



RALEIGH, NC — The Raleigh Alumni Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. has been awarded a \$10,000 grant from the Ruth and Evelyn Pope Trust, a recognition of the chapter's ongoing commitment to youth development, leadership training and community service.

The Ruth and Evelyn Pope Trust recognizes organizations that demonstrate excellence in community service, particularly programs that support and empower young people. For the Raleigh Alumni Chapter, the award affirms decades of work helping local students develop into future leaders.

"The Raleigh Alumni Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity has always been grounded in helping young students develop into leaders," said William Powell, Polemarch of the Raleigh Alumni Chapter. "As we say, we train for leadership."

SYDNEY BATCH AND STACEY ABRAMS

Continued from page 4

"When you are turned down once, you are unlikely to ever sign up again," Batch warned. "That is not going to reduce the cost of medical care and treatment; it's only going to increase it."

The dialogue shifted to the legal and community protections necessary to combat stringent voting laws, including the strategic removal of polling places from historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs) and minority communities. When asked what concrete measures can prevent voter intimidation at the ballot box, Leader Batch called for radical civic participation and the deployment of human infrastructure. Recalling past election cycles where voters in her own district faced intimidating displays including oversized Confederate flags and armed individuals at polling sites. Batch emphasized the necessity of trained, nonpartisan observers and volunteer attorneys. "What we need to do as a people, and so many of you in this room with privilege need to do, is be there at these polling places," Batch asserted. "You need to be those nonpartisan observers. You need to be the line that holds... We are doing our very best to make sure that we are hiring and we have a lot of volunteer attorneys to be on this line."

Abrams contextualized this fight by emphasizing the practical, block-by-block mechanics of election security. "Help people make a plan to vote, make certain they know what day the election is," Abrams advised, reminding the audience that working-class voters often carry logistical burdens that obscure election timelines. "We owe it to our ancestors. They've been through worse. So now it's our turn."

A central focal point of the evening was a granular breakdown of what it takes to break the legislative supermajority in North Carolina and protect the judiciary from hyper-partisan overreach. The financial and strategic calculus laid out by Leader Batch presented a compelling argument for the efficiency of investing in state legislative races:

The U.S. Senate Math: A competitive, top-of-the-ticket statewide race in North Carolina can easily command a staggering \$800 million in collective spending.

The NC Senate Math: By contrast, the entire Senate Democratic Caucus can mount a highly competitive battle to build a working majority for roughly \$12 million.

"That is 1.5% of the entire U.S. Senate spend," Batch calculated, demonstrating how direct financial resources go significantly further in targeted local legislative districts. To break the current Republican supermajority, the Senate Democratic Caucus needs to net just one seat to reach 21, while a "great year" could push the caucus to 23 or 25 seats, securing a functional tiebreaker alongside the executive branch.

Abrams backed this strategy by pointing to historical data from her 2018 gubernatorial run in Georgia. While she narrowly missed the executive mark by 53,794 votes, the targeted, down-ballot investment successfully flipped 14 legislative seats and broke a devastating supermajority. "All of the evil that they do that they cannot get through an impotent Congress is coming to a state near you," Abrams warned, framing state legislatures as the primary battlegrounds for modern policy warfare.

Furthermore, both leaders stressed that legislative majorities are the ultimate defense mechanism for the judiciary. Batch raised the alarm regarding partisan maneuvers across the country, such as the introduction of recall mechanisms targeting independent judiciaries, and warned that maintaining seats like Justice Anita Earls' on the North Carolina Supreme Court is crucial to preventing the systematic dismantling of democratic oversight.

Closing the night under the banner of "Keeping Hope Alive," Abrams shifted the perspective from defensive posturing to a proactive framework for civic engagement. She contrasted the mechanics of authoritarianism, which she defined as taking power, hoarding power, and avoiding accountability. Democracy, which requires sharing power, leveraging power for the collective benefit, and maintaining strict accountability. Abrams challenged the audience to push back against the weaponization of language, specifically the targeted attacks on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) frameworks. "They see DEI for what it is: Diversity is people, Equity means fair access to opportunity, and Inclusion means respect for belonging," Abrams declared. "In a democracy, that's the DNA... We can't let them seize our language and scare us into not calling the truth out. When they do that, we lose. When we refuse to let them take our language, we win."

As Temperatures Rise, Durham Families Seek Relief At Hillside Pool Amid Extreme Heat

DURHAM, N.C. — For Durham mother Sierra Hurdle, a trip to Hillside Pool has become more than a summer activity. It has become a way for her children to escape the heat, stay active and enjoy a safe place to cool off.

"You can expect from the time that it opens there are already people waiting to jump inside," Hurdle said.

As temperatures continue to climb across North Carolina, families across Durham are looking for affordable ways to stay safe during periods of extreme heat. For many residents, public spaces like Hillside Pool have become an important resource during one of the hottest summers on record.

Hillside Pool, operated by Durham Parks and Recreation, is the city's only open public outdoor pool this summer, making it a popular destination for families looking for relief from high temperatures. With limited outdoor swimming options available, residents say the demand for the pool has increased as temperatures rise.

For Hurdle and other parents, the pool provides more than a place to swim. It offers children an opportunity to spend time outdoors while avoiding the dangers associated with prolonged heat exposure.

Extreme heat can be especially dangerous for children, older adults and people with underlying health conditions. Medical experts warn



that extended exposure to high temperatures can lead to heat exhaustion, dehydration and heat stroke, which can become life-threatening without proper treatment.

The need for accessible cooling options has become a growing concern across North Carolina as summer temperatures continue to increase. While some families have access to private pools or air conditioning, others rely on public spaces and community resources to stay comfortable and safe.

Beyond recreation centers and public pools, organizations throughout the Triangle are also responding to the effects of extreme heat.

In Durham, the Durham Rescue

Mission has opened its Operation Cool shelter, providing a place for people experiencing homelessness and others in need to escape dangerous temperatures. The cooling center is open seven days a week and offers visitors access to air conditioning, water, meals, showers and clean clothing.

"People don't realize it, but hot weather is just as dangerous and sometimes even more dangerous than cold weather," said Durham Rescue Mission CEO Rob Tart.

Tart said the organization works to make sure residents know they can use the cooling center without committing to the mission's long-term programs.

"We want to make sure they know they can come here and get some relief and get some air conditioning, get some water or some other fluids in them to make sure that they got everything they need," Tart said.

Medical professionals say extreme heat can affect people differently depending on their health, access to resources and living conditions.

Dr. Ryan Lamb, medical director with UNC Health, said individuals with chronic conditions such as heart disease, diabetes and kidney disease may have a more difficult time adjusting to extreme temperatures.

"When your body is trying to make those adjustments, it makes it much harder if you have those underlying conditions," Lamb said.

Heat-related risks can also be influenced by broader community factors. Neighborhoods with fewer cooling resources, limited green space or older housing can leave some residents more vulnerable during extreme weather events.

For Durham families, public spaces like Hillside Pool serve as an important reminder of the role community resources play during challenging conditions. The pool offers children a chance to enjoy summer while providing parents with an affordable option to help keep their families cool.

As extreme heat becomes a growing concern throughout North Carolina, local organizations and public spaces continue working to provide residents with places to find relief.

