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The African American Voice - "Setting the Record Straight"

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**"Looking Ahead:
Greensboro's Vision
for 2026"**

by Nathaniel "Trey" Davis



As we close out 2025, it's worth pausing to reflect on what we've accomplished together, looking ahead to the opportunities of the coming year.

This year, Greensboro made measurable progress in expanding attainable housing, improving public safety, and strengthening our economic base. We advanced infrastructure projects that will serve generations, invested in youth programs, and expanded partnerships with nonprofits, schools, and businesses. We worked to ensure each resident—regardless of neighborhood or

page, 4 - >Greensboro's Vision 2026

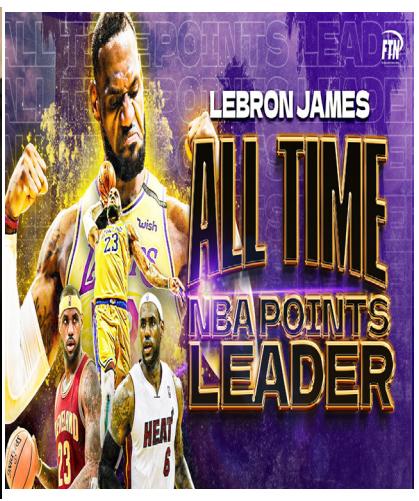
The Greensboro Times top ten stories of 2025



(L-R)Steve and Charlene Allen, City Councilman Irving Allen and his daughter



Trump sworn-in as President



Lebron James all-time NBA Basketball Scoring Leader



Kendrix Lamar-Superbowl 2025



US Government Shutdown



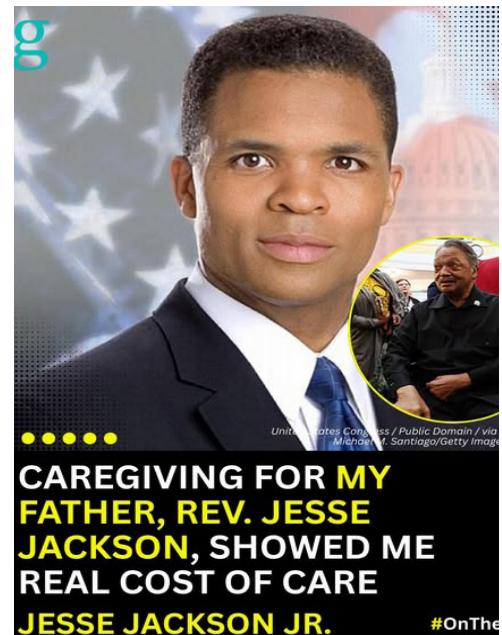
High grocery prices/High cost of living

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Caregiving for my father, Rev. Jesse Jackson, showed me real cost of care

It's an honor and a blessing to help care for my father as he valiantly manages progressive supranuclear palsy. It's also incredibly taxing mentally, emotionally and financially for our family.

by Jesse Jackson Jr.



Over the past five years, along with every one of my siblings, I took on a new and difficult role: serving as a caregiver for my father, the Rev. Jesse



Jackson. My caregiving experience has been brutal, formative and eye-opening. It's an honor and a blessing to help care for my father as he valiantly manages progressive su-



pranuclear palsy (PSP). It's also incredibly taxing mentally, emotionally and financially for our family. My little sister, Jackie Jr., has put her teaching career on hold to take on full-

Jesse Jackson, Jr. - page 5>

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NEWS NOTES

The Story of Jasmine Crockett's Political Journey From Local Politics to an Historic Senate Run

Long before her viral read on Marjorie Taylor Greene, Rep. Jasmine Crockett has been committed to doing the work of the people. Now, she has her sights set on the Senate.



Even if you don't follow politics that closely, you've probably heard of Rep. Jasmine Crockett (D.-TX). She stays in the headlines for speaking truth to power, using her position on the House Oversight and Accountability committee to maintain ethics and efficiency in government.

Since her arrival in Washington, Crockett has been a rising star in the Democratic party, and with her Dec. 8 announcement launching her bid to represent Texas in the United States Senate, we're sure she'll be on our radar for years to come.

Let's take a look at the amazing political journey of Representative Jazmine Crockett. Born in St. Louis, Jazmine Crockett was raised by parents who instilled in her a commitment to service – particularly to the underserved. Her father, Rev. Joseph Crockett, was a teacher and a preacher.

"It's my daddy's leadership and love in the church that raised me and inspires me to this day to be the best Congresswoman I can be," she captioned this 2023 Father's Day post on Instagram.

Crockett says her mom, Gwen, a former postal worker, has always been by her side supporting her through every endeavor. The two are seen here together in this Instagram post at her Congressional swearing in ceremony.

Rep. Crockett earned a BA in Business Administration from Rhodes College. She's also a proud member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

After she and other Black stu-

dents at Rhodes became victims of a series of hate crimes, Crockett decided she wanted to study law. She said it was an attorney at the Cochran Law Firm who she called her 'shero' who helped her realize the importance of good legal representation.

"I saw how much help a lawyer could be to somebody at a very confusing time," she told Darling in an interview.

In 2006, Crockett earned her J.D. at the University of Houston and went on to serve as a public defender, civil rights and criminal defense attorney. She started her own pro bono law firm in Texas focused on civil rights and criminal defense.

In 2020, Crockett turned her focus to politics and was elected to the Texas House of Representatives. While most freshman legislators tend to fade into the background, Jazmine Crockett made her presence known right away.

"Many freshmen, they just kind of sit there. They don't say a whole lot because they're trying to learn," former Texas Democratic Rep. Joe Deshotel told The Washington Examiner. "But for her, the learning curve was very short. I mean, she jumped right in."

