



The Man Who Took On The United States Dept. of Agriculture, And Won!

There are moments in history when an individual becomes the name attached to a movement. For Black farmers in America, one of those names is Timothy Pigford.

Long before his name became synonymous with one of the largest civil rights cases involving the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Pigford was simply a North Carolina farmer trying to do what generations of Black farmers had done before him: work the land, make a living and build something his family could call its own.

His story began in eastern North Carolina, where farming was more than an occupation, it was a way of life.

Pigford grew up in Columbus County and eventually farmed in Bladen County. He dreamed of owning his own farm. But when he sought federal assistance to purchase land and expand his farming operation, he encountered a system he believed was treating him differently because he was Black.

Those encounters took him all the way to federal court, and the lawsuit that carried his name would force the federal government to confront decades of allegations that Black farmers had been denied equal access to the very programs designed to help American agriculture survive and prosper.

Pigford's struggle with the federal government did not begin in 1997, when the lawsuit was filed. It began years earlier.

According to congressional records and court documents, Pigford first applied for a federal farm own-



ership loan in 1976. He subsequently made multiple applications through the Farmers Home Administration, or FmHA, seeking the financing necessary to purchase farmland. The applications were denied.

Pigford maintained that the denials were not simply the result of poor farming prospects or financial circumstances. He believed race was a factor in how his applications were

handled.

His allegations were eventually supported by findings within the federal agricultural system. Court records later described what happened to Pigford as "willful and continuous racial discrimination," including the denial of farm ownership loans, refusal to provide operating credit and inadequate loan servicing. A federal court record also noted that

an internal FmHA analysis of one of Pigford's loan applications concluded that the agency had placed an unreasonable burden on him in rejecting his request.

For Pigford, however, the problem was larger than one loan. His experience reflected complaints being made by Black farmers across the country.

The USDA administered billions of dollars in farm loans, disaster assistance, commodity programs and other benefits. Local agricultural committees and federal officials played an important role in determining who received assistance and when.

For farmers, timing could be everything. A delayed loan could mean crops were planted late. A denied operating loan could mean a farmer could not purchase seed or fertilizer. A denied farm ownership loan could mean a family lost the opportunity to acquire land. Without access to capital, a farmer could eventually lose the farm itself.

The U.S. Government Accountability Office later reported that Black farmers had alleged that USDA officials denied or delayed applications for loans and benefits and failed to properly investigate complaints of discrimination. In approving the eventual settlement, a federal judge recognized the USDA's history of discriminatory practices against African American farmers.

The consequences went beyond individual farmers. This was systemic. Land is wealth, and for many rural families, farmland represents an

(See **PIGFORD**, P. 12)



It Has Been 63 Years, And We Are Still Asking For Our Rights As Americans

WASHINGTON — Sixty-three years after hundreds of thousands of Americans gathered at the Lincoln Memorial to demand civil rights and economic justice, activists, civil rights leaders and community organizers will return to Washington this weekend for a new March on Washington focused on protecting voting rights.

The March on Washington 2026: Defend the Vote is scheduled for Friday, Aug. 28, the anniversary of the 1963 March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom, where the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. delivered his famed "I Have a Dream" speech.

The 1963 demonstration drew an estimated 250,000 people to the National Mall and helped build momentum for landmark civil rights legislation. The 2026 event is being organized by the National Action Network and the Drum Major Institute, with participation from groups including the NAACP, National Urban League and League of United Latin American Citizens.

Organizers say this year's march will focus on voting rights, civil rights and economic opportunity. The event comes after a U.S. Supreme Court ruling that limited the use of racial demographics in drawing congressional districts, a decision that civil rights advocates say could weaken protections against racial discrimination in voting.

The official schedule calls for participants to begin gathering at the Lincoln Memorial at 8 a.m. Friday, with the program scheduled to begin at 9 a.m. and continue until about 1 p.m. Organizers are encouraging attendees to arrive early because of security screening, road closures and expected crowds.

For those coming to Washington for the march, organizers have warned that road closures and increased Metro traffic could make travel more difficult. Public transportation may be the easiest option for visitors heading toward the National Mall.

The anniversary carries particular weight for organizers because of the connection between the 1963 demonstration and the issues being debated today. The original march called for civil rights legislation, voting rights, economic opportunity and an end to racial segregation. Organizers of Friday's event say many of those goals remain unfinished.

"Sixty-three years after my father stood at the Lincoln Memorial, we are called to march again, not only in remembrance, but in action," King III said when the 2026 march was announced.

The weekend's events therefore will place Washington at the center of both remembrance and contemporary political activism, as a new generation gathers at the same memorial where King and other civil rights leaders addressed the nation six decades ago.

Washington Post Ordered To Reinstate Black Opinion Writer Fired After Charlie Kirk Posts

(AP)—An arbitrator has ordered The Washington Post to reinstate a Black opinion writer fired over social media posts about violent white men following last year's killing of Charlie Kirk.

The ruling last Thursday said the newspaper did not have sufficient cause to terminate Karen Attiah, who at the time was the last Black full-time member of the Post's opinion desk. The arbitrator, Sarah Miller Espinosa, also ordered the Post to award Attiah full back pay and lost benefits.

Kirk, who rose from a teenage conservative campus activist to become a top podcaster and ally of President Donald Trump, was shot and killed Sept. 10 during a public appearance at Utah Valley University. He was 31.

Kirk launched Turning Point USA in 2012 and made provocative statements about race, gender and politics. He was critical of the Black Lives Matter movement on college campuses and called George Floyd, the Black man whose 2020 murder at the hands of Minneapolis police sparked protests, a "scumbag."

His death elicited a torrent of comments about him, both pro



and con, and some who spoke out against him in the days after the killing faced sanctions or dismissal at work.

After Kirk's killing, Attiah, the founding global opinion editor for the Post and the newspaper's only Black female opinion writer, made several posts to her Bluesky account.

One post read: "Refusing to tear my clothes and smear ashes on my face in performative mourning for a

white man that espoused violence is ... not the same as violence."

"If anything, the rush to coddle violent white men is self-protective — that we know they are not used to feeling vulnerable and mortal — and will react violently out of fear. And we will all suffer," read another post.

Attiah was emailed a termination letter on Sept. 11, accusing her of "gross misconduct."

"Your public comments on social

media regarding the death of Charlie Kirk violate the Post's social media policies, harm the integrity of our organization, and potentially endanger the physical safety of our staff," the letter read.

But Espinosa found that the newspaper, in a June 4 hearing, failed to establish that Attiah "engaged in gross misconduct" and that the Post "did not have good and sufficient cause to terminate" her employment, which violated the collective bargaining agreement with the newspaper's union.

"After wrongfully firing me last year, an independent arbitrator has ordered the @washingtonpost to reinstate me immediately, with back pay," Attiah posted on Instagram on Monday. "It's been a year-long fight, but this is a victory for journalists everywhere. More to come soon."

The Democracy Defenders Fund, which, along with Washington-Baltimore News Guild, represented Attiah, said the ruling marks a landmark moment for press freedom, "confirming that corporate media institutions cannot use retaliatory discipline to silence journalists who address uncomfortable truths."

US Rep Byron Donalds Wins GOP Nod For Florida Governor Against Ex-Rep David Jolly

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — U.S. Rep. Byron Donalds won the Republican nomination for Florida governor and former Rep. David Jolly picked up the Democratic nod in Tuesday's primaries, setting the stage for a fall campaign to replace outgoing Gov. Ron DeSantis and decide the state's future political direction.

November's election will test President Donald Trump's grip on his adopted state and Democrats' ability to resurrect Florida as a national political battleground. Florida has moved notably to the right since Trump's victory in 2016, though Democrats hope to regain ground from his slumping popularity ratings.

DeSantis, a leading conservative figure who has both clashed and collaborated with Trump over the years, is barred from running for a third consecutive term.

Also Tuesday, progressive state Rep. Angie Nixon won the Democratic nomination for a U.S. Senate special election, defeating retired Army Lt. Col Alexander Vindman, a onetime National Security Council official who testified in Trump's first impeachment in 2019.

Nixon, who was heavily ousted by Vindman, will face Sen. Ashley Moody, winner of the Republican nomination, in November to fill the last two years of Marco Rubio's Sen-



ate term. Rubio left the seat to become Trump's secretary of state last year.

Donalds would be Florida's first Black governor if he wins in November. He defeated a former DeSantis running mate, Lt. Gov. Jay Collins, political newcomer James Fishback and others Tuesday.

The 47-year-old congressman Donalds told his supporters at a Universal Studios resort hotel that he'd heard from Republican rivals who pledged their help in winning the

general election.

"The primary is over," Donalds said. "Tonight we put aside our differences. Tonight we are one united Republican Party."

Donalds described Trump's backing as important but not determinative.

"Obviously, he has the strongest following of anybody in our party," he said. However, he added, "you can't just sit back and think the president's endorsement is going to carry you."

Donalds has promised to push tax cuts, overhaul Florida's insurance regulations to lower consumer costs and seek greater price transparency from healthcare providers.

The Democrats' candidate for governor, Jolly, is a former Republican congressman who switched parties last year. He did not shy away from his partisan history as he addressed supporters Tuesday night.

"To my Democratic friends, thank you for welcoming me into the party," he said.

Jolly's speech detailed a platform that balances between both political parties: an embrace of capitalism and a lean government, but one that "needs to do its part to fill the gaps," such as with education and housing.

"As an old-school Republican, I talk about ending the culture wars not to celebrate some progressive platform," he said, "but because I still believe in the old school Republican, Libertarian policy that government should simply stay out of your life, and stay out of your bedroom."

It's the second time in a row that Democrats have nominated a one-time Republican for governor.

Four years ago, they backed former Gov. Charlie Crist, only to see him lose by nearly 20 percentage points to DeSantis.

Navy In Talks To Rename Ship After Trump Instead Of Miller, Black War Hero



TNR—The U.S. Navy has been quietly considering renaming an aircraft carrier that was set to honor Doris Miller, a heroic Black sailor at Pearl Harbor, after President Donald Trump instead.

The effort to rename the planned USS Doris Miller began earlier this year, three sources told CNN last Thursday. It's not yet clear who the newest Gerald R. Ford-class aircraft carrier will be named for, but two of the sources revealed there have been conversations about naming the carrier to honor Trump.

Business & Finance

When Communities Don't Support Their Black Businesses

When consumers spend their money with businesses that are owned outside of their communities, fewer of those dollars remain available to support local entrepreneurs and institutions. Economists often describe this movement as a form of economic leakage. The leakage happens when money enters a community through wages or business activity, and then leaves when purchases are made with corporations or foreign-owned companies with little or no local economic connection. This means that the dollars come in and then immediately go back out of the community.

Online you can find claims that the black dollar only stays in the black community for six hours. Some other websites say that the black dollar circulates only once in our neighborhoods. Though these claims are not sourced, nor substantiated by tangible research, we tend to believe them for common sense reasons.

During segregation, but after slavery, black communities were filled with black owned businesses. They had to be because blacks were not allowed in white-owned establishments. This forced black people to spend their money with black-owned businesses and organizations which caused economic prosperity. This recirculation of the dollar within the community sparked Black Wall-streets across America.

This paradigm shifted during desegregation. Once blacks were given the option to spend their money outside of their community, they rushed to give white-owned and foreign-owned businesses their money.

This mass exodus of financial support quickly began to erode the



stability of the black community. Without a customer base, businesses began to close. Discriminatory banking practices prevented new businesses from opening, and existing businesses from growing. It was as if the financial legs of the black community were cut off.

The moment when the opportunity to spend elsewhere presented

itself, as well as the moment the decision was made to spend outside of the community, was akin to pulling the sting on your sweater and watching it slowly unravel.

A dollar spent at a locally owned business can circulate through the community when the owner pays employees, purchases supplies from other businesses, hires local ser-

vices or spends part of the business income locally. That does not mean every dollar spent locally stays in the community indefinitely. Businesses have expenses outside the area, but local ownership can create more opportunities for money to circulate before it leaves.

For Black communities, the discussion has an additional dimension

because of longstanding disparities in business ownership and access to capital. The Federal Reserve's Survey of Consumer Finances has consistently found a substantial racial wealth gap in the United States. Limited access to wealth can make it more difficult for entrepreneurs to start businesses or withstand economic downturns, thus leaving fewer

black-owned options.

When there are fewer Black-owned businesses, consumers have fewer opportunities to support Black entrepreneurs. When businesses struggle to attract customers and capital, they have fewer opportunities to hire workers, build assets and expand. And when wealth is not built within households and businesses, future generations may have fewer financial resources to invest.

Still, the idea of "circulating the dollar" should not be reduced to a simple rule that Black consumers must spend only with Black-owned businesses. Consumers make choices based on price, quality, convenience, availability and trust. Businesses also have a responsibility to provide competitive products and services.

The broader question is whether communities have enough locally owned black businesses to give residents meaningful choices.

Economic circulation can also extend beyond retail purchases. Supporting local contractors, restaurants, professional services, farmers, manufacturers and financial institutions can help strengthen networks of businesses that depend on one another. Hiring locally and purchasing from local suppliers can have similar effects.

For entrepreneurs, however, consumer support is only one part of the equation. Access to affordable credit, technical assistance, commercial property, procurement opportunities and investment capital can determine whether a business survives long enough to create lasting wealth.

(See **BLACK BUSINESSES**, P. 7)

Personal Bankruptcy Filings Are Soaring, Signaling Distress

THE CONVERSATION - The number of Americans who file for bankruptcy is growing. More than 500,000 people took this step in 2025, nearly 50% more than in 2022. And the numbers have kept on climbing, with a 12% jump in June 2026 from a year earlier as many consumers struggled to pay their bills.

I am a business school professor who has researched bankruptcies and whether, when you are at the end of your financial rope, bankruptcy helps or hurts.

I became interested in the subject while in graduate school. Not because of any courses I took, but because I ran out of money. While I was in grad school, my wife, who was keeping the family afloat, unexpectedly lost her job at the very moment our savings went to zero.

Ultimately, we didn't declare bankruptcy, and I'll explain later what we did to avoid it. But this near brush with that fate sparked my long-term interest in this predicament that befalls many American consumers who find themselves financially stressed out.

What's personal bankruptcy?

Bankruptcy is a legal process for people who can't pay their debts. Because it usually requires liquidating their assets or entering a repayment plan, Americans generally turn to it as a last resort. To declare bankruptcy you first file a petition with a fed-



eral court, which appoints a trustee to oversee your case.

But bankruptcy does not discharge all debts.

There are 19 types of debts that even bankruptcy will not wipe out. Some of the bigger categories are alimony, child support and most taxes. Student loans can be wiped out, but getting that done is difficult and it's not an automatic part of bankruptcy proceedings.

2 conflicting goals

U.S. bankruptcy law has two big goals that contradict each other. The first is to give honest individual debtors a "fresh start." The process ideally reduces or eliminates enough of their debt to make it possible to

earn, spend, borrow and repay money like people with a more typical financial life. In other words, personal bankruptcy can take the financial noose off debtors' necks.

The second is to ensure that creditors get repaid as much as possible for their loans. When someone declares bankruptcy, some or maybe all of their creditors don't get their money back. In 2024, the Americans who filed for bankruptcy had about US\$75 billion in assets, but they owed their creditors about \$86 billion - \$11 billion more.

States and the federal government make different trade-offs between these goals. As a result there are very different limits on how much eq-

uity - the difference between market value and what you owe - debtors can keep in their primary homes and personal property after they declare bankruptcy.

