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Dedicated to the Spirit
and Service of God

The Carolinian

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In France, a skinny man died of a big disease
with a little name
By chance, his girlfriend came across a
needle and soon she did the same
At home, there are seventeen-year-old boys
and their idea of fun
Is being in a gang called The Disciples, high
on crack, totin' a machine gun
Time
Times

Hurricane Annie ripped the ceiling off a
church and killed everyone inside
You turn on the telly and every other story is
tellin' you somebody died
Sister killed her baby 'cause she couldn't
afford to feed it
And we're sending people to the moon
In September, my cousin tried reefer for the
very first time
Now he's doing horse—it's June
Times
Time

Raleigh Police Investigate Downtown Death as Suicide



RALEIGH, N.C. — Raleigh police continued investigating the death of a 32-year-old Black man found in a downtown parking lot Saturday, as the public nature of the incident prompted concern, questions and calls for transparency from community advocates.

Police Chief Rico Boyce said Monday that investigators were treating the death as a suicide. According to Boyce, surveillance footage collected from nearby businesses helped investigators determine what occurred.

Boyce also shared information with the permission of the man's mother, who told authorities that her son had previously struggled with mental health issues. Police said the family has been particularly distressed by speculation and unverified information circulating on social media.

"She is thankful that the Raleigh Police Department provided facts," Boyce said. "She is appreciative we have answered her questions."

A small memorial was established at the location as community members mourned the man's death. Local advocates have also called for a careful investigation and discussed organizing a vigil.

"We're trying to organize that," said Diana Powell, executive director of Justice Served NC. "We're just trying to be patient."

Raleigh Mayor Janet Cowell expressed condolences to the family, while advocates said the death also highlights broader concerns about ensuring people experiencing mental health crises have access to support.

Police continued to urge caution around unsupported claims as the investigation moved forward, emphasizing the additional pain misinformation can cause grieving families.

Music Carries Past Lessons Forward

For generations we have used music for more than entertainment. Music has been a historical record, a form of communication, a source of spiritual strength and, at times, a direct challenge to injustice.

Long before protest signs, social media and television cameras, there were songs.

Enslaved Africans and their descendants created spirituals that expressed feelings of suffering, faith, hope and the longing for freedom. Songs such as "Wade in the Water" and "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot" carried meanings that reached beyond the church. Some spirituals became associated with the desire for free-

dom and escape, while others gave people a way to express emotions that could not safely be spoken.

Music became a way to preserve history when history itself was being denied.

As generations passed, the musical tradition evolved. Spirituals gave way to gospel, blues, jazz, rhythm and blues, soul, funk and hip-hop. The sounds changed, but one element that remained remarkably consistent was that our music spoke to our struggle.

Songs did something speeches alone could not always accomplish. They allowed hundreds or thousands of people to become one voice.

As the civil rights era gave way to the Black Power movement, music became more confrontational. Artists such as Nina Simone used their music to address racial violence and political injustice. Jazz musicians such as John Coltrane created works that reflected the pain and anger of the era. Soul musicians turned social consciousness into popular music, while artists such as James Brown connected music with Black pride and self-determination.

The message was changing, but the purpose remained familiar. Music was telling America what many Black people had been saying for generations: We are here. We have

suffered. We have survived. And we demand to be heard.

The tradition continued into hip-hop. Beginning in the late 1970s and exploding nationally during the 1980s and 1990s, hip-hop provided a new generation with a microphone for discussing poverty, racism, police brutality, political power and life in America's urban communities.

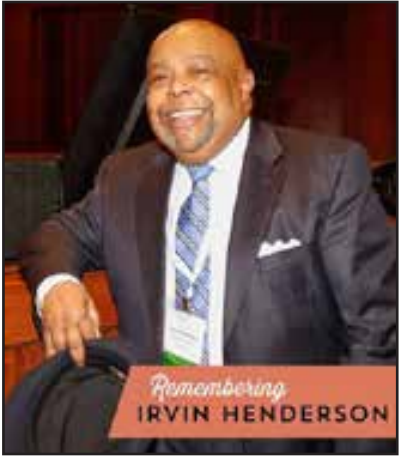
Public Enemy's "Fight the Power" became a defining political anthem. N.W.A.'s "F— tha Police" confronted police abuse and racial profiling. Later, Kendrick Lamar's "Alright" became associated with demonstra-

(See **MUSIC HISTORY**, P. 2)

Honoring The Life Of Irvin Henderson

By Kristin Kitchen

Special To The Carolinian



As a passionate preservationist, Irvin Henderson made the business of saving historic structures, and preserving communities, his life's work. For those of us fortunate enough to have known him, he was a teacher, mentor, historian and a quiet force to be reckoned with when championing a project he believed in. We felt better when he was on our team. You knew that "things were going to be alright" when he walked into a room. But he spoke, we all knew that the knowledge he was going to share was going to be just what was needed to get the job done.

As the owner of Sojourn Heritage, a Hospitality brand focused on African American History and culture, I knew I could count on Irvin. He was always available to help me save historic structures. We worked to prevent those that were once part of the "Green Book" from being torn down. Additionally, he gave us the tools necessary to start the process for preservation. Not just how to get things on the National list of Historic Places, but what to do once the

designation was awarded, and how to use the award to restore the property. With patience and kindness, he always took my phone calls. He met with members of historical boards and individuals across various communities who needed guidance on exactly how to get things done. Even when he would fuss at me about the calls for the "last minute saves" as he called them, when a property was at risk of demolition, I knew that he was going to help me. I knew his passion for the history was always



greater than his frustration with my timing. Never once, did he let me, or the others who were on the call, down. With his presence needed on so many city, state and national projects, he still took the calls from individuals to help us do our part.

Irvin was a founding board member of Mainstreet America. I remember one day, during one of their quarterly conferences, I finally had the opportunity to host him at my hotel. Irvin Henderson was coming to the

Dunns-Josephine in Miami, a historic site that celebrates the Harlem Renaissance and Miami's Jim Crow history in Historic Overtown. As his student, I was so delighted to be able to show him the work that he contributed to! With a warm smile and his big hug, he let me know that he was proud of me and for that, I will always be grateful.

As Vice chair of NCRC board, Irvin worked with countless communities

(See **IRVIN HENDERSON**, P. 2)

As Durham Develops, Hayti's Black History Faces Preservation Challenges

By Judaea Ingram

Special To The Carolinian



DURHAM, N.C. — For generations, Hayti was a place where Durham's Black community built a life of its own. Black-owned businesses lined its streets. Churches and schools served residents. Entrepreneurs created institutions that provided jobs and financial services. The neighborhood became one of the most prominent centers of Black business and culture in the country. Today, much of that community looks different.

More than half a century after urban renewal and the construction of the Durham Freeway destroyed large portions of Hayti, residents and community organizations are still working to preserve what remains of its history while making sure the neighborhood has a future.

The question is no longer simply how to remember Hayti, it is how to make sure its Black history remains part of Durham as the city continues to develop.

Hayti emerged in the late 19th century as Durham's Black population grew. The neighborhood became a center for Black economic and cultural life, eventually developing into a thriving community with businesses, churches, schools, a hotel, theater and other institu-

tions. The area was also closely connected to Durham's historic Black Wall Street, where Black entrepreneurs established businesses and financial institutions during a

period when segregation restricted opportunities for Black residents.

Hayti's success made it an important example of Black self-sufficiency. But that community was

dramatically disrupted in the 1960s.

Urban renewal projects and the construction of the Durham Freeway displaced residents and businesses and destroyed large portions of the historic neighborhood. The transformation permanently changed Hayti's physical landscape and separated parts of the community that had developed over generations.

The effects of that history are still visible today.

The Hayti Heritage Center, housed in the former St. Joseph's AME Church, remains one of the most recognizable reminders of the neighborhood's past. The center continues to serve as a cultural institution, hosting programs and events that celebrate Black history, art and culture. But preservation is increasingly about more than protecting historic buildings. It is also about protecting the community's connection to the neighborhood.

As Durham grows, development has brought new investment into areas that were historically home to Black residents and businesses. That growth has created opportunities while also raising concerns about affordability, displacement and whether longtime residents will be able to remain connected to this

(See **DURHAM'S HAYTI**, P. 2)



DATA CENTER PROJECT IN SOUTHEAST RALEIGH WITHDRAWN BEFORE CITY COUNCIL VOTE

By Jordan Meadows

Staff Writer

A proposed 100,000-square-foot data center in southeast Raleigh will not go before the City Council after all, after the project's developer withdrew its annexation application over the weekend, city leaders confirmed.

The project, known in city annexation filings as Radius DC Raleigh I, sought to annex roughly 13.65 acres at 3101 Jones Sausage Road into the city so it could connect to Raleigh's water and sewer systems, clearing the way for a data center estimated at \$180 million once built out.

The site sits directly across from the Parrish Meadows residential neighborhood in the Garner area of southeast Raleigh, and had been earmarked for a smaller industrial building under a previous proposal from Stephens Center Inc. before the data center plan emerged.

More than 100 people had signed up to speak against the project at Tuesday's City Council meeting, and critics said the proposal bypassed the city's Planning Commission and skipped a neighborhood meeting they considered a critical step in the review process. Everyone who had signed up to speak has since been notified the item is off Tuesday's Aug. 18 agenda, according to the city.

Mayor Janet Cowell confirmed the withdrawal, which came Saturday, days ahead of the scheduled vote.

Charlotte-based Beacon Partners, which had developed a substantial industrial footprint along the Jones Sausage Road corridor and was widely identified with the project, said in a statement that it sold the parcel under contract back in November 2025 and is "not involved in the prospective project in any capacity," adding that it was aware the purchaser had withdrawn its annexation application.

The property is held by an entity called B3-SFRE JSR LLC; the Radius DC Raleigh I name in the annexation filing points to RadiusDC, a U.S. edge data center operator, as the developer actually behind the project. Beacon has not otherwise commented.

Raleigh has not adopted a moratorium on data center development, unlike several nearby jurisdictions; Orange and Chatham counties have paused new data center approvals in some form. North Carolina is now home to nearly 100 data center facilities statewide, anchored by large hyperscale operations including Apple's campus in Maiden, Google's in Lenoir and Meta's in Forest City, along with newer projects from Amazon in Richmond County and Microsoft in Person County.

The debate over the Jones Sausage Road site echoes a broader national reckoning over data center growth near residential areas; in Loudoun County, Virginia—home to more than 250 operational data centers and an estimated 70% of the world's daily internet traffic—county leaders took their first step toward pausing new data center development within the past month.

AMID HURRICANE HELENE RECOVERY, NC TOURISM SPENDING CHARTS VARIABLE GROWTH

RALEIGH, N.C.—Visitor spending increased for 59 of North Carolina's 100 counties in 2025, according to data released Wednesday by the N.C. Department of Commerce. The preliminary findings from an annual study commissioned by Visit NC, a unit of the Economic Development Partnership of North Carolina, reflect the economic impact of tourism on local economies across the state.

Ten of the state's 11 regions experienced growth in visitor spending. In the three mountain regions, the numbers reflect continued resiliency in the aftermath of Hurricane Helene. The Smoky Mountains & Cherokee region, which sustained the least damage, saw the largest boost at 4.3%, driven largely by increases in Cherokee (+14%) and Macon (+11%) counties. With 2.5% growth in visitor spending, the High Country region charted a solid rebound, led by Yancey (+6%) and Ashe (+4%) counties. While Asheville & the Foothills region saw a 0.7% decline overall, notable growth was recorded in Caldwell (+7%), Burke (+6%) and Cleveland (+5%) counties.

(See **NC TOURISM FOLLOWING HELENE**, P. 2)

NC TOURISM FOLLOWING HELENE

Continued from page 1

“From the mountains to the coast, the findings underscore North Carolina’s enduring appeal to travelers,” said N.C. Commerce Secretary Lee Lilley. “They also speak to the resilience that has fueled the mountain recovery, and we can celebrate the strength of our tourism industry, which generated \$37.2 billion in visitor spending last year.”

The findings also reinforce the goals of North Carolina’s First in Opportunity Strategic Economic Development Plan, which recognizes vibrant communities and quality-of-place investments as key drivers of long-term economic competitiveness and regional prosperity. Tourism is an important contributor to those goals, supporting jobs, small businesses and local economies across North Carolina.

The visitor spending study, commissioned by Visit NC and conducted by Tourism Economics, provides preliminary estimates of domestic and international traveler expenditures as well as employment, payroll income, and state and local tax revenues directly generated by these expenditures. The statistical model draws on detailed data from Visit NC as well as data derived from federal and state government sources, nationally known private and non-profit travel organizations, and other travel industry sources.

MUSIC HISTORY

Continued from page 1

tions against racial injustice and the Black Lives Matter movement.

Countless artists like Prince, Michael Jackson, Tupac, Marvin Gaye, Janet Jackson and Nas are only a handful of the artists that have cemented our history and struggles in song so that future generations have a playbook to reference.

Our music is not just music! Our music tells stories. It remembers people. It challenges injustice. It encourages and it reminds the next generation that they did not arrive at this moment by accident.

Sometimes history is written by a historian. Sometimes it is preserved by a photograph. And sometimes, it is carried forward by a song.

That may be one of music’s greatest powers. A song can cross generations in a way that a political speech cannot. A grandmother can teach it to a child. A church can sing it for decades. A protester can pick it up from a crowd. An artist can reinterpret it for a new generation. The words may change. The rhythm may change. The instruments may change. But the message can remain.

For Black people in America, the history of struggle has always had a soundtrack. As long as there are injustices to confront and stories that need to be remembered, there will likely be another song waiting to be written.

IRVIN HENDERSON

Continued from page 1

on preservation projects. So many people have shared stories of his contributions and the millions of dollars he helped secure to ensure those projects were completed.

One that stands out to me was from Vernice Miller-Travis, co-founder of We ACT for Environmental Justice:

“In 2012, Irv Henderson and I were part of a team pitching to the city of Raleigh, NC about how to redevelop and revitalize the historic John Chavis Memorial Park, initially created as the ‘Colored park’ serving only Black people in the 1930’s,”

“We were zipping through our presentation when Irv recounted how he had learned how to swim as a child in the pool at the park. But as he got older, he was unable to earn his Boy Scout Eagle Scout Badge because he needed to be able to swim the length of an Olympic-size swimming pool, and the only pool available to him did not meet that criteria. As I looked around the room at City of Raleigh Department of Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Resources staff, I could see as Irv was recounting his childhood experience with segregation that ran right through that very park, that that was when we won the bid. Today, John Chavis Memorial Park has been completely reimaged, redesigned and revitalized via a \$40 million capital investment by the City of Raleigh based upon the revised master plan that we created. It has also been added to the National Register of Historic Places. It is but one in a very long chain of examples of how Irv saw things others didn’t see, imagined what could be, and then went to work to make his vision a reality.”

But, in addition to his public projects, countless others like me share their stories of the guidance he gave them personally to help them save their own projects. Not for credit, not for praise, but because of a desire to help us all be better at saving history for the next generation.

We lost a giant in the preservation world. But his legacy lives on in all of us who he encouraged on a daily basis to keep fighting and keep pushing.

“Irvin, you have planted the seeds and given us the tools to keep your garden growing. We honor you. You are our Ancestor now and we understand the assignment.”

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Former Missile Plant Gets Toxic Cleanup



WUNC - Rows of low-lying brick buildings and corrugated tin bungalows crowd a 32-acre property in east Burlington. Photos from the 1990s reveal a silver water tower and pristine pipes glowing white in the sun. Now, these structures are rust-red.

This is the former Tarheel Army Missile Plant, or TAMP. A vestigial organ of Cold War-era military manufacturing, it has changed hands several times since the Department of Defense auctioned it off to a private buyer in the early 2000s. For the past three decades, the U.S. Army Environmental Command and the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality (NCDEQ) have investigated and worked to address chemical contamination on the property.

This decades-long timeline may make their restoration endeavor look like a failure. But according to Sue Murphy, an NCDEQ engineer, in comparison to other projects, TAMP has been a resounding success. "There are over 3,300 contaminated sites in this state of North Carolina, and a lot of them are way worse than this," she said.

Murphy manages the NCDEQ’s restoration of sites – including TAMP – across the state. She says one explanation for the relative success of TAMP’s cleanup is culpability. There was a clear responsible party: Military operations caused the contamination, so the Army Environmental Command was sent to clean it up.

But for many other sites, culpability isn’t so obvious. In those cases, responsibility falls on the state. In North Carolina, the Department of Environmental Quality’s Inactive Hazardous Sites program oversees more than 3,300 contaminated properties. But the state has limited money to investigate and clean them up. Murphy said the program’s budget had recently been doubled to \$800,000 a year, an increase that still amounts to only a fraction of what the state would need to address the backlog.

"The budget for 3,300 sites has been doubled to \$800,000 a year, which might cover sampling and assessment of one moderately contaminated site," Murphy said. The money available for that work comes from a federal program designed to support state oversight.

The Defense and State Memorandum of Agreement (DSMOA) program reimburses states for regulatory oversight on Department of Defense (DoD) properties. On Aug. 4, the Department of the Army abruptly suspended all reimbursement activities under the program, telling states

to cease work covered by the agreement. Ten days later, on Aug. 14, the Army restored the funding. No explanation was provided for the suspension or its reversal.

For NCDEQ, the episode illustrated how quickly the resources available for environmental cleanup can change.

