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The African American Voice - "Setting the Record Straight"

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The Greensboro Times

Greensboro City Council Approves 180-day Data Center Moratorium



Greensboro City Council Member Crystal Black

Greensboro City Council members took up a six-month Ai Data Center Moratorium at a July 21 council meeting, and the proposal was defeated 5 to 4. The motion was introduced by Crystal Black and seconded by Cecile Crawford. Black and Crawford rationale for the Moratorium was that it would provide the city with the opportunity to get community input and study how

AI Dataa Data Center vote- page - 5

NC Attorney General Jackson rejects Duke Energy's proposed rate increase

by Christine Zhu, 7-21-26
NC Newsline



NC Attorney General Jeff Jackson





US Rep. Alma Adams



US Rep. Valarie Fourshee

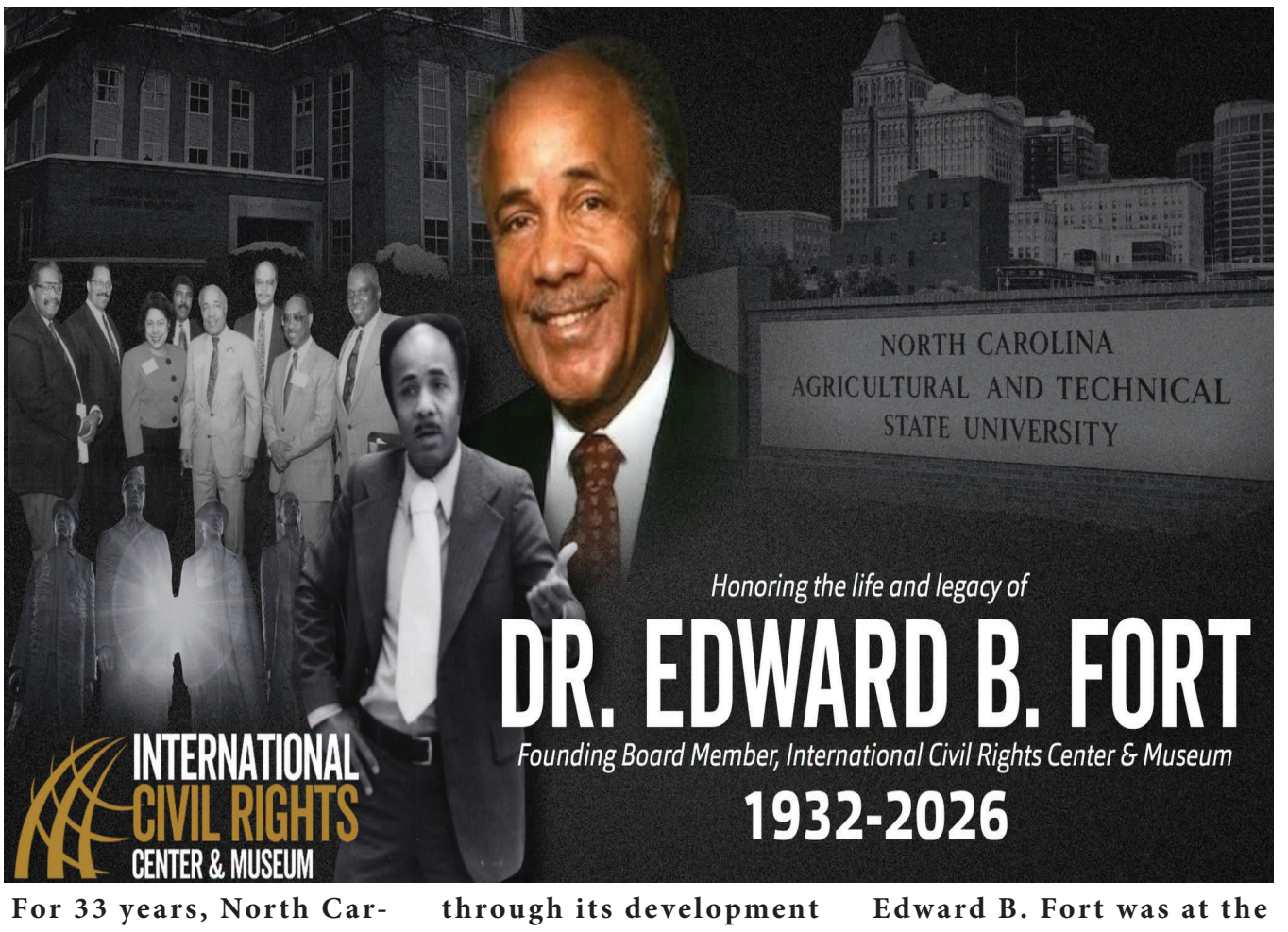


US Rep. Deborah Ross

North Carolina Attorney General Jeff Jackson won't sign off on a Duke Energy's settlement raising residential costs by 9.5%, he said in an announcement Tuesday.

Following months of backlash, Duke Energy filed an amended settlement agreement earlier this week to decrease its

NC AG rejects Duke Energy's rate increase- page 4



For 33 years, North Carolina A&T Chancellor Emeritus Dr. Edward B. Fort contributed crucial guidance to the International Civil Rights Center & Museum, offering expertise and counsel from its inception through its development into an internationally recognized institution. Before the former F.W. Woolworth's building opened to visitors, a dedicated group worked to preserve both the site and its historic legacy. Dr. Edward B. Fort was at the center of the group. Museum co-founder Earl Jones, who met Dr. Fort in 1984, recalls his significant presence during the organization's early years. Dr. Fort's reputation in