Some states are quite lenient. For example, Texas bankruptcy law doesn't limit the amount of equity in a home at all. That helps debtors get back on their feet.

Other states are extremely strict in this regard. Arkansas limits home equity after personal bankruptcy to \$800, and Kentucky restricts it to \$5,000. This helps creditors: Lenders can force a debtor's house to be sold and keep much of the equity the debtor built up.

Likewise, laws protecting vehicles and other kinds of personal property belonging to people who declare bankruptcy vary widely.

2 types of personal bankruptcy

People declaring bankruptcy typically file using either Chapter 7 or Chapter 13 of the federal bankruptcy code.

About 2 in 3 people use Chapter 7, a form of financial liquidation. The bankruptcy court appoints a trustee, who then sells off all of a person's possessions, except what is covered by the various exemptions.

The trustee then gives creditors whatever money is left after the sale. In exchange for giving up most of what someone owns, filing Chapter 7 wipes out almost all debts and gives them a fresh financial start.

For people earning moderate to high incomes and whose debts are less than \$2.75 million, bankruptcy courts make them use Chapter 13.

Chapter 13 is a slower-moving process. Creditors are paid over three to five years from a person's earnings. Debtors keep enough of their wages to cover necessary living expenses, but all other disposable income goes to creditors. Chapter 13 allows people to save their homes from foreclosure and keep their vehicles.

Bankruptcy filing rising after decline

The number of personal bankruptcies filed annually fell sharply for more than a decade before the recent uptick, hitting a low of about 368,000 in 2022, down from about 1.5 million in 2010.

That number has climbed steadily since 2022.

A 2005 law called the Bankruptcy

Abuse Prevention and Consumer Protection Act sparked the earlier decline. Its goal was to make declaring bankruptcy harder and more expensive. Many creditors pushed for these changes because they felt some individuals were abusing the system.

The changes introduced income limits for eligibility to declare Chapter 7 bankruptcy. It also required people to get credit counseling before filing to see whether there was any way they could avoid bankruptcy. It also added a new obligation: Americans now take a course in financial management after they file for bankruptcy to reduce the chance of future money troubles.

One interesting study regarding the legislation's impact found that it lowered credit card interest rates, but it also prevented some people without health insurance from wiping out their medical debts.

Classifieds

SR DATA ENGINEER WANTED

Gradient Health, Inc. seeks Sr Data Engr, Durham, NC, to design, build & maintain data ingestion & transformation pipelines for healthcare datasets using Python & Apache Beam on Google Cloud (e.g., Dataflow, BigQuery) or similar techs. Req: Bach in Comp Sci, Info Sys, Comp Eng'g (or rel fld), frgn deg equiv acc., + 1 yr exp in role offered or rel data eng'g occup. Resume to Careers@gradienthealth.io, ref. Sr Data Engr.

WANTED WBE, MBE & DBE BIDS

for the following job:
Division Four Letting

DD00529	Wilson Co.	Bid Date: Sept 8th
DD00531	Johnston Co.	Bid Date: Sept 8th

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

Please contact S. T. Wooten at 252-291-5165,

Fax 252-243-0900 no later than 5:00 p.m. the day before the bid date.

The North Carolina Department of Transportation, in accordance with the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (78 Stat. 252, 42, U.S.C. 2000d to 2000d-4) and the Regulations, hereby notifies all bidders that it will affirmatively ensure that any contract entered into pursuant to the advertisement, disadvantaged business enterprises will be afforded full and fair opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, or national origin in consideration for an award. In accordance with other related nondiscrimination authorities, bidders and contractors will also not be discriminated against on the grounds of sex, age, disability, low-income level, creed/religion, or limited English proficiency in consideration for an award.

By Jordan Meadows

Staff Writer

Shared renter households in Raleigh grew nearly 50% over the past decade, well ahead of Charlotte's 29% growth over the same period, tracking closely with the wave of young professionals the Triangle's job market has pulled in, according to a new study from StorageCafe.

The study found Raleigh's shared renter households now total nearly 19,000, a larger share of the local rental market than Charlotte.

Raleigh ranked No. 3 nationally in the study, ahead of New York, Boston and San Francisco, with roommates in the city saving roughly \$8,100 a year by splitting a two-bedroom apartment rather than renting a one-bedroom alone. Roommates in Raleigh average 515 square feet of living space per person, and splitting rent drops a renter's housing-cost burden from about 28% of income to roughly 15%.

Citywide, about 17% of Raleigh renter households currently live with roommates.

Nationally, the study found nearly 5.6 million U.S. households, or about 12% of all households, now rent with roommates, a figure that has climbed 21% over the past decade. In the country's most expensive markets, including Irvine, California, and Jersey City, New Jersey, the roommate savings gap widens to around \$13,000 a year.

43.5 million U.S. households now



spend more than 30% of their income on housing, according to Harvard's Joint Center for Housing Studies. Generation Z accounted for the largest share of roommate households nationally, at about 46%, which the study attributed to early-career salaries, student loan payments, job mobility and a preference for living in pricier urban cores.

The study also pointed to self-storage as a factor easing roommate arrangements. A standard 5-by-5 storage unit averages \$53 a month nationally, about 3% of average monthly rent, giving roommates a place for belongings that don't fit in shared space.

In Raleigh specifically, on-site storage is available in roughly 41,000 apartments, placing the city near the

top nationally on that measure, and most apartment communities in the city offer roughly one parking space per bedroom.

The roommate trend comes as new apartment construction slows sharply across the Raleigh-Durham metro: developers broke ground on just 1,612 units in the first half of 2026, down roughly 62% from the 4,238 units started over the same period in 2025. The roughly 9,856 units still under construction skew heavily upscale, with about 78% of that pipeline classified as luxury inventory, clustering in Durham's University Hill and Trinity Park areas near Duke and along Raleigh's downtown-to-Midtown corridor stretching from the bus station district up through North Hills.

Renter demand in the Triangle continues to be fed by people moving in from outside the metro; more than 60% of apartment searches in Durham alone come from out-of-towners. The broader Triangle region is projected to absorb 500,000 new residents and 50,000 new tech jobs, and with the 30-year mortgage rate at 6.66%, many new arrivals are renting longer than they may have originally planned.

School district access remains a significant pull factor for families relocating to the area, with properties zoned to Wake County and Durham Public Schools.

Raleigh led all tracked cities in rental leases in June at just six days on market, with Garner, Durham and Cary close behind; Fuquay-Varina was the softest market, leasing in 13 days with rents up 0.4% month-over-month; Apex posted the sharpest rent correction at negative 2.6% month-over-month.

In Durham, one-bedroom apartments averaged \$1,365 a month and two-bedrooms \$1,606 as of January, with the city's overall average rent down 2.9% year-over-year and running about 16% below the national average. In Raleigh, one-bedrooms averaged \$1,366 a month and two-bedrooms \$1,605 in January, down 3.1% year-over-year.

The Raleigh-Cary metro ranked among the nation's most active builders in 2025, adding 5,884 new rental apartments, while Durham added 2,960.

Surging Book Demand Leaves NC Libraries Struggling

CAROLINA PUBLIC PRESS - If you're someone who frequents a North Carolina public library — especially in an urban area like Raleigh or Charlotte — you might be all too familiar with searching the catalog for a buzzy book, only to find the waitlist is hundreds, if not thousands, of people long.

Local library employees say the entire country faces this issue, but North Carolina's booming population and the growing number of library patrons in the state make it especially challenging.

Even worse than the waitlist for physical copies is the one for e-book and audiobook versions. E-content has unique barriers, including costing libraries up to three times the price of a physical book, that make it difficult to keep up with the heightened demand.

Population, library and book usage trends

"Yesteryear," a 2026 novel by a debut author that examines "trad-wife" influencer culture on social media, has been a viral sensation since its spring release. As of mid-August, all 232 of Wake County's physical copies are checked out, and more than 1,700 people are on the waitlist between standard and large print copies. At Charlotte-Mecklenburg Libraries, 376 print copies are checked out and almost twice as many holds are in place.

If waitlists get so long that the ratio of holds to total copies exceeds a certain threshold, Selection Manager for Wake County Public Libraries Dan Brooks told Carolina Public Press, the libraries decide to purchase additional copies. For children's books, that's about one copy for every five holds, but the ratio is a bit higher for adult titles. Harold Escalante, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Library's Assistant Director of Collections and Access, told CPP its ratio for print titles is four to one.

Celebrity book club picks like



Jenna Bush Hager's "Read with Jenna" and Reese Witherspoon's "Reese's Book Club" consistently generate long waitlists, especially if they're thrillers, Brooks and Escalante said. Others can go viral any day and take library managers by surprise.

"Some titles, like 'The Correspondent' or 'Yesteryear,' which did end up being one of the book club picks, just sort of build more slowly over time, but then just keep building and building with higher momentum," Brooks said. "We just have to keep buying more copies until we get to that ratio."

WCPL patrons might be familiar with the branch's "Lucky Day Collection." Each month WCPL chooses four to six books to buy an extra 75 to 125 copies of that aren't used to fill holds. Instead, they are distributed among the 23 locations to be put on the Lucky Day display, available for checkout then and there.

It's a way for readers to get their hands on the most sought-after titles without having to wait for their turn on the hold list — and it helps shorten the waitlists, even if by a small margin.

But the e-content waitlists often go above and beyond. In the case of

"Yesteryear," more than 5,000 patrons are waitlisted for a copy of one of the 452 e-books or audiobooks in Wake County. In Charlotte, for 585 e-book and audiobooks, there are over 4,500 holds.

With around 66 people moving into Wake County per day, the libraries subsequently have new patrons coming in to register for a library card every single day, Brooks said. This heightened demand can be noticed most by the surge in e-content checkouts.

"We've definitely seen a huge increase in our digital e-book and downloadable audiobook usage," Brooks said.

"From 2019 to 2026, it's been a 200% increase. We circulated about 1.1 million in fiscal year 2019, and then over 3.5 million in fiscal year 2026. The whole issue with e-books and long waits and more demand than libraries can satisfy is not unique to Wake. It's a national phenomenon happening."

Through migration alone, 135 people move to the Charlotte region per day on average, with Mecklenburg County leading the pack. Charlotte currently ranks as the United States' 14th-largest city, and it could move up the list if growth trends continue.

Population growth can impact the resources libraries have available,

however not every new resident will become a cardholder, Escalante wrote in an email. It's something Charlotte-Mecklenburg considers, but it's not always a driving force for purchasing decisions.

While population growth is part of North Carolina's story, President and CEO of the Urban Libraries Council Brooks Rainwater told CPP there's generally been more usage of libraries since the pandemic, so local libraries could still be seeing an increase in patrons even if their area isn't experiencing significant population changes.

Research the ULC released in 2024 found that while in-person visits were still lower than they were pre-pandemic, they were rising again quickly — responding libraries reported a 24% increase from 2022 to 2023. And in the same timeframe, use of meeting rooms and digital resources increased by 52% despite the lower attendance.

"If you look at baseline numbers from coming out of the pandemic to now, we've been seeing more and more people return to the library," Rainwater said.

"We've also been seeing usage patterns change, where more people are renting rooms within the libraries. It can be really difficult in some library branches and central libraries to actually find room rentals

because everybody is going there to work remotely or using them to meet with friends or other things."

"Disappearing, limited-access content"

Demand for digital items has steadily risen, especially since the pandemic, Escalante wrote. The challenge for keeping e-content available consistently is "always going to be the increasing cost of digital licenses."

The ULC and other national library organizations recently spoke out about the strain the licensing process and cost of e-content is putting on local branches. An open letter to book publishers says while individuals pay \$13 for an e-book on average, which they maintain access to in perpetuity, libraries often spend upwards of \$55 for a singular two-year license.

"Many libraries are now spending 50% or more of their collections budgets — taxpayer funds — on disappearing, limited-access content, giving them less ability to support lesser-known authors and smaller publishers," the statement reads.

"Meanwhile, wait times for readers of all ages have exploded, as libraries spend more to get less in our digital collection."

Audiobooks of thrillers from popular authors like Stephen King or Ruth Ware can be more than \$100 per copy, but most others are between \$50 and \$75, Brooks said. E-content is usually provided with metered access, meaning libraries can distribute the book for 12 to 24 months or up to a certain number of checkouts.

Licensing is set by publishing houses, namely the "big five" — Penguin Random House, HarperCollins, Simon and Schuster, Macmillan Publishers and Hachette Book Group — as well as e-book distributors like Hoopla, Overdrive and Libby. Copyright laws function differently for digital content versus physical books, which is why the pricing structure varies, Rainwater said.

Just keeping up with expiring

titles and purchasing additional copies to bring the wait down to a reasonable timeframe takes up about 75% of WCPL's weekly spending, leaving around 25% of the budget for new titles, Brooks said.

The cost can lead libraries to remove e-content from its collections if they aren't getting enough use. At WCPL, they track how many checkouts content receives and use that to help determine whether it's worth renewing for another cycle.

"If it's a title we've owned for three or four years, but it was only checked out 20 times last year, that might not be high enough to renew it, given the demand of the newer, more popular titles," Brooks said.

"So we will have to remove things from the collection on the digital side, versus, if you get print copies, they'll last until they fall apart, so they can stay in much longer than 26 checkouts or 12 months."

One advantage of digital items is that they are returned to the library and fill the next hold automatically, Escalante wrote. Plus, they are never lost. This helps patrons move through the hold list more quickly than print titles. But still, they have to think and buy strategically.

"To overcome some of the challenges of high-cost licenses, we make sure we are choosing the license that makes financial sense," Escalante wrote.

"We are also exploring some cost per borrow models to address demand quickly."

Meeting in the middle
Wait times for e-content have gone up tremendously across the country, Rainwater said. Library budgets can't always align with the whims of reader trends, and if budgets aren't expanding, the hope is that book publishers seize the opportunity to increase access by making e-content more affordable for libraries.

"There's only so much money that can be spent on e-content, so the wait times go up and up because we can only afford to buy so much of this material," Rainwater said.



Support Small & Local Businesses



Steven L. Lyons Funeral Home
"Trust ~ Service ~ Compassion"
1515 New Bern Avenue
Raleigh, NC 27610
stevenlyonsfuneralhome.com
(919)831-2596 Phone





BOX ELECTRIC
Wiring North Carolina One Box At A Time
Website: [HTTPS://Box-Electric.com](https://Box-Electric.com)



ADE JONES
Attorney at Law
3401 Wendell Boulevard
Wendell, N.C. 27591
919-817-2714 (office) 919-817-2711 (cell)
legalaaffairs@adejoneslaw.com
Fax: 919-366-6770



LAW OFFICES OF ADE JONES



Lea Funeral Home
2500 Poole Road
Raleigh, NC 27610
(919) 231-1000
"Professional Service With Personal Care"



Call or Visit Us. We also offer Cremation Services & Pre-need Arrangements.
You can reserve Our State-of-the-Art Banquet Facilities for your next event

3 David's construction
General Contracting
& Remodeling



Let David
Help make your home more valuable !
Roofing
Decks
Additional Rooms
Kitchen Remodeling
Bathroom Remodeling
Screen Porsh

 *We're in Your Neighborhood*

David Vieyra - Owner
(919)986-6540
davidconstruction21@icloud.com



Accident & Injury Law

BECTION

THE BECTION LAW GROUP, PLLC

Automobile Accidents • Truck & Motorcycle Accidents
Wrongful Death • Slip and Falls
Real Estate Loan Closings



Ethenod Becton *Marcus Becton* *Deborah Becton Rozier* *Taurus Becton*

919.856.0414 www.bectonlaw.com

We Only Build Garages and Out-Buildings

Stu Daugherty
Owner



Visit us at:
HOME IMPROVEMENT CENTER

4805 Departure Dr.
Raleigh, N.C. 27616
(919) 790-1234
FAX (919) 790-1010
www.carolinacustombuilders.com
carolinacustom@hotmail.com

SERVICES OFFER

Residential and Commercial

Product / Service Description

**Burglar alarm
Camera system**

• homes
• business
• farms
• school and daycare

ask us about temporarily camera system for construction site.

