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Have We Seen The Very Last Generation Of Free Thinkers



Have we seen the last generation of free thinkers? In an age when artificial intelligence can answer nearly any question, social media shapes public opinion and a generation of people has grown accustomed to conducting much of its life online, the question deserves serious consideration.

Free thinking has long been a driving force behind social progress, scientific discovery and political change. It is the ability to question conventional wisdom, challenge authority, examine competing perspectives and arrive at conclusions based on reason rather than simply accepting what others say. For generations, independent thinkers have challenged injustice, confronted established institutions and introduced ideas that changed the world.

But what happens when people increasingly turn to technology to tell them what to think, what to believe and how to interpret the world around them?

The COVID-19 pandemic accelerated a digital transformation that was already underway. Schools moved online. Businesses shifted to remote work. Churches embraced virtual services. Families maintained relationships through video calls, and social interactions increasingly took place through screens.

For many, these changes were necessary and beneficial. Technology kept people connected during a period of isolation and uncertainty. It also opened doors to information, education and opportunities that previously might have been out of reach.

Yet the pandemic changed more than where people worked, learned and worshipped. It altered how people interacted with information and one another.

Conversations that once took place face to face migrated to social media. Public debates became comment threads. News consumption increasingly depended on digital feeds designed to capture attention. The distinction between informed discussion and emotional reaction became harder to maintain.

Now, artificial intelligence is adding another dimension to that transformation; Artificial Intelligence.

AI can write essays, summarize complex documents, generate images, answer questions and produce arguments in seconds. It can help people learn unfamiliar subjects, im-

(See ***LAST FREE THINKERS,*** P. 3)



The Fulfilling Life Of Mr. Phil Spence

Phillip Arthur Spence peacefully transitioned from labor to reward on September 21, 2026, a the age of 72, leaving a legacy rooted in faith, family, education, basketball, and a lifelong commitment to helping young people recognize the greatness within themselves.

Phil was born to the late Arthur Lee Perkins and Maggie Lee Southerland Spence, the youngest of six children. Born and raised on the south side of Raleigh, Phil's life remained deeply connected to the community that shaped him. Life was not always easy, but those early years shaped the determination, resilience, and work ethic that followed him throughout his life.

Phil often credited his mother with teaching him the value of hard work, and perhaps just as importantly, teaching him to see beyond his present circumstances, a lesson that stayed with him throughout his life and later became something he would pass along to his own children, students, players, and grandchildren.

Phil became a standout at Broughton High School, was named Wake Co. Player of the Year, and earned Converse All-American honors and later inducted into the Broughton High School Sports Hall of Fame. He began his college career at Vincennes University in Indiana. As a freshman at Vincennes, he earned junior college All-American honors before returning home to Raleigh to play for the NC State Wolfpack. That return placed him at the center of one of the most celebrated chapters in college history.

As a sophomore, Phil served as the Wolfpack's sixth man during the historic 1973-74 season, when NC State finished 30-1, and captured the ACC regular-season championship, ACC Tournament championship, and 1974 NCAA national championship. He played an important role in the legendary 1974 ACC Tournament championship game against Maryland and helped the Wolfpack advance through a postseason run that included ending UCLA's streak of seven consecutive national championships before defeating Marquette for the national title.

Phil became a starter during his junior and senior seasons, leading NC State in rebounding as a junior. He graduated from NC State in 1976 with a degree in vocational industrial education and was selected by the Milwaukee Bucks in the sixth round of the NBA Draft.

Yet for all that he accomplished as a player, some of his most meaningful work began after the final whistle.

Phil returned to Broughton High School as a teacher and volunteer assistant basketball coach under the former coach, Ed McLean. He later spent a decade at Cary High School before becoming head basketball coach at East Wake High School. During 10 seasons at East Wake, he led the Warrior to three consecutive state playoff appearances, including the 1991 state 4-A championship game, and four Tri-6 Conference championships. He was named Wake Co. Coach of the Year and Tri-6 Conference Coach of the Year in both 1991 and 1992.

In 2000, Phil became head men's basketball coach at North Carolina Central University, extending a coaching career that had already touched generations of young people. In 2003, he was named the Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association Men's basketball Coach of the Year.

Years later, in 2016, Phil and his NC State teammates were inducted collectively into the NC State Athletic Hall of Fame as the 1974 Men's Basketball Team.

But Phil never measured success by wins, championships, or awards alone. He understood that basketball was about far more than putting a ball through a hoop. The court was a classroom. The game taught discipline, preparation, teamwork, accountability, perseverance, and how to keep going when things did not go your way.

As an educator, Phil carried that same commitment into the classroom. Young people who entered his classroom or stepped onto his court quickly learned that Coach Spence expected them to work, think, be accountable, and believe that more was possible for their lives. He saw potential in young people, sometimes before they could see it in themselves. He challenged them because he believed in them, encouraged them when they struggled, celebrated them when they succeeded, and reminded them that who they became away from the basketball court mattered far more than any score on the board. Wherever life took him, Phil remained a teacher, a coach, a mentor, and a source of encouragement. But the roles closest to his heart were found at home.

Phil was a devoted husband, father, and grandfather. He family knew the man beyond the accomplishments, championships, classrooms, and basketball courts. They knew the man who loved them, laughed with them, encouraged them, taught them, supported them, and took tremendous pride in watching his family grow.

At the center of Phil's life was his family. He and his wife, Paula, shared 50 years of marriage, building a life together rooted in love, commitment, faith, and family. Through every season of life, Paula was his partner, and together they raised their family and created a home that remained a source of strength and connection.

Phil was the proud father of two daughters, Porche and Pauletta, whom he loved deeply. He consistently encouraged them to pursue excellence, believe in their abilities, and become the best versions of themselves. His encouragement and high expectations were a constant source of motivation, and both daughters went on to ear doctoral degrees and raise beautiful families.

Phil was also a devoted grandfather. Affectionately know as Grandda and Big Love, he built a special relationship with each of his grandchildren, sharing his wisdom, offering guidance, and making sure they knew how deeply he loved them. He supported Lylah at karate competitions, Emori a volleyball games, and shared his basketball knowledge with Jeremiah, teaching him not only how to play the game, but how to understand and think through it. When he could no longer attend their events in person, he made sure to call and ask how they had done.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Arthur Lee Perkins and Maggie Lee Southerland Spence, and his siblings, Brooks Eugene Spence, Charles Spence, Larry Spence, Willis Spence, and Vickie Diane Smith. He leaves to cherish his memory his wife, Paula H. Spence; his children, Dr. Porche L. Spence (Lamar) and Dr. Pauletta S. Thomson (Jeffrey); grandchildren, Laylah, Emori and Jeremiah; a brother-in-law and sister-in-law, and a host of aunts, nieces, nephews, cousins, extended family members, former students, players, colleagues, friends, and community members whose lives were better because their paths crossed his.

HBCUs Are Underfunded. But, A Legal Effort Out Of Missouri Seeks To Fix It



AP NEWS - An effort to address decades of underfunding at some historically Black colleges and universities kicked off Wednesday with a lawsuit against the state of Missouri.

Students and graduates of Lincoln University in the state's capital of Jefferson City allege the lack of financial resources undercut their education and devalued their degrees.

More than a dozen other states are in the crosshairs of a newly formed group called the 1890 Project.

"It is very unfortunate that we still live in a climate where, depending on the color of one's skin, one gets precedence over the other," said Lincoln graduate Jeanneth Johnson, a 54-year-old from the Detroit suburb of Sterling Heights, who is a plaintiff in the lawsuit.

The University of Missouri system and the governor's office both said in written statements that they couldn't comment on pending litigation.

HBCUs missed out on money

Back in 2023, the administration of then-President Joe Biden found HBCUs in 16 states had missed out on $12.6 billion in funding over the last three decades. The finding and an ensuing call for the governors in those states to boost spending came one year after members of Congress also raised concerns.

At issue is the funding of land-grant universities. The first batch was established in 1862 under the Morrill Act, which gave public lands to states to pay for colleges that focused on educating students in practical fields like agriculture and engineering.

It was a departure from traditional colleges at the time, which focused mostly on classical subjects for the elite, such as Latin, Greek, philosophy and theology. But the law's namesake, Justin Smith Morrill, a senator from Vermont, believed higher education should be accessible to all social classes.

In the wake of the Civil War, Morrill, an abolitionist, called for an update to the act. Passed in 1890, the new law required states either to open their land grants to students of all races or establish separate land grant schools for Black students.

Missouri, a border state that allowed slavery but fought with the Union during the Civil War, wasn't about to open its flagship University of Missouri campus in Columbia to Black students. To meet the new requirement, it looked toward what was then called Lincoln Institute, which a Black Union Army unit started at the end of the war by pooling their wages.

Seventeen other mostly former Confederate states and border states established 18 other land grant schools for Black students. They included Tuskegee University, the only private 1890 land grant.

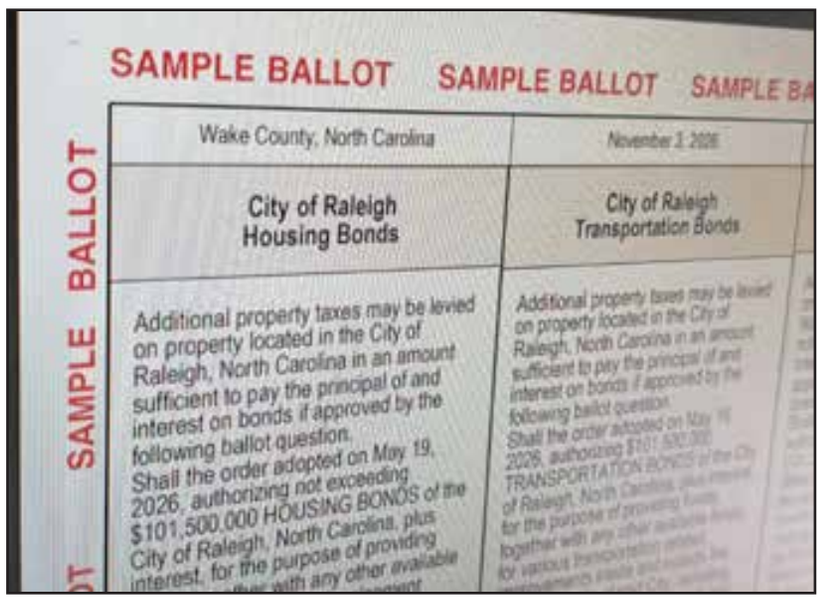
Federal law requires an equitable distribution of state funding for all of a state's land-grant universities — whether HBCU or otherwise — based on each college's number of full-time staff and students. But the 2023 Biden administration analysis found that only two states funded traditional and HBCU land-grants equitably — Delaware and Ohio. Lincoln University alone was underfunded by $361 million from 1987 through 2020, the newly filed lawsuit says,

(See ***HBCU'S UNDERFUNDED,*** P. 2)

What's At Stake, Wake Bond Referendum?

By Jordan Meadows

Staff Writer



Raleigh voters will decide this November whether the city can borrow up to $203 million in general obligation bonds for housing, education, and transportation, a package city officials say can be repaid without raising property taxes.

The city says it can borrow that much without a tax increase because of what it calls a "Steady State" financing model. Beginning with the fiscal year 2026 budget, Raleigh started setting aside money from property and sales taxes in a dedicated Debt Fund to pay for large capital projects. City finance staff estimate that fund can support $203 million in borrowing every four years without a tax hike, and officials expect to bring bond packages to voters at that interval if this one passes.

The city acknowledges a risk: property and sales tax collections generally rise but could fall, which would shrink the amount of debt the fund can support. If voters reject the bonds, City Council could fund the projects from other sources, but if no money is available, the projects would not move forward.

The housing bond would split its $101.5 million four ways. The largest share, $57.6 million, would go toward building new affordable housing and preserving existing affordable units. Another $21.5 million would be held in reserve for major redevelopments of city-owned sites, intended to create communities serving a range of income levels.

The bond would put $12 million toward homelessness response, funding Wake at Home, a public-private partnership coordinated by the Wake County Continuum of Care that supports decommissioning homeless encampments and connecting people to housing and services. The remaining $10.4 million would go to homebuyer assistance for buyers earning at or below 80% of the area median income, along with programs that help seniors stay in their homes as they age.

Past bond money has financed projects including the Milner Commons housing development in 2020 and the Atlantic Avenue roadway in 2017. The 2020 housing bond, an $80 million package, was approved by voters and, by the end of fiscal year 2024-25, about 79% of it had been committed to create or preserve roughly 1,800 affordable units.

The transportation bond would put $51.5 million toward three road projects: Marsh Creek Road and Trawick Road-West, Ebenezer Church Road, and general-purpose lanes along the Southern Bus Rapid Transit corridor that are not eligible for federal funding. Another $40 million would go to transportation plans the council has already adopted, including an expansion of walking and biking networks that calls for more than 5 miles of sidewalks and 50 miles of bikeways within five years under the city's Active Mobility Plan.

The money would also support the Comprehensive Safety Action Plan, which uses data to recommend changes to traffic flow and infrastructure at busy intersections and near schools to reduce traffic deaths and serious injuries.

Raleigh's bonds are among several local questions on the back of the ballot in Wake County.

Countywide, voters will weigh bonds for the Wake County Public School System and Wake Technical Community College, and Knightdale voters will consider a $55 million parks bond for a new public park and community center, with an estimated cost of $35 per $100,000 of assessed property value per year.

The school system, which serves about 161,000 students across 204 schools, plans to use its bond, plus an additional $152.3 million cash commitment from Wake County, to build two new elementary schools in Wendell and Knightdale and design another in Zebulon. Nine existing elementary, middle and high schools in Raleigh, Cary, Garner and Wendell are slated for renovation or replacement, with construction funded for six and design for three.

Wake Tech's bond would cost an estimated 90 cents per $100,000 of assessed property value per year. It would put $41 million toward expanding programs in public safety, skilled trades, automotive and dental hygiene, $65 million toward renovating the Southern Wake campus, $20.4 million toward facilities updates across all seven campuses, and $22.7 million toward technology, vehicles and equipment.

The ballot language is set by the state legislature, and it carries wording that may surprise some voters. Each question says "additional taxes may be levied in an amount sufficient to pay the principal of and interest on the bonds."

Under the state's Bond Transparency Act, however, ballots must also disclose the total estimated cost over the life of the bond and the estimated property tax impact, and the city has filled in that figure as "$0 (zero dollars)."

Wake County voters have historically backed bonds by wide margins, with the 2024 library bond, the 2022 school and community college bonds and Raleigh's 2020 housing bond all passing easily. A notable exception came in 2024, when Cary voters rejected parks and housing bonds with a combined price tag of $560 million, after residents were already facing higher-than-expected tax bills following that year's property revaluation.

Bond referenda need a simple majority to pass.

NC Legal Aid Groups Sue Over Lawmakers' Redirection



NC HEALTH NEWS - Three North Carolina legal aid organizations are suing state legislative leaders over a budget provision that redirects millions of dollars from programs that provide low-income residents with free civil legal services to attorneys who represent people who cannot afford a lawyer in criminal cases.

"The $15 million per year that has been diverted from community legal aid is less than five one hundredths of one percent of the overall North Carolina state budget," the Charlotte Center for Legal Advocacy wrote in a statement about the lawsuit. "But it means so much to veterans, survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking, disaster victims, and others who have been the recipients of civil legal services from these funds, as ordered by the NC Supreme Court."

Charlotte Center for Legal Advocacy, Pisgah Legal Services and Legal Aid of North Carolina filed the lawsuit this past week against the state, House Speaker Destin Hall (R-Granite Falls), Senate leader Phil Berger (R-Eden) and others. They contend that the General Assembly overstepped its constitutional authority in redirecting the funds with its budget provision that changed how money that's generated through the state's Interest on Lawyers' Trust Accounts program, known as IOLTA, can be used.

The lawsuit also challenged restrictions that could prevent legal aid organizations from receiving remaining IOLTA funding based on advocacy or other work they perform or have performed in the past — even when they have used money from other sources. The organizations argue those provisions violate free speech protections under the U.S. and North Carolina constitutions.

The case is the latest development in a fight over a funding source that has supported underserved people's ability to defend themselves in civil court in North Carolina for decades — and one that legal aid providers say has become particularly important in western North Carolina as residents recover two years after Hurricane Helene.

From civil legal aid to criminal defense

IOLTA doesn't rely on state tax dollars. The program collects interest generated by certain client funds that attorneys are required to temporarily hold in trust accounts. For example, it includes interest accrued on the money held in escrow for clients while loans and liens are paid off, or during real estate transactions. The North Carolina Supreme Court first established the program on a voluntary basis in 1983 and made participation mandatory in 2007.

Under the program, the money has been distributed by the North Carolina State Bar's IOLTA program to organizations that provide civil legal assistance and to other programs that support the administration of justice.

Lawmakers froze IOLTA grantmaking for the 2025-26 fiscal year amid concerns from Republican legislators about oversight of the program and the perceived political advocacy of some organizations receiving grants. The organizations and use of funds were the center of an investigative hearing held by the House Select Committee and Oversight and Reform in October 2025.

The budget passed this summer went further. In it, lawmakers redirected IOLTA revenue received beginning July 1, 2025, to the state's Private Assigned Counsel Fund, which pays for private attorneys appointed to represent people who cannot afford attorneys in criminal cases.

Money IOLTA received before July 1, 2025, remains available for grants for programs designed to improve the administration of justice, subject to the legislature's new eligibility restrictions. The program can distribute up to $2.5 million from that remaining pool each fiscal year until it is depleted. (The complaint outlines $2 million but a technical correction to the budget has updated the number to $2.5 million.)

The three organizations are among six that have received more than a million dollars in the past 10 years, according to a report given by Rep. Harry Warren to the House Select Committee on Oversight and Reform. With Legal Aid of North Carolina receiving $22,066,243, Pisgah Legal Services receiving $4,517,810 and Charlotte Center for Legal Advocacy at $3,182,310 in that same time frame.

The lawsuit argues the General Assembly lacked the authority to make that change. The legal aid organizations contend that the regulation of attorneys falls within the judicial branch's constitutional authority and that lawmakers effectively overrode the state Supreme Court's 2007 order establishing the mandatory IOLTA program. They are asking the court to declare the budget provision unconstitutional and block its enforcement.

The lawsuit's second claim challenges the restrictions placed on organizations seeking money from the remaining IOLTA pool. Those restrictions can make an organization ineligible based on its provision of certain immigration services, services related to gender-affirming care or forms of public advocacy. The legal aid organizations argue that the restrictions penalize them for constitutionally protected activities even when they use other money — not IOLTA funding — to perform that work.

