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Sondra Wright Crowned Ms. Senior **Guilford County**



On June 7, 2025, an enthusiastic audience of friends, family, and supporters erupted into applause as longtime Guilford County resident Sondra Wright was crowned the new Ms. Senior Guilford County. The event marked the CEO Derrick Johnson was 9th annual celebration of the pageant, which honors women aged 60 and above who exemplify the dignity, inner beauty, and grace of Senior America.

Wright earned the crown after impressing judges and attendees with her

page 3, Ms. Senior Guilford>

NAACP National Convention in Charlotte, North Carolina 2025 July 12-16th, Aiming to Empower Community Amidst Adversity



(Black PR Wire)

CHARLOTTE - The

NAACP President and

joined by local and na-

tional NAACP leaders,

Mayor Vi Lyles, and other

key Charlotte stakehold-

ers for a press conference

to preview the upcoming

in Charlotte. The convention will take place from July 12, 2025, to July 16, 2025, and will focus on the Association's theme "The Fierce Urgency of Now," which highlights the NAACP's commitment to uplifting the Black



116th National Convention community's collective strength to continue the fight for civil rights and social justice despite widespread adversity.

> NAACP President and CEO Derrick Johnson shared the following statement, emphasizing the importance of the National

> > NAACP Convention, page 3 >

Black Lives Matter Condemns ICE Raids, Defends Latinx Community



Black Lives Matter Grassroots has released a strong statement opposing the recent ICE enforcement operations, calling the raids

a "racist terror campaign" that targets and traumatizes immigrant communities under the false pretense of public safety.



From their website, BLM issued the following statement: "Beloved Family... Donald Trump has declared war on the people. In the few

Page 7 -Black Lives Matter/Latinx

Reverend William Barber III Rips Congress On Budget Bill "Policy Murder" At DC Moral Monday Protest





Rev. Dr. William Barber

Washington DC—William Barber III led scores of clergy in a Moral Monday action with a walk to the Supreme Court in opposition to the spending bill presently being considered in the Senate. He warned Congress that they would be inextricably tied to "policy murder" if they passed their "morally corrupt" budget bill poised to be voted on within days, if not hours.

The towering civil rights leader was dressed in jet black, reflecting the solemnity of the moment, except for his vestment, gold and brown, with black and white cloth. As he spoke from the Supreme Court sidewalk, a single vocalist sang "Walk With Me, Lord."

He led scores of clergy from many churches across the country in a procession carrying 50 lifesize cardboard coffins with placards attached to each showing the number of people who would be victims of the loss of Medicare benefits in each of the 50 States. The estimated number of deaths from loss of Medicare were projected to be 51,000 in the first year alone. The coffins also showed the numbers of people from each state that would lose Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits. Each coffin also bore a sign stating, "This coffin represents policy murder."

"There's something evil when you've got power and you've got free healthcare simply because you got elected to office but then you want to block the people from having healthcare," said the Reverend, ripping Congress for its "greed" and "wickedness."

Barber further blasted NC Senator Tom Tillis, who yesterday came out in opposition to the budget bill when he said, in effect, his party was "making a "mistake" by supporting the bill. Barber spoke with conviction when he told the audience, "This is not a mistake. This is policy violence. This is policy murder. That's why we brought these caskets today."

Reverend Barber pointed out that Congress already knew there would be a projected 51,000 deaths in the first year alone due to the Medicaid cuts, and since Congress already knew that, their goal to enact the bill, could not, by definition, be a mistake.

"The reason it is evil and wicked and mean and bad is because it is all rooted in money and the love of money." He repeated the Biblical precept "The love of money...," and a woman nearby him finished "...is the root of all evil."

He urged the media to stop repeating Trump's talking points because Trump was calling press conferences "to distract us anytime the news is talking about what is really going on."

Barber also urged media to not call the bill by the name given it by Trump. "It's not a 'beautiful bill', it's a big, ugly, damnable, dangerous, deadly, destructive bill," he said.

It was clear that Reverend Barber had moral sway over the many hundreds assembled at the rally. As he spoke, their rapt attention to his words, plain but powerful as they were, provided a sort of soothing calmness to the audience, despite the oppressive heat and the dangerous moment of social injustice hanging before them.

After several speakers gave tes-

timonials of what losing healthcare and SNAP benefits would do to their families, Reverend Barber led dozens of clergy towards the U.S. Capitol in an act of defiance and against police orders to not proceed onto Capitol grounds.

U.S. Capitol police began to swarm around the slowly marching group of clergy as they neared the entrance to Capitol grounds. The protesters laid the coffins on First Street in an even row and lined up in prayer. The group of about 50 were given three warnings from Capitol police over a bullhorn. Police then arrested them.

Reverend Barber was not arrested. He remained on the sidewalk and spoke to the remaining group of supporters, telling them that other protesters were then inside the Capitol Rotunda and protesting the bill at that very moment. They, too, were arrested. Barber remained on the sidewalk for a time singing with those assembled there before leaving to return to a nearby church to get out of the heat.

The budget bill, as "damnable and dangerous" as it is to the working class and citizens dependent upon benefits, extends far beyond that in scope and destruction of the 'New Deal" and liberal socity envisioned by Franklin Rosevelt. The extent of the damage it may cause to democratic institutions may not be known for some time, as amendments and changes to the bill were still ongoing in the last week. What is becoming clear is that this bill collectively represents the greatest transfer of wealth from the middle class to the billionaire class, in the history of the United States.

The 4th Annual Black Pears Society, Inc. Gospel, Jazz, and R&B Brunch Event was held on June 22nd at Truist Stadium, High Point, N.C. at 12:00pm through 4:00pm. The event featured entertainers; Teresa Lindsey, Mike Yelverton, Gavin Maestro, Photos by Gregory Bates

Alyson Williams and DJ Tito.