Jasmine Crockett understands the importance of climate issues, particularly their impact on communities of color. She was a founding member of the Texas Caucus on Climate, Energy, and the Environment, a bipartisan caucus working to reduce pollution and grow the economy in Texas. She is also currently a member of the House Committee on Agriculture and the

Sustainable Energy & Environment Coalition.

After serving one term in the Texas Legislature, Crockett set her sights on Washington, where she thought she could best represent the people of her state. In 2023, beat her Republican challenger and replaced retiring Chairwoman Eddie Bernice Johnson as the United States Representative for Texas' 30th congressional district, which includes parts of Dallas.

While most of us may not know what the heck our congresspeople are doing when we send them to Washington, Rep. Crockett makes sure she keeps her constituents informed, posting regular updates to Instagram on her TV appearances, voting record and other initiatives in the district and Washington.

Once in Washington, Rep. Crockett got to work calling out hypocrisy in Washington with GOP members of Congress pursuing an impeachment of President Joe Biden while photos taken by federal authorities of national defense secrets stored in the bathroom of Donald Trump's Mar-A-Lago golf club in Florida circulated.

In September 2023, Crockett went viral for pointing out that Trump was keeping classified documents in a very unlikely place.

"Honestly, no one has testified on what crime they believe the President of the United States has committed," she said. "But when we start talking about things that look like evidence, they want to act like they blind. They don't know what this is. These are our national secrets looks like in the s**ter to me."

Skin tone no deterrent to Border Patrol racial profiling

Skin tone no deterrent to Border Patrol racial profiling

by Kylie Marsh, for Charlotte Post



Ali called Kerri last week after his interaction with federal agents, who were in Charlotte as part of an area sweep of immigrants in the region.

“Basically, the phone call was like, ‘Kerri, you wouldn’t believe this,’” she said.

Ali, who drives a truck for work, was pulled over in the North Tryon area. The agents approached him speaking Spanish. Ali told the agents he doesn’t speak Spanish, and cooperated by handing over his identification.

“Even after he told them he doesn’t speak Spanish, that wasn’t enough for them to be like, ‘oh, OK,’” Kerri said. “They still proceeded to ask him for his ID while he was in a work uniform.”

After the agents checked Ali’s credentials against the federal database, Kerri told The Post they informed him he “wasn’t in the system.”

“I don’t know if that was a lie, because they look stupid,” Kerri said, “if that was just something to say to breeze off the inconvenience and the racial profiling.”

Kerri and Ali are U.S.-born

citizens. She posted the Instagram video as a warning to all – not just Spanish speakers or Latinos.

“He’s like, ‘I’m just working. I’m just trying to do my job,’” Kerri explained. “He was like, ‘I understand that you’re trying to do a so-called job, but the way that they’re going about it doesn’t make any sense. They’re just randomly pulling people over.’”

Kerri criticized poor coordination between agents during their Charlotte operations.

“They’re just going up to random people because they think you look a certain way,” she said. “There’s no actual system of organization,” referencing numerous videos posted to social media of agents chasing people or pulling up in vans and snatching them off the streets.

“You just don’t know what type of ICE agent you’re gonna have. Maybe one day you have an ICE agent that isn’t aggressive, then you get some that are really aggressive.”

Kerri didn’t expect her Instagram post, which surpassed 78,000 views as of Nov. 24, would get so much traction. Some viewers commented in panic, stating



that they are light-skinned or have biracial children who may be targeted. Others have been negative, like one commenter who wrote Ali “should get deported.”

“You might not even be Hispanic, but if you can pass or are light-skinned, they might just question you anyway,” Kerri said in the reel. Kerri said she believes Ali didn’t think he’d be bothered by agents because he isn’t Latino or undocumented.

Since then, U.S. Rep. Alma Adams, whose congressional district includes Charlotte, posted a bulletin to Instagram reels urging those who have faced similar racial profiling to contact her local office at (704) 344-9950 or her Washington, D.C., office (202) 225-1510.

“Our community is under siege,” Adams said. “ICE and border patrol are roaming this community profiling people, picking people up, it does not matter who you are.”

Since last week, state and federal officials have released conflicting statements regarding whether Border Patrol agents are leaving the Charlotte area.

Greensboro Vision from page -1

background—can benefit from our city's growth.

But the work is far from done. In 2026, we will sharpen our focus on housing attainability, workforce development, climate resilience, and neighborhood revitalization. We will continue improving transparency, engaging the community, and aligning investments with long-term

equity goals.

The vision is clear: a Greensboro that is thriving, inclusive, and prepared for the future. Achieving it will take all of us—city government, business leaders, community partners, and residents working side-by-side.

The year ahead will bring new challenges, but also new possibili-

ties. If we meet both with the same spirit of collaboration and determination that defines this city, Greensboro's future will be bright indeed.

Here's to building 2026 together.

Nathaniel "Trey" Davis
Greensboro City Manager

The Greensboro Times top Ten Stories of 2025 from page -1

The top ten stories locally, nationally and worldwide of interest and concern of Greensboro's African American community is as follows:

1. The number one ranked story of 2025 was Trump being sworn in as President of the United States for a second term in Washington, D.C. January 20, 2025. Later that day Trump signed numerous executive orders that included ending policies to correct centuries of racial discrimination. Executive Orders terminates diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives policies. White supremacy thrives when systems of exclusion go unaddressed, Trump pardons over 1,500 criminal defendants who participated on the January 6 insurrection attempt lead by Trump four years earlier. Most of those pardoned were white supremacists including the neo-Nazi militia Proud Boys and the racist far right militia Oath Keepers. Trump's decision to pardon and release members of racist extremist groups signals the administration will directly support white supremacist and institutional white supremacy.

