Business .....P. 3
Health .....P. 5
Arts .....P. 6
Community .....P. 7
Church .....P. 9
Classifieds ..... P. 10-11

Dedicated to the Spirit and Service of God

The Carolinian

N.C.'s Twice-Weekly African-American Owned Newspaper

$1.00

RALEIGH, N.C. THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 3, 2026 - SEPTEMBER 9, 2026 VOL. 86, NO. 45

How Journalists, Communities Work Together To Confront Levels of Trust



THE CONVERSATION - In the past decade, study after study has come to a troubling conclusion: Trust in news and journalism has declined dramatically.

The public's loss of trust corresponds with the explosive development of our information ecosystem. The more options audiences have to find news elsewhere, the less trust the public has placed in traditional forms of journalism.

However, trust in journalism was displaced long before the rise of digital and social media.

That's especially true for Black communities that have been harmfully misrepresented by mainstream outlets. Research, for example, has consistently shown how the news media has contributed to overrepresentation of Black people in crime coverage, which contributes to a litany of negative outcomes and perceptions.

Scholars, including me, have detailed how mainstream journalism continues to marginalize and misrepresent Black people. That especially happens in protest, crime and health coverage. It's no surprise that Black communities have a long history of turning away from mainstream journalism.

As such, a closer look at these communities can also give us insights into how to win some of that trust back.

Trust takes two

Despite past harmful coverage, some Black people trust media anyway.

In a recent study I conducted with colleagues, we identified places where people do still trust media and focused on the next essential question: Why?

To answer this, we turned to Minneapolis and Saint Paul, Minnesota, to learn from journalists trusted by Black communities. In 2022, two years after the murder of George Floyd, our research team began surveying over 100 Black community members and residents to ask them about whom they trusted to tell them the news.

Although news organizations weren't the No. 1 answer, community members named many journalists, including those working at mainstream outlets and community papers. So we connected with 17 trusted journalists who reported in the area after the murder – or during the police officer trials – to learn more about how they built trust.

We learned that the trusted journalists in this community embraced an ethic of love, a set of principles proposed by Black feminist scholar bell hooks that weave together the dimensions of care, commitment, responsibility, knowledge and respect.

We also found that building trust takes the engagement of two parties. No one practice from journalists can fix the trust crisis; it takes communities to engage, forgive and voice concern.

We found that the most overlooked piece to building media trust is the willingness of a community to engage with journalists. Instead of saying "no comment" or avoiding the camera, community members offered their perspectives and knowledge openly. Sometimes these discussions served as essential background knowledge. Other times, it led to being quoted directly in news coverage.

Journalists also perceived communities' willingness to provide feedback as an opportunity to build and retain trust. Sometimes the feedback was critical. When a reader was upset about how a story was framed, they pushed back. Other times the feedback provided affirming support.

From these journalists' perspectives, their trusted status was a product of the community's willingness to share both knowledge and feedback.

There are some key practices that helped journalists gain trust with audiences: active listening, being accurate and demonstrating care. But we also found two distinct practices that were helpful for building meaningful community relationships: diligence and deference.



Black August in the Park

DURHAM, N.C. — For a decade, Black August in the Park has brought Black residents and visitors together in Durham to celebrate culture, remember histories of resistance and build community through music, food, art and fellowship.

The annual gathering returned to Durham Central Park on Aug. 30 as the centerpiece of a three-day celebration marking its 10th year. Organizers expanded this year's event into a weekend of programming, with activities beginning Aug. 28 and continuing through Aug. 30.

The main festival featured music, food, community organizations and opportunities for residents to connect. Organizers describe the gathering as both a celebration and an extension of the Black August tradition of remembrance, resistance and collective liberation.

Black August originated in California prisons in 1979, when incarcerated Black organizers began commemorating people who had died in struggles for Black liberation. The observance later spread beyond prisons, becoming a broader period of reflection on Black political history, resistance and freedom.

In Durham, organizers have reimagined that history through a public celebration centered on Black joy and community.

Black August in the Park began in 2015, when a group of friends sought to create a space where Black people could gather, celebrate their identity

(See ***BLACK AUGUST IN THE PARK,*** P. 6)

Believer Meats Went From Cultivated-Meat Pioneer To N. Carolina Casualty



WILSON, N.C. — For a few months in 2025, Believer Meats appeared to have achieved what much of the cultivated-meat industry had been promising for years. The company had built a massive production facility in Wilson County. Federal regulators had cleared its cultivated chicken for commercial sale. Investors had poured hundreds of millions of dollars into the venture, which had relocated its ambitions from Israel to the United States. Then, within weeks of reaching those milestones, Believer shut down.

Believer Meats, formerly known as Future Meat Technologies, was founded in Israel and became one of the better-funded companies in the cultivated-meat industry. The company raised hundreds of millions of dollars from investors as it sought to commercialize meat grown from animal cells rather than slaughtered animals. The company's strategy increasingly centered on the United States.

In December 2022, Believer broke ground on its North Carolina facility. The Wilson County plant was designed as a major step beyond laboratory and pilot production, with roughly 200,000 square feet of space and production capacity measured in thousands of metric tons annually. The project represented a substantial economic bet on the region as well as on cultivated meat.

Believer eventually completed construction in 2025. Industry reports put the facility's cost at roughly $150 million or more. The company appeared to be approaching the moment when years of research and investment would turn into commercial production. Instead, the financial strain that had accumulated during construction became decisive.

The company's collapse has become one of the starkest examples of the gap between proving that cultivated meat can be produced and building a business capable of producing it profitably at industrial scale. Believer's North Carolina factory, built at a reported cost of more than $150 million, is now caught in a court-supervised sale process, while the company's intellectual property is being handled separately in Israel.

The story is one of technological ambition, regulatory progress and heavy investment — followed by a shortage of cash, unpaid construction bills and insolvency proceedings.

Prior to its collapse, Believer reached two major regulatory milestones in 2025. In July, the Food and Drug Administration issued the company a "no questions" letter concerning its cultivated chicken, clearing a major hurdle in the federal review process. In the fall, the company received U.S. Department of Agriculture approval that allowed it to proceed toward commercial sales.

The company also announced that construction of its North Carolina facility had been completed. The sequence was remarkable: a finished large-scale plant, federal regulatory clearance and a product that could legally move toward the U.S. market. But regulatory approval did not solve the company's more immediate problem which was how to finance the final stage of commercialization.

Behind the scenes, Believer was struggling with its obligations to the companies that had built and equipped the Wilson facility. Gray Construction, the project's design-build contractor, later sued Believer, alleging that the company had failed to pay tens of millions of dollars.

According to the lawsuit, the parties entered into a forbearance agreement in October 2025 under which Believer agreed to pay Gray $22 million by Dec. 5, with additional payments to follow. Believer did not make the first payment, according to Gray.

The missed payment turned a construction dispute into a much larger threat to the company's survival. Gray alleged that Believer had breached the agreement and sought to enforce its rights against the company's assets.

Around the same time, Believer began cutting its workforce.

By December, the company had stopped operations altogether.

Believer's shutdown was announced publicly by its global head of human resources, who described the decision as the end of a two-year effort to build something ambitious. Industry publications reported that employees at the North Carolina plant and in the executive ranks had been laid off.

The timing was especially jarring.

Believer had spent years developing its technology and more than $100 million building a factory. It had just crossed the regulatory barriers required to sell its product. Yet it never became a commercial-scale cultivated-meat producer.



How The Black Labor Movement Envisioned Liberty

By Livia Gershon

JSTOR

In the second half of the nineteenth century, the United States was transforming from an agrarian country to an industrial capitalist one. For some white economic thinkers, wage work represented a form of liberty: Workers were free to find employment wherever they wished, signing mutually beneficial contracts with employers. The majority-white labor movement, meanwhile, noted the inherent power differential between capitalists and workers. It saw collective action as a counterbalance.

But as political scientist Benjamin T. Lynerd writes, Black labor leaders and theorists approached economic questions in a totally different way. Thinkers like like Frederick Douglass and Isaac Myers, the founder of the Colored National Labor Union (CNLU), drew on the Jeffersonian tradition of republicanism. (This had nothing to do with belonging to the Republican Party, though the vast majority of Black voters at the time did.)

"For American republicans, liberty meant the ownership of productive property," Lynerd writes. "To work for someone else, and to make a product that you do not own—even if you are technically not a slave—is to lack the independence required for republican liberty."

To Reconstruction-era Black republicans, the key to preserving the country's character was stopping the rise of a wage economy. Black journals like the the New Era, which was created by the CNLU, called on their readers to buy land. They also urged state governments to sell public property to settlers—both Black and white—rather than granting it to railroads and other corporations. In its first issue, published in 1870, the New Era announced that it aimed to help "organize the millions of our race in the South into permanent communities of self-supporting, self-reliant, and self-respecting citizens."

Black labor leaders also encouraged Black citizens to move west to places where they could own land, and not to migrate to northern cities where the main economic opportunities lay in wage labor.

But, Lynerd writes, these leaders didn't oppose industrialization itself. Instead, they imagined a different kind of industrial production: worker-owned cooperatives. While some white labor organizers also embraced cooperatives, the idea was much more widespread in the Black labor movement. In 1965, Myers led the formation of a cooperative shipyard in Baltimore, owned and operated by 300 ship caulkers. This model was difficult to replicate because of the resources needed to start an enterprise, but Black leaders pointed to it as a more effective means than unionization to "restore order and harmony, and give a fair chance of competition between capital and labor," as Myers put it.

Another key platform of Black labor republicanism was civil equality. Black labor saw the economic advancement of workers as inseparable from voting rights, well-funded public education, progressive taxation, and other elements of a robust democracy.

Ultimately, of course, the wage system, and the concentration of capital, won out, and the democratic reforms achieved during Reconstruction were turned back for a century. But, Lynerd writes, "Black labor leaders nonetheless saw more clearly than anyone else in the postbellum era the ramifications of this trend for the political health of the republic."

Historic Photo of 'Whipped Peter' Becomes Flashpoint in U.S. History Exhibit Debates

By Jordan Meadows

Staff Writer

A photograph of a formerly enslaved man whose back is covered in scars from whipping has become a flashpoint in the Trump administration's effort to reshape how slavery and other painful chapters of American history are presented at federally operated museums and national parks.

The 1863 photograph, commonly known as "The Scourged Back" or "Whipped Peter," has been displayed for decades in museums, universities, and historical sites across the country. It shows a Black man standing with his face turned in profile and his back exposed to the camera, revealing a mass of raised scars stretching across his shoulders and down his back. The image was originally circulated by abolitionists during the Civil War as evidence of the brutality of slavery.



More than a century and a half later, the photograph is at the center of a new political fight.

Reports that federal officials ordered the image removed from a National Park Service exhibit in late 2025 drew condemnation from historians, preservationists and lawmakers. The Interior Department, which oversees the National Park Service, has denied specifically ordering the photograph's removal, saying that interpretive materials are undergoing review and that anything removed or altered prematurely or in error could be restored.

The dispute comes as the Trump administration continues implementing an executive order directing federal agencies to eliminate what President Donald Trump called "corrosive ideology" from federally controlled historical sites. The order, titled "Restoring Truth and Sanity to American History," accused some museums and historical sites of presenting American history in a way that disparages the country and directed the Interior Department to review monuments, memorials, exhibits and interpretive materials.

National Park Service officials have said materials that focus disproportionately on negative aspects of the United States or historical figures, without acknowledging broader context and national progress, can distort visitors' understanding of history.

The controversy surrounding "The Scourged Back" is particularly significant because of the photograph's original role in changing how Americans understood slavery. Unlike written accounts, the image gave Northern audiences a direct visual representation of the physical violence endured by enslaved people.

The photograph was likely taken in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, on April 2, 1863, after the man pictured reached Union lines. Several versions of the photograph were produced at a local studio. The man has traditionally

(See ***WHIPPED PETER,*** P. 12)

Coalition Aims to Save SC's Historic Black Schools



COLUMBIA — Helping save Lakeview School in West Columbia is Earnestine Holden's retirement job.

Like many of the people trying to save historic Black schools, Holden, who graduated from the school in 1967, isn't a professional historian or grant-writer. She's a passionate alum who wants to see the school she graduated from preserved for future generations to see.

Recognizing the difficulty many alumni associations face in navigating complicated barriers to saving the state's historic Black schools, the Central Carolina Community Foundation on Thursday officially launched the South Carolina Historic Black Schools Preservation Network.

The network is meant to act as a way for alumni associations and nonprofits to pool their knowledge and resources about funding sources, historical designations and research, said Georgia Mjartan, the foundation's president.

So far, the effort involves about a dozen long-closed K-12 schools. But the work is also open to historically Black colleges and universities, said Trimease Carter, the foundation's director of community impact.

Each endeavor is starting from a different place, with different needs, which allows the nonprofits and alumni associations behind their preservation to help each other out, she said.

"No matter where your school is along this preservation network, we want to be here to be a help and support," Carter said.

Starting a network

South Carolina once had thousands of Black schools. The exact number is unclear, said Virginia Harness, a researcher for the state Department of Archives and History.

Many closed as the school systems were required to desegregate. They were then left to deteriorate, often forgotten by surrounding communities.

But the schools played a vital role in the state's history, alumni said. Children's futures depended on the schools that provided their only opportunity for education, Holden said.

"There were so many kids who would never have gotten to college if it were not for the nurturing they received at these Black schools," Holden said. "I can tell you story after story after story."

Wanting to save the schools, alumni started calling the Central Carolina Community Foundation asking about opportunities for funding. After several similar requests, Carter asked one caller if the schools had some sort of collective that would make it easier to work together.

"Not that I know of," replied Deloris Pringle, an alumna of Lincoln High School in Sumter. "Would you all be willing to host this?"

The foundation decided to act as a connector, giving alumni a space to meet and help in finding resources. Although the foundation typically serves the Midlands, the network is open to schools across the state, Carter said.

"I feel like so many were working in silos, and they were trying to do things by reinventing the wheel," Carter said.

Historic designations

Many preservation efforts are led by established nonprofits, but saving Black schools typically falls to passionate alumni. Some might have a background in running a business or working in government, but most know little about what opportunities are out there or how to get them, Carter said.

For instance, getting a spot on the National Register of Historic Places can offer certain protections, said Virginia Harness, who oversees that process for the state Department of Archives and History. But the designation comes with a set of requirements, and most applications are written by professionals, she said.

"It's serious business," Harness said. "It's sort of like a graduate-level research paper."

At least 67 schools are listed on the national register, Harness said. That doesn't include schools that are part of a larger historic district, such as the one encompassing downtown Charleston, since they aren't listed separately, she said.

Most of the listed schools are general public schools built to educate Black students. About a fifth are Rosenwald schools, founded by Sears CEO Julius Rosenwald to give rural Black students in the South an education. Another fifth are equalization schools, which were built in the 1950s with the state's inaugural 3% sales tax in a failed effort to thwart desegregation by proving public schools could be "separate but equal."

Some rarer examples of schools include Faith Cabin Libraries. Around 100 of the libraries were built across South Carolina and Georgia to make sure students, including those who attended school elsewhere, had access to books at a time when most libraries remained segregated.

The state also has one Black mill school still standing, which is a rarity, Harness said. Marysville School in Spartanburg County was built to educate the children of Black families who worked in Pacolet's textile mills between 1915 and 1954.

Historians have found 33 other schools that would likely qualify but haven't applied. Other schools that were demolished, repurposed or rebuilt over the years are out there but don't qualify for that designation, she said.

Interest in saving historic Black schools has grown in recent years, Harness said. In the last decade, the Department of Archives and History recommended adding 17 schools to this list. Less than six years into this decade, the agency has recommended 18.

"We're definitely seeing a big increase in interest in listing these properties," she said.

Recent statewide efforts to save Rosenwald schools are part of that. Pushes from alumni associations are another, she said.

Even professional historians sometimes need some help in filling out those types of applications. The register initially rejected a bid to list Booker T. Washington High School in Columbia because renovations to save the building "impacted the historical integrity of the original building," said Bobby Donaldson, a history professor involved in the effort.

"I said, 'You've got to be kidding,'" said Donaldson, who leads the Center for Civil Rights History and Research at the University of South Carolina, located in the former high school built in 1956 as part of the so-called equalization effort.

So, he called up Pringle and others working on Lincoln High School, which also underwent extensive renovations and got listed. They gave some advice on how to phrase the application, and, sure enough, Booker T. Washington got added to the list, Donaldson said.

Getting a spot on the national register can open up federal funding, but it's far from the only resource associations might need help with, Carter said.

Many of the schools want to open museums for the public to see what learning was like for Black students during segregation. Some want to expand and become community hubs.

Bull Swamp Colored School in Orangeburg, for instance, is planning to add a commercial kitchen, food pantry, media lab and activity center to the 2 acres surrounding the historic three-room school house, said Wilfred Pace, who is helping lead the effort.