Thank you for your time.

Rouge3 Communication LLC
PO BOX 132
Rougemont, NC 27572
Enquiry for service





Jack's Seafood & Soul Food
LOCALLY OWNED SINCE 1976
Two Locations

**1516 New Bern Ave
Raleigh, NC 27610
919-755-1551**

**5416 Rock Quarry Rd
Raleigh, NC 27610
919-329-8125**

\$1.00 OFF

any take-out or dine-in combo order. Must present coupon at time of purchase.

offer exp 8/31/2026

Health & Wellness

The New CDC Director Acknowledges Agency Problems

NEW YORK (AP) — In her first large staff meeting, the new director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention promised Wednesday to advocate for the agency while acknowledging that congressionally funded programs lacked staff and employees were feeling burned out. Dr. Erica Schwartz also said she wouldn't hesitate to disagree with U.S. Health Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. if necessary — but said she wouldn't do so publicly.

Schwartz started at the head of the Atlanta-based federal agency last week, taking the reins from a series of temporary directors. She spoke to CDC employees Wednesday at her first “all hands” staff meeting. The

Associated Press heard a recording of the meeting.

Schwartz mentioned an AP story this week about CDC programs that have congressional appropriations but functionally are dead or nearly dead because the CDC staffers who did the work were laid off by President Donald Trump's administration or remain on leave.

She did not say exactly what she will do about these “zombie” programs and about staffers who feel exhausted and overloaded, but said she will meet with CDC staffers to learn more about the situation and what can be done.

“The good news is, I'm here,” she said. “I'm Week 1 of being here, and

now I can certainly be able to advocate for the CDC. I think when you have (had) that leadership vacuum, it's, you know, it's hard to get that advocacy.”

Schwartz previously served in uniformed government jobs with the U.S. Coast Guard and the U.S. Public Health Service. When she disagrees with other leaders she does so in private, “because that's just part of the uniformed service person in me,” she said. She said she would continue to do so, but “not in front of the media.”

She also promised to build public trust in the agency through “radical transparency, scientific rigor and honest communications,” echoing

language used by Kennedy.

Schwartz is the 22nd leader of the CDC, which is charged with protecting Americans from preventable health threats. In her talk Wednesday, she acknowledged the challenges agency employees have faced. Largely due to layoffs and resignations, the agency has lost 3,000-plus employees, more than one-quarter of its workforce. Morale has plummeted as a succession of mostly temporary leaders has come and gone. The front office has been staffed by political appointees with little or no training in medicine or public health. Kennedy, a leading voice in the anti-vaccine movement, took several steps that ran counter to CDC research and recommendations, including disbanding an expert advisory committee and appointing his own panel that included several vaccine skeptics.

CDC staffers asked questions Wednesday, including one about Trump's executive order calling for revamped childhood vaccine recommendations that promote his long-held but discredited theory that childhood shots should be spaced out into separate medical visits.

Schwartz said a task force on childhood vaccine safety is being es-



tablished and she is on the panel. It has not met yet, she said. The panel has been given 90 days to report to Trump, she added.

Some current and former CDC employees said Schwartz appeared to be earnest, but want to see what she does.

The National Public Health Coalition, an organization of former and current CDC workers, issued a state-

ment after the meeting.

“CDC staff and the American people deserve a strong, independent leader who will follow the science, defend public health expertise and put the health and safety of the public ahead of political pressure,” the statement said. “Dr. Schwartz has spoken about rebuilding trust. That trust must be earned through action.”

Singapore Wants To Pay Parents Over \$55,000 Per Child To Boost Birth Rate

ECONOMIC TIMES—Singapore has announced a new family support package that will provide almost S\$70,000 (US\$55,153) in direct assistance for every Singaporean child up to the age of 17. The move comes after the country's total fertility rate fell to a record low of 0.87, despite years of government incentives to encourage parenthood.

Prime Minister Lawrence Wong unveiled the measures during his National Day Rally speech on Sunday. The package includes child credits, housing support, childcare subsidies, parental leave and a S\$10,000 (US\$7,879) baby gift.

The government is expected to spend close to S\$7 billion (US\$5.5 billion) on family and parenthood initiatives this financial year.

Under the new package, every Singaporean newborn will receive S\$2,000 (US\$1,576) in child credits each year. Families will also receive a S\$5,000 (US\$3,940) “first step” grant, along with other financial support as the child grows.

The measures are in addition to the existing S\$10,000 (US\$7,879) baby gift. Taken together, the direct assistance will amount to nearly S\$70,000 (US\$55,153) for each child until the age of 17.

The government will also expand full-day childcare subsidies and parental leave.

Families applying for build-to-order flats will receive an additional ballot for every child they have or are expecting. The measure is expected to improve their chances of securing high-demand public housing.

“What we can do is make it easier for Singaporeans who want children to start and raise a family, and we want every family to know: If you choose to have children, the government will stand with you,” Wong said during his speech.

A YouGov survey published shortly before Wong's speech found that almost one-third of Singaporeans

aged between 18 and 44 said no government policy would make them more willing to have children.

Lower-cost preschool and childcare ranked highest among the measures that could encourage parenthood.

Eugene Tan, an associate professor of law at Singapore Management University, described the latest measures as possibly “Singapore's last opportunity to get it right.”

“Whether they will work will depend on social norms and mindsets being accommodative of marriage and parenthood,” he said.

Singapore's latest policy is a shift from its earlier focus on direct baby incentives. In June, Wong said the government would focus more on making family life easier.

The country previously ran matchmaking events for university graduates and introduced a short-lived policy that gave children of highly educated mothers priority in primary-school registration if they had three or more children.

In the early 1970s, Singapore promoted the “Two Is Enough” campaign, when the government viewed larger families as a burden on the country's development and resources. The government changed its population policy in 1987 after birth rates continued to fall.

Since then, Singapore has introduced financial handouts and longer maternity leave to encourage couples to have children. However, the birth rate fell to its lowest level in nearly five decades by 2010 and 2011.

Singapore's fertility rate reached 0.87 last year. The country has a population of 6.1 million, but citizens account for about 60% of the total.

The falling birth rate has raised concerns about Singapore's ageing population and future workforce. The country is on course to become a “super-aged” society.

Wong said Singapore would also have to continue accepting immi-

grants while ensuring that citizens remained the majority.

“All this means that in the coming years, our overall population will grow more slowly, and our labor force will grow more slowly too,” he said.

Study Finds Nearly 70% Of E-Cigarettes Sold In U.S. Stores Are Illegal

By Jordan Meadows

Staff Writer

Nearly 70% of e-cigarettes sold at U.S. gas stations, convenience stores, and other retail locations are illegal, according to a study published this month by researchers at the CDC Foundation.

Of more than 4,500 distinct e-cigarette products identified in the data, FDA-authorized products accounted for 30.6% of total e-cigarette dollar sales. The remaining sales were classified as unauthorized.

"We estimate that nearly 70% of e-cigarette sales in U.S. convenience and grocery retailers were not authorized by the FDA as of December 2025," the researchers wrote. "Disposable e-cigarettes in flavors that may appeal to young people comprised the majority of unauthorized sales."

Only 39 e-cigarette products held FDA authorization as of December 2025, and every one of them was tobacco- or menthol-flavored.

Among tobacco-flavored sales specifically, 93.1% were authorized, compared with just 26.1% of menthol-flavored sales; none of the fruit, candy, mint or other flavored products on the market were authorized at all. By product type, 97.6% of disposable e-cigarettes sold were unauthorized, compared with 50% of closed refill products.

Researchers cautioned their estimate could run in either direction: they may have undercounted authorized sales because manufacturers can alter product labeling after authorization without notifying the public, but they may also have overstated the share of legal sales because their data excluded vape shops and online retailers.

The findings have added new urgency to a push by the Tobacco 21 coalition for what advocates call Solly's Law, a comprehensive nicotine sales bill named for Solomon Wynn, a 15-year-old from Wilmington who died last week after months of declining health that his mother, Zorn, traced back to vaping. Zorn said a doctor discovered in April that her son had been vaping, likely since he was 13 or 14, after months of what began as a persistent cough; his condition worsened rapidly from there, and doctors ultimately told her there was nothing more they could do given how weak his body had become.

Solly's Law would raise North Carolina's sales age for nicotine products from 18 to 21 and require every retailer that sells nicotine products to obtain a permit and pay a \$400 annual fee to fund state inspections, creating a registry of sales locations that would let the state identify repeat offenders who sell to minors or stock illegal products.

North Carolina is one of just six states, along with Alaska, Missouri, Montana, South Carolina and Wisconsin, that has not raised its minimum legal sales age to 21, even though federal law already sets the age at 21 nationally; local and state authorities in North Carolina don't enforce that federal standard. Forty-four states have now raised their sales age to 21, most recently Arizona in September 2025. North Carolina is also one of only eight states nationally without a tobacco retail licensing system.

North Carolina lawmakers did pass new nicotine regulations this year, but the law applies only to dedicated vape shops, imposing a \$1,000 tax on those retailers and requiring them to post signage warning that anyone under 21

(See *E-CIGARETTE*, P. 9)

FOODLION

Clip coupons
picked just for you

Back

Coupons

Filter

Search Coupons

217 Coupons



SAVE \$1.25
Off Your Purchase
Off TWO (2) Bulk Asparagus (16 oz)

Clip



SAVE 80¢
Taste of Inspirations
Off ONE (1) Taste of Inspirations Deli Sliced Cheese (8 oz)

Clip

Arts & Culture

Black August 2026 Means Reflecting On Black Liberation

THE GUARDIAN - In the 1960s and 1970s, California was brimming with radical energy and potential, which also meant it was brimming with extreme backlash. The Black Panthers, a revolutionary Black political activist organization founded in response to police brutality, were organizing members at the same time Ronald Reagan, then the California governor and the future US president, and others were working to repress the group and its growing political influence.

At the same time, several young men, some incarcerated at San Quentin prison, and some elsewhere in the California prison system, were under attack, being assaulted and murdered by the Aryan Brotherhood, a white supremacist group, and sympathetic guards. Some of the men – WL Nolen; George Jackson, a field marshal of the Black Panther party who also founded a prison chapter of the or-

ganization; and others – decided they needed to band together to defend themselves and formed the Black Guerrilla Family (BGF), a Marxist-Leninist prison gang.

Many of the early members of the BGF, most barely in their 20s, would not live to see the 1980s: Nolen was killed, along with two others, by San Quentin prison guards on 13 January 1970; George Jackson was killed in San Quentin prison on 21 August 1971; George's brother, Jonathan Jackson, was killed on 7 August 1970; and Khatari Gaudlen was killed in San Quentin prison on 1 August 1978.

“As a result of these deaths, the group known as Black Guerrilla Family decided they needed to commemorate the deaths of their comrades Jonathan, George and Khatari, and they began the process of deciding how they were going to do so,” said Jalil Muntaqim, a com-

munity organizer and former Black Liberation Army (BLA) member. He was convicted and imprisoned for several decades for the murder of two New York police department officers. “They began organizing what was called Black August,” Muntaqim said.

Since its creation, Black August has spread beyond prison walls and is commemorated both by people who are and are not incarcerated today. True to its roots, people study, meditate and hone their activism during the month. It is a time when people push for the release of Black political and revolutionary leaders, many of whom are now in their 70s and 80s, from prison.

Today, organizations across the country use the month as a means of activation for their local communities. Each year in Tallahassee, Florida, the Tallahassee Dream Defenders host a Black August showcase. Black August in the Park, held annually in Durham, North Carolina, blends music, dancing and film screenings with educational opportunities. In Oakland, California, the Black August Arc of Liberation Commemoration honors the legacy of Black August through art. Using the tenets of the original Black August commemoration, the Brooklyn-based Free Black Women's Library created a challenge to engage readers, along with hosting events



throughout the month of August.

The historian and author Gerald Horne said that “there's a striking confluence that occurs in August”. It's when, on 1 August, many Caribbean nations celebrate Emancipation Day; when, on 11 August, the Watts uprising began; when, on 21 August, Nat Turner's rebellion began; and when, on 23 August, the Haitian revolution began, but it's also the birth month of pan-Africanist leader Marcus Garvey, Black Panther Fred Hampton and Black liberationist Chokwe Lumumba.

“It's important for us to understand that Black August does not come out of a vacuum. It comes out of a movement, out of a determination of people trying to defend themselves against harm and the reality of the US penal slave system,” Muntaqim said.

BGF members looked at the month of August, noted its almost divine confluence of births, deaths and events that are significant to Black history and Black liberation, and decided that the month needed particular acknowledgement.

“They evolved a concept of study, exercise and fasting for the month of August, and by virtue of them promoting Black August, it has now become a national and an international institution,” Muntaqim said. “People are to fast, they are to exercise. They are also to study and reflect, meditate. The primary principle of Black August and the golden objective is to restore our capacity for our humanity, and our ability to resist systems of white supremacy, racial capitalism, colonialism, neocolonialism and imperialism.”

The commemoration remains “a way to talk about freeing Black political prisoners generally”, Horne, the author and historian, said. Several Black Panthers or other members of Black radical organizations who, despite now being in their 70s and 80s and, in many cases, in failing health, are still in prison, including Mumia Abu-Jamal, Thomas “Tahaka” Gaither and Veronza Bowers Jr. Many others have died in prison within the last several years.

“You're protesting injustice when you protest the fact that people like Mumia [Abu-Jamal] are still behind bars,” Horne said. “By protesting injustice, you're also protesting the spread of injustice. In other words, ultimately, it's an act of self-preservation because if you allow injustice to fester, it can obviously spread right to your front door.”



WSSU's Brandi Hopson Returns Home To Coach

Brandi Hopson's journey has taken her from the Winston-Salem State University Powerhouse to the sidelines of the NFL and, most recently, the Ms. Black USA crown. Now, she is returning to where her cheerleading journey began.

Winston-Salem State University announced Aug. 14 that Hopson is joining the university's athletics department as an assistant cheer coach, bringing her collegiate and professional experience back to the Powerhouse of Red and White. For Hopson, the position represents a return to the program that helped shape her career.

A Greensboro native, Hopson attended WSSU and was a member of the Powerhouse during her time at the university. After graduating with a degree in mass communications, she continued pursuing cheerleading and eventually reached the professional level. Her professional career included four seasons as a Carolina Panthers TopCat. During that time, she rose to become a captain and was selected as the Panthers' 2025 Pro Bowl Cheerleader.

Her connection to WSSU remained strong even after moving into professional cheerleading. In 2023, Hopson was among the former Powerhouse members who had gone on to cheer with the Panthers' TopCats when WS-SU's Powerhouse performed alongside the NFL team's professional cheerleaders during a Panthers game celebrating Black culture.

Remembering Billy Boston: First Ever, Non-White & UK Rugby League Knight

By Bal Marsius

International Business Times

Sir Billy Boston, the trailblazing rugby league winger who became the sport's first knight and the first non-white player to represent Great Britain on a Lions tour, has died aged 92.

Boston died peacefully in hospital on 24 August 2026, seven decades after his historic selection for the 1954 tour and a lifetime in which he scored more than 500 tries and helped change the face of the game.

