

SCOTUS Says Illegal Drug Users Have Gun Rights Too

Morgan Marietta
University of Tennessee

Two Supreme Court rulings in June 2026 reinforced the trend toward broad gun rights under the Second Amendment, overriding attempts to limit concealed carry and to punish the ownership of guns by drug users. The ruling in the concealed carry case, *Wolford v. Lopez*, was no surprise. It followed the expected 6-3 division of the conservative and liberal wings of the court to block the state of Hawaii from making concealed carry a practical impossibility. As a longtime observer of the Supreme Court, I believe the unanimous ruling in the second case, *U.S. v. Hemani*, is more surprising from the conservative court. That's because it strikes down the long-standing federal law restricting gun ownership by consumers of controlled substances. The ruling suggests the current court is so pro-gun it has decided it must also be pro-drugs.

Guns and drugs
The 1968 Gun Control Act initiated the federal restriction on the combination of guns and drugs, specifically targeting marijuana users. The amendments in 1993, the Brady Law, and in 1994 the Violence Against Women Act expanded the restriction to apply to "any person who is an unlawful user of or addicted to any controlled substance." From 1968 to 2026 it seemed reasonable to believe that drug use and gun use were incompatible because each can kill you. In combination, they seem even more likely to have that result. As Justice Neil Gorsuch noted in the *Hemani* ruling, "We appreciate that drugs and guns can sometimes make for a dangerous mix." Nonetheless, the court ruled unanimously that the federal law overreaches for two interrelated reasons, one about constitutional law and the other about the facts surrounding marijuana use.

In 2022, the *New York Rifle & Pistol v. Bruen* ruling set the constitutional standard for firearms regulations that do not violate the Second Amendment: They must fit within the nation's historical tradition. This places the burden on the government to identify examples of similar regulations with a long-standing pedigree. They do not have to be "a historical twin," but they do have to be grounded in the same "how and why" of the current law. In its 2024 *U.S. v. Rahimi* ruling, the court employed the new historical standard to uphold the federal law denying gun rights to people who are under a domestic violence protective order. At the time of the founding there were no specific laws addressing guns and spousal abusers, but there were laws that disarmed those who went "armed offensively" or "to the fear and terror of any person." The court considered those comparisons to be close enough.

Regarding drugs, advocates of the federal law outlawing gun ownership for users and addicts argue that historical examples of laws restraining "habitual drunkards" provide the necessary analog. The court disagreed because those laws focused only on those whose habits rendered them "practically incapacitated." In 2022, Ali Hemani, a Texas marijuana user who owned a gun for self-defense, was indicted under a federal statute that makes it a felony for anyone who "is an unlawful user of or addicted to any controlled substance" to possess a firearm. In the court's view, Hemani's kind of moderate marijuana use simply does not qualify given that "he admits to using marijuana about every other day. But how much marijuana does Mr. Hemani use, in what potency, and to what effect? Is he routinely unable to manage his affairs, a risk to himself or his family? Or does he use a mild gummy as a sleep aid a few



times a week?" The court insists that habitual drunkard laws at the time of the nation's founding applied only to those who could not manage their own affairs, but did not apply to social or even heavy drinkers. There is copious evidence that the founders themselves – not just Sam Adams, but also John Adams and James Madison – were serious drinkers. Even George Washington "often drank three glasses of madeira in the evening – 'not enough to be considered a heavy drinker in his day,'" according to the historical research cited in the *Hemani* ruling. The implication seems to be that alcohol was normal then, while mari-

A July 4 Boat Trip, An 18-Year-Old's Death & A Family's Search for Answers

NEW YORK (AP) — A week ago, 18-year-old Nolan Xavier Wells took a boat trip with friends to celebrate the Fourth of July on an island off Mississippi's Gulf Coast. He never came back. Two days later, he was found dead. What happened, Wells' parents say, is a mystery riddled with conflicting stories, implausible explanations and missing details. It is a case shadowed by the state's fraught racial history and lingering distrust in law enforcement. At a news conference Friday in New York City, Christine and Elmore Wonsley called for a thorough and transparent investigation into their son's death, skeptical of claims that Wells told his friends to leave the island without him and suggestions that he, an elite athlete who knew how to swim, had accidentally drowned. Wells' body was found early Monday along the shore of Horn Island, about 7 miles (11.2 kilometers) off the Mississippi coast, more than a day after he was last seen alive. The roughly 11-mile long (17.7 kilometer) spit of land is near the Alabama state line. The island is uninhabited and accessible only by boat. About 200 people were there on July 4, the family's lawyers said. "We just want to know what happened and why our baby didn't come home," Christine Wonsley said,



looking upward several times as she stood alongside her lawyer, Ben Crump, and the Rev. Al Sharpton, who will officiate Wells' funeral. Family commissions independent autopsy
Crump said Wells' family has commissioned an independent autopsy, performed by a forensic pathologist in Washington, D.C. with no ties to Mississippi law enforcement, while they await the results of an official autopsy, which could take

weeks. They also plan to employ experts to recover messages that appeared to have been deleted from his cellphone, Crump said. They will eventually turn the device over to authorities, he said. Wells' family also encouraged witnesses to come forward and asked people to submit any video they recorded that may show him on Horn Island, echoing a call by the Jackson County Sheriff's Office to help shed light on the moments before Wells'

disappearance and death. A photo posted on social media, purportedly from the boat ride to the island, shows Wells with his arms around three white male friends. Sheriff John Ledbetter said Wells' friends were cooperating and that investigators don't suspect foul play. Crump said those friends now have lawyers and that his investigators haven't attempted to speak with them yet. Wells' death has led to rampant speculation and suspicion as people grapple with Mississippi's history of racial tension and what it means to be a Black person in a majority white space. Actor and producer Tyler Perry is helping pay for Wells' funeral, former NFL quarterback Colin Kaepernick is helping pay for his independent autopsy, and filmmaker Spike Lee showed up to the news conference to show support for Wells' family. Family doesn't trust Mississippi authorities, Crump says
Crump said Wells' parents hired him to conduct an independent investigation into their son's death because they don't trust that law enforcement officials will perform a fair inquiry in a state still reckoning with its Jim Crow past, including the 1955 lynching of Emmett Till and the murders (See *NOLEN WELLS*, P. 2)



WHAT GOES ON BEHIND THE SCENES IN AN NC ELECTION? THIS NONPROFIT WANTS YOU TO KNOW.

NC NEWSLINE - A new nonprofit in North Carolina will focus on spreading accurate information about how elections are run at a particularly volatile time when questions about vote counting and who gets to cast a ballot are increasing. Keep Our Republic will host community conversations around the state on the "nuts and bolts" of the election process, from casting a ballot to certification, election security and even the use of artificial intelligence, said Deanna Ballard, a former Republican state senator who is Keep Our Republic's North Carolina senior advisor. It's really having some of those conversations at the local level that help inform and engage those active community members who are going out to vote, leading into the 2026 general election but also the '28 cycle as well," Ballard said. Keep Our Republic is nonpartisan, said Executive Director Ari Mittleman. It has Republicans, Democrats and unaffiliated voters on its North Carolina advisory council, including former Republican Gov. Jim Martin, former Democratic state Rep. Grier Martin, and Paul Brintley, a church pastor and former GOP state House candidate. Also on the advisory board are experts who know elections administration inside out, including Kimberly Strach, a former state elections director, Paul Cox, a former state elections board general counsel, Damon Circosta, a former state elections board chairman, and retired Wilkes County elections director Kimberly Caudill. Western Carolina University political scientist Chris Cooper and Duke University professor of the practice Asher Hildebrand are also on the advisory council. The state has seen recent similar efforts. The North Carolina Network for Fair, Safe, and Secure Elections, supported by the Carter Center, held community meetings meant to foster confidence in elections from 2022-2024. Former Republican Supreme Court Justice Bob Orr and former Democratic Charlotte Mayor Jennifer Roberts headlined that effort. "I think we are all rowing in the same direction and in similar boats," Middleton said. Keep Our Republic has worked in Wisconsin, Michigan and Pennsylvania, and is expanding into North Carolina and Georgia. President Donald Trump narrowly lost Wisconsin, Michigan, Pennsylvania and Georgia in 2020 and he continues to challenge the results. In January, the FBI seized 2020 election documents in Fulton County, Ga., and hundreds of FBI analysts are examining those records, according to the Georgia Recorder, as Trump pursues baseless claims that voter fraud cost him that election. In North Carolina, election skeptics have also continued to make claims about noncitizen voters, pushing lawmakers to make administrative changes that voting rights advocates say are suppression tactics. Keep Our Republic has experience hosting public forums in states with deep divisions, Mittleman said. Attendees leave with an understanding about election administration and election security, he said. "Generally, with the four dozen-plus events that we've done in those states – sometimes 50 people in a firehouse, sometimes 300 people in a county government center – I think people have left thinking it was an evening well spent," he said.

YOUNG STATE LAWMAKERS TALK ONLINE CHILD SAFETY AND AI POLICY AT BIPARTISAN SUMMIT
WASHINGTON — Young Democratic and Republican state lawmakers from across the country found common ground Friday on the need to regulate artificial intelligence and kids' online safety. Legislators at an annual conference hosted by Future Caucus, an organization that aims to strengthen bipartisan dialogue among Gen Z and millennial leaders, engaged in tech-related policy discussions and agreed states should impose some guardrails on online activity, especially for kids. South Carolina state Rep. Brandon Guffey urged lawmakers to pursue policy that would hold Big Tech companies accountable for exposing kids to harmful online content. He said he champions "guardrails" over device bans because "we cannot keep kids (offline) right now." "I don't want to take away anybody's rights to be free," the Republican said. "But at the end of the day, we have a responsibility to protect the next generation."

N.C. Budget Redirects Legal Funds To Criminal Defense, Away From Legal Aid

CAROLINA PUBLIC PRESS - After months of uncertainty about the future of the Interest on Lawyers' Trust Accounts program, Gov. Josh Stein signed off on a new state budget with a provision that will redirect IOLTA funds away from civil legal aid and put them toward the state's criminal defense services, making North Carolina the only state in the nation to do so. The repurposing of the IOLTA funds has been met with immediate pushback from some lawmakers. IOLTA officials and leaders of civil legal aid organizations alike, they've been sounding the alarm since July 2025 when North Carolina legislators first froze these funds due to so-called "inappropriate political activity," Carolina Public Press previously reported last year. A recent state audit from April found no IOLTA funds were misused, but it emphasized room for improvement in post-award oversight that could reduce the risk of "improper use" of grant funds. Officials have been working on addressing the auditor's recommendations over the past few months to show cooperation as they advocated for funding to return. With the freeze ending on June 30, the funding for legal aid could have resumed, but the budget closes off that option. What is indigent criminal defense? The state is constitutionally required to provide attorneys to defendants who can't afford them. Before providing an attorney, the court must determine whether a defendant is indigent, but that can be ambiguous.