< NAACP National Convention from page 1 >

NAACP's presence in Charlotte:

"Every year, we look forward to the NAACP National Convention, especially during times like these, where attacks on our culture and our community spread like wildfire throughout our nation. For 116 years, the NAACP has been all in on Black America – this year is no different."

President Johnson also announced at this afternoon's press conference that for the first time in 116 years, the sitting president of the United States will not be invited to the NAACP National Convention.

"Republican and Democratic presidents have proudly attended NAACP Conventions throughout the organization's history," he added. "This has nothing to do with political party. Our mission is to advance civil rights, and the current president has made clear that his mission is to eliminate civil rights."

Also in attendance were Leon W. Russell, chair of the NAACP Board of Directors, and Charlotte Mayor Vi Lyles.

"It's an honor for Charlotte to host the 116th NAACP National Convention, one of the most significant gatherings for civil rights and social justice in our nation's history, bringing thousands of NAACP members to the city," said Mayor Vi Lyles. "This moment is more than symbolic; it's a celebration of our shared progress and a recommitment to the work ahead. As a city shaped by civil rights pioneers and strengthened by its diversity, Charlotte proudly welcomes the NAACP and stands ready to join in building a more inclusive and equitable future for all."

"Across the country, we're witnessing a coordinated attack on civil rights, from voter suppression to censorship in classrooms to economic exclusion. These are not isolated incidents. They are part of a calculated effort to drag us backward. But we aren't going back,"

heartfelt personal philosophy, talent performance, and elegant presentation during the evening gown segment. Camdidates were evaluated during the evening gown segment. Candidates were evaluated across four areas: personal interview, talent, and "I Believe" statement, and evening wear.

A proud alumna of North Carolina A&T State University, Wright holds a Master's in Human Resources and a Bachelor's in Psychology. She is a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, and a well known advocate for older adults and families. Her wide ranging community service include her role as a Guardian ad Litem, co-founding

said Leon W. Russell, chair of the NAACP National Board of Directors. "As we gather in Charlotte for our 116th National Convention, we do so with unwavering resolve. The struggle for justice is far from over—and neither are we."

"The return of the 116th NAACP National Convention to Charlotte marks a full circle moment for The Association," said Michael Turner, chairman of the NAACP Convention Planning Committee. "Nearly 30 years since we last joined together here, much has changed - but our commitment to the work we do remains steadfast. This convention is more than a gathering, it's a movement. We've created a space where generations unite to strategize, strengthen our impact, and celebrate our collective power. Charlotte, the NAACP has returned, and we bring with us the full strength and spirit of our community."

"As we gather in solidarity, we're not just convening, we're mobilizing," said Karen Boykin-Towns, vice chair of the NAACP National Board of Directors. "From climate justice to voting rights, from economic opportunity to the freedom to learn, our agenda is bold because our communities deserve nothing less. This Convention is where strategy meets legacy, and the time is now for us to come together as a community to fight."

During the press conference, NAACP leadership announced the return of The Hub, an immersive experience, celebrating Black culture and social impact. The dynamic 50,000 square foot exhibit hall is open to the public.

"Welcoming the NAACP National Convention back to Charlotte is both a proud moment and a powerful reminder of our legacy. From the historic streets of Brooklyn Village to the soul of Beatties Ford Road, Black Charlotte has always been a force for change. This Con-

Kingap Services of North Carolina, executive committee member and committee chair for the Greensboro Branch NAACP and acting as a spokesperson fo AARP's Decide, Create, Share, initiative. She is a Co-Incorporator of the Greensboro Business League, an organization that advocate equity for minority owned businesses. She also serves on the Board of Melodies4 Healing, promoting music therapy for nursing home residents.

Beyond her advocacy, Wright is a successful Realtor, entrepreneur, and the author of three books, including the empowering title: 40 Plus and Fabulous: Moving Forward Fierce, and Focused and Full of Life. vention isn't just for delegates, it's for our entire community," said Rev. Corine Mack, President of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Branch of the NAACP.

This year's Convention comes at a pivotal moment, as marginalized communities face escalating political attacks, financial equity remains elusive, and vital federal programs hang in the balance. During the Convention, the NAACP is bringing together its vast network to confront these challenges headon.

Programming will explore the profound impact of Black culture on DEI, education, and justice, while also serving as a call to action. Through powerful speakers, engaging sessions, and strategic dialogue, attendees will be empowered to organize, advocate, and drive meaningful change. Now more than ever, the NAACP calls on the Black community and our allies to mobilize for justice, equity, and progress.

Some notable participants will include Loretta E. Lynch, former U.S. Attorney General and Letitia James, New York Attorney General. and the castmembers of CBS' Beyond the Gates, and more. Additional panelists will be announced in the coming weeks.

We would also like to thank the members of our Blue Ribbon Committee for their support of the 116th NAACP National Convention: cochairs Georgette "Gigi" Dixon and Lenny Springs, Bakari Sellers, Boris Henderson, Brenda Murphy, Celois Steele, Courtney Crowder, David Howard, Deborah Dicks Maxwell, James "Smuggie" Mitchell, James Bennett, John Jackson, Karen Boykin-Towns, Kevin Monroe, Marcus Bass, Mark Jerrell, Melvin "Skip" Alston, Rev. Corine Mack, Steve Benjamin, and Vinay Patel.

The NAACP advocates, agitates, and litigates for the civil rights due to Black America.

< Sondra Wright Miss. Senior Guilford County from page 1

As Ms. Senior Guilford County, Wright plans to use her platform to expand visibility for the pageant, advance the mission of Senior America, and continue her work to improve the health and quality of life for older adults. Her win celebrates not just her accomplishments but the vibrant and purposeful lives led by senior women across the nation

Senior America is an organization for women who have reached the age of elegance of 60 plus years. Participants give back to the community by showing their talents at senior centers, retirement homes, nursing homes and church groups.