Part 2: Gwendolyn White, A House Not A Home

By Jheri Hardaway

Staff Writer

Raleigh, NC — When we first brought you the story of Gwendolyn White, our community was forced to confront a deeply uncomfortable reality: a citizen can call for help, waving a flag of distress, only to find herself met with absolute institutional silence and corruption. When a citizen is trapped in a nightmare, the standard advice is always the same: call the police. Trust the system. Keep a record. Gwen White did all three to an exhausting degree. Over the course of her residency in Roseville, she dialed local emergency services and police dispatch a staggering 467 times. She kept logs, tracked dates, and waited for help that routinely failed to show up. To put that number in perspective, 467 calls means reaching out for help multiple times a week for years. It represents a desperate, unrelenting effort to utilize the traditional channels of civic protection. Instead of protection, Gwen found a wall of institutional silence and, she alleges, open complicity.

Since our first report, The Carolinian has dug deeper into the paper trail, the timelines, and a harrowing two-hour interview from August 2024 that lays out an indictment of our local safety nets. Additionally, since that time, Gwendolyn Evette White, 57, has been charged with several felonies stemming from the May 22 incident, including: two counts of attempted murder, two counts of assault with a deadly weapon with intent to kill, inflicting serious injury, and two counts of assault inflicting serious bodily injury.

Our intention is not to defend her



2026 actions; we do not support shooting anyone. We are here to provide the backstory told to us directly by Ms. White that has been suppressed and ignored by area media institutions. In her most recent court appearance, Ms. White continues to assert that the Rolesville Police Department demanded that she provide sensitive government information. Her refusal led to the harassment outlined here. Our communication with Ms. White ended roughly a year ago, so this insight does not speak to her current state, only to the August 2024, in-person, first-hand conversation. You can find a clip on The Carolinian YouTube page. Now, let's pick up from where part one of this story concluded based on what Ms. White shared.

By March of 2020, the world outside was locking down due to the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. But inside 733 Stratford Way, the anxieties of broken locks quickly escalated into an overt, terrifying

threat against their physical health. The turning point came in the middle of that month, Gwen recounts a day when an unfamiliar woman stepped through her door. The woman was dressed to look like a medical professional, presenting herself as a visiting nurse. In the confusion of early 2020 healthcare protocols, it was a perfect camouflage. But Gwen immediately sensed something was wrong, calling the provider for clarification while her mom was seen. The provider insisted that Gwen had canceled, making the situation more concerning. Gwen confronted the woman directly, demanding to know who she was and who had sent her. The fraudulent nurse quickly retreated and left the property.

The real horror, however, manifested shortly after the intruder vanished. Within a matter of hours, Gwen's eighty-four-year-old mother suffered a sudden, catastrophic physical collapse. She began hemorrhaging severely from multiple parts of her body. The emergency was so violent and unexplained that she had to be rushed to the hospital, where she remained confined to a medical wing for several weeks, fighting for her life.

It was a devastating blow, and for Gwen, it connected back to a single, terrifying realization: her home was no longer safe, and the water or food inside it could be compromised. As spring turned to April and May, the psychological warfare intensified. Gwen reported a relentless series of quiet break-ins that occurred while she stepped away or slept. The intruders didn't steal her television or valuables. Instead, they left calling cards. Gwen shared she began finding small stickers placed precisely inside

her most personal, everyday home appliances. They were affixed to the interior walls of her refrigerator, tucked inside the stove, and placed inside the microwave.

To the outside world, a sticker inside an appliance sounds trivial, almost easily dismissed. But to Gwen, the message was loud and clear. It was an intentional psychological taunt designed to show her that someone could bypass her locks at will, access the food she cooked, touch the appliances her mother relied on, and leave without a trace.

When Gwen looked to her neighbors for answers or solidarity, a breakthrough came from an unexpected source. She recalls a conversation with a neighbor who pointed her toward a specific family on the block. The neighbor explicitly named neighbors Craig and Michelle Larscheid, alleging they were deeply involved in the coordinated campaign to drive Gwen and her mother out of Roseville and that other minorities had been driven from the community in the past as well. Litigation began between Ms. White and the Larscheids in 2021. After several trips to the Wake County Courthouse we learned that court transcripts are only kept for three years.

Ms. White outlined that the lawyer for the Larscheid in this appearance admitted to the harassment but informed the judge that no action could be taken because she spoke on behalf of her clients thus it was not a direct admission of guilt. This began Ms. White's fight for proof and her litigation with Rolesville for police body cameras and flock camera footage. This footage to this day has not been shared with Ms. White or any other media outlets. *To be continued.*

Church

Founder Of Pioneering Black Hair Care Business, Dies At 99

CHICAGO (AP) — George E. Johnson Sr., a pioneer in Black hair care whose multimillion dollar business was the first Black-owned company to be listed on the American Stock Exchange, has died at age 99, according to his family.

Johnson died Monday at his home in downtown Chicago. A cause of death was not released.

Johnson and his late wife, Joan, started Johnson Products in 1954 on Chicago's South Side after securing a \$250 loan. It grew into a hair care empire catering almost exclusively to Black people, with brands like Afro Sheen and Ultra Sheen.

His company was a national sponsor of the hit 1970s music and dance television show "Soul Train."

"Johnson Products became a fixture in homes and salons around the world and a source of pride throughout Black America," his family said in a statement.

Johnson's trajectory started from humble beginnings.

He was born in 1927 in Rich-ton, Mississippi. Johnson's mother, Priscilla Dean Johnson, was just 18 when she left her husband, took her children to Chicago and found a job at a local hospital, said Hilary Beard,



a Philadelphia-based author who worked with Johnson on his memoir.

Their move occurred during what's called the First Great Migration, between 1910 and 1940, when tens of thousands of southern Blacks moved to northern and midwestern cities for jobs and to escape racial oppression.

"There was just enough money for food, clothing and shelter, but not

for anything extra," Beard said.

Johnson and his older brother, John, would collect cigarette packages, peel out the aluminum linings, roll it into balls and sell it to people who collected junk for resale, Beard said. Johnson also shined shoes, cleared tables in eateries and set up pins in a bowling alley.

As an adult, Johnson worked for the Black-owned Fuller Products Co.

in Chicago. Beard said Johnson met a barber who was distraught because he couldn't convince Fuller to back a product he was working on that straightened men's hair. The drawback was the product burned the scalp.

Johnson worked with Fuller's chemist to revamp the barber's formula and started his business after ultimately convincing a bank he needed a \$250 loan to take his wife

on a vacation, Beard said. That business would become Johnson Products.

Johnson's company offered above-market salaries, profit-sharing for its workers, healthcare and other benefits at a time when many companies didn't provide such perks, Beard added. Johnson Products was sold in 1993 to a pharmaceutical firm in a deal worth more than \$60 million.

Johnson later founded Indepen-

dence Bank, and he became the first Black person to serve on the board of directors of the Illinois electric utility Commonwealth Edison. The George E. Johnson Educational Fund awarded more than 1,000 college scholarships.

Johnson's memoir, "Afro Sheen: How I Revolutionized an Industry with the Golden Rule, from Soul Train to Wall Street," was published in 2024.

St. Aug Pres. Emeritus Dies At 105

By Cash Michaels

Contributing Writer

Dr. Prezell Russell Robinson, the eighth president of St. Augustine's University (SAU) in Raleigh, whose leadership is credited with transforming the small, private, Episcopal HBCU during his long tenure, died on June 29th at 105 years old.

"Dr. Prezell Robinson's legacy is woven into the very foundation of Saint Augustine's University," SAU Board of Trustees Chair Sophie Gibson said during Raleigh's 36th Annual Black History Celebration last March. "For nearly three decades, his visionary leadership strengthened this institution and expanded opportunity for generations of students."