"Some people can afford counsel for a low-level charge but cannot afford to hire a lawyer for a more complicated and serious charge," NC Indigent Defense Services said on its website. "Some people have well-paying jobs but also have extraordinary ongoing expenses related to medical issues or a disabled dependent. The court must assess each individual's circumstances." Once the court deems a defendant as "indigent," an attorney is provided at no cost to them. Amanda Bunch, communications specialist for IDS, explained the difference between the two types of defenders: state-paid public defenders and private assigned counsel. State-paid defenders are considered state employees; they have salaried positions and get state benefits. North Carolina has a total of 27 defender districts that cover 60 out of 100 counties, Bunch said. This means not all counties have access to

public defenders. Private assigned counsel, on the other hand, are not state employees. They serve private firms and will take on court-appointed cases as necessary. The state uses these private attorneys to bridge gaps in coverage in counties without public defenders. They also step in if a public defender has a conflict of interest in a case. In these circumstances, the attorneys are paid from the PAC Fund, Bunch said. Indigent defense services have historically been funded by state-appropriated funds, funds from court fees and the collection of attorneys' fees from defendants, Bunch said. In 2011, the hourly rates for these attorneys were cut down from \$75 per hour to \$55 per hour by the state legislature. This is their gross pay, not net earnings. Before taking anything home, these attorneys have to pay self-employment taxes and overhead costs including benefits, malpractice insurance, office equip-

ment, bar dues and more, according to a 2019 IDS report. Because of the rate cuts, their jobs became more difficult. To reduce overhead costs, a third of public defense attorneys got rid of malpractice insurance, cut down on support staff and more. In the three years prior to this report being published, 50% of respondents reported reducing their public defense workload or stepping back from the work completely, the report said. "The rate at which attorneys have left the public defense rosters across the state since the 2011 rate cut is a major concern for the criminal justice system, as it has led to court inefficiencies, delays, and increasing numbers of court continuances," the report said. "As experienced attorneys remove themselves from public defense, fewer attorneys remain to handle cases. Those who remain are pressured to join multiple lists and even to join lists in multiple counties. The result is more continuances and more court delay as attorneys cannot be in two courts simultaneously and they struggle to handle larger caseloads." What will the budget provision do? The provision added by lawmakers will ensure that any IOLTA funds received from July 1, 2025 and onward will instead go toward indigent criminal defense services, specifically the PAC fund. With the new funding, IDS staff are currently assessing how to adjust hourly rates, with plans to present their findings at a meeting next (See *LEGAL AID*, P. 2)

(See *ONLINE CHILD SAFETY*, P. 2)

Business & Finance

Millennials Are Buying Blue Collar Businesses To AI-Proof Their Future

Streamline—A quiet revolution is fundamentally restructuring the landscape of global small business ownership. Fleeing the relentless burnout of corporate travel schedules and the looming existential threat of algorithmic automation, highly educated millennial professionals are systematically purchasing unglamorous, blue-collar enterprises. From commercial plumbing operations to specialized sheet metal manufacturing, a new generation of owners is abandoning the boardroom for the industrial park, seeking recurring revenue and an AI-proof future.

The trajectory of 37-year-old Andrew Kurzrok exemplifies this massive demographic pivot. Holding an MBA from Yale University and previously spending over 200 days a year on the road as a mid-level executive for Amphenol Sensors, Kurzrok engineered a radical career shift. In late 2023, he successfully acquired Hopewell Sheet Metal Manufacturing—a 45-year-old, family-owned enterprise operating out of a 30,000-square-foot facility in Hagerstown, Maryland. By trading airline miles for industrial HVAC duct fabrication, Kurzrok secured the stability necessary to be home with his family every night, shedding 30 pounds and drastically lowering his blood pressure in the process.

For the past decade, economic analysts have relentlessly predicted a massive "silver tsunami"—a massive transfer of wealth triggered by millions of retiring Baby Boomers selling their established businesses to younger entrepreneurs. However, the reality of the market has proven vastly more complicated. Small business consultant Alan Pentz notes that the overwhelming majority of these Boomer-run companies are functionally unsalable.

Many older enterprises operate essentially as one-man bands; the founder is the primary asset, and the company lacks the institutional infrastructure, tangible assets, or automated client rosters necessary to survive a change in leadership. Consequently, the fraction of Boomer businesses that actually

possess clean financial books, a loyal customer base, and a reliable management tier has triggered a fierce acquisition frenzy among younger buyers armed with capital and modern management theory.

The millennial acquisition strategy heavily favors businesses that are perceived as deeply unsexy but operationally vital. Experts like Chelsea Mandel, founder of Ascension Advisory, emphasize that young buyers are not looking to purchase a grueling job; they are hunting for a well-oiled machine. This has

driven unprecedented demand for companies operating within highly specialized trade niches such as pest control, commercial electrical work, and specialized manufacturing.

Eric Pacifici, a partner at SMB Law Group, characterizes this trend as "riches in the niches." These specialized service companies possess a massive strategic advantage: they are deeply insulated from the disruptive capabilities of artificial intelligence. While generative AI can instantly code software, draft legal briefs, and generate marketing copy, it cannot

physically install a central air conditioning unit or weld custom ductwork. The requirement for physical labor, local licensure, and geographic proximity provides a near-impenetrable economic moat.

This aggressive shift toward blue-collar acquisition is not solely the domain of individual millennials seeking lifestyle redesigns; institutional capital has forcefully entered the arena. Chris Ward, head of small business banking at TD Bank U.S.,

(See *AI PROOF* P. 4)



RTP Approves Mixed-Use, Residential Developments

By Jordan Meadows

Staff Writer

In a unanimous vote at a meeting of the RTP Owners and Tenants Association, companies and landowners across the 7,000-acre research campus approved a sweeping set of new development standards under the RTP 3.0 framework. For the first time in the park's nearly 70-year history, the approval clears the way for mixed-use and residential projects on land that has been governed by a single corporate-campus model since 1959.

The vote capped a five-year planning effort by the Research Triangle Foundation of North Carolina to chart what officials describe as a 50-year vision for the park. The Foundation's board subsequently ratified the measure, and starting Thursday, July 16, 2026, landowners will be able to formally apply to redevelop their properties under one of three new options: an enhanced corporate campus, a residential neighborhood development, or a mixed-use node. Owners can also continue operating under the traditional corporate campus model that has defined RTP for more than six decades.

The scale of the shift is significant. RTP has long limited building coverage to roughly 15 percent of a given site and capped heights at 120 feet, favoring the kind of low-density,

tree-shielded office campuses built for commuting employees rather than nearby amenities.

About a fifth of the park's land (roughly 1,400 acres) is devoted to parking. The new standards loosen those constraints, reducing setback requirements and allowing greater density, though the residential option comes with its own limits: detached single-family homes won't be permitted, with townhouses serving as the lowest-density housing type allowed.

Travis Crayton, the Foundation's vice president of planning and public policy, has called RTP 3.0 the most significant modernization of the park's land-use framework since its founding, while also cautioning that the physical character of the park won't change overnight.

The approval follows groundwork laid when Wake County commissioners unanimously amended RTP's zoning rules in June 2025 to accommodate the new framework, and Durham's board followed suit that fall—a necessary step given that the park straddles both counties, though it sits predominantly in Durham. A Durham planning commissioner welcomed the change as a fix for zoning restrictions that had constrained investment and innovation in the park.

RTP 3.0 builds on an earlier phase of change, often referred to as RTP



2.0, which introduced Hub RTP, a walkable district that brought the park's first apartments, along with retail and coworking space through developments like Boxyard RTP and Frontier RTP. Additional Hub RTP projects. Hub RTP is expected to include roughly a million square feet of office and life-science space, tens of thousands of square feet of retail, more than a thousand residential units, hundreds of hotel rooms, and expanded green space.

"For decades, these 7,000 acres... were defined by a single-use corporate campus model. That model served RTP well, but the future demands more," said Scott Levitan, the

Foundation's president and CEO, adding that the new standards are meant to "create spaces where people can work, live, collaborate and connect."

A signature piece of the broader RTP 3.0 vision is the proposed RTP Greenway, a 10-mile north-south trail corridor intended to link corporate campuses, mixed-use nodes and natural areas, building on the park's existing 20-mile trail network.

Gina Andersen, RTP's site engagement lead for Cisco and president of the RTP Owners & Tenants Association, pointed to the vote's unanimity as a signal of confidence in the plan.

"This unanimous vote reflects the

strong alignment and shared confidence among RTP companies and landowners in the future of the Park," she said. "Every organization in RTP has different needs, and these updated standards provide the flexibility to thoughtfully evolve campuses over time."

Planners have also built the framework around future transit possibilities, including potential bus, bus rapid transit and rail connections, positioning the park for transit-oriented growth down the road.

The Triangle is among the fastest-growing metro areas in the country, with projections pointing to roughly a million new residents by 2050. RTP remains North America's largest research park, spanning an area roughly half the size of Manhattan and home to more than 385 companies and some 55,000 employees, with Fidelity Investments now holding the largest workforce and other major tenants including Cisco, Lenovo, and Eli Lilly.

The park has not been immune to disruption; however, IBM relocated most of its local workforce out of RTP last year.

The Greater Durham Chamber of Commerce and McAdams are hosting a "Reimagine the Park" lunch and learn session on August 13, aimed at RTP companies and members of the local development, design and real estate community.



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The Hidden Tariff Racism: Racial Inequity Stifles American Economy

By Jheri Hardaway

Staff Writer

When economists discuss the "bottom line" of American industry, the conversation often centers on interest rates, supply chains, and consumer spending. Yet, a growing body of research from the Federal Reserve, Citigroup, and the Brookings Institution points to a much older, more corrosive factor: the "hidden tariff" of systemic racism. The roots of this economic drag are not modern; they are foundational. Recently uncovered correspondence from General George Washington reveals that as early as 1775, the Continental Army was paralyzed by a policy crisis over Black enlistment. By initially barring Black soldiers to appease Southern enslavers, the Patriots inadvertently handed a massive

strategic advantage to the British. Lord Dunmore's Proclamation, which promised freedom to those who fought for the Crown, forced the Americans into a war that lasted eight years instead of perhaps much less. The cost of those extra years in lives, debt, and delayed stability was the first of many installments in a 250-year debt. Today, the numbers are staggering. A landmark Citigroup study found that the U.S. lost \$16 trillion in GDP over just the last two decades due to racial gaps. When we project this compounding loss back to the Revolution, including the systemic destruction of Black business districts and the denial of commercial credit, the cumulative loss to the American ecosystem exceeds \$100 trillion. For North Carolina's burgeoning tech and manufacturing sectors,



this is not just a social issue; it is a productivity crisis. Every denied business loan is a lost innovation; every wage gap is a reduction in the state's total purchasing power. Here in North Carolina, the 2026 Appropriations Act, which became law as Session Law 2026-41 on July 7, 2026, eliminated the Office of Historically Underutilized Businesses ("the HUB Office"), repealed HUB-related statutes, and struck references to minority participation in public contracts throughout the North Carolina General Statutes. Over the past 25 years, the Office for Historically Underutilized Businesses within the Department of Administration has worked to increase the number and types of businesses competing for government contracts across the state. "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." Dr. Randal Pinkett. Competition, disruptive ideas, and open-mindedness are the hallmarks of an innovative society. By eliminating resources that help create equitable opportunities, we are crippling our future genera-

tions. We are making it harder for the Steve Jobs, Oprah Winfrey, and Sam Waltons of the world to access resources to make their big ideas pop. As we look toward the next century of American industry, closing these gaps isn't merely an act of justice; it is the only way to ensure national competitiveness in a global market.