Publisher's View



Dr. Stacey Patton, Guest Columnist

Professor, Morgan State University

A white, Christian, fascist MAGA plotted a day of bloodshed and later texted his family, "Dad went to war last night."

That chilling text message to his wife and kids was a blood-soaked benediction and a declaration of allegiance to his politics, to whiteness, to God.

He dressed up like a cop. Slipped on a creepy silicone mask to hide his face and climbed into a fake police car full of high-powered weapons. He had a notebook filled with a hit list that included the names of 45 elected officials. Everything was meticulously mapped out, annotated, and studied. He surveilled their homes. Tracked their routines and knew details about their spouses and children.

And then he stalked his targets and opened fire, murdering a Minnesota Democratic lawmaker and her husband, and wounding another Democratic official and his wife. The killings triggered a massive, two-day manhunt involving 20 SWAT teams, helicopters, and drones. Vance Boelter was taken into custody alive and quietly folded into the system that always seems to exercise restraint with men who look like him. And despite all these chilling details, the news headlines have been sterile. "Politically motivated shootings." "Assassination suspect." "Suspect in Minnesota shootings captured."

Nowhere in the initial stories was there even a whisper of the word that should've screamed from every page: TERRORIST. Because that's what he is. But the media refuses to call him that. Because when a white Christian man enacts political violence, the media suddenly becomes shy. The language soft-

The Media's Favorite Terrorists Are Always White Men

A white, Christian, MAGA went to war in Minnesota, and the press is calling it "politically motivated shootings" instead of what it is --- terrorism.



Rep. Melissa Hortman murder victim



Sen. John Hoffman survived murder attempt



Vance Boelter **Domestic Terrorist**

ens. The tone shifts to neutral.

Had he been Muslim, this would have dominated news cycles as some kind of jihad. Had he been Black, his body might still be cooling on the sidewalk, and his name would be trending as a hashtag. Had he been undocumented, Republicans would be staging press conferences in body armor, and Fox News would have declared a national emergency.

But because Boelter is white, male, Christian, steeped in MAGA grievance, radicalized by right-wing propaganda, and hunted Democrats, we're being told this was just a textbook case of a "politically motivated shooting." It's just politics.



No, let's call it what it is: the pathology of white violence. It's terrorism in a red hat.

And this country is left once again pretending the real threat to democracy comes from books, DEI, Black people, drag queens, trans kids, and immigrants. Not from heavily armed white men in costume with kill lists in their glove

compartments.

Why won't the media call this terrorism?

Because doing so would mean telling the truth about who is actually dangerous in this country. Because calling Vance Boelter a terrorist would mean indicting an entire ideology that's white, Christian, authoritarian, and the political party that nurtures it.

Boelter is not an outlier.

He is the logical conclusion of a hateful political movement built on grievance, white racism, violent entitlement, and delusions of being replaced by people of color or going extinct. He is what happens when white men are told they are the rightful owners of power, and any shift toward equity or justice is treated as an existential threat and a prelude to tyranny. And yet, the press contorts itself into knots trying to name anything but the truth. They tiptoe around his whiteness, his fascism, his brand of Christianity, his MAGA allegiance, and his love for Donald Trump. Because to say it plainly would implicate not just one man, but a whole movement and the current president.

The media's complicity doesn't just show up in headlines; it is baked into policy. While newsrooms downplay white terror, the government has been quietly diverting attention elsewhere, helping to protect the very people committing the violence.

In March, the Trump administration quietly scaled back FBI investigations into right-wing domestic terrorism. Instead, federal agents were reassigned to immigration enforcement. They've been busy chasing down law-abiding migrants while violent white extremists have been building arsenals and kill lists at home.

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> Earl Jones, Publisher

Contributing Writers:

Dr. Pat Bonner, PHD
Ida Davis
Willie Dixon
Rev. Dr. Gregory Headen
Richard Koritz
Nathaniel Marshall

Photographers:

George Curtis Michael Simmons

Mailing Address: 21 Loney Circle Greensboro, NC 27406

News & Advertising: (336) 254-8725
Shout Out Line (336) 660-8166

This is a free publication

GRAPHIC DESIGN BY TIMES MEDIA

The Shout-Out Line

(336) 660-8166

Hello, I'm calling just to remind your readers that filing to run for Greensboro City Council begins three weeks from now. Want to alert and remind Black folk out there that the most important politics in your daily life is local politics. That is the politics close to home. One famous US Senator once said years ago "all politics is local". Don't want to dismiss the importance of national politics but that's next year and the US presidential race is almost four years away. City Council is the closest government to us. As Black people, our right to vote has been hard won. For us Black folk, it took centuries of struggle for us to gain the right to vote. Many of us and our allies bled and died for us today to have the right to vote. Don't squander the hard won right and opportunity. Your issues, concerns and well being are tied to whether or not you vote and more importantly, who you vote for. Within the next three weeks, you will know who's running, and you should take the opportunity to examine what they say and look at any past track record of community service or civic engagement to determine who will represent your best interest on the Council.

Shout-Out

Hello, you know, relationships can be a blessing or a curse. The blessing is that you met someone worth while and want everything you want and more. The curse is you met someone that has no ambition or work ethic and uses you for everything. The moral of the story is read and investigate the person before you commit to a long term relationship. Like job history, credit status, living condition or situation. Better safe than sorry.