Army Environmental Command officials affiliated with TAMP said they were not aware of the funding changes, and the Department of the Army representative did not respond to requests for comment about the suspension.

The brief suspension did not eliminate the larger funding problem facing North Carolina’s contaminated-site program. But it exposed another vulnerability: Even work that has already been planned can depend on funding decisions that can be reversed with little notice.

The DSMOA program is intended to help states carry out regulatory

work at military sites, including technical reviews, site visits, public participation and sampling. Nationally, states and territories receive more than \$40 million annually through the program.

For North Carolina, that money supports oversight at Army-affiliated sites across the state, including locations where contamination has raised concerns about PFAS and other chemicals, such as Fort Bragg and Cherry Point. At these sites, contaminants have leached into groundwater, putting residents of nearby communities at risk.

Remediation work continues at Tarheel facility in Burlington

At TAMP, the Army has the resources and authority to investigate contamination because the federal government is the responsible party. When contamination comes from an uncertain or disputed source, determining who has to act comes before rehabilitation.

As Summer Heat Waves Intensify, N.C. Advocates Push Farmworker Protections



NC NEWSLINE - When the heat index tops 105°F, as it has this week in central North Carolina, the National Weather Service issues a heat advisory. Meteorologists warn people to limit their time in the sun and advise that hot temperatures and high humidity may cause heat-related illness.

But for many workers, taking a break from summer’s extreme conditions is not an option. Andressia Ramirez, an advocacy and civic engagement manager at Casa Azul de Wilson, said farmworkers in North Carolina are expected to work long hours even in triple-digit conditions.

Ramirez was joined by a group of Latine agricultural workers at the state capitol Thursday to highlight the contributions of immigrant farmworkers and the workplace dangers they face.

Ramirez, who grew up in rural Wilson County, said she was recently visiting a farmworker camp when she noticed a young man sitting alone on a bucket underneath a tree. The man told Ramirez he had a fever. He should have been resting inside the mobile home, but the coolest place he could find on the 95-degree day was outdoors underneath a tree.

In North Carolina, farmworker housing is still not required to have air conditioning.

“This isn’t just about one young man. It is about the conditions we have allowed to become normal,” said Ramirez. The federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration offers guidelines for prevention of heat illness, but it has not yet implemented any specific heat standards for

workers apart from its general duty clause.

Seven states have enacted their own specific occupational heat safety standards designed to protect workers when temperatures become hazardous. North Carolina is not among those states. State lawmakers have said requiring farmers to follow heat safety rules would hurt them economically.

The National Institute for Oc-

Durham's Hayti—CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

community. Those concerns are part of the work being undertaken by Hayti Reborn, a coalition focused on community-led development, cultural preservation and preventing displacement in the historic neighborhood. The organization has advocated for development that reflects the needs and history of the people who have longstanding ties to Hayti.

This tension is familiar in historically Black neighborhoods through-

out North Carolina. Communities that were once created because Black residents were excluded from other parts of American cities are now located in areas experiencing significant redevelopment.

The same neighborhoods that provided Black families with opportunities to own homes, operate businesses and build institutions can become vulnerable to rising property values and development pressures.

For Hayti, preserving the neighborhood’s identity means recognizing that its history is not limited to the buildings that remain. It lives in the families who remember the neighborhood before the freeway divided it. It lives in the businesses and institutions that survived. It lives in churches, cultural organizations and community members who continue to tell the story of what Hayti once was.

It also lives in the people working to determine what Hayti will become. That makes preservation a question about the future as much as the past.

If development replaces the physical and cultural connections that made Hayti significant, the neighborhood could become a place that is remembered primarily through historical markers and museums rather than experienced as a living Black community.

But development does not necessarily have to mean erasure. Community advocates have pushed for an approach that allows investment while keeping residents involved in decisions about the neighborhood’s future. The challenge is finding a balance between economic growth and cultural preservation.

For Durham, that conversation carries particular weight because Hayti’s history demonstrates what can happen when decisions about a neighborhood are made without the people who live there.

Decades ago, development transformed Hayti with little regard for the community’s existing connections. Today, preservation advocates are asking for residents to have a greater voice in what comes next.

The neighborhood’s original landscape may never be completely restored, but its legacy continues through keeping its history visible.

As Durham continues to grow, the future of Hayti will depend not only on what the city builds, but on whether the people connected to the neighborhood have a role in deciding what that future looks like.

For a community that has already experienced the consequences of development without preservation, that question is more than historical. It is about who gets to remain part of Durham’s future



**NCDOT PUBLIC MEETING: BERYL ROAD
EXTENSION TO ROYAL STREET AND
CROSSING CLOSURE IN WAKE COUNTY**



STIP Project P-5736

RALEIGH - The public is invited to attend an informal, open house-style meeting hosted by the N.C. Department of Transportation to view and discuss maps and other information regarding the proposal to extend Beryl Road to Royal Street and close the existing rail crossing at Beryl Road.

The meeting will be held from **5 to 7 p.m. on Thursday, August 27, 2026**, at the **Method Community Center- Pioneer Building** located at **514 Method Road**. People may drop in at any time and ask questions and review project information. There will be no formal presentation.

The project would improve safety for motorists and increase rail transportation efficiency.

Project details, including maps of the proposal, can be found on the NCDOT project webpage <https://publicinput.com/beryl-road-extension>.

Interested parties may also submit comments by emailing beryl-road-extension@publicinput.com, calling 984-205-6615 and entering project code **10125**, or mailing to the address shown below by **September 27, 2026**.

By Mail: Emily Richards
Environmental Analysis Unit
1598 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699

NCDOT will provide auxiliary aids and services under the Americans with Disabilities Act for people who wish to participate in this workshop. Anyone needing accommodations should contact Emily Richards with the Environmental Analysis Unit at 1598 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1598; 919-707-6014; or edrichards1@ncdot.gov as early as possible so arrangements can be made.

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

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

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Business & Finance

Volunteering Pays By Helping Others, Building Portfolios

BLACKPRESSUSA NEWSWIRE — Volunteer work can be personally fulfilling and can even benefit your professional life. Learn about the perks of dedicating your time to helping others here.

Volunteer work can pay off for Black Americans by letting them experience personal fulfillment as they reach out, interact with, and help others in need. The charity work they engage in, whether it's leadership, mentorship, or organizational roles, can also help them build their professional portfolio.

All those positive impacts, combined with the potential health and wellness benefits of volunteering, can help explain why many Americans engage in charitable work.

Per the latest U.S. Census Bureau and AmeriCorps' biennial civic engagement survey, over 75.7 million Americans 16 years+ formally volunteered through an organization from September 2022 to September 2023. They dedicated 4.99 billion hours, which had an economic value of over \$167.2 billion.

What Are the Primary Types of Volunteer Work?

There are several primary types of volunteer work, usually categorized based on commitment structure and type of volunteer services rendered. Three of the most common categories



include: formal, informal, and skills-based volunteering.

Formal Volunteering

Formal volunteering involves partnering with a trustworthy, reputable, and licensed volunteer organization. It's a highly structured approach, requiring dedicated commitment from volunteers and their chosen charitable nonprofit organization.

Formal charity workers can engage in opportunities that involve volunteering overseas, interstate, or locally. They undergo training, adhere to specific guidelines, and usually work on scheduled shifts.

Informal Volunteering

Informal volunteer opportunities are casual, flexible, and unstructured acts of kindness. They present themselves outside of formal organizational structures, directly benefiting recipients. They can be sudden and random or scheduled.

Skills-Based Volunteering

Skills-based volunteering gives professionals the chance to leverage their specialized trade, expertise, or talents to help individuals or organizations. With their help, nonprofits can save money and use the funds to support more charitable work.

What Are Examples of Volunteer Work?

A popular and common example of volunteer work is a food bank. Volunteers here can play various roles, including: Cooks, Servers, Sorters, Inspectors, and Drivers.

Being a food bank volunteer is a type of formal volunteering. The food bank, in turn, is the nonprofit charitable organization that volunteers work with.

You can also find volunteer work in many other sectors, from childcare to healthcare, as noted by Involvement Volunteers International. Nonprofits also offer opportunities in community and education outreach programs.

As for informal volunteering, it can be something as simple yet impactful as running errands (e.g., mowing the lawn or picking up groceries) for a neighbor who's older or has an injury or disability. It can also involve organizing a neighborhood cleanup or checking in on home-bound community members.

Members of the Black community interested in sharing their expertise may explore skills-based volunteering, too. One example is providing pro-bono legal counsel. Another is offering medical services at a community clinic in an underserved neighborhood.

How Does Volunteer Work Pay Off

for Members of the Black Community?

An article published by the University of Maryland's Do Good Institute in April 2026 noted that America is home to 1.9 million nonprofits. It also cited data from a 2025 Urban Institute research, which stated that 75% of these organizations say volunteers are integral to their operations, with

23% even being completely dependent on volunteers.

All those figures underscore the value of volunteer work, which not only benefits the recipients of the charitable service but also those who provide it. Here's how volunteers from Black communities can reap the fruits of their philanthropic work.

America's Debt Nears \$40 Trillion, Bringing Cost Closer To Home

WASHINGTON — The United States is approaching a financial milestone that would have been difficult to imagine just a generation ago: \$40 trillion in national debt.

As of Aug. 14, the federal government owed about \$39.93 trillion, putting the national debt within striking distance of the \$40 trillion mark. The Treasury Department tracks the debt daily, and the total continues to rise as the federal government spends more than it collects in revenue.

The figure is difficult to comprehend. It is also larger than the nation's annual economic output.

Gross domestic product, or GDP, measures the value of goods and services produced in the U.S. in a year. Federal debt held by the public is projected to equal about 101% of GDP in 2026, according to the Congressional Budget Office. When looking at total national debt, including debt held by government accounts, the \$40 trillion figure is even larger relative to the economy.

The distinction matters because debt and GDP measure different things. The national debt is a stock — the accumulated amount the government owes. GDP is a flow — the amount of economic activity produced over a year. Saying the debt is larger than GDP does not mean the government has to immediately repay an amount equal to an entire year's economic output. But it is a sign of how large the federal government's borrowing has become relative to the economy that ultimately supports government revenue.

The problem is not simply the size of the debt. It is the growing cost of servicing it.

The federal government is expected to spend about \$1 trillion on net interest payments in fiscal 2026, according to the CBO. Those payments are projected to rise to \$2.1 trillion by 2036 if current laws generally remain in place.

That money does not build a road, provide a tax credit or fund a federal program. It largely represents payments to holders of Treasury securities for money the government previously borrowed.

Higher interest rates can make the problem worse. Investors have recently demanded higher yields to purchase longer-term U.S. government debt. The yield on the 30-year Treasury bond recently moved above 5%, while the 10-year yield approached levels not seen in years.

As older government debt matures, it must be refinanced. If the government has to refinance that debt at higher interest rates, its interest bill can increase even if no new spending is added.

That creates a potentially difficult cycle: larger deficits require more borrowing, more borrowing increases the debt, and higher interest rates make that debt more expensive to maintain.

What does it mean for everyday Americans?

The national debt can seem like a problem belonging to Washington and Wall Street. But its effects can reach household budgets.

One of the clearest connections is interest rates.

Treasury securities serve as an important benchmark for borrowing costs throughout the economy. When Treasury yields rise, other borrowing costs can rise as well. That can affect mortgages, auto loans, credit cards and business loans.

For a family trying to buy a home, even a modest increase in mortgage rates can add hundreds of dollars to a monthly payment. For someone financing a vehicle or carrying a balance on a credit card, higher rates can increase the amount ultimately paid for the same purchase.

Businesses face similar pressures. Higher borrowing costs can make it more expensive to build a factory, purchase equipment, expand operations or hire workers. Over time, those costs can influence investment, wages and employment.

The debt can also affect Americans indirectly through the federal budget.

Every dollar devoted to interest is a dollar that cannot be used elsewhere without additional borrowing or changes to taxes and spending. As interest costs consume a larger portion of the budget, lawmakers have fewer choices when responding to recessions, wars, natural disasters or other national emergencies.

The numbers are moving in the wrong direction

The CBO projects the federal budget deficit — the amount by which government spending exceeds revenue — will reach \$1.9 trillion in fiscal 2026. Under the agency's baseline, the annual deficit grows to \$3.1 trillion by 2036.

The nation's debt burden is projected to grow along with those deficits.

Federal debt held by the public is expected to rise from 101% of GDP in 2026 to 120% in 2036. CBO projects it could reach 175% of GDP by 2056 if current laws and economic assumptions broadly hold.

Those projections are not predictions that the United States will suddenly become unable to pay its bills. The U.S. dollar remains the world's dominant reserve currency, and Treasury securities remain among the most widely held financial assets in the global economy. But the numbers illustrate the long-term challenge: The government is borrowing at a pace that is difficult to sustain indefinitely without changes to spending, revenue, economic growth or some combination of the three.

The \$40 trillion milestone is unlikely to change anything for Americans the day it is reached. There will be no new tax appearing on a grocery receipt because the national debt crossed a round number. The consequences are more gradual.

They can appear as higher borrowing costs when a family buys a home. They can appear when a business decides an expansion is too expensive. They can appear in Washington as lawmakers face increasingly difficult choices over taxes, Social Security, Medicare, defense and other federal priorities. And they can become more significant when the next economic downturn arrives and the government has less fiscal room to respond.

America's debt problem, in other words, is not simply about a \$40 trillion number. It is about what the country must eventually give up, change or pay more for if borrowing continues to grow faster than the economy.

National Store Closures Update For 2026

By Natasha Etzel

Fast Company

Coresight Research has released its latest report on retail store openings and closings in the United States.

The midyear data from the market research firm covers activity through July 3, 2026, and suggests there will be fewer store openings and closures this year than in 2025—though closures are still numbering in the thousands and retailers are being more selective with their expansion efforts.

Coresight estimates that U.S. retail is on pace for as many as 8,228 store closures this year (the top end of the firm's projected range), down from the 9,197 recorded in 2025.

Coresight's data is based on a range of metrics, including announcements from retailers and its "store intelligence" tracking platform, which captures store counts at regular intervals.

In the first half of 2026, Coresight tracked 3,321 store closures, actual and planned—a 44.1% drop from the 5,941 tracked at the same point in 2025.

Retailers estimated to have the most closures this year include 7-Eleven, GameStop, Francesca's,



Eddie Bauer, and Walgreens.

As for store openings, 3,215 stores have been tracked so far, 23% fewer than 2025's midyear count of 4,176. Coresight estimates that U.S. retail is on pace for 4,482 store openings this year.

Dollar General has 442 openings planned, while Dollar Tree plans to open 381 stores, Coresight's data says.

Retailers like Burlington Stores and TJX Companies, the parent of TJ Maxx, are also expanding, illustrating demand for discounted branded clothing and accessories as

shoppers turn to off-price retailers.

As of midyear, apparel (clothing, footwear, and accessories) recorded 1,090 store closures, the highest number of recorded U.S. store closures by sector. That's a 9.1% increase from 999 closures in the comparable period last year.

Convenience stores had 675 closures, up 35.8% from 497 last year. Electronics retailers closed 475 stores. Together, these three sectors accounted for about 67.4% of all tracked closures.

Apparel closures are largely tied to bankruptcies and liquidations. Fran-

Shifting Landscape For Black-Owned Businesses: A Parity Dashboard Update

Each year, Brookings' Center for Community Uplift analyzes the changes in Black-owned employer businesses (businesses with at least one employee) in metro areas across the country. Tracking increases and decreases in the number of these Black employers offers a glimpse into the health of the overall economy.

From the first year of data, 2017, to the latest year, 2023, the number of Black-owned employer businesses grew by 62%, finally surpassing 200,000 total firms. In 2023, these businesses generated a cumulative \$249 billion in revenue, supplied over 1.8 million jobs, and paid \$69.8 billion in salaries. Even so, Black people represented just 3.4% of employer business owners while comprising 14.4% of the U.S. population.

Closing this gap between Black residents' representation in employer business ownership and their share of the population holds an opportunity for economic growth both at the community and national level. In the Black Business Parity Dashboard, we measure growth in local economic activity if the share of Black employers reached parity with the share of Black residents in a metro area. The Dashboard is a tool for policymakers and community members to see the businesses, jobs, revenue, and wages that could be gained in their city if leaders invested more in the expansion of Black businesses.

This report marks the second annual update to the Black Business Parity Dashboard, featuring our latest analysis of 2023 data from the U.S. Census Bureau's Annual Business Survey. Since 2022, 60 U.S. metro areas saw the gap between their share of Black employers and their Black population share (their "parity gap") shrink. For most metro areas, this move toward more equal representation was small (less than 1 percentage point), yet these shifts represent tangible change, including dozens or hundreds of businesses and jobs gained.

What's more, some of the highest



shares of Black employer representation were in Southern cities and towns with relatively larger Black populations. These metro areas provide major opportunities for state and regional economic growth. If the Black employer share in all of the Southern metro areas in our analysis reached parity with their Black population share, it would create over 2 million jobs, \$70 billion in additional payroll wages, and over \$263 billion in revenue—more than doubling the growth seen nationwide since 2017.