AI PROOF

Continued from page 3

reports that private equity firms are quietly rolling up localized HVAC and plumbing companies across the country. The financial logic is unassailable: these essential services generate consistent, reliable cash flow regardless of broader macroeconomic recessions.

When private equity competes with individual buyers like Kurzrok for the same pool of viable businesses, valuations inherently spike. However, individual buyers often retain a distinct advantage when negotiating with retiring founders who prioritize the preservation of their family's legacy and the continued employment of their veteran staff over maximum cash extraction.

Extreme Heat Adds Pressure to Black Farmers Across North Carolina

By Judaea Ingram

Special To The Carolinian

As another stretch of extreme summer heat settles over North Carolina, Black farmers across the state are facing more than uncomfortable working conditions. Rising temperatures are increasing pressure on crops, livestock and operating costs, creating additional challenges for producers who have long navigated economic and environmental obstacles.

Much of North Carolina has experienced days of temperatures climbing into the upper 90s and triple-digit heat indexes this summer. While the scorching weather has prompted heat advisories across much of the state, farmers say prolonged periods of excessive heat can have lasting effects on agricultural production, particularly during the peak growing season.

For Black farmers, the extreme temperatures come on top of longstanding challenges that include limited access to land, rising equipment costs and

unpredictable weather patterns. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, heat stress can reduce crop yields, increase irrigation demands and place livestock at greater risk of dehydration and illness. Crops such as corn, soybeans and vegetables are especially vulnerable during extended periods of high temperatures, particularly when accompanied by little rainfall. Agricultural experts say farmers are adjusting daily routines to protect both workers and crops. Many begin harvesting before sunrise, limit strenuous outdoor work during the hottest hours of the afternoon and increase watering schedules to help plants withstand the intense heat. Organizations such as the Black Family Land Trust, a North Carolina-based nonprofit dedicated to preserving and protecting African American-owned farmland, have continued to advocate for resources that help Black landowners maintain sustainable farming operations despite increasing



environmental challenges. The effects of extreme heat extend beyond the fields. Higher temperatures often mean increased fuel and electricity costs as farmers rely more heavily on irrigation systems, cooling equipment and refrigeration to protect crops after harvest. Those additional expenses can reduce already narrow profit margins for many family-owned farms. Climate experts have warned that North Carolina is expected to experience more frequent and prolonged periods of extreme heat in the years ahead, making adaptation increasingly important for the state's agricultural industry. Many farmers are exploring

drought-resistant crops, improved irrigation systems and soil conservation practices to help prepare for changing weather conditions.

Despite the challenges, Black farmers continue to play an essential role in North Carolina's agricultural economy and food system. From family farms that have operated for generations to newer producers supplying local farmers markets and community-supported agriculture programs, their work helps provide fresh produce to communities across the state while preserving a legacy of Black land ownership.

That legacy carries particular significance. Following generations of discrimination and land loss, African American farmers now make up a small percentage of the nation's farming population. Organizations across North Carolina have worked to reverse that trend by supporting Black-owned farms through education, technical assistance and land preservation efforts. Agricultural leaders also encourage

consumers to support local Black-owned farms throughout the growing season by shopping at farmers markets and purchasing directly from producers. Those purchases, they say, help strengthen local economies while ensuring family farms remain viable despite rising costs and increasingly unpredictable weather.

As temperatures continue to climb this summer, North Carolina's farmers remain focused on protecting their crops and sustaining their livelihoods. While extreme heat has become an increasingly familiar part of the growing season, many producers continue adapting through innovation, resilience and generations of agricultural knowledge.

For Black farmers across the state, that resilience represents more than overcoming another heat wave. It reflects a continued commitment to preserving family land, feeding local communities and carrying forward a farming tradition that has endured despite decades of economic, social and environmental challenges.



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Cyclosporiasis vs. a Stomach Bug: Why This Foodborne Parasite Can Keep You Feeling Sick For Several Weeks

VCU HEALTH - For hundreds of people living in the United States, what first felt like a minor stomach bug has turned into weeks of serious gastrointestinal problems.

Federal officials are tracking outbreaks of cyclosporiasis in dozens of states. As of early July, the states hardest hit are Michigan, Ohio and New York.

The parasitic illness isn't like other 24-hour stomach infections, according to Gonzalo Bearman, M.D., an infectious diseases expert at VCU Health.

"Cyclospora can cause severe, prolonged watery diarrhea. It tends to last longer than other illnesses associated with diarrhea, like norovirus. For people with weak immune systems, such as those diagnosed with HIV/AIDS or are transplant recipients, the symptoms can be more severe and last longer," Bearman said.

VCU Health News spoke with Bearman about cyclosporiasis symptoms, how it is transmitted and how you can protect yourself from getting sick.

What is cyclosporiasis?

Cyclosporiasis is a gastrointestinal illness that is usually not life-threatening. It is caused by the cyclospora parasite which can be found in feces. People can get sick with cyclosporiasis by consuming contaminated food and water.

If it goes untreated, people can be sick with the illness for days to weeks and a month, with potential relapsing symptoms.

What are the symptoms of cyclosporiasis? How are they different from a typical stomach bug?

It can take about a week to begin experiencing symptoms after being exposed, but sometimes symptoms

may start after a few days.

Some people with cyclosporiasis don't get any symptoms. Those who do will experience watery diarrhea that can be debilitating, with frequent – sometimes explosive – bowel movements.

Other cyclosporiasis symptoms include:

- Intense bloating
- Stomach cramps and nausea
- Fatigue
- Gas
- Loss of appetite

What makes cyclosporiasis different from the typical stomach bug is that it can last for weeks, with potentially relapsing symptoms. It is also very difficult to spread from person to person.

How does cyclosporiasis spread?

Cyclosporiasis spreads when people eat food or drink water contaminated with feces. While we still do not know what is causing this current rise in cases, past outbreaks of the cyclospora parasite have been connected to imported or domestic produce.

If someone is sick, it is very unlikely that they will spread it to someone else directly. That's because it takes about 1 to 2 weeks for the parasite to become infectious when it leaves the body after a bowel movement.



eliminate the cyclospora parasite because it can be deeply wedged in the folds or skin of produce.

Health officials recommend the following steps to protect yourself against cyclospora:

Wash hands thoroughly with soap and water before and after handling raw produce.

Rinse all fresh produce under running water and scrub produce skin like melons, cucumbers and tomatoes with a clean brush or cloth. Packaged produce labeled "pre-washed" does not need to be washed again, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Cut damaged or bruised areas on fruits and vegetables before preparing and eating.

Refrigerate cut, peeled or cooked produce soon after preparing.

If I think I have cyclosporiasis, at what point should I see a doctor?

If you have severe, watery diarrhea that lasts more than 48 hours and also have a fever, seek medical attention. This is particularly important if you have an underlying condition or take a medication that weakens your immune system.

While healthcare providers can diagnose cyclosporiasis by testing a sample of your stool, sometimes lab tests have a hard time detecting the parasite even if a patient has symptoms.

House Bill 328 Aims to Regulate Hemp to Death, Killing Jobs And Joy

By Jheri Hardaway

Staff Writer

Dunn, NC - The North Carolina hemp industry is experiencing extreme uncertainty as small businesses, farmers, and advocates brace themselves for a defining legislative showdown on July 27, 2026. At the center of the frustration is House Bill 328 (HB 328), titled "Regulate Hemp-Derived Consumables," a bill that started with bipartisan support for common-sense safety regulations but has morphed into what local business owners call a "backdoor prohibition," according to Franny's Farmacy.

"Right now, we have the wild west to an extent, and whereas I'd love to put this entire thing back in the bottle and see it go away entirely, I don't think we can," said Sen. Benton Sawrey, a Johnston County Republican. When created, HB 328 was welcomed by the state's legal hemp industry. It sought to codify industry-standard safety practices, such as requiring clear labeling, third-party lab testing, and establishing a strict 21-and-over age limit for purchasing hemp-derived products. These are things business owners in this industry already abide by.

The issue at hand is that a sweeping substitute added by the North Carolina State Senate has fundamentally altered the bill's direction. The Senate-backed version imposes a strict limit of 0.4 milligrams of total THC per retail container. Industry experts say this packaging-level cap would effectively outlaw almost all full-spectrum CBD products, delta-8 consumables, and hemp-derived beverages currently on shelves.

For local business owners like those at East Coast Hemp Supply, headquartered on West Broad Street in Dunn, the proposed legislation represents "A direct threat to their survival." East Coast Hemp and others like it argue that HB 328, as it is written, could end 16,000 jobs, 2,100 hemp-related businesses, and disrupt over \$4.4 billion in statewide economic activity. While local owners fully support strict 21+ age limits and product testing, they argue that the Senate's 0.4 milligram cap completely misses the mark.

A "hemp-derived consumable product" would be defined as follows: A hemp product that is a finished good intended for human ingestion or inhalation that contains a concentration of any hemp-derived cannabinoid. This term does not include hemp products intended for topical application or seeds or seed-derived ingredients that are generally recognized as safe by the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

North Carolina State Senator Bill Rabon (R-Brunswick) asserted that lawmakers have tried for years to regulate the products without success. "Are we going to affect businesses? Yes, we're going to affect 12,000 drug dealers' businesses," Rabon said on the Senate floor. "They're selling it to low-income, to people who are down on their luck, the normal people who buy drugs. But they're also selling it to teenagers and sub-teenagers, and anyone that they can prey upon."

"I've had the epiphany that the big players and the people who want to make the money can't make the money they want to make," Rabon stated. "They can't prey upon the people whom they want to prey upon, in a regulated marketplace. So if that is the case, we have to do away with all of it."

The N.C. House of Representatives has already rejected similar restrictive language once before, voting overwhelmingly (95–18) not to concur with the Senate's strict amendments back in April. Hemp advocates hope that history repeats itself, but they warn against complacency. The primary targets for community outreach are members of the N.C. House of Representatives, as the Senate leadership has already signaled its firm stance.

With the General Assembly scheduled to reconvene on Monday, July 27, 2026, local business owners are urging constituents to contact their House Representatives immediately. The message is simple: protect local agriculture, support small business safety guidelines, and vote "no" on the current version of House Bill 328.



For NC State Health Plan Members, Blue Cross NC Is Back In 2028

NC NEWSROOM - Blue Cross Blue Shield will soon return as the third party administrator of North Carolina's State Health Plan, set to supplant Aetna in 2028 after a unanimous vote by the Health Plan's Board of Trustees on Friday.