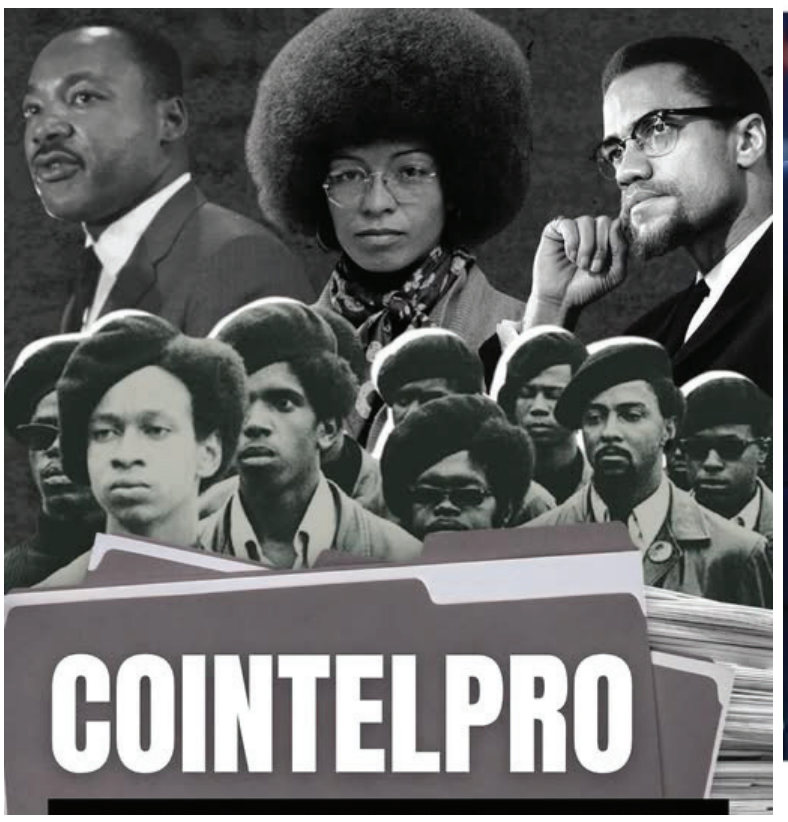
Dr. Edward B. Fort - page - 4

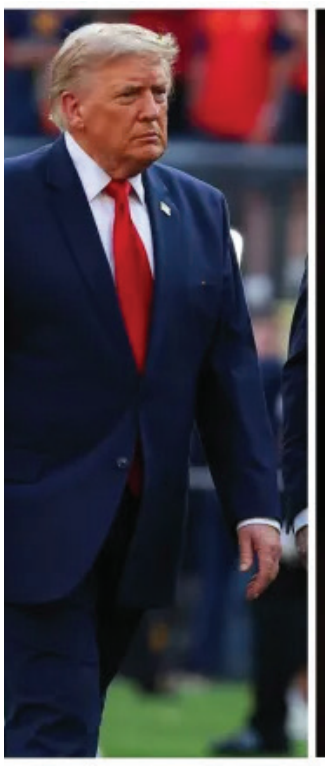
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NEWS NOTES

Marco Rubio And Stephen Miller's Criminalization Of The Left Was Tested On Black America First

Trump's top officials create a category of domestic enemies who can be blamed, surveilled, financially strangled, arrested, and prosecuted when people resist.

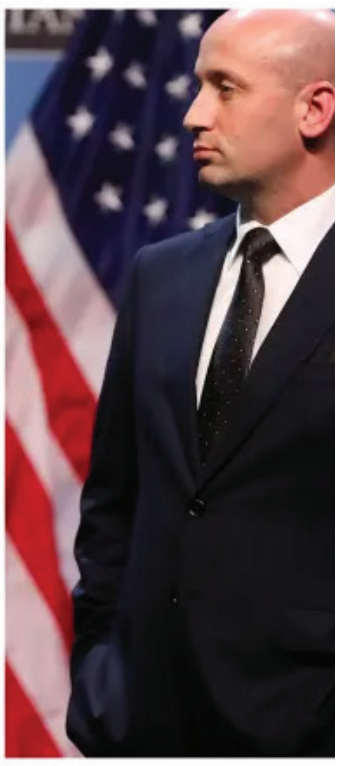




Trump



Rubio



Miller

Mid-July, was a hot mess in American politics.

Don't get me wrong, every week in Trump's America, some kaleidoscopic evil goes down. But last month on July 20, within roughly 36 hours, four ominous messages came from the president and three of his senior officials. Taken together, it is clear that this regime is laying the groundwork for amped-up repression ahead of the midterm elections.

First up was Donald Trump appearing on prime-time television, still hauling around his 2020 election loss to Joe Biden like a ghoul dragging a rotten corpse. Six years later, he's still blaming China, Tyrone and 'nem from Atlanta, somebody's abuela in Arizona, voting machines gone woke, poll workers named Keisha, and the end-times moon cycle. During his address, Trump once again revived long-debunked lies about fraud so he could justify his demands for tighter voting restrictions.

Earlier that day, Marco Rubio and Stephen Miller spoke at an international counterterrorism ministerial held in the U.S. State Department in Washington, D.C. Representatives from 67 countries listened to the duo cast the political left as a threat to national security and civilization. After Rubio delivered the opening remarks, Miller filled up by detailing plans for a domestic crackdown under NSPM-7, which would identify, defund, arrest, and prosecute opponents classified by the Trump administration as political terrorists.

And on the eve of all this, Secretary of War Pete Hegseth announced a testosterone-screening program for troops aged 30 and older, supposedly to keep America's "warfighters" operating on what he called the "leading edge of lethality," as if what this country desperately needs is more state-sanctioned killing.

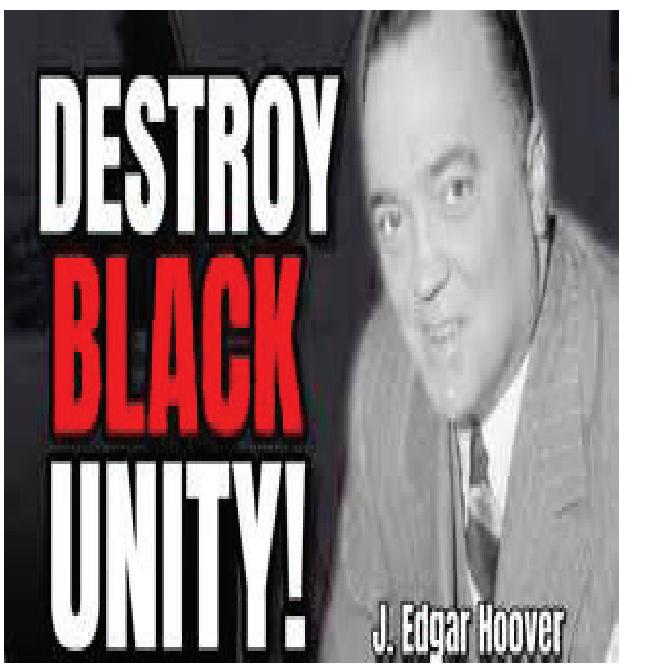
So, we watched a seemingly coordinated rollout with Trump priming the country for another stolen-election panic, Rubio and Miller putting targets on the left, and Hegseth checking whether the troops' bloodwork was sufficiently homicidal.

And dare I say that this entire spectacle unfolded inside a government that looks half-dead, politically anxious, and increasingly desperate to hold onto power. There's Trump with his swollen legs, bruised hands, and sleepiness. Mitch McConnell went MIA after a fall and bout of pneumonia. His staff issued a cryptic release and proof-of-life photos, which raise more questions than answers. Then Lindsey Graham up and died.

But the real story isn't just that America is being governed by a gerontocracy wheezing toward the midterms. The bodies at the top may be falling, swelling, and deteriorating, but the racist, authoritarian machinery beneath them is moving along just fine. It is clear that this administration is not waiting until after another election loss to cry fraud. Instead, they're trying to rig the terms of participation now.

That is what connects Trump's election séance to Rubio and Miller's rhetoric about domestic terrorism. Trump keeps feeding the public the lie that elections are stolen from him. His administration attacks the laws and institutions that protect voting rights. Then his top officials create a category of domestic enemies who can be blamed, surveilled, financially strangled, arrested, and prosecuted when people resist.