Metro areas have made progress toward parity for Black employers, but for most, there is still a gap

In 2023, there were a few notable changes to metro areas that were performing well in terms of Black employer representation. The first was Idaho Falls, Idaho, which was the only metro area in 2023 where the Black employer share newly reached or surpassed parity with the Black share of the population. In Idaho Falls, 57 Black-owned employer businesses accounted for 1.4% of all employer businesses, while Black residents accounted for 1.2% of the population. In the year prior, McAllen, Texas hit the same milestone, with 116 Black-owned employer businesses making

up 1% of all employer firms—equal to the Black share of the population.

Additionally, in 2023, Houston outpaced its neighbor Dallas, knocking it out of sixth place as the metro area with the largest total number of Black employers in the country. Houston gained 902 Black employer businesses from 2022 to 2023, largely spurred by strong overall business growth in the metro area. With this growth, the gap between the Black employer share (5.9%) and the Black population share (19.3%) in Houston shrank by 1 percentage point, and the metro area ranked in the top 25 for Black employer representation.

In 60 other metro areas (54% of the total analyzed), the parity gap shrank in 2023. It shrank the most in Columbia, S.C.; Springfield, Mo.; Burlington, N.C.; Flint, Mich.; Lakeland, Fla.; and Baton Rouge, La. From 2022 to 2023, in all of these metro areas besides Springfield, the number of Black employers increased along with overall business growth, but at higher rates, shrinking the parity gap. In Baton Rouge, for example, the overall number of employer businesses gained was just 49, but the number of Black-owned employer businesses increased by 242—meaning Black employer

cesca's filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection and began closing stores nationwide. Eddie Bauer's North American operator was unable to secure a buyer and announced plans to close around 200 stores.

These retailers are expected to have the most store closures by the end of the year, based on confirmed closures and announced closures as of midyear:

- 7-Eleven is expected to close 601 stores by the end of 2026, with 63 already confirmed.

- GameStop has 470 confirmed store closures.

- Francesca's is expected to close 457 stores, with 55 closures confirmed already.

- Walgreens had been expected to close 350 stores in 2026, according to Coresight's report. However, the retailer disputed that figure and told Fast Company last week that it now expects to close "fewer than 100" stores this year, a change that was first reported in February.

- Eddie Bauer has 217 confirmed store closures.

Coresight notes that the second half of 2026 could bring more closures due to tariff-related costs, cautious consumer spending, and growing financial pressures on small retailers.

growth helped avoid an overall loss in employer businesses. On the other hand, in Springfield, the shrinking gap was not due to a surge in Black employers, but rather a steep decline in employer businesses overall. There, the number of employer businesses declined by over 400, while the number of Black employer businesses declined by just over 150.

For most metro areas (71%) included in both annual updates, their parity gap fluctuated by less than or equal to 1 percentage point from 2022 to 2023. For example, in Richmond, Va., the parity gap shrank from a 24-percentage-point difference to a 23-percentage-point difference, after the metro area gained more than 200 Black-owned employer businesses.

While many places saw their parity gap shrink, there were also metro areas where the gap widened. The most extreme change was in Salisbury, Md., where the parity gap widened from a 14-percentage-point difference to a 29-percentage-point difference due to a slight decline in Black employers and a large increase in employers of other races. Other Southern cities—including Fayetteville, N.C.; Gulfport, Miss.; and Albany, Ga.—saw their parity gap widen by more than 4 percentage points, each due to a relatively large decline in the number of Black employers compared to employer business overall. The parity gap in New Orleans grew the most of any Southern metro area, where the overall number of employer businesses declined, and the number of Black employers declined even more rapidly.

Investing in Black-owned businesses in Southern cities such as these could be key to unlocking national growth. The metro areas with the highest shares of Black employers were largely concentrated in Southern states. Some of these metro areas, such as New Orleans, lost Black employers, but many others had rela-

(See **BLACK OWNED BIZ**, P. 7)

CVMSDC EVENT HELD

The Carolina-Virginia Minority Supplier Development Council recently held its annual Business Opportunity Conference which took place from August 2-4, 2026, in Raleigh, N.C. Bro. David L. Fitts of the Beta Phi Chapter was recognized for his extraordinary leadership, advocacy, community development, and community engagement. Bro. Fitts was also recognized for his advancement in business in the region, which has resulted in a lasting impact on countless entrepreneurs and corporate partners well over 50 years. His impact is still felt today throughout the country and the world and he is the founder of the organization. Bro. Fitts is married to Maxine Turner Fitts and the father of David L. Fitts, Jr.



The Typical Gig Worker Is Changing – And Struggling

THE CONVERSATION - The next time you call an Uber ride or order food delivery with an app, there's a good chance that the gig worker you meet is getting government benefits.

In 2025, companies such as DoorDash, Lyft and Uber had the most workers receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits among all major employers, according to a new Government Accountability Office report. This marks a major shift from 2020, when an earlier GAO survey found that Walmart and McDonald's took the top spots for SNAP recipients.

That finding may appear surprising to most Americans, who usually see platform-based work as a side hustle to earn extra cash. In fact, these jobs are becoming more essential as a primary source of income, even as they fail to cover basic food and medical expenses for gig workers.

As a scholar of urban politics, I consider this finding an important part of the broader picture revealed in a survey of more than 1,000 Michigan residents that my institute conducted with the Michigan Metro Area Communities Study.

Roughly 22% of total respondents had engaged in gig work, and about half of those said gig work was essential or important to meeting their basic needs.

At the same time, safety net programs – paid for by taxpayers – are filling the gap when platform companies hire low-wage workers without offering traditional benefits.

Flexibility as a double-edged sword

Major gig-work platforms, including Uber and Lyft, often describe their jobs as an opportunity for workers to earn income on their own terms and hours.

In this respect, they're right. In our survey, 9 in 10 workers said they valued the flexibility, and more than two-thirds reported positive experiences overall.



But gig workers also named pressing concerns, especially about transparency, pay and benefits.

The issue, then, isn't whether workers want flexibility, but whether flexibility allows them to get by in today's economy.

In fact, gig work may be supplemental, but it isn't always optional. With nearly half of all Americans saying they struggle to make ends meet, gig work is likely to increase as a source of financial survival.

At the same time, these platforms aren't substituting for traditional employment. We found that relatively few gig workers – only 6% – reduced hours or left another job to pursue other gig work.

And when gig work becomes a necessary source of income, the lack of benefits – from health insurance to disability insurance to workers' compensation – reflects a shift in who is turning to the safety net. If major platforms won't pay a living wage or provide adequate benefits on the grounds that it's the price of "flexibility," government programs often fill the gap.

In other words, taxpayers are helping foot the bill to compensate gig workers.

Medicaid enrollment surge

The Government Accountability Office report also showed that gig platforms are collectively now the third-biggest U.S. employer with workers on Medicaid, the public health insurance program for low-income and disabled Americans. By contrast, in 2020 they didn't make the top five.

What's more, recent changes to Medicaid are likely to exacerbate conditions for gig workers. President Donald Trump's sweeping tax and immigration bill passed in 2025 included provisions for the many states that had expanded Medicaid over the past 15 years. Under the new rules, Medicaid recipients face new and tougher work requirements that demand 80 hours of work or school per month to maintain coverage.

Gig work counts toward the requirement, but gig workers who work for multiple platforms may have trouble proving eligibility. For example, app interfaces have different formats for reporting hours, and gig workers don't receive a standard pay stub with total hours worked.

They also lack a traditional employer contact or a supervisor who would allow for easy verification. And their total hours worked don't always account for wait times, while fluctuations in user demand can

make income unpredictable.

As is the case for Medicaid recipients more generally, the complexity and paperwork of the new work requirement may deny them coverage, regardless of whether they work 80 hours per month. These extra hurdles are likely to push more Medicaid recipients off the rolls and toward other social programs as medical bills surge and their overall finances become even more strapped.

This loss of coverage may also lead to even more dire consequences, such as increased hospitalizations that can result when uninsured people forgo basic or preventive care.

Is portability the answer?

In some states, lawmakers are starting to address the growing trend of gig platforms using government benefits to outsource benefit costs. Portable benefits offer one promising response.

Under this model, platform companies or users of gig apps contribute to worker-owned benefit accounts that follow workers across platforms. In our survey, 61% of gig workers supported this idea, as did more than half of other kinds of workers.

Two states already provide some important lessons from existing models.

In New York state, the Black Car Fund, initially established for taxi and limo drivers, has covered gig drivers since 2014. It's a nonprofit, state-authorized benefits fund that's managed by a board consisting of industry representatives, including drivers.

Enrollment in that program is automatic for all gig workers and taxi drivers, with benefits paid for through a passenger surcharge collected instantly via fares. It made headlines in 2023, when the state secured a US\$328 million settlement after Uber and Lyft withheld pay and benefits from workers. That settlement included mandatory paid sick leave, minimum pay and other benefits.

This model has effectively shifted some of the burdens of lower-wage gig work from taxpayers to users. A centralized pool of cash gives the Black Car Fund significant purchasing power, allowing it to offer drivers full workers' compensation as well as varying levels of health, dental and disability coverage that drivers can choose from.

Platform companies don't contribute money at present, but if they did, they could make these benefits even more generous.

A different approach in California

As a contrasting example, California shows how much policy design matters.

The state opted to work with tech companies when it crafted Proposition 22, which sought to provide delivery and ride-share drivers limited benefits while preserving their independent contractor status. Passed in 2020, it left implementation to the platform companies and offered a narrower set of benefits that aren't fully portable across platforms.

The California model also has more barriers toward getting benefits. For example, tech companies only count "engaged hours" toward

the minimum required to access benefits, which doesn't account for time waiting for assignments. And because the system isn't truly portable, gig workers who work for different platforms have more trouble qualifying.

One study found that only 10% of California drivers are receiving the healthcare stipend that the law established.

The central role of tech platforms in determining who's eligible has become a flash point, with unions and labor rights groups reporting widespread problems with access and eligibility. In New York, on the other hand, a neutral third party determines eligibility and adjudicates payouts.

While these states have taken different approaches, I believe policymakers should remember that they don't need to treat flexibility and worker protections as mutually incompatible. In the absence of universal federal benefits for gig workers, local and state officials can find ways to ensure that social costs aren't shifted to the public through tax dollars and to workers through greater financial insecurity.

Sinking AI Stocks Pull Wall Street Further From Its Record

NEW YORK (AP) — Wall Street pulled further from its all-time high on Tuesday as AI stocks got back to sinking.

The S&P 500 fell 0.7% for a third straight modest loss since setting its all-time high on Thursday. The Dow Jones Industrial Average dipped 116 points, or 0.2%, and the Nasdaq composite sank 1.3%.

Leading the way lower were stocks that have been big winners in the boom around artificial-intelligence technology. They've been veering up and down this summer on worries that their prices shot too high in the AI frenzy and that the strong demand for memory, processors and other building blocks of data centers may fizzle out if AI proves less profitable than promised.

Micron Technology dropped 7%, and the seller of computer memory was one of the heaviest weights on the S&P 500. So were chip companies Nvidia, which fell 2.3%, and Broadcom, which sank 3.2%.

Even with their recent swings, such stocks remain big winners, and Micron has more than tripled this year.

But stocks that critics call too expensive get more scrutiny when interest rates are high, and yields remained that way in bond markets worldwide Tuesday.



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WakeMed-Atrium Deal Faces Renewed Scrutiny, Concerns

Staff Writer

Former Landfill Sites Still in Limbo Despite Yearslong Parks Closures



“People want interim resources. They want some level of clarity about what will happen and when it will happen,” Chitlik said.

Chitlik said that while Durham Parks and Recreation is doing its best, the state doesn’t have a plan to provide “extra support at scale.”



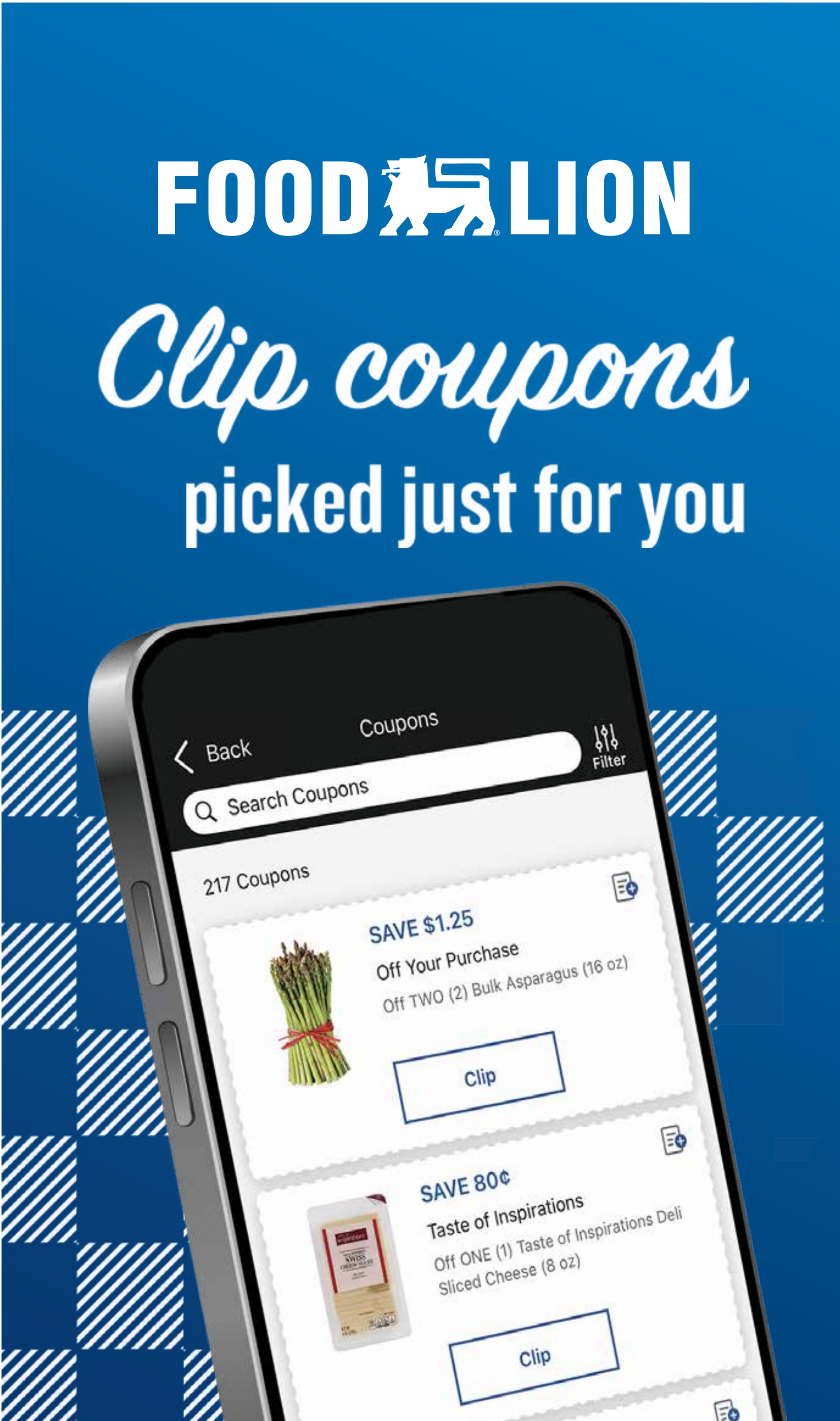
Under the proposed governance structure, Atrium would become the sole corporate member of the nonprofit entity that operates WakeMed, while Wake County commissioners would retain the authority to appoint eight of WakeMed's 14 board members and Atrium would appoint the remaining six. WakeMed would remain a nonprofit organization and keep its existing name and operating licenses, but the arrangement would give Atrium substantial influence

Opponents also raised concerns

"We asked who would be willing

WakeMed says the \$2 billion

The August 17 hearing did not result in a vote, leaving the future of the proposal unresolved. The earliest potential consideration is now expected at the Wake County Board of Commissioners' September 8 meeting, although officials have not confirmed that the merger will be placed on that agenda.



Arts & Culture

N.C. State's Gregg Museum Exhibition Preserves North Carolina’s Black Heritage Through Community Stories

By Judaea Ingram
Special To The Carolinian

RALEIGH, N.C. – Black history is often preserved through photographs, documents and artifacts, but a new exhibition at North Carolina State University is looking beyond individual objects to focus on the communities and stories behind them.

“Community Stories: Sustaining North Carolina Black Heritage” is currently on display at the Gregg Museum of Art & Design in Raleigh, bringing together historical photographs, contemporary images, artwork and materials from community partners to explore the experiences of Black communities across North Carolina.

The exhibition opened July 2 and will remain on display through Feb. 27, 2027. Admission to the Gregg Museum is free and the museum is open to the public Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The exhibition is organized around stories of dignity, belonging, safety and imagination within Black communities throughout the state.

Rather than presenting Black heritage as something confined to



the past, the exhibition examines how Black North Carolinians have continued to build and uplift their communities across generations.

The collection includes historical photographs, contemporary images, artwork from the Gregg Museum's collection and ephemera contributed by community partners.

Among the featured pieces is a handmade guitar created by North Carolina artist Freeman Vines. Vines is known for creating guitars from reclaimed wood, including wood connected to the history of a 1930 lynching in eastern North Carolina. His work has become part of a larger conversation about

memory, history and the ways artists can preserve stories through their work.

Other photographs and materials highlight Black families, entrepreneurs, artists and community spaces.

One photograph featured in the exhibition shows Willie Otey Kay with her sisters during the 1950s. Another documents Freedom Books, a Raleigh bookstore and community space where family and education were central to its identity.