Boston's passing came just four days after the funeral of Lady Joan, his wife of 70 years, who died in July 2026. No specific cause of death has been announced. Boston had been living with vascular dementia since being diagnosed with the condition in 2016.

Sierra Leonean Heritage to UK Knighthood

Born in Butetown, Cardiff, to a Sierra Leonean father and an Irish-Cardiffian mother, Boston was one of the most gifted athletes of his generation. He scored 571 tries in 562 career appearances, making him the second-highest try-scorer in rugby league history.

Boston's career began when racial barriers still shaped the sport and ended with him being knighted by King Charles III. His death closes a notable chapter in rugby league history.

'A Lot of Colour Prejudice at the Time'

Boston did not choose rugby league simply because it was his preferred path. Cardiff RFC, the leading rugby union club in his hometown, never offered him a contract or even a trial. He was later rejected by South Africa on racial grounds.

Boston acknowledged the reality of the era: 'There was a lot of colour prejudice at the time and I don't think I would ever have played for Wales in those days.'

Boston was spotted by rugby league scouts while serving with the



Royal Signals in North Yorkshire, but he was initially reluctant to switch codes. Signing for a professional club would have meant a lifetime ban from rugby union, closing the door on any chance of playing for Cardiff or winning a cap for Wales.

His mother tried to put Wigan off by demanding £3,000, worth around £500,000 today. The club's chairmen agreed, put the money on the table and secured Boston's signature.

Boston wept as he signed the deal. Signing for Wigan meant giving up his dream of playing rugby union for Cardiff RFC and representing Wales.

Record 478 Tries in 488 Appearances Still Stands

At Wigan, Boston began one of the most remarkable careers in British sporting history. He scored 478 tries in 488 appearances, a club record that still stands.

He reached 100 tries in just 68 matches and twice matched Wigan's record of seven tries in a game. He won three Challenge Cups and a League Championship, scoring twice in the 1959 Cup final against Hull.

Boston was just as formidable on the international stage. He played 31 Tests for Great Britain, scoring 24 tries, and made history on the 1954 Lions tour as the first non-white player selected for the squad.

He scored 36 tries in 18 appearances on that tour, a record that

stood as a measure of his form. Six years later, Boston scored the only try in the 1960 World Cup final against Australia as Great Britain won 10-3.

First Rugby League Player To Be Knighted

In June 2025, Boston made history again when he became the first rugby league player to receive a knighthood in the sport's 130-year history. The honour recognised his services to rugby league.

Prime Minister Keir Starmer called Boston a 'true trailblazer' who overcame prejudice to represent Great Britain and helped open the door to a more diverse game.

Cross-party MPs had argued that rugby league's exclusion from the honours system was a scandal rooted in class attitudes towards the sport's northern, working-class heartlands.

With concerns growing over Boston's health and his battle with dementia, King Charles brought the investiture forward and welcomed him to Buckingham Palace. The honour was later formally announced in the King's Birthday Honours list.

Boston spent 72 years in Wigan, where he ran the Griffin Hotel pub after retiring and remained a familiar face at matches. Three statues now stand in his honour, at Wembley Stadium, in Wigan and in Cardiff Bay.



diaspora studies at Boston University and an alum of Spelman College.

As a part of Tuskegee's new policy, students are also expected to show up on campus with “a business suit and proper shoes for a business meeting” and avoid “revealing clothing” in classes, the dining hall and official university settings such as Convocation, according to a message from the university's president, Mark Brown. (The university has a community closet where students have access to donated business attire.) Professors have the right to enforce the dress code, as well as a new ban on cell phone use in class, the message notes.

“The goal here is not meant to restrict you from enjoying the Tuskegee Experience, but to prepare you with a solid foundation for the workforce you will enter once you leave Tuskegee,” Brown wrote. “Employers are less forgiving and too often presentation may overrule stellar preparation.”

The dress code spawned a flurry of think pieces, TikTok and Instagram reaction videos and social media threads hundreds of comments long, hotly debating the move, with HBCU alumni, students and others taking a wide range of stances.

Some argued that Black students are being held to different standards than their peers at predominantly white institutions, who often show up to class in casual wear.

“While I believe that students should have high expectations for themselves that inform how they show up in the world,” Norfolk State University student Le'Ren Jones told WAVY-TV, “I fear that policies like this will disempower Black students and threaten the sense of belonging that draws many of them to HBCUs rather than PWIs, where ball caps and slippers can be seen in classrooms and dining halls on a regular basis.”

Rayne Caldwell, sophomore class president at Tuskegee University, said in a video message that Tuskegee students have always understood what they can and can't wear in professional settings. She emphasized that she'd rather see the university focus on issues that matter to students, such as professional development opportunities or their transportation and housing needs, than on what they're wearing.

“The concern isn't that Tuskegee wants us to look professional,” she said. “The concern is that appearance seems to be receiving more immediate attention than the issues affecting students' ability to succeed.”

Caldwell also anonymously quoted an Instagram post from another student who opposed the decision: “At a time where our people are already over-regulated in a country that has oppressed us for centuries, you would think that a historically black university would serve as a safe space for us,” the student posted. “Instead in the name of ‘preparing for the workforce,’ the university is policing our cultural hair coverings in completely casual settings. We all know how to conduct ourselves as black people in white spaces. We don't need the university to emulate such a space.”

Others weighed in defending the policy.

Ron Stewart, a Tuskegee alumni and sociology professor at Buffalo State University, told Inside Higher

Ed that Tuskegee's dress code is “long overdue.”

“This is preparation for life after college,” Stewart said. “Maybe I'm old school,” but “I think the presentation of self is important. We should be developing students comprehensively.”

He believes the same standards should apply across higher ed—so much so that he gives his students at Buffalo State, a non-HBCU, extra credit points if they dress up for exams.

Casual wear makes it seem “like they just don't care, and I think when you have that attitude about how you present, that attitude can permeate other things, other dispositions you might have about how you conduct yourself in society,” he said. As far as he's concerned, Tuskegee's dress code is “a good policy overall, and I hope it catches on.”

Tuskegee isn't the first institution to introduce such a policy. Among HBCUs, dress codes are fairly common.

Hampton University's dress code, for example, prohibits du-rags, bonnets, skull caps, scarves and bandanas “at all times” outside of student housing. Dillard University's student handbook asks students to “dress neatly” and outlines “appropriate dress for various occasions,” including classrooms, the cafeteria and university offices. Men must take off caps and hats worn for non-religious purposes before entering the dining hall at Claflin University. And Virginia Union University has an extensive dress code that bans not just du-rags and bonnets but “pants worn in a ‘baggy’ fashion,” hoodies with the hood up, head scarves and curlers.

Stewart wrote in a Facebook post that, for many years, HBCU alumni traditionally dressed up on campus, making “dresses and suits or proximate ... par for the course.”

While he's not suggesting a return to that level of formality, “the way today's students are attired is a form of blatant disrespect towards the sartorial traditions of our collegiate ancestors,” he wrote. “Doo rags, bonnets, pajamas, slippers, etc. let me know these aren't the kinds of students who will be avatars of Black excellence and liberation ... If you're serious about Black excellence and liberation you'll look the part.”

Legendary Motown Songwriter Janie Bradford Hobbs Has Died At Age 87

Early Motown songwriter Janie Bradford Hobbs, who helped pen hits including “Money (That's What I Want)” and “Too Busy Thinking About My Baby,” has died following an extended illness at a Los Angeles hospital, her family said Saturday. She was 87.

Bradford Hobbs was born in Charleston, Missouri, and later moved to Detroit.

She was introduced in the late 1950s to Motown founder Berry Gordy by neighbor and singer Jackie Wilson. She joined Motown as a receptionist in 1958 and like many of the company's employees took part in the creative process that helped make Motown a music industry powerhouse.

She and Gordy co-wrote “Money (That's What I Want).” The song was recorded in 1959 by Barrett Strong and became an early hit. It was covered by The Beatles and also became one of that group's hits.

“Too Busy Thinking About My



Baby” first was recorded by The Temptations and later became a hit for Marvin Gaye. Bradford Hobbs also wrote songs for Stevie Wonder, The Supremes, Martha & The Vandellas and others.

“Janie was there with me from the very beginning, before there was

even a Motown, and she will always hold a very special place in my heart and in the Motown family,” Gordy said in a statement.

“Janie was one of a special group I have always thought of as the original Motown family – the unsung heroes who believed in the dream before anyone knew what Motown would become,” Gordy continued. “She was one of the people who helped make Motown what it became.”

Bradford Hobbs later became head of Writer Relations for Jobete, Motown's publishing company. After leaving Motown, she founded the annual Heroes and Legends Awards. The event spanned about 30 years, honoring music icons and awarding scholarships, according to her family.

She is survived by her husband, Wardean Hobbs; daughter, Nicole Hobbs; son, Lance Finney; and two grandsons. Funeral services have not been completed.

Community

SAU Halts All Classes And Programs For Fall Amid Its Bankruptcy Filing

By Jordan Meadows

Staff Writer

Saint Augustine's University will not offer any classes or educational programs this fall, the historically Black Raleigh institution's attorney told a federal bankruptcy court last Thursday, as the school abandons plans to launch online certificate programs intended to generate revenue during its Chapter 11 reorganization.

The university filed for bankruptcy in April, citing \$74 million in debt, and ended its years-long fight to retain accreditation at the same time. Officials had said the school would not close but would pivot toward online certificate and noncredit programs in subjects including artificial intelligence, programming, data analytics, Python, Java, biotechnology and public health—priced between \$1,100 and \$4,500.

The university had already written course syllabi, hired instructors and begun marketing the programs before the reversal.

Rogers told Judge David Warren that the board had decided the university's limited resources were better spent stabilizing its finances than launching new offerings.

"At this time, the university is not going to be offering any educational offerings, whether they be certification programs or internships, etc.," Rogers said. "We feel that the debtors' best efforts should be focused



on emerging as a new and stronger entity on the other side of this bankruptcy, and the board has agreed to and is looking forward to solely focusing its efforts on that."

She told the court the programs would have generated little revenue in any case.

Pausing the programs would also help the university reduce payroll and other expenditures at a time when it is surviving on borrowed money from Self-Help Ventures Fund—more than \$1 million so far—and spending nearly \$300,000 a month.

Bankruptcy administrator Brian Behr backed the decision, calling it one of several "significant positive developments" and noting the online programs would have required the

university to spend on personnel it could not spare while working to repay creditors.

"This board is having to deal with a lot, and its first priority needs to be exiting bankruptcy as quickly as possible," Behr said.

Earlier in the case, Judge Warren had raised his own doubts about the university's ability to deliver on promises to prospective students, at one point describing the institution as "essentially closed."

Even as it pulls back academically, the university is exploring options for its real estate. Saint Augustine's has applied to hire the firm Avison Young to advise on selling portions of its roughly 105-acre campus, valued at approximately \$200 million; court filings show Avison Young would

receive a \$50,000 retainer plus a percentage of any sale, capped at \$7.5 million. A Self-Help Ventures Fund official indicated in court the nonprofit plans to object to that hire, which could complicate matters since the court must approve it.

Behr said he hoped the university could avoid a "wholesale sale of property" but acknowledged the option needed to remain available.

"I don't think that's necessarily in the best interest of the debtor, at least currently," he said. "But the debtor likely does need to have that on the back burner as a possibility if everything were to fall apart."

The university had previously pursued a \$70 million, 99-year lease of its campus to a Florida developer, but that deal collapsed after state officials declined to approve it over concerns including the university's ability to continue operating.

Judge Warren spoke sympathetically about the university's position as it works to reorganize.

"It's very hard, especially when you've got a company or a university that is essentially closed and you're trying to chart a new course and reorganize," Warren said. "I respect the time and effort that the board is putting into this, as well as the professionals. It's not easy, and so I just hope that those persons involved will stay in there, hang in there and see if we can't get to the end of this."

The university is scheduled to return to court Thursday.



Happy 87th Birthday!

CELEBRATES BIRTHDAY—Ms. Bettie Jean Brodie Thompson (right) is pictured with her brother, Samuel Brodie (left), at her 87th Birthday Celebration in Kenly, NC. 15 friends and family joined in the celebration, which had a gorgeous garden theme created by Lenays Vision. Many of the guests wore sage green and cream, which was the color scheme for the occasion. Mrs. Thompson's favorite color is Green. *Contributed Photo*

The Beta Lambda Sigma Chapter Hosts Successful Operation BigBookBag



RALEIGH, NC - The Beta Lambda Sigma Chapter of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. and the Beta Lambda Sigma Charitable Foundation recently hosted their annual Operation BigBookBag (OB BB), helping local families prepare for the upcoming school year.

Held Saturday, August 15, the community-focused event provided free backpacks, school supplies, snack kits, and dental kits to hundreds of scholars. The event continues the chapter's longstanding commitment to education, youth development, and community service.

This year's Operation BigBookBag was made possible through the collaborative efforts of SAFEchild, the University of Phoenix Raleigh Alumni Chapter, the National Black MBA Association—Raleigh/Durham, SEANC, the Beta Lambda Sigma Philo Affiliates, the Beta Lambda Sigma Rhoer Affiliates, and the Beta Theta Chapter of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc.

The event demonstrated the power of community partnerships and what can happen when organizations come together around a shared mission. Volunteers worked alongside community partners to ensure students received essential supplies and encouragement as they prepared to return to the classroom.

For Beta Lambda Sigma, Operation BigBookBag represents more than distributing school supplies. It is an opportunity to invest in local youth, support families, and help students begin the school year feeling prepared and confident.

The chapter and foundation extend their sincere appreciation to all partners, volunteers, donors, and supporters who helped make this year's event a success.

One backpack. One scholar. One brighter future.

BLACK BUSINESSES

Continued from page 3

That is why the conversation about Black economic power increasingly goes beyond where people spend their money. It also includes who owns businesses, who owns property, who has access to capital and who can pass assets to the next generation.

Money that leaves a community is not necessarily money wasted. A community cannot produce everything it needs, and outside businesses provide products, services and jobs that can be valuable. The goal is not to prevent money from leaving. It is to create enough economic activity and ownership that wealth has opportunities to accumulate locally before it does.

In the end, economic circulation is less about keeping every dollar in one neighborhood than about building an ecosystem in which more residents can participate as consumers, workers, owners and investors.

The challenge is turning that idea into opportunity — so that spending can support ownership, ownership can create wealth, and wealth can help strengthen the community for the next generation.

As Back-To-School Prices Rise, Donations Fill The Gap For Teachers And Families

NC NEWSLINE - There is perhaps no clearer sign that summer is drawing to a close than the arrival of school supplies in big box stores and school supply drives in most counties.

On Wednesday, Gov. Josh Stein delivered school supplies collected over the summer to W.M. Irvin Elementary School in Concord. It's the eighth year the governor's office has partnered with the State Employees' Credit Union, the North Carolina PTA, the Boys & Girls Clubs of North Carolina, and Communities in Schools of North Carolina to distribute supplies to students in need.

"This year's state budget had a lot of good news for education, but to truly support our public schools and our students' futures, we need to better support teachers who pay for school supplies out of their own pockets," Stein said in a statement.

The state budget Stein signed in July provides the largest average teacher pay raise in 20 years, the governor said. It also provided a 3% raise and a bonus of at least \$1,000 for all other school staff and non-certified employees.

But that modest boost in pay diminishes quickly when teachers dip into their own pocket to pay for school supplies. A 2025 study by CouponBirds revealed teachers in the Tar Heel state shell out more than \$1,600 annually to outfit their classrooms, the second highest average in the country. Only Pennsylvania



teachers spent more out of pocket than North Carolina teachers.