Trump supplies the conspiracy. Rubio gives the enemy a name. Miller explains how the government will come after them. And Hegseth makes sure the military will remain on the "leading edge of lethality" in case folks take to the streets. Sounds like the Palmer Raids, or McCarthyism, or COINTELPRO.



But none of this is unfamiliar to Black people. We've seen this whole white-supremacist authoritarian production before. Long before "the left" was branded dangerous, this government tested these methods on Black people.

Slave rebellions were called terrorism and abolitionists were treated as subversives. Black labor organizers were branded radicals. Civil rights leaders and groups, from Martin Luther King Jr. to the Black Panthers, were surveilled by the FBI as threats to national security, not because they were engaged in some vast criminal enterprise.

Their ideas, organizing activities, and demands threatened the racial order. And so those movements were infiltrated, their funding was disrupted, they were subjected to cooked-up plots, folks were arrested,

Tested on Black America first -page - 8

Black Farmers Win Court Case That Restores $127 Million in Federal Grants

by Aallyah Wright 7-2-26

The decision reinstates funding for organizations that say the USDA cuts threatened jobs and community programs.



People pass through the Charlotte Regional Farmers Market in Charlotte, North Carolina. A federal judge recently ordered the U.S. Department of Agriculture to reinstate $127 million in awarded grants to organizations led by and that support Black farmers. (Jeffrey Greenberg/Universal Images Group via Getty Images

Black farmers like Sharon Mallory can finally get some relief after a judge ruled to restore millions of dollars in grants.

Earlier this year, the Trump administration yanked the money away from organizations led by and in support of Black farmers.

Mallory's organization, the 2020 Farmers Cooperative, promised to purchase equipment and land and provide food for their communities. They entered agreements with farmers, but the cooperative couldn't fulfill its obligation after the U.S. Department of Agriculture sent a letter stating the grant had been terminated in March. The department claimed the awards were "discriminatory based on diversity, equity and inclusion and wasteful spending."

For Mallory, the pause on the land grants caused distrust and disruption to the cooperative's work. Some organizations had to reduce or layoff staff, end programs, and divert resources. Many farm operations may not be able to survive because of it.

"Put it another way, the grant termination has undone 2020 Farmers Cooperative's long-term work in building trusting relationships, which led us to apply for the grant, and we must now find new ways to get back to where we were reputationally," Mallory said in the lawsuit.

She and more than two dozen organizations may be able to salvage what has been tarnished.

In a June 30 order, U.S. District Judge Beryl A. Howell ruled that USDA and its employees must reinstate $127 million in awards and file a status report with the court on July 3 by 5 p.m. The decision comes a month after 24 entities — including the 2020 Farmers Cooperative — joined an ongoing lawsuit challenging the USDA's decision to eliminate the program, which was meant to address historic land loss experienced by farmers of color. It was part of the former President Joe Biden's Increasing Land, Capital, and Market Access Program, which awarded $300 million to 50 projects.

"Land Access Program Plaintiffs have demonstrated that the terminations of their individual grants were likely contrary to statute, that they will suffer irreparable harm in the absence of relief, and that the balance of equities and public interest favor preliminary injunctive relief," Howell wrote In a separate opinion released on the same day. "Thus, these grant terminations are preliminarily vacated."

Hannah Wolf, FarmSTAND staff attorney and counsel for plaintiffs, said this victory is for the people across the U.S. who are working to build "fairer and more sustainable food systems."

"Through this order, and in previously enjoining other grants terminated by USDA and DOGE [Department of Government Efficiency], the court has consistently recognized that USDA has an obligation to assist all farmers and ranchers," Wolf said in a statement. "It cannot diminish services to certain farmers by invoking phrases like 'illegal DEI.'"

The following are farmer organizations or entities whose grants will be restored:

2020 Farmers Cooperative
African Alliance of Rhode Island
Agraria Center for Regenerative Practice
Agrarian Trust
Black Oregon Land Trust
Center for Heirs' Property
Cultivate Kansas City
Four Bands Community Fund
Heru Urban Farming
H.O.P.E For Small Farm Sustainability
Iowa Valley RC&D
Kansas Black Farmers Association
King County, Washington
NDN Collective
Northeast Organic Farming Association of New Jersey (NOFA-NJ)
Ourspace World
RAFI
San Diego Food System Alliance
Sustainable Iowa Land Trust
THRIVE Santa Ana
Urban Oasis Project
Viva Farms
Workin Rootz
World Farmers

NC Attorney General rejects Duke Energy's rate increase from page 1

rate increase request from about 18% to about 9.5% over two years for residential users.

But Jackson says it's still too high. He said residential users are being asked to cover more of the increase than industrial users.

"We did our own independent analysis of what Duke will need to meet demand, and we think they overshot the mark," Jackson said in a video posted to social media on Tuesday. "We think they can come down significantly, and still meet demand.

The settlement does not require the approval of the state attorney general, but Jackson could take the matter to court. A spokesperson for Jackson didn't immediately respond to NC Newsline's inquiry about potential litigation.

Gov. Josh Stein also criticized the proposed settlement, saying the Utilities Commission needs to impose a large load tariff to ensure data centers cover their own electricity costs.

"These are some of the largest and richest companies in the world," Stein said on social media. "They can pay more to lower everyone else's rates."

The deal sets a 9.8% return on equity, representing the profit margin for shareholders. Under North Carolina law, regulated utilities must be allowed to earn a "reasonable rate of return" to continue to attract investors.

Kendal Bowman, Duke Energy's North Carolina president, said the company's goal remains delivering reliable power at the lowest possible cost.

"We appreciate our stakeholders' engagement in finding a path that allows us to more cost-effectively serve the Tar Heel State," Bowman said in a statement. "We've agreed to reduce rates even more than in our prior settlements, while still allowing us to make vital infrastructure investments to meet existing and future customer needs."

The deal between Duke Energy Carolinas, a subsidiary covering the western portion of the state, and North Carolina Public Staff, which represents customers, requires approval from the North Carolina Utilities Commission before moving forward.

The utility, Public Staff, and other settling parties agreed to negotiate similar terms for Duke Energy Progress, which covers the eastern half of North Carolina.

Under the proposal, rates for residential users would increase by 5.9% in the first year and 3.6% in the second, leading to a cumulative growth of 9.5%, according to Duke Energy spokesperson Bill Norton.

If approved, the new rates would take effect on Jan. 1.

Government officials, trade groups, and environmentalists pushed back against Duke's original request for an 18% increase, citing rising prices for consumers across the board.

In recent months, stakeholders have also voiced concerns about hyperscale data centers threatening energy affordability in the state by shifting costs to residents.

Lawmakers introduced and advanced legislation targeting the topic this session, although none of the standalone bills have yet made it to Stein's desk. The state budget, however, repeals the sales tax exemption on electricity for data centers.

While the agreement doesn't directly address data centers, Norton told NC Newsline in an email that Duke Energy has had "constructive discussions" about implementing a large load tariff.

"Our analysis shows that large load customers like data centers will not only pay for the costs required to serve them but also contribute additional revenue to lower costs for all other customers," Norton wrote. "That will remain the case regardless of whether a large load tariff is established or not."