Shout-Out

Hello, I'm calling to express my outrage at the inhuman gestapo tactics used by ICE agents to detain immigrants. The masked unidentified agents in clothing for war or combat in a war zone kidnap people off the streets in the fields on farmland, in churches, children in school, and at multiple work places is a disgusting display of thuggery and lawlessness. The American government might as well contract with the mafia to do thier dirty work, at least the violence and threats of violence would come from an organization steeped in American outlaw culture. Most of the people that have been picked up are not crimminals but are undocumented immigrants, many who are working and going through the immigration process to be American citizens. The narrative put out to the public that most of them are violent crimminals is a big lie coming from the Liar in chief in the White House. The sad part is that none of this had to happen. Last year, the US congress had crafted a bipartisan Bill to resolve much of the immigration problem, but the Liar-In -Chief bullied the Republican controlled Senate to kill the Bill to help his re-election campaign for President. Disgusting.

Shout-Out

Hello, my brothers and sisters, don't complain too much about the "Uncle Tom." Even the people who betray you are part of the plan. 'Jesus couldn't get to the cross without Judas'. Peace!

Shout-Out

Well, G-times, I'm enjoying celebrating Juneteenth this month. June 19, 2025 marked the 150 anniversary celebration of Juneteenth. It celebrates Black folk freedom not only from slavery but also the freedom of opportunity to live our lives free. The freedom to learn to read, the freedom to marry, the freedom to educate ourselves, to have control of our own body, to keep my family together and to gather with friends and family to have cock-outs, listen to music, dance, attend special events and just have a good time. In a few weeks, I will be celebrating the 4th of July. There are some that say we should not celebrate the 4th of July. Well, I celebrate with pause and reflection but celebrate just the same. There would be no 4th of July if 9,000 Black patriots, representing 1/4 of the American army, had not served in the Revoluntionary War. One domino led to the fall of another. No Revolutionary War, no Civil War and no Juneteenth. Black folk continue to struggle today for equal justice. On the 4th of July, I will celebrate and acknowledge my peoples sacrifice to the country for the principles of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. The struggle continues, but our ancestors have brought us this far..."

Shout-Out

What up G-times, hey look, some women have wife written all over them. But y'all women keep picking men who can't read. Whats up with that?

Publisher's View/Media's Favorite Terrorist from page 5

Memos revealed plans to deploy 2,000 agents full-time to ICE operations, siphoning manpower from counterterrorism, counterespionage, and violent crimes.

And all of it was deliberate.
Redirecting federal resources
away from right-wing domestic terror and toward immigration enforcement isn't a bureaucratic oversight.
It's a strategic act of preservation.
It shields the state's most loyal foot
soldiers, armed white men who see
violence as a civic duty, while targeting those deemed expendable:
immigrants, refugees, the racialized
"other."

Turning white violence into patriotism and turning brown existence into a crime is how authoritarian power sustains itself. So, when the Trump administration scales back investigations into domestic terror to instead hunt migrants, he's feeding his base. He's giving them the illusion of safety by criminalizing migration while allowing the real threat, white Christian extremists steeped in MAGA propaganda, to organize, arm, and act with lethal force..

White supremacy demands a state that is blind to itself. It cannot afford a government that investigates its most devout believers. It needs media that softens the language. It needs federal agencies that turn away. It needs silence, diversion, and plausible deniability.

The goal is to protect the image of the MAGA base. Pretend the greatest threat is at the border, not in white suburbs and rural communities. Not in white churches. Not

among Trump's most loyal foot soldiers.

Clear majority of White evangelicals approve of Trump's handling of job % who of the way Donald Trump is handling his job as president Disapprove Approve U.S. adults 40% 48 Christian 50 Protestant White evangelical 72 51 White, not evangelical 10 Black Prot. 42 Catholic 51 White Catholic 26 Hispanic Catholic 26 Religiously unaffiliated Note: Those who did not answer are not shown. Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted April 7-13, 2025.

man who plotted mass murder, surveilled Democratic officials, consumed InfoWars, ran a bogus mercenary security company, and idolized Trump, isn't being called a terrorist. It's why he was taken alive. It's why his wife, Jenny Boelter, who was caught with cash and passports during a traffic stop, isn't in custody.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Make no mistake: Boelter meets

every legal and moral definition of a domestic terrorist. His crimes were not random acts. This was a political execution. He targeted lawmakers. He told his family he went to "war." He had plans to kill more.

The greatest threat to America is coming from white men like Boelter. White men with badges. White men who mask their faces during immigration raids. White men with Bibles and ballots. From voters who cheered for blood. From feckless lawmakers who wink at militias. From extremists who stalk doctors and bomb clinics. From a president who calls for violence and pardons insurrectionists.

Boelter was not a lone wolf.
He acted on instruction. From
Trump. From Stephen Miller. InfoWars and Fox News. From the
algorithmic rage machines of social
media platforms run by technofascists who monetize racial hatred.
From the entire MAGA ecosystem
that grooms white men into martyrs for a cause soaked in grievance,
God, and guns.

And instead of connecting the dots, our media is hiding the thread. The silence around this violence isn't accidental; it's engineered, it's complicity. It isn't balance, it's surrender.

While the press fumbles for language, the white supremacist machine continues to move in the shadows, demanding more victims. Still building lists. Still preparing its next soldier.

< Black Lives Matter from page 1 >

weeks since his inauguration, we have witnessed horrifying stories of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) raids carried out under his administration's orders to round up undocumented people. These raids have taken place in schools, at public transit stops, in grocery stores, and at homes - spaces where we should all be free and safe.

These racist attacks predominantly target our Latinx relatives, and we have seen repeated attempts by this administration to pit Black and Brown communities against one another. Let us be clear: Blacks Lives Matter Grassroots will never abandon our undocumented family, nor will we forget that most African Americans arrived to this country falsely named as chattel, by the same colonial forces that drew false borders.