"Blue Cross brings deep experience, proven capabilities and a shared commitment to delivering better value and a better experience for the people who depend on the plan," State Treasurer Brad Briner told reporters after the vote.

In addition to the third party administrator role, where it processes claims for the health plan and builds out a provider network, the Health Plan's Board of Trustees also unanimously voted to make Blue Cross NC the plan's pharmacy benefit manager. It will begin both roles on Jan. 1, 2028.

The contract is for an initial three-year term, with two one-year options for 2031 and 2032.

"In the months ahead, our focus will be on ensuring a seamless experience

(See **BLUE CROSS IS BACK IN 2028**, P. 7)

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Arts & Culture

Before The Streets Fell Silent: How A Film Titled *Pitch a Boogie Woogie* Preserved the Heart of Black Greenville

By Torrie Walker

Special To The Carolinian

You walk down the street and familiar faces greet you from every direction. Someone waves from across the sidewalk. The smell of fried catfish drifts from Bell's Restaurant as people gather inside for dinner. Down the street, a crowd begins to form outside the Roxy Theatre, eager to see the latest film. The neighborhood is alive with conversation, music and movement.

This is The Block.
Today, much of it is gone.
But one little-known film preserved what time nearly erased.

Released in 1948, *Pitch a Boogie Woogie* captured a glimpse of Greenville's thriving Black business district at a time when Black communities were creating their own spaces for business, entertainment and fellowship. More than 75 years later, the film remains one of the few visual records of a neighborhood that helped shape the city's Black history.

Bill Myers remembers that neighborhood firsthand.

"It was the center of activities," said Myers, executive director of the Freeman Round House and African American Museum in Wilson. "Everybody who did anything would migrate to the block. People would congregate on the block. People would walk from

all parts of town just to stand around on the block and see the ladies go by. All the activity was centered around the block."

Growing up on The Block, Myers watched Greenville's Black community gather around restaurants, churches, barbershops, beauty salons, pool halls and social clubs, all within walking distance of one another.

"It was very tight-knit," Myers said. "I lived on the block. I was raised by my grandmother who lived on the block."

For Myers, *Pitch a Boogie Woogie* is more than a piece of history.

"I remember very, very well," he said. "I was a little boy."

His uncle, Ernest Glover, worked as the projectionist at Greenville's Roxy Theatre, where much of the film was shot.

"He would always let me come up and watch him work," Myers said. "So I happened to be there to see a lot of the filming. I remember that very, very clearly as a little boy."

According to Myers, theater owner John Warner wanted the film to celebrate Greenville's Black community.

"He wanted to do things that would glorify the people in the Black community," Myers said. "So he got a lot of Wilsonians, then he went into Greensboro and got musicians to come and perform."

Decades later, filmmaker and his-



torian Alex Albright began researching the forgotten film. What started as curiosity soon became an effort to document a neighborhood whose history had largely faded from public memory.

"It started with just trying to figure out what the movie was," Albright said. "Then the making of the documentary got us into the story."

As Albright interviewed former musicians, cast members and residents,

he realized the story extended far beyond the film itself.

"The documentary gives you much more of the musicians' memory and less of the film," Albright said. "The process was just trying to create a narrative."

That narrative uncovered more than a forgotten movie. It revealed a neighborhood where Black-owned businesses, churches and entertainment venues created a close-knit

community despite the realities of segregation.

As Greenville changed, so did The Block.

"My people wanted better housing," Myers said. "They wanted a better neighborhood."

The changes were gradual. Businesses closed, longtime residents moved away and community leaders who had once organized events and brought neighbors together passed

on.

"I remember my good friend Thomas Foreman, who was always making things happen," Myers said. "Let's have a party. Let's have a meeting. Let's do this.' Well, he passed, and we lost that."

For Albright, the greatest loss wasn't simply the buildings.

"The people that lived there are telling me what I think was lost," he said. "That was a sense of community."

Although many of the businesses have closed and several buildings have been demolished, pieces of The Block remain. Bell's Restaurant still stands, and a mural now honors the neighborhood and the businesses that once made it the heart of Black Greenville.

For Myers, remembering The Block is about remembering the people who built it.

More than 75 years after *Pitch a Boogie Woogie* was filmed, the movie continues to preserve the sights and spirit of a neighborhood that shaped generations of Black Greenville. Through the memories of those who lived there, The Block continues to tell its story.

"There are people who did so much," Myers said. "The things that people tried to do to make sure there would be businesses... the churches, the music clubs, the entertainment. All of that should be remembered and not forgotten."

International Black Theatre Festival Returns to Winston-Salem, Celebrating the Power of Black Storytelling

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C. — As actors, playwrights and theater enthusiasts prepare to gather in Winston-Salem later this month, organizers of the International Black Theatre Festival are putting the final touches on one of the nation's premier celebrations of Black theater, an event that has spent more than three decades amplifying Black voices, stories and artistic excellence.

Scheduled for July 27 through Aug. 1, the biennial festival will once again transform downtown Winston-Salem into a hub for theatrical performances, workshops, film screenings, educational programming and cultural events, drawing artists and audiences from across the United States and around the world.

Founded in 1989 by the late Larry Leon Hamlin, the International Black Theatre Festival was created to provide a national stage for Black playwrights, directors and performers whose work was often overlooked by mainstream theater. Since its inception, the festival has grown into one of the largest gatherings dedicated to Black theater, earning the nick-



name "Black Theatre Holy Ground" among artists and attendees.

Now presented by the North Carolina Black Repertory Company, the festival continues Hamlin's vision of celebrating the richness and diversity of the African American experience through the performing arts.

This year's festival will feature

more than 100 events, including stage productions, poetry performances, film screenings, youth programming, educational workshops and panel discussions. Organizers say the weeklong celebration is designed not only to entertain audiences but also to create opportunities for artists to collaborate, share

ideas and inspire the next generation of Black creatives.

Beyond the performances, the festival has become an important cultural gathering that strengthens connections within the Black arts community. Emerging playwrights have the opportunity to showcase new work, while established actors, directors and producers mentor younger artists and participate in discussions about the future of Black theater.

For many attendees, the festival is as much about community as it is about performance. Visitors often travel from across the country to reconnect with colleagues, attend professional development workshops and celebrate the accomplishments of Black artists working in theater, film and education.

The International Black Theatre Festival has also become a significant economic driver for Winston-Salem. Hotels, restaurants, local retailers and small businesses experience increased tourism during festival week as thousands of visitors fill downtown for performances and

special events. The festival's impact extends beyond the stage, supporting the local economy while showcasing Winston-Salem as a destination for arts and culture.

Organizers say this year's lineup reflects the broad range of stories that define the Black experience, from historical dramas and contemporary plays to musicals, family productions and works exploring social justice, identity and resilience. The festival also continues its commitment to youth engagement by offering educational opportunities that introduce students to careers in theater and the performing arts.

As conversations continue nationwide about representation in entertainment, the International Black Theatre Festival remains an important platform where Black artists can tell authentic stories on their own terms. Many productions featured during the festival examine themes of family, faith, culture, history and perseverance, offering audiences perspectives that are often underrepresented on mainstream stages.

The festival's continued success

also reflects North Carolina's long-standing role in supporting Black arts and culture. Through the work of the North Carolina Black Repertory Company,

Winston-Salem has become internationally recognized as a destination where Black storytelling is preserved, celebrated and shared with audiences from around the globe.

More than three decades after its founding, the International Black Theatre Festival continues to fulfill Larry Leon Hamlin's vision of creating a space where Black artists are not only welcomed but celebrated. While audiences come for the performances, many leave with a deeper appreciation for the history, creativity and resilience that have shaped Black theater for generations.

When the curtain rises later this month, the festival will once again demonstrate why Winston-Salem has become home to one of the world's most influential celebrations of Black theater, proving that powerful storytelling continues to unite communities across cultures and generations.

After Turmoil, Raleigh Festival Brings Community Together

By Judaea Ingram

Special To The Carolinian

RALEIGH, N.C. — One week after a chaotic night in downtown Raleigh left several people injured and raised concerns about large gatherings in the city, residents returned to the area Saturday for a celebration focused on community, culture and connection.

Raleigh's All-American Summer Festival transformed City Plaza into a day of family-friendly entertainment, featuring food trucks, carnival games, live music and activities for residents of all ages.

The event celebrated America's 250th anniversary with a summer festival designed to bring the community together through entertainment and shared experiences. Attendees enjoyed carnival-style games, prizes, a kids zone, sweet treats, ice cream and contests celebrating everything from summer outfits to pets.

The festival also featured live performances from Adam Lee Deckers and the Donnie Bentley Band, who provided music throughout the day as families and visitors gathered in downtown Raleigh.

The celebration came just seven

days after thousands of young people and teenagers swarmed downtown Raleigh during the Fourth of July weekend in an incident that ended with several people hurt. Following the incident, city leaders prepared additional safety measures in case similar concerns arose during another large downtown gathering.

Raleigh police officers were present throughout Saturday's festival to help monitor the event and ensure attendees could enjoy the celebration safely.

For many residents, however, the increased security did not change their feelings about spending time down-

town.

"I feel like it's safe," said Alyssa Cadiz, a Raleigh native. "I've grown up here my whole life, so I feel safe when I'm here."

Cadiz said events like the All-American Summer Festival are important because they give residents opportunities to gather and enjoy the city with friends and family.

Throughout the afternoon, children played carnival games, families explored food truck options and attendees gathered around the stage to enjoy live performances.

Local vendors also used the event as

an opportunity to connect with residents and showcase their businesses. Community festivals like the All-American Summer Festival provide small businesses with opportunities to reach new customers while contributing to Raleigh's local culture.

For families attending the festival, the event offered a chance to focus on community and create positive memories downtown.

The All-American Summer Festival was one of several summer gatherings designed to bring Raleigh residents together through food, music and entertainment. Organizers highlighted the

importance of creating spaces where people of all ages can celebrate and connect.

While city officials continue discussions surrounding public safety following the Fourth of July weekend incident, Saturday's festival showed another side of downtown Raleigh: a space filled with music, families and community spirit.

As the live bands played and visitors enjoyed the final hours of the celebration, Raleigh residents once again filled downtown with a different kind of energy, one centered on connection and togetherness.

How Garrett Morgan's Innovations Shaped Modern Safety

By Jordan Meadows

Staff Writer

Garrett Augustus Morgan Sr., an inventor and businessman, was born in Paris, Kentucky, in 1877. He is best known for inventing an early gas mask, known as a "safety hood," and a three-position traffic signal, and for founding a hair care products company in Cleveland, Ohio. Morgan was the son of two formerly enslaved parents. He attended school through the sixth grade before moving to Cincinnati at age 14 to work. In 1895, he relocated to Cleveland, where he found work repairing sewing machines for a clothing manufacturer.