"His life is a powerful reminder of the transformative impact of education and the enduring role historically Black colleges and universities play in advancing opportunity, leadership, and service," added former



interim President Dr. Jennie Ward-Robinson.

Dr. Robinson was a proud alumna of SAU, having graduated in 1946 (when it was St. Augustine's College). The Batesburg, SC, native initially graduated from Voorhees School and Junior College in Denmark, S.C. before going on to St. Aug, where he earned a bachelor's degree in economics and social science. He later became a dean and so-

ciology professor at St. Aug between 1956 and 1964, later appointed executive dean, and then acting president in June 1966.

Eight months later, Dr. Robinson became president, serving from 1967 to 1995.

According to the African-American Registry, Dr. Robinson "... was voted one of three outstanding

(See **P.R. ROBINSON** P. 9)

Practical Biblical Principles

GOD IS - PART 2

GENESIS 1:1-10

By John L Caldwell, Pastor

New Jerusalem Baptist Cathedral

Where does this physical, cosmic world come from? This is basically the question C. S. Lewis, the well-known, English atheist raised as he pondered the right and wrong as a clue to the meaning of the universe, as well as the law of human nature- including the earth, sun, seas, trees, stars, the clouds, the rain, the wind-just to name a few things of what we see and feel as we live in this universe.

We all do not have the same sense of what is right and wrong, says Lewis. We have different standards of living. Where do those different standards come from?

Where do we, as humans, come from? Who or what made us, making us humans and giving us a life to live? Or did we just come out of nowhere and become who we are? If we are who we are where did the material or substance come from that formed us and the universe?

C.S. Lewis is the only individual I know who seemed to have converted himself to Christianity by simply asking himself questions and reasoning with himself to discover reasonable answers.

Is it possible that we as somebody came from a nobody? Let us ask questions today and seek honest, reasonable answers as to who made the mountains, the sun the seas and trees, etc.

From a human viewpoint, all the above questions so far are reasonable. What is the answer? Is there an answer? Is there a Creator somewhere? There must be in that the universe is so fine-tuned that it runs like a clock, so to speak. There has been no need for repairs, nothing has fallen out of place for thousands of years or millions of years as far as we know. The only thing in this universe, which falls short of eternity and wears out, is human life itself. Why? There has to be a reason for this. It appears that somebody is tinkering with this great cosmic system. If this is the case, then it has to be somebody bigger than you and I. Things just doesn't happen on their own! There has to be a cause. There has to be a reason.

It was mentioned that the cosmic universe is fine tuned. This means

that the cosmic universe system is fueled by some kind of unseen or invisible energy and is working together on its own. Everything in the cosmic system runs like a machine and is expanding and moving outward as if there has been an explosion. These are the findings of the astrophysicists who have been studying the skies and heavenly bodies for years. Yet, no big hands have been seen in the skies putting planets, stars, and suns together.

The question is still on the table. Who made the sun and the stars, the seas, the mountains, the birds, and the bees. Who made the butterflies, and flowers? Who made the frogs and the little ants? It has to be Somebody, who is bigger than you and me, because we as humans can't make or create them ourselves. There must be a God somewhere!

Again, another question on the table, "Do we need a God and for what reason?" Do we need a God to guide us, to protect us, to put blessings (good things) in our lives? Do we need a God to fix that "living human life thing" which runs short of eternity? Is there a God who can make human life equal to eternity for us humans? Again, do we need a God? One of the major tenets of psychology of education is to ask questions. We do this to find answers. There is a wisdom book which is called the Bible which took 1500 years to write, gives us answers to many of the questions we have asked today about the possibility of a living God Who was, and is, and never has a beginning nor does He have an ending.

The Bible describes God as the Creator of all things, both visible and invisible. He made the heavens, the earth, and all living beings, intricately designing the universe and humanity (Genesis 1:1; Colossians 1:16; Isaiah 45:12). This God sustains life and provides for His creation, demonstrating His power, wisdom, and care.

This same Bible reveals God as the all-powerful, loving, holy Creator who exists as Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit, and who is love, truth and justice. Justice means He holds all things accountable in His universe. Keeping things in order and fine-tuned so that nothing fails or go broke in His universe.

Is it wrong to question this God? No! The Bible tells us, "If any man lacks wisdom, let him ask of this God (James 1:5; Proverbs 9:10)." What the Bible is really saying, God is real, in short, God is. Being that no one has seen this God, nor does He give an in-depth explanation of Himself - this means that "God is." This means that you and I will have to finish the statement as to who or what God is.

We can only know this God based upon what He has done and why He has done it. The Bible tells us what this God has done, He did it because He loves what He has created. In this case, it is reasonable to say this unseen God has created us because He loves us. Question: Do we know why He loves us? Then it is obvious. This God loved us before we even learned to love ourselves. Does this make sense? Can we talk to this God, ourselves? The Bible says, Yes! Through prayer.

If this is the case, God is a living Entity that we can talk to. God is? There is an Intermediary through which we must talk in order to talk to God. This God has a Son who was made flesh so that we could relate to the Father. The Bible tells us God is an unseen Spirit. And there is something which separates us from Him. That something is sin. It is this sin which makes our lives unequal to eternity. God wants to be equal to eternity and that is why He sent his Son, named Jesus, to separate us from and keep us from sin and sinning. This is only possible when we obey His commandments listed in the Bible.

The Bible says this God loves to be praised and honored. In this case, let us praise Him, so as to make Him visible in our lives. We can't see the wind, but we can feel it when it blows against us. Therefore, by believing in the existence of the wind, we can believe there is a God somewhere, because God made the wind. God is.

Yes, we need a God to be our protection. We need a God to be our light in the darkness, yes, we need a God to be our Joy in times of sorrow, Yes, we need a God to be the joy and strength of our life. Yes, we need a God to be ours today and tomorrow. Yes, we will need a God who will be our all and all. God is....!

SERMON of the WEEK



Sermon By: Bishop-Elect William "Billy" Eli Ratcliff
Text: (Read) John 5:1-9 KJV

INTRO: This sermon is not really about the Pool of Bethesda—it's about getting up from whatever has held you down. The Fourth of July becomes an illustration of civil freedom, but the emphasis is that real freedom comes through Jesus Christ.

"From the Pool to the Promise - Thirty-Eight Years Is Long Enough!"

America celebrates Independence Day. On July 4, 1776, a declaration was signed declaring freedom from England. I'm thankful for that. But I've discovered you can live in a free country and still be bound. You can have civil rights and still not have spiritual freedom. You can have a driver's license and still not know where you're going. You can have a house but not have peace. You can have money but no joy. You can have followers but nobody following Christ.

LOOK HERE: JESUS walks into Jerusalem and finds a man who had been lying beside the Pool of Bethesda, not for 38 days, not for 38 weeks, not for 38 months, but for 38 long years!

The Bible tells us that because God wants us to understand... THAT'S A LONG TIME! Just like the woman with the issue of blood suffered 12 years; that was too long. Israel stayed in Egyptian bondage 400 years; that was mighty long, and this man had been stuck for 38 years.

I pray that this Sermon of the Week will tell somebody something they need to hear today, and that is: Whatever has been holding you, God says, THAT'S LONG ENOUGH!

Now that I'm getting older, I think to myself...I just may have to

buy one of those cars that drives itself. Program it one time...Take me to Lincoln Park on Sunday... then take me out to eat and back home. Take me to Lincoln Park on Monday... bring me home and do the same thing the rest of the week until next Sunday. Speak one command and press one button. Now don't laugh too hard because some of y'all have been driving the same route spiritually for 38 years.