In the state's largest public school district, Wake County teachers are invited to fulfill their back-to-school wish list at the Tools4Schools store near downtown Raleigh.

The idea of a free supply store just for public school teachers was created four years ago by the nonprofit WakeEd Partnership. Since then, about 6,000 of the county's 10,000 public school teachers have taken advantage of the assistance.

WakeEd CEO Keith Poston said the goal is to remove some of the financial pressure that educators feel at one of the most important times of

the school year.

"Regardless of political perspective, folks understand intuitively that a teacher trying to teach children should not also have to worry about bringing in classroom supplies. We're talking about the things they need to do their job," said Poston in an interview with NC Newsline.

Poston said the "good-heartedness" of teachers prompts them to use their own money to make sure all the children in their classroom start the year on a level playing field.

A survey by the nonprofit found in 2025, Wake County teachers were spending on average \$1,200 on back-to-school supplies. With inflation,

many teachers are able to afford less than they did just a year ago.

"We're gonna try to take that burden off as much as we can. It's not a substitute for adequate funding, but I like to think we've made a difference," said Poston.

On Wednesday, the storefront, designed to look like a small Staples, opened its doors to Wake County teachers, who scanned the well-stocked shelves for items their students might need.

Highlighters, pencils, glue sticks, backpacks, and hand sanitizer are among the most sought-after items. Laptops and Chromebooks are provided by the school district, but Poston says teachers need a lot of basic supplies for their students to start out the school year.

"I remind folks, this is a classroom supply store for teachers, but these are going to students," said Poston. "Something that we are keenly aware of here is that not every family can afford to go out and make sure that their child has a new backpack full of all the things they are supposed to have or need to have when they walk in the door."

A recent analysis from the Groundwork Collaborative and The Century Foundation, two progressive think tanks, finds a typical basket of school supplies will cost families 7.7% more this year, outpacing inflation.

According to new data released by Intuit Credit Karma, more than half of parents with kids under 18 are

Halt To Lost Farmland — CONT. FROM PAGE 2

need to sell their land," he said. "They can't put enough money away for retirement on what they make from their farms, then the land becomes their retirement."

According to the American Farm Bureau, farmers in the U.S. make less than 6 cents out of every dollar spent on food. Maintaining local farmers is a food security issue, Steiner said.

Steiner put his land into a voluntary agricultural district a couple of years ago, which means he made an agreement with the county that his land is for agricultural use only. He joined the program roughly seven years ago and said he had no idea what it was until it was explained to him, but it fell right in line with his goals.

"It gives me a security blanket," he said.

He is now putting his land into an EVAD, or enhanced voluntary agricultural district, which gives him more of a safety net than just being in a VAD. It's an irrevocable conservation agreement that lasts 10 years, further protects him from neighborhood noise ordinances and applies deed restrictions to keep land in agricultural use. Some farmers are wary of giving up the rights to their land, not because they want to develop it, but because they might not trust the process, Steiner said.

While the terms of each agreement differ by county, these districts are just one arm of North Carolina's robust farmland preservation programs, O'Steen said. While 93 of the

100 counties in North Carolina have VADs, only 39 have approved the stricter enhanced program framework, according to the NC Department of Agriculture.

The bond referendum, which is called the Henderson County Open Space Bond Referendum, includes farmland and forested open areas. County commissioners only brought up the referendum in July and voted unanimously to pass it on Aug. 6. The bond will fund the county's purchase of development rights from farmers and create conservation easements. The program is completely voluntary.

If everything goes according to plan, Steiner said, he will be putting all 27 acres of his land in a conservation easement and use the funds he receives to pay off his mortgage, buy new equipment and enlarge his farm.

Chuck McGrady, a former Republican state legislator and Henderson County commissioner, helped organize quick support for the bond referendum. Linda Tasapagh, the organizing director for the regional land trust MountainTrue, also garnered assistance. Sprawl is something the conservation organization is concerned about because Western North Carolina only has so much developable land, she said.

"Once that farmland is lost, you cannot get it back," she said. "You're not going to be able to tear down those houses and put farms back in."

Neighboring Buncombe County, home to Asheville but also a con-

siderable amount of farmland on its rural outskirts in unincorporated communities like Barnardsville and Leicester in the north and Fairview and Candler in the south, passed a similar general obligation bond referendum in 2022. This year, another \$30 million open space bond, which seeks to bolster the preservation of farmland and scenic areas, will also be on the ballot in Buncombe.

The only exception to these conservation easements is in the use of eminent domain. Steiner explained that if the county or state government wanted to build a road running through his property, they could violate the easement on his land, though it would likely take a lot of bureaucratic steps.

While unlikely, eminent domain is still an issue for farmland preservation advocates nationwide. Earlier this year in Georgia, the state public service commission allowed a railroad company to seize farmland that has been owned by a Black family for more than 100 years, according to reporting from Capital B.

If the bond passes, local property tax valuations will go up roughly 1 cent for every \$100 of property valu-



Preserving The Art Of Discovery

Your Subscription To The Carolinian Newspaper Is Just A Click Away!



BOOKER PARK NORTH APARTMENTS
Immediate Occupancy Available
501 Sunglow Lane Raleigh, NC 27610
Featuring 1 and 2 BR units; conveniently located in Raleigh, NC
Must be 62 years of age or older in order to qualify for occupancy.
Handicap accessible units available
Income Restrictions Apply
Call 919.803.7501
Office Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday:
9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Telecommunications Relay Services:711
Equal Housing Opportunity
Professionally Managed by Community Management Corporation



Church

Tech Is Turning To Religion In A Quest To Create Ethical AI

LOS ANGELES (AP) — As concerns mount over artificial intelligence and its rapid integration into society, tech companies are increasingly turning to faith leaders for guidance on how to shape the technology — a surprising about-face on Silicon Valley’s longstanding skepticism of organized religion.

Leaders from various religious groups met last week with representatives from companies including Anthropic and OpenAI for the inaugural “Faith-AI Covenant” roundtable in New York to discuss how best to infuse morality and ethics into the fast-developing technology. It was organized by the Geneva-based Interfaith Alliance for Safer Communities, which seeks to take on issues such as extremism, radicalization and human trafficking. The roundtable is expected to be the first of several around the globe, including in Beijing, Nairobi and Abu Dhabi.

Tech executives need to recognize their power — and their responsibility — to make the right decisions, said Baroness Joanna Shields, a key

partner in the initiative. She worked as a tech executive with stints at Google and Facebook before pivoting to British politics.

“Regulation can’t keep up with this,” she said. But the leaders of the world’s religions, with billions of followers globally, have the “expertise of shepherding people’s moral safety,” she reasoned. Faith leaders ought to have a voice, Shields said.

“This dialogue, this direct connection is so important because the people who are building this understand the power and capabilities of what they’re building and they want to do it right — most of them,” she said of AI tech executives.

The goal of this initiative, according to Shields, is an eventual “set of norms or principles” informed by different groups and faiths, from Christians to Sikhs to Buddhists, that companies will abide by.

Challenges lie ahead

Present at the meeting were a variety of faith groups, including representatives from the Hindu Temple Society of North America,

the Baha’i International Community, The Sikh Coalition, the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America and The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, widely known as the Mormon church.

Before these companies initiated outreach, some traditions had issued their own ethical guidance on using AI. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints has given a qualified approval of the technology in its handbook. “AI cannot replace the gift of divine inspiration or the individual work required to receive it. However, AI can be a useful tool to enhance learning and teaching,” it reads.

The Southern Baptist Convention, the largest Protestant denomination in the U.S., passed a resolution in 2023: “We must proactively engage and shape these emerging technologies rather than simply respond to the challenges of AI and other emerging technologies after they have already affected our churches and communities.”

One challenge in creating a list of common principles is that global faiths, despite common ground, differ in their values and needs. “Religious communities see priorities differently,” said Rabbi Diana Gerson, a roundtable participant and the associate executive vice president of the New York Board of Rabbis.

The partnership highlights a growing coalition between faith and tech, born out of an effort to create moral AI — a contested concept which begs questions about whether that is possible and what it means.

“We want Claude to do what a deeply and skillfully ethical person would do in Claude’s position,” Anthropic states in the public “Claude

OBITUARY FOR DR. JULIUS QUINTIN MALLETT

Dr. Julius Quintin Mallette was a devoted physician, who embraced the truth that “Love is sufficient unto Love.” He offered care not as mere obligation, but as an expression of deep compassion for humanity. In every encounter, his presence was a quiet reassurance—listening without haste, guiding with wisdom, and serving with a heart finely attuned to those around him.

He held firmly to the belief that “to whom much is given, much is required.” And so, he lived it—doctor, educator, mentor, and friend to all who crossed his path.

Julius was born in Denmark, South Carolina on November 28, 1955, to the late David Leon and Mary Shepard McQueen Mallette; he completed his assignment on Friday, August 7, 2026. His Christian walk began at Saint Ambrose Episcopal Church in Raleigh, North Carolina. His church home in Greenville was Sycamore Hill Missionary Baptist Church, where he served as a Trustee and member of the Male Choir.

He lived his formative years in both Wilmington and Raleigh, North Carolina. He grew up during the era of desegregation and was one of the first Black students to desegregate Daniels – now known as Oberlin Middle School. He graduated from Needham Broughton where he got into good trouble, organizing students to fight for civil rights.

Julius began undergraduate studies at Washington University in St. Louis Missouri, but graduated with honors from North Carolina State University with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Biochemistry. He earned a Medical Degree from East Carolina University and completed residency

Obituaries



training in OBGYN at Meharry Medical College-Hubbard Hospital and East Carolina University -Pitt Memorial Hospital. His fellowship training was a unique combination of Maternal Fetal Medicine and Human Genetics at the University of Maryland-Baltimore Campus.

For nearly 40 years, he served the citizens of eastern North Carolina, providing health care for women with high-risk pregnancies and delivering thousands of babies. Concerned that opioid use was becoming a challenge for society and many of his patients, he decided to transition his practice to address substance abuse in pregnancy.

Dr. Mallette became the first African American Administrator at the Brody School of Medicine at ECU, leading Minority Affairs, Student Affairs, and serving as Senior Associate Dean. As Assistant Vice Chancellor for Regional Health Programs, he advanced medical education, addressed health disparities, and pioneered telemedicine for rural communities. His commitment to equity continued through service at Agape Community Health Center in Washington, NC, and Kinston Community Health Center in Kinston, NC. His international medical stud-

ies included experiences in London; Paris and La Rochelle, France; and Johannesburg, Durban, and Cape Town, South Africa.

He was a member of the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology; American Society for Addiction Medicine; Old North State Medical Society; Healthy Start Foundation Board; East Carolina University Medical Foundation Board; North Carolina Medicaid Board; Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity and The Boule.

While he was a respected surgeon and administrator, he was also a curious thinker. He published a book of memoirs *Blazing a Medical Trail*, several articles in medical journals, produced a radio and television series *Healthy Conversations* designed to improve health literacy in Eastern North Carolina.

Julius leaves to cherish his memory, his wife of 49 years, Sharon Mallette; two children: Quisha and Quintin (Jacquelyn) and three grandchildren.

Preceding him in death are his parents Dr. David Leon and Mrs. Mary Mallette and his beloved in-laws William and Dorothy Nelson. Three siblings by marriage: Carol Mallette, Ruby Freeman and Leslie Cox, as well as and many beloved aunts and uncles.

He is survived by two brothers, David Leon Mallette, Jr. and Harold Odysseus Mallette (Andraedese) and four siblings by marriage, Dr. Harold Freeman, Patricia Cox, Diann Freeman and Dr. Johnny Freeman (Felicia). He will be dearly missed by his uncle James Bud McQueen (Henrietta) and aunts, Geraldine Peay, Jennie Brown and Fern Mallette. He was also loved by a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, extended family members, fraternal brothers, colleagues and friends.



Reverands Donald R. & Carolyn Ingram Celebrate 57 years

Another beautiful chapter in the story we continue to write together. Every heartbeat - every memory — we’ve built a beautiful life together by the grace of God. Through every joy, every challenge, and every unforgettable moment, we are grateful to God who has stood by our side. Happy Anniversary love. Here’s to our story, and to all the chapters yet to come.

(See *ETHICAL AI*, P. 9)

SERMON of the WEEK



Strong Enough
By Elder Demetrius Hunter
James 1:1–6 KJV

“James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the twelve tribes which are scattered abroad, greeting. My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing. If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering: for he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed.”

I remember when I played football, one of the many topics of discussion in the locker room was how much everyone could lift. We would have major discussions regarding how much we could bench and squat. The discussions would usually lead to some sort

of competition to prove how strong you are.

The truth is, it didn’t matter how strong you were; it didn’t mean anything if it didn’t translate to the field. It really didn’t matter if you could bench 500 pounds. If you could not figure out how to use that strength when it mattered, it was just for show. My coach would often say, “I don’t need you super strong; I just need you strong enough.” He just wanted us to get the job done.

We can be just like this spiritually. But I would like to ask: Are you strong enough?

Most scholars believe that the book of James was written by Jesus’ brother, James. Historians recount that James did not believe that Jesus was the Divine Savior until he witnessed the risen Savior for himself. James writes to the first church in Jerusalem, encouraging them in faith.

1. No Pain, No Gain

If you know anything about lifting weights, you know that to get stronger, you have to go through the soreness of your muscles. Even singer-songwriter Betty Wright understood this concept when she wrote the hit song “No Pain, No Gain” in 1988. She wrote the song encouraging those pursuing love to stick with it even when it hurts.

James declares that we should count it all joy when these trying times come. We must understand that tests and trials come to make us strong. As the song says, in order to get something, you’ve got to go through something. We have to be patient enough to let our spiritual muscles grow.

Yes, it may feel like you can’t lift your arms. But wait on the Lord, and

He will renew your strength.

2. Ask God Why

It has been said that you shouldn’t ask God why—well, sometimes asking God why will help you prevent repeating some things. We must all seek understanding as we go through things.

Verse five lets us know that God will give wisdom in every situation. God won’t hide wisdom from you. James wanted the church to understand that God is a God of intention. He has a plan and has given us permission to ask for understanding with the promise of explanation.

3. Don’t Give Up on Your Faith

We tend only to try what feels good. But when you are trying to become stronger, this is not good practice, just like when working out your natural muscles. There comes a time when we all reach our limit. In that case, it is recommended that we seek professional help.

Many people seek a personal trainer who can help them get the most out of their muscles. The personal trainer will put you through uncomfortable exercises to unlock the next level in your physical fitness. A good personal trainer will continually evolve your workout to elevate your progress.

The Holy Spirit is the best personal trainer one can have. The Holy Spirit won’t let you be comfortable. It will challenge you. But most of all, it will be there when it gets too heavy.

Just know that with the Holy Spirit, you are Strong Enough!!!

Please visit www.youtube.com/@lincolnparkholinesschurch1913. We invite you to Like, Subscribe, and Share your comments. We would love to hear from you.

THE TESTING OF YOUR FAITH

READ: JAMES 1:2-7
By John L. Caldwell, Pastor
New Jerusalem Baptist Cathedral

We watch Job as he preserved and endured the pain and emotional struggle of his unexpected losses. Not to mention his wife turning against him. What made Job hang on to his faith? It had to be the long-time relationship he had with God, and he found reasons during all that time to believe in Him. It had to be Job’s worship time with God, which gave him the enduring strength and belief hold on to God when the rough times came. Job had enough belief (strength) to last him through his trials. Job never had a trial like this one and yet he had enough strength of faith to outlast his trial. In short, job’s faith was able to outlast his trial. This is pure spiritual warfare, which will always be an emotional struggle. Even depressing.