Together, the pieces demonstrate that preserving Black heritage involves more than documenting major historical events. It also means preserving everyday experiences.

Family photographs can show how generations lived and connected. Business records can demonstrate how Black entrepreneurs created opportunities for their communities. Artwork can preserve memories that may not exist in written records. Those stories help provide a fuller picture of Black life in North Carolina.

The exhibition was developed through a collaborative curatorial process involving the Gregg Museum, NC State students, historians, community members and the

North Carolina African American Heritage Commission. The team included Meredith Osborne, Ajamu Dillahunt-Holloway, students from an African American Public History course, members of the North Carolina African American Heritage Commission and other community historians and cultural leaders.

That collaborative approach is an important part of the exhibition's purpose. By bringing community members and historians into the process, the exhibition places Black communities in the role of helping tell and preserve their own histories.

The approach also recognizes that heritage is not simply something inherited from previous generations. It continues to develop through family, entrepreneurship, art, culture and community relationships.

The Gregg Museum is presenting the exhibition as part of “Grounded at the Gregg,” a series of exhibitions and programming centered on wellness, Black Southern heritage and community togetherness. The larger season connects historical and contemporary perspectives while encouraging visitors to consider relationships between land, ancestry,

memory and community.

The exhibition's timing also provides an opportunity for visitors to think about what is remembered and what can be lost when community stories are not preserved.

For North Carolina's Black communities, those stories can provide connections between generations. A photograph can introduce a family member. An artifact can reveal a profession or tradition. A work of art can carry memories of a place or experience that might otherwise disappear.

“Community Stories” brings those pieces together to show that Black heritage is not a single story. It is made up of thousands of individual experiences, families, communities and traditions that continue to shape North Carolina.

For visitors, the exhibition offers an opportunity to encounter those stories in one place and consider how they can be carried forward.

“Community Stories: Sustaining North Carolina Black Heritage” is on display through Feb. 27, 2027, at the Gregg Museum of Art & Design, 1903 Hillsborough St. in Raleigh. Admission is free, and the museum is open Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.



WABE - As the CEO and founder of the nonprofit Onyx Impact, Esosa Osa focuses on building a digital ecosystem that empowers Black people, prioritizes their digital safety, and reduces harm. It's something that's imprinted in Osa's latest creation, the new artificial intelligence chat box, AiSHA.

Osa said that AI is one of the most important tools of this generation, and that she and her team built AiSHA with intention, ensuring the AI model was trained to have a basic level of respect for humans.

Freeman Vines’ Hanging Tree Guitars

By Dr. Will Boone
North Carolina State University

Freeman Vines is inspired by the raw material of his work. The wood decides what it wants to be. Vines listens to it. “My ears ain’t like other folks’ ears,” he says. “I hear stuff other folks don’t.” The wood has a voice that most people can’t hear. But Vines hears it. And, through his work, we might hear it as well.

Vines frequently turns his unique sense of hearing toward the strange and sinister silences of the past. He surveys the vast acres of farmland that surround him in Eastern North Carolina and asks, “Where in the world did they bury the slaves?” From early colonial days through the Civil War, Vines reflects, thousands

of black men and women lived and worked on this land and there “ain’t no cemetery around here where they’re buried.”

When Freeman Vines began working with wood from a tree that had once been used for lynchings, long-silenced voices started to emerge. Vines became particularly enamored with the story of Oliver Moore.

Oliver Moore was lynched on August 19, 1930, not far from where Freeman Vines currently lives. This rural area—where Pitt, Edgecombe, and Wilson counties meet—looks much the same today as it did in 1930.

We know the story of Oliver Moore’s lynching because newspapers all over the U.S. reported it. Some local papers dedicated several articles and editorials to it. These stories are sensationalist and provide plenty of gory details. Reading them, we can hear in our mind’s ear the ominous engine roar of the automobiles approaching the jail; the brief eruption of murderous gunfire; the buzzing of the flies around the blood-drenched corpse as the sun rose.

Looking back on the telling of Oliver Moore’s story, however, it is the silences that are more striking than the sounds. These silences are many. If we trace just a few of them, we can see how they reverberate into the present day.

First, Moore himself was silenced. He was never allowed to tell his side of the story. No one spoke on his behalf. No lawyer volunteered to take his case.



Freeman Vines with a few of his Hanging Tree Guitars. Fountain, NC. Tintype by Tim Duffy

Then there is his wife. Moore was married. Because he was lynched within sight of his own house, it is even feasible that she witnessed the entire barbarous scene. Yet, no stories from the time consider her perspective. No one reaches out to her for comment. There is no recognition of her possible pain and grief.

The voices of African American

citizens in general are not represented in reports from the time. For example, white people’s expressed opinions are quoted at length in the detailed account of Moore’s lynching written by sociologist and anti-lynching activist Arthur Raper. But he represents the opinions of the

(See **FREEMAN VINES** P. 7)

Fugees’ Will Headline Global Citizen’s Antipoverty Festival

NEW YORK (AP) — Ms. Lauryn Hill and her Fugees’ bandmate Wyclef Jean will bring their pointed and political music to Global Citizen Festival this fall.

The headliners, announced Thursday, are a fitting choice. The annual gathering in New York’s Central Park rallies attendees to pressure world leaders to fund a range of antipoverty initiatives at the end of the United Nations General Assembly’s yearly high-level meetings. Joining them on Sept. 26 are rocker Lenny Kravitz, R&B-pop singer John Legend, country music star Lainey Wilson, chart-topping Grammy winner Shaboozey and K-pop group TOMORROW X TOGETHER.

The two Fugees are fresh off several performances marking the 30th anniversary of their landmark album, “The Score.” They were in London, where Hill also brought her music festival celebrating the sounds of the African diaspora, and Rio de Janeiro, where they closed out Global Citizen’s weeklong climate programming.

It’s also the first festival since Global Citizen produced the World Cup’s first halftime show. That collaboration helped raise more than \$60 million for the education fund launched with FIFA. Global Citizen co-founder Hugh Evans hopes to leverage next month’s gathering to shore up some outstanding commitments.

Festivalgoers gain entry by taking actions such as petitioning countries to dip into their international development budgets. This year’s priorities include mobilizing \$100 million to provide 2 million children with access to education, nutritious



food and healthcare; gathering \$100 million to improve food security for 1.5 million smallholder farmers; and moving \$1.5 billion to expand clean energy in the Indo-Pacific region.

The countries facing asks this year include Spain, Norway, Ireland, Kenya, Japan, Denmark and Australia. Evans specifically called on France to support the FIFA Global Citizen Education Fund, Gavi, Education Cannot Wait, or any of their other education partners. “Macron will often talk a lot about their leadership on issues of education,” Evans said of the French president. “But I think, when the rubber hits the road, are they actually stepping up?”

One country that isn’t on the list? The United States. Once the world’s single largest aid donor, the U.S. now provides for Evans “an example

of a country that should be a leader on the global stage that is such an incredible laggard at this point.” The U.S. wasn’t worth targeting, according to Evans, given that the administration “butchered its entire foreign aid budget” and “dismantled the entire apparatus” of the U.S. Agency for International Development.

Still, while acknowledging a “world of shrinking foreign aid,” Evans expressed optimism that the pendulum will shift.

“I believe that the future belongs to political leaders who are willing to understand the nuance of how power works,” Evans said. “Power doesn’t have to be a negative thing. It can be a very positive thing if you’re wielding it for good. As Spider-Man taught us: with great power comes great responsibility.”

This year’s festival offers a new way for people to gain admission. Fans can still enter the free ticket lottery by completing calls to action on the Global Citizen app. But they can also get automatic entry by making a \$25 charitable donation. The funds raised will go toward New York’s City Parks Foundation and organizations that serve those experiencing homelessness.

Evans hopes that artists such as Wilson and Shaboozey, both country music acts, can bring a new audience to his movement. He noted that Wilson, who expressed interest in the festival’s support of the International Fund for Agricultural Development, comes from a family of farmers.

“It’s been quite some time I’d say since we had this level of a country presence in our lineup,” Evans said. “So, I’m super excited about that. I’m hoping that the fans are, too.”

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Community

No Mall, No Arcade, No Space: The Search For Teen Autonomy In The Wake Of Triangle Takeover Events

WUNC - It was a scene that might be familiar to others across the country, but it was new to the Triangle.

On the night of July 4, in several neighborhoods throughout Raleigh, there was an influx of violence. Nine people were shot overnight in a surge that was otherwise atypical.

They stemmed from two "teen takeovers." About 3,000 people that the Raleigh Police Department classified as teenagers gathered at a Brier Creek shopping center where fights broke out and gunshots rang out. Across town, police said similar events took place on opposite sides of Glenwood South. Police responded at 1:34 a.m., and later estimated a total 5,000 teens were present.

There was a swift response. On July 7, Raleigh City Council met with Police Chief Rico Boyce, Director of Community Engagement Tiesha Mosley, and Director of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources Stephen Bentley.

Raleigh Mayor Janet Cowell called for a youth curfew. Boyce pointed the finger at an increased number of juveniles having access to guns; on laws implemented in 2019 that police say reduce accountability for juveniles charged with crimes; on the nationwide trend of teen takeovers, and an influx of "outside agitators" present in Raleigh for the holiday weekend.

"Unruly, undisciplined, unsupervised juveniles is what we were dealing with after the first shooting," Police Chief Rico Boyce told



the council.

Mosley, however, took a different tone. Instead of blaming teens for violent behavior, the director of Community Engagement noted the lack of spaces for teens to hang out with each other, what sociologists sometimes refer to as "third spaces."

"That's somewhere outside of school, work, and home for young people to gather," Mosley told Raleigh City Council members in that July 7 afternoon meeting.

In short: The number of third spaces in America are shrinking. That number is particularly bleak for young people in the Triangle.

With fewer places to go for regular entertainment, some young people turn to more reckless behavior, at times escalating to violence.

Where did all the kids go?

In a 2025 essay for the American Enterprise Institute published in December, Samuel Abrams wrote about the vibrant casual restaurants and gathering spots he would frequent while growing up in Philadelphia. When he returned with his family years later, he said the changes were unsettling.

"This is not just a cultural loss; it is a civic one," he wrote. "The decline of third places contributes to rising loneliness, weaker social trust, and declining engagement with neighbors."

In preparation for this story, WUNC News put a call out on Reddit's R/Triangle channel asking where teenagers hang out. The responses varied. Several Redditors mentioned the Cook Out parking lot.

However, during the middle of the week at the Cook Out along Capital Boulevard, as a parade of cars stretched long around the drive-through, two reporters were the only ones eating their burgers and loitering outside the restaurant.

At least two factors get in the way of third spaces for young people. The first is an ongoing issue: Everything costs more. A trip to the movies can be unattainable for young people without decent-paying jobs. A cup of coffee is around \$6.

Second, some private businesses actively shun teenagers. Shopping

malls have age restrictions. The Streets at Southpoint in Durham no longer allows anyone under the age of 17 at the mall on Saturdays or Sundays without a parent or guardian present after 4 p.m. At Triangle Town Center, the age restriction is 18. Frankie's Fun Park, a business with arcades and go-karts, requires a parent or guardian to accompany anyone under 18 at all times, and after 5:30 p.m. on Saturdays, no one under 18 is permitted in at all.

"Regardless of day or time, individuals under the age of 18 must remain with a parent or legal guardian at all times," the website reads. "Anyone under the age of 18 that is not with a parent or legal guardian will be asked to leave. These efforts are being made to provide a safe and enjoyable environment from disruptive teenagers."

Lisa Pearce is a sociologist with the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill. She says restrictions like this directly contradict what young people want the most: Chances to spend time with their peers with minimal adult presence.

"A variety of people have noted that younger teens or even preteens are increasingly looking for autonomy," she said.

There's a balance between providing space for that to happen and allowing teens the opportunity to make the wrong decisions. Businesses tend to operate on the conservative end of that tension and put strict rules like curfews in place.

Even religious institutions, his-

torically a safe haven for adolescents, are on the decline.

"It's just a challenge to figure out how to correctly place that scaffolding so that we're providing

great opportunities for youths and a chance for them to really show their autonomy and their maturing and whatnot," Pearce said. "But also just making sure they're safe."

FREEMAN VINES

Continued from page 6



black community in a single summarizing sentence: "The Negroes generally feel that Moore was unjustly accused and that his mob death was inexcusable."

Perhaps the most resounding silence is that of the community. In this small rural area, there were undoubtedly people who could have identified some of the approximately 80 men in the lynch mob.

But no one ever did. Even the three police officers on duty in the vicinity of the jail the night of the abduction claimed to have heard nothing. There were a number of investigations in the weeks and months following the lynching. But still, no one spoke.

Even today, the fear that produced this silence is almost palpable. The men who perpetrated this crime were terrorists in the truest sense. They traumatized an entire community, substituting the threat of violence for justice.

Although many things changed in Eastern North Carolina between 1930 and the second decade of the 21st century, the silence around dark events like Oliver Moore's lynching has persisted. With it, a collective trauma has been passed through generations.

When Freeman Vines began working with the hanging tree wood and learning the story of Oliver Moore, he turned his unique sense of hearing toward the silences of the past. Dark skeletal faces and creeping black snakes began to emerge from the wood as he carved. Some of these carvings took the form of guitars, but these were not musical instruments in the traditional sense. These instruments resounded with the tortured spirits of the past; they brought forth voices—like Oliver Moore's— that had been silenced by the violence and trauma of endemic white supremacy.

One of the last carvings Freeman Vines made from the hanging tree wood was of an old-fashioned shoe. "All I did was cut it out, sand it down to get the edges off, and there set a shoe," Vines said. What the artist didn't know at the time, but soon found out, was that Oliver Moore worked as a shoe shiner in the winters when he wasn't farming. It's as if a part of Oliver Moore's personality had been trapped there in the wood just waiting to be revealed.

"It surprised me," Vines said, "and a little bit scary, too. 'Cause I ain't never seen nothing work out like that before. Hard for you to believe if you ain't experienced it. Every design that came from that wood was already there."

Freeman Vines' art is an art of listening to the material, paying attention to what is "already there" and then working to reveal it. His creations invite us to listen more carefully to ourselves and to our past; to try and hear the voices that we have allowed to be silenced.

Oliver Moore was murdered in 1930. Many people would argue that we should resign his story to history and move on. What can we possibly gain by revisiting it almost a century later?

But the truth is that revisiting stories like Moore's is the only way to move on. The systems of thought and action that hold one race to be inherently inferior have not disappeared. All the acts of violence perpetrated by these systems—from enslavement to Reconstruction, through Jim Crow, to police brutality and mass incarceration—slither their way into our present-day reality like the black snakes in Freeman Vines' carvings.

We have so much to gain by revisiting Oliver Moore's story. These gains won't come from assessing blame, or creating some kind of tally of guilt and innocence, but from reckoning with the forces that allowed such violence to occur.

We can open ourselves up to all the voices silenced by white supremacy. We can try to imagine what Oliver Moore's wife must have felt, what his family felt, what those in his community felt. We can imagine what it is like to live in a community silenced by terror. And we can stop and search our own hearts for what is hidden—like the shoe in the hanging tree wood—and needs to be revealed.

Freeman Vines' work invites us to revisit Oliver Moore's story, and to listen to the past with new ears so that we might carve a different future.

WSSU Appoints New Health Sciences Dean To Lead Next Chapter of Growth

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C. — Three years ago, Dr. Cheryl A. Thaxton helped launch innovative graduate nursing programs at an academic medical university in Texas. Now, she brings more than 30 years of experience in nursing practice, education, research and academic leadership to Winston-Salem State University at a pivotal time of growth.

Thaxton's appointment as dean of the School of Health Sciences and chief nursing administrator comes as WSSU expands its portfolio of health sciences programs and initiatives while strengthening its role in preparing North Carolina's healthcare workforce.

This semester, WSSU began offering a Bachelor of Science in public health. Next spring, the university plans to launch a Master of Public Health with a concentration in emergency preparedness and disaster management — the first MPH offered by a North Carolina historically Black college or university.

The expansion comes as state officials project North Carolina will face



a shortage of approximately 12,500 registered nurses and 5,000 licensed practical nurses by 2033. WSSU's participation in the new Nursing Fellows Forgivable Education Loan Pilot Program also positions the university to help educate the next generation of nurses.

Thaxton said healthcare workforce shortages are felt most acutely in rural and underserved communities.

"WSSU's School of Health Sciences has long served as a critical pipeline

for the nation's healthcare workforce, training students who often return to serve the very communities that shape them," Thaxton said.

That impact can be seen in graduates like Dr. Nadia Harris, a family nurse practitioner in Clemmons who earned both her Bachelor of Science in nursing and Doctor of Nursing Practice from WSSU.

"As an undergraduate nursing student at WSSU, social justice and cultural competence were deeply embedded in my education," Harris said. "Those principles helped shape me into the nurse and healthcare provider I am today."

Chancellor Bonita J. Brown said Thaxton's national recognition and experience in pediatric and adult hospice and palliative care will be key to continuing WSSU's upward trajectory.

"Winston-Salem State University is at an important moment of growth in health sciences, and Dr. Thaxton brings the leadership, experience and vision we need to build on that momentum," Brown said.