That sort of work is only fitting, since the schools once served as hubs for Black communities, Pringle said.

"Even though we were unequal in terms of our facilities, these schools just were the heart of these African American communities," Pringle said.

Funding

The biggest barrier for most is fundraising, Carter said.

School groups typically cobble together money from various sources.

Bull Swamp has gotten money from various federal grants, as well as from donations and local partnerships, for its $1.2 million renovations, Pace said. Lakeview High School is in the process of getting nonprofit status to collect donations from alumni and apply for grants, said Holden.

Long Point Schoolhouse in Mount Pleasant has gotten $150,000 from the state budget, with $250,000 more expected in a bill legislators sent to the governor this week. St. George Rosenwald School in Dorchester County received an agricultural grant for repairs, showing how schools can get creative, Harness said.

Getting funding often requires going through complex processes involving lots of paperwork and research on a school's importance.

That's not knowledge most people have, Carter said. But it is something the Central Carolina Community Foundation and other partners know about and can help with, she said.

The spirit of collaboration is built into the schools, Pace said. Without help from various places, including government funding, philanthropy and community support, most of the schools would never have existed, he said.

"It just shows you the resilience of working together and having a vision for the future and then living that dream," Pace said.



Almost Half Of World's Farmers Are Poisoned By Pesticides Every Year

By Pippa Neill

The Guardian

Almost half of the world's farmers are poisoned by pesticides every single year, a study has found.

Using publicly available data from 2006-2023, the study, which was commissioned by Pesticide Action Network, found there to be an estimated 402-433m cases of unintentional acute pesticide poisoning of farmers and farm workers every year.

Based on a worldwide farming population of 934 million, this means approximately 46% of farmers are being poisoned every year. The greatest estimated number of poisonings was in southern Asia, followed by south-east Asia and east Africa.

The overall highest national incidence of poisoning was in Burkina Faso in west Africa, where nearly 84% of farmers and farm workers were reported to have experienced poisoning.

The study, published in the journal Frontiers in Public Health on Wednesday, also found that an estimated 11,000 deaths occur every year due to pesticide poisoning, with nearly 60% of these in India.

Jayakumar Chelaton, the executive director of Pesticide Action Network India, said the research exposed a "crisis that can no longer be ignored".

The authors of the study are calling for "immediate action", including the implementation of a UN recommendation to phase out highly hazardous pesticides.

The study states that despite global efforts to highlight the dangers, pesticide use has continued to grow steadily, with 3.8m tonnes used in 2023, a doubling since 1990.

Dr Sheila Willis, the head of international programmes at Pesticide Action Network UK, said: "Now that the scale of suffering has been revealed, farmers must be supported to access safer alternatives to protect their health and that of their families."

(See ***POISONED,*** P. 5)

SNAP Cuts Could Cost NC Kids Free School Meals



NC NEWSLINE - Cuts to the nation's largest food assistance program will likely spill over into schools, causing students to lose access to free breakfast and lunch.

More than 1 million American children have lost access to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP, following a recent federal law. Now, as schools gear up for a new term, a portion of those children could be at risk of losing free meals — viewed as crucial supports for both childhood hunger and classroom learning.

But the changes in cafeterias could affect even families who have never participated in the federal food stamp program.

Many students who receive free school meals automatically qualify because of their household participation in SNAP or Medicaid. So a reduction in those social service programs can directly threaten their eligibility for free school meals.

And many schools offer free meals to all students. Those schools qualify for federal funding that is tied to rates of SNAP participation. The complicated federal funding formula means even a slight change in SNAP enrollment could jeopardize free meal funding for entire schools and districts.

"Cuts to SNAP are not going to stop at the grocery store," said Clarissa Hayes, deputy director of child nutrition programs and policy at the Food Research & Action Center, a nonprofit working to combat hunger. "They really are going to threaten children's access to school meals, which is obviously going to increase hunger at home and in the classroom, and is going to have that negative ripple effect across children's health and academic performance."

The threat to school meals comes during a period of upheaval for federal safety net programs and growing hunger across the country amid rising grocery prices. Last year's One Big Beautiful Bill Act implemented new eligibility and work requirements for SNAP as well as pushed new costs onto states. Already, millions have lost food stamps, but the threats to schools are just coming into focus.

"We are really only starting to see the beginning," Hayes said.

The free school meal program allows previously qualified students to remain enrolled over a 30-day grace period. And some students who lost SNAP coverage may still qualify for free meals at school if their families submit certain paperwork.

Many low-income families are struggling to keep their kids fed, according to a recent survey from the nonprofit No Kid Hungry. In that survey, parents said back-to-school season creates impossible choices: More than two-thirds worried they would have to choose between paying bills

(See ***SCHOOL MEALS,*** P. 5)

The Carolinian

(ISSN 00455873)
1015 Cross Link Road, Raleigh, North Carolina 27610
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 25308
Raleigh, North Carolina 27611
Periodical Postage Paid at Raleigh North Carolina 27611
Warrenton Address: P.O. Box 536
Warrenton, NC 27589
Rocky Mount Address: 120 N Franklin St
Rocky Mount, NC 27804
Postmaster
Send all address changes to:
The Carolinian
1015 Cross Link Rd
Raleigh, NC 27610
PUBLISHED SIX TIMES MONTHLY
SUBSCRIPTION RATES
One Year $45.00
Payable in advance. Address all communications and make all checks and money orders payable to *The Carolinian.*
Founded by P.R. Jervay, Sr. in 1940
The Carolinian Newspaper, Inc. of Raleigh
Publisher ..... Adria Jervay
Sales Consultant ..... Paul R. Jervay, Jr.
Circulation Manager ..... Andrew Alston
Jervay Agency, National Advertising Representative
www.TheJervayAgency.com
Member:
North Carolina Black Publishers Association
National Newspaper Publishers Association
HUB Certified MWBE
The Publisher is not responsible for the return of unsolicited news, pictures or advertising copy unless necessary postage accompanies the copy.
Opinions expressed by columnists in this newspaper do not necessarily represent the policy of the newspaper.
Phone: 919-834-5558
e-mail: info@caro.news
www.caro.news
Facebook: TheCaroNews
Twitter: @TheCaroNews

To SUBSCRIBE To The Carolinian
call us at
919-834-5558
or visit us online at
www.CARO.news
VISA MasterCard AMERICAN EXPRESS DISCOVER NETWORK

WakeMed & Atrium Health – What's Driving The Strategic Combination

By WakeMed

In May, WakeMed and Atrium Health announced plans to form a strategic combination that would unite WakeMed, the largest health system in Wake County, with Atrium Health, which includes more than 40 hospitals and cares for North Carolinians across the state. Atrium Health is part of Advocate Health, one of the largest nonprofit health systems in the country.

With this agreement, WakeMed would become part of the Charlotte-based Atrium Health system while remaining a private, nonprofit, community-based organization, committed to fulfilling its mission of caring for Wake County through local leadership, local board oversight, local physicians and long-standing community collaborations and commitments. In short, WakeMed remains WakeMed, but with enhanced access to resources and expertise that will further strengthen the world-class health care delivered here in Wake County by the clinical care teams that our patients know and trust.

While Atrium Health may not be a household name in the Triangle, they – like WakeMed – were founded on a mission of caring 'for all'. Over many decades of caring for their communities, WakeMed and Atrium Health have established legacies that are remarkably similar – centered around an unwavering commitment to serving all patients and families. This alignment of mission and purpose, along with a proven commitment to high-quality care, patient safety, positive work culture, innovation and clinical excellence, makes Atrium Health an ideal partner for WakeMed.

Atrium Health also brings a decades-long history of financial stewardship and investment in the communities it serves – a steadfast responsibility which will extend to Wake County. As part of this agreement, Atrium Health has pledged a $2 billion investment in WakeMed to help modernize and expand our facilities, including the flagship Raleigh Campus on New Bern Avenue, which will improve access to care for our Southeast Raleigh community and beyond. This will also allow WakeMed to invest in new ways to care for those who need us, by building new care sites, adding new specialty services and state-of-the-art equipment, expanding virtual care options and enhancing community-based programs. Through this combination, WakeMed will also be able to expand its financial assistance policy, allowing anyone under 300% of the federal poverty level to receive care at no cost, and those between 300% and 400% to receive care at a discounted rate.

It is important to note that this combination was not proposed because WakeMed is weak or in financial trouble. In fact, the opposite is true. WakeMed is entering this combination from a position of strength – and well-poised to continue building on our legacy to serve all for generations to come. The health care landscape is changing rapidly, and being part of a larger organization will help WakeMed better respond to the challenges associated with unpredictable changes in health care policy and legislation, local and regional competition, and rising cost pressures. This combination is about proactively preparing for the future to ensure we can continue to meet the needs of our growing, dynamic and diverse communities.

Over the past four months, there has been much discussion about the role of Wake County in this strategic combination. While WakeMed is not owned by the County, and does not receive any County funding or tax dollars, Wake County Commissioners must approve an amendment to two formal documents for the strategic combination between WakeMed and Atrium Health to move forward. These documents include several requirements that will ensure WakeMed will continue providing for our community as we always have. This includes maintaining the amount of charity care we provide; remaining locally led and governed; and that County Commissioners continue to appoint a majority of the WakeMed Board of Directors, as they do today. This helps ensure citizens of Wake County have a majority of Board members looking out for this community's best interests.

For 65 years, WakeMed has been committed to delivering great care with great purpose to a great community. While much has changed since opening our doors in 1961, our mission to care for all has never wavered and we are not walking away from it now. The opportunity to unite WakeMed with Atrium Health is in the best interest of the patients and families we serve today and those we will care for tomorrow. Critically important, WakeMed's mission of improving the health and well-being of our community with outstanding and compassionate care for all, will not only be sustained, but will be strengthened by the combination with Atrium Health.

We believe this new partnership is the best path forward for preserving WakeMed's legacy, mission and commitment to serving all—improving access, quality of care, and the long-term health of those we serve.

Business & Finance

The Problem Quietly Taking Black Families' Land- Heirs

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER —When a landowner dies without a will, state law typically divides ownership among all legal heirs — children, then grandchildren, then cousins — each holding a fractional, undivided interest in the whole property. This is called heirs' property, and it is estimated to account for more than a third of Southern Black-owned land: roughly 3.5 million acres worth more than $28 billion. Researchers caution these are estimates — data on heirs' property remain limited. The U.S. Department of Agriculture has identified heirs' property as the leading cause of involuntary land loss among Black Americans.



The mechanism is simple and devastating. Because the title is fractured among many heirs, no single family member can get a clear deed. Without clear title, families often cannot qualify for mortgages, most USDA farm programs, disaster relief, or home-repair assistance. Worse, any single heir — or a speculator who buys out any single heir's fractional share — can petition a court to force the sale of the entire property. These partition sales frequently move land out of families at below-market prices.

The roots of the problem traces to the decades after Reconstruction, when, as ProPublica, the Equal Justice Initiative, and legal scholars have documented, Black families across the South were systematically denied meaningful access to lawyers, courts, and the formal estate-planning system — and faced violence when they did assert property rights.

The scale of loss is staggering. Black farmers owned about 16 million acres in 1910; by 1997, more than 90 percent of that farmland was gone, a loss one study cited by the ABA values at roughly $326 billion. That dispossession is one engine of today's racial wealth gap: as of the Federal Reserve's 2022 Survey of Consumer Finances, median white household wealth stood at $284,310, compared with $44,100 for Black households — more than six times as much.

The case of brothers Melvin Davis and Licurtis Reels of Carteret County, North Carolina, shows what the mechanism does to real families. Their great-grandfather bought waterfront land in 1911; decades later, after a partition maneuver traced to 1978, a portion was sold to developers without the wider family's knowledge or consent. The brothers spent eight years in jail for refusing to leave the land, a case documented in court records and the subject of the 2023 documentary Silver Dollar Road.

Remedies exist, though they are uneven. The Uniform Partition of Heirs Property Act — which gives co-owning families the right of first refusal, requires appraisals, and favors open-market sales over courthouse auctions — has now been enacted in 24 states plus the District of Columbia and the U.S. Virgin Islands, including California (2021), Georgia (2020), and Mississippi (effective July 2020). But the Center for Public Integrity has reported the law helps families 'only if they can afford it' — many attorneys and judges do not know how to apply it. The USDA's Heirs' Property Relending Program, created in the 2018 Farm Bill, offers loans of up to $600,000 through approved lenders to help families resolve title, with more than $100 million made available as of 2022. In Mississippi, a philanthropic two-year pilot — the Mobile Basin Heirs' Property Support Initiative, launched in 2021 by the Center for Heirs' Property Preservation and the Mississippi Center for Justice — targeted the problem directly.

And sometimes land comes back. In July 2022, Los Angeles County returned Bruce's Beach in Manhattan Beach — seized from Charles and Willa Bruce by eminent domain a century earlier — to the couple's closest living legal heirs, after state legislation permitted the transfer. Six months later, the family sold the property back to the county for $20 million — converting land stolen from their great-great-grandparents into liquid generational wealth, on their own terms. It is the rare case where the paperwork worked in a Black family's favor. For millions of acres across the South, it still doesn't.

Meta To Pay NC Up To $645 Million In Landmark Settlement Over Safety

NC NEWSLINE - Attorney General Jeff Jackson announced Wednesday that Meta, the owner of Instagram and Facebook, will pay North Carolina up to $645 million and make major safety upgrades in a landmark case involving 47 states. Meta will pay unto $17.1 billion to the states in the second-largest state consumer protection settlement in history.



"My wife and I have three kids. We know how hard it is to argue with them about screen time," Jackson said."Part of the reason that it's so hard is because parents are up against technology that has been engineered specifically to capture and hold their child's attention."

In 2023, under then-Attorney General Josh Stein, North Carolina joined 32 other states in suing Meta for violating consumer protection laws with apps designed to increase the amount of time children spent using them, while downplaying the risks. The states also alleged that Meta collected data from minors without the consent of their parents.

Based on Meta's own internal documents, researchers knew which features hooked children into coming back, and which delivered a dopamine response. They knew millions of children were using Meta's platforms between midnight and 4 a.m., interrupting their sleep cycle and disrupting their school days. Other documents showed Meta's own employees warned that face-altering filters could mimic cosmetic surgery and contribute to body-image issues for its teenage users.

Jackson said under the agreement, new measures will be installed to help keep children under 13 off Meta's platforms. The apps will now have default time limits, giving parents more control over how much screen time their children have.

"The data shows that nearly 80% of teens use social media for over two hours a day and nearly 40% of them use social media for over five hours a day," said Jackson. "That is why the first provision is a daily limit of two hours."

Parents will have the power to change the settings by dialing them up or dialing them down, but that is a decision that will be made by parents, Jackson said. Parents will also be able to get data about their teen's social media use.

There will also be scrolling pauses to prevent hours and hours of mindless scrolling by teens. Under this safety feature, after 15 minutes of continually using an app like Facebook or Instagram, a pop-ad will discourage the young person from scrolling endlessly.

One of the most disruptive ways social media can impact a young person is by interrupting their sleep.

"A significant percentage of young people are using social media after midnight. The new default will be that those feeds will be disabled between midnight and 6 a.m.," Jackson said.

Meta will be required to establish a new school mode to prevent push notifications from going off during school hours.

Teens also won't see the number of likes and reactions on posts by default.

Stein said as attorney general he spoke with fearful parents worried about video content that encouraged weight loss and glorified eating disorders. Stein said the tech giant knew about those harms and did nothing to protect children from becoming more addicted to the apps.

"Meta did not see children as precious beings to be protected. They saw them as dollar signs to be exploited," Stein said at Wednesday's press conference.

In a statement, Meta said that all social media platforms should embrace the changes agreed to in the settlement:

"For meaningful progress to happen, we urge TikTok and YouTube to join us and state attorneys general in adopting this new standard, to ensure teens use social media in a healthy and responsible way."

Settlement money will target youth mental health

North Carolina is guaranteed at least $451 million from Meta to resolve the claims. An additional $194 million will flow to the state when YouTube and TikTok agree to similar online safety strategies. The attorneys general are pushing for industry-wide adoption of these protections.

"I look forward to working with the attorney general, with the legislature, Department of Health and Human Services, the Department of Public Instruction to figure out how we can best utilize these dollars to make the biggest impact on improving young people's mental health," Stein said.

The states alleged that approximately 22 million teens log on to Instagram daily in the U.S. And teens who exceed three hours a day on social media face double the risk of anxiety and depression, according to the U.S. Surgeon General.

North Carolina Superintendent of Public Instruction Mo Green said the settlement will go a long way toward improving mental health support for students.

"We don't have nearly enough programs or personnel like school counselors, school social workers, school psychologists, and school nurses," said Green.

The recommended ratio for school social workers is one for every 250 students. In North Carolina, it's currently one for every 1,055 students. For school psychologists, the recommended ratio is one for every 250 students. Last year in North Carolina, the ratio of psychologists was one to every 1,954 students.