North Carolina is the only state in the nation diverting IOLTA funds away from their intended use, according to the lawsuit.

Scrutiny before the funding shift

Lawmakers froze new grants from July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026, while the House Oversight committee examined the program. During the oversight hearing last October, Republican lawmakers questioned the IOLTA board's grantmaking and raised concerns about organizations getting funding even as they were separately engaging in political advocacy.

Committee chair Warren (R-Salisbury) characterized some recipients as groups with "leftist ideologies" and said lawmakers wanted to examine how the IOLTA board selected organizations for funding.

Rep. Grant Campbell (R-Concord) questioned whether prohibiting IOLTA dollars themselves from funding lobbying went far enough. Because money is fungible, Campbell argued, funding an organization's legal work could free up its other resources for political advocacy.

IOLTA Executive Director Mary Irvine told lawmakers that grant recipients are already prohibited from using IOLTA money for lobbying or political activity. Nevertheless, the North Carolina State Bar had considered additional restrictions on organizations engaged in grassroots lobbying, Peter Bolar, executive director of the North Carolina State Bar told lawmakers at the time.

During that hearing, lawmakers learned that IOLTA was not funded with taxpayer dollars and that the Supreme Court created the program using its authority to regulate the practice of law in North Carolina — an issue now at the center of the lawsuit's separation of powers claim.

(See **LEGAL AID GROUPS,** P. 4)

'Educate, Engage, Empower': Johnston County NAACP Convenes Nonpartisan Candidate Forum In Smithfield

By Jheri Hardaway

Staff Writer



Smithfield, NC — As the countdown to the general election narrows to days, community members packed the Wood Building at Johnston Community College on Friday evening for a nonpartisan candidate forum organized by the Johnston County Branch of the NAACP. Convening under the banner of "Educate, Engage, Empower," the October 9th gathering brought together candidates across federal, state, and county races from the U.S. Senate and Congress to the General Assembly, County Commission, Register of Deeds, Soil & Water Conservation, and the Clerk of Superior Court.

Moderated by Rev. Dr. Christopher Kornegay, President of the Johnston County NAACP, the evening offered voters a direct look at the contenders seeking to represent one of North Carolina's fastest-growing counties. Dr. Kornegay opened the forum by outlining forum guidelines and by emphasizing that democracy functions best when elected officials are held accountable directly by the electorate. Throughout the evening, candidates fielded questions on equal service, government accessibility, environmental health, civil rights, and much more.

Dr. L'Bertrice Solomon, candidate for N.C. House of Representatives District 26, made an impassioned case for collaborative leadership that places listening ahead of top-down political agendas, "One does this, another does that. But if it does not touch the humanity of each and every one of us linked together, then it means absolutely nothing," Dr. Solomon told the gathering. "I call myself a concerned person—I am on point, and I will never give up. Your conversations have helped shape my priorities by listening. I will ensure that I don't take an agenda from Raleigh to you, but take your priorities to them."

In post-event remarks, Dr. Solomon reflected on the necessity of the NAACP-sponsored forum: "Oftentimes this particular community is overlooked, and it's time to engender the help. You do that by inviting them out, letting them see who you are, and hearing their needs. It allows us to see that leadership is a partnership—accountability, responsibility, and the reciprocity of leading."

U.S. Senate candidate Michael Dublin, who stood out in the hall wearing a signature green shamrock blazer designed to fix his name in voters' memories, echoed the urgency of community mobilization as early voting approaches: "This event was well run, and it was excellent to engage with the people of Johnston County," Dublin remarked following the discussion. "It was heartfelt and really powerful. With elections starting next week, we need this. I was impressed to see people that look like us getting involved and stressing how important it is to take part in this process. Malcolm X said in 1964, 'the ballot or the bullet.' I believe it's the ballot and the bullet—and when I say the bullet, I'm talking about our collective organizing, our work, and our power."

The forum spanned every tier of governance, giving voters a rare opportunity to hear localized debate on everyday community services:

First, Legislative Priorities. In the state legislative races, N.C. House candidate Kevin Thurman underscored grassroots transparency, proposing bi-annual town halls rotating through all 10 precincts of his district so transportation-insecure residents are not left out of the legislative process. 13th Congressional District Democratic nominee Paul Berringer highlighted cost-of-living relief, healthcare access, and anti-corruption measures, pledging consistent town halls across partisan lines.

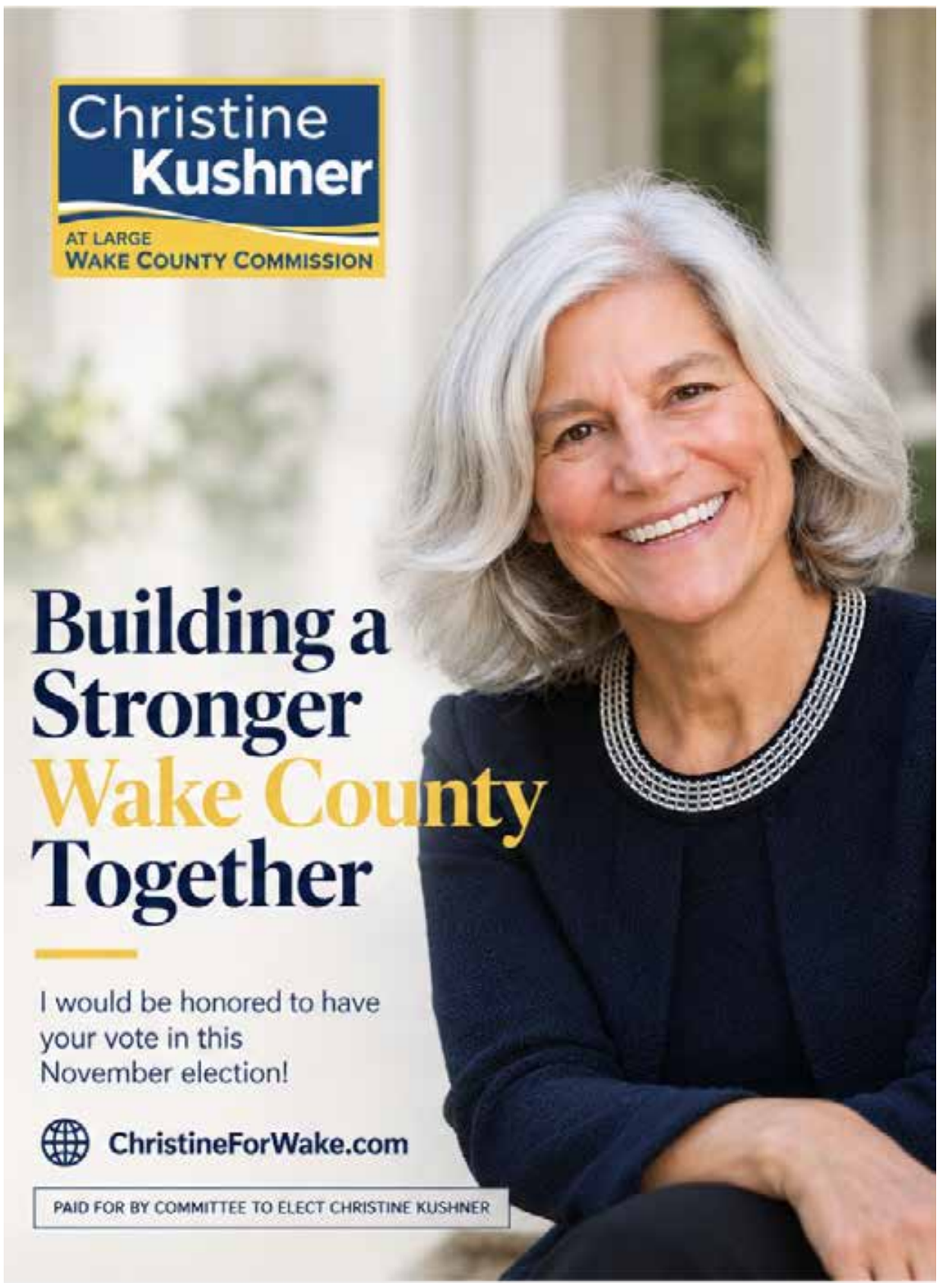
The next focus was Courts and Constitutional Protections. Representatives for incumbent N.C. Supreme Court Justice Anita Earls urged voters to pay close attention to judicial races up and down the ballot, highlighting Earls' decades of civil rights advocacy and her perspective as the sole African American justice on the state's highest court. Johnston County Clerk of Superior Court Michelle Preach Ball addressed courtroom accessibility, highlighting electronic records improvements, translation and disability coordination, and her philosophy of servant leadership grounded in the biblical call to "do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly."

Next, County Governance and Growth. Longtime Johnston County Register of Deeds Craig Olive pointed to his 24-year tenure serving all residents regardless of race, political affiliation, or background, pointing to initiatives such as the "Thank A Vet" discount program and returning $4.7 million in unexpended funds to the county. Johnston County Board of Commissioners candidates, including incumbent Patrick Harris and challenger Will Beard, wrestled with rapid suburban growth, rural water infrastructure, expanded Department of Social Services facilities, and healthcare expansion.

The final issues discussed were Conservation and Environmental Health. Local concerns over safe drinking water, soil protection, and agricultural preservation surfaced prominently during remarks from Soil & Water Conservation candidates and surrogates, including Joe Austin and a representative for candidate Gracie Chambers, who connected water contamination along the Neuse basin directly to cancer risks, developmental health, and rural equity.

Following the moderated questions, attendees had the opportunity to challenge candidates on specific issues including services for Vietnam-era military veterans and courthouse accommodations for persons with disabilities before breaking into an informal hour-long meet-and-greet reception.

With voter registration resources, election guides, and early voting information, and even copies of The Carolinian newspaper distributed throughout the evening, the NAACP branch drove home the broader civic stakes. As attendees departed the auditorium, the sentiment shared by organizers and candidates alike was clear: civic progress across Johnston County will not be determined in distant backrooms, but at the ballot box by informed voters demanding transparency, equity, and public service that works for everyone.



HBCU'S UNDERFUNDED

Continued from page 1

citing federal numbers.

Today, Lincoln's enrollment has fallen to around 2,200 students, down from around 3,400 in 2011 and just a fraction of the approximately 32,000 enrolled on the University of Missouri's Columbia campus, which was roiled by protests in 2015 over racial injustice, leading to the resignation of two top administrators.

"We're not saying they should be funded equally, but they should be funded on parity," said Don Calloway, a former Missouri state lawmaker who leads the 1890 Project. "And the feds funded Lincoln with the proper parity. The problem is that the state made an intentional choice not to match the federal appropriation. And that's where Lincoln really was cheated."

He blames millions in deferred maintenance on some of Lincoln's enrollment woes.

Calloway said he also is talking to state's attorneys general in several other states, including Virginia, Arkansas, Maryland, North Carolina, Alabama and Georgia. Over the decades, lawsuits also have been filed in several of those states over underfunding of HBCUs, including one in Maryland that led to a $577 million settlement.

Missouri is the first legal target

But those lawsuits mostly focused on state-level funding disparities between all HBCUs and non-HBCUs. There are dozens of HBCUs that aren't 1890s land grants, often started by nonprofits and religious groups. Calloway said his legal strategy is focused just on the 1890s schools.

"We expect to negotiate and/or litigate in multiple jurisdictions over the next year," he said. "Missouri is the first."

Herbert Kitchen, a plaintiff whose great-great-grandfather, Caleb Lindsey, was one of the soldiers whose pay founded Lincoln, recalled his residence hall frequently was without heat and hot water when he was a student at Lincoln in the 1980s. Rumors were swirling that the school might close, and he said some employers looked at his degree as "second rate."

Kitchen, a retired California community college administrator, thinks of his great-great grandfather as he fights for Lincoln, a school generations of his family have attended.

"I am," he said, "the hope and dream that my great-grandfather had when he was a slave."

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Business & Finance

High Point: Growth, Equity, and Investing in People

By Jheri Hardaway
Staff Writer

High Point, NC - When people outside the Triad think of High Point, the immediate association is almost always furniture. Now, as North Carolina's second fastest-growing city behind Charlotte, High Point is writing a vibrant new chapter centered on downtown density, equity, grassroots business development, and inclusive community support.

The revitalization of Washington Street, historically recognized as High Point's "Black Wall Street," has been transformative. During segregation, the corridor was the thriving center of the city's Black-owned business community, culture, and social life, anchored by landmarks like William Penn High School. However, like many historic Black business districts across the United States, the area suffered severe disruption from mid-20th-century urban renewal, including highway construction that displaced neighboring families. Through working with nonprofits, conveying properties over to them for development, and investing in programs like "Shop on Washington," The City of High Point has birthed the revitalization of Washington Street. This venture connects directly with Thrive High Point, a minority entrepreneurship initiative founded by Mayor Cyril Jefferson. The initiative received significant backing from High Point University President Dr. Nido Qubein, who provided seed funding to back minority- and women-owned businesses. Dr. Qubein became the seventh president of High Point University in January 2005, and has implemented dozens of strategic growth accomplishments. A subsequent contribution supported the launch of "Shop on Washington," a project designed to transition entrepreneurs into their first brick-and-mortar storefronts.

To ensure long-term municipal solvency, the city leaned heavily into downtown revitalization. Among the major achievements was securing a professional soccer team (Carolina Core FC), which plays at Truist Point Stadium, bringing sustained foot traffic, local jobs, and energy into the city center. Mayor Jefferson shared, "All the big announcements you see about High Point downtown aren't just about making sure people have a fun time on a Friday night," Jefferson said. "Really, what that's about is financial solvency for our city long-term. We want to make sure we pass this city off to our children and grandchildren better than we found it."

High Point established a Special Populations Task Force and earned distinction as the first Certified Autism Destination on the entire East Coast. A Certified Autism Destination (CAD) is a special status awarded by the International Board of Credentialing and Continuing Education Standards (IBCCES) to communities and tourism regions that offer sensory-inclusive accommodations, attractions, and trained hospitality staff. Organizations such as Q's Corner, Extra Special People, and The Arc of High Point have helped establish the city as a welcoming home for individuals and families navigating intellectual and developmental disabilities.

At the same time, community-led violence intervention and grassroots partnerships have contributed to marked declines in violent crime and homicide rates. "That's not just been because our law enforcement does good work," Jefferson emphasized. "It's because communities themselves are doing what they feel is important and empowered to do. When people see themselves in High Point's future, they make choices conducive to being part of that growth."

High Point's momentum was recognized nationally when it was named a 2024 All-America City by the National Civic League, an honor awarded to just 10 communities across the country each year. The award recognized the city's innovative efforts to tackle food insecurity, a critical milestone for a community that ranked among the country's most food-distressed regions a decade ago. Initiatives like Grown in High Point and its "Grow-dega," a retrofitted former public library bookmobile operating as a mobile grocery store, bring fresh produce directly into local food deserts. The recognition also celebrated High Point's community-driven rebrand. Rather than relying on outside consultants, the city invited residents to design and shape the identity themselves, rallying around the theme: "What we create in High Point changes the world."

With national accolades from U.S. News & World Report as one of the best places to live, High Point continues to chart an intentional path forward, one that honors its historic roots while forging an inclusive, forward-looking economy.

For Mayor Cyril Jefferson, that history is personal, and the very reason he is here today. "My mom and stepdad got married, and my stepdad is a furniture upholsterer," Jefferson explained in a recent interview. "In many ways, I'm like so many other people when I say that: furniture brought me to High Point." Born in Utica, New York, but raised in High Point from boyhood, Jefferson graduated from T.W. Andrews High School. His roots in the city run deep: his wife is a fourth-generation High Pointer, making their children fifth-generation residents. After serving on the High Point City Council, Jefferson became the city's mayor, and over his seven years in local government, he has witnessed and spearheaded a profound transformation in the city's economic, cultural, and civic landscape.

Mayor Jefferson emphasized open communication and voluntary engagement: "A community does not have healthy prospects for its future when everyone moves out to the suburbs," Jefferson noted. He pointed out that while core infrastructure was previously operating at roughly 40% of its planned capacity, outward sprawl forced the city to fund costly new services and emergency infrastructure on the periphery. "Every time you have to build a brand-new fire station out on the edge, that's an eight-figure investment in construction, staffing, and maintenance, while your downtown stations sit underutilized." Beyond physical developments and economic indicators, Jefferson points to High Point's investments in human capital and inclusivity as his defining legacy. Great things are happening in High Point.

Last Generation Of Free Thinkers—*CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1*

prove their work and explore ideas. Used thoughtfully, it is a powerful tool.

But a tool that makes thinking easier can also make it tempting to think less.

When a student asks AI to complete an assignment rather than help explain a difficult concept, the immediate objective may be satisfied, but the learning opportunity can be lost. When a reader accepts an AI-generated summary without examining the original material, important context may disappear. When people rely on automated recommendations to guide their choices, they may gradually surrender the curiosity and judgment required to make independent decisions.

The danger is not that artificial intelligence can think faster than humans. It is that humans may become so comfortable outsourcing intellectual effort that they stop exercising their own capacity to think critically.

Throughout history, access to information has never guaranteed understanding. People must still distinguish fact from opinion, evidence from speculation and sound reasoning from persuasive rhetoric. They must be willing to consider that their existing beliefs may be wrong. Those skills require practice.

Free thinkers do not automatically reject accepted ideas simply because they are popular. Nor do they oppose technology merely because it is new. Instead, they ask questions. They seek evidence. They examine motives, recognize uncertainty and remain willing to change their minds when presented with credible information.

That kind of intellectual independence is particularly important in a society where information travels instantly but accuracy is not guaranteed.

Social media platforms can reward outrage. Algorithms may repeatedly expose users to opinions that resemble their own, creating the impression that everyone agrees with them. AI systems can also produce confident-sounding answers that contain errors, omit important perspectives or reflect limitations in their underlying information.

The result can be a dangerous combination: people who encounter enormous amounts of information but have fewer opportunities, or less incentive, to examine it deeply.

There is also a generational concern. Children and young adults growing up with smartphones, online classrooms, algorithmic recommendations and AI assistants may experience technology not as a new convenience but as the default way of understanding the world.

That does not mean younger generations are less intelligent or incapable of independent thought. They possess digital skills and forms of connectivity that previous generations could scarcely imagine. They can organize communities, learn new subjects and challenge powerful institutions using tools unavailable to their predecessors.

The concern is whether those advantages will be accompanied by the patience to read deeply, the discipline to investigate claims and the confidence to form opinions that differ from those of their peers.