Black people also continue to

be a global people; anti-immigrant policies harm our continental African, Haitian, Caribean, Afro-Latinx, Arab, and other Black migrant siblings, who have been tergeted by ICE raids in places like Florida and Ohio. In the ultimate act of hypocrisy, the Indigenous people of this land have been racially profiled by ICE and held unlawfully on suspicion of being Latinx.

Our communities must unite to resist this fascist, white-supremacist agenda. We must continue educating one another about our rights - because we do have rights. Being undocumented is not a crime...settler colonialism is. People have the right to live, move, and travel freely especially on land still being actively colonized by the settler state. Our opposition to repression and state terror must continue to be loud, strong, and unwavering.

Black people born in the United States stood with our immigrant siblings in 2016 and throughout Trump's first administration, and we continue to stand together now. We remain committed to showing up and standing in solidarity. We support and are especially inspired by our youth in their bold acts of resistance, from school walkouts to direct action.

We know that dissent, civil disobedience, radical visioning, and organizing are our only options in face of a fascist regime that seek to divide us separate families, and take away our loved ones through detentions, deportations, and other acts of state terror.

To our immigrant siblings... We are here. We are with you. And we will not stop until we are all free.

Latinx Voters Say Trump Fooled Them, but Don't Expect Black Twitter to Care... Anymore

Although Black Americans empathize with the Latinx community, others remember the 51 percent who elected Trump.

by Phenix S. Halley



It's too late to get their money back, but Latinx voters are expressing buyer's remorse after electing President Donald Trump. More than half of Latinx voters confidently casted their ballots for him, and after just 108 days of Trump back in the White House, folks are having regrets... but it's way too late!

Since Trump's return, mass deportations have disproportionately shaken Hispanic communities nationwide. Recent news of Trump rescinding the Temporary Protected Status for hundreds of thousands of Venezuelan migrants was immediately met with backlash within the Latinx community, who thought they'd be protected from Trump's onslaught of attacks on migrants.

Adelys Ferro, the director of the Venezuelan American Caucus, told NPR he feels "beyond betrayed" by the administration. "They used us," Ferro said, and he's not the only one. The Atlanta Journal Constitution reported on a family of MAGA Latinos who tearfully shared how their son was taken to an ICE detention center despite him having a green card.

But while many in the Latinx community continue to express their disbelief for Trump's actions, Black people are sitting back like "we told you so." On X, @NaClyCem, pointed out how Black Americans warned their Latinx brothers and sisters

"Trump is racist and is going to deport anyone who is not the right color. Latinos should not support him," but not enough people listened.

Black people, in fact, began warning about Trump over a decade ago. In 2015, the Latinx community found its way at the center of the immigration debate after Trump repeatedly villainized Hispanic migrants. But despite the president targeting "rapists" and "terrorist gang members" coming from across the Southern border, thousands of Latinx voters still sang along to "I will vote for Donald Trump" jingles at rallies before showing up and out for Trump... twice.

Now, Trump is honoring his self-proclaimed "mandate" to tackle immigration, and in response, thousands of protestors continue to flood the streets— many in cities with majority Latinx populations like San Antonio and Miami, according to Texas Public Radio and the Miami Herald

Tensions only rose more after stories of folks like Kilmar Abrego Garcia made national headlines. Garcia was arrested and deported to El Salvador, despite a judge's 2019 order barring him from being sent there, according to NBC News. The Trump administration continues to claim Garcia is an active member of a dangerous gang, but a different

judge ordered his return back to the states. Trump refuses to do so.

Many in the Black community empathize with stories like Garcia's. @Biz4Ever tweeted, "Because many of us have been falsely accused & sentenced but not released, we actually can relate more to Kilmar Abrego Garcia" compared to Trump, who claimed to relate to Black folks after being convicted on 34 felonies.

But on the other side, most folks aren't as concerned considering the 51 percent of Latinx voters, voted for Trump, in 2024, according to exit polls. @notcapnamerica asked, "What are we supposed to do with this information," referring to the AJC's article. @DrAlbertUtd responded, "We used all our empathy when we voted for the woman that wouldn't have done this," referencing former Vice President Kamala Harris.

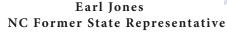
Is the Black community heartless for this so-called "lack of empathy?" No, but they are frustrated not only with Trump but also with the Latino people who put him back in office, against their own interests. The president has a "deport now and ask questions later" motto, and unfortunately, the Latinx community will likely continue to bear the brunt of it.

The Greensboro Times "SHOUT OUT LINE". Your Opinion, 1st Amendment, Freedom of Speech (336) 660-8166

Legal Beat

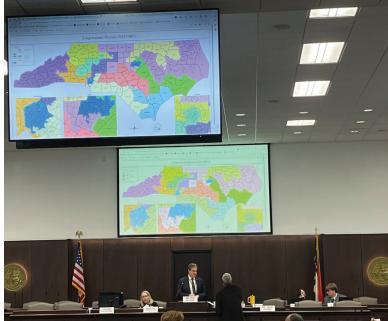
Witnesses testify about Black communities split by NC Republicans' redistricting plans







Deborah Maxwell NC NAACP President



A map of new proposed congressional districts appears at North Carolina Senate Redistricting Committee meeting — Photo: Lynn Bonner

NC Newsline - Former state Rep. Earl Jones said Monday that Republicans' plan for congressional districts in Greensboro looked like a glass smashed against the pavement.

Jones testified on the first day of the federal trial of North Carolina's congressional and state legislative districts. He is a plaintiff in one of the two lawsuits claiming the election districts Republicans enacted for the 2024 elections are racial gerrymanders that dilute Black voting power in violation of the U.S. Constitution and federal law.