Environmental Defense Fund NC policy director Will Scott said the settlement shows Duke Energy sees the need for new data center regulations.

"That is a win for regular customers and opens the door to enabling data centers to bring their own clean energy as many other states are doing," Scott said in a statement.

Environmentalists are also worried about the federal government's move to push utilities away from adding clean energy sources. They say Duke Energy is prioritizing President Donald Trump's favor over affordable, renewable energy for North Carolinians.

Last month, the Trump administration gave Duke Energy a $28.4 million grant for a coal plant in Person County. Earlier this year, the utility received $129 million from the Trump administration to cancel its Carolina Long Bay offshore wind lease.

North Carolina's U.S. Reps. Deborah Ross, Valerie Foushee, and Alma Adams wrote a letter to Duke Energy Tuesday demanding answers about the end of the offshore wind lease.

"In recent months, multiple offshore wind projects and lease areas across the country have been canceled by the Trump administration in exchange for payouts to the leaseholders and promises to reinvest those funds into fossil fuel projects and infrastructure," the letter read. "The Carolina Long Bay project represented one of the best opportunities to develop offshore wind energy off North Carolina's coast."

The Trump administration has been dismissive of renewable energy development, calling it the "green new scam."

Ross and other Democrats accused Trump of bribery in May regarding the buyouts.

Dr. Edward B. Fort - from page 1

Greensboro and beyond gave the project momentum and helped strengthen ties between the museum and North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University. Dr. Fort was especially well positioned to understand that connection. As a founding member of the Board of Directors and longtime Board secretary, Dr. Fort brought decades of educational and administrative experience to an organization committed to preserving the site of the Greensboro Sit-Ins and establishing a museum dedicated to civil and human rights.

He arrived in Greensboro in September 1981 as the eighth chancellor of N.C.A&T, university whose students — Jibreel Khazan (formerly Ezell Blair Jr.), Franklin McCain, Joseph McNeil and David Richmond on February 1, 1960, challenged racial exclusion at the Woolworth lunch counter. The sit-in they began helped inspire similar demonstrations across the country and became part of a broader movement challenging racial segregation in public accommodations.



Greensboro AI Data Center 180 -day Moratorium from page 1

the AI facilities would affect the community. Two weeks later, the council reversed their previous decision.The vote was 9-0 to move forward with the Moratorium. The vote position the city to schedule a hearing on Monday August 17 wherein the City Council voted 8-0 with one recusal, to establish a 180 day Moratorum.

Similar to Greensboro, North Carolina residents have raised concerns that AI data centers could consume enormous amounts of electricity and water, increasing utility costs and straining local resources. Communities also worry about noise, air pollution from backup generators, environmental damage, and pressure on roads and infrastructure. Some question whether data centers create enough permanent jobs to justify tax incentives and public investment. Others fear that rapid development could change rural communities, reduce farmland, and burden nearby residents while profits flow elsewhere. Concerns about transparency, zoning, whether minority communities would be disproportionately affected and whether communities have meaningful input before projects are approved have also fueled opposition.



LAWSUIT CHALLENGING GREENSBORO BUDGET DISMISSED



REPORT URGES NORTH CAROLINA TO END DATA CENTER SUBSIDIES, HALT NEW PROJECTS

Walt Unks Journal

The Greensboro Times Newspaper

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The Shout-Out Line

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Good afternoon, want to let your readers know about county and city programs that may benefit them. Firstly, on August 15, Guilford County's Low Income Homeowners Assistance Grant Program will open to all homeowners. The program is exclusively for residents 65 and older. Giving seniors a 30-day head-start. Then the age restrictions will go away, and any qualifying homeowner can apply. The grants are one-time payments made directly to homeowners. Also, the county has started a program to help people who find themselves involved in a civil court action without a lawyer. On August 13, Guilford County opens a second location of its legal support center. It isn't a law firm and staff are not lawyers. They will help people by providing step -by- step information about court procedures, help people determine what forms they need and explain the forms and figure out what they are supposed to do next. The center is located downtown in room LG50 of the Guilford County Courthouse, 201 South Eugene Street. Just info that may help. Hope so.

Shout-Out

God has been good to me!!! He has blessed me with a beautiful place, a smart gorgeous wife, a new job, mannerly kids, and great family and friends. Thank God for your blessings, Don't take life for granted because its sooo short. Good day!!!

Shout-Out

Hello, please print all of this, I just gotta get it off my chest. You know, its kind of odd to me that poor white people, mostly MAGA, would support a racist for president like Donald Trump. They vote against their own economic interest. Other than being a crook, as a politician Trump has always benefited the rich at the expense of the poor. Now they are paying higher grocery and gas prices, and unemployment is rising. He started an unjustified and illegal war with Iran that MAGA sons and daughters must fight while he and his rich friends' children stay home and avoid the carnage and horror of war just as he did during the Vietnam War era. Trump has pulled the so-call safety net from under MAGA, like food stamps, Medicaid, Obamacare all to give welfare and tax breaks to billionaires and corporations. As the late Marvin Gaye would say to MAGA, "whats going on." And I say, MAGA are you crazy. I think former President Lyndon Baynes Johnson put it best some 60 years ago when he was asked why poor white Republicans repeatedly vote against their own self-interest. Johnson said " If you can convince the lowest white man he is better than the best colored man, he won't know you are picking his pocket. Hell, you give him someone to look down on and he'll empty his pockets for you." That's it. MAGA is proof positive; racism is a mental disease.

Shout-Out

Have you ever had a bad first impression on a date? I remember when a guy showed up with some withered roses. Like is this the sign of our future together? Almost near dead bruh.You know you don't get a second chance to make a first impression.

Shout-Out

Good morning, watching the national news this morning, and in this political season, the Republicans nationwide are villainizing what you call Democratic Socialist, and they have begun to call them something that they are not and that's Communist. I was thinking we've been here before. Conservatives labeled Martin Luther King as a Communist. But you know, if capitalism is so great, why do corporations need tax breaks, subsidies, exemptions, grants, and bail outs. And as for Democratic Socialism, President Franklin Rosevelt must have been a Democratic Socialist. If not, he acted like one. His administration gave us Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, unions, holidays, and farm subsidies. Democratic socialism is looking pretty good for me and my family's bottom line.

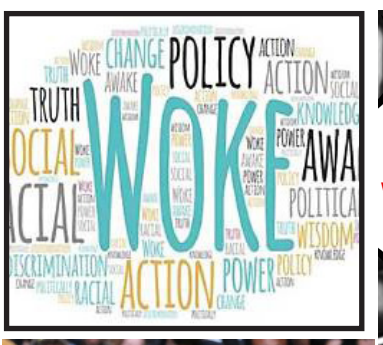
Publisher's View



Earl Jones, Publisher
The Greensboro Times

To Be American, Black, Gifted, and "Woke"

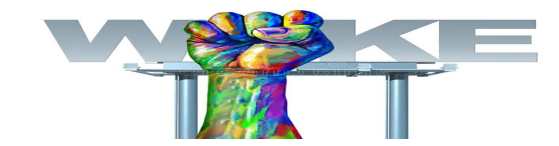












"Woke," I am one person society can define as "Woke." I'm "Woke" and proudly so. This term is one of the clearest examples of how evil and corrupt people can manipulate language to turn a positive word into something negative. For me, "Woke" means you work for godly righteousness, and fairness and justice for all. It means being awake and sensitive to the needs and suffering of others. It means being awake to truth and injustice.