Can a person develop a strong, independent perspective without learning to sit with uncertainty? Can someone recognize manipulation without understanding how persuasion works? Can a generation become effective problem-solvers if technology routinely supplies answers before young people have struggled to identify the questions?

These are not arguments against technological progress. They are arguments for using technology without allowing it to replace the intellectual habits that make progress possible.

The consequences extend beyond classrooms and individual choices. Independent thought is essential to a functioning democracy. Citizens must evaluate political promises, scrutinize government decisions and recognize when public officials or powerful interests attempt to manipulate them. They must be able to distinguish a popular position from a defensible one.

History offers countless examples of people who challenged prevailing beliefs at considerable personal cost. Civil rights advocates confronted systems that had been defended as normal and acceptable. Scientists challenged established theories. Journalists investigated institutions that preferred to operate without scrutiny. Community leaders questioned decisions that others were unwilling to challenge.

Progress often begins when someone refuses to accept that things must remain the way they are.

For African American communities in particular, independent thought and intellectual resistance have played critical roles in the struggle for freedom, equality and self-determination. Black newspapers, churches, educators and community organizations have helped people interpret events, question official narratives and organize around shared concerns. These institutions created spaces where ideas could be debated and collective action could take shape.

Our legacy reminds us that information is not simply something to consume. It is something to examine, discuss and use to make informed decisions.

As AI becomes more common in education, journalism, business and public life, the responsibility to preserve those traditions becomes even more important.



Politics & Election News

Black Voters Urged To "Use Your Power" In Midterms

By Cash Michaels
Contributing Writer

With One Stop Early Voting/Same Day Registration officially beginning today across North Carolina (Oct. 15-31st), the common theme for this 2026 midterm election on Nov. 3rd is making a change in order to bring gasoline, food and other cost of living prices down, and choosing which political party in Congress and the NC General Assembly should be in the best position to do that going forward.

For African-Americans and other communities of color, voting in the midterms is considered critical, and many in Black leadership are sending the message that the Black community has power in its vote, and can help to change negative policies for the better.

"The 2026 midterm elections will shape the future of our communities, and it starts with a plan," the national NAACP says on its website. "We, the People" are stronger when we show up together."

As evidenced of that mantra, the website "Word in Black" published an article titled "The Fight for the Black Vote is Already Underway," stating in part, "...some of the nation's most influential Black political and civil rights organizations are pouring money, organizers and old-fashioned shoe leather into an unusually aggressive effort to turn out Black voters — particularly young people, rural residents and people who typically skip elections when the presidency isn't on the ballot."

The "Word in Black" article continued that part of that effort came recently when "...the Congressional Black Caucus Institute launched "SO VOTE," a multimillion-dollar campaign aimed at turning out voters in some of the country's most competitive congressional races."

Another important effort to galvanize the Black vote has been launched by Bishop William Barber,



former president of the NC NAACP.

Today, as president and senior lecturer of Repairer's of the Breach, and co-chair of the Poor People's Campaign, Bishop Barber has launched "100 Days of Voter Mobilization," a national campaign across the country, including North Carolina, designed to encourage a diversity of communities to "organize their households, streets, and organizations to ensure their voices are heard at the polls."

During a recent stop in Ashville, Bishop Barber said "...some folks have let the bear sleep. The bear's awake now," meaning that people of color particularly realize that they have the power through their votes to make the necessary changes needed in public office to help end the corruption and negative policies.

Congressman Jim Clyburn, 86, longtime Democrat from South Carolina, warned African-Americans to focus on issues like affordability when they vote, and not to be "fooled" by President Donald Trump's promises. He also chided the Republican-led Congress for trying to eliminate Black congressional representation through redistricting , including his own long held seat.

Some advocates say because it is crucial that all of the Black community be engaged for the 2026 midterm elections, they're concerned that once again, the effort to make that happen has begun too late.

"For decades, Black voters have been among the most reliable constituencies in American politics, especially for Democrats. But reliability should not be confused with automatic enthusiasm, " cautioned Rev. Aaron Phillips of the Cleveland Clergy Coalition for the website RealPower TV. "I continue to sound the alarm that voter advocacy groups and campaigns wait too late to engage Black Voters. This approach continues to risk turning a dependable base into an under-mobilized one."

"Black voters are not a monolith," Rev. Phillips continued. "Age, geography, gender, education, economic pressure, and trust in political institutions all shape how voters respond in elections. Since Obama, younger Black voters have been showing signs of impatience with traditional appeals based solely on party loyalty or historic civil rights symbolism."

Rev. Phillips concluded, "In 2026, the message is simple: stop taking Black Voters for granted. Black voters should be courted, heard, and respected. Until this message is seriously received, we will continue to face low voter turnout in our community."

The Great Agitator: Golden Frinks' Fight for Civil Rights

By Jordan Meadows
Staff Writer

Golden Asro Frinks spent decades challenging racial segregation, discriminatory public policies, and unequal treatment of African Americans throughout eastern North Carolina and beyond. Known for his forceful organizing style, commitment to nonviolent action, and willingness to face arrest, Frinks became a central figure in several civil rights campaigns that helped reshape public life in communities across the state during the 1960s and 1970s.

Frinks was born on August 15, 1920, in Wampee, South Carolina, to Mark and Kizzie Frinks. When he was about 9 years old, his family moved to Tabor City, North Carolina, where he spent much of his childhood. Accounts of Frinks' early life describe the influence of Fannie Lewis, the mayor's wife, who developed a close relationship with him and exposed him to aspects of the white community's social and civic life that were generally inaccessible to Black children under segregation.

Growing up in North Carolina during the Jim Crow era, Frinks witnessed a society in which racial discrimination affected education, public accommodations, employment, political participation, and access to public services. State and local practices restricted Black residents' access to institutions and opportunities available to white residents. Segregated schools frequently operated with unequal facilities and resources, while discriminatory practices and intimidation limited Black citizens' ability to exercise political power.

As a teenager, Frinks left Tabor City and headed toward Norfolk, Virginia, intending to enter military service. During his journey, he stopped in Edenton, the historic county seat of Chowan County, NC. He found work and remained in the community for several years.



During that period, he became involved in African American civic activities, including the Youth Improvement Society and the Junior Civic League, and developed connections within the local Black community. He also met Mildred Ruth Holley, whom he married in 1942.

Frinks served in the United States military during World War II, including service in the Army as a staff sergeant. His military experience exposed him to the inequalities that persisted between Black and white Americans. After the war, he faced the same racial restrictions that affected Black civilians in the South, including barriers to voting and equal treatment.

Following his military service, Frinks moved to Washington, D.C., where he studied photography at the Scurlock School of Photography using benefits associated with the GI Bill. He also encountered a more organized tradition of civil rights protest. During this period, he became familiar with the work of the NAACP and participated in efforts to challenge discriminatory business practices.

Frinks returned to Edenton in the 1950s and became increasingly active in local civil rights organizing. He worked with the Chowan County branch of the NAACP and served as its secretary. He attended meetings of the Edenton Town Council and the Chowan County commissioners, where he challenged discriminatory practices and called for equal access to public facilities. He also opposed local restrictions on picketing that resulted in arrests of African American demonstrators.

In March 1960, Frinks challenged local reluctance to support a campaign to desegregate a theater in Edenton. According to accounts of the movement, the local NAACP leadership was unwilling to endorse the proposed protest because of concerns about the financial consequences of confronting white business interests. Frinks resigned his position in the local organization and organized demonstrations with young people associated with the NAACP Youth Council.

The theater protest developed into what became known as the Edenton Movement, a series of demonstrations and boycotts aimed at ending segregation in public facilities and institutions. Frinks helped organize young demonstrators, many of them school-age children, who marched and picketed businesses and public spaces.

The movement also brought personal danger to Frinks and his family. Accounts of the period describe threatening telephone calls, racial intimidation, and a burning cross placed on the family's property. A dead rabbit accompanied by a threatening message was reportedly left on the doorstep as a warning against continuing the demonstrations.

The Frinks family home at 122 West Peterson Street in Edenton became known locally as Freedom House. The home hosted numerous civil rights figures, including William M. Kunstler, Diane Nash, James E. Orange, Wyatt Tee Walker, and Hosea L. Williams.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. also visited the Frinks home during his engagement with the North Carolina movement. On Dec. 20, 1962, King spoke at the North Carolina National Guard Armory in Edenton, toured local historic sites, and dined at the Frinks residence. He returned to Edenton on May 8, 1966, when Frinks again hosted him for dinner. The house's role in the movement was formally recognized in 2023, when Freedom House was listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Frinks' frequent confrontations with law enforcement earned him the nickname "The Great Agitator".

Frinks continued to work in rural North Carolina after King's assassination.

In 1969, Frinks led two major marches to broaden public awareness of the Hyde County boycott. One march traveled from Swan Quarter toward Raleigh, while another, known as the Mountaintop to Valley March, traveled from Asheville toward the state capital. The effort culminated in a November 1969 referendum in which Hyde County voters approved funding needed to desegregate Mattamuskeet School.

The victory was followed by controversy. North Carolina Gov. Robert Scott called for an investigation by the State Bureau of Investigation into allegations that Frinks had misused money donated to support the boycott.

Frinks continued to advocate for communities facing discrimination beyond the immediate demands of school desegregation.

In April 1973, he assisted the Tuscarora Indians of Robeson County in a campaign for tribal recognition and federal assistance; He led a march to the North Carolina state capitol in Raleigh about the treatment of Native American communities in North Carolina; He participated in the Wilmington Movement of 1978.

Over the course of his career, Frinks received recognition from civil rights and community organizations for his activism. Honors included the Chowan County NAACP Achievement Award, the Edenton Movement Service Award, the Rosa Parks Award, the North Carolina Black Leadership Caucus Award, the Hyde County NAACP President's Award, and recognition from the SCLC. He also received a resolution from the Georgia General Assembly.

Frinks died in Edenton in 2004, at the age of 83.

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LEGAL AID GROUPS SUE

Continued from page 2

Some lawmakers also raised concerns about what the freeze was doing to certain legal services, such as domestic violence and human trafficking victim services. They questioned whether some money could be released for Legal Aid who provides aid in those two areas while continuing to investigate other grants.

An April 2026 audit commissioned by lawmakers, and completed by the office of Republican State Auditor Dave Boliek, found that IOLTA's grants complied with eligibility requirements but faulted the program for inadequate oversight after the money was awarded. Auditors said IOLTA did not independently verify enough of grantees' reported spending and outcomes to provide reasonable assurance that roughly $30.3 million was used as intended.

The State Bar noted in its response that the audit did not identify any instance of a grantee misappropriating or misusing funds. The auditor recommended stronger monitoring and independent verification of spending and outcomes.

The General Assembly seemed to ultimately choose a different course, redirecting the future IOLTA revenue entirely.

What the funding loss means for Helene recovery

For Pisgah Legal Services, which serves 18 western North Carolina counties, the funding change comes as the region continues its recovery from Hurricane Helene two years later.

The organization got more than $1.8 million in IOLTA funding during the last full grant cycle before the freeze, according to the lawsuit. That included a $700,000 special grant for legal needs created by Helene.

Jackie Kiger, executive director of Pisgah Legal Services, said IOLTA represented roughly 10 percent to 15 percent of the organization's budget and supported work ranging from housing and public benefits appeals, to domestic violence and disaster recovery.

"Our budget is personnel. Essentially, it is the people," Kiger said in an interview when the budget was passed in July.

Pisgah receives hundreds of calls every week from people seeking help across its service area, Kiger said. Losing IOLTA funding ultimately means fewer attorneys and advocates available to take those cases.

"It's less people we can serve — that's the truth of it. We have to maintain our staff, and we need our funding in order to do that," Kiger said.

"Nonprofits face funding challenges frequently, and certainly, these last couple of years have been the hardest. But what I emphasize for Pisgah is that we have been through the hurricane. In addition to all the other challenges that you face as a nonprofit, we have really been a resource to our community," she continued.

The lawsuit estimates Pisgah will serve at least 3,500 fewer people each year as a result of the IOLTA changes.

Kiger, who is an attorney and social worker, said she sees that loss of legal services as a public health issue.

IOLTA funding has supported work aimed at keeping people housed, helping survivors of intimate partner violence and child abuse, securing public benefits and protecting household income — problems often described as social determinants of health.

Those needs became even more acute after Helene. Some of the first sources of funding support for Hurricane Helene recovery came from the state's IOLTA fund to Pisgah Legal Services and to Legal Aid of North Carolina, according to Kiger.

Pisgah has helped residents with FEMA claims and appeals, housing problems, insurance disputes, scams and other legal problems created or exacerbated by the storm.

Kiger said the organization handled "hundreds and hundreds" of FEMA appeals after Helene.

"We've met people who have yet to receive any assistance or know where the assistance was in the last couple of months, and that to me is very compelling. There's a lot of folks that still haven't been reached, and we need the funding and the people to be able to reach them," Kiger said.

The problems have continued as western North Carolina rebuilds. Pisgah has encountered renters living with mold and water damage after temporary repairs, homeowners struggling with insurance claims and older adults targeted by scammers, Kiger said.

"Long-term recovery with people who've lost their homes, their resources, income, or who've been impacted in other ways from Helene — that is also at stake," Kiger said.

Pisgah appealed directly to legislators representing western North Carolina in July, explaining those stakes in an email sent to what she said she believed was every member of the western North Carolina delegation. The email outlined Pisgah's work and warned about the consequences of losing IOLTA.

"The people most affected would be your constituents," Kiger wrote.

Kiger told NC Health News she heard back from some lawmakers, but not all. She did not say which legislators responded.

During floor debate over the budget, Sen. Julie Mayfield, (D-Asheville), raised similar concerns. She pointed specifically to the roughly $2 million Pisgah stood to lose and the $700,000 that had supported Helene recovery.

"Who is going to help those people now?" Mayfield asked.

Health & Wellness

Hospitals Have a Little-Known Tool To Prevent Medical Debt For Patients

KFF Health News—If you have medical debt, there's a good chance you owe money to a hospital.

One way patients can avoid medical debt is through hospital financial assistance, also known as charity care. Most of the nation's hospitals offer free or discounted medical care to patients with very high medical debt or low incomes.

Getting financial assistance, however, can be challenging. Many patients don't know that hospitals offer financial help, surveys show, and complex application forms leave others stymied.

Hospitals often demand that applicants turn over bank statements, pay stubs, tax returns, divorce filings, or other materials, and submit their applications in person, by mail, or by fax.

"They don't make it easy," said Neale Mahoney, a Stanford University economist who studies medical debt.

Such hurdles leave many patients with unpaid bills they should never have had to pay in the first place. In a single year, hospitals and health systems billed patients for at least $2 billion that they likely didn't owe, one analysis found.

As healthcare costs climb and more people lose their coverage, states and hospitals are testing an emerging approach to fix this problem: automatically screening patients to see if they qualify for assistance and proactively wiping out debt when they do. This is known as "presumptive eligibility."

Under this approach, patients may have the cost of their care wiped out before they see any bills — but not always. Hospitals differ on when, how, and for whom they use auto-enrollment, potentially impinging on patients' finances.

Here's what you need to know about how auto-enrollment works.

What is hospital financial assistance?

I many states, hospitals set their own criteria for whom they provide financial aid. Eligibility is typically based on income for the patient's entire household. The closer patients are to poverty, the less they have to pay. Patients with middle incomes and insurance are sometimes eligible for discounts, especially if their bills would gobble up a big chunk of what they earn.

At least 11 states require hospitals to wipe out bills for low-income patients, though income cutoffs vary. Georgia, for example, mandates free care for anyone with income slightly above the federal threshold for poverty. In several states — including Oregon, North Carolina, and Maryland — patients can earn double that amount and still get free care.

But in most states, many patients must complete applications to receive assistance.

Several states in recent years have launched investigations and passed legislation designed to make it easier for people to get help. Research into medical debt, however, suggests gaps persist.

How many hospitals use auto-enrollment?

Nearly all nonprofit hospitals say they screen and automatically reduce bills for certain patients.

Under the Affordable Care Act, nonprofit hospitals must make reasonable efforts to find people who are eligible for help before they take patients to court, sell their debt to collection agencies, or ding their credit over bills. Presumptive eligibility is one way hospitals can comply with the regulation, which took effect in 2016.

In the first year under the new rules, about 70% of tax-exempt hospitals nationwide said they screened patients and proactively reduced bills, according to an analysis of federal data for Tradeoffs by the independent research institute RTI International. As of 2022, that figure was nearly 90%.

The federal law doesn't apply to for-profit and public hospitals, which don't have to report the actions they take before going after patients for unpaid bills.

In six states, policymakers require hospitals to use presumptive eligibility and skip applications for certain patients. Those states are California, Delaware, Illinois, Maryland, North Carolina, and Oregon.

Who is eligible to be automatically enrolled in financial assistance?

In most states, hospitals decide which patients can skip the application.

Common groups automatically screened include people who are homeless, deceased, or already enrolled in state or federal programs to help low-income households with housing, food, or prescriptions. Other hospitals have more unique criteria, like Christus Health, which will write off bills for anyone in a religious order who took a vow of poverty.

Eligibility criteria are often buried in official policies and hard to find or decipher. Some hospitals share little to no public information about whom they will proactively screen. Thirteen hospitals owned by Ascension, one of the nation's largest Catholic health systems, state only that they may screen patients "with a sufficient unpaid balance."

Across the half-dozen states with presumptive eligibility mandates,

(See *MEDICAL DEBT,* P. 7)

Study: New Prostate Cancer Imaging Outperforms Biopsies For Diagnosis

Karl Hille

Baltimore Sun

A new study by the Medical University of Vienna found that a specialized form of imaging could identify 91% of prostate cancer cases without the need for a biopsy.

Traditionally, a blood test can indicate the possibility of prostate cancer, but a diagnosis has long depended on a tissue sample through an outpatient procedure.

The imaging technique starts with a positron emission tomography (PET) scan using a small amount of a radioactive substance that binds to a tissue abundant in prostate cancer cells. This allows the cancer to be imaged precisely with a computed tomography scan.

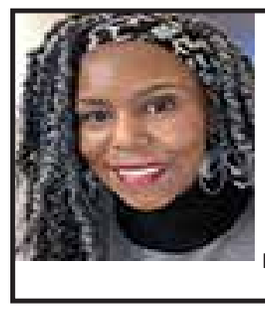
In a study of 194 patients, the technology successfully diagnosed 70 of 77 cases of prostate cancer. The test was equally capable of identifying patients with no clinically significant tumor present.

In those without an active tumor, the test effectively predicted future tumors in 23 of 24 patients who developed prostate cancer in the 35 months following their scan.