`"The resources and commitment announced today are essential to closing these gaps," Green said.

`The first payment of $45 million to North Carolina will come 30 days after the settlement is approved by the court. Additional installments will be made every Jan. 15.

Jackson said the speed of this settlement will mean child safety upgrades are made to Meta's platforms in months rather than after years of costly litigation.

"It would risk losing another generation, and that's a risk we cannot take," said Jackson.



Army To Spend $2B To Build 5 Nuclear Microreactors Including One In NC

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. Army announced Wednesday that it plans to add nuclear microreactors at five military bases from New York to Texas as a reliable source of energy independent of the commercial electric grid.

The announcement comes as the Trump administration pushes hard to develop the next generation of nuclear power, including billions in loans for large nuclear reactors to meet skyrocketing power demand from data centers and a pilot program to boost advanced reactor designs and projects for military and civilian use. No nuclear microreactors are supplying power to the commercial electric grid in the United States today.

Five companies selected by the Army will be awarded up to $2.2 billion in total over five years to own, construct and operate the microreactors, if they hit set milestones along the way for their performance. The Army expects that more than 20 nuclear microreactors will be built and operated.

Army and industry officials say microreactors offer a resilient power source for critical infrastructure at military installations in case the grid fails. Reactors can run for years without refueling.

Army Secretary Dan Driscoll said the awards will accelerate the military's ability "to deliver safe, reliable baseload power directly to our installations. We are building the energy resilience necessary to project combat power globally, without relying on potentially vulnerable external grids," he said.

The grants are part of the Army's "Janus Program" launched last year to deliver next-generation nuclear energy. Officials hope to push nuclear development forward so that advanced reactor designs move beyond experiments and prototypes to provide power for years to come. This will be the "spear tip," said Jeff Waksman, principal deputy assistant secretary of the Army for installations, energy and environment.

"That is the transition that we are trying to effect here," he said on a call with reporters Wednesday. "These are not meant to be Army-specific designs."

Critics of building more nuclear reactors say they're too expensive and riskier than other energy sources. The Army program is using the military's "deep pockets to provide a hidden subsidy" to nuclear companies that can't find private-sector customers for their hypothetical and uneconomical reactors, said Alan J. Kuperman, associate professor at the Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas at Austin and coordinator of the Nuclear Proliferation Prevention Project.

The reactors will be licensed by the Army, rather than the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, which licenses commercial nuclear reactors. Kuperman said it's "a dangerous scam on many levels."

(See *NC NUCLEAR REACTOR,* P. 4)

Advocates Spotlight Growing Back-to-School Burden in North Carolina

By Jordan Meadows
Staff Writer

As North Carolina families send their children back to school, the annual cost of supplies, food, and other necessities is becoming an increasing source of financial strain. Progress NC Action, a political advocacy and lobbying organization that promotes progressive public policies, has been highlighting those pressures as part of a broader advocacy effort focused on affordability.

The organization has pointed to research showing that back-to-school expenses are approaching $4,000 per child, with the cost of basic school supplies increasing by about 7.7% over the previous year and school lunch food items rising by roughly 10.9%.

Those concerns were at the center of a roundtable discussion in Raleigh on Monday led by State Rep. Maria Cervania, D-Wake, and State Sen. Woodson Bradley, D-Mecklenburg. Lawmakers and advocates discussed how rising prices, food insecurity, and changes to federal food assistance programs are affecting families and children as the new school year begins.

"What I've been hearing is affordability is not just about what something costs. It's about how little room now families have when it comes to what's left when they pay for everything," Cervania said.

North Carolina has seen a significant decline in participation in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP, following changes to federal eligibility and work requirements. About 1.26 million North Carolinians received SNAP benefits in May 2026, roughly 116,000 fewer people than the previous year. The changes stem in part from federal legislation signed into law in July 2025 that expanded SNAP work requirements and tightened eligibility for some recipients.



Bradley said children who do not have enough to eat can face difficulties concentrating and learning in the classroom. She argued that hunger can affect students' behavior, emotional well-being and ability to take advantage of educational opportunities.

Republicans have defended the federal changes, arguing that the reforms are intended to strengthen accountability and encourage able-bodied adults who can work to do so, while maintaining exemptions for people who cannot work.

North Carolina teachers have historically ranked among the nation's highest in out-of-pocket classroom spending. Recent data cited by advocates shows that teachers in the state spend an average of about $1,632 of their own money on classroom supplies, a 22% increase from the previous year. North Carolina ranks second-worst nationally for teacher out-of-pocket classroom expenses, according to the figures.

Progress NC Action has connected those costs to what it describes as long-term underfunding of public schools. The organization has highlighted the decline in state funding for instructional materials, which has fallen from more than $60 per student historically to about $31 per student.

Community organizations are working to fill some of that gap: groups such as Tools4Schools in Raleigh provide school supplies to students and educators and rely heavily on donations, corporate sponsors and community support.

The cost of school meals is another concern. The Wake County Public School System approved a 25-cent increase in breakfast and lunch prices for the new school year as districts face higher food and operating costs.

Bradley has called for lawmakers to consider providing free breakfast and lunch to every public-school student. She has argued that a universal school meals program could cost less than 2% of the state's education budget and would ensure that students have access to food regardless of their family's financial circumstances.

Progress NC Action and other advocates also placed the issue within the broader debate over North Carolina's education funding obligations, including the long-running Leandro school funding case.

The state's recently passed $34.4 billion budget includes an average teacher pay increase of about 8%.

NC Approves Nearly $5M For Rural Infrastructure Projects

RALEIGH, N.C. — Gov. Josh Stein announced that North Carolina's Rural Infrastructure Authority has approved 11 grants totaling nearly $4.9 million to support economic development projects across the state.

The projects are expected to help create 673 jobs, including 331 previously announced positions, and generate more than $1 billion in additional private investment.

"North Carolina is full of strong rural communities and great people," Stein said. "These grants will help them make important improvements, strengthen local infrastructure, create good-paying jobs, and bring new investments to the places people call home."

The Rural Infrastructure Authority, supported by the N.C. Department of Commerce, awards funding for projects including building renovations and expansions, infrastructure improvements and rural health facilities.

Ten grants were approved through the state's Building Reuse Program.

Among the largest projects, Claremont received $500,000 to support an expansion by Prysmian Cables and Systems USA, a project expected to create 385 jobs overall. Fayetteville received $500,000 to help Skyeton Inc. establish its first U.S. manufacturing facility, while Greensboro received $500,000 for a facility that will be occupied by HVAC equipment company Hoffman & Hoffman Inc.

Other Building Reuse grants include:

- Burlington: $500,000 for an Alamance Foods expansion expected to create 94 jobs and attract more than $36.5 million in investment.
- Lenoir: $186,000 for a Chase Corporation facility expected to create 37 jobs.
- Tarboro: $300,000 for an Astemo Indiana expansion expected to create 52 jobs, and $280,000 for an expansion by Madem-Moorecraft Reels USA expected to create 40 jobs.
- Halifax County: $95,000 for JBB Packaging in Weldon, expected to create 12 jobs.
- Pitt County: $100,000 for Winterville Machine Works, expected to create nine jobs.
- Buncombe County: $480,000 for an Appalachian Mountain Health facility in Black Mountain expected to create 48 jobs.

Pell Grants Open Doors to Job Training



AP NEWS - Sydney Webb scrimped and saved to pay for an eight-week certified nursing assistant program at a North Carolina community college.

On top of the $255 registration fee, the 26-year-old bartender also had to pay for a background check, scrubs, a stethoscope, special shoes and a state certification exam — all while working half as much to make time for her classes.

"It shocked me a little bit how expensive it was," said Webb, an aspiring ultrasound operator.

Other students in the Forsyth Technical Community College program might soon have access to additional support. The school in Winston-Salem is among many around the country seeking approval for a new federal grant program, Workforce Pell, to aid students enrolled in short-term job training.

For decades, Pell grants have helped low- and moderate-income students attend college, but eligible programs had to be at least 15 weeks and a minimum of 600 hours. The expansion makes some shorter-term programs eligible, too.

The federal government began accepting applications in July and has approved the first programs — an emergency medical technician program in Iowa and a medical assistant program in Indiana. Dozens of other programs in states including North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Michigan, Louisiana, and Nebraska are awaiting federal approval. They prepare students for careers as truck drivers, electrical line workers, phlebotomists, IT support technicians, firefighters, welders and more.

The expense of a short-term class can often be an obstacle for cash-strapped students who need it to get a job or a wage increase, said Chandler LeBoeuf, executive vice president of the Louisiana Community and Technical College System.

"That's what excites me about Workforce Pell," he said. "Is it every program? No. Are there limitations? Yes. But ultimately, over time, we will be able to work on those aspects where barriers exist."

A lifeline for lower-income students expands to short-term programs

Pell grants, which generally do not have to be repaid, are a key to affording higher education for many lower-income students. Nationwide, around a third of undergraduate college students qualify, according to data from the National Center for Education Statistics, with the amount awarded based on factors like family size and income.

For full-time students, the largest grant possible this year is $7,395. For the shorter Workforce Pell programs, the maximum award will be $4,310 for a 14-week program and $1,260 for an eight-week program, according to an analysis from New America, a Washington think tank.

The expansion of the Pell grants to short-term programs has been a decade in the making, said Jim Hermes, associate vice president of government relations at the American Association of Community Colleges. Concerns about ensuring the quality of the programs were a roadblock, but Workforce Pell had bipartisan support and the backing of the Trump administration, Hermes said.

The full rollout of Workforce Pell grants could take years, experts say.

To qualify for Pell funding, programs must reach a 70% threshold for student completion and job placement, which many states struggle to track, said Dominique Baker, an associate professor at the University of Delaware who studies education policy. The programs must also lead to higher earnings and provide credentials that are "stackable" — meaning they are immediately useful and can be built upon.

The programs must last at least eight weeks but fewer than 15 weeks, and they must have been in operation for a full year, meeting all the requirements, before they can qualify.

"I think it's going to take off pretty slowly, which I would say is more a feature than a bug," said Robert Kelchen, a University of Tennessee professor who studies higher education. "That way we can make sure these are quality programs, they are in need, and they're not just a pathway for programs to fly by night, take taxpayer dollars and not generate a return to students."

Some schools are waiting to see how it develops

Skeptics worry some students will use up their lifetime 12-semester Pell benefits in short-term programs, rather than pursuing a bachelor's degree, with potentially higher earnings prospects.

"There's been a lot of rhetoric of, 'Students get their eight-week program and end up making middle-class wages,'" said Wesley Whistle, project director for student success and affordability at New America. "I don't think that's actually going to be true generally speaking."

A study from the Association of Community College Trustees found most students boosted their wages after completing short-term programs. But even with the gain, overall annual earnings below $25,000 were common among graduates.

Some schools are sitting on the sidelines for now. Around two-thirds of states have a process for colleges to apply for approval, said Carrie Warick-Smith, vice president for public policy for the Association of Community College Trustees.

"We would love to be able to utilize it. It's just, it's been difficult to implement at this point," said Grant Carlson, a program coordinator at Johnson County Community College in suburban Kansas City.

Not so at Forsyth Tech, where Webb took her nursing class.

Devin Purgason, the executive director of marketing, is so excited that he has webpages prepared, touting Workforce Pell funding. If the federal government says yes, he plans to click "publish" as quickly as a Taylor Swift fan trying to nab concert tickets.

NC NUCLEAR REACTOR

Continued from page 3

Waksman said these reactors will shut down safely in case of a failure, they're small and the Army wouldn't add them to installations without being certain they are safe. He said the Army is working on a deal with the Energy Department to remove radioactive waste, and there won't be any long-term storage on these installations.

The Army is working to align its regulatory processes as much as possible, Waksman said, so that companies won't need major changes to their designs to be later licensed by the NRC. Along with federal funding, the Army expects billions of dollars in private capital investment.

Army leads the military's adoption of nuclear energy

President Donald Trump signed executive orders in May 2025 to speed up the development of nuclear power. The Army was tasked with ensuring that an advanced reactor would start operating at a domestic military installation no later than Sept. 30, 2028. The Janus program is named for the ancient Roman god of transitions.

Officials know that delivering nuclear power to a military base will be a challenge, so they picked five companies in case one or more fail, Waksman said. The selected companies are: Antares Nuclear at Fort Bragg in North Carolina; BWXT at Fort Campbell in Kentucky; General Atomics Electromagnetic Systems at Fort Hood in Texas; Radiant Industries at Fort Benning in Georgia; and Westinghouse Government Services at Fort Drum in New York.

Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer asked the Army to select Fort Drum. The critical missions Fort Drum supports require secure power generation, the New York Democrat said.

The military installations will remain connected to the grid. The reactors would not completely power them. Each reactor will provide between 1 megawatt to 20 megawatts of power, depending on the company's design. Major bases use as much power as a small city. Antares and Radiant are planning to deliver their reactors in three-packs, Waksman said.

The Army now uses diesel as a primary backup for critical infrastructure. But in a conflict, Waksman said, the Army may not be able to move fossil fuels easily wherever it needs them.

"That makes nuclear energy just a natural game changer," he said. "It makes sense for the Army to take the lead here."

A reactor at Fort Belvoir in Virginia, completed in 1957, was the first nuclear power reactor to provide electricity to a commercial power grid in the United States for an extended period, according to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Companies say this will accelerate US nuclear development

California-based Antares reached a crucial milestone under the U.S. pilot program that could allow it to produce electricity at Idaho National Lab next year. The company said the Army's announcement extends its momentum. Westinghouse Government Services said it's proud to support the Army's efforts to strengthen energy security and innovate.

Tori Shivanandan, president and chief operating officer of California-based Radiant, said the Army's $750 million award "shows confidence in Radiant's product and ability to manufacture, deploy and safely operate nuclear microreactors for the American military." The Janus program "will build a stronger and more resilient America," she said.

General Atomics Electromagnetic Systems said its reactor is designed to operate in remote, off-grid and extreme environments for 40 years. It said it will draw on more than 70 years of nuclear expertise to provide safe, dependable and independent power for the military.

Rex Geveden, BWXT's president and chief executive officer, said, "As we commence work on the Janus program, we are delivering the nation's most credible and reliable path to deployable nuclear power."



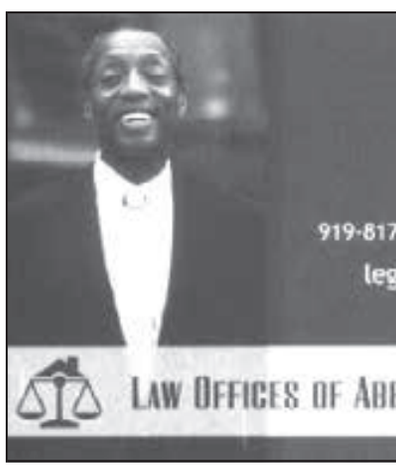
Support Small & Local Businesses

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

3 David's Construction
General Contracting & Remodeling
FULLY INSURED
Claim Insurance Experts
LICENSED
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
Over 17 Years Servicing the Area



Abe Jones
Attorney at Law
3401 Wendell Boulevard
Wendell, N.C. 27591
919-817-2714 (office) 919-817-2711 (cell)
legalaffairs@abejoneslaw.com
Fax: 919-366-6770
Law Offices of Abe 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

Accident & Injury Law
BECTON
The Becton Law Group, PLLC
Automobile Accidents • Truck & Motorcycle Accidents
Wrongful Death • Slip and Falls
Real Estate Loan Closings



Elwood Becton Marcus Becton Dekhasta Becton Rozier Taurus Becton
919.856.0414 www.bectonlaw.com

We Only Build Garages and Out-Buildings
Carolina Custom Builders
Stu Daugherty
Owner
Visit us at the:
HOME IMPROVEMENT CENTER
4905 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.
Rouge3 Communication llc
PO BOX 132
Rougemont, NC 27572
Enquiry for service
Thank you for your time.



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 9/30/2026

Health & Wellness

Lactose Intolerance Is Actually The Human Norm – But Racism And Capitalism Have Made It Into A Condition

THE CONVERSATION - Lactose intolerance makes drinking milk or eating ice cream a literal pain. For some people, eating a dairy treat can lead to bloating, nausea and diarrhea. You might've experienced its effects yourself. If so, you may think of lactose intolerance as a defect rather than the norm.

But did you know that most people in the world today are lactose intolerant – and that the condition itself was invented in the 1960s?

"Surely you mean discovered, not invented," I hear you saying. I don't. As a historian who has traced the origins of nutrition-science ideas, I have chosen the word "invented" on purpose.



Inventing lactose intolerance

Variations in people's ability to digest lactose first came to scientists' attention after American dairy producers found a way to rid themselves of a postwar milk surplus. To offload what they couldn't sell, they looked to the government to intervene. And it did, buying the excess and embedding it in school lunches and other places with publicly funded meals.