FIRST - STOP WAITING ON PEOPLE TO DO WHAT ONLY JESUS CAN DO

The man kept talking about people. "I have nobody." "Somebody gets there before me." "No one will help me." For thirty-eight years he blamed everybody else.

He thought his miracle was in the pool. Jesus knew his miracle wasn't in the pool. His miracle was standing beside the pool. I wonder, how many people are waiting for the government, family, friends, GAMES OF CHANCE, luck, or somebody to rescue them?

Jesus asked one question: "Do you want to be made whole?" Notice, Jesus never questioned his ability. He questioned his desire. He didn't question his aptitude; He questioned his attitude.

Sometimes the biggest handicap isn't crippled legs; it's a defeated mind. He wasn't looking for Divine Power; he was looking for human assistance. He wanted social dependence; BUT Jesus gave him Divine Independence.

After everything you've been through...Setbacks, SETUPS, STICKUPS, Letdowns, Put-downs, Disappointments, Sicknesses, Heartaches, HEART ATTACKS, Betrayals AND you still made it to church and are still in the LAND OF THE LIVING today! You didn't ride a mule. You didn't come in a horse and buggy. God has already brought you farther than you ever thought you would come!

SECONDLY: WHEN JESUS SAYS RISE! YOU MUST TAKE ACTION

Jesus never touched him. Never picked him up. Never carried him. He simply gave him a command. "Rise...Take up your bed...Walk." Do you know that until you make a decision... nothing changes?

Some folks have been sitting in church... 10 years... 20 years... 38 years... waiting for something to happen. Jesus says...Get up! The bed that used to carry you, now you carry it. The thing that held you down...now becomes your testimony. Tell yourself, "I need to roll it up

and carry it; it used to hold me, now I'm holding it."

I wonder, is there anybody reading this Sermon today that can say, "Cancer didn't win. Diabetes didn't win. Depression didn't win. Drugs didn't win. Alcohol didn't win. Poverty didn't win. Failure didn't win. I rolled it up...I'm carrying it now."

Now don't get me wrong, civil freedom is wonderful. But spiritual freedom is greater. America celebrates Independence Day. But when we find Jesus, we celebrate our Deliverance Day.

Furthermore, it's one thing to vote at the polls...it's another thing to kneel at the cross. And during this midterm 2026, I think we need to RISE and do both.

I'm all for voting. Vote. Be involved. Think about your children and grandchildren. But remember... the greatest freedom isn't found in Washington...it's found in Jesus!

Somebody ought to shout...the last 2 years...IS LONG ENOUGH! Long enough of being afraid, long enough complaining, long enough making excuses, long enough blaming everybody else, long enough not going to the polls. Tell yourself this year is my year; today is my day!

Jesus didn't say, "Think about it." He didn't say, "Pray about it for six more months." He didn't say, "Wait until the water moves." He said...RISE! Rise above your fear, addiction, disappointments, enemies, doubts, circumstances; then ...PICK UP YOUR BED! But don't stop there; carry your pain, your testimony, carry your victory, carry what used to carry you. But don't stop there, then WALK! Walk by faith, in victory, in peace, in joy, in holiness, in freedom!

For whom the Son sets free is free indeed! And THIS JOY WE HAVE THE WORLD DIDN'T GIVE IT...

And if you know Jesus has brought you from the pool...to the promise...from dependence...to DELIVERANCE...you ought to at least be able to give Him 38 seconds of praise or longer right now! He's worthy to be praised! If you choose to, you can celebrate your freedom from sin every day from this July to next July!

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.



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Opinion | Black America at 250: We Have Survived. Now We Must Build.

By Rodney Ross

There is a difference between surviving history and shaping history.

For nearly 250 years, African Americans have done both. We survived slavery, Reconstruction, Jim Crow, lynching, segregation, redlining, discrimination, and exclusion from opportunities many Americans took for granted. We fought in every American war. We built railroads, harvested fields, created industries, transformed music, revolutionized sports, advanced science, strengthened the military, and reshaped American culture so profoundly that much of what the world recognizes as "American" carries the fingerprints of Black creativity.

Yet survival has become our identity and if we want that narrative to change, building must become our mission. Too often we measure Black success by comparing today's conditions to yesterday's oppression. That comparison will always show progress. But if we compare ourselves to what is possible—economically, educationally, technologically, and politically—we discover that progress alone is no longer enough. The next generation deserves more than stories about what we endured. The previous generation fought for our current opportunities. It is our responsibility to make sure that the next generation inherits positive institutions and gainful ecosystems that endure.

Equality exists on paper. Respect must exist in practice. If we cannot respect ourselves to be honest and real, then how can we ever expect to see its practice be reciprocated from those we demand it from. This is why one of the most uncomfortable questions in America remains this: Do White Americans truly see Black Americans as equals? Equally uncomfortable is another question: Do Black Americans believe they are equals? The answers vary depending on where you live, your life experiences, and your politics. Legal equality has unquestionably advanced. Opportunities that were unimaginable a century ago now exist. African Americans lead corporations, universities, military commands, and government agencies. We have elected mayors, governors, senators, and a president. Yet many Black Americans still describe entering rooms where they feel they must prove themselves twice over before being accepted once. Perception matters because confidence shapes ambition.

Juneteenth should be more than festivals, concerts, and retail sales. Freedom is not merely something to celebrate; it is something to preserve. If Juneteenth becomes another holiday detached from education, entrepreneurship, family restoration, and economic development, then we will have honored history without changing the future. The day should inspire investment in Black-owned businesses, financial literacy workshops, scholarship funds, historical education, and civic engagement. Freedom without responsibility eventually becomes symbolism. In other words it becomes just another paid day off without honor and respect for the debt paid by those who came before us so that we may have a day of leisure.

Whose responsibility is it to teach the whole story. Is it the library that excludes certain books from being on its shelves. Is it the school that votes out the parts of history, text and narratives that link the past with the compass pointing to the way forward. Is it the Pastor or Imam, who inclines its congregation to support a political narrative that speaks at you but rarely ever speaks up for you. If you think about the idea that many African American children can identify famous athletes within seconds but far fewer know the names of Black inventors, mathematicians, military leaders, physicians, engineers, economists, or entrepreneurs whose work transformed the past and modern world, who bears the responsibility and blame. Our history shapes expectation, ambition and destiny for everyone except the heirs, who share the same last name and facial features. We can give our children smartphones, streaming accounts, and unbridled access to social media platforms that dictate what our children see. Yet we miss the part where our children cannot dream about achievements they have never been taught are possible because we either do not know ourselves, or think the burden is someone else's to bear.

Perhaps when we realize that we are no longer property or a commodity, we will also realize that we can stop renting our Futures. Too many communities spend billions consuming products while owning very little of the companies producing them. Advertising has taught generations what and how to buy but has spent far less time teaching what and how to own and how to maintain and grow it. Imagine if we indulge ourselves with the concept that economic freedom begins when consumers become investors, when workers become employers. When renters become landowners and when users become inventors. Communities that primarily procure wealth only to spend it elsewhere, eventually finance someone else's prosperity. This is not meant to discourage you from getting your nails done, or ordering your next take out of Gong Bao Ji Ding (Kung Pao Chicken) with a side of Chun Juan (spring rolls). Just remember that we are inclusive people, but being inclusive hurts our network and network when we give so freely to people and industries that are exclusive when it comes time to shop with us.