"Our results show that [this scan] may be able to provide valuable information at a very early stage of the diagnostic work-up. The high diagnostic value of a normal result is particularly relevant here. In future, this could help to make better decisions about which patients actually require a biopsy," study lead Marcus Hacker said in a statement.

They published their work in the new journal The Lancet Medical Imaging and Theranostics.

The test could eliminate many unnecessary biopsies, the authors wrote, but more study will be needed to integrate the test into medical treatment.



The Golden Years

By Judykay Jefferson

AGING AND AI

As you know, I am a fan of AI. I have encouraged its use by our contemporaries as a tool to make life easier. I use it daily for tasks like recipe development and scaling, creation of shopping lists, research on all types of things. I use CoPilot for cooking and writing, Claude and Grok for creative projects and image generation, and lately ChapGPT for something that has been life changing.

I was scrolling through Threads and saw a post giving five high-end prompts (a prompt is what you say to AI to get it to do what you want). One was, Act as my brutal shadow self. Based on everything you know about how I prompt you, tell me the three self-sabotaging patterns I keep repeating, why I'm stuck, and what I'm too scared to admit. No sugarcoating.

I knew this was going to be deep when the response began with, You asked for the brutal version, so I'm not going to flatter you. What followed was based upon my requests and queries that revealed an undeniable pattern of diverse interest and multidimensional creativity without a history of completion. In other words, actually in ChatGPT's words, I'm stuck in a loop of remarkable ideas, requests for the next layer, only to be replaced, unfinished by a bevy of new ideas. Productive Procrastination wearing a very nice outfit, disguised as progress.

Wow! Nobody I know would have said that to me. I could have gone to a therapist or life coach and not gotten that type of bottom line assessment. Anyone I asked would have been limited to what I shared with them. And although they would have tried not to get emotionally sucked in, my kind, happy, seventy-three year old face would have softened their response. Not so with ChatGPT. That response reminded me of something traditionally spoken at AA meeting. Participants are asked to do a "fearless moral inventory" of themselves. In other words, look at those secret thoughts, hidden behaviors, buried feelings that are sabotaging any efforts toward change. Substance addicts are not the only ones who need to come fact-to-face with themselves.

My life is a hoarder's house of unfinished projects. I stumble over the remnants of great ideas mired in the getting-ready phase. What I have reluctantly accepted is that much, if not all of this was an attempt to fill the empty space of a life lived mostly alone. The unsold Mary Kay products, the unsewn fabric, the ball of yarn, shelves both inside and out of containers, baking equipment, catering supplies, packaging, gardening, you name it, absorb the sounds bounced against bare walls. I don't like clutter, but I create it everywhere I go. Subconsciously, I must think it would be so sad to maintain a perfectly organized space where nobody ever came. Company ready; no company.

It's not a love of stuff. It's the activity of acquisition rooted in the fear of stagnation. I was taught that for intelligent people, there was always something to do. So, I'm always doing something, planning something, preparing something. And now, at seventy three, I'm committed to landing the plane. This week, I submitted cookies to the State Fair competition. I will copywrite a children's book and a digital series on seasonings, complete with digital publishing. I will establish a new business complete with website, a new email address, and offer my services online. All of this will happen in addition to baking and serving 7 dozen cookies as I do weekly, writing and submitting this column, and planning my next volunteer service for October 24th. As I write this, I'm wondering if I'm trying to outrun death, or at least aging. And I have a full-time job. Maybe if I keep moving, I can age more gracefully, stay healthier, and make up for lost time.

For as long as I can remember, I have felt tossed to and fro by the winds of life. At least at this moment, I feel that seeing ChatGPT's "brutal" analysis has cut through the fog of busyness to reveal the real-life potential of both success and failure for every risk taken. I'm no longer afraid of losing or winning. I'm willing to take chances, be judged, rejected, accepted, rewarded, whatever. Each experiences teaches something and I'm up for it.

Thanks, ChatGPT. AI is not the source of human potential. It is a tool that can help us recognize, organize, develop, and act on that potential. It's not your friend. It is a resource created to serve a purpose designed by you.



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Arts & Culture

Wilson Celebrates G.K. Butterfield With Museum Portrait

By Jordan Meadows

Staff Writer

On September 26, former United States Congressman George Kenneth "G.K." Butterfield was honored with the unveiling of a portrait at the Oliver Nestus Freeman Round House and African American Museum in Wilson, NC, recognizing his longstanding support for preserving African American history.

A crowd of approximately 400 people gathered for the unveiling of the large portrait, painted by artist Simmie Lee Knox. City, state, and national elected officials joined residents of Wilson for the ceremony. Butterfield donated his congressional portrait to the museum, where it will be displayed as part of a new 2,200-square-foot expansion valued at $800,000.



The event served as a soft opening for the museum's expanded facilities, with a larger celebration planned for February 2027. The museum, located on Nash Street, is dedicated to documenting and preserving the history and experiences of African Americans in Wilson. The expansion will provide additional space to present the stories, documents, photographs, and artifacts that illustrate the contributions and experiences of African Americans in Wilson and eastern North Carolina.

Butterfield, who represented North Carolina's First Congressional District for 18 years, retired from Congress on December 31, 2022. During his time in the House of Representatives, he played an important role in securing federal funding for the museum.

"I am absolutely honored and overwhelmed with this program today," Butterfield said during the ceremony. "This is my 'hood.' This is where I grew up. Our city has come a long way."

Butterfield had worked with members of the community in the late 1990s to establish the museum. In addition to helping secure support for the museum, Butterfield has contributed documents, ephemera and historical artifacts to its collections.

Several elected officials and community leaders attended the portrait unveiling to recognize Butterfield's public service and his continued involvement in Wilson.

North Carolina Representative Dante Pittman described him as "our forever congressman", adding that he continued to work for the future of the community. "He continues to lift up all people. In this time in our country, we need people who represent all people."

Wilson Mayor Carlton Stevens described Butterfield as a significant figure in the city's development.

"Congressman Butterfield understood that the future of Wilson depended on its support of the people," Stevens said.

Wilson Mayor Pro Tem Michael Bell also recognized Butterfield's contributions, saying the former congressman had helped transform the community and remained engaged with residents.

Other speakers included Milton F. "Toby" Fitch Jr., Butterfield's former law partner, a former North Carolina senator and a retired Superior Court judge. James Andrew Wynn, a United States Court of Appeals judge and another former law partner, also spoke at the event.

United States Representative Don Davis, who succeeded Butterfield in representing North Carolina's First Congressional District, thanked his predecessor for his service to eastern North Carolina. United States Representative James E. Clyburn of South Carolina also paid tribute to Butterfield, recalling that Butterfield was sworn into Congress on Clyburn's birthday. Clyburn credited Butterfield with helping him become the first African American to serve multiple terms as majority whip in the United States House of Representatives.

The portrait unveiling was sponsored by the United States Capitol Historical Society, a nonprofit organization chartered by Congress in 1978 to promote greater understanding of the United States Capitol and its history, including fostering and increasing informed patriotism.

In 2022, Butterfield donated a substantial collection of personal and professional records to the University Libraries at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. The materials are to form part of the Southern Historical Collection at the Wilson Special Collections Library, where researchers, students and members of the public can access documents relating to his family, legal career, political service and the history of Wilson's African American community.

Explaining his decision to transfer the collection to the university, he said: "I'm 74 years old, approaching 75 years old, and I know it's time for me to release this valuable trove of information to somebody who can appreciate it, who can preserve it and share it."

Butterfield took photographs during congressional business and diplomatic trips abroad, eventually accumulating more than 20,000 images. He also collected memorabilia from important events during Obama's two terms in office, including obtaining the president's autograph on occasions when they attended significant gatherings together.

According to university archivists, the collection offers a distinctive perspective on the Obama presidency and provides important material for understanding the development of Wilson's Black community, voting rights issues in North Carolina, and the state's political history.

After completing his undergraduate and law degrees at North Carolina Central University and serving in the United States Army, he returned to Wilson to establish a law practice. During the 1980s, he worked on voting rights litigation as cooperating counsel with the NAACP Legal Defense Fund. His public service subsequently included election as a Superior Court judge in November 1988 and an appointment to the North Carolina Supreme Court by Governor Mike Easley in 2001.

In 2023, the Wilson City Council voted to rename the city's downtown train station in his honor.

Invisible Generals By Doug Melville

By Jheri Hardaway

Staff Writer

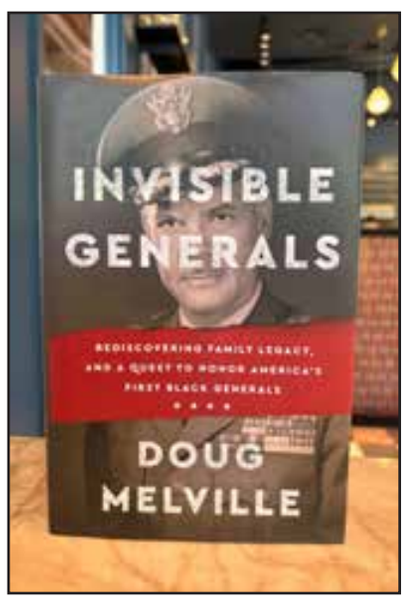
When was the last time you read a book that made you feel like you were there? The type of text where you felt the energy of those in the story and walked in their shoes? Invisible Generals by Doug Melville takes you there. This American story follows the lives of Louis Patrick Henry Davis, Benjamin "Ollie" Oliver Davis Sr., Benjamin Oliver Davis Jr., Lawrence "Larry" Scott Melville, and author Doug Melville. From the late 1800s to today, this Black American family's five generations have impacted our world, our government, and our American military in ways we still feel today.

A recurring theme of the book is that many of us come from impactful legacies, but the frustrating element is that our stories aren't told. As a matter of fact, our histories are often hidden. At times, it is even invisible in plain sight. Invisible Generals articulates this sentiment as the author asks, "How many stories like that of the victorious, 'Top Gun' pilots remain lost to the past? How many heroes are we lacking, whose example could inspire and improve us as individuals, and as a nation?" Invisible Generals stands in that gap and explains not only the experience of the father-and-son military Dynasty, but also the story of the author, Doug Melville, who has made major waves in advertising and DEI initiatives on a global scale.

The story of the invisible Generals Ben Davis Sr. and Ben Davis Jr. makes the read worthwhile and deserves much more attention in popular culture. From the Buffalo Soldiers to the Tuskegee Airmen, even the national speed limit, and TSA. There is so much to explore about the contributions of these great men. One of the highlights of the story was when Ben Sr., known affectionately in the text as Ollie, returned from deployment in 1920 to teach military science and tactics at Tuskegee Institute. Ollie and his second wife, whom his children called "Mother Sadie," made their way to Tuskegee, which was an educational oasis in a sea of Alabama's hotbed of racism.

The family was informed that the Ku Klux Klan planned to march past the institute, which had advised employees to stay inside with the lights off to avoid confrontation. Ben Jr. recalled the incident from his childhood, "But as a Regular Army officer, my father refused to cower behind closed doors. Furthermore, he believed that the entire Davis family should make known its opinions of the Klan by staying visible and not hiding in the shadows. On the night of the Klan, therefore, Mother Sadie, my two sisters, and I sat quietly on our porch, my father resplendent in his white dress uniform, and the rest of us viewing the parade with some concern about what might happen when the Klansmen marched by. Our porch light was the only light to be seen for miles around except for the flaming torches of the Klansmen, who passed by on the street only a few feet from where we sat. Also resplendent in white robes, masks, and hoods-they passed by without incident."

The thoughtful and intentional imagery of Invisible Generals is truly timely as we face renewed hate and bigotry in our current embattled political climate. What Melville writes of his ancestors' time in the classroom you also find from the author in this book, "Both Ollie and Ben were experienced teachers and had much to offer in the way of information. But what their students received was above and beyond the required instruction: they received inspiration and encouragement from two men they considered heroes ... the students needed this interaction to understand what had elevated these two strong, smart men." Very much inspiring and insightful, the book Invisible Generals packs the same punch as the men who influenced Melville. He got it honest.



As Ben Jr. grew up, he continued to model the steadfastness of his father. General Davis Jr attended West Point and famously was not spoken to by a soul on campus for four years. When he was accepted to study at West Point, they were not aware he was Black and ostracized him for his entire matriculation. He excelled regardless, only receiving negative marks in classes that required a partner because no one would talk or work with him.

Buried Black achievement is nothing new, but to read about it in Invisible Generals gives life to our hidden heroes and inspires perseverance in our everyday experiences.

There are many key takeaways for people to process from this book, but I'd like to focus on two. One, after a distinguished military and government career, General Ben Davis was not promoted to a four-star general (retired) until 1998 by President Bill Clinton. The author explains, "Unfortunately, I don't have the income amounts for a three-or four-star general during Ben's years of service, but we can look at current Air Force pensions, which are typically based on years of experience and other criteria. Retired three-star generals' annual pension is about $189,792, versus the $215,104 of four-star generals, a $25,312 difference. One can surmise the gap was similar back then. If you multiply these amounts by the number of years Ben would've been paid that money in retirement, thirty-four years, this totals an extra $860,608. When you factor in other benefits—medical coverage, a housing allowance, and so forth—this is why I refer to it as the "million-dollar star." It represents the financial compensation Ben should've received if he'd been promoted back in the 1960s, until his death in 2002. That income increase would have changed not only Ben and Agatha's lifestyle and retirement but also the financial freedom of the whole family."

The final takeaway is in "Part II: Becoming a Visible General," where the author outlines "Strategies to Seize Your Destiny." These tangible tips are largely timeless action steps to help people find their way in family research as well as career.

I highly recommend Invisible Generals for anyone interested in American history, family history, and naturally, military history. This read is an adventure you can feel and respect. Fortunately, there is more to come. Doug Melville has another book coming out in January about the Invisible Senators who led the South during America Reconstruction.

Wake Co. Public Libraries Help Residents Uncover Family History

Tracing a family tree or curious about the stories behind the people and places that shaped the community? Wake County Public Libraries offers resources to help residents explore family histories and connect with the community's past.

Olivia Raney Local History Library, the system's local history and genealogy branch, houses more than 100 archival collections representing local people and families, community organizations, businesses, religious and political groups, schools and more. The collections include unique materials like documents, letters, photographs, diaries and scrapbooks.

Researchers can also explore historic maps, bound newspapers, microfilmed copies of The News & Observer and Raleigh Times, city directories, cookbooks, yearbooks and tax records. While the collection focuses on Wake County, the library also collects local history and genealogy books from North Carolina and neighboring states, including Virginia, Tennessee and South Carolina.

The library offers several resources for people beginning or continuing genealogical research, including:

- Four computers dedicated to genealogical research
- Access to special collections
- Two microfilm readers that can be used to research the library's collections and outside microfilm, including veterans' records
- Special access to FamilySearch.org, which means that many records locked to patrons at home can be unlocked at the library
- ArchivesSpace, a searchable database of finding aids for the library's archival collections
- Preservica, which provides access to digitized documents and images, oral histories and handwritten materials transcribed by library staff

Visitors can use Ancestry.com for free on computers at all Wake County libraries.

Interested in getting started with genealogy but don't know where to start? Genealogy and Local Family History 101, a program designed to introduce participants to genealogy resources and research techniques, takes place from 7-8 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 28, at Northeast Regional Library. The program is free, but registration is required.

Help Preserve Wake County's History

Residents can play a role in preserving the community's history. The library accepts yearbooks from Wake County and surrounding-area schools, as well as local history and genealogy books. Archival materials such as diaries, letters and photographs should document Wake County history. Reach out to lib.orl.researchquestions@wake.gov to learn more.

Olivia Raney Local History Library also invites residents to share oral histories, which can preserve personal stories and experiences from across the community. Interviews can be any length and topic. Use this form to get started.

Additional genealogy resources are available through Wake County Public Libraries' Genealogy Resources guide.







Raleigh Celebrates 50 Years Of Capital Area Greenways

By Jheri Hardaway
Staff Writer



Raleigh, NC — If you take to the paved paths of Raleigh's Capital Area Greenway network, you can journey more than 120 miles without ever leaving dedicated parkland, a distance that rivals traveling from downtown Raleigh straight to Wrightsville Beach, Concord, or across state lines to Dillon, South Carolina. It is a singular, nationally revered municipal footprint that has long established the City of Oaks as the cradle of the modern American greenway movement.

On Thursday, October 8th, civic champions, pioneering planners, trail designers, and everyday advocates gathered at the City of Raleigh Museum for a landmark milestone: the Raleigh Greenways 50th Anniversary Celebration. The evening opened with a reception for the museum's archival exhibition, "The Park with a City in It: 50 Years of the Raleigh Greenway System," followed by an in-depth retrospective panel entitled "Celebrating 50 Years of Raleigh Greenways: Past, Present, and Future".

The gathering, framed by Mayor Janet Cowell's official proclamation designating Raleigh Greenways Week, brought together the key voices who planned, built, and championed the trails across five decades. Their shared refrain was unmistakable: Raleigh's trail system is not merely asphalt, wood, and concrete; it is the living legacy of an intentional, enduring "we mentality."

"Whenever I tell folks I'm the parks director, seven out of ten times people immediately say, 'I love your greenways,'" said Raleigh Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources Director Stephen Bentley in his opening remarks. "We stand on the shoulders of so many men and women who got us here. It took an entire community and a whole city."

Raleigh's trail network, which now anchors a broader regional web of roughly 250 miles throughout Wake County, was born out of the restless civic activism of the late 1960s and early 1970s. As the environmental movement and civil rights organizing swept the country, local advocates sought concrete ways to put progressive ideas into practice on the ground. The conceptual spark ignited in 1967, when landscape architect Lewis Clarke proposed in the Raleigh Times that the city preserve its stream valleys as protective "green fingers" for recreation and vital flood mitigation along Crabtree Creek. The idea took functional form in 1972 through Bill Flournoy, then an N.C. State University graduate student, whose seminal master's thesis provided the actionable blueprint showing how a municipality could acquire riparian floodplains and transform them into interconnected public park corridors. When author Charles Little penned his definitive work Greenways for America, he cited Flournoy's groundbreaking framework and termed Raleigh the epicenter of the movement.

Translating lines on paper into continuous public trails required daring field decisions and innovative municipal policy. Panelist Chuck Flink, an award-winning planner, landscape architect, and author of The Greenway Imperative who served as a Raleigh greenway planner from 1984 to 1986, recalled the scrappy ingenuity of the early days. While engineering the Rocky Branch Trail near Western Boulevard, Flink recalled walking with survey flags directly ahead of clearing bulldozers. Later, after drafting field designs back in the office, he arrived on-site to find the construction crew had already finished paving the trail through their own resourcefulness. "The planners took on the hard work of taking this grand vision and going door-to-door, convincing skeptical landowners that a public trail in their backyard was an asset, not a detriment," Flink shared.