Suddenly, many people who had not habitually drunk milk were consuming it regularly, including not only some Americans but also people overseas. Part of that same milk surplus found its way into school lunches in places such as Japan and Taiwan in the 1950s as the American government began to sell milk to allies during the Cold War.

Many of the groups drinking milk regularly for the first time did not like it. In fact, it made them feel sick. Intrigued, scientists set up experiments to figure out why. In a 1966 study comparing how Black and white people incarcerated in Baltimore metabolized lactose, researchers found that Black participants had lower levels of lactase – the enzyme that breaks down lactose – in their guts.

To the white scientists conducting this study, the trouble that the Black prisoners had digesting milk looked like an "inborn error of metabolism." They assumed that the normal human state was lactose tolerance and that the lactose intolerant had inherited a genetic mutation.

It was only after years more work with research participants of many races that experts realized that, as one National Institutes of Health official put it in 1981, "lactose intolerance is a normal physiological condition, shared by every adult animal except for certain ethnic and racial groups in man." People of northern European descent, it turned out, were the weird ones. It was their ancestors who had passed down a genetic mutation – one that made them able to digest milk after infancy.

In short, what scientists discovered in the 1960s was that different bodies process milk differently. What they invented was the idea that lactose intolerance is a defect. Accepting that framing would mean nearly two-thirds of the human population – the estimated prevalence of lactose intolerance worldwide – is defective.

Instead of acknowledging that dairy-free diets can be healthy, people innovated ways to overcome this supposed disability so everyone could consume more.

Nutritional imperialism

Lactose intolerance is one example of what I call nutritional imperialism: a way of thinking that treats white diets as the norm and everyone else's as an aberration.

Nutritional imperialism was common in the 20th century, when scientists thought that not only milk-rich but also meat-heavy diets were best; they considered diets outside of the United States and Europe too vegetarian. Some also argued that wheat flour, not rice, ought to be the universal staple.

The same bias applied to bodies. Besides faulty lactose digestion, nonwhite bodies were accused of other failures, too, such as aldehyde dehydrogenase deficiency, an inability to digest alcohol quickly. The less technical term for this may be more familiar: Asian flush.

Such differences might have been thought of as variety, just another way of being human. Instead, each became a deficiency.

Many people today have inherited and perpetuated this way of thinking without knowing it, including those who are deemed deficient by it. In 1959, the director of Japan's nutrition bureau declared that "rice-eating peoples" such as the Japanese were "resigned and passive" and could correct this by imitating Western diets and switching to wheat.

Today, the most prominent scientist promoting the idea that Asian flush is a disease is a geneticist of Taiwanese descent who started a research consortium to study "the most common human enzymopathy in the world."

The Chinese Nutrition Society placed a tall glass of milk next to its 2022 Food Guide Plate – never mind estimates that the vast majority of Han Chinese, the largest ethnic group in China and worldwide, are lactose intolerant.

Turning sickness back into difference

Science that pathologizes difference helps racism persist.

In recent years, white supremacists have embraced the concept of lactose intolerance as a distinguishing debility of nonwhite people. Social media users have copied and pasted a map of the geographic distribution of lactose tolerance originally published in the scientific journal Nature into racist chat threads on the online discussion forum 4chan.

In 2017, internet trolls disrupted an anti-racist art installation with neo-Nazi chants and messily downed jugs of milk to accentuate their white identity.

Turning a lactose-digestion difference into a deficiency has done more to reinforce narratives of racial hierarchy than to improve public health. So here's a suggestion: If you enjoy eating dairy, keep doing it; if you don't, don't – and know that there is nothing wrong with you.

FARMERS POISONED

Continued from page 2



The study did not consider the impact of pesticide exposure on the estimated 84 million children working in agriculture and did not look at the long-term health impacts, with acute pesticide poisoning defined in the study as any illness or health effect experienced a short time after exposure.

Génon Jensen, the executive director of the Health and Environment Alliance, said: "We are extremely concerned about the devastating health impacts from pesticide poisonings – both the acute impacts mentioned in this study but also chronic exposures that farm workers and communities suffer."

Hélène Nicora, the director general of Parkinson's Europe, said there was also "overwhelming evidence" to suggest that Parkinson's was an environmentally driven disease, with growing evidence linking pesticide exposure to the development of Parkinson's.

Parkinson's disease is a progressive disorder in which parts of the brain become damaged over time, affecting movement and balance. The global burden of the disease is rising, with France, Germany and Italy all recognising it as an occupational disease for farmers.

Farmers and farm workers are mainly exposed to pesticides during preparation and application, as well as when touching treated crops and contaminated equipment or clothing.

Speaking at a webinar organised by Friends of the Earth Europe earlier this year, Rendert Algra said he believed his Parkinson's disease was linked to the pesticides he had used when working at his family farm in the Netherlands.

"Being the eldest son, I did all the spraying of pesticides in our fields for several years in a row," he said.

Despite being the most robust study to date, the report highlights that available information on pesticide poisoning is inadequate, with the authors calling for standardised surveillance and reporting protocols so that pesticide-related poisonings become reliable and comparable.

SCHOOL MEALS

Continued from page 2

or buying healthy food for their kids. Already, more than half reported cutting back on groceries given the high prices.

More than a quarter of the nation's public schools currently offer universal free meals. Aside from the obvious financial benefit to families, those schools have reduced the stigma of free lunch and improved efficiency in the lunch line and the office since no one is paying up front for meals or working to track down unpaid meal debt, said Carolyn Vega, senior program manager at No Kid Hungry.

But federal changes could halt the important progress made in expanding universal access.

"Then all kids at all incomes would suffer," Vega said.

Importance of school meals

For Tennessee parent Anthony Bonner, this year's first day of school delivered instant relief. It meant that his 14-year-old son was ensured a free breakfast and lunch every weekday, leaving worry only about dinner each night.

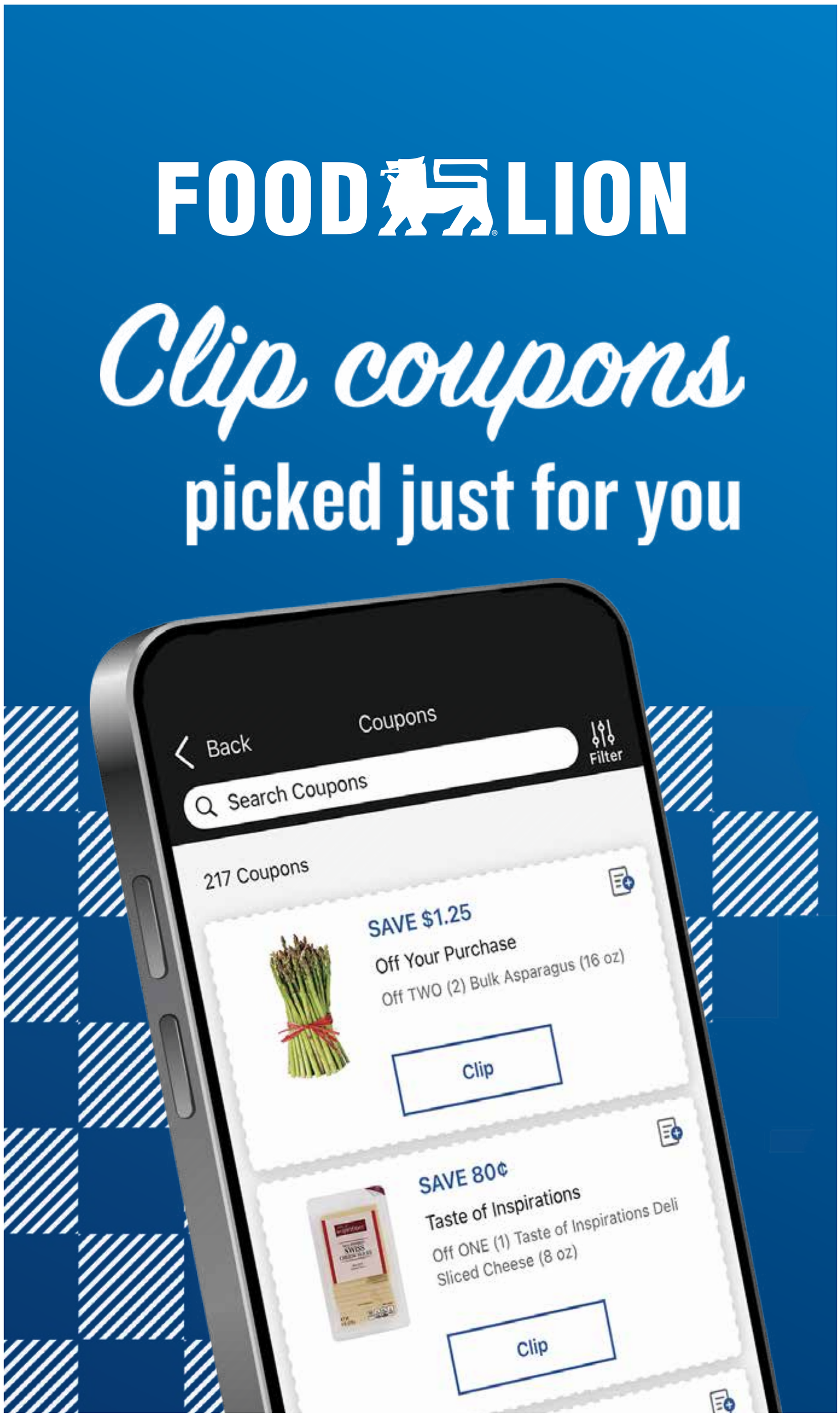
"School starting has definitely alleviated some of that stress, that worry and that concern," said Bonner, a 38-year-old campaign organizer and barber in Memphis.

School meals are more important than ever since the pair lost their $250 monthly SNAP benefit in March. Bonner said he lost his eligibility because of federal changes that ended the work requirement exemption for parents of children 14 and over. He is currently working a contract job that doesn't satisfy federal work requirements.

It's caused him to cut back on fresh proteins and produce, opting instead for cheaper frozen veggies and packaged foods like ramen packets.

"It's one thing to cut me off, but I should have been able to get benefits for him," he said. "I still have yet to really have enough food that I feel comfortable with that me and my son can eat for the month."

For now, his son's breakfast and lunch will continue as his entire school receives free meals.



Arts & Culture

Outnumbered: Elbert Cox's Equation for Greatness

By Jordan Meadows
Staff Writer



Elbert Frank Cox was born Dec. 5, 1895, in Evansville, Indiana, and attended segregated public schools that were chronically underfunded for Black students.

When Cox was six, a mob of white residents stormed the county jail after the murder of a white police officer, setting off a four-day riot that left as many as 13 people dead; it took a state militia of 300 men, called in by the governor, to end it, and roughly 2,000 of the city's 8,000 Black residents fled in its aftermath. The Ku Klux Klan later established its Indiana headquarters in Evansville in 1920. Cox's family stayed. Cox looked up to the Black teachers in his segregated schools, who pushed literacy and academic achievement despite having few resources to work with.

Cox enrolled at Indiana University Bloomington in 1913 to study physics and mathematics, one of just three Black students in his undergraduate class alongside his brother, Avalon. He took a wide range of coursework beyond his major, including German, English, Latin, history, hygiene, chemistry, education and philosophy, and earned A's in every math course.

That achievement came despite treatment that made clear he was not considered an equal member of the student body: his transcript carried the word "colored" printed across the top, as did every Black students at the time, and in at least one class, Black students were made to sit in the hallway with the classroom door propped open so they could listen in rather than sit alongside their white classmates.

Cox was also passed over for membership in the Phi Beta Kappa honor society despite his academic record. Still, Cox found genuine mentors at Indiana among the math faculty: Cora Hennel, Schuyler Davisson, and Tobias Dantzig, all associated with the department's Euclidean Circle. This student-and-faculty discussion group initiated Cox in 1915, making him its first African American member. He also served as secretary of the university's Physics Club in his senior year and joined the historically Black fraternity Kappa Alpha Psi in 1915.

He graduated in 1917 with a bachelor's degree in mathematics, listed at the end of his class's yearbook entry alongside the three other Black graduates.

After graduating, Cox enlisted in the U.S. Army and served roughly nine months in Des Moines, Iowa, and France during World War I, from 1918 to 1919; he later told his sons he'd enjoyed his military service.

Returning home, he worked briefly as a high school math tutor before taking a teaching position in the segregated schools of Kentucky. And in the fall of 1919, he moved to Raleigh, North Carolina, to join the faculty at Shaw University as a professor of physics, chemistry, and biology, eventually becoming chairman of the university's Department of Natural Sciences. He remained at Shaw for three years, until 1922, when he decided to pursue a doctorate and began applying to graduate programs.

Cox applied to Cornell University in December 1921, one of only seven American universities then offering a doctoral program in mathematics. His former Indiana professors wrote him letters of recommendation; Davisson wrote that Cox "surpasses any colored man I have known as a student in mathematics," while Dantzig, in two separate letters, cautioned that Cox would likely encounter "certain difficulties... because of the fact that he is of the colored race" but predicted he would "develop into a man of whom the American mathematical world may be justly proud."

Cornell's own founding philosophy made it, in the words of one later retrospective, "a perfect fit" for Cox: founder Ezra Cornell had been an outspoken opponent of slavery who envisioned a university open to all who wished to be educated, and the school's first president, Andrew Dickson White, had actively promoted the admission of women and people of color decades before Cox arrived.

Cox received the Erastus Brooks fellowship in mathematics, worth $400 a year, in the fall of 1924 and briefly followed Williams to McGill University in Montreal before returning to Cornell for the spring 1925 semester to finish his dissertation, "The Polynomial Solutions of the Difference Equation."

He completed it that summer, and on Sept. 26, 1925, Cornell awarded him a Ph.D. in mathematics — making him the first Black person in the United States, and almost certainly the world, to earn a doctorate in the field. He was only the second Black Cornell graduate to earn any doctorate at the university, four years after Thomas Wyatt Turner became the first with a degree in biology.

Because doctoral degrees were still a relatively new institution in the United States, Williams urged Cox to submit his dissertation to universities abroad as a way of insulating his achievement from dispute, a fairly common practice at the time. Several institutions in England and Germany declined to consider the paper, almost certainly because of Cox's race, before Tohoku Imperial University in Sendai, Japan, accepted it; the paper wasn't formally published, in the Tohoku Mathematical Journal until 1934, nearly a decade later.

Within two decades of Cox's graduation, roughly two dozen more African American students had gone on to earn Cornell doctorates, including seven in math or physics.

Notably, Cox had also once been offered a scholarship to study violin at the Prague Conservatory of Music, but chose to pursue mathematics instead.

Cox began his teaching career as a Ph.D. holder at the all-Black West Virginia State College in 1925, just weeks after receiving his degree. In 1929, Cox joined the mathematics faculty at Howard University in Washington, D.C., where he would remain for close to four decades.

Cox was promoted to full professor in 1947, taught engineering science and war-management courses during World War II from 1942 to 1944, and became chair of Howard's mathematics department in 1957, a post he held until 1961. He retired in 1965 at age 70, three years before his death; his portrait still hangs in the Howard mathematics department's common room.

Over his lifetime, Cox published only two academic papers. He also became the first African American admitted into the American Mathematical Society. Those who knew him described a reserved, understated man — his son recalled that Cox "was not one to wear his achievements on his sleeve" and "didn't do a whole lot of talking in general," but that "when he did say something, it always made an impact." Colleagues remembered him as conservative and patient, someone who always wore a tie to dinner.

Cox died in 1969 at age 73.

The National Association of Mathematicians established the annual Cox-Talbot Address in his honor, delivered at the organization's national meetings, and Howard created the Elbert F. Cox Scholarship Fund to help Black students pursue graduate study in mathematics. In September 2025, on the 100th anniversary of his doctorate, Washington organized a two-day "Cox Centennial Celebration of 100 Years of Black Ph.D. Mathematicians" at Howard.

Jazz Club Owner Opens New Venue

WUNC NEWS - A southeastern jazz club owner is bringing a new venue to Durham that she promises will give patrons not just live music, but a whole "experience."

Chaye Alexander, owner of Chayz Lounge in Columbia, SC, a club that has offered jazz, soul and poetry in the Palmetto State since 2017, is moving her club to Durham next year.

Alexander describes Chayz Lounge as a "unicorn." It's not just a club, not just a restaurant or bar despite having elements of all those. "It's an experience," she said.

This summer, Chayz Lounge won the 2026 Columbia Neighborhood Award for Best Music Venue.

An exact opening date and location for Chayz Lounge in Durham aren't solid yet. She wants the club to be in downtown Durham and is in talks about building out a historic space. But fitting the space to the Chayz Lounge will require six months to a year of renovations. With her personal move to Durham happening in early 2027, Chayz Lounge's opening in the Bull City could be the middle or end of next year.



The focus of the venue will be providing an intimate experience for jazz, music, and poetry fans where every artist brings a soulful performance to an atmosphere that creates a memorable time. She wants her customers to take in "the best of the best" and be able to "reach out and touch" the performers. She attends every event at her venue to ensure the quality of the experience, she said.