2. Inflation: Higher prices for goods and services. Rising prices are having a negative impact on local African American household budgets. Like most Americans, 2025 found Americans paying drastically more for groceries and gasoline. Inflation sustained price increases across the American economy reducing the buying power of each dollar. Most financial experts including

Jerome Powell, Chairman of the Federal Reserve, have placed the blame for inflation on the economic policies of the Trump Administration. The Trump Administration tariffs policy is a primary factor driving up higher prices and inflation. "It's really tariffs that are causing most of the inflation over overshoot" Powell said after the latest Fed meeting in early December of this year.

3. The third ranked issue of concern was the United States avoidable irresponsible Government shutdown which ended on November 12, the longest US government shutdown in history. During the shutdown at least 670,000 federal employees were laid off and about 730,000 kept working without pay. The shutdown occurred because the Republicans in the US Senate refused to extend subsidies for the Affordable Care Act (Obamacare). Some 24 million Americans who don't have insurance through their job or a public program like Medicaid would lose their health insurance. The Democrats in the US Senate refused to support the Republican short term bill because it would not extend insurance coverage to the 24 million people on Obamacare. Eight US Senate Democrats broke ranks and voted for the Senate to move forward on compromise legislation that reopen the government. Their decision was labeled as a "betrayal" and "pathetic" by some of the most prominent members of the Democratic Party.

4. Greensboro City Council elections. Greens-

boro City Council elections were held November 4, 2025. The primary election was on October 27, 2025. The winners of the General elections were Marikay Abuzuaiter, Mayor, Denise Roth, Hugh Holston, and Irving Allen At-Large. Crystal Black, won District 1, Cecile Crawford won District 2. April Parker, District 3, Adam Marshall District 4 and Tammi Thurn won Council seat District 5. There were three incumbents returning to City Council out of the nine seats. Abuzuaiter, former Mayor Pro Tempore, was elected as Mayor. Incumbents Tammi Thurn and Hugh Holston were re-elected to the City Council.

Important factors to note regarding election results is as follows: (a) Robbie Perkins, former Mayor of Greensboro is a Republican and even though Greensboro City Council races are non-partisan, the emphasis on party affiliation by local Democratic Party activists was a major contributing factor for Perkins lost. The shadow of Trump hanging over Perkins campaign was toxic and a drag on the his Campaign. (b) Sharon Hightower, a 12-year incumbent lost to newcomer, Crystal Black. Even though Hightower had a track record of exemplary service to her constituents, her vote against the removal of toxic poisonous soil out of Greensboro was a major contributing factor for her loss. © April Parker's defeat of incumbent Zack Matheny. Parker's hard work grass root campaign sealed Matheny's fate on election day. Greensboro's Black Political Action Committee, the Simkins PAC had long endorsed Matheny's oppo-

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Marikay Abuzuaiter



Denise Roth



Hugh Holston



Irving Allen



Crystal Black



Cecile Crawford



Adam Marshall



Tammi Thurn



April Parker

We Need Your Input!

Interested in Future Transportation Projects?

The Greensboro Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization invites you to learn and provide input on the:

Draft 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan

VIRTUAL PUBLIC MEETING

January 14, 2026 at 12 noon. Register to attend at

www.guampo.org.

ONLINE SURVEY

Submit comments December 19, 2025 - January 19, 2026

The plans and survey link available at www.guampo.org. Submit comments by January 19 or write to:

Greensboro Urban Area MPO
Attn: 2050 MTP
P.O. Box 3136
Greensboro, NC 27402-3136



The Greensboro Urban Area MPO plans for our area's transportation needs, including highways, public transportation, bicycle, and pedestrian facilities. Anyone in need of special services may call (336) 373-3117 one week in advance.

Jesse Jackson, Jr./Caregiver, from page - 1>

time care for our father.

Like the Jacksons, there are siblings across America who are splitting nights and weekends. There are spouses, sons and daughters like my mother, brother Yusef and sister, who have become full-time nurses. There are nieces, nephews and neighbors driving loved ones to dialysis and learning how to manage meds and feeding tubes.

The Rev. Jesse Jackson with his son, Jesse Jackson Jr., in Chicago in 2021.

As we celebrate Thanksgiving, let us pray for the unpaid caregivers across the country. The best way to give them thanks is to recognize the scale of what they do, the cost they bear and the policy fixes that could support them.

November is National Family Caregivers Month. An AARP-National Alliance for Caregiving report found that about 63 million Americans – nearly 1 in 4 U.S. adults – provided ongoing care to an adult or child with significant health or functional needs in the past year.

For most, this is not a weekend favor. Family caregivers spend an average of 27 hours a week providing care, and nearly a quarter provide 40 or more hours. It's a full-time job.

Estimates vary, yet the unpaid care provided by family members can be measured in the hundreds of billions of dollars each year saved in health care costs and the vast sums that would otherwise be spent on institutional care. As overinflated and expensive as health care is in the United States, it could be much worse if not for unpaid caregivers.

A widely cited AARP estimate puts the economic value of unpaid family caregiving at roughly \$600 billion a year. Even conservative estimates place the cost to caregivers in lost wages and benefits at about \$522 billion annually. When families provide care, the country gets a service worth more than many industries, while the caregivers themselves get stress and exhaustion. The financial hit is only part of the hardship. Caregiving often drives families into debt, forces reduced

employment hours, factors into job exits and erodes retirement savings. Many caregivers spend a sizable share of their own income on household and medical costs for the person they love. Many trade career advancement, Social Security accrual and employer retirement benefits for the unpaid, indispensable work of keeping and caring for a loved one at home.