The system's longevity was also secured by early municipal foresight under leaders like former Mayor Tom Bradshaw, whose administration established flood-prone easement dedications before dense subdivisions could hem in the waterways. Civic financing followed. Panelist Sig Hutchinson, former chair of the Wake County Board of Commissioners, recounted the crusade to move greenway funding from ad-hoc local efforts to large-scale public investment. Over his public career, Hutchinson helped lead eight successful bond referendums totaling more than $700 million across Wake County and the City of Raleigh for open space, transit, and parks—beginning with a $15 million open space bond in 2000 that passed with 76 percent voter approval.

Throughout the evening, panelists paid heartfelt tribute to the late Vic Lebsock, a revered city greenway planner and landscape architect who passed away in 2025. Lebsock was instrumental in expanding Raleigh's network from roughly 30 miles to over 100 miles, including the completion of the 32-mile Neuse River Greenway Trail.

"Ribbon-cuttings are always bittersweet, because those of us who spend years doing the surveys, engineering the bridges, and securing the easements are so often forgotten once the trail opens," reflected panelist Iona Thomas, AICP, Chief Strategy Officer at McAdams and co-founder of the Great Trails State Coalition. Thomas served as project manager for the Neuse River Trail, an effort stretching from the base of Falls Dam to Clayton that required eight bridges, including two dramatic suspension spans. Also, negotiations with over 100 private landowners! "Vic Lebsock was with us through that entire journey. What he taught us is still being passed down to every planner we mentor today."

Lisa Schiffbauer, an engineering supervisor who has spent nearly two decades with Raleigh Parks guiding capital improvement projects, highlighted the quiet patience required behind every milestone. She pointed to long-horizon achievements like the Crabtree Creek West Trail connecting to William B. Umstead State Park, a corridor 15 years in the making before trail construction could even begin.

Moderated by Raleigh Parks Assistant Director Adam Forman, the discussion doubled down on the trail's human element. Panelist Jared Harmer, executive director of Oaks and Spokes and co-founder of Oak City Cycling, noted how the greenway transforms community life. Harmer created the popular "Neuse Goose"—a 200-kilometer self-supported cycling ride down and back along the Neuse River Trail that has drawn more than a thousand participants.

Yet for Harmer, the system's true magic lies in everyday, unscripted moments: "Seeing a kid on the creek holding up a fresh catch with a huge smile, or watching wildlife along the stream banks on an afternoon commute. That's what proves this infrastructure belongs to all of us."

With anniversary walks, historic tours, and volunteer efforts underway throughout the month, Raleigh marks its golden greenway jubilee not just by looking back at the miles completed, but by celebrating the community dedication that built every foot of the journey.

Southeast Raleigh Promise Celebrates 10 Years With "Love Is Local" Event



RALEIGH, N.C. (October 11, 2026) - What is possible when people who live, work, learn, build and invest in themselves and their families in the same community take the time to break bread together and get to know one another? That question was at the heart of the Love Is Local Raleigh Sunday Supper, where Southeast Raleigh Promise celebrated 10 years of community impact by bringing residents, businesses, and partners together around the table to reflect on the promises they've fulfilled - and invite the community to help shape what's next.

The organization's impact was recently highlighted during a press conference held with N.C. Gov. Josh Stein at its first rental home completed as part of their 25-unit small-scale development being built on nine parcels in Southeast Raleigh. In May, Stein legislation that included expanded access and higher-density development, making similar growth possible in more communities across the state.

Held at the Beacon Campus along Rock Quarry Road on Sunday, October 11, the gathering marked a decade of Southeast Raleigh Promise, Raleigh-Wake County's first Purpose Built Communities initiative, working alongside residents and partners to strengthen and expand opportunities in cradle to career education, economic mobility, mixed-income affordable housing, and health and community wellness. Rather than a traditional anniversary gala, the Sunday Supper embraced the warmth of a shared meal and a welcoming space for people to meet their neighbors, discover shared interests and strengthen the relationships that define a community and help the people who call Southeast Raleigh home grow, thrive, and prosper.

"Ten years ago, Southeast Raleigh Promise began with a promise. Today, we're surrounded by the people, businesses, students, families and partners who continue to give that promise meaning," said Southeast Raleigh Promise CEO Yvette Holmes, opening the event. "This celebration is not only about looking back at what we've accomplished, but it's about looking ahead to what more we can do to uplift our community together to grow opportunities along the Rock Quarry Road Corridor.

The centerpiece of the event was a Community Front Porch Conversation, moderated by Holmes and Southeast Raleigh native Desmond Dunn and joined by community partners and residents who shared stories of impact over the past 10 years and closed with a look at what's next for Southeast Raleigh Promise.

From educational support and entrepreneurship to housing stability and neighborhood connections, the organization's work is rooted in a simple belief: lasting progress happens when communities help shape their own futures.

The supper put that belief on display by celebrating the local businesses and cultural institutions that help make Southeast Raleigh unique. Cafe Orleans, a member of the Rock Quarry Road Corridor Small Business Alliance, provided the food, while JUICED!, another Small Business Alliance member, created and served signature juice beverages. A small business coming soon to Rock Quarry Road, Ms. B's Bakery, brought sweet treats for dessert. The North Carolina Central University Jazz Ensemble provided the soundtrack for an afternoon backdrop of hospitality, connection and pride.

As Southeast Raleigh Promise continues to reflect on its first 10 years throughout October, the focus reaches beyond the anniversary itself, Holmes said. The organization is looking ahead to the next chapter of community-led progress in an era of change, with residents, families, students, entrepreneurs and partners continuing to help define the opportunities and priorities that will shape the next decade of Southeast Raleigh's story.



Wake County Omegas Donate Items for Homeless Veterans

By Eric Curry
Contributor

Garner, N.C. - A local chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Incorporated recently donated toiletries and other essential personal care items for veterans in need, in the Wake County area.

Members of the Xi Mu Mu Chapter, of Omega Psi Phi recently delivered the items to officials at the Garner Veterans Affairs Clinic, in Garner. In total, the items collected was valued at approximately $2,500. Additionally, the chapter also donated an additional amount of clothing valued at $500.

The effort is extremely important to chapter, which consists of several veterans representing all branches of the military.

The Xi Mu Mu Chapter, as well as the fraternity internationally, have placed a focus on increasing support for not only veterans, but for those who currently serve in the Armed Forces.

Photo Attached: Kendra Monden, Chief of Civic Engagement for the Durham VA Health Care System, accepts the donated items from veterans and chapter brothers Steve Wright (far left) and Alvin Thompson (right).

Medical Debt—*CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5*

eligibility rules vary. Maryland, for example, requires hospitals to proactively wipe out bills only for patients who already get government help for food or utilities but are ineligible for Medicaid. In Illinois, lawmakers created less-stringent requirements for rural hospitals compared with urban facilities.

In Oregon, starting in 2024, hospitals had to screen anyone who owed more than $500 and every patient on Medicaid or who is uninsured. In 2025, roughly 80% of Oregon patients who got financial help with bills never filled out an application, based on data shared publicly by the first 26 hospitals to do so. The state's legislature this year raised the screening threshold to include patients who owe at least $1,500 for a single visit.

Without an application, how do hospitals figure out who gets help?

Hospitals have several ways to find patients eligible for financial assistance.

Typically, hospitals turn to public records, any information patients have previously volunteered, or tools from consumer credit companies to estimate whether patients qualify to have bills reduced.

For example, if a hospital sees that a patient lives in a high-poverty ZIP code or has no address listed, that could be enough to deem them eligible. Many pay companies to run employment and credit checks on patients to determine whether they qualify for free care.

Hospitals may also consider how likely patients are to pay bills, regardless of how much they earn. This is called "propensity to pay." California and Oregon prohibit its use, concerned that hospitals may try to collect more often from people who dutifully pay their bills even though their incomes qualify them for financial assistance.

When do hospitals screen patients for financial aid?

It depends.

Illinois, North Carolina, and Oregon require hospitals to screen certain patients before they send any bills. California hospitals will have to do the same starting in 2027.

Some hospitals voluntarily screen patients before sending bills; others try to collect money from patients first. As long as they screen patients before suing them for very overdue bills, hospitals can stay within the letter of the federal law that pushed many of them to embrace presumptive eligibility.

For example, the policy of Christus Health is to screen patients only "after all other eligibility and payment sources have been exhausted."

Anna Stelter, vice president of policy for the Texas Hospital Association, said hospitals want to investigate other options for payment — like Medicaid or county safety net programs — before they give out financial assistance.

"We do want to make sure that whoever is financially responsible for that care is identified and pays," Stelter said. "Charity care is the relief of last resort."

Hospitals' publicly posted policies may also be fuzzy about when they will screen for patients likely eligible for help. For example, Cook Children's Health Care System in Fort Worth, Texas, says its goal is to determine a patient's eligibility "as soon as sufficient information is available."

Who pays the bills when patients get free care?

In one sense, we all do. Taxpayers cover some or all of the cost of financial assistance, though the amount varies by hospital.



Church

A Different Voice

By Dorothy Shaw Thompson



WE'RE MURDERING OUR SOUL

A single shot can take the life of a single person. It can be a young child, a baby killed in a drive-by shooting, or a bullied teenager determined to make a classroom full of children pay for what he could no longer endure. We live among a lot of people who are so full of rage that they cannot control their emotions, and that rage becomes murderous. With some of the people who are a part of the Trump administration, we see that sickness played out in ways that cannot be ignored by those of us who love justice, desire mercy and try to walk humbly with our Creator.

We do not have to choose violence as an answer to violence. We do not have to become the very thing we claim to abhor. It is simple to me. If murder is wrong, then how can a society choose murder to combat murder?

Pete Hegseth appears excited by the idea of murdering a man on live television, so I ask, how is he different from the man who killed the soldiers at Fort Hood? That man had a plan. Pete has a plan. He carried out his violence because he was sick with hatred, and I say Pete suffers from the same kind of moral decay. How can anyone watch an execution, which is the taking of a human life, and feel proud that our country has turned back toward barbarianism?

The last public execution in the United States was in 1936, when a Black man, Rainey Bethea, was hanged in Kentucky. Thousands of people came. Vendors sold hot dogs. Parents brought their children. Is this what MAGA means when it wears its "Make America Great Again" hat?

Though it appears quite clear that the Fort Hood shooter was guilty, it is also noteworthy that he was of Palestinian descent, a major and a psychiatrist in the U.S. Army. His name was Nidal Malik Hasan, and he was an American citizen born in Arlington, Virginia. His story begins here and ends here. Maybe we ought to ask ourselves what it is about the environment here that continues to produce so many homegrown terrorists.

Now, when you look at the case of Renee Bailey, it is interesting to me that all of the reports say he allegedly killed a 70-year-old white woman, a crime he allegedly confessed to. It is not far from my mind to wonder whether there is more to that story. Hasan was probably mentally ill, as some reports after the shooting suggested. Could it be that both men experienced the same kind of societal treatment that white boys say they experience in school?

I doubt we will ever see a public execution of a white person here, because if heinous behavior were really the standard, we have had plenty of opportunities. Think January 6. Think Oklahoma City. Think Mother Emanuel. Think grocery store massacres. And those are just modern examples. The idea of publicly executing a white person would be too close for comfort for some people. As long as it is the "other" being executed, white supremacy can still feel safe.

Yet Pete declares himself to be a Christian. There are some biblical truths he has to deny to reconcile that with what he is supporting. "Do not fret because of evildoers." "Vengeance is mine, saith the Lord." "Be not deceived; whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap." And then there is the big one: "Thou shalt not kill."

You cannot cry for the crucified Savior on Easter Sunday and livestream your choice to kill a man on Monday. You cannot preach a gospel of redemption and then turn death by your own hands into a spectacle. You cannot worship the crucified while celebrating yourself as the executioner.

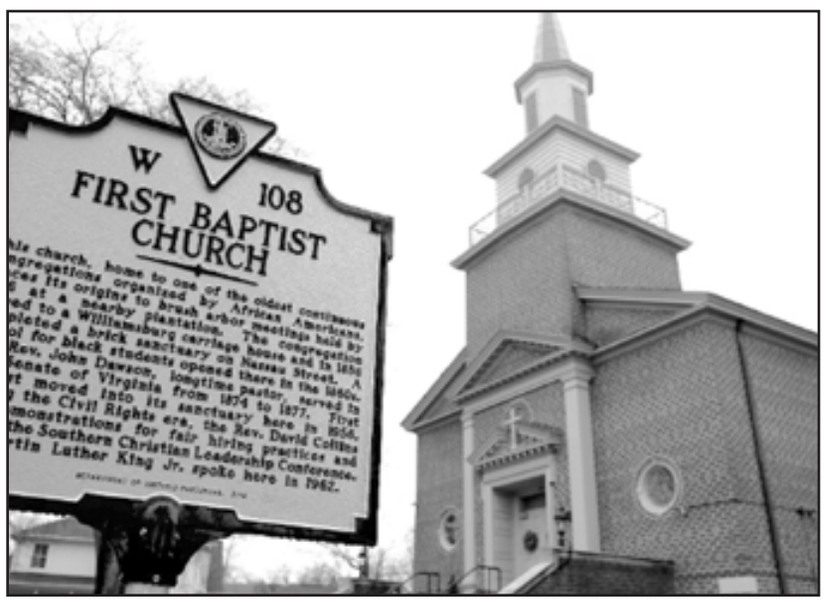
Even the brother of one of the soldiers killed at Fort Hood asked that the execution not be televised. We have watched civilians die on live television and then watched officials deny what we saw. We have seen executions go wrong. At some point, do we stop and ask whether God is trying to tell us something?

It only takes one shot to take a life. Yet we celebrate automatic weapons and now want to return to a time when several men form a firing squad to kill one man. There is no reason for that. None. Yet this administration proudly announces that this is what it intends to do.

And when we kill, we are never just killing one person. We are killing somebody's son, somebody's father, somebody's family member. We are leaving pain behind in an entire family. But when a society sanctions killing and turns it into a spectacle, we are doing something even worse.

We are murdering our own soul.

Congregants Celebrate Reconstruction of One of America's Oldest Black Churches



WILLIAMSBURG, Va. (AP) — The reconstruction of one of the nation's oldest Black churches, where congregants gathered in secret before building a meeting house in Virginia, was celebrated Friday.

Hundreds of residents gathered for a community-wide re-dedication of the original First Baptist Church of Williamsburg, which was established in 1776 by enslaved and free African Americans in defiance of laws that prevented them from congregating.

In 1805, its original parishioners built the church house, known as the African Baptist Meeting House, with recycled bricks and materials they scrounged. A tornado in 1834 destroyed the church, which was rebuilt in 1856 before it was turned into a parking lot a century later by the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, a living history museum, because it didn't match the 18th century aesthetic of the town at the time.

Since then, the 16-foot by 32-foot church has been reconstructed, after archaeologists in 2021 uncovered the church's original foundation, as well as 62 graves linked to the congregation.

"What this day means and shows is that Black history is American history, and we're an example for the rest of the nation," Reginald F. Davis, pastor of First Baptist, told The Associated Press on Friday.

"A church that has a history that was during the signing of the Declaration of Independence, you cannot erase us out of American history because we have been at the outset and formulation of the nation," said Davis, who leads the current 215-member congregation in a 20th century church on Scotland Street, less than a mile from the original site.

For decades, Colonial Williamsburg didn't tell the story of the church's history as a pioneer of Black American faith traditions. More than half of the 2,000 people who lived in Williamsburg in the 18th century were Black, with few of them free. But in recent years, the museum has resuscitated the church's traditions, starting with Friday's celebration of the building's 250th anniversary.

"I wanted them to know that we were always here, where when the doors of the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation first opened, the restoration, and even before then, we were sometimes present, but not able to speak," said Janice Canaday, community engagement manager at the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation.

"This is a reclamation, a reclaiming of the narrative," she said.

From past to present

On Friday, the event began with a procession symbolizing the ways the historic congregation has continued a multigenerational fight for education, faith, and freedom.

The mood was set with a performance by the Nassau Street Remembrance Choir, before an invocation from Davis and speeches from Virginia state Senator Mamie Locke and James Ingram, a museum interpreter who has for 26 years portrayed Gowan Pamphlet, First Baptists' pastor when the original church structure was built.

In a 2025 AP interview, Ingram said Pamphlet was "a precursor to someone like Frederick Douglass, who would be the precursor to someone like Martin Luther King Jr."

Pamphlet, an enslaved tavern worker, preached about equality in the face of laws that prohibited large gatherings of African Americans out of fear of slave uprisings. Ingram handed the mantle off to the new Pamphlet interpreter, Brandon Lee, who debuted at the dedication.

'We were just so elated'

In addition to discovering the original church's foundation, archaeologists uncovered the graves of 62 community members. DNA tests and bone analyses for three sets of remains linked them back to the African Baptist Meeting House congregation.

But it was oral tradition that served as the first hint in the discovery, where stories of ancestors buried in the area led to a search.

"We knew the building was here, and we knew that there were maybe burials behind it," said Jennifer Wilkoski, director of architectural preservation and research at Colonial Williamsburg.

When the church's original structure was discovered in 2021, Davis called it "a rediscovery of the humanity of a people."

"We were just so elated that those people who had been buried and forgotten, have now been unearthed and given the recognition as human beings, as they should have been," he said. "It's a wonderful time to shed light on our history in light of the erasure of so many things within our history."

Construction is nearly finished

The meeting house reconstruction, built at its original site, honors its original character. Archaeologists and Colonial Williamsburg's construction team modeled the new church out of pine and white oak woods, and recreated details like the original half-round brick steps.

Wilkoski said the materials for the original church demonstrated the resourcefulness of the congregants, who likely included carpenters with the skills necessary to build the church.

Modern renovations include an HVAC system for Virginia's hot summers, a refreshed altar table for sermons, shutters, and handblown glass windows. Last year, Colonial Williamsburg considered glassless windows but has since had to reconsider to build the cooling HVAC system.

Historic Raleigh Church Celebrates Women's Day

By Eric Curry

Contributor

Raleigh, N.C.- October 12, 2026: Martin Street Baptist Church recently celebrated "Women's Day 2026," led by the "Sista Circle Ministry. The theme of the service was, "Remember whose daughter you are and straighten up your crown."