It is important for the children of God, especially those young in the faith, to build up their faith as quickly as possible. The reason being is to have enough belief/faith stored, up not knowing how long any of your incoming trials will last. It is not good to have one’s trials outlast one’s faith. This may lead to spiritual defeat.

It was the Canaanite mother, in the Phoenician region of Israel, who begged and cried out to Jesus to heal her demon possessed daughter, only to hear Jesus initially respond in silence. Jesus then said to her, “I was sent to my lost Jewish people only. The mother cried out again to Jesus, “Lord help me!” Jesus replied, “It is not good to take the Jewish children’s bread and throw it to the dogs.” And the woman said, “Yes, Lord, yet even the little dogs eat the crumbs which fall from their master’s table.”

Then Jesus answered her and said, “O woman, great is your faith! Let it be to you as you desire.” And her daughter was healed from that very hour. Where did this woman acquire her faith in Jesus? The gospel was never taught to the Canaanites. The Canaanites were enemies of the Jews.

Faith and belief in God have no barriers. Anybody can believe in

God and be blessed. One can hear of Jesus and just simply chose to believe. Faith comes from hearing (Romans 10:17). This mother obviously heard about Jesus somewhere and believed. Otherwise, she had no other hope for her sick daughter. We must know that doubt will chip away at our faith. And we want our faith to keep doubt in check at all times. At times, this will become an emotional fight. But pray always to keep a measure of faith by simply believing in something about Jesus Christ. Never leave home without some measure of faith.

Jesus gives each person a “startup” amount of faith when he/she first believes (Matthew 17:20; Romans 12:3). Jesus tells us that it only takes faith the size of a mustard seed to get God’s attention to help move an “emotional mountain” out from one’s life. The mustard seed is one of the smallest of all seeds.

The devil cannot keep any one from believing in God. However, he will do everything he can to keep a child of God from acquiring a belief in God. Add to your faith virtue-moral up righteousness. In other words, don’t get angry and stray from the fold.

It was James, the half-brother of our Lord, who cautions us when we fall into various trials. My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. It requires a pure quantity of faith to experience joy in the midst of trials. Yet this is always possible and your spiritual objective. Just believe. The time will come when one will find him/herself praising God in the middle of their trials. Job did. He finally said, “Tho You slay me (Lord) yet will I trust You!

James did not start out talking like this at first. He and his brothers and sisters did not believe in Jesus when He first started His ministry. Mary, their mother had some reason to have faith when the Angel of the Lord approached her telling her God had chosen her to bring His Son, the Messiah, into world. How much of this did she tell her other siblings as they grew up. It appears she

said nothing to her other children, which meant she probably carried some measure of doubt herself. Having doubt is a part of the spiritual struggle to acquire faith. But one is not to keep doubt on the table. Sweep it off as quickly as you can by believing in something good about Christ. Even the demons believe in God and tremble (James 2:19).

In short, James and his siblings appeared to have started believing in their brother only after He was resurrected from the grave and not during the time He was performing miracles. If we just believe that Jesus was raised from the dead to take away our sins that will be enough faith to keep us in the race, so to speak.

When Jesus was first raised from the dead, one of the first persons He visited was His brother, James. James eventually became the leader of the Jerusalem church, and his faith grew in Jesus, and he began to teach like Him.

James continues but let patience have its perfect work (a tough resolve) that you may be perfect and complete, this meaning to be fully and completely developed or mature.

If any of you lack wisdom let him ask of God, Who gives to all liberally and without reproach (holdback). Simply put, those with wisdom know what to do while in the middle of confusion and doubt. You simply ask God for some understanding while in your trials. If you are able to do this, this indicates you have a measure of faith to keep going. More faith will be given to you when you do ask. It is nothing wrong with asking God to help you in your unbelief (Mark 9:24).

James continues, But, if you do ask God, you must ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave at sea driven and tossed by the wind. For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord: he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways. Simply meaning you have doubt. Doubt will get you nowhere with God. It will prolong your trial which may well bring you closer to defeat. Just a little bit of Mustard seed faith will do!



SUBSCRIBE TODAY

☐ Yes, I Want A 1 Year Subscription For**\$45.00**

☐ Yes, I Want A 2 Year Subscription For**\$75.00**

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE ____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____

EMAIL _____



Make checks payable to The Carolinian Newspaper
Mail your subscription form and payment to PO Box 25308 Raleigh, NC 27611







“Our family serving your family for 110 years”

www.haywoodfh.com

2415 S Wilmington Street Raleigh, NC 27603

919-832-2835

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.

Black People Do Not Hang Themselves

By Dominique Heath

Every time another Black person is found hanging, especially from a tree or in a public place, we all think the same thing: Black people do not hang themselves.

Some people hear that and immediately rush to correct us: “Suicide is not exclusive to race.”

And we know, but that is not the point.

The point is that Black people in America have a historical memory that cannot simply be switched off because law enforcement issues a statement.

We know what a hanging Black body has meant in this country.

We know about the thousands of Black people who were lynched while police officers, elected officials and entire communities looked the other way, participated, and even covered it up. We know how many deaths were never properly investigated. We know how often Black families were told to accept an official explanation and move on.

So when Black people see something that looks painfully familiar, our first instinct is often to ask questions. And lately, there have been a lot of questions.

In 2026 alone, at least seven widely reported cases have involved Black people found hanging or deaths under similar circumstances: Kyle Bassinga, Juliana Umba Nzita, To'Nea Nicole Miller, Justice Kai James, Jerard “Jay” Jackson, Tasia Fortune and recently the 32-year-old Black man recently found in downtown Raleigh.

Some of those deaths have been ruled suicides. Some families have questioned the findings. Some have called for independent investigations or greater transparency. But that is exactly the point.

More than a century ago, Ida B. Wells understood the importance of documenting racial violence as it happened. After three of her friends were lynched in Memphis in 1892, she began investigating the circumstances behind lynchings across the country, comparing newspaper accounts, collecting names and challenging the explanations commonly used to justify the killings.

Her research culminated in works including A Red Record, published in 1895, which used statistics and documented cases to expose the scale of lynching in America and the false narratives often used to defend it.

That same principle still matters today.

The Equal Justice Initiative has done extraordinary work identifying thousands of victims of racial terror. Tuskegee University maintains records extending through 1968. But ask how many Black people have been found hanging in America in the last five years and suddenly there is no easy answer.

You have to search one name at a time. One city at a time. One news story at a time. And that should concern us.

Civil rights organization JULIAN created A Crimson Record, a report examining more than 70 cases it considers suspected modern-day lynchings across seven Southern states since 2000. While it is an important step toward documenting these cases, a credible national tracker could go further by recording the facts surrounding each case and allowing that record to be updated as investigations develop and new information becomes available.

This tracker could include:

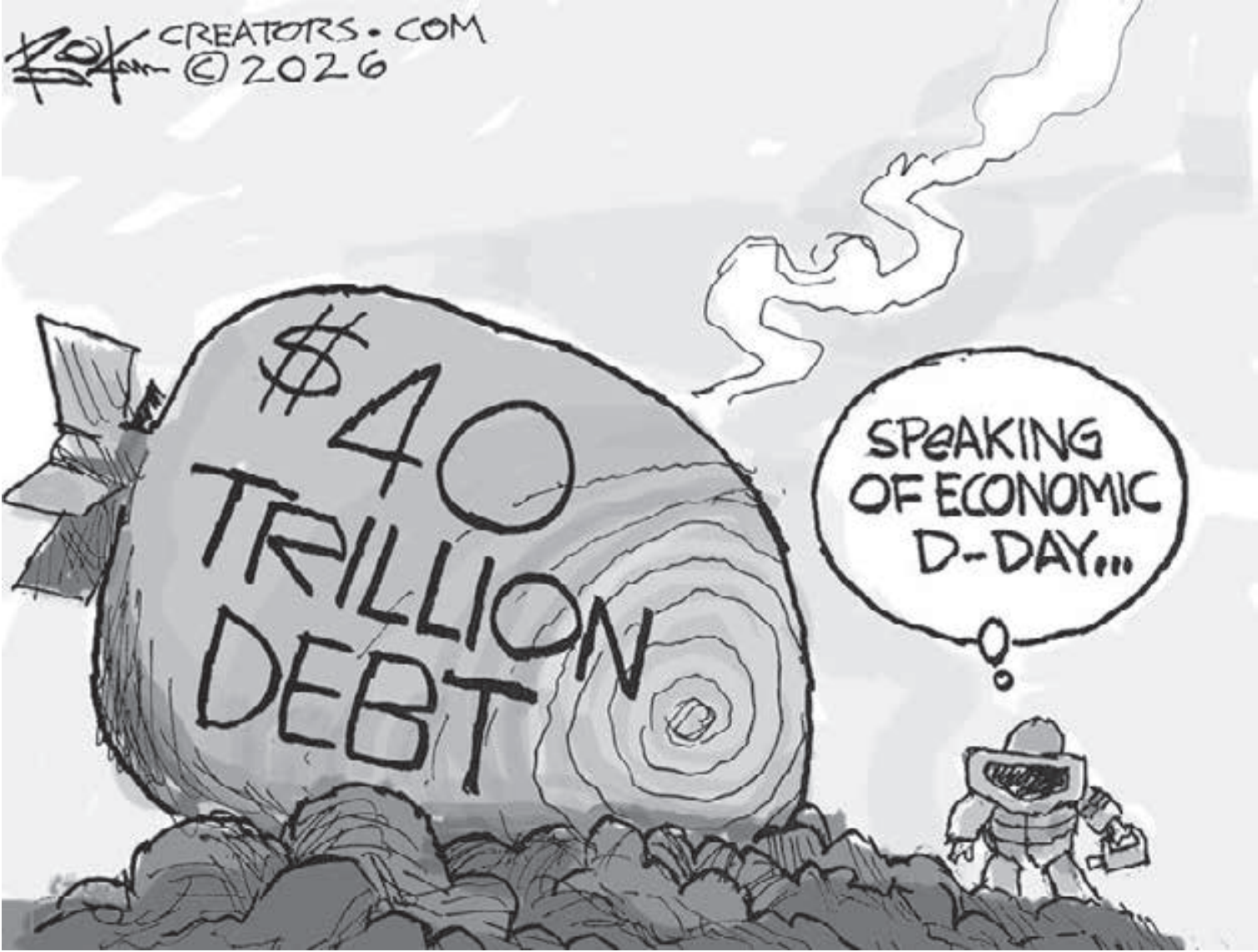
- the name and age of the deceased;
- where and when the person was found;
- the investigating agency;
- the initial and final medical examiner findings;
- whether the family disputed those findings;
- whether an independent autopsy was requested;
- whether state or federal authorities became involved;
- whether racial motivation was investigated;
- and whether the case was reopened or reclassified.

That kind of record would create much needed transparency in these sorts of cases. It would make it possible for researchers, journalists and families to examine these deaths collectively instead of relying on scattered information after each case disappears from the news cycle.

We can search historical databases today and identify Black Americans who were lynched in 1926. But in 2026, there is still no authoritative national answer to a much more basic question: How many Black people have been found hanging in recent years, and what happened in each of those investigations?

Until that information is collected, Black communities should not be told that their suspicion is irrational or that the cases are unrelated simply because they occurred in different cities.

If there is no pattern, the facts will show us that. But if there is one, we should never have to look back years from now and wonder why no one was keeping track.



gies that promise sweeping solutions.

But history teaches us that noble intentions and successful outcomes are not always the same thing.

Communism has consistently promised equality. In practice, however, it has often produced concentrated political power rather than shared prosperity. The Soviet Union, Mao's China, Cambodia under Pol Pot, North Korea and other communist regimes did not eliminate injustice. They frequently replaced one form of inequality with another one in which the state held enormous power over individuals, controlled speech, suppressed religion, limited private enterprise, imprisoned political opponents and, in many cases, was responsible for immense human suffering.

These are not partisan talking points. They are historical realities documented across decades of scholarship.

Why, then, do these lessons seem to resonate less with younger generations?

Part of the answer may lie in historical distance. For many young Americans, the Cold War is as distant as World War II was for previous generations. The Berlin Wall exists only in textbooks. Soviet bread lines, Mao's Cultural Revolution and the Cambodian killing fields are not lived memories but instead historical chapters competing for attention in an age dominated by social media and 20-second video clips.



CHANGE EQUALS STRESS (BUT IT DOESN'T HAVE TO)

It's a wonder that any of us can walk through the world in peace during these times, yet perhaps Heaven's intention for this time is just that. Perhaps living during a time of ups and downs and finding peace in the midst of it is the goal. I absolutely believe that life has more components than being born, going to school and church, belonging to stuff, getting your driver's license, being old enough to wear makeup and learning how to make friends. Did I say also getting a job, buying a car, getting married and having children?

Those things appear sufficient for some, but not many, for if that is all there is, the majority of people would be content, I think, and not disturbed or even overwhelmed by the tremendous changes that my generation has experienced in my case from 1946 to 2026. When I was a kid, you joined the church and went to school, except in the summer. Everybody was out for summer at the same time, and you went to church and school with the same people for the most part. Circumstances caused moves, but not continuous moves.

If you ever think about your childhood as stressful, note how many times you moved, how many changes in the family occurred and how many schools you had gone to by the 12th grade. By the time I was seven, I had lived in four different places. I understand why I asked my mother, "Are we ever going to get somewhere and stay?" Thank God for my parents. She said yes, and she was telling the truth. By the time I reached second grade, I had gone to three different schools in three different cities, but by the time I reached 17, I had gone to only two more schools, and my neighborhood, church friends and classmates went with me. Praise the Lord.

Just compare that with today, not just for children, but for us adults as well. Our children don't always have the luxury of attending a school they can walk to or even counting on where or when they will go to school. Now think about that. If stress can be caused by change and change is the order of the day, what do we expect of the moods and attitudes of many in our society today? When I think about the many changes my generation has experienced, it's no wonder many today don't get up looking forward or backward, but rather taking a deep breath for what the day might bring.

Think about the changes in our neighborhoods. Our neighborhoods here in Raleigh are looking schizophrenic. A house that perhaps cost \$30,000 is next door to one that costs \$1 million. Where we used to have porches, we now have stoops and rooftop decks. A regular-looking house is next door to what we once thought of as a beach house. We go to stores and grocery stores and cashiers are missing, replaced by machines, so you can't write a check and you're forced to have a bank or charge card, and sometimes they don't even want cash.

Do you remember pay phones or those heavy rotary-dial phones that stayed in one place? You got one for the lifetime of your household, and the only time you lost connection was during a thunderstorm, and sometimes not even then. Today, if the electricity goes out, your cell phone had better be charged or you can't text or call, and if you're traveling by car or even walking, expect a disconnect if you can't find a signal. How many times does the magical, inefficient Wi-Fi go out?

Now you can't even write a check for your copay at the doctor's office or pay cash. There's a machine there to check you in. Don't call a utility company and expect to talk to a person unless you're willing to wait in line on the phone. Many instruct you to go to their online services to "better serve you," and that's also the case when you need to return a package or just doggone it, complain LOL.

Speaking of utilities, the prices are outrageous. Who knew electricity, gas and water could approach the price of rent payments? Duke Energy has the nerve to have a space for adding money for those who need help paying their bills. I say take some of that from the ridiculously high salaries of these executives. How about the water company? It has a fee for keeping your records and for you paying your bill. If we don't seriously challenge this, we will have outpriced simple living.