Alexander, a spoken word artist and author in her own right, plans to bring international and national artists to the club as well as tap regional and local acts. Renowned saxophonist Walter Beasley is the last act lined up for the Columbia lounge, and he's already interested in playing the Durham venue, according to Alexander.

The focus is "on each person feeling something when they walk through our doors and carrying it with them when they leave," she said.

Alexander is excited to present that experience to a new city, but she won't be idle in Durham as her jazz club finds its headquarters. She's looking into venues where she can book the artists she's connected with — "Chayz Lounge Presents" shows — and give music fans a taste of the concept her venue will embody.

She chose Durham for her latest venture because of its rich and evolving culture, she said. Durham felt like a place where she could grow creatively as well.

"I'm not coming to simply place a business in Durham," she said. "I am coming to be part of the community. I want to listen and want learn from the city, collaborate and bring something meaningful to the cultural landscape."

Dolly Parton's Legacy Reached Well Beyond Country Music

Dolly Parton's legacy extends far beyond the country music stage. Throughout her career, the singer, songwriter and philanthropist used her success to support communities, children and educational programs, including an investment that connected her directly to Nashville's historic Black community.

Parton died Aug. 25 at age 80 after a brief battle with cancer, leaving behind a career that spanned nearly seven decades. While she was known for songs such as "Jolene," "9 to 5" and "I Will Always Love You," her philanthropic work became another defining part of her legacy.

One of the clearest examples of Parton's connection to a Black community came through "I Will Always Love You," a song she wrote in 1973 that became an international hit when Whitney Houston recorded it for the 1992 film The Bodyguard.



Houston's version generated millions of dollars in royalties for Parton. In 1997, Parton used some of those royalties to purchase a 6,317-square-foot office and recording complex in Nashville's 12 South neighborhood, which was predominantly Black at the time.

Parton later explained that the connection to Houston was part of why she chose the location.

"I'm just going to be down here with her people, who are my people as well," Parton said in a 2021 interview.

She referred to the property as "the house that Whitney built," recognizing Houston's role in the financial success that allowed her to make the investment.

The neighborhood has changed significantly since Parton purchased the property. What was once a predominantly Black area filled with Black families, businesses, churches and funeral homes has become one of Nashville's more popular neighborhoods. Parton's building, however, remains a reminder of the period when she chose to invest there.

The investment was not a traditional charitable donation to Black residents, but it became part of Parton's broader legacy of putting her money into communities and causes she believed in. After her death, people continued to gather outside the building, leaving flowers and messages at what has become known as the "house that Whitney built."

Parton's commitment to education was another major part of her philanthropy. Through the Dollywood Foundation, she created the Imagination Library, which provides children with free books from birth through age 5. More than 300 million books have been distributed since the program began in 1995.

Her interest in education also included direct support for students. In 1991, Parton offered $500 to every seventh- and eighth-grade student in her home county of Sevier County, Tennessee, if they graduated high school. The program was credited with helping reduce the county's dropout rate from 35% to 6%. Her foundation also provides scholarships to students in the county.

Parton's philanthropic efforts were not exclusively focused on Black communities. Her charitable work reached children and families across racial and economic backgrounds. However, her decision to invest royalties generated by a Black artist's recording into a historically Black Nashville neighborhood offers a distinct example of how her career intersected with Black culture and communities.

Her relationship with Black music and artists also extended beyond Houston. Parton publicly supported Black Lives Matter and later became part of conversations surrounding the Black history of country music, including through Beyoncé's Cowboy Carter.

For many, Parton's legacy will remain tied to her music. But the story of the "house that Whitney built" offers another way to understand the impact of her success: a song written by a country music icon, transformed by a Black superstar, ultimately helped Parton invest in a historically Black neighborhood.

Parton once summarized her approach to philanthropy simply: "I just give from my heart."

Her legacy shows that giving did not always come in the form of a public donation or charity campaign. Sometimes, it appeared through the places she chose to invest, the students she supported and the communities she quietly became part of.



Black August—*CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1*

and respond to changes affecting Durham's Black communities. Over the years, the event has developed into an annual tradition that organizers say has drawn thousands of people.

The gathering's connection to Durham is significant. The city was once home to a nationally recognized Black business district along Parrish Street, commonly known as Black Wall Street. During the late 19th and early 20th centuries, Black-owned businesses, professionals and institutions helped make the area an economic center for the city's Black community.

That history remains part of the conversation surrounding Black August in the Park as Durham continues to experience rapid growth and redevelopment.

For organizers, preserving space for Black culture is not separate from celebrating it.

"Culture is memory. Culture is identity. Culture is infrastructure," the festival says in its description of the event.

This year's festival was organized by the Black Farmers Market, which received $16,817 from the city of Durham through its fiscal year 2026 Festival and Special Events funding program.

The 2026 weekend also represented a change for an event that had traditionally been free. Organizers introduced paid weekend passes to help support artists, production, local businesses and the infrastructure needed to sustain the festival. A free-ticket program was also offered for people who could not afford admission.

The organizers said the change was intended to help Black August in the Park continue into the future without abandoning its emphasis on accessibility.

The weekend began Aug. 28 with a film screening at the Hayti Heritage Center. Saturday programming included a wellness experience and a live podcast event before Sunday's main celebration at Durham Central Park.

The festival's organizers say the event remains rooted in the idea that joy itself can be a form of resistance.

SALTWATER
SEAFOOD & FRY SHACK
4 FENTON STREET RALEIGH, NC 27604
919.834.1813
www.saltwaterseafoodnc.com
RESTAURANT OPEN
TUESDAY-FRIDAY 10:30am - 6:30pm SATURDAY 10:30am-5:30pm
BONE-IN FISH SPECIAL
$8.50
MARKET OPEN
MARKET HOURS. T-F 9.00-7.00/SAT. 8.30-6.00
SUNDAY 9:00-4:00

Community

For The Families Separated By Prison, A Day of Games, Hugs And 'A Little Bit of Normalcy' Means The World





NC HEALTH NEWS - It would have been an ordinary Saturday for many families: playing board games, making crafts, taking silly pictures and eating lunch together. But for these families, it was a rare opportunity.

Eight fathers and one grandfather at Sampson Correctional Institution, a medium- and minimum-custody prison in Clinton, spent four hours with their 19 children and grandchildren during Parent Day, enjoying the kind of ordinary family time that can be difficult to come by when a family member is incarcerated.

For many there, it had been months — even years — since they had seen, touched and talked with each other in person. During that time, separated by miles and prison fences, the children had grown and milestones had passed. The event offered a chance to reconnect.

Ray Holmes, who went to prison in March 2024 and is expected to be released in December, said he spent the day soaking in the time with his four kids.

"When we're fathers, we are still out there with our families, but physically we are in prison," Holmes said. "No matter how far apart we are, I tell my kids all the time, 'My heart is one beat away from y'all.'"

Terrell Wiley, who is serving a life sentence, said the extended in-person visit was meaningful for his relationship with his daughter, who was just 4 years old when he was first incarcerated. Now, she's a teenager.

"The most important thing today is really seeing what I'd missed from her and catching up on it," Wiley said. "There's a lot of conversations that they want to have with us that we can't have over the phone. It was easier to have them sitting face to face."

The men and children, who ranged in age from 5 to 16, freely moved around the room, switching from activity to activity as they pleased. One father taught his son and godson how to play the board game Guess Who? for the first time. Another father and son settled into a long game of Jenga. Others painted wooden treasure boxes and picture frames.

Sampson Correctional Warden Robert Van Gorder has watched Parent Day make a positive impact on both the incarcerated men and children since the prison held its first such event in 2022. Coming out of the pandemic, when prison visitation shut down, he particularly saw how fragile relationships could become and how much in-person contact mattered.

At the first Parent Day, he said one young daughter looked at him and said, "I want to thank you, Mr. Warden, for letting me hug my daddy today."

From then on, Van Gorder said he became more attuned to how incarceration affects families. In partnership with Our Children's Place of Coastal Horizons, he facilitates holding a Parent Day twice a year and even grills hamburgers and hot dogs himself to serve for lunch.

As Van Gorder has worked in the state prison system for 35 years, he said one thing has remained constant: family.

"Family can make or break an offender," Van Gorder said. "I'm not talking just money, but you know the motivation of, 'You got to do better. Sign up for this. We love you.' If they don't have that family support, very rarely do they get out and be successful."

Parental incarceration takes a toll

The families at Sampson Correctional are part of a much larger group navigating the effects of incarceration.

More than 11,000 people — about one-third of the state's prison population — are parents of children younger than 18 years old, according to a February analysis by the N.C. Department of Adult Correction. At least 18,888 children across the state have a parent who is imprisoned, according to the same report. Even more children have a parent incarcerated in a county jail, a population not captured in these numbers.

Incarceration doesn't eliminate someone's role as a parent, said Melissa Radcliff, program director of Our Children's Place of Coastal Horizons, a statewide education and advocacy program focused on supporting children of incarcerated and returning parents.

"Kids with incarcerated parents still love their parents," Radcliff said. "For some people that's news. They assume that, well, we've locked up the bad people; they're gone away and kids are better off. The reality is, for most kids, it's not. It's the person they love who has been taken away through no fault of their own."

That's the case for Andrea Hargrove's 9-year-old grandson, whose father went to prison last year. Despite keeping in touch through daily phone calls, she said the physical separation and absence from regular activities has been difficult for the family to navigate.

"Since he's been gone, it took a toll on my grandson because he's a daddy's little boy, he really is," Hargrove said. "He has it in his mind that you can just pay and get them out and I told him, 'Well, grandson, in this circumstance, you can't.'

"He's not used to his dad being an over-the-phone dad."

Parental incarceration is one adverse childhood experience associated with long-term effects on children's health and well-being. Research generally shows that children with incarcerated parents face elevated risks of mental health challenges, food insecurity and housing instability, said Luke Muentner, a researcher at RTI International who has spent years studying parental incarceration, in part motivated by his own experiences with family incarceration.

"Some children struggle considerably and others demonstrate significant resilience," Muentner said. "A lot can depend on factors outside of the incarceration itself, like the child's age, what their prior relationship was like with their parents, whether they lived together, family finances and contact with parents."

Maintaining contact can be challenging. Muentner recently conducted a survey of about 3,500 people incarcerated in North Carolina prisons that is not yet published, asking about their parenting status and how they stay in touch. He said the biggest barriers respondents reported were the distance between the prison and where their children live, the cost of phone calls and scheduling constraints. A smaller portion cited a lack of willingness from either parent or child to maintain contact.

Strong parent-child relationships can help buffer against negative impacts of parental incarceration, Radcliff said. Parent Day is intended to help strengthen those connections.

Research also shows that family support is a key factor that can drive more successful reentry experiences and that visits by family members can help reduce recidivism.

Charles Wooten, Sampson Correctional's reentry coordinator, said maintaining parent-child relationships and supporting family reunification is a key component prisons need to focus on. He said those relationships can also help interrupt generational cycles of incarceration by giving parents an opportunity to show their children where their choices led them.

N. Carolina Native Astronaut Tours The State To Celebrate The Artemis Mission

By Jordan Meadows

Staff Writer



NASA astronaut Christina Koch, a North Carolina native raised in Jacksonville, has spent recent weeks on an extended homecoming tour across the state following her historic Artemis II mission, celebrating a lunar flyby that took her farther from Earth than any human in history.

At North Carolina A&T's College of Engineering last Thursday, students, staff and faculty pressed Koch on her time studying in Ghana, a stint working in Antarctica, and her trip around the far side of the moon.

Koch described that view as revelatory.

"It was like seeing a secret garden," Koch said. "It was like this place that you knew had to be there, but it was this proof of concept that the Moon is its own place. You know, we only see this one side as if it's a picture painted in the night sky, but it actually is this orbital body."

Koch also discussed her unconventional path to NASA, including a decision to leave an engineering job at the agency for a year working at the South Pole.

At NC State University, more than 1,200 students, alumni and faculty gathered for a celebration the university dubbed "Around the Moon and Pack Again," marking Koch's first public campus visit since becoming the first woman to fly around the moon.

Chancellor Kevin Howell used the event to announce that Engineering Building II would be renamed Christina Hammock Koch Hall.

"I am delighted as Chancellor to announce that Engineering Building II will henceforth be known as Koch Hall," Howell said.

Koch earned degrees in physics and electrical engineering at NC State.

Howell noted Koch's earlier, less publicized spaceflight record: in 2013, she spent nearly a year in orbit on a prior mission.

"For nearly one year, our beloved state of North Carolina rolled past her window more than 5,000 times," Howell said.

Koch also credited the women who came before her in the space program: "We named our spacecraft Integrity, and then we had to go fly it like we meant it," she said.

The celebration included performances from the NC State band, appearances by Mr. and Mrs. Wuf, and the debut of a limited-edition Howling Cow ice cream flavor, "Howl at the Moon," made with milk from the university's own dairy farm. Koch told the crowd she intends to remain a presence on campus beyond the ceremony.

Koch's tour also brought her to the North Carolina Department of Labor's historic building in Raleigh last Wednesday, where Labor Commissioner Luke Farley presented her with the Order of the Tar Heel, the department's highest honor, recognizing both her NASA career and her advocacy for STEM education. The event paired Koch's remarks and a student question-and-answer session with a business and education roundtable focused on strengthening the pipeline between North Carolina schools and the aerospace and advanced manufacturing industries.

Farley traced Koch's North Carolina roots directly, noting she attended White Oak High School in Jacksonville, the North Carolina School of Science and Math in Durham, and NC State in Raleigh.

"Christina's story is in so many ways a North Carolina story," Farley said. "It's about hard work, it's about curiosity, about getting the job done, and I think most importantly, the willingness to take on something bigger than yourself."

Farley also highlighted Koch's spaceflight record, noting she holds the record for the longest single spaceflight by a woman at 328 days and participated in the first all-female spacewalk. He said 22 North Carolina companies, employing hundreds of workers, contributed to the Artemis program, including Asheville-based AB Emblem, which produced the mission's patch and provided copies to attendees as keepsakes.

The North Carolina swing was followed by a White House ceremony, where President Trump awarded Koch and her fellow Artemis II crew members, Reid Wiseman and Victor Glover, along with Canadian Space Agency astronaut Jeremy Hansen, the Congressional Space Medal of Honor — the first astronauts to receive the honor since 2023. Trump presented the awards at NASA's Johnson Space Center in Houston.

Artemis II launched April 1 and splashed down safely in the Pacific Ocean on April 10, marking the first crewed flight of NASA's Space Launch System rocket and Orion spacecraft. During the mission, the astronauts traveled 252,756 miles from Earth—695,081 miles total.



NC Transportation Museum Celebrates the Nation's 250th

88.5 WFDD - Public Radio For The Piedmont – On Friday, the North Carolina Transportation Museum is honoring the nation's 250th anniversary. For three days, the museum in Spencer will showcase more than 30 restored locomotives from across North America. Commemorative equipment from passenger, short-line, historic railroads and more will be on display.

The locomotives will be repositioned each day on the museum's Bob Julian Roundhouse turntable. The nation's largest rotating train platform, first built in 1924 and renovated 70 years later, is used to spin and redirect the engines.

Train rides will be available during daylight hours. Nightly photography sessions are offered Friday and Saturday.



Raleigh Historic Church Sponsors Canned Goods Giveaway

By Eric Curry

Contributor

Raleigh, N.C. - Saturday, August 29, 2026: Members of Martin Street Baptist Church, near downtown Raleigh, held a canned goods distribution day, to help relieve the pressure many residents are feeling due to economic challenges.

Close to 3,000 non-perishable food items were donated by church members over several weeks. The event, led by the Missionary Ministry, had an original goal of collecting 2,000 canned goods, over a period of three months. Senior Pastor, Dr. Shawn J. Singleton says he was overjoyed with the congregation's commitment to serve the community.

"One of our core values as a church is that Martin Street cares. It's just another way of letting the community know that we understand what they're going through," said Dr. Singleton. "Martin Street is in the business of saving souls. So, everything we do is to share the love of Jesus Christ."

Martin Street Baptist Church, which recently celebrated its 157th Anniversary, hosts their "Blessings in a Bag" distribution program, every 2nd Saturday, which provides fresh produce to residents in Southeast Raleigh, and throughout the city.

MERIDIAN
ROGERS BRANCH



www.MeridianAtRogersBranch.com
Ready to book your tour? Call us at 984-271-5884
1120 Meridian Branch Drive, Wake Forest, NC 27587

B2 Floorplan 2 Beds 2 Baths 1098 Sqft



Home Features
- Built in Desk
- Spacious closets
- Laundry room with in home W/D

Sports





Photos by: Steve Worthy



Broncos Rally From Halftime Deficit To Beat Shaw 33-20

FAYETTEVILLE, N.C. — Shaw University gave preseason CIAA contender Fayetteville State all it could handle Saturday night, building a double-digit first-half lead and pulling within one score late before falling 33-20 in the 2026 season opener at Luther "Nick" Jeralds Stadium.