The enemies of truth want us to be like Rip Van Winkle. Remember him? A Dutch American villager who falls asleep in the mountains in the 1760s and woke up twenty years later to a changed world having missed the Revolutionary War. The white supremacist MAGA movement, a code for Make America white again, wants Americans of good will and an ethical moral compass to not be "Woke" but sleep and do nothing while they-- unchallenged-- transform America into a modern-day Nazi authoritarian dictatorship to complete Hitler's dream. Remember the MAGA cult leader said he "would be a dictator on day one." Since day one, he has been trying to make good on that promise. Former US Congresswoman Liz Chaney, (R- Wyoming) said the nation is "sleepwalking into dictatorship" in the United States. MAGA is the opposite of Woke. They are in a deep sleep,they are in a coma.

What are the consequences of not being "Woke." If Martin Luther King and Rosa Parks had not been "Woke" when society was indoctrinated to accept the status quo, we may be living today under "Jim Crow." If Harriet Tubman and Frederick Douglass had not been "Woke", today there may be two American nations-- one, the United States of America and the other, the Confederate States of America. If Reverend Jesse Jackson had not been "Woke" and had not run for president, there would be no first African American president, Barack Obama. To not be "Woke" allows the MAGA movement to erase history and hide the atrocities that they have committed against the the continent of Africa and the indigenous people of the Americas. Therefore, they have no reponsibilty for reparative justice. Stay "Woke."

Because of the calculated deliberate distortion of the true meaning of "Woke", just like Rip Van Wrinkle, many Americans today are asleep. "Woke" means being aware, being intelligent, and not living in a LaLa land of fantasy created by a Commander in Chief who is delusional and only interested in his racial genocidal agenda and his own financial self-interest.

Finally, there are subtle signs of Americans beginning to slowly become "Woke." They are becoming "Woke" to the fact that their gas, rent, utility, and grocery costs are rising. Primarily because of tax breaks to Americas' billionaire class and an illegal, unjust Iran war of choice of the President. They are becoming "Woke" because they realize that many of their sons and daughters will come home in coffins not having any true understanding of America's January 28, unprovoked attack on Iran. The rationale for the war practically changes every day. So, join me, wake up, standup, and stay "Woke!" Especially on November 3, be "Woke" and vote. Your future and the future of the country depends on it.







Tested on Black America first from page - 2

prosecuted, and jailed as threats to public safety. The boundary between dissent and violence was erased so that racial justice movements looked criminal.

And now, here we go again.

Just listen to how Stephen Miller's target list includes anyone the administration deems responsible for creating "conditions" for violence. That's pretty broad and has the potential to cover anyone from professors, journalists, pastors, nonprofits, universities, foundations, or donors connected to exposing injustices.

That means every teacher, writer, organizer, institution, donor, or benefactor can be folded into this supposed terrorist network. And "defunding" and "debanking" means they will not only arrest and prosecute people, but cut off money, banking access, employment, and any other infrastructure that allows opposition movements to survive.

You don't have to imprison every dissident if you can bankrupt the organizations they work for. You don't have to censor every journalist if employers become too frightened to hire them. You don't have to outlaw every protest if banks, donors, universities, and foundations decide supporting controversial causes is too risky.



Power doesn't always announce itself with tanks rolling down Pennsylvania Avenue. Sometimes it arrives as a compliance department. Black communities understand this better than most Americans because we've lived through earlier versions with our churches and organizations being infiltrated, our newspapers surveilled, our leaders wiretapped and assassinated.

The Trump regime is using old weapons and borrowing from an older racial counterinsurgency tradition used on Black communities. The government learned how to suppress political opposition by practicing on Black communities first. But this time they're being more open with their intentions, systematic, and using more sophisticated tools than previous generations of officials could have imagined.

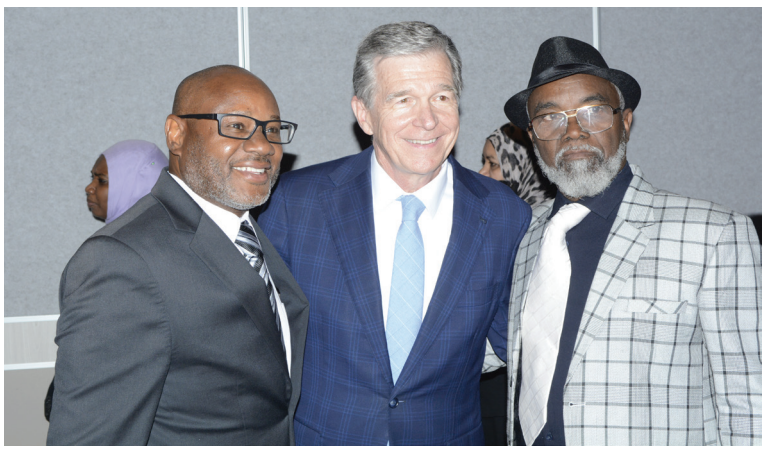
That is why Miller's distinction between "terrorists" and those who merely "support" the conditions around them is so dangerous. Black history shows how quickly that category expands.

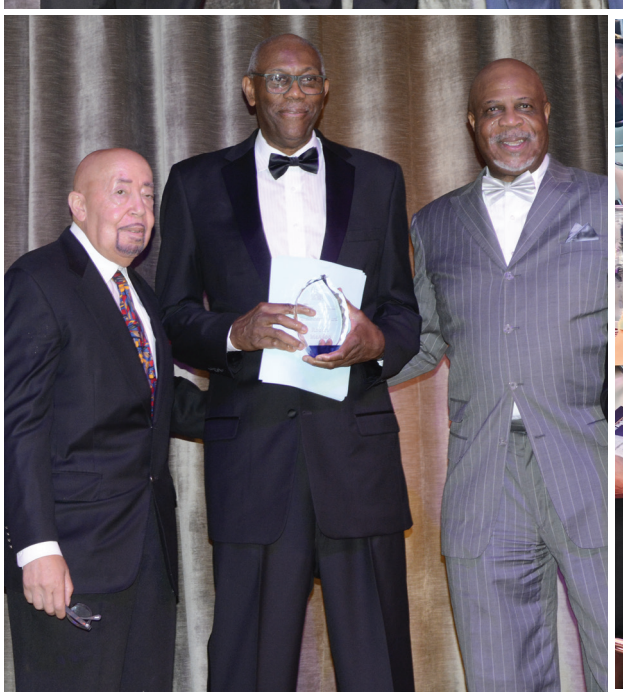
The warning, then, is simple: what is being announced as a war on "the left" is an expansion of tools long used against Black freedom movements. Black people are not encountering a new political technology. We are watching an old one become national policy.