Republicans stressed during debates on their way to approving the new district plans that no racial data was used to create them. In court filings, lawyers for Republican legislators suggested that the lawsuits dress partisan gerrymandering claims "in racial garb."

Both the U.S. Supreme Court and the North Carolina Supreme Court are shut off to people and advocacy groups that want to sue claiming partisan gerrymanders.

The two lawsuits challenging the redistricting plans were combined for the trial in front of a three-judge panel in Winston Salem

Lawyers representing Republican legislators and the lawyers representing voters and voting rights groups did not make opening arguments, so the trial launched directly into testimony by plaintiffs' witnesses.

All together, six of 14 congressional districts, nine of 120 state House districts, and five of 50 state Senate districts are being challenged.

Much of the testimony focused on the Piedmont Triad, which includes Greensboro, Winston-Salem and High Point.

Republicans cut heavily Democratic Guilford County into three pieces. The individual pieces were melded into districts with Republican counties that are more rural.

"I'm concerned about the carving up and cutting up of my community, and I'm trying to get that changed somehow," said Jones, who is Black.

Under a court-ordered congressional district plan used for the 2022 election, Guilford County was not divided and incumbent Democrat Kathy Manning was elected to represent it as part of the 6th Congressional District.

The redrawn district is heavily Republican. Manning did not run for reelection, and no Democrat opted to run there.

Overall, seven Democrats and seven Republicans were elected to Congress from North Carolina in 2022 using the

court-ordered map. The 2024 map yielded 10 Republican and four Democratic winners.

Jones, a Democrat, said he was drawn into the 5th Congressional District, which extends west to include Ashe and Watauga counties in the mountains. Republican U.S. Rep. Virginia Foxx represents the district.

While Manning supported the Black community, Foxx has been absent and doesn't have an office in Greensboro, Jones said.

"It hurt my community," Jones said of the district lines. "We don't have anyone who will address issues important to us."

Jonathan Rodden, a redistricting specialist at Stanford University, testified that the 2024 districts "are not especially compact," and "the Black community in the Triad is divided among several districts by splitting municipalities."

Rodden said he couldn't see good evidence that sorting voters in and out of districts is entirely driven by party.

Questioned by a lawyer for Republican legislators, Rodden said he did not know what election results legislators used to make the maps.

"I can't make conclusions about that," Rodden said. "I wasn't there in the room."

The judges also heard testimony about congressional districts 12 and 14 in Mecklenburg and counties west, about state Senate districts 1 and 2, which divide eastern North Carolina's Black Belt counties, and about state Senate District 8, which is dominated by Columbus and Brunswick counties, with a sliver of Black neighborhoods in Wilmington added for 2024.

"Inner city Wilmington is purposely cut and sent over to rural Brunswick County," state NAACP President Deborah Maxwell testified.

Three federal judges appointed by Republican presidents are hearing the case. Fourth US Court of Appeals Judge Allison Rushing (Donald Trump) and District Judges Thomas Schroeder(George W. Bush) and Richard Myers (Donald Trump). The trial is expected to end in early July.





Veteran SBA lender and small business advocate brings 25+ years of experience to Durham-based bank

M&F Bank, one of the nation's oldest and most trusted Black-owned financial institutions, is proud to announce the appointment of Caroline S. Taylor as its new Senior Vice President and Chief Lending Officer.

A native of Angier, NC, Taylor brings more than 25 years of lending expertise, with a reputation for expanding SBA loan portfolios, building high-performing teams, and championing small business growth across the Southeast and beyond.

"Caroline Taylor is a dynamic leader who embodies the spirit of service, strategy, and innovation," said M&F Bank leadership. "Her pas-



New Lending Leader
Joins M&F
Bank to Drive
Small Business
Growth

by Spectacular Magazine

sion for economic empowerment and her proven record in Small Business Administration (SBA) lending will strengthen our mission and impact across the communities we serve."

A Leader in SBA Lending and Community Banking

Taylor has held executive roles with national SBA lending teams, where she significantly increased loan production and managed multi-billion-dollar portfolios. She currently serves on the Executive Board of the National Association of Government Guaranteed Lenders (NAGGL) and is a former board member of the NC Bankers Association.

A proud NC State University alumna, Taylor holds a B.A. in Polit-

ical Science and is a graduate of the prestigious UVA Darden Executive Leadership Program. Known for her commitment to mentorship, she has built a legacy of supporting women in finance, developing strong leadership pipelines, and fostering inclusive lending practices.

With her deep roots in North Carolina and national influence in SBA finance, Caroline Taylor's appointment signals a new chapter of growth and innovation at M&F Bank. Her leadership will play a key role in expanding access to capital for minority-owned businesses and underserved communities throughout the region.

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BID

IFB 6768

Lindley Elementary School Rebuild - Demo & Abatement Packages 2700 Camden Road Greensboro, NC 27403

Sealed bids from prequalified trade contractors only for Demo & Abatement Packages will be received by the Guilford County School System until 2:00 pm Tuesday July 8, 2025, at GCS Central Office at 714 Green Valley Road, Room 2A on the second floor, Greensboro, NC, and immediately thereafter opened to furnish all materials and labor for the project listed above.

Plans, specifications, and contract documents may be obtained from the prequalified trade contractors only. Interested lower tier trade contractors may contact D.A. Everett/Christman, a Joint Venture (Attn: Kim Neese, email: kim. neese@christmanco.com) to obtain contact information for the prequalified trade contractors.

Questions regarding the bid should be directed in writing to D.A. Everett/Christman, a Joint Venture (Attn: Kim Neese, email: kim.neese@christmanco.com)

A brief description of work in the project follows: a new 3-story, approximately 106,000 SF PK-5 elementary school with associated site improvements, site access, parking, and complete building systems. The existing school buildings, infrastructure, and hardscapes will be demolished for the construction of the new school building.