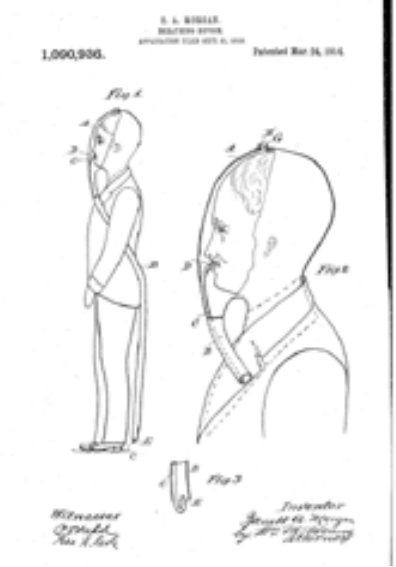
He later patented a belt fastener for sewing machines, his first invention, and opened his own repair shop in 1907.

While experimenting with a chemical solution designed to reduce friction on sewing machine needles in 1905, Morgan found that the liquid straightened the fibers of a piece of fur. After testing the substance further, he developed it into a hair-straightening cream and founded the G.A. Morgan Hair Refining Company, which expanded to sell additional hair care products, including a hair dye and a straightening comb.



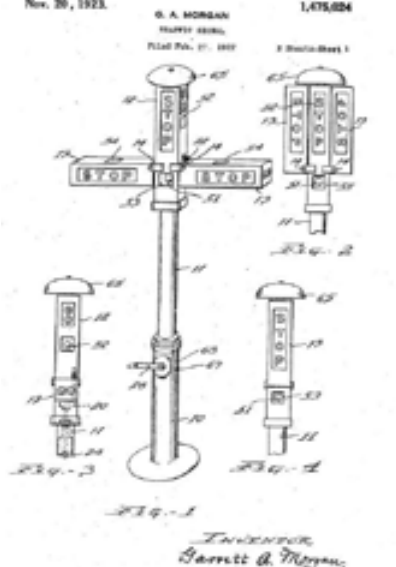
In 1912, Morgan patented a safety hood, a device designed to filter smoke and provide breathable air in hazardous environments. The design used a series of tubes positioned to draw air from below rising smoke. In 1914, a refined version of the device won a gold medal from the International Association of Fire Chiefs.

On July 25, 1916, an explosion trapped a group of workers in a water intake tunnel roughly 50 feet beneath Lake Erie in Cleveland. Two earlier



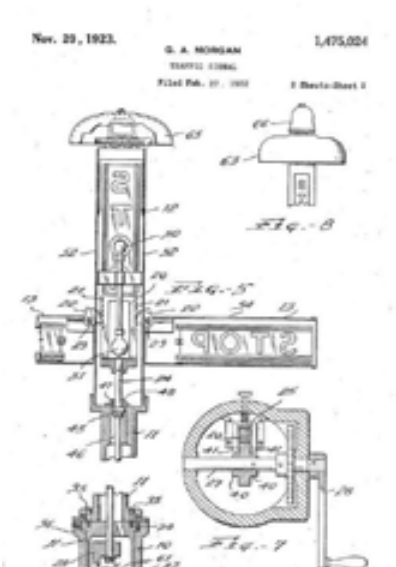
rescue attempts had failed. Morgan and his brother Frank arrived at the scene with four safety hoods and entered the tunnel along with volunteers, retrieving survivors as well as the bodies of workers who had died in earlier rescue attempts. Morgan made four trips into the tunnel during the rescue.

Following the rescue, the Cleveland mayor's office did not include Morgan on a list of recommended honorees, and the Carnegie Hero



Fund Commission did not include him in a request for medals related to the incident. Though in 1917, a group of Cleveland residents presented Morgan with a gold medal independent of any official city or commission recognition.

Sales of Morgan's safety hood initially increased following national coverage of the rescue, but some fire departments in Southern states



canceled existing orders after learning Morgan was Black. In some sales demonstrations, Morgan used other individuals, including at times posing under the name "Big Chief Mason," to present the device to potential buyers.

In 1923, Morgan patented a three-position traffic signal, developed

after witnessing a collision at a Cleveland intersection. Unlike the two-position stop-and-go signals in use at the time, Morgan's design included a third position that stopped traffic in all directions before allowing movement to resume, reducing the likelihood of collisions during the change in right-of-way. Morgan later sold the patent rights to the General Electric Company for \$40,000, equivalent to roughly \$612,000 today.

Morgan was also active in civic organizations: he helped found the Cleveland Association of Colored Men in 1908, later merged with the NAACP, and co-founded the Cleveland Call newspaper in 1920, which later became the Cleveland Call and Post. He purchased a 250-acre property in Wakeman, Ohio, that he developed into a country club open to Black patrons at a time when many clubs excluded them. In his honor, the Federal Highway Administration currently sponsors the Garrett A. Morgan Transportation Technology Education Program, a K-12 education initiative named in his honor.

Morgan was functionally blind by 1943. He continued to work on inventions, including a self-extinguishing cigarette. He died in 1963 and is buried at Lake View Cemetery in Cleveland.

Community

City Moves Forward On SE Raleigh Project

By Jordan Meadows

Staff Writer

Southeast Raleigh residents are demanding answers over the implementation of voter-approved parks bond projects, as community members allege that key plans have been altered without transparency and that public input has been effectively sidelined. The concerns, first reported by The Carolinian in May, center on projects tied to the historic South Park–East Raleigh neighborhood, including the renovation and expansion of the John P. “Top” Greene African American Cultural Center, the South Park Heritage Trail, and other components of the John Chavis Memorial Park master plan. While residents previously raised concerns about limited communication and a growing disconnect between the community and city staff, newly obtained documents and correspondence suggest those concerns have deepened into broader accusations of deception and misuse of public funds. At the center of the dispute is the Top Greene Cultural Center, long envisioned by residents as a community-driven space for cultural programming, historical pres-

ervation, and public gatherings. According to documents from the South Park–East Raleigh Neighborhood Association (SPERNA) obtained by The Carolinian, residents now say the current design significantly departs from that vision. Among the most contentious changes is the proposed inclusion of a recording studio within the existing building—an element residents say was never part of the original community plan and would replace space intended for meetings, exhibitions, and revenue-generating rentals. Community members argue that the shift would limit public access and transform the facility into a space primarily used by city staff rather than the neighborhood it was intended to serve. “The staff decided how the money would be spent to implement these projects without any community input,” one resident said in earlier reporting. In more recent correspondence, residents go further, describing the revised plans as “deceptive” and alleging they were presented to the Raleigh City Council in December 2024 without the community’s knowledge or review. Residents also say they have repeatedly requested access to

updated design plans but have not received them, despite seeking input from community members with construction and engineering expertise. That lack of access, they argue, has made it impossible to verify city claims about the cost and feasibility of proposed changes. The latest concerns also draw on past experiences with city-led park projects. Residents point to Phase I of the John Chavis Memorial Park master plan, where a feature known as “Heritage Plaza” was removed from implementation plans without public notice. According to community members, the omission was only discovered after construction planning was underway, leaving little opportunity for correction. That experience has contributed to what residents describe as a broader pattern of decision-making in which city staff alters plans after receiving formal approval from advisory boards and elected officials, without returning to the public for input. In addition to design concerns, questions have emerged about how bond funding is being used. The 2022 parks bond, approved by Raleigh voters, allocated funding for several Southeast Raleigh projects rooted in years of community-led

planning. Residents now say the current proposals do not reflect the scope or intent of those original plans, raising concerns about whether millions in public funds are being directed as promised. According to documents, community members say they have met multiple times with city staff, senior administrators, and elected officials to raise concerns, but have seen little action in response. In one instance described in the correspondence, a senior official reportedly questioned the purpose of a meeting, leading residents to conclude that earlier discussions had not been meaningfully addressed. Despite the growing frustration, some elements of the broader vision remain in progress: the South Park Heritage Trail, a long-planned project designed to connect historically significant sites throughout the neighborhood, continues to advance through the design and environmental review phases. “In a few words, it’s a rotten-to-the-core situation,” one community member wrote in correspondence obtained by The Carolinian, describing what they see as a breakdown in transparency and responsiveness. The Carolinian requested comments from City officials who have not yet responded.



125 Teens Gain Real-World Financial Skills and Career Inspiration at Third Annual Stacks & Tracks

RALEIGH, N.C. (July 2026) — Boys & Girls Clubs of Wake & Johnston Counties successfully hosted its third annual Stacks & Tracks, presented by First Horizon Bank, bringing together 125 youth and over 90 volunteers for an immersive day of financial literacy and career exploration. The event equipped teens with practical skills to make informed financial decisions while inspiring them to pursue meaningful career pathways. Stacks & Tracks combines two powerful learning experiences. During the “Stacks” Reality Store simulation, participants were assigned careers, salaries, and family situations before navigating real-life expenses such as housing, transportation, childcare, and savings. The activity challenged youth to balance a monthly budget while making difficult financial decisions, helping them better understand the true cost of adulthood. In the “Tracks” career exploration experience, young people connected directly with professionals representing a variety of industries and learned real tech skills.

Following the experience: • 98% of participants reported learning how to better balance a budget. • 95% learned something they can apply in everyday life. • 94% explored a new career path. Youth reflections demonstrated the lasting impact of the experience. “I learned that it’s important to invest your money,” shared Joshua, who hopes to become a video game designer. “I learned to use money on things that are needed, not wanted,” said Carmen, an aspiring first responder. Others emphasized the importance of saving money, making smart decisions with credit, and understanding how today’s financial decisions affect tomorrow’s opportunities. The success of Stacks & Tracks continues to be driven by the organization’s partnership with First Horizon Bank, which has supported the event since its inception. Over the past three years, First Horizon has grown from a dedicated volunteer group into the event’s Presenting Sponsor. Each year, approximately 35 employees volunteer their time to lead banking and investing activities, provide one-on-one financial coaching, and share their career journeys with participants. Their hands-on involvement transforms financial concepts into meaningful, real-world learning experiences while helping youth envision successful futures. “This year’s Stacks and Tracks session underscored what community partnership can achieve,” said Todd Warrick, Triangle Market President for First Horizon Bank, “Financial literacy turns a first paycheck into a plan; it’s a life skill that compounds over time.” Other sponsors include Duke Energy, Pulte Homes, and AmeriHealth in partnership with United Way of the Greater Triangle. As Boys & Girls Clubs of Wake & Johnston Counties continues to expand workforce readiness and financial literacy programming, Stacks & Tracks remains a cornerstone event that empowers youth to dream bigger, plan smarter, and build a strong foundation for lifelong success.

Omega Psi Phi Awards Scholarships



On Thursday May 28, 2026 the Durham, N.C. Beta Phi Chapter of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc. held its annual scholarship dinner at Lenny 555 in Durham, N.C. The event brought together chapter leaders, scholarship recipients, their families and supporters to recognize the chapter scholarship winners. The chapter recognized 6 scholarships of \$1,000.00 to Durham County High School students. The John H. Scott Honoree Recipients were Front Row-L-R: Bother Jamie Patterson Scholarship Committee Chair, Brother John Scott-Scholarship Honoree: Scholarship Recipients-Antoine Whitted-attending South Carolina State, Martin Ashley-attending Morehouse College & Brother Bryan Patton-1st Vice Basileus. Back Row: Brother Jason Peace-Scholarship Committee Chair, Recipients: Luke Parker attending UNC Charlotte, Camden Rice attending Hampton University, X’Zayveir Matthews attending UNC Charlotte & Not Pictured Sterling Edwards, Jr attending Lafayette College.