These burdens fall heavily on women who make up the majority of caregivers, and people of color and those of lower income who as caregivers more often experience the negative financial effects.

The mental and physical health consequences are also painful. Caregivers report elevated levels of emotional stress, depression and anxiety. A recent synthesis of studies shows higher rates of depression and emotional stress levels among caregivers. Many neglect their own health. Burnout and isolation are common.

The emotional weight of watching a loved one decline and managing complex medical needs takes a

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.



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The Shout-Out Line

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Hello, the present North Carolina State Legislature is as about as trifling and irresponsible as you can get. The only state in the country that has not passed a budget. Their priority has focused on gerrymandering to undermine democracy to keep power, and passing laws that allows every Tom, Dick or Harry to own a gun or an arsenal of weapons. But, you know, they have done one thing right while in Raleigh. They passed a law this summer to ban school kids from using cell phones in school. As flawed and irresponsible and derelict as they are, they got that one right.

Shout-Out

Good afternoon, Why do some people of the opposite sex think.... when someone smiles at you, or just being nice, It has to turn into....They want me!!!! What happened to just being nice to each other? Why for some people being nice or kind, why does there have to be some ulterior motive?

Shout-Out

Hello, according to news reports, national guard Sarah Beckstrom, who was killed on duty, believed her deployment to Washington D.C. was "pointless" according to her former boyfriend. The National Guard can't arrest, can't police and can't enforce the law in Washington D.C. All they can do is walk around and pick up trash, and garden because there's nothing else they can legally do. Keeping them there isn't security. Its political theater and its costing lives. And a judge ruled the National Guard in D.C. is illegal but this administration did nothing to remove them and ordered more guards in the meanwhile! They cannot do anything useful in D.C. Trump has basicly made them targets and its disgusting!

Shout-Out

Hello, I just want to send a shout-out and congratulations to all the candidates elected to the Greensboro City Council and sworn in earlier this week. Most of the council members elected are newcomers and will be serving their first term. I am excited about this new council, they have such vigor and enthusiasm and seem so sincere to want to serve the citizens of Greensboro. There is somewhat of a slight generation shift and this is the first time Greensboro will have a majority Black city council. This council will be interesting to watch. Traditional issues will continue to be the focus, but there will be time and attention devoted to those issues unique to black voters and taxpayers in Greensboro? Bingham Park, police accountability and fair and equitable contracting opportunities for Black owned businesses and contractors have come to my mind. There will be a learning curve for the new council members but looking at their community work and the track record of community service of those newly elected, I am optimistic, I'm praying for them and I wish them well.

Shout-Out

Guess What? The con artist, liar in chief in the White House is getting ready to plunge us into a war with Venezuela. Illegally bombing so called small drug boats and killing those on board without verification of who they are and whether they are carrying drugs or fishing. What a hoax and a con job on the American people. Most official and US assessment identify Mexico and Columbia as the primary countries through which the largest amount of illegal drugs come to America, especially cocaine and fentanyl. Venezuela does not traffic fentanyl at all. Well, why Venezuela? Real simple. Oil. The largest oil mineral resource in the world is Venezuela. The second largest is Nigeria. The lethal assault at sea and the bullying of Venezuela is not about Drugs, it's about oil. Money, mo money and mo money and mo money for Trump to raid the US treasury for him and his family. Add in tariffs revenue and you have a real treasure trove. Venezuela and war. What a con job. Oil for American blood.

Shout-Out

What's up G-times. Everyone says love hurts, but that is not true. Loneliness hurts. Rejection hurts. Losing someone hurts. Envy hurts. Everyone gets these things confused with love, but in reality love is the only thing in this world that covers up all pain and makes someone feel wonderful again. Good morning!

Publisher's View



**Earl Jones, Publisher
The Greensboro Times**

Our African American experience in America teaches that law enforcement without law is a warning sign. From slave patrols to Jim Crow policing, from chain gangs to COINTELPRO, Black Americans have repeatedly experienced state power exercised outside legal restraint. In each era, authorities justified extraordinary measures by claiming necessity, security, or public order. Slave patrols operated without warrants. Jim Crow arrests required no real evidence or charges. COINTELPRO surveilled, detained, and destroyed Black leaders without due process. Here in North Carolina in 1898, Wilmington's multiracial democratically elected government was violently overthrown while authorities stood by. Black residents were murdered, driven out and stripped of political power—no warrants, no trials and no accountability. Lawlessness decided who belongs and a failure to comply with the law followed.

The lesson is unmistakable: when law enforcement is untethered from law, Black communities are among the first to suffer—and never the last. ICE tactics that involve unmarked vehicles, unidentified masked agents, and sudden disappearances revive this legacy. African Americans recognize the pattern because we have lived it.

The Constitution's promises were forged through Black struggle. The 5th and 14th Amendments, due process and equal protection exist and equal protection—exist because of Black resistance to arbitrary detention, violence, and state abuse.

When the Government Makes People Disappear, African Americans Know the Danger



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These rights were not theoretical gifts; they were hard-won safeguards against precisely the kind of unchecked power now being normalized. When government detains people without due process, it is not merely violating immigrant rights. It is eroding constitutional protections that African Americans fought generations to secure. Any weakening of due process dishonors that struggle and invites regression.

Disappearance has always been a tool of racial control. Throughout American history, the disappearance of Black bodies—whether through lynching, forced labor, prison camps, or secret detentions—served a political purpose: to terrorize communities and enforce obedience. No paperwork, no explanation, and no accountability. When ICE removes people from public view without transparency, it activates the same mechanism of fear. The goal is not simply enforcement—it is deterrence through intimidation. African Americans understand this tactic because it has been used against us for centuries.