Have you ever seen their community shop in our establishments, passively or deliberately? That challenge goes to everyone who is not an African American descendant of slavery. That distinction has to be made clear because there are also black people from other countries that want nothing to do with American raised blacks socially or economically. The irony cannot be missed when you look at television commercials that use the masters of rap songs to sell you your next purchasing experience. When you look at just about every genre, there is always something that was once considered ghetto, that is now language used in professional linguistics, hairstyles, dress code, and subtle social norms that were considered unacceptable until a non black made it acceptable within their space. Imitation is supposed to be the purest form of flattery, but this is just down right theft. The establishment continues to grow wealth, while the slave mindset keeps a people from being able to understand their own potential. Who benefits the most from a group of people who do not understand how to quantify and qualify their value. That is the true construct of poverty.

Understanding our value looks like no longer accepting narratives, even in artforms that are lazy and only represents a path where we are not T'Challa and Shuri. What do our relationship goals look like when we no longer accept being pimps and whores? When we are no longer drug addicts and we are high functioning minds intoxicated by sobriety and clear thought. When creativity is encouraged instead of stifled and nothing matters more than preserving a future that lets our seeds grow roots strong enough to support the flowers that will bloom, and produce fruits that bear more seeds. It is not impossible. It is not improbable.

We Are More Than Entertainment. The world already knows Black America can entertain. It already knows we can dominate athletics. The next century should know us for something even greater. We are builders. We can build anything. We can build Artificial intelligence. Master Quantum computing. We navigated the stars from earth so why could we not set our eyes on space exploration. WE once knew real medicine. Before there was a John Hoskins hospital, we learned what to put in our bodies to manage or eliminate ailments.

If you are in the age bracket of 50 plus years of age, thank back to the late 60's through the early 90's. How many great grandmothers and peers had the Eve gene that allowed them to see life well into the early 100's and they did so without a meal plan. Without the lure of vitamins, or medications to regulate blood pressure and insulin. They ate nuts and fruits from trees. Tomatoes, cucumbers and other vegetables from their own gardens. They raised their own hogs, chickens, and ate venison they raised or hunted. They pulled fish from ponds and rivers before they were polluted by coal ash up stream. They also had habits that today are considered at risk behaviors like tobacco use and drank alcohol on occasion. So why not encourage the next generation to learn about Biotechnology and sustainable Agriculture. What could our farmers do if we understood how to take advantage of advanced manufacturing models used today similar to how Amazon operates. How bright would our future be if we explored energy. Through all this Innovation, the biggest shade that shields our future is ownership of it all. It is not leased, it is not borrowed. We do not have to beg for it because it is ours and the lessons of the past and present have taught us to never let it go unless we desire to fall back into serfhood. For those reasons and more, it is important to respect that Hollywood is a mirror that just happens to be a broken one. Throw it away and replace it with one that reflects a proper representation of a people whose legacy was to endure and is transformed into a legacy that builds and flourish. Perhaps then America will stand with us because we finally grew legs strong enough to support ourselves. And if they don't, it will not matter because we grew legs to support ourselves.

Being able to stand and take steps unassisted is scary for both you and America because what will you do with that power? Without economic empowerment do we really have a voice.

Martin Luther King Jr was assassinated when imploring that economic independence has to be central to Black advancement. Today, critics argue that too many communities have become dependent on systems that have historically marginalized them, including unstable employment structures and government assistance programs that address immediate needs without always creating long-term wealth. The challenge is not rejecting assistance when necessary. But emphasis must be put on building ownership as a pathway toward lasting independence. Those old enough to remember the black renaissance or were exposed to it, can attest that our neighborhoods and lifestyles were different when we owned our communities as opposed to renting them.

Over the next 250 years let our dreams be set on achieving inherit ownership, healthy families, inherited education that we call legacy. Inherited businesses instead of debt. Inherited patents and farmland. Dream it. That way we can finally lay to rest and spare the next generation of the victim mindset. History will explain us, but it will not imprison us. We will not spend another century measuring our progress only by how far we have come. We begin measuring ourselves by how far we are capable of going.



LIFE'S BUDGET

Over the past few weeks, while my pastor has been on vacation, our guests have taught about the depth of God's unconditional love. Yesterday, Lisa Harper drove the point home that God's love was a fact before we were born. How wonderful is that? And how opposite to what our culture tells us.

I've been thinking lately about how much of our lives are shaped by what this country tells us to want. America has always been talented at selling things, but somewhere along the way, it started selling us ourselves — or at least the idea that our worth can be upgraded like a phone plan. Consumerism isn't just an economic system anymore. It's a cultural soundtrack; a mind-numbing drone, humming in the background, telling us we're only as valuable as what we can buy, rooted in the belief that we are not imperfect but lacking, insufficient, and inherently wrong.

Scientists have fancy names for how this works. They talk about social comparison, but most of us grew up knowing exactly what that meant. It's the old habit of looking over the fence to see how somebody else is doing. And in a world where every commercial, every billboard, every social media post is polished, edited, filtered to perfection, that comparison hits harder. The message is subtle and steady: you're not enough — but you could be, if you buy this cream, this car, this couch, this lifestyle. And, if that's not enough, you are a loser if after this mass-consumerism, you don't have money to spare.

What they don't tell you is that the feeling, the high, doesn't last. Ask anyone addicted to anything. That little spark you get from a new outfit, or a shiny gadget is just dopamine doing its quick dance. It fades fast. And when it fades, the insecurity creeps back in, nudging you toward the next purchase. That's how consumerism keeps us on the treadmill — selling the wound and the bandage in the same breath.

For Black folks, especially those of us who've lived long enough to remember what we weren't allowed to have, this pressure carries a different weight. Many of us grew up in a time when owning something nice wasn't just about taste — it was about dignity. It was proof that we had pushed past barriers designed to keep us small. There's pride in that, and rightfully so. But pride can turn into pressure if we start believing the object is the source of our worth.

Real selfesteem — the kind that doesn't evaporate — comes from competence, connection, and clarity. It comes from raising families, surviving storms, building community, learning new skills, and knowing our own value even when the world tries to discount it. Consumer culture can decorate that identity, but it can't define it.

I'm the last person to tell anyone to stop buying nice things. I enjoy them too, way too much. Amazon, Temu, and Instacart know me personally. I am a sucker for a deal. But I've had to learn the hard way that the healthiest relationship with consumerism is one where we stay in control. When we choose something because it reflects our true selves — our creativity, our joy, our heritage — that's empowerment. When we choose something because we're trying to fill a deficit, that dark, bottomless hole is a trap. As difficult as it is to stay focused on value vs. cost for those of us who should know the difference, think of how tough it is for these kids.

At this stage in life, I know my worth, but think about your 18, 25, 30 year-old self. At that time, I was making major life decisions every other day. Honestly, I didn't have time or money to do a lot of buying. In fact, I was more likely to spend what I had on experiences rather than stuff. By 40, I was parenting, wife-ing, adulting. At some point over the next decade, I began to question who I was, re-visit choices I had made and those made for me, and adding up the pluses and minuses. In many areas, my math had me in the negative. By then, my feast and famine financial management plan had taken a toll on my self-worth, and I began buying stuff. Spoiler alert: RETAIL THERAPY DOESN'T WORK!

Now I own entirely too much stuff I don't use that takes up space and reminds me daily that in my case, more is not better. At seventy-three, I have finally acknowledged that God's omnipotence, grace and mercy are the only gifts that keep their value. I feel older and wiser, but I still have to talk myself off the ledge in the face of a Flash Sale.