Self-Titled “Urban Explorers” Target Saint Augustine University's Campus

By Jheri Hardaway

Staff Writer



Raleigh, NC - The Carolinian received an anonymous tip that “Urban Explorers” are breaching security to trespass on Saint Augustine’s University, which is already grappling with a fragile financial recovery and a complex federal bankruptcy process. Saint Augustine’s University (SAU) is now facing a new threat after dark. Self-styled “urban explorers” and internet video creators are infiltrating the historic campus, documenting their trespassing on social media while leaving behind thousands of dollars in property damage. The trend has transformed the campus, a historic cornerstone of Black higher education in North Carolina, into a playground for digital clout-chasers. For the staff and caretakers fighting to preserve the university’s physical and academic integrity, the nightly intrusions are a worsening nightmare. According to local sources, these trespassers are highly organized. They operate using a coordinated, multi-stage scouting system designed to bypass police and campus security. A campus source, who requested anonymity, detailed how these groups coordinate their entries: “Groups go around... they just go in there, shoot videos, take pictures, whatever. What they do is they have a scout. The scout will come through, look over, and say, ‘Nobody over there,’ and that’s where they enter. They bust windows, set fires, whatever they want to do.” Footage of the empty, his-

toric campus corridors is routinely uploaded to social media platforms under the guise of “exploring abandoned spaces,” ignoring the fact that SAU is a protected, historically black university under active restructuring. The source mentioned that the police are often called, but by the time authorities arrive, the troublemakers are gone. The source also stated that those who are caught only receive a citation for trespassing. “They’re hard to catch in the act.” Recently, Raleigh Police were dispatched to the campus following reports of significant property damage. Officers discovered 20 shattered dorm room windows,

causing up to \$10,000 in immediate damage. The scale of the destruction has drawn the attention of the federal court system. The U.S. Bankruptcy Administrator’s office confirmed it is actively working with SAU’s legal counsel to ensure the debtor takes aggressive measures to secure the campus, prevent unauthorized entry, and preserve the physical condition of the university’s assets. The historical and psychological impact of these break-ins cuts deep, and it stings as well. Founded in 1867, Saint Augustine’s University has survived over a century and a half of societal change and economic hardship. To see its empty spaces treated as lawless back-

drops for likes and comments on internet videos feels, to many, like a profound sign of disrespect. Local advocates point out that the trespassers view the school’s financial vulnerability as an invitation. “They hit buildings all over the state,” another source noted, “but Saint Aug is a regular spot because they think, ‘Saint Aug, ain’t nobody going to do nothing!’” As the bankruptcy proceedings continue and academic leaders work to stabilize the institution, community members are calling for increased vigilance, sturdier physical barriers, and a harsher legal response than simple trespassing citations to protect a priceless piece of North Carolina’s educational heritage.

Blue Cross Is Back In 2028—CONT. FROM PG 5

for members and partnering with the plan and their leadership to deliver practical solutions that reduce costs and support a better health for the State Health Plan and all North Carolinians,” said Roy Watson Jr., a vice president at Blue Cross NC. Blue Cross NC served as the health plan’s third party administrator for more than 40 years before then-Treasurer Dale Folwell pushed for a change in late 2022. The board at the time selected Aetna to replace Blue Cross NC, with the change taking effect in 2025. Earlier this year, the State Health Plan decided not to trigger year-long extensions on either the Aetna contract or that of pharmacy benefit manager CVS Caremark. There were three respondents to the state’s request for proposals for the third party administrator, including Aetna, with two making it past minimum requirements. “We ran a fulsome RFP process here. We got the results of that and

the decision was very, very clear. Both from a cost perspective, from a member service perspective, as well, and then from every dynamic we can think of, there was really not much of a contest,” said Briner, a Republican in his first term in office. State Health Plan Executive Administrator Tom Friedman said the cost of the contract to the state is not immediately available because there are a number of options around population health management programs or member steerage programs that plan officials need to decide to activate or not. That process will take about two months, Friedman said, and plan officials will be focusing on what can best help their members. “We are in the ROI business, not getting the lowest admin fee business,” Friedman said. Among the concerns Folwell raised when he was treasurer about Blue Cross NC’s oversight of the State Health Plan was a lack of transparency about pricing.

Asked about that Friday, Briner said that the State Health Plan has started to take a much more active role in contracting directly with healthcare providers, making it more of a partner to the third party administrator than a customer of it. “Our ability to understand exactly what is going on increases dramatically as a result of that, and so those two things are linked in that way in that we have a front-row seat now rather than a back-row seat to all these conversations,” Briner said. Put together with the preferred provider program announced earlier Friday, Briner said, the State Health Plan expects to save about \$1 billion between 2028 and 2030. Aetna’s response Aetna responded Friday by saying it remains committed to supporting the State Health Plan and its members until the current contract expires on Dec. 31, 2027. “We continue to believe Aetna is the strongest partner for the State

Health Plan. Our expertise and service have helped the State Health Plan to advance its cost containment goals, successfully implement the Plan’s complex provider tiering strategy, and provide members access to high-quality care,” Phil Blando, an Aetna spokesman, wrote in a statement. Blando also said that Aetna would review the Health Plan’s decisions “in the coming weeks” and then decide how to move forward, raising the possibility of a lawsuit over the decision. When Aetna won the bid in 2022, Blue Cross NC unsuccessfully sued in administrative court. State Health Plan leaders said they are confident in their decision to award the new contract to Blue Cross NC. “There was really no contest in these RFPs. The decision was so very clear that I would hope that it would make people think twice about bringing action,” Briner said.



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The Carolinian

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The advertisement features a dark background. At the top, there are two black and white portraits of men in suits and ties, separated by a vertical double line. Between the portraits is the Haywood Funeral Home, Inc. logo, which includes a stylized dome graphic above the company name. Below the portraits, a large white quote reads: "Our family serving your family for 110 years". At the bottom, there is a horizontal line followed by the website address, the physical address, and the phone number.

Editorials

Editorial Policy

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



THE GOLDEN YEARS

By Judykay Jefferson

THE QUIET WEIGHT OF WANTING TO BE LIKED

These days, there’s a lot of stuff in life I no longer care about. Sometimes, I laugh at how little the opinions of others about me mean to me. I remember my mother saying, “There are 9 million people in the city of Chicago. You can’t please all of them, why worry about pleasing any of them?” That became my armor against the whims of fickle children, teachers, anybody. Truth is, I had a professional level poker face. Subconsciously I was adjusting my behavior to more successfully garner acceptance at the least and ideally, affection from the masses. If you had told me that was ego, I would have argued you down but lately, I have come to accept that ego doesn’t always show up loud. Sometimes it whispers. Sometimes it dresses itself up as kindness, helpfulness, or “just trying to get along.” And sometimes, especially for those of us who grew up Black in America, ego hides inside a lifelong habit: the need to be liked.

I’m not talking about popularity. I’m talking about that subtle, internal tug that makes you swallow your opinion, soften your truth, or shrink your presence because you don’t want to upset anybody. We learned it in classrooms. We learned it in workplaces where being “pleasant” was treated like a job requirement. We learned it in churches where humility was preached so hard it sometimes sounded like erasure. And we learned it in a country that has always been more comfortable with us when we are quiet, agreeable, and nonthreatening.

That kind of conditioning doesn’t disappear just because we turn 60, 70, or 80. In fact, it can get stronger. As we age, we often want harmony. We want peace. We want to avoid conflict. But sometimes, that desire for peace is really fear — fear of being judged, fear of being dismissed, fear of being misunderstood. And fear, when it sits long enough, becomes ego.

Ego isn’t only the puffedup chest and the loud voice. Ego is also the part of us that says, “If they don’t like me, I won’t be okay.” It’s the part that ties our selfworth to someone else’s reaction. And that is a dangerous place for any of us to live, especially in our senior years when our wisdom should be our anchor, not other people’s approval.

Apologizing for things that didn’t require an apology, explaining to people who don’t need or deserve an explanation, and most unfortunately, watching myself and other elders silence ourselves in rooms where our experience is the most valuable voice present is tough. I’ve watched people bend themselves into shapes that don’t fit anymore, all because they fear being seen as “difficult.” I’ve done it; you probably have too, but I’m putting the world on notice, I’m through.

At this stage of life, my ego is rooted in something deeper — not in how others see me, but in how I see myself. I have survived too much, contributed too much, and learned too much to let approval be my compass. Clarity, integrity, the quiet confidence that comes from knowing who I am and what I’ve lived through guides me.

I have often said that I would fight to defend someone’s right NOT to like me. We all are entitled to our choices. That was before “like” held the weight it does now. Social media has choked out our appreciation of individualism with “like-chasing.” How crazy is that? At least one platform now markets ways to boost your number of “likes” for money. What? And it’s easy to get caught up in that rat-race of trading genuine engagement and relationships for mass numbers of unknown followers. It’s nuts!

For me, the bottom line is being respected is far more valuable than being liked. Being authentic is far more liberating than being agreeable. Being whole is far more important than being pleasant.

And if there’s one thing I wish for every African American senior reading this, it’s the freedom to live the rest of your life without performing for anyone. You’ve earned your voice. You’ve earned your boundaries. You’ve earned your peace. And none of those require being liked.

They only require being yourself.

CAROLYN BONNER

Continued from page 8

certain he was never forgotten. As her parents grew older, she faithfully managed their household needs and made sure everything was taken care of as needed. She carried many responsibilities with grace, asking for little in return. Serving others wasn’t just something Carolyn did, it was simply who she was.

Outside of work and ministry, Carolyn found joy in life’s simple blessings. She loved shopping, cooking meals that gathered family around the table, listening to music, traveling, and creating memories with those she loved most. Her home was a place of warmth, laughter, and welcome. Her gentle spirit left a lasting impression on everyone who crossed her path.

One of Carolyn’s greatest joys in life was being the mother of her only child, Anthony. She celebrated his accomplishments, stood beside him through every season, and found immeasurable happiness in the man he became. Her greatest legacy lives on in the love, faith, and values she instilled in her beloved son.

In March 2021, her life changed dramatically when she sustained life-altering injuries in an accident. Although the years that followed brought significant physical challenges, they also revealed the depth of her courage, resilience, and unwavering faith. Through every obstacle, she faced each day with quiet strength and determination, surrounded by the steadfast love of her husband, family, devoted caregivers, faithful friends, and countless prayers. Even during her most difficult days, Carolyn’s gentle spirit, gracious heart, and enduring faith continued to inspire everyone blessed to know her.