Collective punishment and racialized enforcement are nothing new. We know that law enforcement operates in a vacuum. Practices that target one group quickly spill over to others—especially when racial profiling and discretionary power are involved. History shows vagrancy laws became mass incarceration, “War on Drugs” became racialized surveillance, Stop and Frisk became unconstitutional erosion. ICE street actions normalize suspicion, racial profiling, and guilt by appearance,

conditions that Black folk have always been forced to navigate.

Silence has never protected Black communities. Every expansion of state power in US history has been justified by targeting a group portrayed as dangerous, disposable, or outside the national “we.” African Americans know that accepting such logic never leads to safety; it leads to vulnerability. Solidarity is survival. African Americans have long understood that freedom is indivisible. When one group’s rights are stripped, others soon follow. That is why Black leaders—from Frederick Douglass to Ella Baker to Martin Luther King Jr.—insisted that justice cannot be selective. Opposing ICE’s authoritarian tactics is not an act of charity toward immigrants. It is an act of self-preservation rooted in historical wisdom.

For us as African Americans, ICE tactics that involve disappearing people off the street without due process are not merely policy failures—they are historical echoes. They resemble the same structures of unaccountable power that have been used to police, punish, and control Black lives since the nation’s founding.

We know where this road leads because we have walked it before. A democracy that tolerates secret arrests is not strong; it is fragile. Our history as a people teaches us that the first duty of a people who have survived repression is to recognize it early and resist it loudly.

Greensboro's Top Ten Stories of the Year from page 1

nents in the past to oust Matheny from office and endorsed Parker in this year's General election. The Simkins PAC endorsed seven of the nine candidates who won their bid for nine candidates who won their bid for City Council. The 63 year old Simkins Political Action Committee's growing influence is reflected in the changing demographics of Greensboro for the past two decades decades. According to US Census data for deportation flights, increasingly to third countries where migrants have no existing ties; ramped up nationwide immigration raids; and granted expanded or new powers to various federal, state, and local officials to enforce domestic immigration laws. However, the administration's whole-of-government approach has raised concerns. Some legal experts say Trump is pushing the limits of presidential power, including by invoking centuries-old statutes and expediting deportations, while immigrant rights activists warn that the administration's aggressive tactics have eroded migrants' due process protections. Growing criticism of the administration's immigration policy comes after the July passage of the One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBA), which allocates nearly \$170 billion to enforcement over the next four years.

5. ICE Immigration enforcement deportation operational tactics is a major concern of citizens throughout the country. Since returning to office in 2025, U.S. President Donald Trump has taken major steps to reshape immigration policy and enforcement in pursuit of his campaign promise to execute "the largest domestic deportation operation" in U.S. history. As part of this effort, his administration has carried out

6. Maj. Gen. Joseph McNeil, one of the legendary members of the A&T Four who electrified the Civil Rights movement with a sit-in that helped lay the groundwork for the 1964 Civil Rights Act, passed away in September of this year. He was 83. McNeil was one of the final two living members of the A&T Four; Jibreel Khazan (formerly Ezell Blair Jr.) is now the only survivor. David Richmond passed away in 1990 and Franklin McCain in 2014. All teenagers – McNeil was just 17 – when they launched the sit-in on Feb. 1, 1960, at the downtown Greensboro Woolworth's, they had extraordinary national impact. They were also among numerous young people who became prominent around that time in the Civil Rights Movement, including such notable figures as John Lewis, Julian Bond, Diane Nash, Marion Barry and the Rev. Jesse Jackson, who enrolled at North Carolina A&T shortly after the A&T Four protest, to name just a few. Despite health challenges, Maj. Gen. McNeil came back to A&T this past February to mark the 65th anniversary of the sit-in at the annual breakfast honoring the A&T Four. The audience at the breakfast gave him a standing ovation.

"Joseph McNeil and his fellow North Carolina A&T classmates inspired a nation with their courageous, peaceful protest, powerfully embodying the idea that young people could change the world. His leadership and the example of the A&T Four continue to inspire our students today," said Chancellor James R. Martin II. "The North Carolina A&T family mourns his passage, but celebrates his long and incredible life and the legacy he leaves behind."

7. On October 22nd, 2025, North Carolina became the latest state to enter the mid-decade redistricting wars. The Republican-controlled General Assembly passed a new Congressional map, shifting the historically Democratic and majority African-American 1st Congressional District, represented by Don Davis, into a more republican leaning configuration. This new map has the aim of shifting the swing state's congressional delegation from 10-4 to an 11-3 Republican advantage. However, this newly enacted map has brought broad criticism from many groups who see it as a partisan power grab and diluting voting power away from the historically African-American population in Northeastern North Carolina. While partisan gerrymandering is considered legal in North Carolina per the state Supreme Court's ruling in 2023, federal protections exist for racial gerrymandering within Section 2 of the 1965 Voting Rights Act. Republican legislators have sought to get ahead of potential lawsuits by blatantly admitting that the map was redrawn for partisan purposes. However, this hasn't stopped advocacy groups from bringing lawsuits to the table.

Lawyers with the non-profit organization Forward Justice are bringing a lawsuit against the General Assembly for diluting black representation in the 1st district.

8. Last week, Greensboro's Grimley High School wins two consecutive State Championships. After going scoreless in the first quarter and trailing 7-0, No. 12 Grimsley (Greensboro, N.C.) rebounded to win its second straight Class 7A state championship 24-14 over Clayton (N.C.) on last week at Kenan Stadium. Five-star senior quarterback Faizon Brandon threw for 118 yards and a touchdown while running for 53 yards with a score. The future Tennessee Volunteer started 36 games in his Whirlies career and won 35 of them. This season he missed nine games after an injury in the season opener. He continued his dominance upon his return by completing 12 of his 15 passes in the postseason victory.