WON'T HE DO IT?

I didn't celebrate the Fourth of July, "You either lie, you deny" or you ask the typical question, "Are we free yet?" Instead, I reunited with my fellow Ligonites from the glory days of J.W. Ligon Junior and Senior High School. I needed to be blessed with the energy and success that school brought to so many of us. This year we gathered at the First Cosmopolitan Fellowship Hall. Our investment in attending brought us good food, a lot of hugs from people we hadn't seen in a while, and one real biggie, scholarships for young folks who are showing up and showing out. Fellowship is a good word and an even greater work.

Now, let's muse over Washington, D.C., for a minute. With all of their grand plans and intentions, the celebration was altered and delayed by rain. Did any of them stop to note who causes the rain?

And what contributes to these unprecedented temperatures? Do any of them think about how greed contributes to global warming? What about who grows algae in the Reflecting Pool before the statue of Abraham Lincoln, who, in desiring to keep the country unified, also signed the Emancipation Proclamation that freed enslaved people whom God had already set free at birth? Did any consider that when they didn't want to be drenched by the rain, they sought shelter in the National Museum of African American History and Culture, a museum that would not even be there if the desire to destroy the truth of history had prevailed? Would demons perceive the reality of the true meaning of coincidence? I sure hope and pray that somebody noted there was a message from the heavens on this Fourth of July.

One message posted on Facebook from Black America read, "Happy 250th Birthday, America. We built you. We bled for you. We survived you. We prayed through you. We shaped your culture, carried your economy, and gave you rhythm, resistance, and resilience. So enjoy the celebration. Yours truly, Black America."

Frankly, I think that's very Black of us. We are a good model of what it means to forgive while continuing to give, and for me there just is no shame in being Black. As James Brown said, "I'm Black and I'm proud." They can twist it, wound it, and try to turn us around, but it's not happening because we are a people, purposed and destined to show others who God is.

Now let me do a little "Did You Know?"

Did you know that a sixteen-year-old built a solar-powered car to help rural farmers? Did you know that hockey was first an all-Black sport? Did you know that a Harvard graduate from Nigeria created a hair-braiding robot? Did you know that Barack Obama negotiated a deal with Iran that, if it had remained in place, could have prevented much of the mess we are in now? Did you know that father and son Benjamin O. Davis Sr. and Benjamin O. Davis Jr. both became generals, one in the Army and the other in the Air Force? Did you know that Dr. Donald Hopkins helped wipe smallpox from the earth and has almost completely eradicated Guinea worm disease, bringing the number of cases from 3.5 million a year down to about ten? Did you know that Marcus Rashford of Manchester, England, took on the British government and caused them to feed more than a million hungry children during school holidays because he knew what it felt like to depend on free school meals when he was growing up?

There's so much more I'll share as God gives me a hand to write good news. My mind is bent on praising Him for designing us.

Maya Angelou got it right. "Still I Rise." Langston Hughes got it right. "I, Too, Sing America." Frederick Douglass got it right. "What, to the Slave, Is the Fourth of July?" All through history, we keep getting it right.

J.W. Ligon and the teachers who taught us there, as well as those at Hunter, Crosby-Garfield, Washington, Thompson, and the Sisters at St. Monica's, got it right too. I probably didn't learn five percent of what I know now about the true history of Africa and African Americans while I was in school, but just as our ancestors knew before us, they persisted and told us what we could be and what we would be.

The knowledge of our past and the truth of our future are present in our DNA because God is the Author, Creator, and Designer. Fighting diversity, equity, and inclusion does not mean they won't one day see God's design for themselves. I believe they will, and when they do, I think many will be filled with shame.

Y'all have to forgive me for this one, but I've got to share it.

I saw a man wearing a T-shirt that said, "There are two kinds of people who support Trump. One group are billionaires. The other are idiots. You only have to check your bank account to know which group you're in." LOL.

P.R. ROBINSON

Continued from page 8

teachers at Saint Augustine's in 1961-62, was awarded a U.S. Fulbright Fellowship to India in 1965, and was selected as one of 20 college presidents in the "100 Most Effective College Presidents of America" in 1986. Robinson has received 11 honorary degrees. When Robinson retired after 28 years as president in 1995, he had achieved his goal of taking a small and largely unknown historically black college and transforming it into a nationally known institution and one of the best colleges of its size in North Carolina."

The Registry continued, "He was an energetic fundraiser responsible for the endowment at St. Augustine, increasing from less than one million to nineteen million dollars. In 1988, he was voted by his peers as one of the most effective college presidents in the United States. In 1992, President George Bush appointed him as an alternate delegate to the United Nations General Assembly. He was nominated for the same post by President Bill Clinton in 1996. For many years, he has been selected by the U.S. State Department and the Department of Education to lecture and assist in educational endeavors in Africa, the Caribbean, and the People's Republic of China. Regarded as an eminent scholar... he received 11 honorary degrees from leading colleges and universities, including his alma mater, Voorhees College and Saint Augustine."

The National Alumni Association of SAU, Inc. said, "During his remarkable 28-year presidency, he strengthened academic programs, reinforced the University's accreditation, modernized campus facilities, expanded educational opportunities, and helped prepare generations of students for lives of leadership, service, and excellence."

"When people ask me about my father, they often talk about his accomplishments, nearly three decades he served as President of Saint Augustine's, the academic programs he expanded, the buildings he modernized, and the accreditation he strengthened," Ms JeSanne Robinson Johnson, Class of '88 and Dr. Robinson's daughter, said.

Public visitation will be held from 6 to 8 pm Friday, July 10th at SAU Chapel, 1315 Oakwood Ave in Raleigh.

Funeral services are scheduled for 11 a.m. Saturday, July 11th at St. Ambrose Episcopal Church, 813 Darby St. in Raleigh. Interment follows at Montlawn Memorial Park.

As the Falcon community mourns the passing of its legendary leader emeritus, SAU today remains in federal bankruptcy court, trying to workout an arrangement to pay back at least \$74 million in outstanding debts to more than 300 unsecured creditors. The school currently has no students on campus, and at its last bankruptcy hearing June 30th, the bankruptcy administrator said in court that that he does not see a way for SAU to pay off its debts unless it sells off some of its 105 acre property. Attorneys for SAU will be back in bankruptcy court July 28th.