The morning message was delivered by the church's First Lady, Andrea Singleton, who reminded the women in the congregation to never forget that there will be challenges in their lives that will "tilt" their crowns, but were reminded that as God's daughters they must continue to straighten out their crowns.

Martin Street is led by Reverend Dr. Shawn J. Singleton who recently celebrated his 9th year as Martin Street Baptist Church's pastor.

Practical Biblical Principles

A CLOSET CHRISTIAN
READ: MATTHEW 6:1-8

By John L. Caldwell, Pastor
New Jerusalem Baptist Cathedral

Do you know what it is to be a closet Christian? In today's world, it appears that some Christians would have trouble being alone. In fact, some people do not wish to be alone. They are afraid to be alone for some insecure reason. It is insecurity which controls them. Are you able to stay in your own house or apartment alone without the television being on, or the radio, or the telephone ringing? Are your doors unlocked or locked while at home by yourself? Can you handle the quietness, the silence in your house when alone? Are you comfortable being alone in your own home? Or are you always hoping for a friend to drop by and visit to break up the loneliness and quietness, if the television is not on or the phone is not ringing, or the radio is not on? The above questions are a prelude to the test to see if you may qualify as a closet Chrisian.

Our Old and New Testaments gives us in depth accounts of God doing some of His best work in total silence. The circumstances required silence.

Our Lord on certain occasions demanded that when we are about to approach Him for blessings, that we be in a quiet setting without noise or any distraction.

There are five well-known examples throughout the scriptures which gives times and circumstances which God required quietness while He was answering a prayer request or giving out blessings.

When we explore these five examples, ask yourself this question, "Would you prefer to be in a loud, noisy environment at this time, if you were a part of the scene?

Our first example is when our Lord spoke on the issue of charitable giving (Matthew 6:1-2). "But when you do your charitable giving, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, that your charitable deed may be in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will Himself reward you openly." To do charitable deeds in secret reflects a person's desire to please God more than people. God blesses those who honor Him.

There are Christians who do not realize that such secret charitable giving is related to the Lord's Prayer. Before we pray God knows what we have need of before we pray to Him (Matthew 6:8). All of our charitable giving are directly related to God. When one gives to a legitimate religious or charitable cause, one, in a spiritual sense, is giving directly to God.

This is why Jesus directed all givers to pray the Lord's Prayer. He wants His followers to depend upon God for all of our daily provisions. In doing so, God will always be near to give us what we need in our daily walk of life. And for such upkeep, we praise and honor God (Hallowed be Thou Name).

Our next example is found in Mark the fifth chapter right after Jesus had cleaned the demons out of the demonic man and crossing to the other side of the sea and at the same time, giving His disciples a lesson in faith after He had brought Peace and calm to the storm, which had frightened them. Jesus found Himself in front of a man named Jairus, ruler of the local synagogue. He cried out to Jesus to come and heal his twelve- year- old daughter, who had fallen sick.

Jesus turned to follow Jairus to his home only to be met by the woman who had an issue of blood for twelve years. He healed her and at the same time some one came up and told Jairus his daughter had just died. Jesus told Jairus to just keep the faith. Jesus did not allow any one to follow Him to Jairus's home but Peter, James, and John.

The people ridiculed Jesus when He arrived at the house and said the child is only asleep.

Jesus put them all outside the house and closed the door with only the mother, father, and His disciples inside where the child lay. Jesus then took the child by the hand and raised her up and gave her back to her parents and said, "Feed her."

Next. After the Resurrection Jesus appeared to His frightened disciples locked behind closed doors and wished them Peace. Showed them His hands and side. Then He breathed on them and gave them the Holy Spirit. He told them if you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven. And if not, their sins remained. This was in preparation of their ministry.

Now in 2 kings 4, Elisha faced off with a woman who was the wife of a son whose father was a prophet. My husband is dead and the credit people are coming to take my sons to be their slaves. The prophet inquired, as to her needs. What do you have in the house, asked Elisha?

"Nothing but one jar of oil," answered the woman.

The prophet then instructed the woman to send her sons out and borrow as many empty pots as you can and bring them into your house. When you do, lock the door and fill all the vessels that you have in the house. When all the vessels were filled, the oil stopped flowing. The prophet then told her to go and sell the oil and pay off your debts and live off of the rest of the money you get from selling the rest of the oil.

Later, Elisha met a family in Shunem as he traveled through the city. A notable woman and her husband was there and took note that the prophet visited the area very frequently. She invited Elisha in to eat at her home when he was in the area. The prophet took up the offer to eat at her house. Then the woman told her husband to make a room upstairs for the prophet to sleep when he is in the area. This, the husband did and the prophet stayed in their home while in the area. The couple was childless.

One day the prophet called the woman to his room and said to the woman, "You have been so kind to me and my servant, what can I do for you." Elisha's servant then spoke up and told the prophet that she has no son and her husband is old.

Then the prophet told the woman next year this time you will have a son. In doubt, the woman told the prophet please do not lie to me. The next year the woman had a son. The couple was very happy.

One day in the field with his father the boy complained about having a pain in his head. The father sent the son home with a servant to the child's mother. She took the child and sat him on her knee until noon, then the son died in her lap. She took the dead child and laid him on the prophet's bed upstairs.

The mother then had her donkey saddled and she went out looking for the Elisha to tell him what had happened. She found the prophet and told him what had happened. The prophet then told his servant to take his staff and rush to the home where the child is and do not stop to speak to anyone along the way. Once in the home, go up and lay my staff on the child's face.

This the servant did. Elisha arrived at the home, and the child was lying dead on his bed. And the mother, in a sense, asked Elisha why did God give me a child and then take him away from me.

Elisha and his servant went upstairs and then shut the door behind them and prayed to the Lord.

Elisha lay his body on top of the dead child, and the flesh of the child soon became warm. Elisha returned to repeat the same body warming act and the child sneezed seven times and opened his eyes.

Elisha then instructed his servant to get the child's mother. She came into the room, and the prophet told the mother to go and pick up your son. This, she did. Then she went out.

Finding a quiet place to pray is every Believers responsibility. Your quiet place and space is your "war room" where you and God together do battle against all what burdens or troubles you. Find a quiet place for you and God alone.

SERMON of the WEEK



KEEP THE VISION ALIVE
By General Mother Belinda McKoy
Scriptural Text: Habakkuk 2:3; Isaiah 40:28–31; Jeremiah 29:10; John 10:10; John 14:1–3

You can only talk about what you know about. And one thing we know is that we must keep the vision alive. "For the vision is yet for an appointed time, but at the end it shall speak, and not lie: though it tarry, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry." Habakkuk 2:3

We have been running for Jesus a long time, and we cannot stop now or grow weary in 2026. We know that the blind cannot lead the blind. We must continue to follow God's Word and do the work He has called us to do. We are all kingdom builders.

Lincoln Park Holiness Church has continued to keep the vision alive through the years. The vision began with our founder, Bishop Eli Ratcliff, Sr., and continued through our builder, Bishop Eli Ratcliff, Jr. Today, that vision lives on under our current pastor and developer, Bishop William Eli Ratcliff.

"Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard, that the everlasting God, the Lord, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? there is no searching of his understanding. He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength. Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall: But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint." Isaiah 40:28–31

As we move forward, there will be difficult days. But when the road gets hard, let us remember the old spiritual: "Over my head I hear music in the air, there must be a God somewhere."

And let us keep singing the words of encouragement: "We've come too far from where we started from. Nobody told us that the road would be easy. For we do not believe that God brought us this far to leave us."

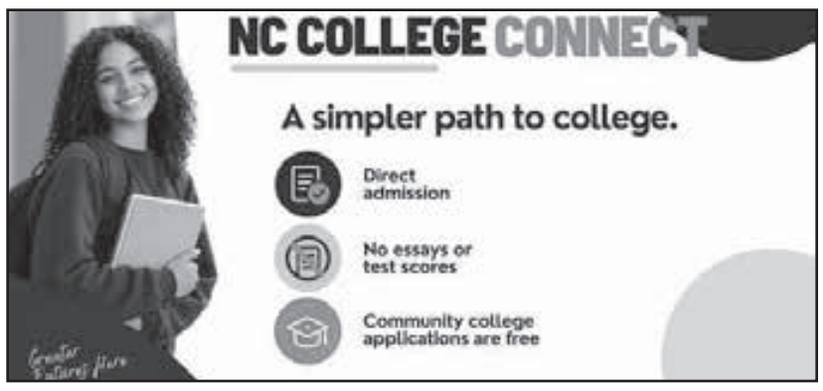
No matter what you are going through, remember that the Word of God will prevail. The Word is still working. Keep going, keep walking with God, and above all, keep the vision alive.

To view complete sermons by Pastor William Eli Ratcliff and associate ministers, please visit the church's YouTube channel.



NCICU Launches Statewide Transfer Pathways Platform With with NCCCS

RALEIGH, NC – North Carolina Independent Colleges and Universities (NCICU), in partnership with the North Carolina Community College System (NCCCS), announced the official public launch of NCICU Transfer Pathways, a digital platform designed to streamline the transfer process for two-year college students pursuing four-year degrees at North Carolina's private, non-profit colleges and universities.



"NCICU Transfer Pathways is a transformative leap forward in serving students across North Carolina," said NCICU President Dr. A. Hope Williams. "By aligning our Independent Comprehensive Articulation Agreement (ICAA) with state-of-the-art technology, we are increasing the efficiency and effectiveness of transfer planning. Students can set their path to a four-year degree with full confidence that their hard-earned credits will count."

The multi-year initiative is supported by more than $2 million in philanthropic grant funding to build, launch, and sustain the platform across participating independent campuses. Major philanthropic supporters include The Cannon Foundation (funding year-one campus participation), The Arthur Vining Davis Foundations (AVDF), the Teagle Foundation, ECMC Foundation, the John M. Belk Endowment (JMBE), the Gates Foundation, and Ascendium Education Group. In addition, Lumina Foundation provided complementary funding to support the engagement of NCICU and NCCCS faculty and staff in the project.

"Every credit a student earns at one of our colleges should count toward where they're headed. When credits don't transfer, students pay for it with time and money they don't have," said Dr. Monty Sullivan, Acting President & CEO of the NC Community College System. "NCICU Transfer Pathways shows students the road before they start down it. That's two- and four-year schools working together for students."

Developed with technology partner, Acadeum, the NCICU Transfer Pathways platform directly addresses historic barriers in credit evaluation, transparency, and degree mapping. Following a soft launch on September 22, the platform is now fully accessible to students, academic advisors, and institutional administrators across North Carolina.

"We're honored to partner with NCICU and NCCCS to tackle one of the biggest barriers in higher education. Too often, transfer students do everything right and still find out, after they've enrolled, that their hard earned credits don't count," said Acadeum CEO Richard Keaveny. "By bringing real-time equivalency mapping and degree tracking to the student level, NCICU Transfer Pathways ensures credit mobility from the start of a student's journey. Learners at North Carolina's 58 community colleges can now see exactly how their courses apply at 28 independent four-year campuses before they ever apply. This work removes an unnecessary barrier and can keep students on track to finish from the start."

Key Features of the Platform

The NCICU Transfer Pathways platform offers interactive, student-centered features engineered to eliminate credit loss and improve completion rates:

Automated ICAA & Course-Equivalency Evaluation: Using a customized evaluation tool, the portal automatically maps completed coursework—including general education block transfers under the ICAA—against degree requirements at participating four-year institutions.

Multi-Institution Program Search & Comparison: Students can explore and compare academic programs, campus locations, distance-based search options, and degree requirements across participating independent institutions in real time.

Digital Credit Tracking: A centralized dashboard provides students and advisors with a visual representation of earned credits, degree progress, and remaining major requirements.

Direct Campus Connectivity: Students can save favorite programs, view institution profile details, and directly access application and financial aid portals.

A Statewide Network of Opportunity

The NCICU Transfer Pathways network spans all 58 NCCCS campuses across North Carolina and 29 NCICU campuses, including Louisburg College, NCICU's two-year independent campus. Louisburg College and North Carolina's 58 community colleges serve as the primary sending institutions, providing their students streamlined access to participating four-year NCICU campuses. Designed for maximum flexibility, the platform serves current traditional transfer students, early college graduates, and adult learners returning to finish their credentials with "some college, no degree."

The following 28 four-year independent campuses have onboarded program catalogs, course inventories, and transfer equivalencies:

- Barton College
- Bennett College
- Brevard College
- Campbell University
- Catawba College
- Chowan University
- Gardner-Webb University
- Greensboro College
- Guilford College
- High Point University
- Johnson C. Smith University
- Lees-McRae College
- Lenoir-Rhyne University
- Livingstone College
- Mars Hill University
- Meredith College
- Methodist University
- Mid-Atlantic Christian University
- Montreat College
- NC Wesleyan University
- Pfeiffer University
- Queens University of Charlotte
- Salem College
- Shaw University
- University of Mount Olive
- Warren Wilson College
- William Peace University
- Wingate University

In addition to initial four-year degree mapping, NCICU and NCCCS are preparing to introduce Reverse Transfer workflows into the platform. This feature will allow students who transfer prior to completing their associate degree to apply four-year credits back toward earning their associate degree from their home two-year institution.

For more information or to access NCICU Transfer Pathways, visit https://ncicu.org/transfer-pathways/.

PAYING CASH AND BUYING ALL OLD RAP MUSIC CASSETTE TAPES AND MIXTAPES. CALL MARVIN 919-268-7476.

NC Department of Adult Correction

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

The North Carolina Department of Adult Correction has the following contract in Mitchell County out for bid: C- 11828 Mountain View CI Boiler Replacement . The bid opening is scheduled for: Thursday, 11/05/2026 .

To obtain the Notice to Bidders, any Pre-Bid Requirements, and any Addenda visit:

https://evp.nc.gov/solicitations/details/?id=5f534c33-8cb6-f111-aaac-001dd803db57

RALEIGH HOUSING AUTHORITY PROPOSED PHA PLAN AND CAPITAL FUND 5-YEAR ACTION PLAN AVAILABLE FOR REVIEW

The Raleigh Housing Authority (RHA) has developed a draft of its Annual PHA Plan for Fiscal Year 2027-28, and a draft of its Capital Fund Program 5-Year Action Plan for Fiscal Years 2027-2031 (the "Plan Documents"). These documents are now available for public review and comment in compliance with U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requirements.

The draft Plan Documents can be found on the RHA website, www.rhanc.gov.

Additionally, hard copies will be available for review at RHA's administrative office located at 900 Haynes Street, Raleigh, NC 27604. Copies can also be provided by email upon request.

Written comments may be mailed to Raleigh Housing Authority, Attn: PHA Plan Comments, 900 Haynes Street, Raleigh, NC 27604, or by emailing info@rhanc.gov.

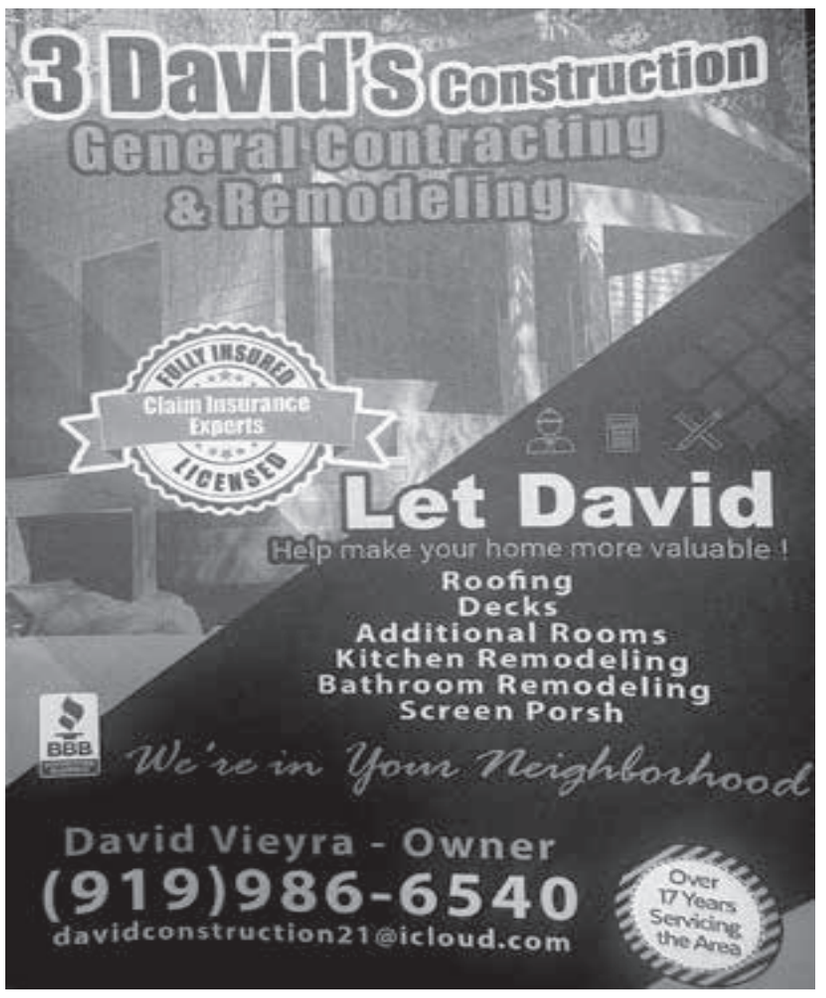
Comments will be accepted from October 16, 2026, through 5:00 PM on December 2, 2026.