9. Kendrick Lamar's Super Bowl LIX halftime show was hands down one of the Blackest moments of 2025. In just 13 minutes, he flipped Gil Scott-Heron's The Revolution Will Not Be Televised, seemingly took aim at Trump, and delivered a powerful American story. The performance paid homage to Spike Lee's Bamboozled. Samuel L. Jackson, playing the role of Uncle Sam, wasn't just a jab at Drake and the industry—it was also a shot at the executives and critics who wanted Kendrick to dial down his relentless lyrical assault on Drizzy. It even took aim at those who dismissed Lamar as doing Civil Rights Rap—as if calling out injustice is a bad thing.

10. On February 28, 2025, LaBron James broke Karrem Abdul Jabbar's NBA Scoring record. It was a fade-away jumper, not a skyhigh Ode to Abdul-Jabbar or one of his signature power dunks. James entered the game needing 38, 352 points, needing 36 to overtake Jabbar. LaBron finished the night with 38 points. As the game to a halt to celebrate a record many thought would never be reached, a emotional James broke down in tears.

The Greensboro Business League in partnership with Google Sponsored "Difference Makers: Own the Upside: Practical AI for Real Businesses. The event was held at the Performing Arts Center in Downtown Greensboro on December 4, 2025. The featured presenters were: Kelly Marble, national voice in AI and CEO of Ocean AI, North Carolina Enterprise leader Doug Speight, CEO, AxNano and Tony Marshall, CEO, ISG CYBER. A fireside chat session of the program was moderated by Abrea Armstrong.



NASCAR lawsuit ends with settlement with Michael Jordan's race team

Josh Peter and Ellen J. Horow
USA TODAY



The NASCAR antitrust trial has ended without an official winner. And without an official loser either.

Michael Jordan and the other plaintiffs settled with the sanctioning body of stock car racing, ending a fierce legal battle over whether NASCAR has used anticompetitive practices and harmed Jordan's racing team.

The refusal to settle over the past year led to a showdown in federal court between NASCAR and the plaintiffs: 23XI Racing, co-owned

by Jordan and driver Denny Hamlin, and Front Row Motorsports. But on Thursday, Dec. 11, with the high-stakes trial moving closer to a verdict, the settlement brought the case to an abrupt halt at U.S. District Court of the Western District of North Carolina in Charlotte.

Meegan Hollywood, an attorney with Shinder Cantor Lerner law firm who specializes in antitrust cases, told USA TODAY Sports on Wednesday, Dec. 10 that a settlement would not be a surprise. The alternative

was to leave the outcome in the hands of the jury.

"It's risky on both sides," Hollywood said.

Barak Orbach, a professor at the University of Arizona with an expertise with antitrust law, told USA TODAY Sports "one possibility to consider is that this entire trial (was) part of negotiation strategy."

The financial terms of the settlement are confidential and will not be released, according to a joint statement.

Jesse Jackson Jr. from page - 5

distinctive toll.

With an aging population – by 2030, projections suggest that more than 1 in 5 Americans will be over 65 – advancing solutions to allow people to age at home is critical to America's economic stability.

Paid family and medical leave would keep people connected to employers and income during intense caregiving episodes and reduce forced job exits. Employers can help with flexible scheduling, caregiver-friendly benefits and manager training so workers can ask for help without being penalized.

We owe dignity to caregivers. Caregiver tax credits or cash stipends for low- and middle-income families would blunt out-of-pocket costs and debt. Expanding Medicaid and Department of Veterans Affairs-funded programs that pay fam-

ily caregivers a modest wage, now available in some states, recognizes caregiving as work and targets help where it is most needed.

Congress should bring that policy to the federal level.

Caregivers are in crisis. How bad it is depends on where you live, new data shows.

It's time to build a more robust community support infrastructure. We must increase funding for home- and community-based services, expand respite care so family members can get some sleep and tend to their own health, and broaden caregiver training programs so family members aren't expected to perform medical tasks without proper guidance.

We should also invest in caregiver mental health services and peer support networks. Treating caregiver stress is preventive care for

families and for our nation's health system.

Morally, we owe dignity to those who keep loved ones safe at home. Pragmatically, supporting caregivers prevents hospital readmissions, delays costly institutionalization and keeps experienced workers attached to the labor market. Supporting family caregivers is an investment that pays America back in health, social stability and economic sense.

To every family caregiver reading this: Thank you and God Bless you. You are not failing if you struggle. You are not selfish if you need a break. There are communities, services and public officials who want to help. This immensely difficult work can and should be a bit easier.



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Civil rights attorney Ben Crump scores \$779 million verdict for Black family

by Stacy M. Brown
December 11, 2025



BLACKPRESSUSA Newswire) – In an America shaped once again by racial hostility and the rollback of diversity protections under the Trump administration, renowned civil rights attorney Benjamin Crump continues to force institutions to confront the value of Black life. His latest victory, a \$779.3 million wrongful death verdict for the killing of security guard Lewis Butler, lands as a direct challenge to a system that has long accepted negligence toward Black workers as an unavoidable cost of doing business.

Ben Crump with Mrs Kimberly Butler, the wife of Rev. Lewis Butler. (Photo Courtesy Crump Law.) Butler, 51, was killed during a 2023 armed robbery at an internet café in Havana, Fla. Evidence at trial showed that the café, operated by Fortune MGT 2023 LLC and Manish Kumar Patel, failed to report a previous armed robbery on Oct. 25, 2023, during which a firearm was stolen. The complaint alleged that the owners concealed the earlier robbery because managers allegedly knew illegal gambling was taking place inside. The same stolen weapon was later used to kill Butler as he attempted to protect a cashier.