WSSU already offers doctoral, graduate and undergraduate programs across nursing, physical therapy, occupational therapy, healthcare administration, rehabilitation and other health fields. Its growing health sciences enterprise also includes a physician assistant pathway partnership with Wake Forest University School of Medicine, a Virtual Hospital Simulation Training Lab and the Eye Bridge Scholarship supporting Black and other underrepresented students pursuing optometry.

Thaxton said her focus will be on building upon WSSU's existing strengths while preparing students to meet the healthcare needs of the communities they will serve.

"Every graduate of WSSU is part of the next generation of healthcare in this country, strengthening the workforce our communities depend on," Thaxton said. "As our programs grow, my hope is to continue building a place where excellence, collaboration and service are all one and the same and where every student leaves ready to lead."

Serious Play Conference Brings Games, Learning And Black Joy to Duke Univ.



DURHAM, N.C. — Educators, researchers, game developers and industry professionals gathered at Duke University Aug. 5–7 for the 19th annual Serious Play Conference, exploring how games and interactive technology can be used in education, healthcare, research and social change.

Held at Duke's Pratt School of Engineering, the three-day conference

featured more than 120 speakers and 80 sessions, along with workshops, demonstrations, panels, networking opportunities and playable digital, tabletop and virtual reality experiences.

Among the presenters was Javon Goard, M.S., who led a session titled "Black Joy Within Gaming Culture." His presentation highlighted Black experiences and representation within gaming and was part of a confer-

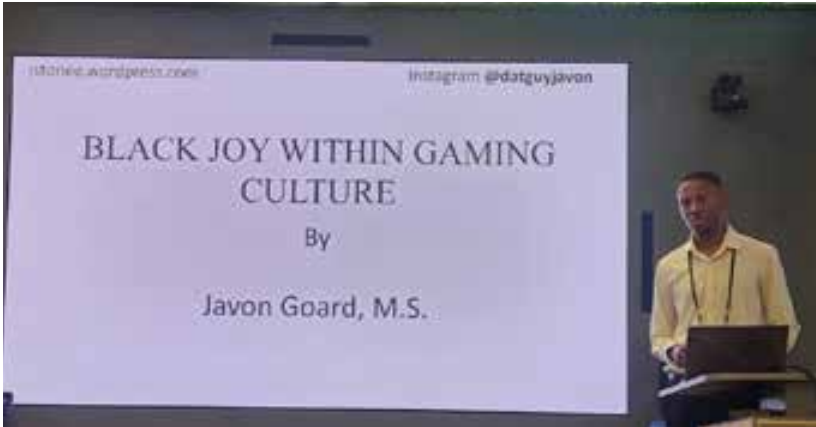
ence that brought together a diverse community of creators, educators and professionals.

"Games have become one of the most powerful ways to teach, train, communicate and make complex systems understandable," said Paul Darvasi, executive director of the Serious Play Conference.

Sessions examined topics ranging from medical training and mental

health to education, data privacy, human trafficking prevention and the use of games for underserved populations.

The conference also gave attendees opportunities to connect directly with fellow creators and researchers, experience new games and exchange ideas about the growing role of interactive media in classrooms, institutions and communities.



BLACK OWNED BUSINESSES

Continued from page 3

tively large increases, including Tampa, Fla.; Richmond, Va.; Durham, N.C.; and Austin, Texas.

Of the 50 metro areas with the largest shares of Black employer business ownership, 60% are in the South; in the 90 metro areas with the smallest shares of Black employer business ownership, only 18% are in the South. As previously mentioned, if the number of Black employers in all of these Southern metro areas reached parity with their Black population shares, it would create over 2 million jobs, \$70 billion in payroll wages, and over \$263 billion in revenue.

Closing the parity gap can help metro areas reach their potential

In 2023, economic growth in metro areas across the country powered a national increase in the number of Black-owned employer businesses. But looking locally shows the true impact of these businesses: In places such as Columbia, S.C., and Baton Rouge, La., the growing number of Black employers staved off an overall decline and acted as economic anchors. In other places, such as Minneapolis and Baltimore, Black-owned employer business growth was a large component of a rising tide for all businesses.

Supporting Black business growth and closing the parity gap can help metro areas reach their economic potential, leading to overall growth in revenue and jobs. City leaders looking to grow their local economies should capitalize on the opportunity to increase Black employer representation, and using the latest data from the Black Business Parity Dashboard shows how much a city can gain from doing so.



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Church

Law, Faith, and Activism: The Wild Life of Pauli Murray

By Jordan Meadows

Staff Writer

Rev. Dr. Pauli Murray, born in Baltimore in 1910 and orphaned and raised in Durham, became one of the 20th century's most consequential yet least recognized civil rights figures.

Murray was raised in Durham by an aunt, Pauline Fitzgerald Dame, in a house at 906 Carroll Street built by Murray's maternal grandfather, a Union Civil War veteran born into slavery. Murray graduated at the head of the class in Durham before moving to New York to attend Hunter College, graduating in 1933 with a degree in English. Murray later wrote of that maternal Fitzgerald lineage in the 1956 memoir "Proud



Shoes."

In 1938, Murray applied to graduate school at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and was refused admission because of race, at a time when every school and public facility in the state was segregated; the NAACP considered a lawsuit but ultimately declined, citing questions over Murray's state residency.

Two years later, Murray was arrested for sitting in the whites-only section of a Virginia bus, 15 years before Rosa Parks' more famous refusal in Montgomery, and went on to organize restaurant sit-ins in Washington, D.C., two decades before the Greensboro sit-ins.

Murray enrolled instead at Howard University's law school, the only woman in the class, graduated

first academically in 1944 as class valedictorian and Chief Justice of the Howard Court of Peers, and was then denied the chance to pursue postgraduate study at Harvard because of gender, despite a letter of recommendation from President Franklin D. Roosevelt that left the law faculty's vote deadlocked 7-7. Murray later described that rejection, coining a term that entered the civil rights lexicon, as earning a "Bachelor of Feminism" degree and coined the broader phrase "Jane Crow" to describe sex discrimination's parallels to Jim Crow.

A Rosenwald Fellowship took Murray to Berkeley for a master's degree instead, and after passing the California bar, Murray became the state's first Black deputy attorney general in 1946.

Murray's 1950 book, "States' Laws on Race and Color," a comprehensive catalog of discriminatory laws nationwide, was called the "bible" of the civil rights movement by NAACP Chief Counsel Thurgood Marshall and proved instrumental to the legal argument in Brown v. Board of Education. In 1965, Murray became the first Black person to earn a doctorate in law from Yale.

A year later, working with the ACLU alongside lawyer Dorothy Kenyon, Murray co-wrote the brief in White v. Crook, which struck down an all-white, all-male jury system in Alabama and is regarded as a turn-

ing point establishing legal protections against sex discrimination; that scholarship later shaped Ruth Bader Ginsburg's argument in the 1971 case Reed v. Reed, the first time the Equal Protection Clause was applied to sex discrimination, and Ginsburg listed Murray as a coauthor on her brief in recognition of the debt.

Murray's earlier writing pressing the analogy between race and sex discrimination, particularly as it doubled the burden on Black women, has since been described by scholars as a direct precursor to Kimberlé Crenshaw's theory of intersectionality. In 1966, Murray became a founding member of the National Organization for Women, present at the informal gathering where the organization's purpose was first sketched out on a napkin by Betty Friedan; Murray later wrote that the small group who set up NOW's permanent structure never imagined it would grow into a 200,000-member political force within two decades.

President John F. Kennedy appointed Murray to the 1961-63 Presidential Commission on the Status of Women, and Murray had already served as a correspondent and informal adviser to First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt for years, a friendship documented in hundreds of letters between the two. Murray also held faculty or administrative posts at the Ghana School of Law, Benedict Col-

lege, and Brandeis University.

Murray was also, throughout her life, open in her own era's limited terms about relationships with women and about not fitting conventional gender presentation. That part of Murray's biography, combined with a brief association with the Communist Party that drew McCarthy-era scrutiny, contributed to Murray being written out of the movement's mainstream narrative during the respectability politics of the mid-20th century, according to historians.

Late in life, Murray returned to the Episcopal Church, in which she'd been raised, and in 1977 became the first Black woman ordained as an Episcopal priest, delivering her first Holy Eucharist at the Chapel of the Cross in Chapel Hill—the same chapel where her enslaved grandmother had been baptized generations earlier. The Episcopal Church later named Murray among its Holy Women, Holy Men in 2012, effectively canonizing her as a saint.

Murray also published two autobiographies, including "Song in a Weary Throat," and a poetry collection, "Dark Testament".

Murray's Durham childhood home has since been designated a National Historic Landmark and now serves as the Pauli Murray Center for History and Social Justice, and Yale named a residential college in Murray's honor.

Program Trains Churches, Congregants To Assist With People's Mental Health Needs

NC HEALTH NEWS - Mental health is a sensitive and often stigmatized subject in many North Carolina communities that can create challenges for people who might need help but are reluctant to seek it out.

Frank Sossamon knows this firsthand from his work as a pastor of Hermon Community Church in Henderson and a grief counselor at Sossamon Funeral Home. The Oxford resident also is a former member of the state House of Representatives.

Sossamon said he realized that the state was in a mental health crisis several years ago while he was still in office, and grasped how much of a struggle it would be to hire enough people to make a dent in the problem.



Part of the issue dates back more than two decades when North Carolina lawmakers moved to overhaul the state's mental health system, changing it from a publicly administered care structure to one using private contractors to provide the bulk of the services.

That caused a lot of confusion.

"We've never recovered from that because people don't know what's available, and they don't know where to go," Sossamon told NC Health News in a recent interview.

That change has created questions that communities have grappled with for years.

But what if people could be reassured by trusted community members that it is OK to receive help for whatever mental health crisis or addiction they are facing? What if those people could point those in crisis to resources that could help them? What if people were given this reassurance from, let's say, their church?

Sossamon said that since churches are already set up to provide ministry, they could also be used to become part of the solution to the shortage of mental health providers. With that notion in mind, he created the Faith in Mental Health program. Public-private partnership

In 2024, when Sossamon was representing Granville and Vance counties at the legislature, he introduced House Bill 982 that would have required the state Department of Health and Human Services to create a targeted pilot program for the counties in his district that would make it easier for religious organizations to respond to the mental health crisis.

That bill, cosponsored by fellow Republican Reps. Matthew Winslow (Youngsville), Stephen Ross (Burlington) and Ken Fontenot (Wilson) passed the House with only one "no" vote. It stalled in the state Senate.

Nonetheless, local mental health management organization Vaya

Health, along with the state Department of Health and Human Services, the Granville Vance public health department and the UNC-Chapel Hill Gillings School of Global Public Health got together to launch the program.

Through the program, participants can get training and certificates that could help churches better respond to people in their congregations or communities with mental health, behavioral health or substance abuse disorders.

To accommodate different church sizes, there are three certification levels:

- Basic: It makes churches aware of resources and providers in their local mental health community;
- Intermediate: It makes the church a hub for mental health-specific resources for the congregation and starts equipping members to assist with acute mental health needs;
- Advanced: Makes sure that an individual's needs and questions involving mental health, except for the provision of treatment by licensed professionals, can be responded to by members of the church.

So far, the program has been more informal with different onboarding sessions to see which churches would be interested in the various levels. Attendees are oriented with different mental health providers, said Karl Johnson, program coordinator of the certificate program and staff member at Granville Vance Public Health.

They have also hosted a number of community forums over the past year on different mental health topics such as anxiety, depression, substance use, addiction and youth mental health.

On Sept. 21, the program will become a bit more structured and the first official cohort of churches will

start on a yearlong certification process.

Knowing where to go

Sandra Osborne, a member of the Faith in Mental Health advisory board, said she heard about the program through her pastor, who had gone to one of the orientations and started implementing some of the lessons at her church. Now, she's helping enhance the program.

"It really is my hope that we can reach a greater number of people that have mental health or substance use issues that we can help, and that they want to come and get help, and not feel that hopelessness, and not know where to go," said Osborne, who has lived with depression herself.

Granville Vance Public Health reports that more than 60 churches are already participating in the program with more than 100 individuals certified.

Brianna Lombardi, a faculty member in the Department of Family Medicine at UNC's medical school and director of the UNC-Chapel Hill Behavioral Health Workforce Research Center, told NC Health News it is not uncommon for federally qualified health centers to have a faith-based connection or for faith-based communities to have a service arm into mental health. She's interested in seeing how this program will progress.

"This kind of sounds like mental health first aid, but for faith communities, where that faith community or the organization has made a determination to train people in how to spot and detect and to provide support," Lombardi said.

"Mental health first aid is not a license, it's not a credential, but it is kind of this really large scale kind of initiative to kind of better build awareness about mental health and train people how to talk with folks who are struggling," she added.

I AM the Resurrection Read: John:11: 28-37

By John L. Caldwell, Pastor
New Jerusalem Baptist Cathedral

It is very difficult to hold on to faith if you don't believe in what you are seeking. If you don't believe water will quench your thirst, you won't drink or buy it. If you don't believe clouds carry rain, you will never buy an umbrella or raincoat. These two examples are true every day. Water quenches thirst and somewhere on this earth it is raining.

One must experience water in certain ways to know what it can and cannot do. Those individuals who cannot swim and yet go fishing out in the middle of the pond without a life jacket in their favorite boat are not thinking about the water. They know the water is hiding the fish they want to catch. The danger of drowning is not on their minds if the boat tips over.

Holding Faith in God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit are the same way. One must learn what the Trinity can do and will do in order for anyone to believe in the power of the great "Three in One."

The people had trouble believing in Jesus, first because He was born among them and not in a palace. Nor did He ride into the city on a white horse as a conquering king. Our Lord first came teaching about the Kingdom of Heaven. Teachings that had never been heard before. He shocked and angered the people when He told them, "Before Abraham was, I AM" (John 8:57-58). This statement created more resentment and division among the people.

God then gave Jesus' permission to do miracles of physical healing and great signs among the people to give proof to His identity that He is the Messiah spoken about and promised to come among them. The people still had a difficult time accepting Him as the Messiah.

Jesus' spoke of Himself as being the Good Shepherd. This also caused a stir. For it implied that those in the temple didn't care for the people they were supposed to serve. "My sheep hear My voice, and I call them by name (John 10:3-4:6).

Another issue came up. Can a Christian lose his/her salvation? What happens when and if they sin? Jesus' answer was No! They do not lose their salvation. This caused anger and unbelief again among the people and Jesus was accused of having a demon in Him. Who has the power to forgive sin, only God can and Jesus is not God, was the

response of the angry crowd. Jesus's response to this question is found in (John 10:27-30). These teachings of Jesus were leading to a "belief - crisis" among the people. Meaning how in the world can we believe in this man called Jesus.

Dr. David Jeremiah said in his commentary on this issue, "The doctrine of believer's security does not rest just on Christ's words in this one passage. All three members of the Godhead are involved in salvation, and Jesus' perfect, one-time work to atone for all sin (Hebrews 10:10) is the basis for that assurance. Believers cannot save themselves or keep themselves saved; only the collaborative work of God, His Son, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit can do this."

Much of what our Lord was teaching was spiritual in nature. Many believers of the Old Testament were "hard-wired" to worshiped only what they saw at the Tabernacle and Solomon's temple. Seeing faith from a spiritual standpoint is difficult for those who can't and didn't accept the true teaching about Jesus (The Messiah) from the Old Book. One cannot live life successfully without believing in something. If one's beliefs in certain things are wrong, we suffer loss. If one's beliefs are correct in certain things in life, we progress. God has designed us to believe in Him and Him only by freewill and not by being oppressed or force.

The people sought to seize Jesus after the discussion about being the Good Shepherd (John 10:37-39).

Jesus then went away beyond Jordan to the place where John was baptizing and stayed. Many came to Him and said, John performed no sign, but all the things that John spoke about this Man were true." And many believed in Him (John 10:40-41).

Now comes one of the "believe it or not test" about believing in Jesus Christ.

Now a certain man was sick, Lazarus of Bethany, Jesus' friend. Lazarus was sick unto death. When Jesus heard the news sent to Him from the two sisters, He said to His disciples, "This sickness is not unto death." Here is a point to be considered, no one can be an enemy of something denying it and yet believe in it. Seeing is believing!

At this point in history. No one believed that Jesus had the power of resurrection. Lazarus was the brother of Mary, who anointed the Lord with fragrance oil and wiped His feet with her hair.

Lazarus eventually died. And Jesus intentionally waited two more days before He and His disciples came to Bethany. After the four days, it was a belief that it would be impossible for anyone to come back to life under any circumstances.

When Jesus arrived in Bethany He was confronted by Martha, the older sister of Lazarus. Jesus was also facing an angry mob who wished to stone Him. During certain conversations, the disciples thought that Jesus said that Lazarus was only sleeping, when He spoke of Lazarus sleeping and He was going to wake him up. Jesus finally told the disciples that Lazurus was dead. "And He also was glad for their sakes that He was not there, that they may believe in Him." (John 11:14-15).

Jesus was about to show all who were present, especially, His disciples, the ultimate choice about belief and what belief is all about.

Martha and Mary believed in Jesus (John 11:20-22). They believed that whatever Jesus asked of God, God will give You. Mary and Martha also believed in the Resurrection Day when Jesus told them their brother will rise again. The sister's replied to Jesus, "Yes he will in the last Day."