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
File No.: 26E000718-310
Having qualified as Executrix of the Estate of William Ronald White, deceased, this is to notify all persons, firms, and corporations having claims against the Estate of William Ronald White to present them to the undersigned on or before the 9th day of October, 2026, or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms, and corporations indebted to said Estate, please make immediate payment.
This, the 9th day of July, 2026.
Charles B. White, Executor
c/o John W. Perry
Attorney for the Estate of William Ronald White
Post Office Drawer 2051
Durham, North Carolina 27702
Telephone: (919) 683-8685
7/9, 7/16, 7/23, and 7/30/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File No.: 26E000752-310
THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 30th day of June, 2026, as Executor of the Estate of LINDA LOUISE STONE, 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 9th 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 9th day of July, 2026.
Leonard William Cheatham III, Executor
c/o Law Office of Anne Page Watson
3200 Croasdaile Drive Ste 403
Durham, NC 27705
7/9, 7/16, 7/23, and 7/30/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File No.: 26E000751-310
THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 30th day of June, 2026, as Executor of the Estate of MILDRED HAMBRIGHT TILLEY A/K/A MILLIE HAMBRIGHT TILLEY, Deceased, of Durham County, North Carolina, does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said Estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 9th 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 9th day of July, 2026.
Byran Tyson Ballard, Executor
c/o Law Office of Anne Page Watson
3200 Croasdaile Drive Ste 403
Durham, NC 27705
7/9, 7/16, 7/23, and 7/30/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Having qualified as the Personal Representative of the Estate of MARILYN ADAMS DIFENDERFER a/k/a MARILYN LOUISE DIFENDERFER, 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 S. Linton, Magnolia Legal, 3001 Academy Rd., Sute 120, Durham, NC 27707, on or before the 9th 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.
Tracy Lyn Diefenderfer
Personal Representative
File #: 26E000717-310
Attorney for Estate:
Sonya S. Linton
Magnolia Legal
3001 Academy Rd., Sute 120
Durham, NC 27707
7/9, 7/16, 7/23, and 7/30/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
File No: 26E000509-310
Having qualified as Administrator of the Estate of HAROLD ROBERTS, deceased, of 280 South Mangum Street, Durham County, Durham, NC 27701, the undersigned does hereby notify all persons, firms, and corporations having claims against the estate of said decedent to exhibit them to the undersigned in care of the attorney for the estate on or before October 10, 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 9th day of July, 2026.
Jeffrey L. Austin
Public Administrator of the Estate of Harold Roberts
Law Office of Jeffrey L. Austin, PLLC
500 Westover Dr. #32043
Sanford, NC 27330
7/9, 7/16, 7/23, and 7/30/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
File No.: 26E000330-310
Having qualified as Executrix of the Estate of Gussie Thompson, deceased, this is to notify all persons, firms, and corporations having claims against the Estate of Gussie Thompson to present them to the undersigned on or before the 9th day of October, 2026, or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms, and corporations indebted to said Estate, please make immediate payment.
This, the 9th day of July, 2026.
Alice Goldston Farrar, Executor
c/o John W. Perry
Attorney for the Estate of Gussie Thompson
Post Office Drawer 2051
Durham, North Carolina 27702
Telephone: (919) 683-8685
7/9, 7/16, 7/23, and 7/30/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File No.: 26E000753-310
THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 29th day of June, 2026, as Executor of the Estate of NANCYE MITCHAM COBB, 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 9th 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 9th day of July, 2026.
Andrea Melenda Cobb, Executor
c/o Bagwell Holt Smith P.A.
111 Cloister Court, Suite 200
Chapel Hill , NC 27514
7/9, 7/16, 7/23, and 7/30/2026
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
COUNTY OF DURHAM
NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION
In The General Court Of Justice
Superior Court Division
Before The Clerk
Resolution Capital Group vs. Margaret D. Young, et al.
To Ingrid Bullock:
Take notice that a pleading seeking relief against you has been filed in the above-entitled action. The nature of the relief being sought against you is as follows: Petition to Partition or Sell Property in Lieu of Partition.
You are required to make such defense to such pleading not later than August 18, 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 9th day of July, 2026.
Daron D. Satterfield
Satterfield Law, PLLC
307 Meadowlands Drive, Suite 101
Hillsborough, NC 27278
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 indebted to the said estate will please make immediate payment to the above Administrator, Alexander B. Tempesta, c/o Crystal Richardson, The Law Office of Crystal M. Richardson PLLC, 3980 Premier Drive, Suite 110, High Point, NC 27265. This, 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

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
Having qualified as the Personal Representative of the Estate of JOHN PETER STRECK, 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

ORANGE COUNTY

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 9th 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.
Jessica Streck Ortolano
Personal Representative
File #: 26E000747-310
Attorney for Estate:
Margaret Davis
Magnolia Legal
3001 Academy Rd., Sute 120
Durham, NC 27707
7/9, 7/16, 7/23, and 7/30/2026

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA, ORANGE COUNTY
NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION
In the District Court Division
File No. 26CV000038-670,
Galvez v. Lopez
To: SAUL TOHALA LOPEZ
Take notice that a pleading seeking relief against you has been filed in the above-entitled action. The nature of the relief being sought is for child custody. You are required to make a defense to such pleading no later than August 18, 2026, said date being at least forty (40) days from the first publication of this Notice, and upon your failure to do so, the Plaintiff, ALONDRA JIMENEZ GALVEZ, will apply to the court for the relief sought.
This, the 9th day of July, 2026.
Yvonne Armendaráz, Esq.
Attorney for Plaintiff
Armendaráz Law Office, PLLC
6110 Lake Wheeler Road
Raleigh, NC 27603
Office: (919) 656-1524
Yvonne@armendarizlaw.com
7/9, 7/16, and 7/23/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA ORANGE COUNTY

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

WAKE COUNTY

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA WAKE COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice, Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File No.: 25E001436-910
THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 2nd day of July, 2026, as Administrator of the Estate of MARY LOUISE JOHNSON, 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 9th 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 9th day of July, 2026.
Amanda Johnson, Administrator
8939 S Sepulveda Blvd
STE 110 Box 27
Los Angeles CA 90045
7/9, 7/16, 7/23, and 7/30/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA WAKE COUNTY
NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION
In The General Court Of Justice
District Court Division
File No. 26CVD000677-910
Kiera Rogers, Plaintiff v.
Margo Jackson and Unknown
Father, Defendants
TO DEFENDANTS:

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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 recordation 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 recordation 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 recordation 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

ADMIN WANTED

The Carolinian is HIRING!

Our community is growing and we need a new team member to help us keep up with the demand. The Carolinian newspaper is looking for a friendly, organized, and dependable Receptionist to serve as the first point of contact for our office. This position is responsible for providing excellent customer service while performing a variety of clerical, administrative, and billing duties. The ideal candidate is detail-oriented, professional, and able to manage multiple tasks in a fast-paced environment.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

- Greet and assist clients, visitors, and vendors in a courteous and professional manner.
- Answer, screen, and direct incoming phone calls.
- Schedule appointments and maintain office calendars.
- Process incoming and outgoing mail, email, and deliveries.
- Maintain filing systems and organize office records.
- Prepare, scan, copy, and distribute documents as needed.
- Perform data entry and maintain accurate customer and financial records.
- Prepare invoices and process customer billing.
- Receive and post payments, issue receipts, and reconcile daily transactions.
- Follow up on outstanding invoices and assist with collections when necessary.
- Assist with accounts receivable and basic bookkeeping tasks.
- Order and maintain office supplies.
- Support management and staff with general administrative duties.
- Maintain confidentiality of customer and company information.

QUALIFICATIONS

- High school diploma or equivalent required.
- Previous receptionist, administrative, or customer service experience preferred.
- Experience with billing, invoicing, or accounting software is a plus.
- Proficiency in Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, Outlook).
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills.
- Strong organizational and time-management skills.
- Ability to multitask and work independently.
- High level of accuracy and attention to detail.
- Professional appearance and positive attitude.

If you are looking for a position with purpose, and you meet the qualifications, please email your resume to info@caro.news and put Receptionist Position in the subject line.



Sports

Althea Gibson Was The First African American To Win Wimbledon

History.com—On July 6, 1957, Althea Gibson claims the women's singles tennis title at Wimbledon and becomes the first African American to win a championship at London's All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club.