For his widow, Kimberly Butler, the verdict was only one part of what must come next. ‘There’s definitely some changes needed. Some attention

needs to be brought,’ Butler said. ‘He put himself in the line of fire to save someone else’s life.’

Crump, who has been called ‘Black America’s Attorney General’ for the sweeping impact of his civil rights work, spoke to the weight of the jury’s decision. ‘The verdict means so much for different reasons,’ Crump reasoned. ‘Obviously, we want to compensate the family for this monumental loss that they suffered, this monumental wrong that this jury verdict helped to have a monumental right.’

He also noted Kimberly Butler’s determination to turn her loss into reform.

‘The second thing is Mrs. Kimberly Butler testified, since her husband was murdered, she’s doing everything she can to try and get these internet gambling cafes shut down because she thinks that they are an invitation for criminal activity,’ Crump said.

The celebrated attorney also made clear that collecting on the judgment will be a fight of its own, but one he intends to pursue relentlessly.

‘We absolutely plan on getting some compensation for the family,’ Crump proclaimed. ‘We may have to attach garnishments and liens to property and bank accounts, but we are dogmatic in pursuit of making

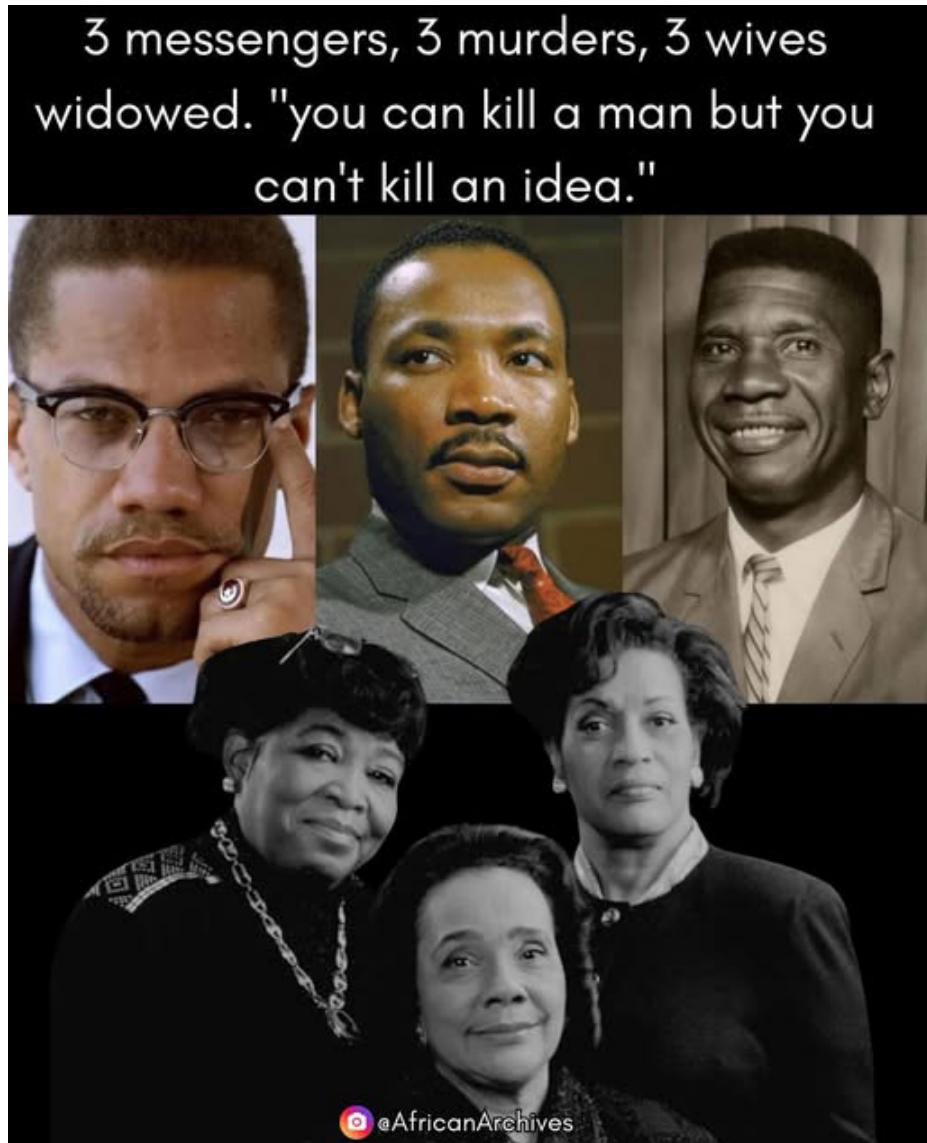
sure we get compensation from those who the jury felt were responsible for this unnecessary, tragic death.’

The nearly \$780 million verdict stands among the largest negligent-security wrongful death awards in Florida history. It arrives during a political moment in which federal civil rights enforcement has been weakened and justice is becoming harder to obtain for marginalized communities.

Crump’s impressive record displays a consistent demand for accountability. He has represented the families of Trayvon Martin, Michael Brown, Stephon Clark, Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, George Floyd, the children of Flint, and nine Black women in the Holtzclaw rape case. His work contributed to a \$27 million settlement for the Floyd family, a \$12 million settlement for the Taylor family, a \$641 million settlement for Flint’s children, more than \$200 million in banking while Black cases, and a \$411 million verdict for Duane Washington.