The work associated with this bid package BP1 is WC01 Demolition and WC01A Abatement. All work assigned to each bid package.

A Pre-Bid Conference will be held 9:00 AM on Monday, June 23, 2025, in the media center at Lindley Elementary School located at 2700 Camden Road, Greensboro, NC. Bidders are all encouraged to attend.

Bidders must be properly licensed for the work in accordance with Section 87 of the North Carolina General Statutes.

Bid Bonds are required for any package over \$500,000. Bids may not be withdrawn or changed for a period of 60 days after the scheduled closing time for the receipt of bids.

The Board reserves the right to reject any or all bids presented and to waive any informalities and irregularities.

Guilford County Schools Velicia Moore Director of Purchasing

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

The Piedmont Triad Airport Authority will receive Bids for the Rehabilitate Taxiway K - Bid Package 1 Project, in the Stanley Frank Board Room at the Piedmont Triad International Airport, until 10:00 am on Thursday, August 7, 2025, at which time and place all Bids received will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids received after 10:00 am on August 7, 2025, will not be accepted.

This project consists of demolition of existing airfield pavements, earthwork, erosion control items, installation and reconfiguration of storm drainage systems, construction of new airfield pavement, airfield electrical, seeding, mulching, and other incidental items necessary to complete the project.

Bid Security equal to 5% of the total Bid is required in the form of a cash deposit or a Bid Bond. Contract Security in the form of 100% Performance and Payment Bonds will be required. No Bid may be withdrawn after closing time for the receipt of Bids for a period of ninety (90) consecutive calendar days.

A Pre-Bid Conference Meeting will be held at the Stanley Frank Board Room at the Piedmont Triad International Airport on Tuesday, July 16, 2025, at 2:00 pm. The purpose of this meeting is to familiarize the prospective bidders with the proposed project. The meeting will cover contract scope, security badging requirements bid items, schedule requirements, and any questions from those in attendance. A representative of the Authority and the Engineer will be on hand to respond to questions from potential Bidders in attendance. Minutes from this meeting will be made available via addendum.

Questions relating to the Contract and Contract Documents must be submitted in writing to the Engineer at tyler.bailey1@jacobs. com no later than Wednesday, July 29, 2025, at 5:00 pm. Bidding and Contract Documents are available and may be examined at the following location:

Piedmont Triad Airport Authority 1000A Ted Johnson Parkway Greensboro, North Carolina 27409

Bidding and Contract Documents may be obtained digitally only and will be available beginning July 7, 2025. Please contact Tyler Bailey with Jacobs Engineering at tyler.bailey1@jacobs.com or by phone at 336.681.0596. There is no cost for digital plans.

Each Bidder shall be prequalified by North Carolina Department of Transportation, and any subcontractors shall be prequalified prior to start of work. Each Bidder must be properly licensed under Chapter 87, General Statutes of North Carolina (G.S. 87-15). Each Bidder shall certify, by submission of a proposal, that neither it nor its principals is presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participation in this transaction by any Federal department or agency or the State of North Carolina.

The Piedmont Triad Airport Authority reserves the right to waive any informalities or irregularities in or to reject any or all Bids and to award or refrain from awarding the Contract for the work, whichever is deemed to be in the Authority's best interest.

Title VI Solicitation Notice:

The Piedmont Triad Airport Authority, in accordance with the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (78 Stat. 252, 42 U.S.C. §§ 2000d to 2000d-4) and the Regulations, hereby notifies all bidders that it will affirmatively ensure that with respect to any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, disadvantaged business enterprises will be afforded full and fair opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, or national origin in consideration for an award.

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with the City of Greensboro

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





'History Will Not Be Kind To This Racist President': Social Media Reacts To MLK Statue Removed From Oval Office

White House officials confirmed Trump moved the bronze bust into a private dining room, used for private meetings and lunches with senior staff.

> by Sharelle B. McNair June 18, 2025

A bust of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. that former President Barack Obama moved into the Oval Office has been moved out by President Donald Trump, causing backlash on social media.

White House officials confirmed Trump moved the bronze bust, which by definition is a sculpted or cast representation of the upper part of the human body, into a private dining room, used for private meetings and lunches with senior staff. Adding "interior decorator" to his résumé, the Oval Office now holds remnants of gold ornaments surrounding door frames, gold figurines on the fireplace mantle, and a framed copy of the Declaration of Independence hidden behind blue velvet curtains.

A bust of Winston Churchill, the former Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, was also moved back in on Trump's first day back at the White House, according to USA Today.

The bust of King remained in place during Trump's first term, prompting critics to question why the change is suddenly occurring. Social media users criticized the incumbent president for his efforts to reverse decisions made under the Biden-Harris administration and other Democratic administrations. In mid-June 2025, Trump announced he would be reinstating the names of seven Army bases named after Confederate soldiers. The

announcement was made during an appearance at Fort Bragg in North Carolina, changed to Fort Liberty by Joe Biden.

Users like @uncatfishable touched on the hypocrisy the President is showing after years of claiming he isn't a racist. "Last week it was renaming Forts to confederate names. This week it's removing MLK bust from the Oval Office," he wrote.

@RichardAngwin called the statue removal a "disgusting slap in the face."

"Trump's removal of MLK Jr.'s bust from the Oval Office is a disgusting slap in the face to civil rights, exposing his deep-seated racism and disdain for equality," Angwin said.

Other comments alluded to Trump "Keeping the Klan happy," and "These evil men need to be purged from our national government. By any means necessary."

Among several other reasons, this may have contributed to Trump being the first president not invited to the NAACP National Convention in 116 years.