The Bears, picked 10th in the CIAA preseason predicted order of finish, showed little concern for the preseason projections early against a Fayetteville State squad selected third. Shaw scored on its opening possession, led 12-0 late in the second quarter and carried a 12-11 advantage into halftime before the Broncos used a strong third quarter and a late defensive touchdown to escape with the conference victory.

Shaw wasted little time setting the tone.

The Bears took the opening kickoff and marched 65 yards on seven plays, using 3:27 off the clock before Trey Thorpe punched in a 10-yard touchdown run with 11:30 remaining in the first quarter. The extra point was unsuccessful, but Shaw had quickly grabbed a 6-0 advantage.

The Shaw defense helped keep Fayetteville State off the scoreboard throughout the opening period and came up with a key play midway through the second quarter. Jermaine Bright Jr. forced and recovered a Fayetteville State fumble at midfield, giving the Bears another opportunity to extend the lead.

Shaw took advantage.

Fabian Diggs highlighted the ensuing possession with a 20-yard run before quarterback Alexander Marsh connected with Reggie King Jr. for nine yards on third down. Diggs converted a fourth-and-1 to keep the drive alive, and Marsh eventually found Keyshaun Powell for an 8-yard touchdown pass to cap a nine-play, 50-yard drive.

The score pushed Shaw's lead to 12-0 with 4:59 left before halftime.

Fayetteville State found momentum immediately on special teams. Amari Best blocked the extra-point attempt and Terrell Ford returned the loose ball 95 yards for two points, cutting Shaw's advantage to 12-2.

The Broncos then put together a 10-play, 60-yard drive, with Jamir Dismukes finding Calvin Parker for an 8-yard touchdown with one minute remaining in the half. Fayetteville State struck again on special teams in the final seconds when a blocked Shaw punt resulted in a safety.

Despite the late swing, Shaw went into the locker room holding a 12-11 advantage.

Fayetteville State seized the lead after receiving the second-half kickoff. The Broncos moved 73 yards in eight plays before Braylon Vinson scored from 6 yards out, putting the home side in front 18-12.

Another blocked punt gave Fayetteville State favorable field position later in the third quarter, and Dismukes broke free for a 29-yard touchdown run to increase the margin to 24-12. John Hernandez-Vargas later connected on a 34-yard field goal as the Broncos carried a 27-12 lead into the fourth quarter.

Shaw continued to battle.

With the Bears needing a response, the offense put together its longest scoring drive of the night. Shaw went 75 yards on 16 plays and controlled the ball for 7:27 before freshman quarterback Landon Melton scored on a 3-yard run with 7:33 remaining.

Antrel Gibson hauled in the two-point conversion, cutting the deficit to 27-20 and putting Shaw within one possession in the closing minutes.

The Bears had another opportunity late, but Fayetteville State's Zyking Patillo intercepted a pass and returned it for a touchdown with 1:38 remaining to provide the final margin.

Shaw finished with 216 yards of total offense, including 135 on the ground. The Bears controlled the football for 30:15 and were particularly effective in fourth-down situations, converting four of five attempts. Shaw also scored on all three of its trips inside the red zone.

Thorpe led the ground attack with 53 yards and a touchdown on 14 carries, while Diggs added 41 yards on eight attempts. Melton contributed the fourth-quarter rushing touchdown.

Marsh completed seven passes for 81 yards and a touchdown. King led Shaw's receivers with three catches for 62 yards, including a game-long 39-yard reception, while Powell finished with the 8-yard touchdown catch.

Defensively, Shaw held Fayetteville State to 292 total yards and limited the Broncos to just 2-of-7 on third down. Quadir McEachin led the Bears with nine tackles, while Kristopher Young and Marquis James finished with eight each. Caron Jones and Latrell McFadden each recorded a sack, while Bright forced and recovered the second-quarter fumble.

Fayetteville State finished with 148 rushing yards and 144 through the air. Dismukes threw for 144 yards and one touchdown while adding 56 yards and a score on the ground. Vinson led the Broncos with 88 rushing yards and a touchdown.

Shaw returns to action Saturday, Sept. 5, when the Bears travel to Wilson, N.C., to face Barton College. Kickoff is scheduled for 7 p.m.

Charlie Neal: The Legendary Voice of Black College Sports Dies

By Kyle Mosley

Sports Illustrated

HOUSTON, Tx — Charlie Neal, the legendary architect of modern HBCU sports broadcasting and the lead play-by-play voice of HBCU GO, has died at the age of 80 following an illness that had sidelined him last season. Neal is survived by his wife and family. He was born on Oct. 28, 1945 and died on May 13, 2026.

For more than four decades, Neal sat at midcourt or in the press box and delivered what no one else in American sports media did at the scale he did it. He told the most compelling stories of historically Black colleges and universities, their coaches, players, administrators, stadiums, arenas, and campuses. He gave them all weight and historical relevance.

"Charlie was underrated for his impact on sports," Curtis Symonds said to HBCU Legends. "I consider him the 'John Madden' of Black College Sports. Who's been involved with Black college football for 50 years like Charlie? He was a historian. He was a proven product because he's lived it, and he would give you history and give you anything that no one else could give you. No other announcer could give it to you like Charlie Neal. Our BET broadcast were so real is because he told the real story. He wasn't fluffing the story. He told the real story of the game."

Neal called games for Black Entertainment Television (BET) from 1980 to 2004, then for ESPNU, MEAC Digital Network, and finally HBCU GO. He was the voice when Grambling State University's Eddie Robinson broke Bear Bryant's all-time wins record in 1985. His body of work included Bayou Classics, Florida Classics, MEAC tournaments, and CIAA tournaments, and even hosted the NBA on TNT and covered the Goodwill Games in Moscow.



Cary Takes Center Stage as Veolia Pickleball National Championships Draw Top Players, Thousands of Fans

CARY, N.C. — The sound of pickleballs striking paddles is echoing across Cary this week as the town welcomes some of the sport's biggest names for the inaugural Veolia Pickleball National Championships, bringing professional competition, amateur players and thousands of spectators to Cary Tennis Park.

The weeklong tournament, running Aug. 31 through Sept. 6, marks the opening event of the 2026-27 Carvana PPA Tour season and is the first PPA Slam tournament held in North Carolina. More than 1,400 players are participating, with the professional fields featuring many of the highest-ranked athletes in the sport.

The tournament is being played at Cary Tennis Park, a major public racquet-sports facility at 2727 Louis Stephens Drive. The event combines elite professional competition with amateur divisions, giving recreational players an opportunity to compete at the same venue where the sport's stars are battling for national titles.



At stake for the professionals is more than $1.6 million in total payouts and 2,000 PPA ranking points for each division winner. The tournament features five professional divisions: men's singles, women's singles, men's doubles, women's doubles and mixed doubles.

Among the athletes attracting attention is women's world No. 1 Anna Leigh Waters, while longtime men's standout Ben Johns is also competing. North Carolina players, including highly ranked competitors Kate Fahey and Brooke Buckner, add a local connection to the national event.

Organizers have positioned the championships as a weeklong celebration of pickleball rather than simply a professional sporting event. Fans can expect entertainment, food, live music, clinics and other activities alongside the matches.

The tournament's arrival also represents a significant moment for Cary's growing reputation as a destination for major sporting events. Previous PPA events in the area generated a combined economic impact of more than $6 million, according to local officials and event organizers.

Local businesses are also benefiting as players, families and fans travel to the Triangle for the competition. ABC11 reported that thousands of spectators are expected to attend, with organizers describing strong ticket demand and emphasizing Cary's infrastructure and community support as reasons for bringing the national championship to town.

For Cary, the event comes at a time when pickleball continues its rapid expansion. The sport, which combines elements of tennis, badminton and table tennis, has moved from a recreational pastime into a growing professional sport with major tournaments, sponsorships and increasingly large audiences.



Charlotte Crown Captures Inaugural UPSHOT League

By Judaea Ingram

Special To The Carolinian

JACKSONVILLE, FL – The Charlotte Crown closed out the inaugural UPSHOT League season with a championship, overcoming a 10-point fourth-quarter deficit to defeat the Jacksonville Waves 81-76 on Aug. 29.

The championship game at VyStar Veterans Memorial Arena in Jacksonville, Florida, was played in front of a large and energetic crowd as the league crowned its first champion. The atmosphere remained loud throughout the night as Charlotte fought its way back after trailing for most of the game.

For a league in its first season, the championship showed the level of support that had developed around the teams and players.

"We have so many supporters," Charlotte Crown forward Quinzia Fulmore said.

Charlotte entered the fourth quarter trailing Jacksonville by double digits but outscored the Waves 32-19 in the final period. The Crown took the lead in the final minutes and held on for the win, securing the first championship in league history.

Deja Kelly led the Crown with 29 points and six rebounds and was named the championship's Most Valuable Player. Kelly, who led the league in scoring and assists during the regular season, scored 16 of her 29 points in the second half.

"This is a blessing, such an honor, it's been a journey for me," Kelly said.

The championship capped a major turnaround for Charlotte. The Crown began the season 1-6 before becoming one of the league's strongest teams down the stretch. Charlotte won 14 of its final 15 games entering the championship.

Kelly was not the only player who made an impact in the championship. KK Deans and A.D. Durr each hit three 3-pointers, while LeLe Grissett led Charlotte with seven rebounds.

The championship also drew notable figures from the basketball world. NBA Hall of Famer Shaquille O'Neal was among those in attendance, sitting courtside for the game. Basketball legends Cheryl Miller, Ann Meyers Drysdale and Tamika Catchings were also in attendance.

For Fulmore, seeing the support surrounding a new league was meaningful.

"For this to be a new league, I am so surprised," Fulmore said. "We have so many supporters."

The UPSHOT League's inaugural season featured four teams: the Charlotte Crown, Jacksonville Waves, Greensboro Groove and Savannah Steel. The league was created to provide additional opportunities for professional women's basketball players and build a new platform for the sport.

Charlotte's championship marks the end of the league's first season, but the energy surrounding the title game offered a glimpse of what the league could become as it continues to grow.

The Crown now hold the distinction of being the first team to lift the UPSHOT League championship trophy, while Kelly holds the distinction of being the first championship MVP.



Birdies, Bogeys, and Bragging Rights

The purpose of the Carolinian Clubbers is to bring the community closer through golf. We used to have Meadowbrook and Tee Off as places to use for community congregation and competition. Though we no longer have those courses, we still have those connections. The Carolinian Clubbers events are simply ways to reconnect us and bring us closer.

These rounds of golf are about more than birdies, bogeys and bragging rights. They are about camaraderie. They are about networking, with a side of friendly competition. They are about fresh air and exercise. The Carolinian Clubbers events are a chance to hang out, have fun and help support your community in the process.

Over the next few weeks, The Carolinian newspaper will announce locations of courses and tee times for us to go out and play nine holes on a local golf course. For every golfer that comes out to play in a Carolinian Clubber event, the golf course will make a donation to the foundation. There is no easier, or more fun way to show your support for your community.

Each week the newspaper will advertise the course and tee times available for the following week's event. You can either call the course directly to make your tee time, or you can send Paul Ross an email at paul.ross@caro.news to coordinate it for you. If you choose to call the course directly, be sure to mention the Carolinian Clubbers when making your reservation.

We are so very excited to offer these events to you! Fall is for football, friends and foursomes. Let's Play!

Church

Peer Support Brings Faith and Counseling To NC Prisons



NC HEALTH NEWS - Inside North Carolina prisons, incarcerated people have long turned to fellow prisoners for guidance about faith, conflict, grief, addiction and simply how to navigate life behind bars.

An increasing number of those people are "field ministers" — incarcerated men who have earned a four-year bachelor's degree in pastoral ministry while also receiving training in counseling and other skills.

After graduation, the field ministers — many serving life sentences — are deployed to prisons across the state in teams of three to six, where they work alongside prison chaplains and other staff.

The role comes with an unusual degree of trust and access. Field ministers can walk into a housing block and make rounds to check on people. They can sit with men struggling with grief, addiction, mental illness or the challenges of being separated from loved ones. They can visit men in solitary confinement, counsel peers, provide hospice care and teach classes.

Their work has made a difference, said Alpha Herring, an employee at Nash Correctional Institution who oversees programs at the facility.

Ten years ago, when someone came to him with an issue, he might spend 30 minutes talking with them. Now, he doesn't always have to be the one responding.

"We trust them enough that when a field minister just shows up at a block, no one questions them as to why they were there," Herring said. "We trust them enough to know that they're going to go forth, fulfill the vision and do the work that's been assigned to their hands.

"They help us go home daily because they intervene in situations that we would never know about," Herring continued.

The program launched at Nash Correctional in August 2017 in partnership with Judson College, a Wake Forest-based seminary, and the nonprofit Game Plan for Life, which describes itself as training men "to be influential leaders within their own faith tradition." It's modeled after a similar prison ministry program at Louisiana State Penitentiary, known as Angola.

Since then, more than 80 men have graduated — more than 60 of whom now are serving as field ministers at 16 prisons. Another 87 men are completing their education at Nash Correctional. The first cohort of 19 female field ministers is also earning degrees; the program launched at North Carolina Correctional Institution for Women in January 2024.

Nash Correctional Warden Talena Lee told NC Health News that she has seen the field ministers change prison culture, and they have challenged her and other prison officials to reconsider "what they can be and what they can do."

"You cannot pour all the time and energy into every single person," Lee explained, noting that the 654-bed prison has fewer than 12 case managers, including supervisors. "They come alongside and help us in our jobs. We consider [the field ministers] a tool in our toolbox — one that we use quite frequently, and it's made the population here better."

Creating a pipeline

Rocky Wright, director of prison programs at Judson College, said the North Carolina Field Minister Program is in high demand. Each year, he said more than 100 people apply for up to 30 slots.

Participants must have already earned a high school diploma or GED, completed at least one year without any infractions and have at least 10 years left to serve on their sentence. Wright said the program looks for people who demonstrate humility, compassion and a willingness to serve.

"We're looking for guys who have servant hearts, who want to serve others," Wright said.

Students take a full college course load year-round, including liberal arts, biblical studies and counseling coursework.

After earning their degrees, field ministers are asked to serve for at least four years, though Wright said participation is voluntary.

How field ministers work can vary from prison to prison. Despite being unordained, some work alongside prison chaplains. Others work more closely with program staff. At intake facilities, field ministers help newly incarcerated people acclimate to the prison environment, and they serve as mentors during their first weeks. Many also teach classes, such as Thinking for a Change, a therapeutic approach to changing negative behaviors, and Father Accountability, which teaches positive parenting. They also lead Bible studies.

Wright said one field minister team at Harnett Correctional Institution even came up with a nonviolence initiative that lessened violence and fights at the facility.

Finding new purpose

Barry Mintz, 21 years into serving a life sentence without parole, was part of the field minister program's first cohort. He said he originally joined for selfish reasons, thinking it would look good and help his chances of release.

But as he studied, Mintz said, his understanding of his faith changed, along with his understanding of himself and his purpose.

"My journey to this moment right now is a testament to the transformative power of faith and education," he said during an Aug. 19 event at Nash Correctional that celebrated 10 years of the program.

Mintz said he's helped countless people. Some days, that means lending an ear to someone who is in a mental health crisis or going through a wrenching life event.

He recalled one encounter that has stuck with him: an incarcerated man whose father died the day before he was released from prison. Based on his training, Mintz said he felt equipped to offer theological answers, grief counseling and simply a warm embrace.

"In that moment, I realized that we weren't just equipped to think well, to read well, to write well and speak well — but we had been equipped to love well," Mintz said.

'Part of the community'

Field ministers lean into their own transformations and shared experiences to reach other incarcerated men.

"Our real effectiveness comes from being a part of the community," said Timothy Johnson, another member of the first cohort of field ministers. "They know they can trust us with their problems because we're living with the same problems. We don't talk to them about how hard it is to be locked up and go home at the end of the day."

Field ministers told NC Health News they often encounter men who want to change but don't know how — and they can step in with guidance and support.

Jimmy Smith, a field minister at Caswell Correctional Center who graduated in the program's second cohort, said he uses his own testimony to show how much change is possible.

"I've been incarcerated 31 years, so a lot of guys knew me when I was in my craziness, and they knew the transitions that I had made over the years and became the preacher," Smith said. "I had to explain to them that I thought like a child, but then I became a man, and there's qualifications of being a man, and it's responsibility, accountability and reliability. Walking in that, it gives you parameters and things you won't do anymore."

William Singletary described getting support and mentorship from field ministers at Granville Correctional Institution.

"Their presence was not only uplifting but instrumental in my growth and development as an individual and a man of faith," Singletary said. "Exposure to these ministers opened my eyes to the profound impact we can have on one another's lives, even in the most unlikely of places. I watched as they poured their energy into helping others find peace, joy and purpose amidst their struggles."