Support Small & Local Businesses

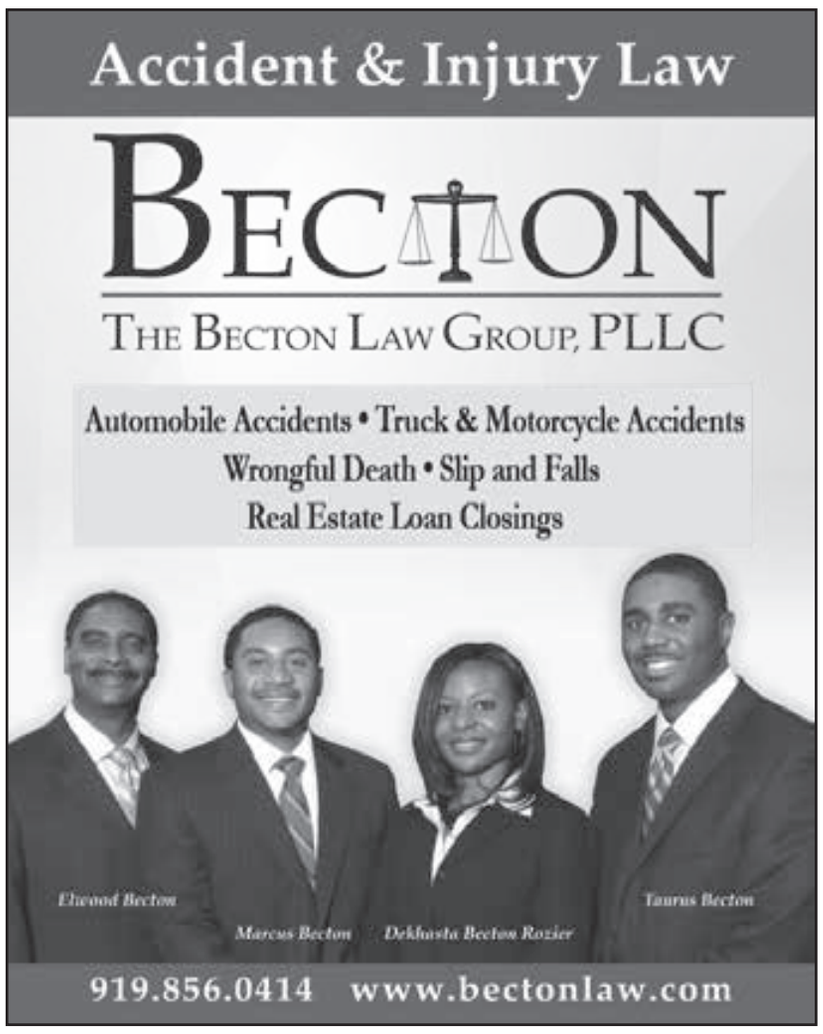
















Classifieds

CHATHAM COUNTY

North Carolina Chatham County
NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION
In the General Court of Justice
District Court Division
File No: 26CV001231-180
To: SALOMON CINTURA ROBLES, 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 November 25, 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, GENOVEVA IDOLINA CABALLERO-ESCANDON, will apply to the court located at 40 E Chatham St, Pittsboro, NC 27312 for the relief sought.
This, the 15th day of October 2026.
Aneta Paval
Paval Law Offices, PLLC
Telephone: (919) 410-6690
10/15, 10/22, and 10/29/2026
North Carolina Chatham County
NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION
In the General Court of Justice
District Court Division
File No: 26CV001230-180
To: GUADALUPE DEYANIRA LOZOYA-CABALLERO and JOHN DOE, Defendants.
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 November 25, 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, GENOVEVA IDOLINA CABALLERO-ESCANDON, will apply to the court located at 40 E Chatham St, Pittsboro, NC 27312 for the relief sought.
This, the 15th day of October 2026.
Aneta Paval
Paval Law Offices, PLLC
Telephone: (919) 410-6690
10/15, 10/22, and 10/29/2026
North Carolina Chatham County
In the General Court of Justice
District Court Division
File No: 26CV001222-180
NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION
To: OSCAR ORLANDO ROSALES LAMOTHE, 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 November 25, 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, RICSY MORELIA CUBAS VELASQUEZ, will apply to the court located at 40 E Chatham St, Pittsboro, NC 27312 for the relief sought.
This, the 15th day of October 2026.
Aneta Paval
Paval Law Offices, PLLC
Telephone: (919) 410-6690
10/15, 10/22, and 10/29/2026

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: 26E001258-310
Having qualified as EXECUTOR of the Estate of MARTA VELEZ, 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 16th day of January, 2027, 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 15th day of October, 2026.
Uroyoán R. Walker, Executor
E3 Calle Teresa Walker
Canóvanas, PR 00729
10/15, 10/22, 10/29, and 11/5/2026
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
All persons, firms and corporations having claims against CATHERINE DICKENS HOLLAND, deceased, of Durham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to undersigned on or before the 7th day of January, 2027, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This 15th day of October, 2026. Catherine Elizabeth Holland Sargent and Sarah Lynn Holland McGovern, Executor, Manning, Fulton & Skinner, P.A., c/o Sandra Clark, 4131 Parklake Ave, Suite 300, Raleigh, NC 27612.
10/15, 10/22, 10/29, and 11/5/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
File No: 26E000869-310
Having qualified as Administrator of the Estate of WILLIAM CHASE MANSON, deceased, of 2702 Newquay Street, Durham, NC 27705, the undersigned does hereby notify all persons, firms, and corporations having claims against the estate of said decedent to exhibit them to the undersigned in care of the attorney for the estate on or before January 16, 2027, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery.
All persons, firms, and corporations indebted to the said estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned.
This the 15th day of October, 2026.
Christian Manson
Administrators of the Estate of William Chase Manson
c/o N. Vail Gardner, Esq.
Vail Gardner Law, PLLC
732 9th Street #621
Durham, NC 27705
FOR PUBLICATION: The Carolinian
10/15, 10/22, 10/29, and 11/5/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File No: 26E001245-310
Having qualified as EXECUTOR of the Estate of WILLIE LEE HAYNES, 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 16th day of January, 2027, 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 15th day of October, 2026.
Matthew Haynes, Executor
c/o Hicks, Preddy, Washburn & Brummitt, PC
135 College Street
P.O. Box 247
Oxford, NC 27565
10/15, 10/22, 10/29, and 11/5/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File No: 26E001246-310
Having qualified as EXECUTOR of the Estate of ROBERT STEVEN SCHERE, 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 16th day of January, 2027, 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 15th day of October, 2026.
Kenneth L. Schere, Executor
120 Sailfish Ct.
Durham, NC 27703
10/15, 10/22, 10/29, and 11/5/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File No: 26E001157-310
Having qualified as EXECUTOR of the Estate of DENNIS ROBERT SHIPMAN, 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 16th day of January, 2027, 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 15th day of October, 2026.
William John Shipman, Executor
c/o Marion Law Office, PLLC
2741 University Drive
Durham, NC 27707
10/15, 10/22, 10/29, and 11/5/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File No: 26E001118-310
Having qualified as ADMINISTRATOR CTA of the Estate of JUDITH BEIGHLEY CROSS, 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 16th day of January, 2027, 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 15th day of October, 2026.
Susan Teschner, Administrator CTA
709 Sewgrass Lane
Mt Pleasant, SC 29464
10/15, 10/22, 10/29, and 11/5/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File No: 26E001223-310
Having qualified as EXECUTOR of the Estate of MARY VIRGINIA BROWN AK/A MARY VIRGINIA W. BROWN, 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 16th day of January, 2027, 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 15th day of October, 2026.
Rebecca W. Fitzgerald, Executor
c/o Law Office of Anne Page Watson
3200 Croasdaile Drive, Suite 403
Durham, NC 27705
10/15, 10/22, 10/29, and 11/5/2026
NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY
NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION
In The General Court Of Justice
District Court Division
FILE NO. 26CV001868-310
AMERICAN CREDIT ACCEPTANCE, LLC Plaintiff, vs. JADE HARRIS, Defendant.
TO: Jade Harris
2920 Chapel Hill Rd. Apt 1C
Durham NC 27707

Jade Harris
1400 E Cornwallis Rd Apt 1304
Durham NC 27713

Jade Harris
719B Winfrey St
Clinton NC 28328-3325

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:
1. Judgment for possession of a 2023 Hyundai Elantra bearing VIN# KMHLS4AG8PU425670;
2. Judgment for the sum of $25,103.49 plus interest at the contractual rate of 21% Per annum from November 10, 2025 until date of judgment and at the statutory rate of 8% thereafter until paid in full;
3. Judgment for Plaintiff's reasonable attorney's fees in the amount of $3,765.52;
4. Judgment for Plaintiff's costs;
5. All other relief to which Plaintiff is entitled.
You are required to make defense to such pleading no later than November 30, 2026 and upon your failure to do so, the party seeking service against you will apply to the Court for the relief sought.
This 8th day of October, 2026.
By: David S. Belisle
State Bar No. 60242
SMITH DEBNAM NARRON
DRAKE SAINTSING & MYERS, LLP
Attorneys for Plaintiff
PO Box 176010
Raleigh, N.C. 27619
(919) 250-2000
10/15, 10/22, and 10/29/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
File No: 26E001146-310
Having qualified as Administrator of the Estate of MICHAEL LEWIS KELLY, deceased, of 923 Carroll Street, Durham County, Durham, NC 27701, the undersigned does hereby notify all persons, firms, and corporations having claims against the estate of said decedent to exhibit them to the undersigned in care of the attorney for the estate on or before January 9, 2027, 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 8th day of October, 2026.
Jeffrey L. Austin, PLLC
Public Administrator of the Estate of Michael Lewis Kelly
500 Westover Dr. #32043
Sanford, NC 27330
FOR PUBLICATION: The Carolinian
10/8, 10/15, 10/22, and 10/29/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
File No: 26E000766-310
Having qualified as Administrator of the Estate of DEGUI YUAN (a/k/a DE GUI YUAN), deceased, of 1 Barwinds Circle, Durham County, Durham, NC 27713, 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 January 9, 2027, 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 8th day of October, 2026.
Jeffrey L. Austin, PLLC
Public Administrator of the Estate of DeGui Yuan
500 Westover Dr. #32043
Sanford, NC 27330
FOR PUBLICATION: The Carolinian
10/8, 10/15, 10/22 and 10/29/2026
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
ESTATE OF NICOLAS MARTSCHENKO
FILE NO. 26E001142-310
ALL PERSONS, firms, and corporations having claims against NICOLAS MARTSCHENKO, deceased, of Durham County, N.C., are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before January 8, 2027, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 8th of October, 2026. Alice Mask, Executor of the Estate of Nicolas Martschenko, c/o Richard Long, Attorney, 1255 Crescent Green, Suite 200, Cary, NC 27518.
10/8, 10/15, 10/22, and 10/29/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File No: 26E000013-310
Having qualified as ADMINISTRATOR of the Estate of CLYDE DOUGLAS PERRY, 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 8th day of January, 2027, 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 8th day of October, 2026.
Candice Donnica Perry
Administrator
42 Holly Berry Lane
Durham, NC 27703
10/8, 10/15, 10/22, and 10/29/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF DURHAM
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 29th day of September 2026, as Executor of the ESTATE OF DONG HWA TAYLOR, Deceased, of Durham County, North Carolina, does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said Estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 9th day of January 2027 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 8th day of October 2026.
CECILIA KYUNG CHU, EXECUTOR
ESTATE OF DONG HWA TAYLOR
c/o SHIRLEY M. DIEFENBACH, Attorney
Walker Lambe, PLLC
Post Office Box 51549
Durham, North Carolina 27717
10/8, 10/15, 10/22, and 10/29/2026
NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA DURHAM COUNTY IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE SUPERIOR COURT DIVISION BEFORE THE CLERK FILE NO. 26SP000869-310 FOR THE ADOPTION OF A MALE MINOR
TO: Luis Bazan Guzman, the legal father of Baby Boy Bazan, a male child, born on July 30, 2026 in Durham, Durham County, North Carolina, to Jessica Bazan.
Take notice that a Petition for Adoption was filed with the Clerk of Superior Court for Durham County, North Carolina in the above entitled special proceeding. The Petition relates to Baby Boy Bazan, a male child, born on July 30, 2026 in Durham, Durham County, North Carolina, to Jessica Bazan. Upon information and belief, Ms. Bazan is legally married to Luis Bazan Guzman, but his whereabouts are unknown. PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that you are required to file a response to such pleading not later than 40 days from the first day of publication of this notice, that date being November 18, 2026, and upon your failure to do so the Petitioner will apply to the Court for relief sought in the Petition. Any parental rights you may have will be terminated upon the entry of the decree of adoption.
Kelly T. Dempsey, Attorney for Petitioners, 10310 Couloak Drive, #400, Charlotte NC 28216.
10/8, 10/15, and 10/22/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
ESTATE OF JOHN JOSEPH SNEDDON
FILE NO. 22E000375-310
All persons, firms, and corporations having claims against John Joseph Sneddon, deceased, of Durham County, North Carolina are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before January 06, 2027 or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the Decedent are asked to make immediate payment.
This the 1st day of October 2026.
LuAnn Sneddon Pendergraft,
Co-Executor and
Amy Sneddon McKnight, Co-Executor
C/O Hanrahan Law PLLC
4801 Glenwood Ave. Ste 200
Raleigh, NC 27612
10/1, 10/8, 10/15, and 10/22/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File No: 26E001201-310
Having qualified as ADMINISTRATOR of the Estate of DAVID DANIEL CRAIG, 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 1st day of January, 2027, 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 1st day of October, 2026.
Alan Wade Craig, Administrator
817 Fanning Way
Durham, NC 27704
10/1, 10/8, 10/15, and 10/22/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File No: 26E001156-310
Having qualified as EXECUTOR of the Estate of PAULA SCHUBERT, 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 1st day of January, 2027, 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 1st day of October, 2026.
Scott Pappas, Executor
c/o Attorney Christopher Hill
311 E. Main Street
Durham, NC 27701
10/1, 10/8, 10/15, and 10/22/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File No: 26E001159-310
Having qualified as ADMINISTRATOR and CO-ADMINISTRATOR of the Estate of VALJEANE KING SIMPSON, 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 1st day of January, 2027, 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 1st day of October, 2026.
Katherine King Cooper
Administrator
6409 3rd St. NW
Washington, DC 20012
Arvetta King Weston
Co-Administrator
5237 New Hampshire Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20011
10/1, 10/8, 10/15, and 10/22/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY
NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION
In The General Court Of Justice
Superior Court Division
File No.: 26CV003984-310
ANTHONY DOUGLAS, PLAINTIFF, VS. MATHEW KIPTUM, DEFENDANT
TO: Mathew Kiptum
Take notice that a pleading seeking relief against you has been filed in the above entitled action. The nature of the relief sought is as follows:
Complaint for Personal Injuries as a result of a Motor Vehicle Accident on September 9, 2023 on PP 1310 Wyldewood Drive in Durham, NC.
You are required to make defense to such pleading not later than November 10, 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 1st day of October, 2026.
Robert T. Perry
N.C. State Bar #11051
PERRY, PERRY & PERRY, P.A.
Attorneys for Plaintiff
601 Fayetteville Street, Suite 300
Post Office Drawer 2051
Durham, North Carolina 27702
Telephone: (919) 683-8685
10/1, 10/8, and 10/15/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Having qualified as Administrator of the Estate of WILLIAM MANUEL VIERRA, SR., deceased, this is to notify all persons, firms, and corporations having claims against the Estate of WILLIAM MANUEL VIERRA, SR. to present them to the undersigned on or before the 24th day of December, 2026,
or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery.
All persons indebted to said Estate, please make immediate payment.
This, the 22nd day of September, 2026.
EDWARD J. FALCONE
Attorney for the Estate of WILLIAM MANUEL VIERRA, SR.
120 E. Parrish Street, Suite 200
Durham, North Carolina 27701
(919) 682-9273
9/24, 10/1, 10/8, and 10/15/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File No: 26E000942-310
Having qualified as EXECUTOR of the Estate of JAUN GILBERTO RODRIGUEZ ZEPEDA, 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 24th 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 24th day of September, 2026.
Erika Rodriguez, Executor
c/o Justin L. McCarthy
Bagwell Holt Smith P.A.
111 Cloister Court, Suite 200
Chapel Hill , NC 27514
9/24, 10/1, 10/8, and 10/15/2026
NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
All persons, firms and corporations having claims against RAY CAPLE, deceased of Durham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 24th day of December or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 24th day of September 2026.
Carlous Caple, Administrator
c/o Trusts and Estates Law Group
4141 Parklake Avenue, Suite 310
Raleigh, NC 27612
9/24, 10/1, 10/8, and 10/15/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File No: 26E001101-310
Having qualified as EXECUTOR

www.CARO.news

Classifieds

DURHAM COUNTY

of the Estate of JUDITH BEVERLYN CRABTREE, 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 24th 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 24th day of September, 2026.
Eddie Crabtree, Executor
c/o Christopher Hill
311 E. Main street
Durham, NC, 27701
9/24, 10/1, 10/8, and 10/15/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
File No: 26E000549-310

ALL PERSONS, firms and corporations having claims against DAVID LEE HARRISON, deceased, of DURHAM COUNTY, NC, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before December 24, 2026 or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment.

This the 24th day of September 2026.
Carl D. Harrison, David D. Harrison/ Executors of the Estate,
c/o MONROE JENKINS, PA
PO Box 12534
Durham, North Carolina 27709
9/24, 10/1, 10/8, and 10/15/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

All persons, firms and corporations having claims against KIRSTEN KAY KLUMP, deceased of Durham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 24th day of December or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 24th day of September 2026.
Bradley S. Klump, Executor
Estate of Kirsten Kay Klump, Deceased
c/o Trusts and Estates Law Group
4141 Parklake Avenue, Suite 310
Raleigh, NC 27612
9/24, 10/1, 10/8, and 10/15/2026

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: 26E003834-910

Having qualified as ADMINISTRATOR of the Estate of JOEL BAYNES LONG, 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 8th day of January, 2027, 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 8th day of October, 2026.
Elisabeth L. Burlee, Executor
1207 Balustrade Boulevard
Richmond, VA 23226
10/8, 10/15, 10/22, and 10/29/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
WAKE COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice, Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File No: 26E002169-910

Having qualified as ADMINISTRATOR of the Estate of JOSEPH LOVELL PIERCE, 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 1st day of January, 2027, 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 1st day of October, 2026.
Lisa Ann Pierce, Administratrix
c/o Richard F. Prentis, Jr.
4 Consultant Pl.
Durham, NC 27707
10/1, 10/8, 10/15, and 10/22/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
WAKE COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice, Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File No: 26E002594-910

Having qualified as ADMINISTRATOR of the Estate of RAYMOND PARIS WILLIAMS, 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 1st day of January, 2027, 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 1st day of October, 2026.
Antonio Paris Williams
Administrator
6029 Quitman Trl.
Raleigh, NC 27610
10/1, 10/8, 10/15, and 10/22/2026
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
WAKE COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice, Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File No: 25E003477-910

Having qualified as ADMINISTRATOR of the Estate of JOHN TIMOTHY RHODES, 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 1st day of January, 2027, 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 1st day of October, 2026.
Shannon Williamson, Administrator
2644 Wintergreen Rd
Nashville, NC 27856
10/1, 10/8, 10/15, and 10/22/2026

WANTED WBE, MBE & DBE BIDS

for the following job:

Division One Letting

DA00704 Tyrell Co. Bid Date: Nov. 4th

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.