Jesus said to the sisters, "I Am the Resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live again. And whosoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this? The sisters replied, "Yes Lord we believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is to come into the world."

When Jesus saw the sisters weeping and all who were with them, They beckoned Jesus to come and see where Lazarus lay. Jesus wept and then groaned in the spirit. Which meant he hated to see what death, the last enemy, does to His friends.

Jesus arrived at the tomb of Lazarus and commanded that they take away the stone. This was in protest from Martha who said, "My brother stinks by now." Jesus said to Martha, "didn't I say to you if you believe you would see the glory of God?"

They took away the stone and Jesus called out to Lazarus, "Come forth! And Lazarus came out of the tomb. Jesus then said, "Loose the man and let him go."

It was at this point in Jesus' ministry that belief and faith took hold of many who were there. But not all of them. Some then plotted that day forward to kill Jesus and Lazarus.

What would it take for you to believe in Jesus Christ today?



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Editorials

Editorial Policy

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

Flock Is Watching: We Should See

By Jheri Hardaway, Staff Writer

Conversations are swirling around Flock Safety cameras surveilling American communities. ABC 11 reported that Erwin Police Chief Jonathan Johnson says the cameras are a necessary tool in a small department's arsenal. "I know the concerns, you know, and we've got some pretty strict policies in place." He continued, "Flock also recently implemented a kind of audit-tracking system within their system. So that way, if something suspicious or tags ran several times pops up in their system." According to their website, Flock Safety builds technology that helps communities deter crime, respond to emergencies, and investigate safety incidents. The company has stated, "We believe communities shouldn't have to choose between public safety and privacy."

Flock Safety shared the following message exclusively with ABC 11, "Flock's LPRs capture still, point-in-time images of vehicles in public view. The cameras capture still images only; they do not record video or use facial recognition. Agencies own and control their data; access is limited to authorized users, every search requires a documented reason, and each search creates a permanent audit trail. Data is automatically deleted after 30 days by default unless an agency establishes a different retention period consistent with applicable law and policy. Flock does not sell data. Additionally, customers control their own sharing settings through the Flock platform. These sharing relationships are opt-in and can be changed or revoked by the agency at any time. We understand there are questions about privacy and data. We believe public safety and privacy can coexist. More than 40 courts across the country have determined that fixed license plate readers do not violate the Fourth Amendment and cannot track the whole of an individual's movements."

My question, as the taxpayers who purchase and maintain the Flock Safety cameras and equipment, why are citizens not provided with access to the footage? If this is for our safety and our communities, why can't the people access what is being recorded? Law enforcement agencies are having a hard time with staffing and capacity nationwide. Why not empower the people with access to these resources we pay for so we can assist in the surveillance? If nothing nefarious is going on, why would law enforcement want to deter more eyes on our communities?

To me the question is not surveillance. Our phones, personal security systems, and other devices are already tools of mass surveillance. The question is access to data, and not through drawn out FOIA requests. Taxpaying citizens should have access to cameras in their area code or zip code for accountability and transparency for a healthy and informed community.

What Two Fathers Talk About at Lunch

The slander against Black fathers is as old as the country. The men who owned us knew better. So does modern social science.

By Ben Jealous

Last week I had lunch with an old friend. He is a Black Republican and a popular commentator, which means we have spent twenty years disagreeing in public and liking each other in private. He would be welcome in any barbershop in America. He keeps it real in the way men in any true community require of one another. We talked about our kids. That was most of the lunch. Nothing about that would surprise any Black man reading this. Nothing about it would surprise most Black people. But every Black father carries something else around with him. We know the stereotypes: that we do not stay, that we do not provide, that we are not there. Those stories are as old as the country itself. So is the proof against them. And the proof was written down by the men who owned us.

In November of 1836, a man named Richard escaped near Morganton, North Carolina. He got away while the brother of the man who claimed him was hauling him to Alabama. The enslaver bought newspaper space to get him back. His advertisement did not guess where Richard was headed. It told readers exactly where to look.

Richard had a wife, a free woman of color named Jane Tucker. She was arranging to return to Raleigh. The ad said there was no doubt her husband would try to get to her. The man who owned Richard was not speculating. He put money behind it. He had seen enough men run toward a wife or a child to know where to send the search party. He expected his readers to know it too.

Historians have been collecting those advertisements for years. The Freedom on the Move project indexes close to ninety thousand. They name wives. They name children. They name the road the man was likely taking to reach them.

Capture meant brutal punishment. Escape itself could be deadly. They ran anyway. They did not wait for the war to end, either.

On December 27, 1862, Henry Christian placed a notice in a Philadelphia newspaper. He was searching for Richard, Rebecca, and Rachel Christian. His children. Last known to be traveling out of Winchester, Virginia.

Historians at Villanova University have recovered nearly five thousand notices like it. Freed people paying for newspaper space, year after year, hunting for family sold away. Judith Giesberg, who leads that project, estimates the success rate may have been as low as two in a hundred.

They kept paying anyway. Many of those notices were placed by men. Fathers. Husbands. Brothers. Herbert Gutman went through the records community by community. In the places he studied, most Black families had two parents in the house. In some rural areas it ran above eight in ten. Now come forward to our own time.

Among fathers living with their small children, Black fathers were the most likely of the groups the study counted to bathe, dress, and change them every day. Seventy percent did. For White fathers, 60 percent. For Hispanic fathers, 45.

Among fathers of school-age children, 41 percent of Black fathers helped with homework or checked it daily. For White fathers, 28 percent.

That study covered 2006 to 2010. It is still the most recent we have, be-



cause the government stopped asking. A later look at federal data, from 2017 to 2019, found the pattern holds for fathers living apart from their children. Nearly six in ten Black fathers saw their children weekly. For White fathers, about four in ten. That survey also has the hard number, and I will not skip it. Forty-three percent of Black fathers have at least one child living somewhere else. For White fathers it is 14. That is not a shortage of men who want to father. Black fathers who live with their children are among the most involved in this country. The ones living apart report showing up more than anybody. Something keeps pulling them out of the house. Work left those neighborhoods. Violence rose. Prisons filled. Researchers have spent forty years untangling how the three feed one another.

None of it is new. None of it is only ours. It hit Black neighborhoods first and hardest, then kept going until it reached everybody. Next week I will show you those numbers. They belong to every man in America. My friend and I did not talk about any of this over lunch. We talked about our kids. That is what fathers do. Ben Jealous is a professor of practice at the University of Pennsylvania and former president and CEO of the NAACP.



THE NUMBERS GAME

Having worked in politics for a long time, I only put so much stock in polling however, taking a look at the upcoming mid-term elections it was either look at the polls or tarot cards. North Carolina's 2026 midterm elections are shaping up as one of the most competitive cycles in the country, with highprofile federal contests, closely watched state legislative battles, and early polling that shows Democrats holding modest but meaningful advantages across several key races. All figures below reflect the latest available polling and turnout data I could find. The marquee contest is the open U.S. Senate seat vacated by Republican Thom Tillis. Former Democratic Governor Roy Cooper currently leads former RNC Chair Michael Whatley across multiple polls. • Carolina Forward (Aug. 3–6, 2026): Cooper 50%, Whatley 43% • Quantus Insights (Apr. 2026): Cooper 48.6%, Whatley 43.8% • Elon Poll (July 23–31, 2026): Cooper 53%, Whatley 42% among likely voters These surveys consistently show Cooper performing strongly with suburban voters, women, and independents—groups that often decide statewide races in North Carolina. All 14 U.S. House seats are also on the ballot. Several districts are competitive, including NC01, NC02, and NC11, where incumbents face challengers in newly redrawn maps. Prediction Edge highlights NC01 (Don Davis vs. Laurie Buckhout) and NC11 (Jamie Ager vs. Chuck Edwards) as closely watched contests. North Carolina's General Assembly elections remain highly competitive. Generic ballot polling shows Democrats with a narrow but consistent lead: • Carolina Forward (Aug. 2026): Democrats 48%, Republicans 41% • High Point University Poll (Feb. 2026): Democrats 46%, Republicans 41% for both NC House and NC Senate A single North Carolina Supreme Court seat is also on the ballot. Democratic Justice Anita Earls faces Republican Sarah Stevens, a race that could shift the court's partisan balance. Turnout in the Last Midterm Election The most recent statewide turnout benchmark comes from the 2026 primary, which illustrates partisan and demographic engagement heading into November: • Democrats: 576,299 votes • Republicans: 461,175 votes • Unaffiliated: 472,658 votes Carolina For... Demographic turnout patterns show: • White voters: 21.96% turnout • Black voters: 20.76% • Hispanic voters: 8.48% • Ages 18–25: 6.64% • Ages 26–40: 9.83% Carolina For... These numbers highlight the persistent challenge of mobilizing younger voters, even as polls show strong Democratic leanings among Gen Z and competitive margins among Millennials. In North Carolina's 2022 mid-term election, approximately 58% of White registered voters casted ballots compared to 41% of African American registered voters. In the November general election in 2024, 78% of registered White voters showed up compared to 64% of Black voters. This is exactly how we ended up where we are today. If you look at age groups, only 53% of voters ages, 18-25, 64% of vot-

ers ages 26-40, 78% of voters 41-65, and, no surprise here, 86% of voters 66+ showed up to vote. That may not be startling until you realize that 97% of Americans ages 18-25 use social media daily. Across federal and state races, North Carolina remains a true swing state—regionally divided, demographically shifting, and politically competitive. Polling suggests a slight Democratic advantage heading into the general election, driven by strong suburban and independent support for Cooper and modest leads on generic ballots. But with narrow margins and historically variable turnout, both parties face a volatile and highstakes midterm environment. You don't have to be a pundit to realize that whining and complaining the Wednesday after the election is a total waste of time and energy. It's too late to march. It's too late to pontificate. Now is the time to use the technology available to us to rally the troops, consult with those old enough to remember how effective grassroots efforts can be if we embrace our differences and coalesce in support of our best interests.



JUSTIFIED ANGER: WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO WITH IT?

We are living in some justified angry times, especially those of us who have sacrificed, been through the fire, walked through the water, been beaten and healed and kept speaking and working. We expected more of our country and, in my great desire for justice, I expected more too. But alas, not enough. If you joined me for a minute in my understanding of what anger is, perhaps anger is both a human and even divine reaction to what we expected to happen and what actually happened. Growing up, I learned that anger is justifiable, natural and even healthy when we understand where it comes from. Anger is what we feel when what we expected to happen doesn't happen. It is an emotion that comes from disappointment, frustration and knowing that something should be different. Let's respect that. It is what we feel when someone denies our dignity, when we know something isn't right, when the truth is standing right in front of us and somebody wants us to pretend we don't see it. Sometimes it is righteous indignation, and even the Bible gives us permission to be angry. The question is, what are we going to do with it? Knowing that, how do we speak to the history of our lives and move forward? First of all, understand that we didn't create this world, and so if we expect perfection, know that we didn't get it LOL. Instead, when something happens to you, ask yourself, what is this situation teaching me about who I am and how I'm going to keep moving forward? I'll give you an example. A day after I had not come to work because of a stomach issue, someone I thought was joking said something to me that made me angry. I replied, probably with more anger than I needed, and she stared at me. This was because I didn't mind that I was mad, but I did have to stop and ask myself, why is this making me so angry? Sometimes we think anger is just about what somebody else did, but if we don't sort it out, we can carry it around, put it on the wrong person and express it in the wrong way. Some people are angry all the time, desperate and unhappy all the time, and I refuse to be one of those people, so I have to look in the mirror too. Here's what I learned. I value honesty, especially in myself, and I work hard at telling the truth as I see it. The fallacy is believing that because I value something, everybody else will value it in the same way. I cannot control how other people see me, and I learned in the process that I am not responsible for other people. I'm responsible for me. If you tell the truth, you don't have to remember what you said, and that's still a pretty good rule to live by.

I also learned that I can't expect others to see me as I see myself, especially when they have their own perceived prejudices and issues. I can have my conversation, state why I acted the way I did, listen to what they have to say and then decide what I'm going to do with it. That's growth too. This is a very angry time. People are scared, people are disrespectful, people aren't listening to the right things, and there is a lot going on in our country and our world to be angry about. The anger may be justifiable, but anger isn't necessary for everything, and it isn't always the best thing to lead with. I think we need strategies to move forward. Our first strategy is to trust that God's plan, instead of our plans, will prevail. We can also transfer that angry energy into doing something useful. The world wants to make us believe that we have to stay in the fight all the time, but sometimes the answer is not to keep interfacing with people who don't respect you. If they can't afford you the respect you deserve, why are you standing in the rain waiting for them to hand you an umbrella? Check your expectations of life and other people. If you don't over-expect, you don't have to be so disappointed in how people respond. Expect a racist to be racist. You can give him a liberal education with bread and water every day, but don't be shocked when the racism shows up LOL. Recognize your triggers and practice dealing with them. Mean no when you say no, and say yes when yes is really what you mean. Don't spend your time trying not to feel what you feel. Even the Bible says, "Be angry, and sin not." We aren't told that anger itself makes us bad people. Instead, we are given the inner wisdom to have strategies for what happens to us. Find them, use them and keep moving. We deserve to live in this world happy, whole and resolved to be who God created us to be, and anger, even when justified, doesn't deserve to take that away from us.

Classifieds

DURHAM COUNTY

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Estate of Michael Charles Supples
File No. 26E000999-310

ALL PERSONS, firms, and corporations having claims against MICHAEL CHARLES SUPPLES, deceased, of Durham County, N.C., are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before November 20, 2026, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 20th of August, 2026. Matthew Thomas Supples, Administrator of the Estate of Michael Charles Supples, c/o Amanda Honea, Attorney, 1255 Crescent Green, Suite 200, Cary, NC 27518.

8/20, 8/27, 9/3, and 9/10/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Having qualified as Co-Administrators of the Estate of SOSRETHA HOBSON, deceased, of Durham County, North Carolina, File No. 21E000469-310, this is to notify all persons, firms, and corporations having claims against the Estate of Sosretha Hobson to present such claims to the undersigned on or before ninety (90) days from the date of first publication of this notice, or the claims may be forever barred. All persons indebted to the estate are requested to make immediate payment to the undersigned. Charmita Hobson Graham

Co-Administrator
409 S. Meadow Road
Raleigh, NC 27603
and
Lakeisha Hobson
Co-Administrator
1118 E. Geer Street
Durham, NC 27704

Estate of Sosretha Hobson
File No. 21E000469-310
8/20, 8/27, 9/3, and 9/10/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk

File No: 26E000732-310
Donna K. McClure and Stephanie L. Barker, having qualified as Executors of the Estate of JANICE D. HOLDER, late of Durham County, North Carolina, hereby wish to notify all persons having claims against the estate of said deceased to exhibit them to the undersigned at the below listed address on or before the 20th day of November, 2026, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery.

All persons indebted to the estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned at the below listed address.

This is the 20th day of August, 2026.
Donna K. McClure
Stephanie L. Barker
307 Broach Road
Durham, NC 27703

8/20, 8/27, 9/3, and 9/10/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk

File No: 26E001009-310
Having qualified as EXECUTOR of the Estate of CAROLYN ANN HOLT, deceased, late of Durham County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said Estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 20th day of November, 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 20th day of August, 2026.

Angela Yearby, Executor
610 Chalice Street
Durham, NC 27705

8/20, 8/27, 9/3, and 9/10/2026 \
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk

File No: 26E000985-310
Having qualified as EXECUTOR of the Estate of DONALD HARVEY BALL, deceased, late of Durham County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said Estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 20th day of November, 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 20th day of August, 2026.

Kristina Caitlin Ball, Executor
100 Cathy Rd.
Carrboro, NC 27510
8/20, 8/27, 9/3, and 9/10/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
All persons, firms and corporations having claims against JUANITA NOVELLA TAYLOR, DECEASED, of Durham County, NC, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before November 21, 2026, or this notice along with the appropriate general statute will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the deceased are asked to make immediate payment. This the 20th day of August 2026. All correspondence should be to Thomas Kenneth Taylor, III, Administrator c/o Florence A. Bowens, Attorney, P.O. Box 51263, Durham, NC 27717.

8/20, 8/27, 9/3, and 9/10/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
All persons having claims against SUE LYNN ASHE of Durham County, North Carolina, are notified to present them to Brigid Ashe-Moore and Clara Ashe-Moore, as Co-Administrators of the Estate of Sue Lynn Ashe, c/o Brittany N. Porter, Attorney at Law at NextGen Estate Solutions, 101 Glen Lennox Drive, Suite 300, Chapel Hill, NC 27517, on or before November 20, 2026. Failure to present a claim in timely fashion will result in this Notice being pleaded in bar of recovery against the estate, the Co-Administrators, and the devisees of Sue Lynn Ashe. Those indebted to Sue Lynn Ashe are asked to make prompt payment to the Estate.

Brigid Ashe-Moore and Clara Ashe-Moore, Co-Administrators of the Estate of Sue Lynn Ashe
C/O Brittany N. Porter, Attorney
NextGen Estate Solutions
101 Glen Lennox Drive, Suite 300
Chapel Hill, NC 27517
8/20, 8/27, 9/3, and 9/10/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk

File No: 26E000732-310
Donna K. McClure and Stephanie L. Barker, having qualified as Executors of the Estate of JANICE D. HOLDER, late of Durham County, North Carolina, hereby wish to notify all persons having claims against the estate of said deceased to exhibit them to the undersigned at the below listed address on or before the 20th day of November, 2026, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery.