International Civil Rights Center and Museum held its 66th Anniversary of the Greensboro Sit-Ins on Saturday July 18. 2026. The theme for the event was "Standing up for Democracy". Award recipients were Robert "Bob" Brown Alton/Jones International Civil and Human Rights Award, Robert "Bob" McAdoo, Trailblazer Award, Neil Belenky, Unsung Hero Award (Posthumously) Mitzi Turner, Lifetime Community Service Award, Irving Allen, Keeper of the Flame Award and Virgina Williams, Sit-In Participant Award. Musical Performance, Maria Howell Vocalist, Actress ("Beyond the Gates")


























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Got Keys?
Need financial assistance to buy your first home? The City of Greensboro has a program for that. It's called Housing Connect GSO.
The program is open to low- and moderate-income households with new offerings called "Public Service Heroes" and "#100Homes."
Check it out at www.greensboro-nc.gov/Homebuyers and make your dream of homeownership a reality.
GREENSBORO Housing & Neighborhood Development
Housing Connect GSO


A STATEWIDE BUSINESS' LEADERSHIP SUMMIT
THE HUB OFFICE IS GONE. NOW WHAT?
A critical conversation for North Carolina's HUB certified businesses, business leaders, policymakers, advocates, and community partners.
DATE
Thursday, September 10, 2026
TIME
10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
LOCATION
International Civil Rights Center and Museum
Greensboro, NC
IN PERSON, WORKING LUNCH
PURPOSE
To examine the impact of eliminating the State HUB Office, understand what the change means for minority and women owned businesses, and build a unified strategy for what comes next.
RSVP Required at: https://gonenowwhat.eventbrite.com
Straight answers on where certification, contracts, and compliance stand today
An adopted slate of legislative and policy priorities the business community stands behind
A coalition structure with named leads, working groups, and a first meeting on the calendar
A published readout, circulated to every attendee within two weeks
A room full of business owners who each make three constituent calls within the following week


25TH ANNUAL WHITNEY M. YOUNG JR.
SERVICE AWARD HONOREE
FRANKIE T. JONES, JR.


25TH ANNUAL WHITNEY M. YOUNG JR.
SERVICE AWARD HONO
FRANKIE T


Scouting America
Old North State Council
WHITNEY M. YOUNG JR. SERVICE AWARD
FRANKIE T. JONES, JR.

Just flailing

Whatley is trying to change the conversation. It won't work.

Thomas Mills from PoliticsNC 8/12/26



Roy Cooper and Michael Whatley

Michael Whatley's campaign is flailing. The Republican Senate candidate doesn't have anything to run on, so he's trying to find something to run against. So far, he's stuck on re-litigating the COVID era. In particular, he's trying to claim Roy Cooper released a bunch of prisoners who went on to commit more crimes. It's not going to work because, one, it's not true, and, two, this electorate is looking to the future, not the past.

Republicans are feverishly trying to make shutdowns, mask mandates, and vaccines the issue of the midterm elections. They've dragged Anthony Fauci before a Congressional committee and Trump is demanding he be indicted for something. RFK, Jr. can't stop talking about vaccines, making Senator Bill Cassidy the biggest dupe in the Senate — no small accomplishment. Most of the country that's not living on Twitter is ignoring the whole sordid episode.

Whatley's campaign is accusing Cooper of releasing about 3,500 prisoners, implying that he's soft on crime. Last week, the Assembly basically debunked that whole line of attack by reporting that Cooper's administration fought the release of prisoners. The ACLU and other groups were suing the state, demanding 18,000 prisoners be released. The ones released were part of a compromise, not an initiative of the Cooper administration.

Besides, North Carolina was far from the only government to release prisoners. Other states also reduced their inmate populations to prevent the spread of the disease. Donald Trump released more than 13,000 federal prisoners to home confinement. Whatley's certainly not complaining about his benefactor putting criminals back on the street.

Republicans are trying desperately to change the national conversation. It won't work. Successful campaigns tap into voters' concerns and let people know that they are being heard. Whatley is ignoring their problems and instead trying to distract them by talking about a time most people just want to forget.

He's like a guy waving his arms at the back of a large crowd moving forward, yelling, "Look at me! Come this way!" As I said earlier, he's flailing. And so are a bunch of other Republicans.

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with the City of Greensboro

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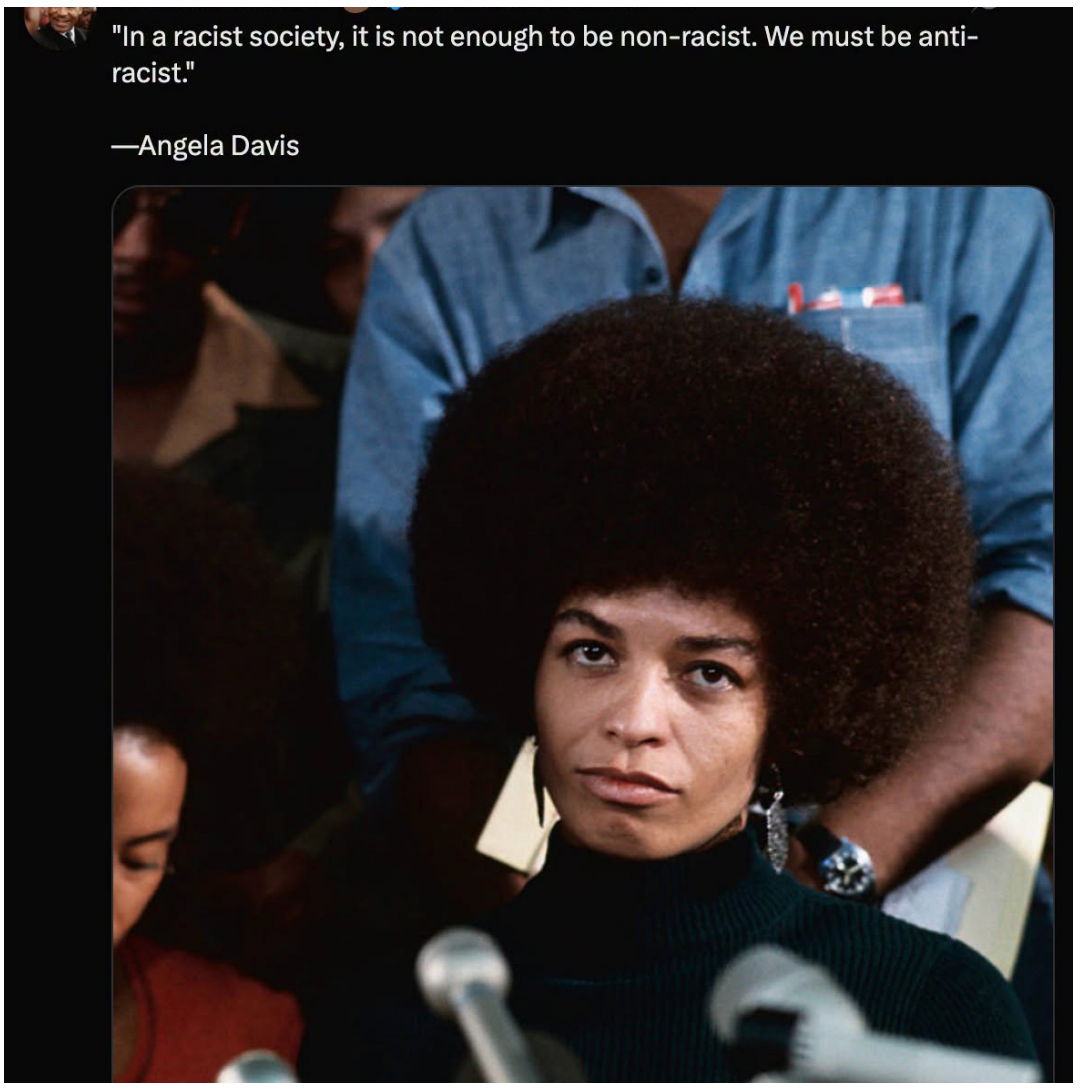
The City of Greensboro is committed to growing a competitive business environment and offering easy access to bidding opportunities.