The bust found its home in the Oval Office after the country's first African American president was sworn in, relocating it from the White House library. Previously, the image was on loan from the Smithsonian and arrived at the library in 2000, during the second term of former President Clinton.



'Diversity Is Our Strenght: North Carolina Gov. Josh Stein Vetoes DEI Bans

Stein condemned any plans to 'whitewash history' in the state's public schools.

by Nahlah Abdur-Rahman

North Carolina Gov. Josh Stein has vetoed multiple bills led by Republicans that would have resulted in DEI bans throughout the state government and school systems.

The North Carolina General Assembly (NCGA) initially passed the three bills, as the state house and state senate both have a Republican majority. According to The News and Observer, the axed bills sought to eliminate DEI programs and initiatives within the state's agencies and crack down on "divisive concepts" taught in its public schools.

As he vetoed one of the bills, Stein emphasized the importance of diversity while condemning any plans to "whitewash history."

"Our diversity is our strength. We should not whitewash history, police dorm room conversations, or ban books," stated Stein in his message. "Rather than fearing different viewpoints and cracking down on free speech, we should ensure our students learn from diverse perspectives and form their own opinions."

Approved by N.C. Republicans in late June, the anti-DEI bills directly targeted inclusive messaging and practices. House Bill 171, specifically, would have banned state agencies from using DEI concepts in their hiring decisions, also stripping funding for DEI-focused programming. Senate Bill 227 and Senate Bill 558 would have essentially done the same within public grade schools and universities.

After vetoing all the bills, Gov. Stein condemned the measures and

the state Republicans. He called the proposed bans a move to "distract" residents from more pressing issues.

"At a time when teachers, law enforcement, and state employees need pay raises and people need shorter lines at the DMV, the legislature failed to pass a budget and, instead, wants to distract us by stoking culture wars that further divide us," expressed Stein. "These mean-spirited bills would marginalize vulnerable people and also undermine the quality of public services and public education."

Despite this, the House Republicans could still get the bills passed, needing one more vote to get a veto-proof supermajority. However, they would need a Democrat to vote with them.



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July 3rd is National CROWN Day, Black women are loving their natural hair — and now there's data to prove it

Haniyah Philogene





"Natural hair has always been a symbol of confidence, individuality, and culture," said Amber Cooper, Brand Manager at BLK in a press release shared with thGrio. "For so long, Black women were made to feel like they had to change who they were to be accepted. With #FreeYourCrown, we're not just celebrating natural hair — we're creating space for Black women to be seen, uplifted, and supported at every

We've come a long way from hiding our curls under flat irons or sew-ins out of fear of being seen as "unprofessional" or "too much." But the journey isn't over. The data also shows that 40% of Black women have still experienced judgment based on their hair. Still, the CROWN Act and the natural hair movement have and continue to push the conversation

stage of their journey."





forward.

To mark the occasion, BLK is encouraging users to update their profile pics across dating apps and social platforms to showcase their natural hair in all its glory. The platform also launched BLK Beauty Community inside the app, a space where Black women can swap hair tips, product recommendations, and stories that feel like your favorite group chat. Plus, five lucky members who share photos of their natural hair in the group will win a \$500 credit for a salon visit with a Black stylist of their choice.

So, whether you're a Black woman who loves to rock her fro, bundles, braids, locs, or anything in between, remember your hair is your crown and don't let anyone try to make you feel ashamed of it.

On July 3, 2019, the first CROWN Act legislation was signed in California to "Create a Respectful and Open World for Natural Hair." Now, six years later, on National Crown Day, Black women around the country are celebrating the ground-breaking legislation that prohibits discrimination based on hair style and texture.

A new survey from BLK's #FreeYourCrown campaign shows something many of us have already felt in our souls (and seen in our selfies): the relationship between Black women and our hair is evolving and thriving. According to the findings, 60.9% of Black women say they wear their natural hair all the time, and 79.5% feel very confident doing so in public, even on a first date. No stress, just showing up as we are.

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Sealed proposals will be received until 3:00 pm EST on Thursday, July 31st, 2025, at

North Carolina A&T State University DeHuguley Building,

602 North Benbow Road Greensboro, NC 27411 (Physical Address)

or

1601 East Market Street Greensboro, NC 27411 (Mailing Address)

ATTN: Kofi B. Yiadom,

and immediately thereafter publicly opened and read for the construction of a new High-Tech Greenhouse.

A Non-Mandatory Pre-Bid Conference will be held in the DeHuguley Building in the conference room at 3:00 pm EST on Thursday, July 17th, 2025.

 $\label{lem:complete} \textbf{Complete plans and specifications for this project can be obtained as stated below:}$

Bidding Documents may be viewed and ordered online by registering with Duncan Parnell via their bid room https://bidroom.duncan-parnell.com/. Downloads of the digital set of the bid documents are unlimited.

Registration with Duncan Parnell is required to obtain the bid documents and be added to the official Plan Holder's List. Addenda will be notified to those on the official Plan Holder's List.

The cost of printed bid documents and shipping is non-refundable and shall be paid directly to Duncan-Parnell via their bidroom. Neither OWNER nor ARCHITECT will be responsible for copies of the bid documents obtained from sources other than from Duncan Parnell.

If you need any assistance ordering or getting registered on https://bidroom.duncan-parnell.com/
please contact: Michaela Bruinius at consteel@duncan-parnell.com.

The state reserves the unqualified right to reject any and all proposals.



SAVE THE DATE

Wednesday, September 24, 2025 Greensboro, NC



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www.ncgbl.org





You are cordially invited to the Civil Rights Museum's Gala on July 19 at the Koury Convention Center!

Tickets and sponsorships are available.

You can reserve your spot at www.sitinmovement.org/events, or scan the QR code.



2025 HONOREES