Singletary wanted to do the same. He's studying to become a field minister himself.

Matthew Grant, a field minister student in his junior year, was sent to prison in 2004. He said he's ready to draw on his own experiences to counsel others.

"I've lost family too," he said. "I've been in the hole too. I've been depressed. I've been suicidal. I've been angry before. I've been in fights before. I've been to some of the most violent prisons in the state. I've done that. I've seen what that gets you, and I've been able to come out on the other side."

Filling critical needs

The field ministers aren't intended to replace prison chaplains or other staff, but to extend their reach.

Sarah Jobe, director of Chaplaincy Services at the N.C. Department of Adult Correction, said the department has about 47 chaplains serving across the state — about one-third of whom are community-funded through churches and other grants. That leaves some prisons without a chaplain.

SERMON of the WEEK



SERMON OF THE WEEK
Sermonettes on Leadership

The Ministers of Lincoln Park Holiness Church delivered mini sermons with the theme "Leaders" on Sunday, August 30th at the 11:00 Morning Worship Service. These ministers are under the leadership of Lincoln Park's Pastor, Bishop William Eli Ratcliff.

Elder Troy Brown spoke on the topic "Follow the Leader."He said that God uses us and sends people to bless us in our lives. We must get in position for the blessings that God is sending us through other people. We must also know who we are following, as for me, I'm going to follow our LEADER.

Evangelist James Waddell's topic was "Are We Working Our Leaders to Death?" He said we have to speak positive about our leaders and encourage them. We must also show them our appreciation and help them along the way.

"There is a Cost Behind Leadership" was the subject presented by Elder Dr. Derrick Sauls. He stated that an authorized letter was sent to us from God, and that we must run on to see what the end is going to be. We must get our lives back to the old landmark, and back to family. For the rest of my life, I'm going to serve God.

Evangelist Selena Hunter spoke on the subject "Remember, Consider and Imitate." She stated that the leaders taught us everything we know. It was godly leaders who taught us to practice what we preach. We should take heed of everything we have been taught and preached. We must remember our leaders in a happy way. For me, falling in love with Jesus is the best thing that has ever happened to me. I cannot even walk without God holding my hand because God is a perfect Gentleman.

"Keep the Vision Alive" was the topic Mother Belinda Mckoy spoke on. She stated that we must keep the vision alive and not bite the hand that feeds us. Let us hold on to the vision, keep it alive, and do what the Word of God requires of us.

A group of members attended The Fifth Sunday Spontaneous Worship Service: The Quartet Edition in the afternoon at Macedonia New Life Church, Raleigh, NC. Bishop Joe L. Stevenson is the pastor. The event is sponsored by TCP Magazine, The Connection Place, and Melissa "Wade in the Water" Productions. Sister Peggy Tatum and Minister Melissa Wade served as Mistresses of Ceremony. Minister Diane Carr gave the scripture and prayer. Special guests were Bobby Peterson & Real Connection, Pastor Wendy Peterson & Unity, John Thorpe & Truth, The Voices of Faith, and James Carr.

Bishop William Eli Ratcliff made presentations to Mr. Robert James Williams, whose passion and commitment gave life to North Carolina Taekwondo On Wheels. Gifts were also presented to Minister Melissa Wade and Sister Peggy Tatum by Bishop Ratcliff. Following the presentations, James Carr sang "If You Love Jesus, You Ought to Show Some Sign."

TCP Magazine Hometown Hero Awards were presented to Macedonia New Life Church's Food Distribution Ministry for their work in the community providing food to those in need. Dr. Yve Michaels of Michaels Christian University presented Lifetime Achievement Awards to Pastor Bobby Peterson, Deacon James Floyd Carr, and John Thorpe. Minister Denver Andre Wright and Theodore Roosevelt Tatum, II were presented with an Honorary Doctor of Sacred Music.

March was the end of Minister Melissa Wade's Birthday Blessing Month. She was presented with a beautiful gift basket and serenaded with the Happy Birthday quartet version sung by John Thorpe and Truth. Thank you, Melissa Wade, for all you do to highlight our community.

Practical Biblical Principles

THE UNCHANGING GOD
READ: 1SAMUEL 15:20-30
By John L. Caldwell, Pastor
New Jerusalem Baptist Cathedral

In Samuel 15 we have a clear statement about God's unchanging character and truthfulness. God gave Saul some instructions and he did not carry out God's instructions. God did not cut Saul any slack, so to speak when He judged him.

But elsewhere in the Old Testament we read of God repenting and changing His mind about certain issues. Question: Does God change His mind? If so, does that discredit God's truthfulness or His unchanging character?

In (Malachi 3:6) It can be affirmed from the start that God's character requires that He absolutely punishes sin and rewards virtue.

A classic example is found in (Jeremiah18:7-10) - "If at any time I announce that a nation or kingdom is to be uprooted, torn down and destroyed, and if that nation I warned repents of its evil, then I will relent and not inflict on it the disaster I had planned. And if at another time I announce that a nation of kingdom is too be built up and planted, and if it does evil in My sight and does not obey Me, then I will reconsider the good I had intended to do for it."

Therefore, whenever God does not fulfill a promise or execute a threat that He has made, the explanation is obvious: in all these cases, the change has not come in God, but in the individual or nation.

Some of God's promises are unconditional and they rest soley on His mercy and grace. For instance, the thief on the cross. The Lord commanded that we be baptized. The thief could not be baptized because he was nailed to the cross and couldn't go anywhere. God applied grace to this situation. The question is still on the table: what about the unbaptized Christian who is able to get in and out of the baptismal pool and chooses not to be baptized? Will God apply grace to this situation?

God's other unconditional promises are found in His covenant after Noah's flood (Genesis 8:22). Also, His often-repeated covenant to Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and David; His new covenant with us through Christ, which includes eternal life.

What was the nature of the change in God relative to king Saul? "I am grieved that I have made Saul king, because he turned away from Me and has not carried out My instructions. If God is unchangeable, why did He repent or "grieve over" the fact that He made Saul king?

God is not a frozen automaton Who cannot respond to persons; He is a living person Who can and does react to others as much, and more genuinely, than we do to each other.

God instructed the prophet Samuel to tell king Saul to go and totally destroy the nation of Amalek for what they did to Israel. Amalek ambushed Israel when they were traveling from Egypt to the Promised Land. God's judgement is now against Amalek. Saul was to kill both man and woman, infant and nursing child, ox and sheep, camel, and donkey.

Saul gathered more than 210,000 soldiers and prepared to attack the Amalekites. Saul then told the Kenites, who had allowed Israel to pass through their land, to leave from among the Amalekites lest I destroy you. The Kenites were living among the Amalek. The Kenites took heed to Saul advice and departed from among the Amalekites.

Saul then attacked the Amalekites and defeated them throughout the region. Saul destroyed the people of Amalek and took the king Agag alive. Not only did Saul keep Agag alive, which he wasn't supposed to do, Saul also kept the sheep, the oxen, the fatlings, the lambs, and all that was good and were unwilling to destroy. It was obvious that Saul didn't complete the job according to God's plan. Saul instituted His plan instead. Saul did not destroy all that God had told him to do.

God saw what Saul Did and was displeased. Now the word of the Lord came to Samuel, the prophet, saying, "I greatly regret that I have set up Saul as king, for he has turned his back from following My commandments." This grieved Samuel and he cried out to the Lord all night. When Samuel rose early the next morning to meet Saul, he was told that Saul had gone to Carmel to set up a monument for himself; and then had gone down to Gilgal. It appears like Saul was trying to avoid the prophet, Samuel. However, Samuel caught up with Saul. Saul then said to Samuel, "Blessed are you of the Lord! I have performed the commandments of the Lord."

But Samuel then said, "What then is this bleating of the sheep in my ears, and the lowing of the oxen which I hear?"

And Saul said, "They have brought them from the Amalekites; for the people spare the best of the sheep and the oxen, to sacrifice to the Lord your God; and the rest we have utterly destroyed."

Samuel said to Saul, "Be quiet! And I will tell you what the Lord said to me last night." And Saul said to Samuel, "Speak on."

So, Samuel said, "When you were little in your own eyes, were you not head of the tribes of Israel? And did not the Lord anoint you king over Israel? Now the Lord sent you on a mission, and said, "Go and utterly destroy the sinners, the Amalekites. Why then did you not obey the voice of the Lord? Why did you swoop down on the spoil, and do evil in the sight of the Lord? But I have obeyed the Lord, but the people took the plunder, sheep and oxen and the best of the things which should have been destroyed to sacrifice to the Lord your God in Gilgal. Saul lied. God eventually took the kingship away from Saul.

God shows His responsiveness to individuals, as well as showing His steadfastness to Himself and to His thoughts and designs. While God repented that He had given Saul the kingdom along with its honor and power, He did not repent giving Him wisdom and grace or his fear and love; indeed, the gift and callings of God are without repentance. In short, when our sin or repentance change our relationship with God, He changes His response to us.

The Carolinian
N.C.'s Twice-Weekly African American Newspaper

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



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: 26E001048-310
Having qualified as ADMINISTRATOR of the Estate of MARIANA AYAD MANSI BEKHEIT, 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 3rd day of December, 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 3rd day of September, 2026.
Youssef Bekheit, Administrator
1510 Autumn Ridge Drive
Durham, NC 27712
9/3, 9/10, 9/17, and 9/24/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File No: 26E001073-310
Having qualified as EXECUTOR of the Estate of ALEISE GYANT, 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 3rd day of December, 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 3rd day of September, 2026.
Collin Thomas, Executor
4110 Durhams Crossing
Cincinnati, OH 45245
9/3, 9/10, 9/17, and 9/24/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
File No: 24E001967-310
Having qualified as Administrator of the Estate of PEGGY ANNE RICHARDSON, deceased, of 321 E Carver Street, 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 December 4, 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 3rd day of September, 2026.
Jennifer Shannon Richardson
Administrator of the Estate of Peggy Anne Richardson
c/o Law Office of Jeffrey L. Austin, PLLC
500 Westover Dr. #32043
Sanford, NC 27330
FOR PUBLICATION: The Carolinian
9/3, 9/10, 9/17 and 9/24/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File No: 26E001002-310
Having qualified as CO-ADMINISTRATORS of the Estate of CHARLES LAMBERT AUTRY, 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 3rd day of December, 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 3rd day of September, 2026.
Jennifer Ferrer and Brenda Penelope Autry-McAllister, Co-Administrators of the Estate of Charles Lambert Autry
Seth M. Gerringer, Attorney
Deal Law, PLLC
1153 Huffman Mill Road
Burlington, NC 27215
9/3, 9/10, 9/17, and 9/24/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
File Number 26E001047-310
ALL PERSONS, firms and corporations having claims against HELEN L. HILDERMAN a/k/a HELEN LONG HILDERMAN, deceased, of Durham County, N.C., are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before 12-3-2026, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This 9-3-2026.
Jennifer W. Sosensky, Executor of the Estate of Helen L. Hilderman a/k/a Helen Long Hilderman c/o Lori M. Bernstein, Attorney at Law
2726 Croasdaile Dr. Suite 202
Durham, North Carolina 27705
For Publication: 9-3, 9-10, 9-17, 9-24-2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File No: 26E001035-310
Having qualified as EXECUTOR of the Estate of LAURA ANN BRACEY, 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 3rd day of December, 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 3rd day of September, 2026.
Ryan Matthew Cahela, Executor
1113 Banyon Grove Loop
Cary, NC 27513
9/3, 9/10, 9/17, and 9/24/2026
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
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
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,

Classifieds

DURHAM COUNTY

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

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: 26E001920-910

Having qualified as ADMINISTRATOR of the Estate of LISA BALDWIN LEWIS, 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 3rd day of December, 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 3rd day of September, 2026.
Michele L. Lee, Administrator
5056 Audreystone Dr.
Cary, NC 27518
9/3, 9/10, 9/17, and 9/24/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
WAKE COUNTY
IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE
DISTRICT COURT DIVISION
FILE NO. 25CV011744-910
CRYSTAL E. WHITE,
Plaintiff, v. MONTREAL L. WHITE,
Defendant.
NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION
TO: MONTREAL L. WHITE

TAKE NOTICE that a pleading seeking relief against you has been filed in the above-entitled action.

The nature of the relief being sought is an Absolute Divorce.

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

This the 3rd day of September, 2026.
Crystal E. White, Plaintiff
108 Elmridge Dr.
Knightdale, NC 27545
9/3, 9/10 and 9/17/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
WAKE COUNTY
IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE
DISTRICT COURT DIVISION
FILE NO. 26CV012332-910
ZHAHE'M SMITH, Plaintiff, v. MADISON A. JAMES, Defendant.
NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION
TO: MADISON A. JAMES

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 child custody.

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

This the 3rd day of September, 2026.
Zhahe'm Smith, Plaintiff
1904 Southgate Dr.
Raleigh, NC 27610
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.: 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 to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 13th day of November, 2026, or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said Estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This, the 13th day of August, 2026.
James Cheek, Administrator
4813 Studbury Hall Court
Wake Forest, NC 27587
8/13, 8/20, 8/27, and 9/3/2026

WANTED WBE, MBE & DBE BIDS

for the following job:

Division Three Letting

DC00480	Sampson Co.	Bid Date: Sept. 17th
DC00495	Brunswick Co.	Bid Date: Sept. 17th
DC00507	Pender Co.	Bid Date: Sept. 17th

Division Two Letting

DB00632	Lenoir Co.	Bid Date: Sept. 23rd
DB00633	Pitt Co.	Bid Date: Sept. 23rd

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@stwcorp.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, US.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.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD AND PUBLIC HEARING FOR

Wake County's 2025 Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER) and 2025 Housing Opportunities for Persons With AIDS (HOPWA) CAPER

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT Wake County will receive public input during a 15-day public comment period and hold a public hearing on the County's Draft 2025 CAPER and HOPWA CAPER. The CAPER and HOPWA CAPER are annual reports required by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) that describe Wake County's progress and accomplishments under its federally funded housing and community development programs. The CAPER summarizes housing and community development accomplishments during Program Year 2025 (July 1, 2025–June 30, 2026) in Wake County. The HOPWA CAPER reports on the use of HOPWA funds and services provided to eligible households within Wake County's HOPWA service area, which includes Wake, Johnston, and Franklin Counties. At the conclusion of the public comment period, Wake County will review and consider all comments received.

15-DAY PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD (9/1/2026 – 9/15/2026)

Draft copies of both reports can be accessed online at https://tinyurl.com/4bnyr9b4 or in person at the following locations: Wake County Housing (336 Fayetteville Street, Suite 440, Raleigh, NC 27602), Municipal Town Halls, Wake County Regional Centers, Homeless Service Centers, and other Wake County Housing or Human Services locations. Comments may be submitted using the online form https://forms.cloud.microsoft/g/ePe7XiKGEZ or by email at housing.info@wake.gov

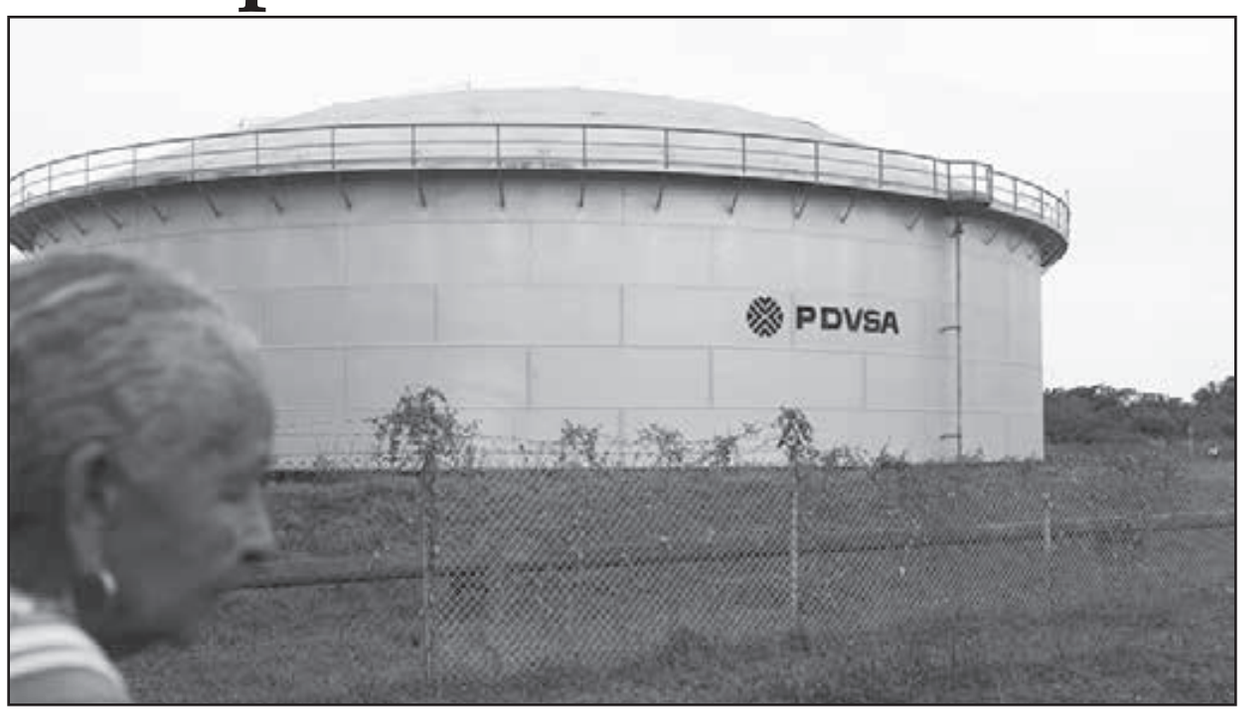
PUBLIC HEARING (9/22/2026)

Wake County will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, September 22, 2026, at 2:00 PM in the Wake County Justice Center, 300 S. Salisbury Street, Raleigh, 2nd Floor, Room 2700. To sign up to speak, submit a comment, or livestream the meeting, please visit:

https://tinyurl.com/3uhtxka9

Reasonable accommodations and language assistance will be made available upon request for persons with disabilities and individuals with limited English proficiency. Interpreter services, including American Sign Language, may be provided at no cost. Speech or hearing-impaired persons may contact 1-800-735-2962 (TT) or 1-800- 735-8262 (voice).