Stay up-to-date on all the latest bid opportunities being offered by the City of Greensboro.

Questions? Call the City at 336-373-CITY (2489).







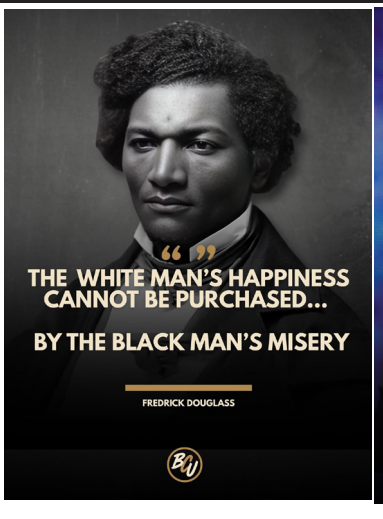
Angela Davis is a scholar, author, and longtime activist whose work has focused on civil rights, prison reform, education, and social justice for more than five decades. Her writings continue to be studied around the world.

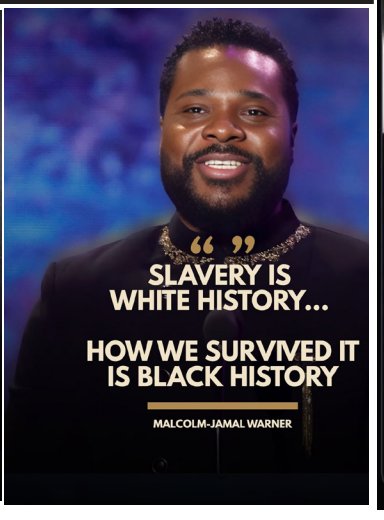
















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SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

FOR THE HONORARY CHAIR

1. WINSTON-SALEM BUSINESS MIXER

Network. Connect. Collaborate.

THURSDAY
JULY 16, 2026

5:30 PM – 7:30 PM

TRUIST STADIUM
WINSTON-SALEM, NC

2. AWARDS GALA

Celebrating Excellence. Honoring Impact.

FRIDAY
AUGUST 21, 2026

RED CARPET: 6:30 PM
GALA: 7:00 PM

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WINSTON-SALEM, NC

3. TRIAD MINORITY & WOMEN'S BUSINESS EXPO

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SATURDAY
AUGUST 22, 2026

11:00 AM – 5:00 PM

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Forbes: N.C. A&T America's No. 1 Public HBCU







EAST GREENSBORO, N.C. (Aug. 3, 2026) – In Forbes' magazine's first-ever rankings of the nation's top historically Black college and universities, North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University claimed the No. 1 position among all public HBCUs across the country.

Released over the weekend as part of its "Top Colleges 2026" package, Forbes' rankings singled out North Carolina A&T for its outstanding return on investment — the leading measurement point in Forbes' methodology —and its size (A&T is the largest historically Black university in America). A&T's average undergraduate cost of attendance for in-state students is $28,519, while alumni early-career median pay is $68,700, with mid-career median pay rising to $116,300.

According to data published annually in Money magazine, A&T has been America's most affordable doctoral research university for the past three years. A&T's costs-to-earnings ratio is highly competitive among all doctoral universities, its starting alumni pay has repeatedly ranked No. 2 in the University of North Carolina System and its mid-career median pay is second highest among all public HBCUs.

"We are strongly committed to providing exceptional value for our students and their families. That means ensuring our students not only excel while in school, but in the workplace after graduation," said Chancellor James R. Martin II. "It's why we host our state's largest college career fairs and why so many Aggies graduate with multiple offers of employment. As America's top producer of Black STEM graduates, we especially appreciate that our graduates are of strong interest to many of the best employers in the world."

The cost of attendance in Forbes factors all expenses, not just tuition and fees: Housing, meals, books and supplies, transportation and personal expenses. For institutions listed in other Forbes' rankings, those costs are often double or even triple A&T costs. Forbes' top-ranked university, private MIT, has a total annual cost of $82,730; the total annual cost of Forbes' top-ranked public university, Berkeley, is $75,830.

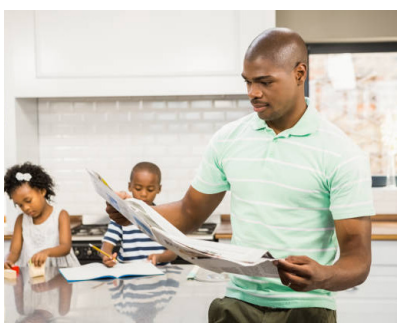
A&T's graduate enrollment of 2,018 was second among HBCUs in these rankings only to Howard, which topped the private HBCU rankings. A&T, however, has achieved that enrollment without medical, law, dentistry or veterinary colleges, while Howard has medical, law, dental and pharmacy schools.

A&T is not resting on its laurels, however. In every measured category, from graduation success to retention rates to enrollment, A&T is positioned for great success in the school year that begins later this month. A&T will also be evaluated for its basic classification in the Carnegie Classification of Colleges and Universities, in which A&T is projected to achieve Carnegie's top designation for research universities: Research 1.

And in that important "intangible" category, HBCU culture, A&T students will experience a dynamic year of opportunities, from celebration of the 100th anniversary of the "greatest homecoming on earth" to launch of a new TED Talk series.