His leadership extends beyond the courtroom. Crump recently pledged \$50,000 to support the Black Press of America, strengthening institutions that preserve Black history, Black truth, and Black testimony. It is one of many reasons he is widely regarded as Black America’s Attorney General.

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Another Rise, Another Fall: What Sherrone Moore's Downfall Can Teach Us

A \$30 million future vanished overnight, joining a growing list of high-profile implosions with familiar themes

By Okla Jones, Essence Magazine



Sherrone Moore

Sherrone Moore's decline becomes crazier by the day. Less than two years after taking over one of the most prestigious programs in college football, Moore was fired with cause by the University of Michigan, accused of engaging in an inappropriate relationship with a staff member. Hours later, he was arrested following a police response to an alleged assault near Ann Arbor. By night's end, a man who had inherited a national championship-caliber program was sitting in jail, his future suddenly unclear.

Moore is only 39 years old, and reports had the value of his coaching deal near \$30 million. With a future that once seemed bright now likely closed, this story sounds all too familiar, especially in recent years: The pattern involving Black men, white women, and professional collapse.

Take Shannon Sharpe. Few athletes have transitioned into media with the kind of success he's had. Two Super Bowl rings, a gold jacket, and then a second act that somehow became even bigger. After nearly two decades on television, a breakout run on *Skip and Shannon*, *Club Shay Shay*, *Nightcap*, several awards, and a stint on ESPN, he had arrived. By early 2024, Sharpe was richer, louder, and more visible than ever.

Then, it all went down the drain.

Sharpe was accused of sexual assault by Gabriella Zuniga, an internet model he met when she was 19. The lawsuit sought more than \$50 million. Sharpe denied the allegations, calling the relationship consensual but "rocky." A settlement was reached, and the case was dismissed—but ESPN moved on without him. Just like that, the biggest platform of his media career disappeared.

With Sharpe's situation, it's particularly saddening because he had finally reached his peak. Years of credibility, relevance, and goodwill evaporated almost instantly. The relationship itself became the headline, and whether the legal case ended quietly or not, the damage had already been done.

And of course, there's Ime Udoka, whose story is still talked about (at least within my friend group; fumbling Nia Long is insane). In 2022, Udoka had the Boston Celtics on the doorstep of an NBA title. He was widely respected. Young, sharp and one of the few Black head coaches in the league. The kind of hire franchises claim they want to make more often. Shortly thereafter, he was suspended for an entire season after violating team policies by engaging in an "improper rela-



Shannon Sharpe



Ime Udoka

tionship." Udoka lost his job, and his relationship with Long ended. His reputation took a hit that followed him even after he was hired by the Houston Rockets, and could last for the rest of his career.

What makes these stories really disheartening is imbalance between what these men had and how quickly it all slipped away. Black men in positions of authority already operate under tighter scrutiny. Their mistakes are magnified, and their second chances are fewer. When a white coach messes up, there's context. When a Black coach messes up, it's over.

Moore and Udoka may have irreparably damaged themselves, and they also made it easier for institutions to hesitate the next time a Black candidate comes up. However, none of this should absolve personal responsibility. Self-discipline matters, because power requires restraint. These men had everything they worked for—legacy, influence, financial security, or even all three. But they didn't lose it because of talent or effort. They lost it because they couldn't sit still when it mattered most.

And the cost, as always, extends beyond them.

Hugging and Cuddling, can reduce Depression, calm Anxiety and strengthen the Immune System naturally



Cuddling and hugging aren't just warm gestures research shows they offer real benefits for both emotional and physical health.

When people share comforting touch, the body releases oxytocin, sometimes called the "feel-good hormone." This chemical boost promotes a sense of safety, connection, and calm. At the same time, levels of cortisol the hormone linked to stress

naturally decline, helping ease tension, boost mood, and support emotional balance.

Regular affectionate contact can even support physical health. It may help lower blood pressure and heart rate, reduce inflammation, and give the immune system a gentle boost. These effects show how deeply connected our emotional world is to our physical wellbeing.

In a time when many people feel stressed or disconnected, simple acts like hugging loved ones, holding hands, or spending time close to the people you care about can make a meaningful difference. Small moments of connection can help strengthen relationships, lift your mood, and support a healthier, happier life.

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We would like to wish the greater Greensboro community a Happy Holidays. and encourage you to support small and local black-owned businesses during this season and advocacy to MWBE and HUB certified firms..

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Difference Makers: Leveraging Ai for Financial Efficiency and Scalability in Business - TBD

2026 Executive Roundtable - TBD

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Policy and Prosperity Breakfast - March 26, 2026

African American Economic Summit - April 23, 2026





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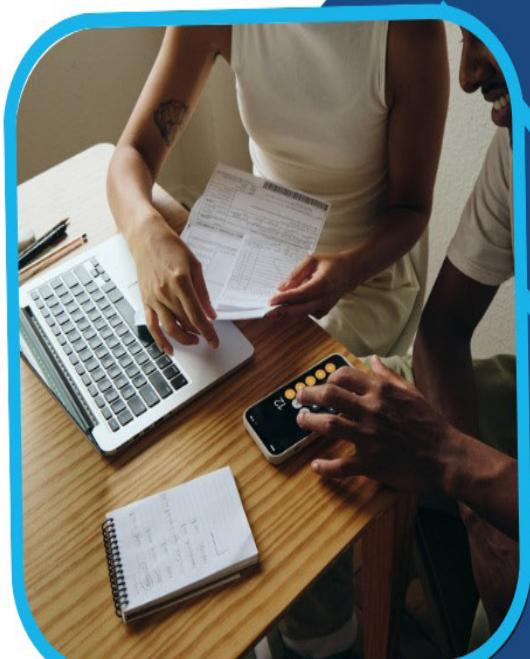
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