FORECLOSURE

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF WAKE

IN THE COURT OF JUSTICE
SUPERIOR COURT DIVISION
BEFORE THE CLERK
26 SP 001858-910
NOTICE OF SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

UNDER AND BY VIRTUE of the power and authority contained in that certain (i) Deed of Trust, dated as of June 8, 2022 (the "Deed of Trust"), from Westgrove Tower Owner LLC ("Borrower") to Ladder Capital Finance LLC ("Original Lender"), and recorded on June 10, 2022, in the Wake County Register of Deeds (the "Records"), in Book 019054, at Page 01254, and because of default in the payment of the indebtedness thereby secured and failure to carry out and perform the stipulations and agreements therein contained and pursuant to an Order entered by the Clerk of Superior Court and pursuant to demand of the owner and holder of the indebtedness secured by said Deed of Trust, the undersigned Substitute Trustee will expose for sale at public auction to the highest bidder for cash at the usual place of sale in the Courthouse of Wake County, in the City of Raleigh, North Carolina, at 1:00 O'CLOCK P.M. on OCTOBER 27, 2026, all of that certain real estate, including all improvements and fixtures located thereon, and all personal property associated therewith, situated, lying, and being in Wake County, North Carolina, and more particularly described in the Deed of Trust identified above, which description is incorporated by reference herein as amended, modified, or supplemented by other instruments, if any, recorded subsequent to the Deed of Trust in the Recorder's Office of Wake County.

LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY:

SEE "EXHIBIT A" AND "EXHIBIT B" ATTACHED HERETO AND INCORPORATED HEREIN BY THIS REFERENCE.

The Property includes personal property and fixtures as permitted by North Carolina General Statutes Section 25-9-604.

[Together with and subject to tenants in possession, as tenants only, under any leases or rental agreements, recorded or unrecorded.]

PRESENT RECORD OWNER(S): Westgrove Tower Owner LLC.

Should the property be purchased by a third party bidder, that party must pay the court costs of Forty-Five Cents (45¢) per One Hundred Dollars ($100.00), or major fraction thereof, of the final sale price as required by N.C. Gen. Stat. § 7A-308(a)(1), and excise tax of One dollar ($1.00) on each Five Hundred Dollars ($500.00), or fractional part thereof, of the value of the interest conveyed as required by N.C. Gen. Stat. § 105-228.30.

The Substitute Trustee reserves the right to require of the successful bidder at such sale a cash deposit of 5% of the amount of the bid or $750.00, whichever is greater.

The real property hereinabove described will be sold "AS IS", "WHERE IS", subject to any and all superior liens, encumbrances, and restrictions of record, and any and all taxes and special assessments. Substitute Trustee makes no representations or warranties whatsoever. This sale will be held open for ten (10) days for upset bids as by law required.

This the 21st day of September, 2026.
HONEYCUTT LAW FIRM, PLLC
/s/ John B. Honeycutt, Jr.
John B. Honeycutt, Jr.
Substitute Trustee
P. O. Box 2484
Cornelius, NC 28031
Telephone: (704) 997-5450
Posted: October 15 & October 22, 2026
Facsimile: (877) 554-6209
September 21, 2026

EXHIBIT A
LEGAL DESCRIPTION

The Westgrove Tower condominium units specifically described in the "Units" section attached hereto created by the Declaration of Condominium for Westgrove Tower recorded in Book 3652, Page 705, as amended in Book 3672, Page 100, and Book 8131, page 105, and Book 16512, Page 2314, Wake County Registry, and their appurtenant undivided interests in the Westgrove Tower Common Areas and Facilities, located within the following described condominium parcel of land: COMMENCING from NCGS Monument "Western", having NAD '83 coordinates of Northing 225706.088 markers and Easting 636714.916 markers as a bearing and distance of North 09 degrees 08 minutes 10 seconds East for 890.59 feet to a concrete monument at the Northeast corner of property of Jack A. Sneden Corp. as recorded in Deed Book 1954 at page 135, being the point of beginning, and running the following courses and distances; North 66 degrees 40 minutes 05 seconds West for 979.52 feet to an iron pipe; North 01 degree 04 minutes 43 seconds West for 60.00 feet to an iron pipe; North 53 degrees 51 minutes 50 seconds East for 94.66 feet to an iron pipe; North 53 degrees 53 minutes 02 seconds East for 519.74 feet to an iron pipe; North 15 degrees 59 minutes 30 seconds East for 71.76 feet to an iron pipe; South 88 degrees 46 minutes 31 seconds East for 459.60 feet to an iron pipe; South 00 degrees 35 minutes 29 seconds East for 504.13 feet to the point of beginning and containing 364,423,621 square feet or 8.366 acres, all according to a plat of survey entitled, "Westgrove Towers" dated May 7, 1998, prepared by Aiken & Yelle Associates, PA, Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors.

UNITS:

102A, 517A, 810D, 1011A, 104A, 519A, 811A, 1012A, 107A, 521D, 812A, 1013B, 109D, 600B, 813B, 1014A, 110D, 601C, 814A, 1015A, 113B, 602A, 815A, 1016B, 114A, 604A, 816B, 1017A, 115A, 605A, 817A, 1018A, 117A, 607A, 818A, 1019A, 119A, 608A, 819A, 1020A, 202A, 609D, 820A, 1021D, 205A, 610D, 821D, 1100B, 206B, 611A, 900B, 1101C, 208A, 612A, 901C, 1102A, 209D, 613B, 902A, 1103B, 211A, 614A, 903B, 1104A, 214A, 615A, 904A, 1105A, 301C, 616B, 905A, 1106B, 303B, 617A, 906B, 1107A, 321D and 505A

FORECLOSURE

NORTH CAROLINA
WAKE COUNTY

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE
Special Proceedings No. 26SP000817-910

Substitute Trustee: Philip A. Glass
Date of Sale: October 26, 2026
Time of Sale: 11:00 a.m.
Place of Sale: Wake County Courthouse
Description of Property: See Attached Description
Record Owners: Tryon@Gorman LLC
Addresses of Property:
3702 Tryon Rd.
Raleigh, NC 27606
3704 Tryon Rd.
Raleigh, NC 27606
3712 Tryon Rd.
Raleigh, NC 27606
Deed of Trust:
Book : 19635 Page: 197
Dated: June 11, 2024
Grantors: Tryon@Gorman LLC
Original Beneficiary: Loan Originations, LLC

CONDITIONS OF SALE:

This sale is made subject to all unpaid taxes and superior liens or encumbrances of record and assessments, if any, against the said property, and any recorded leases. This sale is also subject to any applicable county land transfer tax, and the successful third party bidder shall be required to make payment for any such county land transfer tax. It is the intent of the holder of the above Deed of Trust that the execution, delivery and recordation of a Trustee Deed to the holder as high bidder shall not merge with any superior Deeds of Trust held by the holder of the above Deed of Trust, and that the holder of said superior Deed of Trust shall continue to enjoy all rights and remedies set forth in said superior Deed of Trust, including the right to foreclose either by judicial action or under power of sale contained in the superior Deed of Trust.

The property to be offered pursuant to this Notice of Sale is being offered for sale "AS IS, WHERE IS." THERE ARE NO REPRESENTATIONS OR WARRANTIES relating to the title or to any physical, environmental, health or safety conditions existing in, on, at or relating to the property being offered for sale, and any and all responsibilities or liabilities arising out of or in any way relating to any such condition are expressly disclaimed.

A cash deposit of 5% of the purchase price will be required at the time of the sale. Remote bidding will not be accepted pursuant to North Carolina General Statutes Section 45-21.25 (a). Credit bids on behalf of the Noteholder will be accepted. Any successful bidder shall be required to tender the full balance of the purchase price so bid in cash or certified check at the time the Substitute Trustee tenders to him a deed for the property or attempts to tender such deed, and should said successful bidder fail to pay the full balance purchase price so bid at that time, he shall remain liable on his bid as provided for in North Carolina General Statutes Section 45-21.30 (d) and (e). This sale will be held open ten (10) days for upset bids as required by law.

Residential real property with less than 15 rental units, including single-family residential real property: an order for possession of the property may be issued pursuant to G.S. 45-21.29 in favor of the purchaser and against the party or parties in possession by the clerk of superior court of the county in which the property is sold. Any person who occupies the property pursuant to a rental agreement entered into or renewed on or after October 1, 2007, may, after receiving notice of sale, terminate the rental agreement by providing written notice of termination to the landlord, to be effective on a date stated in the notice that is at least 10 days, but not more than 90 days, after the sale date contained in the notice of sale, provided that the mortgagor has not cured the default at the time the tenant provides the notice of termination. Upon termination of a rental agreement, the tenant is liable for rent due under the rental agreement prorated to the effective date of the termination.

Dated: 8/10/2026
Posted on 8/24/2026
Philip A. Glass, Substitute Trustee,
Nodell, Glass & Haskell, L.L.P.

BEGINNING at an iron pipe, said iron pipe being located 426 feet North of the northern edge
of the Holly Springs Road; and being also the Northeast comer of Lot 4 of plat hereinafter
referred to; runs thence North 69 degrees West 399 feet to a point marked by an axle in the line of Milton Thomas; runs thence along Milton Thomas's line North 24 degrees 30 minutes East 70
feet to a point marked by a holt; runs thence North 15 degrees East 37 feet to an iron stake; runs
thence South 69 degrees 30 minutes East 386 feet to an iron stake; runs thence South 13 degrees
45 minutes West 110 feet to the point of beginning, containing one (1) acre and being designated
as Parcel Number 3 of a map of the property of the William Barbee Estate dated February 4,
1960 as surveyed and platted by E.C. Smith, R.L.S.
Subject to easements, restrictions and rights of way of record, and utility lines and rights of way in
existence over, under or upon the above-described property.
PIN: 0782878898
Property Address: 3702 Tryon Rd. Raleigh, NC 27606

BEGINNING at a stake on the North side of Holly Springs Road, said stake being located S.
65° 30' E. 135 feet from an iron bolt which is situated at the southwest comer of the property
of Lena Tucker; runs thence N. 13° 45' E. in a line parallel lo and 30 feet cast of the eastern
property line of Lena Tucker lo a point; runs thence N. 69°30' W. 30 feet to an iron stake; of
Lena Tucker property, 426 feet to the North side of the Holly Springs Road; runs thence along
the North side of Holly Springs Road, 30 feet lo the point of BEGINNING, and consisting of a
thirty-foot strip of property on the cast side of the property of Lena Tucker property, all
according to the map of the property of William Barbee Estate, by E.C. Smith, R.L.S., dated
February 4, 1960
and
BEGINNING at a stake, said being located 30 feet north of the north line of Holly Springs Road; at the southwest comer of the property of Estelle B. Jones; runs thence along the western line of the said Estelle B. Jones property, North 13 degrees 45 minutes East, 426 feet to an iron pipe; runs thence North 69 degrees West I 03 feet to an iron pipe; runs thence along the eastern line ofthe Henry Davis property, South 13 degrees 45 minutes West, 421 feet to an iron bolt, said bolt being located 30 foci north of the northern line of said Holly Springs Road;
runs thence along the line parallel to and 30 feet north of the northern line of Holly Springs Road, South 65 degrees 30 minutes East, 105 feet to the point of BEGINNING; containing one acre, more or less, and being Tract 4 of the property of William Barbee Estate, according to plat of same by E. C. Smith, R.L.S., dated February 4, 1960.

And being the same property surveyed by John A Edwards & Company for Tryon @ Gonnan LLC on or about December 6, 2017:

BEGINNING AT AN EXISTING IRON PIPE ON THE NORTHERN RIGHT OF WAY OF TRYON ROAD, SAID POINT BEING THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF THE PARCEL DESCRIBED IN DEED BOOK 16060, PAGE 2746 AND HAVING NORTH CAROLINA GRID COORDINATES OF N=727,376.36 AND E=2,089,035.39'; THENCE FROM THE POINT OF BEGINNING, ALONG SAID RIGHT OF WAY, NORTH 61° 12'08" WEST FOR A DISTANCE OF 31. 73 FEET TO AN EXISTING IRON PIPE; THENCE LEA YING SAID RIGHT OF WAY, NORTH 09° 46' 24" EAST FOR A DISTANCE OF 389.93 FEET TO AN EXISTING IRON PIPE; THENCE SOUTH 72° 38' 13" EAST FOR A DISTANCE OF 0.85 FEET TO AN EXISTING IRON PIPE; THENCE SOUTH 72° 36' 14" EAST FOR A DISTANCE OF 29.42 FEET TO AN EXISTING IRON PIPE: THENCE SOUTH 09° 56' 19" WEST FOR A DISTANCE OF 157.73 FEET TO AN EXISTING IRON PIPE; THENCE SOUTH 09° 48' 59" WEST FOR A DISTANCE OF 133.14 FEET TO AN EXISTING IRON PIPE; THENCE SOUTH 09° 28' 17" WEST FOR A DISTANCE OF I 05.39 FEET TO AN EXISTING IRON PIPE, SAID PIPE BEING THE POINT AND PLACE OF BEGINNING, AND CONTAINING 11,660 S.F. OR 0.2677 AC. and SITUATED IN THE SWIFT CREEK TOWNSHIP, WAKE COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA AND MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:

BEGINNING AT AN EXISTING IRON PIPE ON THE NORTHERN RIGHT OF WAY OF TRYON ROAD, SAID POINT BEING THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF TRACT 4 AS DESCRIBED IN DEED BOOK I 667, PAGE 211 AND HAVING NORTH CAROLINA GRID COORDINATES OF N=727,443.80' AND E=2,088,912.70'; THENCE FROM THE POINT OF BEGINNING, LEAVING SAID RIGHT OF WAY, NORTH 09° 58' 03" EAST FOR A DISTANCE OF 368.11 FEET TO AN EXISTING IRON PIPE; THENCE SOUTH 72° 38' 13" EAST FOR A DISTANCE OF 102.00 FEET TO AN EXISTING IRON PIPE; THENCE SOUTH 09° 46' 24" WEST FOR A DISTANCE OF 389.93 FEET TO AN IRON PIPE SET ON THE NORTHERN RIGHT OF WAY OF TRYON ROAD; THENCE ALONG SAID RIGHT OF WAY NORTH 61° 12'08" WEST FORA DISTANCE OF 108.27 FEET TO AN EXISTING IRON PIPE, SAID PIPE BEING THE POINT AND PLACE OF BEGINNING, AND CONTAINING 38,572 S.F. OR 0.8855 AC.

Subject to easements, restrictions and rights of way of record, and utility lines and rights of way in existence over, under or upon the above-described property.
PIN: 0782879687
Property Address: 3704 Tryon Rd. Raleigh, NC 27606

BEGINNING at a monument at the intersection of the right-of-way of S.R. 1009 (Holly Springs Road) and Gorman Street; runs thence North 10° 29' 17" East 332.56 feet to an existing iron pipe; runs thence South 72° 40' 13" East 295.95 feet to an existing iron pipe; runs thence South 09° 58' 02" West 397.86 feet to a monument in the right-of-way of S.R. 1009 (Holly Springs Road); runs thence North 71 ° 03' 53' West 62.97 feet to a monument; runs thence North 64° 29' 20" West 152.85 feet to a monument; runs thence North 45° 57' 47" West 101.66 feet to the point and place of BEGINNING, as shown on survey dated September 29, 1988, prepared by Al Prince & Associates, P.A., entitled "Survey for Donald E. Smith and Lillian Smith - Harden Property - Wake County, North Carolina".

Subject to easements, restrictions and rights of way of record, and utility lines and rights of way in existence over, under or upon the above-described property.
PIN: 0782878607
Property Address: 3712 Tryon Rd. Raleigh, NC 27606
October 15 & October 22, 2026

VOTE YES NOV. 3RD

STRONG SCHOOLS. CONNECTED COMMUNITIES. A SKILLED WORKFORCE.

This Election Day, four bonds will appear on the back side of your ballot: the Wake County School Bond, Wake Community College Bond, City of Raleigh Transportation Bond, and City of Raleigh Affordable Housing Bond. Be sure to vote YES for all four bonds to invest in the future of our community.

VOTE NOV. 3
YES
WAKE SCHOOL BOND

SCAN >>

BETTER LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS START WITH THE BASICS.

Students deserve space to learn, comfort to focus, and a safe place to grow. Aging facilities and ongoing maintenance needs affect the spaces where our students learn and our teachers work every day. The bond would address these needs through planned investments that serve today's students and future generations. Strong schools help build stronger communities across Wake County.

- $372.2 million to renovate and modernize nine existing schools.
- $143.2 million for three new elementary schools in growing communities.
- $156.8 million for critical building systems, HVAC, athletic equipment and amenities, and support facilities.
- $160.1 million for future needs, including technology upgrades, property acquisition, security improvements, and removal of outdated mobile classrooms.

vote Yes!
HOUSING + TRANSPORTATION

SCAN >>

CREATING HOMES. CONNECTING COMMUNITIES.

Raleigh residents deserve more places to call home and safer ways to get around. Raleigh's Affordable Housing and Transportation Bonds would create and preserve affordable housing, improve sidewalks and streets, and connect neighborhoods. **These investments would support Raleigh's growth without raising property taxes.**

- $57.6 million for affordable housing development and preservation, help seniors age in place and keep homes affordable.
- $10.4 million for homebuyer assistance.
- $12 million for homelessness response, including rental assistance, diversion programs, and support to help people secure stable housing.
- $21.5 million for major transportation project redevelopment.
- $40 million to implement adopted transportation plans, including new sidewalks, bikeways, downtown mobility improvements, and safety projects along high-risk streets and intersections.
- $51.5 million for major road projects, including Marsh Creek Road, Trawick Road West, Ebenezer Church Road, and the Southern Bus Rapid Transit corridor.
- $6 million for neighborhood traffic improvements, addressing speeding, intersections, and safer access.

VOTE YES
WAKE
TECH

SCAN >>

A STRONGER WORKFORCE STRENGTHENS ALL OF WAKE COUNTY.

Wake County's future depends on the people who build it, care for it, and keep it moving forward. The Wake Tech Bond would improve campus facilities and expand training for high-demand careers. These investments would give students more opportunities to build skills, pursue rewarding careers, and create a stronger future for themselves and their families.

- $41 million for workforce program expansion, including fire and rescue training, skilled trades, automotive technology, and dental hygiene.
- $65 million for Southern Wake Campus renovations, including spaces for diesel and heavy equipment, construction management, engineering, and architecture.
- $43.1 million for collegewide improvements to building systems, safety, accessibility, technology, and equipment.

EARLY VOTING: OCTOBER 15–31 | ELECTION DAY: NOVEMBER 3

PAID FOR BY FRIENDS OF WAKE COUNTY, CITIZENS FOR RALEIGH AND WAKE TECH WORKFORCE FORWARD