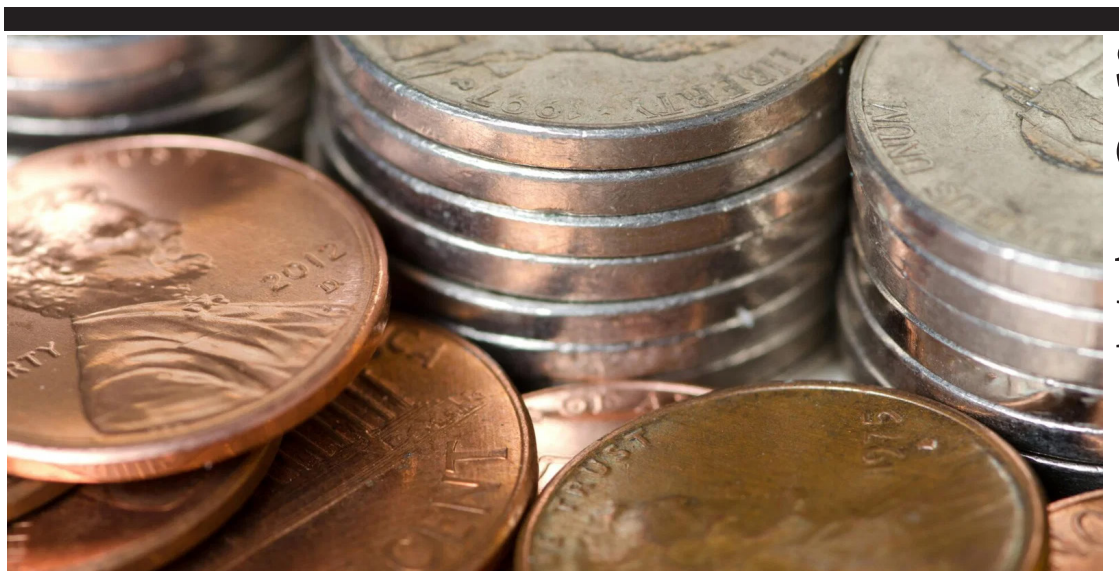
"Each year, we are blessed to climb into realms where no HBCU has gone before. That is critically important to us, to set a standard for achievement that adds value to our students' experiences and prestige to the degrees our 75,000 alumni have already earned," said Martin. "We say it a lot, but it bears repeating here: Aggies DO. And then we do it again and again and again."

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Senate Passes 'The Common Cents Act' To End Penny Production

The goal is to revamp the nickel

by Sidnee Michelle
August 13, 2026

The U.S. Senate has passed legislation that could formally end penny production, establish nationwide rules for rounding cash transactions, and eventually change how nickels are made, The Hill reports.

The Senate passed the Common Cents Act unanimously on Aug. 7. The House previously approved its own version of the legislation. The chambers must approve identical legislation before the measure can advance to President Donald Trump.

For consumers and businesses, the legislation could bring clarity to cash transactions as pennies become increasingly scarce. The bill would allow businesses to round cash purchases to the nearest five cents while leaving credit, debit, and other electronic transactions unchanged.

For example, a $19.82 cash purchase could be rounded down to $19.80, while a $19.83 purchase could be rounded up to $19.85.

The federal framework could also address inconsistencies created by state and local laws that restrict businesses from rounding transactions.

The legislation would formally end production of pennies for general circulation. The U.S. Mint produced its final circulating penny in 2025, although special collectible pennies were released in 2026 to commemorate the nation's 250th anniversary. Existing pennies would remain legal tender.

The outlet reported that more than 300 billion pennies are estimated to remain in circulation or held by consumers.

The Common Cents Act also takes aim at the rising cost of producing nickels.

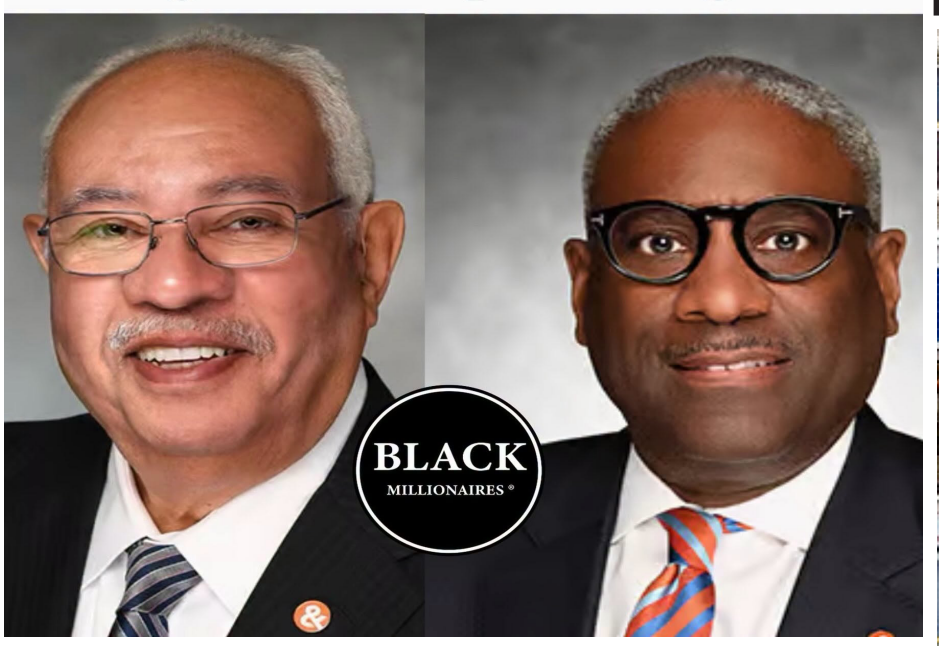
According to U.S. Mint figures cited by The Hill, producing a nickel cost 13.31 cents in fiscal year 2025, down from 13.78 cents in fiscal 2024. The nickel has cost more than its 5-cent face value to produce for 20 consecutive years.

Nickels are made primarily of copper, which has contributed to their elevated production costs. Under the legislation, the Treasury Department would be authorized to test a less expensive composition using zinc and nickel.

Any alternative would have to reduce production costs while creating minimal problems for vending machines and other equipment designed to accept coins.

The legislation would not eliminate the nickel. Both nickels and existing pennies would remain legal tender even if the measure becomes law.

Two Historic Black-Owned Banks Announced That They Are No Longer Looking To Compete With Each Other And Instead Decided To Pursue A $1.27 Billion Merger And Bring Both Companies Together!



Upon approval, Optus Banks's Paul Mitchell overseeing operatins as Chairman and M&F President James H. Sills III (R) filling the CEO role.



North Carolina's first Black-owned bank, the Mechanics and Farmers Bank (M&F), was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1975.

Two of the nation's oldest Black-owned banks are joining forces in a proposed merger that would create the largest Black-owned bank in the United States by assets. South Carolina-based Optus Financial Corporation, the parent company of Optus Bank, and North Carolina-based M&F Bancorp, the parent company of Mechanics & Farmers Bank, announced a definitive merger agreement that would combine the institutions into a single bank with approximately $1.27 billion in total assets.

The merger would bring together more than 220 years of combined banking history. M&F Bank was founded in 1907 and is the oldest Black-owned bank in North Carolina, while Optus Bank traces its roots to 1921. The combined institution is expected to operate 10 branches across North and South Carolina and continue its focus on expanding access to capital, homeownership, and small business lending in underserved communities.

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