Cars now cost more than houses used to, and salaries are not commensurate with the wages needed by average citizens. Just think, these are only a few examples. I've not said much about our churches

going technical. One day they'll have no checks there either LOL. I've not talked about banks that make money off of our money but no longer even let you pay extra for bank statements with copies of your checks. It's amazing.

Okay, so do you get it? Do you understand why stress can become the name of the game of life? But actually, it doesn't have to be. We can choose to live differently. We can come together and explain to our lawmakers that a person who has lived in a house almost all of their life should not have to pay higher taxes because the house next door costs a million dollars. Why would your house go up in tax value when you're not going to sell it and it's not worth what you're now saying the tax value is?

Don't use the cashier-less lines unless they work for you. Don't get a discount on today's purchase just because they'll give you one if you sign up for a card. If you do, note that they send the bill at a time when they have assigned interest to the purchase, so you'll end up paying more and they recoup the discount they gave you in the first place. There's much more to say and many more strategies to be considered, but I'll leave you with this for now: there's joy in exercising your consumer power.

It's no accident that it used to be that if you mailed a letter before a certain time of day, the recipient might get it the next day or three days later in another city, but now it's often five days later in the same city and 10 in another city. I hate to say conspiracy, but it is about getting more money for somebody somewhere when your package that should be delivered someplace the next day takes a week. Then you can be charged late fees and somebody becomes rich on your nickels and dimes.

Everything that has made this country great has come because little people stood up and said, "I'm not going along to get along." Maybe that's one of the things all this change is here to teach us. Change may equal stress, but we don't have to let either one control us.

ETHICAL AI

Continued from page 8

Constitution” written for its chatbot. That constitution was made with the help of a host of religious and ethics leaders.

In this burgeoning alliance, Anthropic has been the most assertive, at least publicly, in their efforts to court faith leaders. The move follows a public dispute earlier this year with the Pentagon over military use of artificial intelligence after Anthropic said it would restrict its technology from being used to develop autonomous weapons or for mass surveillance of Americans.

“There’s some aspect of PR to it. The slogan was ‘Move fast and break things.’ And they broke too many things and too many people,” said Brian Boyd, the U.S. faith liaison for the nonprofit Future of Life Institute. “There’s both a moral obligation on the part of the companies that they’re belatedly recognizing, as well as I think, for some members of the companies, an earnest questioning.”

Some skepticism emerges

But other advocates for AI regulation and safety aren’t so sure these efforts are genuine.

“At best it’s a distraction. At worst it’s diverting attention from things that really matter,” said Rumman Chowdhury, the CEO of the nonprofit Humane Intelligence and the U.S. science envoy for AI under the Biden administration.

Chowdhury says she’s not inclined to believe religion is the best place to help answer questions surrounding AI and ethics, but thinks she understands why companies are increasingly turning to it.

“I think a very naive take that Silicon Valley has had for a couple of years related to generative AI was that we could arrive at some sort of universal principles of ethics,” she said. “They have very quickly realized that that’s just not true. That’s not real. So now they’re looking at maybe religion as a way of dealing with the ambiguity of ethically gray situations.”

It’s unclear to what extent these notoriously opaque companies are translating what they hear from faith leaders into action — and what that action might look like. But some critics fear the conversation about creating ethical versions of the technology distract from broader conversations about AI and its role in society.

“Under the guise of, ‘We’re gonna build all this stuff. That’s a given. And when we do build these things in these ways, how do we make sure that the end result is maybe good,’” said Dylan Baker, the lead research engineer at the Distributed AI Research Institute. “It’s like, ‘Wait, wait, wait. We need to question whether we want to be building these things at all.’”

E-CIGARETTE

Continued from page 5

should not enter. It does not raise the state's actual sales age, and it does not touch nicotine sales at convenience stores, gas stations, or any other retailer that isn't a standalone vape shop, nor does it address traditional cigarettes or oral nicotine pouches.

Tobacco 21 Campaign Director Meg Molloy said the new CDC Foundation study underscores why that approach falls short.

"We appreciate that lawmakers see a need for better regulation in this space, but we need comprehensive rules," Molloy said. "Nearly 90% of adults who smoke started before they were 18. That's not an accident. NC lawmakers can turn off the nicotine pipeline from convenience markets, gas stations and grocery stores to protect young teens, who sadly think this is normal, from a lifetime of addiction."

State survey data show 37% of North Carolina high schoolers have tried a vape product, a figure that rises to 50% among high school seniors. More than one in five high schoolers reported current vape use, and among seniors that figure was one in three; one in ten North Carolina middle schoolers also reported current vape use.

Nationally, 2024 federal survey data cited in the CDC Foundation study found 7% of adults and 14.8% of young adults ages 18 to 24 reported current e-cigarette use, alongside 7.8% of high schoolers and 3.5% of middle schoolers, with youth and young adults at disproportionately higher risk of using disposable devices in non-tobacco flavors such as fruit.



Guest Columnist

Armstrong Williams

WHY ARE SO MANY YOUNG PEOPLE DRAWN TO COMMUNISM?

Every generation searches for answers. Young people have always challenged the status quo, questioned authority and sought a better future than the one they inherited. That impulse is not only understandable, it is often essential to a healthy democracy. It is how societies reform, innovate and correct injustice.

Yet one question has resurfaced with increasing frequency on college campuses, social media and in political discourse: Why are some young people embracing communism or openly expressing sympathy for socialist and communist ideas despite the overwhelming historical record of communist governments?

The answer deserves more than slogans or political attacks. It deserves honesty, humility and historical perspective.

Most young people are not attracted to communism because they desire dictatorship or political repression. They are attracted to ideals such as equality, fairness, affordable housing, universal opportunity and a belief that no one should be left behind. Many have grown up during financial crises, rising tuition costs, crushing student debt, unaffordable homes, stagnant wages and widening wealth disparities. They see billionaires becoming wealthier while many working families struggle to pay rent or afford health care.

These concerns are real. Ignoring them only pushes young people further toward ideolo-

Classifieds

CHATHAM
COUNTY

North Carolina Chatham County
In the General Court of Justice
District Court Division
File No: 26CV000868-180
**NOTICE OF SERVICE OF
PROCESS BY PUBLICATION**
To: IGINIO EVELIO HERNANDEZ
DIAZ, Defendant.

Take notice that a pleading seeking relief against you has been filed. The nature of the relief being sought is for child custody. You are required to make defense to such pleading no later than October 7, 2026 said date being at least forty (40) days from the first publication of this Notice, and upon your failure to do so, the Plaintiff, Enma Julissa Roblero Perez, will apply to the court located at 40 E Chatham St, Pittsboro, NC 27312 for the relief sought.

This, the 19th day of August, 2026.

Aneta Paval
Paval Law Offices, PLLC
Telephone: (919) 410-6690
8/27, 9/3, and 9/10/2026

DURHAM
COUNTY

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File No: 26E000613-310

Having qualified as EXECUTOR of the Estate of BRYAN LEIGH SELLARS, 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 28th 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 27th day of August, 2026.

Gladys Denise Hobbs, Executor
11 Sparger Spring Ln.
Durham, NC 27705
8/27, 9/3, 9/10 and 9/17/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Having qualified as Administrator of the Estate of NATHAN BERNARD CURRY, deceased, this is to notify all persons, firms, and corporations having claims against the Estate of Nathan Bernard Curry to present them to the undersigned on or before the 28th day of November 2026, or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms, and corporations indebted to said Estate, please make immediate payment.

This the 27th day of August, 2026.

Delores Leathers Curry,
Administrator Attorney for the
Estate of Nathan Bernard Curry c/o
John W. Perry
Post Office Drawer 2051
Durham, North Carolina 27702
Telephone: (919) 683-8685
8/27, 9/3, 9/10 and 9/17/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF DURHAM

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 6th day of August 2026, as Executor of the ESTATE OF JOHN CALHOUN MARLOWE, JR. aka JOHN C. MARLOWE, JR., Deceased, of Durham County, North Carolina, does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said Estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 28th 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 27th day of August.
John C. Marlowe III
EXECUTOR
ESTATE OF JOHN CALHOUN MARLOWE, JR.

c/o Shirley Diefenbach, Attorney
Walker Lambe, PLLC
Post Office Box 51549
8/27, 9/3, 9/10 and 9/17/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF DURHAM

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 21st day of August, 2026, as Administrator CTA of the ESTATE OF MORRY WAYNE SPITZER, 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 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 27th day of August, MADELINE SELTMAN ADMINISTRATOR CTA ESTATE OF MORRY WAYNE SPITZER c/o Jennifer Dalman, Attorney Walker Lambe, PLLC 240 Leigh Farm Rd, Ste 100 Durham, North Carolina 27707 8/27, 9/3, 9/10 and 9/17/2026 STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
File No: 26E000905-310

Having qualified as Executor of the Estate of JOHN B. MODRAK (also known as JOHN BRUCE MODRAK), deceased, of 4119 Edenton Lane, Durham County, Durham, NC 27707, 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 28, 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 27th day of August, 2026.

Susan P. Modrak
Executor of the Estate of John B. Modrak c/o Law Office of Jeffrey L. Austin, PLLC
500 Westover Dr. #32043
Sanford, NC 27330

8/27, 9/3, 9/10 and 9/17/2026

**NOTICE OF SERVICE OF
PROCESS BY PUBLICATION**
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY
DISTRICT COURT
CASE NUMBER: 26 CV 008790-310

Custody action of Karla Morena Trigueño Escalante against John Doe, father of the minor M.A.T.E. born September 8, 2020.

Note that a judicial plea seeking relief against you has been filed in the previously authorized custody motion. The nature of the relief requested is as follows: Karla Morena Trigueño Escalante is seeking full custody of the minor child M.A.T.E. and requests that the court determine that you have abandoned and neglected your child, thereby acting in an incompatible manner with your right to be a parent, and that reunification with your child is not in the best interest of the child. You are obligated to respond with a defense no later than 30 days after receiving this message; failure to do so will result in the party seeking service against you applying to the court for custody. The hearing date will be forthcoming, and the hearing will take place in Durham County. For more information about the hearing, call the Durham County Clerk's office at (919) 808-3223 and reference the case number 26 CV 008790-310

Maria Slater, Esq.
Counsel for the Plaintiff
NC Bar #51679

330 S. Greene St., Ste. 100A
Greensboro, NC 27401
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
336-895-2694

Mslater@cwsglobal.org
8/27, 9/3, and 9/10/2026

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

**NOTICE OF SERVICE OF
PROCESS BY PUBLICATION**
District Court Division
File No. 26CV007999-310

[CHILD CUSTODY PROCEEDING] ANA CONTRERAS NUNEZ AND MARITZA NUNEZ TABORA, Plaintiffs v. GILBERTO AGUILAR LOPEZ AND SILSA LOPEZ RAMIREZ, Defendants. To Defendant, father of E.L.A.L. a female child, born to Defendant Silsa on 5/11/2010. TAKE NOTICE that a pleading seeking relief against you has been filed in the above-entitled action. The relief sought against you is an award of legal custody of the child to Plaintiffs. You are required to make a defense to such pleading with the Durham County Clerk of Court within 30 days of receiving this notice. If you fail to answer the Complaint the party's seeking relief against you will apply to the Court for the relief sought. The hearing date will be forthcoming and will take place in Durham County. For more information about the hearing, call the Durham County Clerk's Office at 919-808-3223.

This 27th day of August, 2026.
Adriana Hernandez, Attorney for Plaintiffs
CWS Greensboro
330 S Greene St, Ste 100A
Greensboro NC 27401
336-470-0495
8/27, 9/3, and 9/10/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

**NOTICE OF SERVICE OF
PROCESS BY PUBLICATION**
FILE NO.: 26CV009105-310
Juan Hernadez Morales

v. Verenice Hernandez Morales
To: Verenice Hernandez Morales
Take Notice that a Complaint has been filed against you in the Civil Action described above, in the General Court of Justice, District Court Division, by the Plaintiff herein, the nature of which is as follows: The Complaint seeks an Order of Permanent Custody of your minor child, Hayden Yeray Hernandez Hernandez. You are required to file an Answer including any defenses to this pleading within forty (40) days from the date of first publication of this Notice with the Clerk of Court of Durham County. If you fail to do so, you may not receive further notices, and the plaintiff will seek the relief sought herein.

Publication begins This is the 27th day of August 2026.

Yesenia L. Polanco-Galdamez, Attorney for Plaintiff

411 Andrews Road, Suite 130
Durham, NC 27705 (919) 294-8032
8/27, 9/3, and 9/10/2026

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
ALL PERSONS, firms and corporations having claims against ROLAND VELEZ, deceased, of Durham County County, N.C., are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before (3 months and 2 days from 1st date of publication), or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This August 20, 2026.

26E000280-310
Sara Velez Mallea, Administrator of the Estate. Mail claims to:
Attn: Nicholas A. Fernez
Silver Eagle Law

PO Box 11
Smithfield, NC 27577
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
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

DURHAM COUNTY

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



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

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.: 26E000286-910

THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 27th day of March, 2026, as **ADMINISTRATOR** of the Estate of **VINH THU TAN**, 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 26th 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 27th day of August, 2026.

Maomei Wang, Administrator
c/o Law Office of Fiona Wang, PLLC
135 Parkway Office Ct., Suite 205
Cary, NC 27518
8/27, 9/3, 9/10 and 9/17/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
WAKE COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File No.: 25E001270-910
THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 15th day of May, 2026, as **CO-ADMINISTRATOR** of the Estate of **WILLIAM LEE WRIGHT**, 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 26th 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 27th day of August, 2026.
James Wright Easter
Co-Administrator
3624 Sweet Birch Drive
Greensboro, NC 27406
Patricia Wright, Co-Administrator
753 Fawn Road
Ayden, NC 28613
8/27, 9/3, 9/10 and 9/17/2026
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

FORECLOSURE

NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY
IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE
SUPERIOR COURT DIVISION
26CV003225-310

STATE EMPLOYEES' CREDIT UNION, Plaintiff, v. **SHAHANAZ MOURADALY, 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

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 Stubby 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
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

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

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

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

WANTED WBE, MBE & DBE BIDS

for the following job:

	<u>Division Six Letting</u>	
DF00560	Columbus Co.	Bid Date: Sept 2nd
	<u>Division Two Letting</u>	
DB00644	Beaufort Co.	Bid Date: Sept 9th
	<u>NCDOT Central Letting</u>	
C204349	Wake/Durham Co.	Bid Date: Sept 15th
C205233	Wake Co.	Bid Date: Sept 15th
	<u>Division One Letting</u>	
DA00703	Martin Co.	Bid Date: Sept 16th

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

Bids can be emailed to stw.quotes@stwc corp.com

Please contact S. T. Wooten at 252-291-5165,

Fax 252-243-0900 no later than 5:00 p.m. the day before the bid date.

The North Carolina Department of Transportation, in accordance with the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (78 Stat. 252, 42, U.S.C. 2000d to 2000d-4) and the Regulations, hereby notifies all bidders that it will affirmatively ensure that any contract entered into pursuant to the advertisement, disadvantaged business enterprises will be afforded full and fair opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, or national origin in consideration for an award. In accordance with other related nondiscrimination authorities, bidders and contractors will also not be discriminated against on the grounds of sex, age, disability, low-income level, creed/religion, or limited English proficiency in consideration for an award.