Gibson was born on August 25, 1927, in Silver, South Carolina, and raised in the Harlem section of New York City. She began playing tennis as a teenager and went on to win the national Black

women's championship twice. At a time when tennis was largely segregated, four-time U.S. Nationals winner Alice Marble advocated on Gibson's behalf and the 5'11" player was invited to make her United States National Championships (now known as the U.S. Open) debut in 1950. In 1956, Gibson's tennis career took off and she won the singles title at the French Championships (now known as the French Open)—the first African American

to do so—as well as the doubles' title there.

In July 1957, Gibson won Wimbledon, defeating Darlene Hard, 6-3, 6-2. (In 1975, Arthur Ashe became the first African American man to win the men's singles title at Wimbledon, when he defeated Jimmy Connors.) In September 1957, she won the U.S. Open, and the Associated Press named her Female Athlete of the Year in 1957 and 1958. During the 1950s, Gibson won 56 singles and doubles titles, including 11 major titles.

After winning Wimbledon and the U.S. Open again in 1958, Gibson retired from amateur tennis.



In 1960, she toured with the Harlem Globetrotters basketball team, playing exhibition tennis matches before their games. In 1964, Gibson joined the Ladies Professional Golf Association Tour, the first Black woman to do so. The trail-blazing athlete played pro golf until 1971, the same year in which she was voted into the National Lawn Tennis Association Hall of Fame.

After serving as New Jersey's commissioner of athletics from 1975 to 1985, Althea Gibson died at age 76 from respiratory failure on September 28, 2003, at a hospital in East Orange, New Jersey.

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:

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 **Pump Station No. 11 and Outfall Improvements – Market Street Sewer Replacement** project for the **Town of Smithfield** 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 * Town of Smithfield; Public Utilities Operations Center; 230 Hospital Road; Smithfield, NC 27577 * Sykes Environmental Engineering, PLLC; 9504 Barker Road; New Hill, NC 27562 * Carolinas AGC Website * Dodge Data and Analytics website * ConstructConnect (formerly iSqFt) website.

Potential subcontracting opportunities include but are not limited to surveying, clearing and grubbing, hauling, asphalt paving, traffic control, erosion control, seeding, landscaping, jack & bore, bypass pumping, flatwork, and manhole lining. 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.

Serena Williams Hints At The US Open

LONDON (AP) — Serena Williams could be up next in the Summer of New York.

After the Knicks' first NBA championship in more than 50 years, Taylor Swift's wedding at Madison Square Garden and the World Cup final to be played just across the Hudson River, it looks like another circus is coming to town.

To the Flushing Meadows section of Queens, to be precise.

All indications point to the 44-year-old Williams playing the U.S. Open next month for the first time in four years.

"Her intention is to keep playing; the U.S. Open as well," Rennae Stubbs, one of Williams' coaches, said at Wimbledon on Tuesday — a

week after Williams lost in her first singles match since 2022.

Williams injured her right knee midway through a three-set loss to Maya Joint at the All England Club and withdrew from a doubles match with older sister Venus on Saturday.

Williams shared an Instagram update over the weekend that included images of four syringes filled with fluid drained from her knee.

"As long as physically she can go — and I'm hoping in a few weeks that's the case — to get her back on the court and hitting balls," Stubbs said.

Main draw singles play at the U.S. Open starts Aug. 30.

"All I can say," Serena said after her loss, "is stay tuned to a city near you."



The ATP 250, ITF Cary Tennis Classic



The Cary Tennis Classic took place at the Cary Tennis Center last week and concluding on July 5th in Cary, NC. The ATP 250 and ITF event held a women's and men's draw with Singles and Doubles. The Men's singles winner was Braden Shick. Women's singles was Lucretia Stefanini. Doubles winners are Catherine Harrison and Dalayna Hewitt for women; JiSung Nam & Patrik Niklas-Salminen for the men. *Photos by Steve Worthy*



EU Lawmakers Call For Investigation Of FIFA Boss Over Trump Contact

BRUSSELS (AP) — Dozens of European lawmakers are gathering support to launch an investigation in the European Parliament of FIFA boss Gianni Infantino over his involvement in the decision to permit U.S. striker Folarin Balogun to play despite an earlier red card.

Balogun was shown a red card during the U.S. victory over Bosnia-Herzegovina on July 1, which normally would make him ineligible to play in team's next game, but FIFA lifted his suspension for a match on Monday after U.S. President Donald Trump intervened with Infantino on behalf of the 25-year-old striker.

European Parliament lawmakers Barry Andrews, Lara Wolters and Niels Fuglsang said in a joint statement that FIFAs decision to "change the rule on red card suspensions mid-tournament is a disgrace and a perversion of justice."



"Once again, we've seen Infantino and FIFA surrender to the demands of the Trump administration," the statement said.

The lawmakers are asking the national football associations of the EU countries to spur the FIFA Ethics Committee to investigate Infantino and whether pressure from the Trump administration was a factor in the lifting of the suspension, as well as "other potential breaches of political neutrality" like awarding Trump the FIFA Peace Prize.

FIFA has said the lifting of the suspension was a decision of a disciplinary committee.

The lawmakers said that 35 colleagues have so far signed the letter.

"The beauty of sport is that it is based on impartial and transparent rules. When Infantino allows political pressure to determine who gets to play, this sense of fairness goes out the window," they said.

Four Major Bills, Budget —CONT. FROM PAGE 2

Stein called the state's most comprehensive overhaul of its human resources system in roughly 50 years.

The legislation eliminates long-standing administrative rules that state officials described as too slow and rigid for a modern workforce, shifts hiring preferences away from college degree requirements in favor of skills, work experience, military service, and trade credentials, and streamlines the job application process. It also expands paid parental leave for state employees and teachers to 12 weeks for both mothers and fathers, up from the previous standard of eight weeks for mothers and four weeks for fathers.

"This legislation will help attract the next generation of state employees by creating new pathways in public service," said State Human Resources Director Staci Meyer. "Those include work-based learning like ap-

prenticeships and skills-based hiring to bring in a wider pool of talent."

Stein also signed the state's first budget in two years on Tuesday afternoon, a \$34 billion, 600-plus-page behemoth. The governor offered a mixed assessment of the legislation, praising several of its investments while arguing that the budget falls short of what North Carolina's public workforce and social safety net actually require.

On education, Stein pointed to teacher compensation as a significant step forward.

"This budget delivers the largest raise for teachers in nearly half a century," he said. "It is also the largest overall teacher raise in about 15 years."

He also highlighted the budget's Medicaid provisions, noting the program's reach across the state.

"More than a quarter of our state's

population gets their healthcare through Medicaid," Stein said. "This includes children, pregnant and postpartum women, people with disabilities." He called the budget's treatment of the program "a big win for North Carolina."

But Stein was pointed in his criticisms of what the budget leaves unaddressed. Despite what he described as the largest correctional officer raise the state has seen in years, he noted that North Carolina remains among the bottom ten states in the country for correctional officer pay. Nurses, he said, will effectively make less in real dollars than they did two years ago once inflation is accounted for. The budget also includes no increases in unemployment benefits and fails to sustain NCWorks career centers, which help residents seeking employment navigate job training and placement

services.

"The truth is, we here in North Carolina have a lot of catching up to do because there have been years of chronic underinvestment in state and public services," Stein said.

He also took direct aim at what he characterized as the General Assembly's continued prioritization of private school vouchers over public education, arguing that lawmakers are "continuing to pay wealthy people to send their children to unaccountable private schools while public schools have been chronically underfunded."

The budget, he added, maintains future tax cuts that he said disproportionately benefit shareholders and the wealthy, a choice he suggested comes at the direct expense of the public investments North Carolina most needs.

Fifteen bills remain on Stein's desk.