All persons indebted to the estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned at the below listed address.

This is the 20th day of August, 2026.
Donna K. McClure
Stephanie L. Barker
307 Broach Road
Durham, NC 27703

8/20, 8/27, 9/3, and 9/10/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk

File No: 26E000912-310
Having qualified as EXECUTOR of the Estate of JOHN CARWILE RANDALL, deceased, late of Durham County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said Estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 13th day of November, 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 13th day of August, 2026.

Jason Stewart Randall, Executor
c/o Marion Law Office, PLLC
2741 University Drive
Durham, NC 27707

8/13, 8/20, 8/27, and 9/3/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Having qualified as Personal Representative of the Estate of EVELEAN LEE LAWSON (26E000920-310), 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 at PO Box 40, Hampstead, NC 28443 on or before November 18, 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 13th day of August 2026.

Kim Lawson
Personal Representative
c/o Shingleton Law, PLLC
PO Box 40
Hampstead, NC 28443
8/13, 8/20, 8/27, and 9/3/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
File No: 26E000761-310

Having qualified as Administrator of the Estate of DEBBIE MAYES, deceased, of 4900 N. Roxboro St., Apt. 525, Durham County, Durham, NC 27704, 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 November 14, 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 13th day of August, 2026.

Jeffrey L. Austin, PLLC
Public Administrator of the Estate of Debbie Mayes
500 Westover Dr. #32043
Sanford, NC 27330

8/13, 8/20, 8/27, and 9/3/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk

File No: 26E000407-310
Having qualified as ADMINISTRATOR of the Estate of AUDREY MAE JUDD FERRELL, deceased, late of Durham County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said Estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 13th day of November, 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 13th day of August, 2026.

Ava Lynette Judd, Administrator
2810 Lutz Lane
Durham, NC 27703

8/13, 8/20, 8/27, and 9/3/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk

The undersigned, having qualified as Executor of the Estate of ANGEL J. MIYARES, of Durham County, North Carolina, does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said estate to present them to the undersigned on or before November 14, 2026 be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms or corporations indebted to said estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This the 13th day of August, 2026.

Jamie Miyares Botta, Executor of the Estate of Angel J. Miyares
711 Quiet Woods
Durham, Nc 27712

c/o James R. Hundley
Wyatt Early Harris Wheeler LLP
1912 Eastchester Drive, Ste 400
High Point, NC 27265

8/13, 8/20, 8/27, and 9/3/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk

File No: 26E000748-310
Having qualified as EXECUTOR of the Estate of NANCY JOY CHAPMAN, deceased, late of Durham County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said Estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 13th day of November, 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 13th day of August, 2026.

Eugene Frank Mack, Executor
4815 Revere Road
Durham, NC 27713

8/13, 8/20, 8/27, and 9/3/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk

File No: 26E000912-310
Having qualified as EXECUTOR of the Estate of JOHN CARWILE

RANDALL, deceased, late of Durham County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said Estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 13th day of November, 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 13th day of August, 2026.

Jason Stewart Randall, Executor
c/o Marion Law Office, PLLC
2741 University Drive
Durham, NC 27707

8/13, 8/20, 8/27, and 9/3/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION
DISTRICT COURT

FILE NO.: 25CV011432-310
BRENDA CUEVAR CORDON v. GEOVANNY MORALES RIVERA
TO: GEOVANNY MORALES RIVERA
TAKE NOTICE that a pleading seeking relief against you has been filed in the above-entitled action. The nature of relief being sought is: Absolute Divorce.

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

This is the 13th day of August 2026.

Eric M. Williams, Attorney at Law
2402 S. Miami Blvd., STE 104,
Durham, NC 27703.
(919)-246-7928

ewilliamslawfirm@gmail.com
8/13, 8/20, and 8/27/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
The undersigned, having qualified as Executor of the Estate of JASON COLCHAMIRO-SMART, Deceased, late of Durham County, North Carolina, does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the estate to exhibit them to the undersigned at the offices of Munson Law Firm PLLC, P.O. Box 1811 Pittsboro, NC 27312, on or before the 6th day of November, 2026, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery.

All persons indebted to the estate will please make immediate payment.

This 6th day of August, 2026.
JULIA VISGAUSS, EXECUTOR
ESTATE OF Jason Colchamiro-Smart

8/6, 8/13, 8/20, and 8/27/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk

File No: 25E001308-310
Having qualified as ADMINISTRATOR of the Estate of ANA MARITZA MORALES CASTRO, deceased, late of Durham County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said Estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 6th day of November, 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 6th day of August, 2026.

Hailey Isabella Morales Moreno
Administrator
3501 Sidneys Way
Durham, NC 27703

8/6, 8/13, 8/20, and 8/27/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
File No: 26E000814-310

Having qualified as Executor of the Estate of PATTY JEAN NEAL, deceased, of 918 Ferncrest Drive, Durham County, Durham, NC 27705, 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 November 7, 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 6th day of August, 2026.

Theresa C. Neal
Executor of the Estate of Patty Jean Neal c/o Law Office of Jeffrey L. Austin, PLLC

500 Westover Dr. #32043
Sanford, NC 27330

FOR PUBLICATION: The Carolinian
8/6, 8/13, 8/20 and 8/27/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF DURHAM

IN THE GENERAL COURT OF

JUSTICE
SUPERIOR COURT DIVISION
BEFORE THE CLERK
ESTATE FILE: 26E000681-310
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE
OF: Wilmot H. Losee, Jr.,
DECEASED
NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Having qualified as Executor of the Estate of Wilmot H. Losee, Jr. (the "Estate"), of Durham County, North Carolina, the undersigned hereby notifies all persons, firms, and corporations having claims against the Estate of Wilmot H. Losee, Jr. to present them to the undersigned on or before the 9th day of November 2026, in care of the undersigned's attorney at the address stated below, or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. All persons, firms, and corporations indebted to the decedent, or the Estate shall please make immediate payment to the Estate of Wilmot H. Losee, Jr., care of the undersigned attorney at the address stated below.

This 6th day of August 2026.
Geoffrey A. Losee, Executor
Estate Wilmot H. Losee, Jr.
c/o Rountree Losee LLP
P. O. Box 1409

Wilmington, NC 28402-1409
Telephone: 910-763-3404
Facsimile: 910-763-0320

By: /s/ Michael A. Becker
8/6, 8/13, 8/20, and 8/27/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
ESTATE OF TOBY DUCHAN
FILE NO. 26E000883-310

ALL PERSONS, firms, and corporations having claims against Toby Duchan, deceased, of Durham County, N.C., are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before November 6, 2026, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 6th of August, 2026. Joshua Greenstein, Executor of the Estate of Toby Duchan, c/o Amanda Honea, Attorney, 1255 Crescent Green, Suite 200, Cary, NC 27518.

8/6, 8/13, 8/20, and 8/27/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
The undersigned having qualified as Executor of the Estate of CLIFTON LENEAR DEARING, Deceased, late of Durham 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 9th day of November, 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 6th day of August, 2026.

Ronnie Lenear Dearing, Executor,
Estate of Clifton Lenear Dearing,
Deceased
Robert A. Idol, Esquire
IDOL LAW, PLLC
Attorney at Law
PO Box 51759
Durham, NC 27717

(919)401.5151
8/6, 8/13, 8/20, and 8/27/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Having qualified as Executor of the Estate of GWENDOLYN JEAN JUSTICE PERRY, deceased, late of the County of Durham, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons, firms, and corporations having claims against the estate of said deceased to present them to the undersigned on or before October 30, 2026 or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery.

All persons indebted to the estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned.

William J. Hopkins, Executor of the Estate of Gwendolyn Jean Justice Perry

P.O. Box 3814
Chester, Virginia 23831
7/30, 8/6, 8/13 and 8/20/2026
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 30th 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 30th day of July, 2026.

James Graham Lewis,
Administrator
4 Linkside Ct.
Durham, NC 27703

7/30, 8/6, 8/13, and 8/20/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk

File No.: 26E000885-310
THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 21st day of July, 2026, as EXECUTRIX of the Estate of FRANK DAVID ALMENDAREZ, Deceased, of Durham County,

persons indebted to said Estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This, the 30th day of July, 2026.

Wilma Carolyn Jones, Executor
662 Wallace Fork Rd.
Roanoke Rapids, NC 27870

7/30, 8/6, 8/13, and 8/20/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk

File No.: 26E000898-310
THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 21st day of July, 2026, as ADMINISTRATOR CTA of the Estate of ELLEN WILKINS RAY, 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 30th 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 30th day of July, 2026.

Chris Ray, Administrator of the Estate of Ellen W. Ray
1400 Hunters Ridge Road
Canton, NC 28716

7/30, 8/6, 8/13, and 8/20/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
All persons, firms and corporations having claims against RONALD STEPHEN WATKINS, deceased, of Durham County, are hereby notified to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 28th 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 30th day of July, 2026.

Tonya L. Minor Watkins
Administrator of the Estate of Ronald Stephen Watkins
c/o M. Bryan King

Haithcock, Barfield, Hulse & King, PLLC
Attorneys for Estate
Post Office Drawer 7
Goldsboro, NC 27533

(919) 735-6420
7/30, 8/6, 8/13, and 8/20/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk

File No.: 26E000801-310
THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 10th day of July, 2026, as EXECUTOR of the Estate of WINIFRED D. NORTON, 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 30th 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 30th day of July, 2026.

Mitsi Utley Norton, Executor
3102 Carpenter Road
Durham, NC 27703

7/30, 8/6, 8/13, and 8/20/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk

File No.: 26E000099-310
THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 20th day of April, 2026, as ADMINISTRATOR of the Estate of DIANNE ELIZABETH TIMBLIN, 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 30th 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 30th day of July, 2026.

Mitsi Utley Norton, Executor
3102 Carpenter Road
Durham, NC 27703

7/30, 8/6, 8/13, and 8/20/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk

File No.: 26E000099-310
THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 20th day of April, 2026, as ADMINISTRATOR of the Estate of DIANNE ELIZABETH TIMBLIN, 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 30th 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 30th day of July, 2026.

James Graham Lewis,
Administrator
4 Linkside Ct.
Durham, NC 27703

7/30, 8/6, 8/13, and 8/20/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk

File No.: 26E000885-310
THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 21st day of July, 2026, as EXECUTRIX of the Estate of FRANK DAVID ALMENDAREZ, Deceased, of Durham County,

</

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 30th 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 30th day of July, 2026.
Twila Slater, Executrix
c/o Richard F. Prentiss, Jr.
4 Consultant Pl.
Durham, NC 27707
7/30, 8/6, 8/13, and 8/20/2026

EDGECOMBE COUNTY

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
EDGECOMBE COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
RE: THE ESTATE OF DAPHNE BROWN – 23E000401-320
Having qualified as Administrator of the Estate of DAPHNE BROWN, deceased, Edgecombe 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 4th day of November, 2026, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. This the 6th ay of August, 2026.

Alicia Dickens, Administrator
DSR Legal, PLLC
PO Box 51596
Durham, NC 27717
8/6, 8/13, 8/20, and 8/27/2026

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: 25E000730-670
Having qualified as EXECUTOR of the Estate of BETTY COLEMAN WILLOUGHBY, deceased, late of Orange County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said Estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 30th 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 30th day of July, 2026.
Roger Dale Page, Executor
4313 Page Road
Morrisville, NC 27560
7/30, 8/6, 8/13, and 8/20/2026

MECKLENBURG COUNTY

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE
COUNTY OF MECKLENBURG
SUPERIOR COURT
DIVISION FILE NO.: 26CV011824-590
Danielle Michelle Davis and Latonya Houston, Plaintiffs Vs. Ciani Adimu Vega, Defendant
To: Ciani Adimu Vega, above named Defendant: Take notice that a pleading seeking relief against the Defendant Ciani Adimu Vega and naming you as a Defendant has been filed in the above entitled action. The nature of the relief being sought is as follows: Compensation in excess of \$25,000.00 for bodily injuries and property damage stemming from a motor vehicle accident that occurred on 12/10/2025.

You are required to make defense to such pleading not later than September 15, 2026, said date being 40 days from the first publication of this notice and upon your failure to do so the party seeking service against you will apply to the court for the relief sought. This the 17th day of July, 2026.
WILLIAM H. HARDING
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF
9115 HARRIS CORNERS PKWY SUITE 220 CHARLOTTE, NC 28269
TELEPHONE: (704)509-3090
STATE BAR NO.: 40623
August 6, 2026, August 13, 2026, and August 20, 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: 26E002040-910
Having qualified as EXECUTOR of the Estate of MARY ALICE SULLIVAN, deceased, late of Wake County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said Estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 20th day of November, 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 20th day of August, 2026.
Linda Povlich, Executor
8505 Society Place
Raleigh, NC 27615
8/20, 8/27, 9/3, and 9/10/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
WAKE COUNTY

NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION
In The General Court Of Justice
District Court Division
File No. 26CV008674-910
LAURISSA S SOILS, Plaintiff,
v. KENNETH D POINDEXTER,
Defendant.

TO: KENNETH D POINDEXTER
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: Complaint for Child Custody regarding the minor child born to the parties.
You are required to make defense to such pleading not later than September 29, 2026, which is forty (40) days from the date of the first publication of this notice. Upon your failure to do so, the party seeking service against you will apply to the court for the relief sought.

This the 20th day of August, 2026.
Laurissa Soils, Plaintiff Pro Se
919-771-6952
laurissa.soils@gmail.com
(Publish Dates: 8/20/2026, 8/27/2026, and 9/3/2026)
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
WAKE COUNTY

NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION
In the General Court of Justice, District Division (26CV016530-910)
TO: DOUGLAS WESLEY HAWKINS, Defendant
FROM: HEAVNER FURNITURE MARKET, Plaintiff
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 a Judgment for the remaining balance of Judgment 16CVM002939-910.

You are required to make defense to such pleading not later than (40) days after the date of the first publication of notice, August 20, 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 20th day of August, 2026.
Heavner Furniture Market
PO Box 2346
Smithfield, NC 27577
(919) 934-0551
Publication Dates: 8/20/26, 8/27/26, 9/3/26
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
WAKE COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice, Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File No: 26E002866-910
Having qualified as ADMINISTRATOR of the Estate of LATONYA SEANNE ROBINSON, deceased, late of Wake County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said Estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 13th day of November, 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 13th day of August, 2026.
Virginia Leonard, Administrator
4303 Halliwell Drive
Raleigh, NC 27606
8/13, 8/20, 8/27, and 9/3/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
WAKE COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice, Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File No: 25E003933-910
Having qualified as ADMINISTRATOR of the Estate of YVONNE ALANA CHEEK, deceased, late of Wake County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said Estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 13th day of November, 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 13th day of August, 2026.
James Cheek, Administrator
4813 Studbury Hall Court

Wake Forest, NC 27587
8/13, 8/20, 8/27, and 9/3/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
WAKE COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice, Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File No: 26E000939-910
Having qualified as ADMINISTRATOR CTA of the Estate of MARY ELIZA BOBBITT, deceased, late of Wake County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said Estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 6th day of November, 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 6th day of August, 2026.
Kayolyn Person, Administrator CTA
1313 Rhea Drive
Garner, NC 27529
8/6, 8/13, 8/20, and 8/27/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
WAKE COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice, Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File No: 26E001585-910

Having qualified as EXECUTOR of the Estate of MARY L. EVANS, deceased, late of Wake County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said Estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 6th day of November, 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 6th day of August, 2026.
Veronica Evans-Johnson, Executor
9 Cynthia Court
Durham, NC 27704
8/6, 8/13, 8/20, and 8/27/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
WAKE COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

FORECLOSURE

NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY
Special Proceedings No. 26SP000472-310
Substitute Trustee: Philip A. Glass
NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE
Date of Sale: September 2, 2026
Time of Sale: 3:00 p.m.
Place of Sale: Durham County Courthouse
Description of Property: See Attached Description
Record Owners: Builder Bee Projects LLC
Address of Property: 605 Lee Street
Durham, NC 27701
Deed of Trust:
Book: 9323 Page: 348
Dated: May 4, 2021
Grantors: Builder Bee Projects LLC
Original Beneficiary: Visio Financial Services

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's 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 the 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

In the General Court of Justice, Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File No: 26E002326-910
Having qualified as EXECUTOR of the Estate of ELIZABETH LEE IMBURG, deceased, late of Wake County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said Estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 6th day of November, 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 6th day of August, 2026.
Danny Robert Pugh
c/o Ethan C. Timmins
Patrick Law, PLLC
3805 University Drive, Suite A
Durham, NC 27707
8/6, 8/13, 8/20, and 8/27/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
WAKE COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice, Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File No.: 26E002170-910
THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 15th day of July, 2026, as ADMINISTRATOR CTA of the Estate of ANNE GRAY FUTRELL, 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 30th 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 30th day of July, 2026.
Claude K. Futrell, II, Administrator CTA
c/o Marion Law Office, PLLC
2741 University Drive
Durham, NC 27707
7/30, 8/6, 8/13, and 8/20/2026

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: 7/15/26
Philip A. Glass, Substitute Trustee
Nodell, Glass & Haskell, L.L.P.
Posted on 7/15/26

EXHIBIT "A"
The property located in Durham County, North Carolina, described as:
Lying on the southern side of Lee Street and being all of Lot 3 in Block 10 of the Property of T. E. Cheek as per plat and survey thereof now on file in Plat Book 12 at Page 21 in the Office of the Register of Deeds of Durham County, to which plat reference is hereby expressly made for a more particular description of same. Said property is now shown on the plat recorded in Book 198, Page 283, Durham County Registry.
Tax ID: 223160
Property Address: 605 Lee Street
Durham, NC 27701

Being that parcel of land conveyed to Builder Bee Projects, LLC, a North Carolina Limited Liability Company, from Newman Land Company, LLC, a North Carolina Limited Liability Company, by deed dated January 14, 2019, and recorded January 18, 2019, in Deed Book 8580 at Page 526 of the Durham County, North Carolina Public Registry.
August 20 and August 27, 2026

FORECLOSURE

NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY
IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE
SUPERIOR COURT DIVISION
26CV003225-310
STATE EMPLOYEES' CREDIT UNION, Plaintiff, v. SHAHANAZ MOURADALLY, MOHAMMED SALEHMOHAMMED, CAROLINA COUNTRY MORTGAGE, INC. and SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, Defendants.