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

Politics & Election News

Final Decision By NCSBE Leaves Uneven Early Voting Access

By Jordan Meadows

Staff Writer

The North Carolina State Board of Elections approved changes to early voting plans in 20 counties Thursday morning after a contentious meeting that lasted more than 10 hours, with the role of the Republican-controlled state auditor’s office dominating much of the proceedings.

The meeting came after election boards in 20 counties failed to reach unanimous agreements on their early voting schedules for this November’s elections. Under state law, each county must provide early voting during business hours as well as on the Saturday immediately preceding Election Day.

The state board was tasked with resolving the remaining disagreements, with representatives from each county presenting majority and minority proposals before the five-member state board discussed and voted on the plans.

The counties before the state board were Union, Rowan, Anson, Craven, Rockingham, Greene, Wayne, Harnett, Lee, Nash, Chatham, Scotland, Jackson, Pasquotank, Guilford, Pitt, Lenoir, Cumberland, Granville and Columbus. The other 80 counties had reached unanimous agreements on their early voting plans and therefore did not have to appear before the state board.

The most contentious issue was whether counties should offer early voting on Sundays.

Republican members of several



county boards argued that Sunday turnout was too low to justify opening polling sites and that the day should be reserved for church and family. Democratic members and voting-rights advocates argued that Sunday voting is an important option for people who work long or irregular hours, have lengthy commutes or have caregiving responsibilities. They also noted that some religious traditions observe Saturday as a day of rest, making Sunday an especially important alternative.

The debate became particularly heated during discussion of Anson County’s plan.

Matthew Longworth, a Republican member of the Anson County Board of Elections, argued against Sunday voting in part because election workers would be required to work on

Sunday. “By having Sunday voting, we are requiring people to work on the Lord’s day,” Longworth said. “I do believe that the downfall of this country will be contingent on what we do with God.”

Longworth also compared the lack of Sunday operations at polling places to Chick-fil-A’s traditional Sunday closure, saying that if the restaurant could close on Sundays, polling places could do the same.

The board also considered disputes over early voting locations, including locations on university campuses and in smaller communities.

In Columbus County, the Republican-backed plan called for eliminating the early voting site in Fair Bluff. The state board ultimately voted in

the afternoon to reinstate the Fair Bluff site.

Several Columbus County residents traveled to Raleigh and gathered outside the State Board of Elections building during a break in the meeting to oppose changes to their local early voting plan.

Alon Zastephens, a Columbus County resident, said the group came to the meeting in an effort to prevent polling places from being closed.

“Today we have come to the Electoral Board meeting to try to convince them not to close any of our polling stations,” Zastephens said.

A protest also took place at Halifax Mall in Raleigh while the state board was hearing testimony and voting on the county plans. Protesters and voting-rights advocates gathered as the lengthy meeting continued inside the nearby elections building, adding a public demonstration to the growing criticism surrounding the early voting decisions.

Members of nonpartisan organizations, including Common Cause, also gathered outside the State Board of Elections building to express concerns about the consequences of the decisions. Dawn Blagrove, an attorney and executive director of Emancipate NC, said voters should not have to fight for basic opportunities to cast ballots.

“We shouldn’t have to hold an all-day meeting to decide whether or not to do something that is pure common sense: simply make voting easier, expand access, and provide more opportunities for people to

vote,” Blagrove said.

Marcus Thompson, organizing director for Democracy NC and a Pitt County resident, also criticized restrictions on Sunday voting in his county.

“During many elections, I’ve stood alongside young African Americans and Latinos, progressives, and people of all kinds in that county, fighting for Sunday voting; and in the past, it has paid off.”

Sixteen of the 20 counties before the state board voted for Donald Trump for president in 2024, but only eight supported Republican Mark Robinson for governor.

Dawn Blagrove argued that the disputes over early voting should also be viewed in the context of racial and socioeconomic disparities in access to elections. She said that reducing voting hours, eliminating voting days or removing convenient polling places can disproportionately affect African American and other voters of color, low-income residents and students.

“If you are unclear about what systemic and institutional racism means in the context of voting rights, you only need to look at what is happening today in Raleigh,” Blagrove said.

State Board Democratic member Siobhan Millen introduced a motion that would have barred state board members from working with the auditor’s office on matters that favor a particular candidate, political party, or demographic group.

Millen said the state board needed to determine whether the disputed voting plans were genuinely the

product of local election boards or whether they were part of a coordinated effort that could benefit one political party.

The motion failed on a 3-2 party-line vote, with the Republican majority opposing it.

State Board Republican Chair Francis De Luca said board members should be permitted to consider input from public officials, advocacy groups and political organizations before making their own independent decisions.

The dispute repeatedly returned to Dallas Woodhouse, a former executive director of the North Carolina Republican Party who was hired by Republican State Auditor Dave Boelie as an elections liaison. Reports based on emails and text messages uncovered during the controversy showed Woodhouse and other auditor’s office staff communicating with county election officials about where and when to hold early voting. Woodhouse resigned from the auditor’s office in July amid the controversy.

The 20 counties that came before the state board Thursday represented the largest number of county early voting plans divided along partisan lines since the 2016 general election.

The final decisions mean that voters in the 20 counties will have different opportunities to vote early this fall depending on where they live. For some voters, that will mean fewer weekend options, including no Sunday voting, while other counties retain or add Sunday hours.

Budget Includes \$5M Project That May Favor Connected Vendor

NC NEWSLINE - In the recently passed budget, North Carolina lawmakers included \$5 million for a statewide digital credential system for the state’s 58-school community college system.

The budget provision includes technical requirements that appear to favor a politically-connected vendor that participated in a state pilot program last year.

Who wrote the budget language remains unclear, but the requirements closely mirror features offered by DigiCred, one of the two companies that participated in the pilot.

Sen. Michael Lee, R-New Hanover, a co-sponsor of legislation containing the same requirements, previously worked with lobbyist and former NC-GOP chairman Tom Fetzter, who now represents DigiCred before the General Assembly. The connection raises questions about whether DigiCred or its representatives had a role in shaping the technical requirements that later became state law.

In 2024, the state allocated \$1 million to launch a pilot digital credentialing program at two community colleges. Cape Fear Community College received \$750,000 and partnered with DigiCred, while Randolph Community College received \$250,000 and partnered with Certree.

The pilot aimed to test whether students could access and control digital versions of their academic records and share them with schools and employers. The pilot colleges presented their results to the State Board of Community Colleges in July 2025.

Board members discussed selecting a vendor for a statewide rollout, with senior leadership and legislators expected to make the decision, according to meeting minutes reviewed by NC Newsline. Subsequent board minutes through this year show no further discussion of the matter.

In April, Sens. Lee, Brad Overcash, R-Gaston, and Lisa Barnes, R-Frank-



lin, filed Senate Bill 991, which included requirements for a statewide credential management system.

The bill laid out specific technical requirements for the system, including how students’ credentials would be issued, managed and verified and how the system would operate within

the state’s cloud environment.

The system would also have to include a mobile wallet that gives users sole control of their credentials, artificial intelligence capabilities for matching credentials with employment opportunities and blockchain-based technology for certain verification functions.

tion functions.

While \$991 did not become law, the technical requirements for the statewide credential management system were included in the final state budget. Lee is a senior budget chair in the Senate.

The budget directs the North Carolina Community College System Office to contract with a vendor to provide the system across all 58 community colleges. It doesn’t name the vendor, but it lays out very specific requirements that closely resemble features described in DigiCred’s report on its Cape Fear pilot, including its student-controlled wallet, decentralized deployment architecture and artificial intelligence capabilities for matching credentials with employment opportunities.

Lee had publicly promoted some of those concepts before the budget passed. In May, while discussing \$991 before the Senate Education Committee, Lee highlighted how digital wallets and AI tools could give

students control over their records and match them with employment opportunities.

NC Newsline asked Lee’s office whether he was responsible for the budget provision, where the technical requirements came from, and whether he or his staff consulted with DigiCred or its representatives.

Lee, through a spokesperson, said, “The basic premise of the language came from the Digital Wallet [DigiCred] pilot and through discussions with relevant stakeholders to ensure it was feasible at a larger scale.” The statement did not say which stakeholders.

The N.C. Community College System, DigiCred, and Fetzter did not respond to requests for comment.

The North Carolina Department of Information Technology, which lost its procurement oversight for the community college system under legislation passed last year, did not respond to questions about whether it was consulted.

USPS Moves Ahead With Mail Ballot Rule Amid Court Battle

WASHINGTON — With just over two months until the November midterms, a federal district judge in Massachusetts is chastising the Trump administration for sowing confusion and “creating” an emergency by noticing a rule Friday that the U.S. Postal Service will eventually require federally regulated mail-in ballot voting envelopes and state data.

A 95-page notice alerting that the final rule would appear in the Federal Register on Aug. 26 outlined justifications for federal requirements on states to redesign ballot envelopes and provide a list of recipient names and addresses to USPS. The final rule became effective Friday, according to the document.

The final rule runs contrary to U.S. District Judge Indira Talwani’s Aug. 11 preliminary injunction barring the federal government from changing states’ mail-in voting rules prior to the Nov. 3 midterm elections, the judge wrote in a brief order on the docket Sunday.

“Defendants did not file an appeal and did not seek, let alone obtain, a stay of the preliminary injunction,” Talwani wrote. “Nonetheless, on August 21, 2026, USPS issued its Final Rule, with an anticipated publication date in the Federal Register of August 26, 2026.”

Talwani was appointed to the bench by President Barack Obama in 2013 and unanimously confirmed by the Senate the following year.

Effective date delayed

The rule includes a provision that

it will not be in effect for this year’s midterm elections if Talwani’s injunction is still in place, but the judge said it would still create significant confusion for voters.

The Trump administration asserted the rule would “have no effect on the rules themselves while the injunctions are in place, while ignoring the confusion that the publication will engender,” Talwani wrote. It’s unclear what effect the final rule will have on the active litigation on the issue.

The federal government had appealed Talwani’s injunction because, it argued, Trump’s order could not be challenged until an agency published a final rule.

Groups want quick order

The voting rights advocacy groups, led by the League of Women Voters of Massachusetts, who sued President Donald Trump and administration officials over a March executive order overhauling mail-in voting procedures swiftly filed an emergency motion Saturday.

They urged Talwani to quickly enforce her injunction, and to order expedited responses from the administration, citing “immediate, ongoing, irreparable harm caused by Defendants’ violation of the preliminary injunction, and in light of these fast-approaching dates.”

“There are now only 73 days before the November 2026 election, and far fewer before mail ballots begin to go out,” they wrote.

The Trump administration ap-

pealed to the U.S. Supreme Court in late July a similar district court ruling against its mail-in voting restrictions order in a case brought by nearly two dozen Democrat-led states.

The states argued that the federal government has no constitutional

Pigford vs The USDA — CONT. FROM PAGE 1

asset that can be passed from one generation to another, used as collateral for a business or sold to finance a child’s education or another family investment.

When farmers lose access to credit and government programs, they can lose more than a crop. They can lose the land. When that happens repeatedly across generations, the economic consequences can reach far beyond the farm gate.

Pigford refused to let his experience disappear into a government file. He became an outspoken advocate for Black farmers and testified before Congress about his experiences. Eventually, he and other Black farmers turned to the courts.

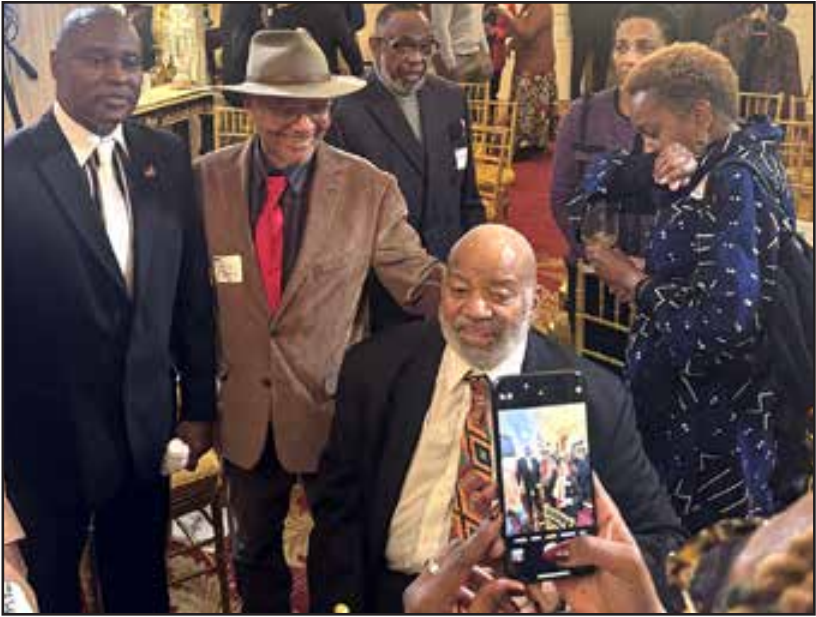
In 1997, Pigford and other African American farmers filed a class-action lawsuit against the USDA. The case, Pigford v. Glickman, alleged that the department had discriminated against Black farmers in the administration of farm loans and other agricultural assistance and had failed to properly address complaints of discrimination.

The case was certified as a class action in 1998. On April 14, 1999, U.S. District Judge Paul L. Friedman approved a landmark consent decree settling the case. The court established a process through which eligible Black farmers could seek compensation and other relief.

The case became known simply as Pigford.

For the farmers involved, it was a remarkable moment. For the federal government, it was an acknowledgment that something had gone seriously wrong.

The original Pigford settlement created two tracks for farmers seek-



HIGHEST HONOR—Tim Pigford (seated) enjoys and evening at the Governors mansion in February of this year. He and others were honored with the Order of the Long Leaf Pine.

ing relief. One provided a streamlined process for farmers who could establish their claims under a lower evidentiary standard. Another allowed farmers with stronger documentation to pursue claims through a more rigorous process. The settlement ultimately resulted in billions of dollars in payments and debt relief to Black farmers.

But the victory came with complications. Many farmers who believed they had experienced discrimination did not receive relief through the original process. Some missed filing deadlines. Others struggled to document events that had occurred years or even decades earlier. Farmers

the Supreme Court justices Monday, U.S. Solicitor General D. John Sauer said the USPS’s rule issuance “underscores the need for relief from the district court’s improper, unripe injunction.”

“The Postal Service’s final rule imposes only modest requirements for

preparation and envelope design for federal ballot mail — requirements that fall well within its traditional authorities to impose mailing standards for particularly sensitive types of mail,” wrote Sauer, who formerly worked as Trump’s personal defense attorney.

of farmers had spent years waiting for recognition that they had been wronged.

For some, the money represented an opportunity to pay debts. For others, it represented the possibility of returning to agriculture. For many, however, no payment could fully replace the land, wealth and opportunities they believed had been lost.

The significance of Pigford cannot be measured only in dollars. The case changed the national conversation about Black farmers and the USDA. It helped expose how government programs could produce very different results depending on who was applying for assistance. It also forced policymakers to confront a difficult question:

What happens when the government responsible for helping farmers becomes part of the reason some farmers cannot survive?

Pigford helped make that question impossible to ignore. His case also became a symbol of the broader struggle over Black land ownership in America.

Though Timothy Pigford received recognition and honors, such as the Order of the Long Leaf Pine, he never did get the one thing he longed for, his own farm.

Arch Hart, Special Assistant to the Commissioner of Agriculture said, “He sacrificed his life, his family, even his health for the betterment of not only his farm, but to farmers throughout America.”

Tim Pigford passed away Sunday, August 23, 2026.

Thank you Mr. Pigford! Every present and future Black farmer in America owes you a debt of gratitude.