Carolyn leaves to cherish her precious memory, her devoted husband: Altoris Bonner of the home; her beloved son: Anthony (Chanel) Seberry, Sr. of Raleigh, NC; her sisters: Shirley (Bernard) Graves of Riverdale, GA., Doris Utley of Raleigh, NC and Pamela Troublefield of Apex, NC; her cherished grand-children: Anthony Seberry, Jr., Kamren Seberry, Destyni Seberry, and Timaia Robinson; her treasured great-grandson: Kason Tru Seberry, and a host of extended family members, dear friends, church family, and former colleagues whose lives were enriched by her love.

Classifieds

WANTED WBE, MBE & DBE BIDS

for the following job:

Town of Holly Springs

North Main Athletic Complex Parking Lot Rehabilitation (NMAC)

Contract: 26-001 Wake Co. Bid Date: July 22nd

These projects may involve some or all of the following aspects of construction: construction survey, clear and grub, trucking, drainage, milling, paving, incidental concrete, fence and guardrail, signs, structures, traffic control, utilities, signals, pavement marking, erosion control and seeding. Bids can be emailed to stwuotes@stwcorg.com

Please contact S. T. Wooten at 252-291-5165, Fax 252-243-0900 no later than 5:00 p.m. the day before the bid date.

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 **Beaufort Stormwater Drainage Improvements – Contract No. 3** project for the **Town of Beaufort** which bids on **July 23, 2026, at 2:00 PM**. Plans and specifications for this project are available at the following locations: T. A. Loving Company; 400 Patetown Road; Goldsboro, NC 27530 * Town of Beaufort; 701 Front Street; Beaufort, NC 28516 * Rivers and Associates, Inc.; 107 East Second Street; Greenville, NC 27858 * ConstructConnect website.

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

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

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Town of Whitakers

P.O. Box 727

Whitakers, NC 28791

PROPOSALS will be received for a single prime contract. PROPOSALS shall be on a unit price basis, with alternate bid items as indicated in the PROPOSAL FORM.

Separate sealed BIDS for the construction of Water System Improvements Contract No. 1 -Automatic Meter Reading will be received by the ENGINEER at McDavid Associates, Inc, 3714 North Main St., FARMVILLE, NC 27828 until 2:00 PM, August 17, 2026, and then at said office publicly opened and read aloud.

The CONTRACT DOCUMENTS may be examined at the following locations:

Whitakers Town Hall, 302 NW Railroad Street, Whitakers, NC 28791

McDavid Associates, Inc., 3714 North Main Street, P.O.

Drawer 49, Farmville, NC 27828

Physical copies of the CONTRACT DOCUMENTS may be obtained at the office of McDavid Associates, Inc. located at 3714 North Main Street, Farmville, NC 27828 upon a non-refundable payment of \$100.00 for each set.

The OWNER reserves the right to reject any and all PROPOSALS.

PROPOSER shall be properly licensed under Chapter 87, General Statutes of North Carolina.

Small, minority, women’s, and disadvantaged businesses and labor surplus area firms are encouraged to submit PROPOSALS.

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

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

Prospective PROPOSERS who have been found guilty of discrimination within the last two (2) years are debarred from submitting a proposal.

July 15, 2026

Sammy Hopkins
Mayor

Town of Whitakers

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

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Town of Littleton

P.O. Box 87

Littleton NC 27850

The REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) procedure shall be evaluated and administered through the “Information Technology - Best Value” procurement under North Carolina General Statute 143-129.8. The referenced procurement shall be utilized to enable the OWNER to effectively select the most appropriate Automated Metering Solution to meet their business and future operational objectives. The procurement allows the OWNER to evaluate PROPOSALS based on the complexity and ingenuity of the technology solutions available.

Town of Littleton is accepting PROPOSALS for the unit price items and technical services for the installation of an Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) System.

The AMI System shall encompass a truly fixed metering solution that includes but not limited to the following components: water meters capable of storing multiple readings each day and periodically transmit readings; meter transceiver unit (MTU); gateway units; integration of Host Software to OWNER’s computer network/server; transfer data to OWNER’s billing system; handheld device; and any other equipment and services required for a complete and operable system.

Separate sealed PROPOSALS for the construction of 2026 WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS CONTRACT NO. 20 -Advanced Metering Infrastructure will be received by the ENGINEER at Town of Littleton, 112 East South Main Street, Littleton, NC 27850 until 2:00 PM Eastern Standard Time, August 18, 2026, and then at said office publicly opened and read aloud.

The CONTRACT DOCUMENTS may be examined at the following locations:

Town of Littleton, 112 East South Main Street, Littleton, NC 27850

McDavid Associates, Inc., 109 East Walnut Street, Goldsboro, NC 27530

Carolinas AGC, % Duncan Parnell, 201 Glenwood Avenue, Raleigh, NC 27603 (view online at www.lbuild@carolinasagc.com)

McGraw-Hill Construction, 4300 Beltway Place, Suite 180, Arlington, TX 76018 (View online at www.construction.com)

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

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

Copies of the CONTRACT DOCUMENTS may be obtained at the office of McDavid Associates, Inc. located at 109 East Walnut Street, Goldsboro, NC 27530 upon a non-refundable payment of \$200.00 for each set.

The OWNER reserves the right to reject any and all PROPOSALS, waive all technicalities, and accept the PROPOSAL most advantageous. The OWNER shall select which PROPOSAL is most advantageous based upon criteria established by this CONTRACT DOCUMENT.

PROPOSER shall be properly licensed under Chapter 87, General Statutes ofNorth Carolina.

Small, minority, women’s, and disadvantaged businesses and labor surplus area firms are encouraged to submit PROPOSALS.

This PROJECT is subject to the good faith efforts and goals for participation by minority businesses required by G.S. 143-128.2. The OWNER has adopted a verifiable ten percent (1 0%) goal for participation by minority businesses in the total value of the WORK.

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

Prospective PROPOSERS who have been found guilty of discrimination within the last two (2) years are debarred from submitting a proposal.

A pre-proposal conference will be held at 10:00 am on July 30, 2026 in Town of Littleton, 112 East South Main Street, Littleton, NC 27850. OWNER representatives and ENGINEER shall be present to discuss the PROJECT. Prospective PROPOSERS are encouraged to attend this pre-proposal conference as part of their good faith efforts in accordance with G.S. 143-128.2.

July 21, 2026

Heidi Hogan
Mayor

Town of Littleton



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
Having qualified as Executor for the Estate of the late CATHERINE M. REYNOLDS 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, in writing, to the undersigned at c/o Anne J. Randall, Kohut, Adams & Randall, P.A., P.O. Box 269, Wilmington, North Carolina 28402, on or before the 16th 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 settlement with the undersigned.
This the 16th day of July, 2026.
Elizabeth Christina Reynolds, Executor of the Estate of Catherine M. Reynolds
Anne J. Randall
Kohut, Adams & Randall, P.A.
513 Market Street
Wilmington, NC 28401
PO Box 269
Wilmington, NC 28402
7/16, 7/23, 7/30, and 8/6/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File No.: 26E000288-310
THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 11th day of March, 2026, as Administrator of the Estate of CAROLYN MCCOY, 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 16th 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 16th day of July, 2026.
Ronald McCoy, Administrator
518 Cecil St.
Durham, NC 27707
7/16, 7/23, 7/30, and 8/6/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File No.: 26E000799-310
THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 2nd day of July, 2026, as Administrator of the Estate of WILMER L. JOHNSON, JR., 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 16th 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 16th day of July, 2026.
Ni-Keya Sharee Wright
Administrator
1309 Shiley Dr.
Durham, NC 27704
7/16, 7/23, 7/30, and 8/6/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

DURHAM COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
ALL PERSONS, firms, and corporations having claims against JACQUELINE LEE CROSS, deceased, of Durham County, N.C., are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before October 16, 2026, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 16th of July, 2026. Miosha Lavette Cross, Administrator of the Estate of Jacqueline Lee Cross, c/o Amanda Honea, Attorney, 1255 Crescent Green, Suite 200, Cary, NC 27518.
7/16, 7/23, 7/30, and 8/6/2026
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.
This, the 9th day of July, 2026.
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 WADELL, 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

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
In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File No.: 26E000248-670
THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 2nd day of July, 2026, as Executor of the Estate of FRANCES HELMS LOWDER, Deceased, of Orange 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 16th 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 16th day of July, 2026.
Lori L. Hoopes, Executor
c/o Averett Family Law
101 Conner Drive, Suite 402
Chapel Hill, NC 27514
7/16, 7/23, 7/30, and 8/6/2026
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 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 Orotlano
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 Armendáriz, Esq.
Attorney for Plaintiff
Armendáriz Law Office, PLLC
6110 Lake Wheeler Road

ORANGE COUNTY

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.: 26E001966-910

THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 30th day of June, 2026, as Executor of the Estate of GERALD HUBERT KNOTT, 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 16th 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 16th day of July, 2026.
George Andrew Knott, Executor
308 Ortega Rd.
Raleigh, NC 27609
7/16, 7/23, 7/30, and 8/6/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
WAKE COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File No.: 26E000271-910

THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 23rd day of March, 2026, as Administrator of the Estate of LYNNETTE MOORE, 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 16th 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 16th day of July, 2026.
Shannon Whitney, Administrator
4902 Little Bud Lane
Raleigh, NC 27610
7/16, 7/23, 7/30, and 8/6/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
WAKE COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File No.: 25E003336-910
THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 11th day of May, 2026, as Administrator of the Estate of DONALD RAY HUGHES, 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 16th 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 16th day of July, 2026.
Destinee Angelica Hughes
Administrator
12 Gardenia Drive
Savannah, GA 31407
7/16, 7/23, 7/30, and 8/6/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
WAKE COUNTY

NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION
In The General Court Of Justice
District Court Division
File No. 26CV012659-910
MARCUS SINGLETON, Plaintiff, v. LATOYA SINGLETON, Defendant.
TO: LATOYA SINGLETON
TAKE NOTICE that a pleading seeking relief against you has been filed in the above-entitled

action. The nature of the relief being sought is Absolute Divorce.
You are required to make defense to such pleading not later than forty (40) days after the first date of publication of this notice. Upon your failure to do so, the Plaintiff will apply to the Court for the relief sought.
This the 16th day of July, 2026.
Marcus Singleton
200 W. Davie Street
Raleigh, NC 27601
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. 26CV006916-910
KIERA ROGERS, Plaintiff v. MARGO JACKSON and UNKNOWN FATHER, Defendants.
TO: MARGO JACKSON AND THE UNKNOWN FATHER OF KENDRA JACKSON
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 permanent custody of the minor child, Kendra Jackson. Plaintiff seeks an award of permanent custody and such other relief as the Court deems just and proper.

You are required to make defense to such pleading no later than forty (40) days after the first publication of this notice. Upon your failure to do so, the Plaintiff will apply to the Court for the relief sought.
This the 16th day of July, 2026.