NOTICE OF SALE
Notice is given that pursuant to a final judgment entered by the presiding Judge in the Durham County Superior Court on July 31, 2026, in the above-entitled cause, I, Craig S. Haskell, in and by such judgment appointed to be Commissioner referred to in the judgment, will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder or bidders, on the steps of the Durham County Courthouse, or usual place of sale, at 3:00 p.m., on Wednesday, September 2, 2026, the real property directed by such judgment to be sold, which is located at 3338 Prospect Parkway, Durham, North Carolina, Durham County, and more particularly described as follows:

BEING all of Lot 798 in Brightleaf at the Park, Phase 3 as shown on plat recorded in Plat Book 195, Pages 109-111, Durham County Registry.
Subject to easements, restrictions and rights of way of

record, and utility lines and rights of way in existence over, under or upon the above-described property.
PIN: 0850-72-4337
Property Address: 3338 Prospect Parkway, Durham, NC 27703
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.

A cash deposit of 5% of the purchase price will be required at the time of the sale. 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 Commissioner 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 1-339.30 (e).

This sale will be held open ten days for upset bids as required by law.
This 6th day of August, 2026.
/s/Craig S. Haskell
Craig S. Haskell
Commissioner
August 20 and August 27, 2026

SBA Announces 90% Loan Guarantee For The Energy Sector

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) announced that small businesses across the energy production supply chain are now eligible for a new 90% Energy Guarantee through the SBA International Trade Loan (ITL) Program. Established as part of SOP 50 10 8.1, the enhanced guarantee encourages participating lenders to unleash private investment in energy production, distribution, grid modernization, and equipment manufacturing to increase energy output and support lower costs for households and small businesses.

"Since his first term, President Trump has unleashed American energy dominance by ending Green New Scam mandates, reviving clean, beautiful coal, and advancing drill, baby, drill," said SBA Administrator Kelly Loeffler. "By establishing a 90% Energy Guarantee, the Trump SBA is offering lenders more incentive to deploy capital to the local businesses expanding America's energy production and distribution. Supercharging domestic energy capacity across America will bring down utility costs - fueling long-term economic growth on Main Street and cost savings for families."

The ITL Program unlocks long-term, affordable financing to support American producers – offering borrowers additional flexibility through an increased SBA guarantee of 90% compared to the standard 75% guarantee for the agency's popular 7(a) Loan Program. The expanded ITL eligibility for energy producers mirrors two similar enhanced guarantees the SBA launched in recent months to incentivize investment in critical industries, including food production and manufacturing. Since May, the SBA has approved \$110 million in capital through its 90% Made in America Guarantee and \$82 million in capital through its 90% Grocery Guarantee.

Effective immediately, small businesses in the following NAICS codes are eligible for the expanded ITL Loan Program:
211120 – Crude Petroleum Extraction
211130 – Natural Gas Extraction
212111 – Bituminous Coal and Lignite Surface Mining
212112 – Bituminous Coal Underground Mining
212113 – Anthracite Mining
212210 – Iron Ore Mining
212221 – Gold Ore Mining
212222 – Silver Ore Mining
212230 – Copper, Nickel, Lead, and Zinc Mining
212291 – Uranium-Radium-Vanadium Ore Mining
212299 – All Other Metal Ore Mining
212311 – Dimension Stone Mining and Quarrying
212312 – Crushed and Broken Limestone Mining and Quarrying
212313 – Crushed and Broken Granite Mining and Quarrying
212319 – Other Crushed and Broken Stone Mining and Quarrying
212321 – Construction Sand and Gravel Mining
212322 – Industrial Sand Mining
212324 – Kaolin and Ball Clay Mining
212325 – Clay and Ceramic and Refractory Minerals Mining
212391 – Potash, Soda, and Borate Mineral Mining
212392 – Phosphate Rock Mining
212393 – Other Chemical and Fertilizer Mineral Mining
212399 – All Other Nonmetallic Mineral Mining
213111 – Drilling Oil and Gas Wells
213112 – Support Activities for Oil and Gas Operations
213113 – Support Activities for Coal Mining
213114 – Support Activities for Metal Mining
213115 – Support Activities for Nonmetallic Minerals (except Fuels) Mining

As part of SOP 50 10 8.1, the agency is making additional updates to streamline program execution, eliminate unnecessary red tape, and align federal lending tools with President Trump's agenda to restore American industrial dominance. Beyond energy financing, the updated SOP also aligns acquisition underwriting with commercial norms to streamline owner buyouts and generational transitions. The SBA is also modernizing its revolving credit offerings for capital-intensive industries, including the Manufacturers Access to Revolving Credit (MARC) Loan and SBA Express.

Lenders and small businesses interested in the updated International Trade Loan Program can contact SBA's national team of Finance Managers for more information. SBA's Finance Managers team not only supports the ITL Program but also serves as the agency's working capital specialists and can help lenders and borrowers understand how ITL can be paired with SBA's expanding suite of working capital solutions.

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Politics & Election News

NC Counties Dropping Sundays From Early Voting Plans

NC NEWSLINE - Sunday voting is declining in North Carolina, with counties that had some Sunday hours during early voting for the 2022 midterm elections deciding to eliminate them this year.

The state Board of Elections approved early voting plans for 80 counties where local boards voted unanimously on days and hours. Of those, about a dozen had early voting hours on Sunday in the 2022 general election but dropped them this year.

Not all county early voting plans are set, and there may yet be more Sundays eliminated in more counties.

The state Board of Elections will meet to decide early voting plans in 20 counties where local boards were divided over voting days or polling locations. In most of those counties, Sunday voting is at issue.

Republicans hold majorities on county boards of election and all have Republican chairs. Republicans are less inclined to support Sunday voting hours. They've objected to Sunday voting for various reasons: that people should be in church; that Sunday voting stretches election staff, and that it's not cost effective.

Dallas Woodhouse, the former elections liaison in state Auditor Dave Boliek's office, encouraged county election boards to drop Sunday early voting hours.

Sunday voting is important to Black voters because Black churches



hold Souls to the Polls events on Sundays.

By eliminating Sunday voting hours and making voting inconvenient for college students, the state Board of Elections is sending the message that they don't want Black, brown, or young people to vote, said Brian Kennedy II, policy director at Democracy NC. He said it's part of a pattern.

The Wake County Board of Elections voted to move an early voting site out of the student union at N.C. State University and to the edge of campus. The vote was unanimous after Republicans shot down Democrats' move to keep the student union site.

Sunday hours. But those plans were voted down by the Republican majority.

When the board's Democrats were reminded that the Republican-led state Board of Elections decides early voting plans when local votes are not unanimous, the Democrats agreed to a plan without Sundays.

Brunswick had polls open on both Sundays during the 2022 early voting period. Brunswick elections staff provided data for 2022 that showed turnout was lowest on Sundays.

Still, speakers urged the Brunswick board to keep Sunday hours. Gary Kozlusk of Sunset Beach asked the board to consider what would be best for voters and recommended the board open voting on both available Sundays.

"Not everyone has the flexibility to vote during the week," he said. "Some people have longer, irregular hours, others work Saturdays caring for family members. No single schedule works for everybody."

Brunswick elections board Chair Randy Pelton said weekend voting has been an issue every year going back to when he first started serving on the board in 2013.

"Every year, it's the same thing," he said. "I don't think money is the issue at this point."

Republican member Joe Myers said the 17-day early voting period is too long.

JC Waller & Associates Unpack Taylortown Critical Water & Sewer Infrastructure

By Jheri Hardaway

Staff Writer

Taylortown, NC - Mayor Bridget Cotton and the Taylortown Town Council convened a special town hall meeting to address long-standing challenges facing the municipality's water and wastewater collection systems. The session brought together local leadership, public works officials, and contracted technical experts to review findings from a comprehensive engineering assessment. The meeting focused largely on the Olmstead Village, a vital commercial corridor within Taylortown's sewer network, and featured presentations from Public Works Director Darnell Price and Dr. Juhann Waller, P.E., of J.C. Waller & Associates, PC.

A central takeaway from the presentation was resolving historical discrepancies regarding underground utility records. Prior mapping provided to the town proved inaccurate, requiring engineers to execute a complete ground survey to pinpoint every manhole and sewer main within the study area.

Despite historical mapping issues, the technical analysis delivered encouraging news regarding system volume: the overall collection network and the Lincoln Street Lift Station hold sufficient volumetric capacity to handle existing commercial and residential demand, as well as proposed future developments, including two planned hotel projects requiring an estimated 45,000 gallons per day.

Dr. Waller informed the community and leaders that, while the



system possesses adequate volumetric capacity, two significant operational challenges will impact performance and municipal costs. First, Excessive Inflow and Infiltration (I&I): The network absorbs an estimated 15,770 gallons per day of unpolluted groundwater and stormwater through unsealed manhole covers and joint separations. This extra volume enters the sanitary sewer system, directly increasing the treatment costs paid by the town to Moore County. Second, Sedimentation and Velocity Issues: Pipe sags and gentle slopes prevent effluent from reaching self-cleaning velocities meaning sediment would not naturally be pushed through pipes. As a result, solids and fats, oils, and grease (FOG) settle in the lines rather than flowing smoothly to the

lift station, placing an ongoing maintenance burden on the public works department.

Using visual and closed-circuit television (CCTV) inspections, engineers assigned condition grades based on standard engineering benchmarks. Dr. Waller outlined the following tactical steps for the town council to consider as the full municipal assessment nears completion:

1. Targeted Line Rehabilitation: Focus initial capital spending on repairing or replacing pipe segments rated D and F to curb groundwater infiltration.

2. Manhole Upgrades: Elevate buried manhole covers to grade level, seal ring joints against surface runoff, and install internal drops where service lines enter at higher elevations.

3. Routine Maintenance: Continue scheduled jetting to clear sediment and FOG accumulations until permanent line modifications are complete.

4. Completion of Town-Wide AIA: Finalize evaluations across the remaining municipal system to establish a multi-year capital improvement strategy.

Town officials confirmed that these findings will help guide upcoming administrative decisions and future development coordination. Taylortown leadership continued to assert that the town is open to development as long as it is done the correct way and mindful of existing infrastructure concerns. The council spoke after the presentation about the history and issues with the water. Mayor Pro Tem Sidney Gaddy spoke to the issue, "We've noticed for a long time that we had a problem with this system. For many nights and days we have noticed clear water running. This town and this particular board is very much aware of this problem. So I hope with all that has been said that the developers and any future developers realize that this is a real problem. Anybody out there in high positions should understand that it is very crucial for the towns and the hotels. This is a serious problem that the town needs to address. Stop using your office against people in communities to the advancement of developers. Taylortown has no problem with development but we have to do things on our town, we've been blessed, we've made our deadlines. Hopefully we can move forward and everyone can be happy."

Faith Leaders Condemn House Bill 958

By Jordan Meadows

Staff Writer

Bishop William J. Barber II, president of Repairers of the Breach, led clergy and North Carolinians of "every conscience" in a news conference Tuesday morning outside the North Carolina State Legislative Building in Raleigh, denouncing House Bill 958 as the legislature's latest attempt to suppress the vote.

House Bill 958 passed the General Assembly along party lines earlier this month and would cut the state's primary early voting period nearly in half, allow a citizen's ballot to be challenged for three days after an election concludes, and give the state auditor new authority over county election offices, machines and personnel after votes are cast.

Gov. Josh Stein vetoed the bill, and Barber told the crowd the reprieve was temporary.

"Governor Stein's veto buys us time, and time is all that it buys," Barber said, noting the General Assembly returns in November and that the House speaker has already promised an override attempt.

Barber connected the bill to Vance County, where a retired Baptist pastor, William Clayton, who joined him at the podium, said the legislation traced back a decade.

"House Bill 958 arrives 10 years later, in better clothing, and with the same measurements," Clayton said. He said more than 700,000 North Carolinians voted early in the March



primary and argued the people who stood to lose that week of access were "hourly workers, people without a car, people who cannot take a Tuesday off" and congregations that "walk from the sanctuary to the polls on a Sunday afternoon."

He added, "Souls to the polls is not a slogan. It is a liturgy."

Barber framed the fight in constitutional terms, citing language from North Carolina's Reconstruction-era constitution establishing that elections belong to the people rather than to legislative leaders.

"The elections don't belong to politicians," Barber said. "They don't belong to the speaker. They don't belong to the Senate pro tem. They don't belong to whoever happens to have the majority."

He called the legislature's actions "unconstitutional," "morally indefensible" and, invoking the scripture that closed his remarks, "sin."

Tuesday's event doubled as the formal launch of Repairers of the Breach's 100 Days of Mobilization, 1,000 Marches to the Polls campaign, which Barber said had drawn commitments from more than 200 organizations, churches and community groups since it was first announced in July.

"We need the polling places to look like they did in South Africa when Mandela first got out," Barber said, calling for marches from barbershops, hair salons, churches, synagogues, mosques, lodges and college campuses on the first day of early voting "and beyond."

In an interview Tuesday, Kozlusk, who is a poll worker, said that Brunswick does a good job with election planning. But Republicans have always opposed Sunday voting, he said.

"There are just so many little things going on everywhere in North Carolina," he said. "It's almost like you can see that there's a strategic

movement against Sunday voting."

Deborah Maxwell, president of the NC NAACP, predicted voters will still find a way to cast ballots despite Sundays disappearing from early voting schedules.

"They can try all the suppression tactics they want, but we're still going to vote," she said. "Our lives depend on it."



NAACP Freedom Fund Banquet

The NAACP Raleigh-Apex Branch held its annual Freedom Fund Banquet on August 15th at the Family Life Center at Martin Street Baptist Church in Raleigh. The sold-out event drew more than 200 attendees and celebrated individuals and organizations making a meaningful impact in the community. The evening was emceed by ABC11's Kweilyn Murphy, with the keynote address delivered by Reverend Dr. Jeffrey Robinson of Juniper Level Missionary Baptist Church. Awards were presented for Church of the Year, Pastor of the Year, Community Impact, Education Excellence, Youth of the Year, and the President's Award, recognizing outstanding leadership, service, education, faith, and youth achievement.



Federal Court Protects MS Majority-Black Voting District



By Jheri Hardaway

Staff Writer

DESOTO COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI - Black voters in DeSoto County, Mississippi, won a major legal victory after a federal judge rejected an attempt to eliminate a new, majority-Black judicial voting district ahead of the November election. The decision ensures that local Black residents will keep their fair chance to elect judges of their choice this fall. Earlier this year, Mississippi created a specific voting area known as a judicial subdistrict covering parts of DeSoto County, including Horn Lake and Southaven. Because DeSoto County is mostly white, Black candidates historically struggled to win countywide elections. Creating this majority-Black subdistrict was designed to give Black residents a fair voice on the local court bench.

A group led by local official Robert Foster filed a lawsuit (Robert Foster et al. v. The State of Mississippi) to block the new district, claiming it should not be used in the upcoming November election. After a four-day hearing, a federal judge denied the request to block the district for two main reasons. First, a lack of evidence: the plaintiffs failed to prove that the district caused the kind of harm needed to justify an emergency stop. Second, the "Purcell Principle" under a key U.S. Supreme Court rule warns judges not to change election districts or rules right before an election, as doing so confuses voters and disrupts the voting process.

"The court's decision protects DeSoto County voters from this unfounded, last-minute attempt to take away their only meaningful opportunity to participate in judicial elections," said Ming Cheung, senior staff attorney with the ACLU's Voting Rights Project. "Callais is not a license for politicians to disempower Black voters."

The NAACP DeSoto County Branch stepped up to defend the district, teaming up with major legal advocates, including the NAACP Legal Defense Fund (LDF), the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), and the ACLU of Mississippi. Civil rights lawyers explained that without this subdistrict, the voting power of Black residents who make up more than a third of DeSoto County would be completely washed out in countywide votes.

"In one of the fastest-growing counties in Mississippi, where black residents make up over 30% of the county and have largely driven the population increase, black DeSoto Countians deserve, like all voters a chance to elect candidates of their choice, including to the Circuit and Chancery Courts," said Joshua Tom, legal director at ACLU of Mississippi.

While the broader legal case will continue to be argued in court over the coming months, this ruling guarantees that the majority-Black district will stay in place for the November election, protecting community representation when voters head to the polls.