US Oil Giant Chevron Confirms It Will Expand Operations in Venezuela



NEW YORK (AP) — Oil giant Chevron is confirming that it will expand its operations in Venezuela, just days after President Donald Trump announced an ambitious deal to develop the nation's oil reserves and give the Pentagon a stake in the profits.

Chevron said Wednesday that it has been assigned additional acreage in the Orinoco Belt, where the company has an established position. Joint venture plans include investing more than $7 billion over the next five years, more than doubling production to approximately 600,000 barrels a day compared to 2026.

"Chevron's history in Venezuela spans more than a century, and our expanded position reflects our confidence in the country's deep resource potential and its ability to compete for investment within our portfolio for decades," CEO Mike Wirth said in a prepared statement. "With improved terms and additional acreage, we are strengthening a portfolio that we believe can deliver attractive low-cost oil growth, support energy supply and create differentiated long-term value."

The announcement comes a day after a U.S. official, who briefed reporters on the expected announcement, said that Chevron officials and Energy Secretary Chris Wright were expected to visit Venezuela on Wednesday where the new investment will be formally unveiled. The official spoke on condition of anonymity under ground rules set by the White House for the call.

Chevron is the second-largest U.S. oil company and the only one with a major presence in Venezuela. It has had a presence in the country since 1923. Its joint ventures Petroindependencia and Petropiar, S.A. operate extra-heavy oil projects in the Orinoco Oil Belt, while Petroboscan, S.A. is located in the Zulia State in Western Venezuela.

The White House confirmed on Monday that it is partnering with North American Blue Energy Partners as part of Trump 's push to tap into Venezuela's oil industry.

The sweeping agreement has been met with skepticism from analysts who say it will take years to revive Venezuela's production, which is in disarray after years of neglect.

Energy experts also have questioned about whether Venezuela's acting President Delcy Rodríguez has the legal authority to give the company 100-year rights over 17 oil fields with reserves of 65 billion barrels — and whether future Venezuelan or American administrations would overturn the agreement.

Trump has had his eyes on Venezuela's oil since the capture of Nicolás Maduro, and his aides call it a path away from reliance on oil from the Middle East. Trump has been pressing to get U.S. businesses to restore a presence in the country.

Politics & Election News

Voting Rights Struggle Continues, Advocates Say At The Sixty-Third Anniversary Of The March On Washington

NC NEWSLINE — Just over two months from midterm elections and four months removed from a U.S. Supreme Court decision that gutted Voting Rights Act protections for majority Black U.S. House districts, and 63 years after Martin Luther King Jr. delivered his "I Have a Dream" speech there, thousands gathered again at the Lincoln Memorial Friday.

Organizers focused the anniversary march around a "Defend the Vote" message.

The event, co-chaired by civil rights leader Rev. Al Sharpton and King Jr.'s son Martin Luther King III and daughter-in-law Arndrea Waters King, featured appearances from union leaders, interfaith organizers, people whose parents attended the iconic 1963 march.

Elected leaders also spoke, including Virginia Gov. Abigail Spanberger, House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries, D-N.Y., Vermont independent Sen. Bernie Sanders, and U.S. Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, D-N.Y., a possible 2028 presidential contender.

Demonstrators who traveled from across the country with various organizations marched from the Lincoln Memorial to the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial following a four-hour program of speeches.

From behind bullet proof glass, King Jr.'s granddaughter Yolanda Renee King, 18, told the crowd she never met her grandfather, or grandmother Coretta Scott King, but she is carrying their legacy forward.



"Sixty-three years ago, my grandfather told America, 'I have a dream.' Today, I want my generation to say something back — 'We hear you,'" she said. "We know the dream was never finished, and we know you were never asking us to simply remember you. You were asking us to continue, so we will. We will pick up the baton.

Yolanda King highlighted Civil Rights Movement icons, including John Lewis, who later represented Georgia's 5th Congressional District from 1987 until his death in 2020.

Several speakers criticized the U.S. Supreme Court's late April decision in Louisiana v. Callais that overhauled Section 2 of the 1965 Voting Rights Act that protected against diluting the voting power of minority citizens.

"The fact that we still have to fight to maintain and renew voting rights in this country is beyond abysmal and a truly national disgrace," King III said.

Rep. Yvette Clark, D-N.Y., chair of the Congressional Black Caucus likened the ruling to "opening the door to a coordinated attack on the Black political power and fair representation across the South."

"Since the Callais decision came down, Republicans across the country have wasted no time in their zealous pursuit for unbridled power," Clark told the crowd, highlighting mid-decade voter map redistricting efforts and a bill, titled the SAVE America Act, that is championed by President Donald Trump and would require proof of citizenship to register to vote.

Marc Morial, president and CEO of the National Urban League, told the crowd, "It's time to send the SAVE (America) Act to the graveyard."

Gary Roush, 73, of College Park, Maryland, carried a sign protesting a new rule issued by the U.S. Postal Service mandating new requirements for mail-in ballot envelopes, which states say would pose serious challenges before November's midterms.

Additionally, the new USPS rule forbids the agency from delivering or collecting ballots from people who are not confirmed to be eligible voters on lists newly mandated from states by the federal government.

A federal district judge on Thursday night issued a temporary restraining order on the rule after the U.S. Supreme Court on Monday allowed the administration to implement the policy. USPS appealed the order Friday.

Roush, who was among the crowd at the "Defend the Vote" march, said he believes Trump has "made it crystal clear: He plans to use the post office to try to stop most mail-in ballots."

Roush's sign featured a USPS promotional character from the 1960s used in ad campaigns to encourage people to write ZIP codes on the envelopes. A message on his sign read, "Trump plans to use us to rig the election."

"He's going to create as much havoc as possible," said Roush, who added he's "extremely worried" about the upcoming midterms.

Sharpton's National Action Network and the King family's Drum Major Institute coordinated the day, along with nearly 100 partner organizations including sorority and fraternity chapters from historically black colleges and universities, and other national and local activist groups.

Ocasio-Cortez, who has been on a speaking tour with Sanders ahead of the midterm elections, said, "Brothers and sisters, these drum majors for justice, just as you all and countless others today, were not handed a movement. They have always had to build one.

"And when they came here 63 years ago, they came with demands," she continued. "They demanded the right to vote, an end to segregation, and fair housing. They demanded a federal jobs program, a higher minimum wage, and an end to discrimination in employment... Freedom is both political and economic."

Organizers evoked numerous founders of the Civil Rights Movement, and other anniversaries since, including the 37th commemoration of the March on Washington in 2000 when Coretta Scott King, the late widow of the slain civil rights leader, urged attendees to continue her husband's and other leaders' missions.

That anniversary march at the turn of the millenium, dubbed "Redeem the Dream," was also co-organized by Sharpton and King III, and focused on ending racial profiling and police brutality following high-profile abuse cases in the previous decade in Los Angeles, New York City and Philadelphia.

"My mother, Coretta Scott King, said that nonviolence is really the only credible response to the violence that we are seeing around the world. She was right about it both then and now," King III told the crowd.

Attendees in United Auto Workers t-shirts lined the seats at the foot of the memorial steps, another nod to the history of the movement.

The UAW, including its then president Walter Reuther, was among the coalition of activists, labor unions and religious organizations that supported the landmark 1963 march.

Other speakers and performers at the original march included folk singers Bob Dylan and Joan Baez, and Little Rock, Arkansas, civil rights activist Daisy Bates.

King and other leaders met with Kennedy and Vice President Lyndon B. Johnson following the march to discuss bipartisanship around civil rights legislation, according to the Martin Luther King Jr., Research and Education Institute at Stanford University.

Johnson signed the Civil Rights Act in July 1964, less than a year after Kennedy was assassinated in November of 1963. Johnson subsequently signed the Voting Rights Act in August of 1965.

WHIPPED PETER

Continued from page 1

been identified as Gordon, but historians have increasingly concluded that the person pictured was probably a man named Peter and that he and Gordon were two different people whose stories were later combined.

Despite those uncertainties, the photograph itself became one of the most recognizable images of slavery in the 19th century.

Its popularity was helped by the technology of the time. The photograph was reproduced as a carte de visite, a small paper photographic print that could be produced relatively cheaply and traded or mailed. Abolitionist organizations and newspapers distributed copies throughout the North, allowing the image to reach audiences far beyond Louisiana. The abolitionist newspaper The Liberator sold copies of the image to its readers. One account described a Union Army surgeon sending a copy to his brother in Boston, explaining that he had personally seen hundreds of similar injuries and suggesting that people who doubted reports of mistreatment of enslaved people should see the photograph.

"The bodies of enslaved people like Peter Gordon revealed to them realities they had never seen with their own eyes before," said Anne Cross, a scholar of 19th-century photography at Bowdoin College Museum of Art.

Historian Matthew Fox-Amato, author of "Exposing Slavery: Photography, Human Bondage, and the Birth of Modern Visual Politics in America," has described the image as an early example of photography being used as a political tool.

National Park Service officials were identifying signs, exhibits, and other materials that could conflict with the administration's new policies at Harpers Ferry National Historical Park in West Virginia, where abolitionist John Brown led his 1859 raid aimed at sparking a revolt against slavery; more than 30 signs were reportedly flagged for review.

In January 2026, the National Park Service dismantled the slavery exhibit at the site, removing interpretive panels and closing portions of the installation. A federal appeals court later ruled that the Trump administration could replace the exhibit, allowing officials to proceed with changes to the site.

In July 2026, the federal government replaced the previous exhibit with a new version.

Additionally, reports have emerged that the U.S. Navy is considering removing the name of Doris Miller, the Black enlisted sailor who became a hero during the attack on Pearl Harbor, from an aircraft carrier currently under construction and potentially renaming the vessel after President Donald Trump. Miller, who was serving aboard the USS West Virginia, helped move wounded sailors to safety and operated a machine gun against Japanese aircraft despite having no formal training on the weapon. He was later awarded the Navy Cross for his actions and was killed in action in 1943.

As the administration continues its review of Smithsonian museums, National Park Service sites, and other federally controlled historical properties, historians and preservation groups are watching to see how much of the country's history will be altered, removed, or reframed.

NC Voters Trust Local Elections More Than National

NC NEWSLINE - North Carolinians continue to trust their local elections, but are more skeptical about elections across the country, according to a new poll.

The Catawba College-YouGov survey released Tuesday found 70% of North Carolinians are very or somewhat confident in the security, safety, and integrity of the state's elections, regardless of which party wins. Only 22% said they were not confident, and 8% said they were not sure.

The results are almost unchanged from a poll Catawba College conducted in August 2024 about North Carolinians and their confidence in elections.

As for votes being counted accurately in the 2026 election, 75% of North Carolinians said they were confident about votes cast in their own county, compared with 70% for votes elsewhere in North Carolina and 58% for votes cast outside the state.

"With an unusually clear 17-point county-to-national confidence gap in this survey, what stands out is how consistently North Carolinians draw a distinction between the elections they experience directly and elections farther from home," said Michael Bitzer, professor of politics and history and director of Catawba's Center for North Carolina Politics and Public Service.

At the national level, President Donald Trump has repeatedly made claims of election fraud when he isn't happy with the results. This included the 2020 presidential election, where his supporters attacked the U.S. Capitol to stop Congress from certifying the results.

Respondents answered similarly about whether elections are administered with security and integrity. Most said they were confident about results in their local county's elections at 77%, 74% said they were confident in North Carolina elections overall, and only 58% said they were confident in elections across the country.

"The challenge for election officials is to build on that local confidence while helping voters understand how the broader election system works and why its safeguards are in place," said Bitzer.

North Carolinians also highly valued candidates accepting election results, with 88% saying it's very or somewhat important for losing candidates to publicly accept winning candidates as legitimate winners. There was broad agreement across partisan groups, including 92% of Democrats, 90% of independents, and 82% of Republicans.

The survey had a sample size of 1000 North Carolina residents above the age of 18, conducted between July 30 and Aug. 10. The adjusted margin of error is plus or minus 3.59 percentage points.

NC Father At Center Of Us Senate Ad Says He Was 'Swindled' By Gop Political Operatives

NC NEWSLINE — Ronald Hayes was cautious when he talked to a reporter this week about the political TV advertisement he appears in, talking about the death of his son Shemar, a college football player who was murdered in Charlotte in March 2024 at age 23.

"I have already been swindled into an ad that was about politics, which I don't want to be about," Hayes told NC Newsline on Monday.

Despite his intentions, the ad has landed him squarely in the middle of one of the nation's most watched races.

Hayes says he was tricked by the Senate Leadership Fund, a well-heeled Republican political action committee.

Hayes says he agreed to talk to the video crew about his son's murder because he thought he would be featured in an ad against gun violence. But the ad is actually aimed at smearing the political record of former Gov. Roy Cooper, the Democratic nominee for U.S. Senate.

The TV ad Hayes appeared in has been viewed more than 25 million times on Youtube. It's part of a $17 million advertising campaign targeting Cooper, who faces Republican Michael Whatley in November.

The ad falsely implies that Cooper released Shemar's killer from prison early as part of a legal settlement during the COVID-19 pandemic. However, Tyzavian Smith, the man convicted of killing Shemar, was 18 at the time Shemar was murdered in 2024, was not in prison, and had no prior adult record.

NC Newsline could not reach the Senate Leadership Fund for comment. The group has also been accused of using a murder committed by a South Carolina man to attack Cooper as soft on crime.



"The commercial looks as if I'm trying to sway North Carolinians from voting the way that they want to vote, and that wasn't my agenda," Hayes said. "I wanted to let the community know about gun violence and about my son being murdered."

"Once I saw the commercial, I called [the ad makers] back and I asked them again, and they stated again that they are independent," Hayes said. "I told them that I felt that this was deceiving, it was conniving and it was sneaky how they used me and my family to get out their word."

Hayes said he's now being stopped on the street by people wanting to know if he's the "guy in the commercial" and whether he's Democrat or Republican.

"What difference does that make?" said Hayes, a Democrat. "The agenda was not political. It was to get my son's name said and to speak on gun violence."

Hayes said he plans to speak with Cooper to let him know that his intent was not to harm his campaign. He said he doesn't have anything against Cooper and has "voted for him in the past."

"I want to turn this tragedy into something beautiful that can possibly make a change," Hayes said. "I want my son's name to be able to be used to make this change."

Hayes has published a book, titled "Living Through Loss: A Journey of Healing and Hope," to share the story of Shemar's death, but also how he lived his 23 years of life. He said the ad's producers recorded him and took pictures of him talking about that book and others he's written, but did not include them in the ad.

"That was not their agenda," Hayes said. "They could care less than a damn about me and my books."

The still-grieving father said he blames his son's death on what he says are weak gun laws that are ineffective in keeping guns out of the hands of people who would use them to harm others.

A statewide anti-gun violence group agrees with Hayes, and is condemning the political ad and the Republican PAC that paid for it. North Carolinians Against Gun Violence says it is outraged at the commercial, which it says twisted a grieving father's pain for political gain.

"Losing a child is every parent's worst nightmare," said Becky Ceartas, executive director of NCGV. "Every survivor of gun violence deserves to be treated with respect and care if they decide to relive the most horrible day of their lives by telling you their story."

NCGV called on television stations across the state to pull the political ad from the airwaves.

"Our organization works with survivors of gun violence throughout the state, and we have witnessed how hard and traumatic it is for them to tell their stories," said Ceartas. "It requires an immense amount of trust and faith that the person you are sharing this deeply personal experience with will treat it with dignity and respect."