Kiera Rogers
800 Tree Green Lane
Wake Forest, NC 27587
7/16, 7/23, and 7/30/2026
NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION:
NORTH CAROLINA, WAKE COUNTY. In the General Court of Justice, District Court Division, File#26SP000437-910 [Adoption Proceeding]

TO: UNKNOWN FATHER. TAKE NOTICE that a Petition for Adoption was filed on 2/24/26, with the Clerk of Superior Court for Wake County, Raleigh, NC, in the above-referenced special proceeding. The Petition relates to a male child, C.L.B., conceived in or about November 2017 and born to Carrie Lynn Branham on 8/30/2018, in Raleigh, NC. You are required to make defense to such pleading with the Wake County Clerk of Court no later than 8/25/26, which is 40 days from the first publication of this notice to participate in and receive further notice of this proceeding. IN THE EVENT YOU FAIL TO RESPOND, THE CLERK OF SUPERIOR COURT WILL ENTER AN ORDER ALLOWING THE ADOPTION TO PROCEED WITHOUT YOUR CONSENT. Any parental rights that you may have will be terminated upon the entry of the decree of adoption. This, the 16th day of July, 2026. Ashley Treible, Attorney for Petitioners, P.O. Box 58058, Raleigh, NC, 27658, 919-794-7511, ext. 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. 25CVD007590-910
JAMES STREET, III, Plaintiff, v. STACI BYRD, Defendant.
TO: STACI BYRD
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 permanent custody of the minor child.
You are required to make defense to such pleading not later than forty (40) days after the first date of publication of this notice. Upon your failure to do so, the Plaintiff will apply to the Court for the relief sought.
This the 16th day of July, 2026.
James Street III, Plaintiff
623 Pony Club Circle
Cary, NC 27519
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. 26CVD006758-910
VONDA M. KITTRELL, Plaintiff v. SHAWN M. SKETERS, Defendant
TO: SHAWN M. SKETERS
TAKE NOTICE that a pleading seeking relief against you has been filed in the above-entitled action. The nature of the relief being sought is an Absolute Divorce.
You are required to make defense to such pleading not later than forty (40) days after the first date of publication of this notice, and upon your failure to do so, the Plaintiff will apply to the Court for the relief sought.
This the 16th day of July, 2026.
Vonda M. Kittrell, Plaintiff
3121 Marclony Way

Raleigh, NC 27610
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. 26CV009055-910
YOLANDA M. JACKSON, Plaintiff v. BEYONCA L. JACKSON and UNKNOWN FATHER, Defendants
TO: BEYONCA L. JACKSON AND THE UNKNOWN FATHER OF BRAYLON NASIR JACKSON
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 custody of the minor child, Braylon Nasir Jackson. The Plaintiff seeks temporary and permanent custody of the minor child.
You are required to make defense to such pleading not later than forty (40) days after the first date of publication of this notice. Upon your failure to do so, the Plaintiff will apply to the Court for the relief sought.
This the 16th day of July, 2026.
Yolanda M. Jackson, Plaintiff
1912 Wellington Ridge Loop
Cary, NC 27519
(919) 530-7933
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. 26CV004395-910
MARINE FEDERAL CREDIT UNION, Plaintiff, v. NICHOLAS Z. PHILLIPS and JEANNETTE L. NTONI, Defendants.

TO: JEANNETTE L. NTONI
Take notice that a pleading seeking relief against you has been filed in the above-entitled action.
The nature of the relief being sought is as follows: Money owed, which is more completely described in the Complaint for Wake County File Number 26CV004395-910, to collect the money owed.

You are required to make a defense to such pleading no later than August 24, 2026, which is forty (40) days from the first date of publication. Upon your failure to do so, the party seeking service against you will apply to the Court for the relief sought.
This the 16th day of July, 2026.
MEWBORN & DESELMs, ATTORNEYS AT LAW
By: Brett J. DeSelms
Michael Tuton
Attorneys for Plaintiff
829 Gum Branch Road, Suite C
Jacksonville, NC 28540
Telephone: (910) 455-9755
Publication Dates: July 16, July 23, and July 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. 26CV012733-910
CALETHEA VINSON, Plaintiff v. GENEVA MIZELLE and UNKNOWN FATHER, Defendants
TO: GENEVA MIZELLE AND THE UNKNOWN FATHER OF THE MINOR CHILD
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 custody of the minor child.

You are required to make defense to such pleading not later than forty (40) days after the first date of publication of this notice. Upon your failure to do so, the Plaintiff will apply to the Court for the relief sought.
This the 16th day of July, 2026.
Calethea Vinson, Plaintiff
3200 Stream Side Rd.
Raleigh, NC 27613
7/16, 7/23, and 7/30/2026
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:
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 custody of the minor child.

You are required to make defense to such pleading not later than forty (40) days after the first date of publication of this notice. Upon your failure to do so, the Plaintiff will apply to the Court for the relief sought.
This the 9th day of July, 2026.
Kiera Rogers, Plaintiff
800 Tree Green Lane
Wake Forest, NC 27587
7/9, 7/16, and 7/23/2026
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF RICHLAND
IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS
FIFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
Docket No.: 2026-CP-40-03480
Dawn P. Denton, Plaintiff, vs.
Gina V. Cox and Clayton K. Jones, Defendants.
NOTICE OF FILING FOR PUBLICATION

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANT, GINA V. COX:
YOU WILL PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT the original Summons and Complaint in the above-entitled action were filed in the Office of the Clerk of Court for Richland County, South Carolina, for such relief as set forth in the Complaint.

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

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File No.: 25E004887-910
THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 9th day of June, 2026, as Executor of the Estate of RANA KHURSHID, Deceased, of WAKE County, North Carolina, does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said Estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 25th day of September, 2026, or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said Estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This, the 25th day of June, 2026.
Salman Rizwan, Executor
c/o Richard F. Prentis, Jr.
4 Consultant Pl.
Durham, NC 27707
6/25, 7/2, 7/9, and 7/16/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
WAKE COUNTY
NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION
In The General Court Of Justice
District Court Division
File No. 26CVD006758-910
VENDA M. KITTRELL, Plaintiff v. SHAWN M. SKETTERS, Defendant
TO: SHAWN M. SKETTERS
TAKE NOTICE that a pleading seeking relief against you has been filed in the above-entitled action. The nature of the relief being sought is an Absolute Divorce.

You are required to make defense to such pleading not later than forty (40) days after the first date of publication of this notice, and upon your failure to do so, the Plaintiff will apply to the Court for the relief sought.
This the 25th day of June, 2026.
Venda M. Kittrell, Plaintiff
3121 Marclony Way
Raleigh, NC 27610
6/25, 7/2, 7/9, and 7/16/2026

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 16, 2026 and July 23, 2026

Classifieds

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

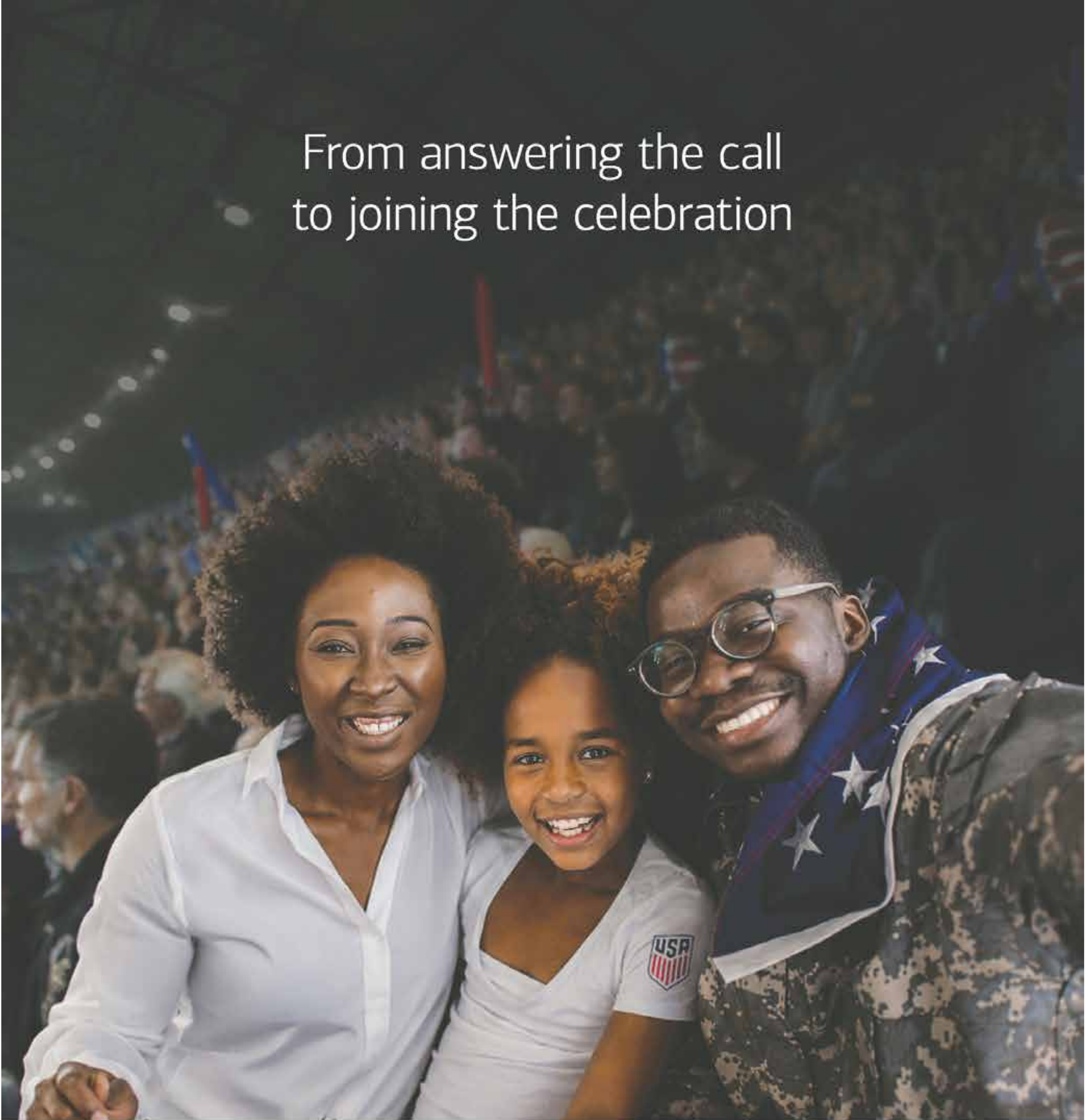
- Greet and assist clients, visitors, and vendors in a courteous and professional manner.
- Answer, screen, and direct incoming phone calls.
- Schedule appointments and maintain office calendars.
- Process incoming and outgoing mail, email, and deliveries.
- Maintain filing systems and organize office 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.





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Tickets provided through Veteran Tickets Foundation (Vet Tix), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit. Availability is limited and subject to eligibility, registration, verification and Vet Tix/1st Tix terms. Bank of America is a promotional sponsor of FIFA World Cup 2026™. Ticket figures are based on Bank of America's June 3, 2026 announcement; military hiring figures are based on its September 17, 2025 announcement. Image is illustrative and has been digitally enhanced using artificial intelligence. Equal employment opportunity for persons with disabilities and veterans. ©2026 Bank of America Corporation. All rights reserved.