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# Carolina Peacemaker

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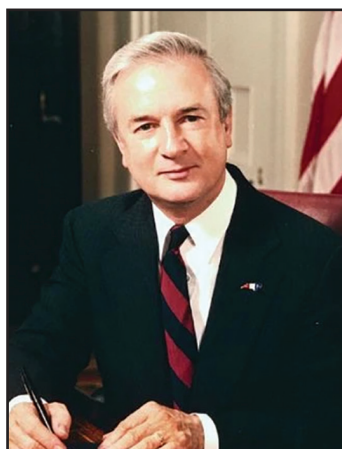
VOL. LIX, NO. 38 The Week of Thursday, December 25, to Wednesday, December 31, 2025 (USPS 091360)

## Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

### State leaders pay tribute to former N.C. Gov. Jim Hunt

By Cash Michaels  
Peacemaker Senior Contributor

African American leaders across North Carolina joined the many in paying heartfelt tribute to former Governor Jim Hunt upon word of his passing at the age of 88.



Hunt

“Gov. Jim Hunt was one of the greatest governors to ever serve North Carolina. His compassion, care and commitment to the people of our state will be felt for generations to come,” said U.S. Rep. Alma Adams (D-NC-12) in a statement after Hunt’s daughter, Lt. Gov. Rachel Hunt, announced the former governor’s death on Thursday, December 18th.

“My prayers go out to his family, friends, and loved ones,” Adams continued. “Gov. Hunt will be missed, but his legacy will never be forgotten.”

Indeed, James Baxter Hunt Jr., North Carolina’s longest-serving governor, will forever be remembered for his leadership in improving public education, promoting technology and economic development, and giving African Americans prime opportunities in advisory and governing roles during his unprecedented 16 years in office.

Hunt was a proponent of the so-called “New South.”

“Governor Jim Hunt was a force of nature that shaped North Carolina for the better,” said state Senator Dan Blue (D-Wake). “The Hunt administration was a beacon of progress in the South, showing the region and the country what is possible if we fight for what is right and invest in future generations.”

“I was honored to have worked alongside him and to call him a friend,” Blue continued. “My prayers are with his family as we all mourn his passing. Rest easy Governor Hunt.”

Born in Greensboro, Hunt grew up as a

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Photos by Ivan Saul Cutler/Carolina Peacemaker

Acknowledging the significance of Winter Wishes and the partnership between North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University and Guilford County Department of Health and Human Services are Oliver Thomas, associate vice chancellor, left, Melvin “Skip” Alston, chair, Guilford County Board of Commissioners; Sheila Stokes, program director, Guilford County Children Services and A&T Chancellor James R. Martin II.

### A&T Aggies make children’s ‘Winter Wishes’ come true

By Ivan Saul Cutler  
Carolina Peacemaker

The faculty and staff of North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University granted the wishes of hundreds of children in Guilford County foster care.

For the ninth year at A&T’s Winter Wishes gift drive, scores of gift bearers from across the university’s campus delivered a plethora of items destined to be given to approximately 200 children in foster care. The Aggie elves collected the gifts at the university’s Alumni-Foundation Center.

Chancellor James R. Martin II joined Melvin “Skip” Alston, chairman of the Guilford County Board of Commissioners, and Sheila Stokes, program director with Guilford County Children’s Services, in expressing gratitude for the outpouring of generosity by the Aggie faculty, staff and students during the holiday season. The partnership between the university and Guilford County allows faculty and staff to fulfill the holiday wishes of more than a third of all children in foster care served by Guilford County Social Services.

Each child created a list with as many



Fletcher Barber and Olivia Cobb deliver and sort gifts at Winter Wishes.

as three gifts – ranging from toys, games, and electronics to sporting goods, bicycles, musical instruments, art supplies, clothing, shoes, books and gift cards, which A&T employees pledged to provide. The gifts collected were organized at the celebration for

See WISHES page 5A

### Rev. Dr. Cardes H. Brown Jr. celebrates 50 years of leadership at New Light Baptist Church

By Ivan Saul Cutler and Yasmine Register  
Carolina Peacemaker

Greensboro’s New Light Missionary Baptist Church celebrated the 50th Pastoral Anniversary of Rev. Dr. Cardes H. Brown Jr. with a formal dinner on December 5. Several hundred church members, family and friends honored the respected religious and community leader.

The celebration culminated a year of honors that included guest pastors leading Sunday and special services at the 134-year-old church, located on Willow Road in Greensboro. Brown has served the congregation of New Light by preaching the Gospel and as a tireless advocate for racial equity, social justice and human rights.

Moments after Rev. Dr. Brown and First Lady Diane Pierce Brown entered the candlelit ballroom at the Koury Convention Center, they expressed gratitude for the honor of leading the church. Resembling a nostalgic supper club where friends would gather to socialize, the gala featured music, dancing and fellowship, and tributes to the distinguished leader.

For more than 60 years, Brown has devoted himself to pastoral ministry, serving congregations across North Carolina. For the past 50 years, he has led New Light Missionary



Ivan Saul Cutler/Carolina Peacemaker

Diane Pierce Brown and Rev. Dr. Cardes H. Brown Jr. celebrate during Rev. Brown’s 50th Pastoral Anniversary celebration held at the Koury Convention Center in Greensboro.

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# COMMUNITY

## Operation Yuletide spreads cheer to families



Civilian Traffic Investigators V.E. Bullock, left, and S.M. McDonald handle some of the gifts for the Greensboro Police Department's Operation Yuletide.



Moving gifts for Operation Yuletide, officers C.D. Sands, left, and M.S. Davis.



Greensboro Police officers prepare to load a police cruiser to deliver gifts for Operation Yuletide.



Photos by Ivan Saul Cutler/Carolina Peacemaker Assistant Police Chief M.J. Harris and Alexa Rose Cutler are preparing to deliver holiday gifts for Operation Yuletide.

By Ivan Saul Cutler  
Carolina Peacemaker

Greensboro Police Dept. partnered with the community to bring joy to 60 families and 200 seniors this holiday season.

Known as Operation Yuletide,

enthusiastic police officers and staff delivered cheer to residents experiencing challenging times. Often, Yuletide recipients are people in the Greensboro community who have been affected by serious crimes, accidents, or other unfortunate events.

The officers and staff receive and purchase gifts of new clothing, toys, and household items for families referred by the police department. Additionally, the department "adopts" one senior community to deliver cheer and gifts of essential household and

hygiene items.

Although this program is a GPD-led initiative, it involves many City of Greensboro departments, businesses, and area residents who volunteer to "adopt" families and donate gifts.

## Holiday giving sweeps Guilford County



Photos by Ivan Saul Cutler/Carolina Peacemaker Guilford County Sheriff Danny H. Rogers (center, in red hat) joins deputies and staff with a "mountain of toys" collected for the "Fill the Bus" campaign, benefiting the Hayes-Taylor Memorial and Carl Chavis Memorial YMCAs.



Alaya Torain (left), Zayana Dawkins (front), and Zariah Dawkins enjoy time with Santa Claus during the warm coat giveaway at the Capital Hyundai showroom in Greensboro.



During Bessemer Elementary School's "Holiday of Love," organizer Tanya Dixon (left) stands with Miss Greensboro Lindsey Moore, Melanie Jones, and daughter Olivia Jones.

By Ivan Saul Cutler  
Carolina Peacemaker

The spirit of giving transformed Greensboro and High Point into a landscape of smiles this past week, as local organizations joined forces to deliver holiday joy to hundreds of families.

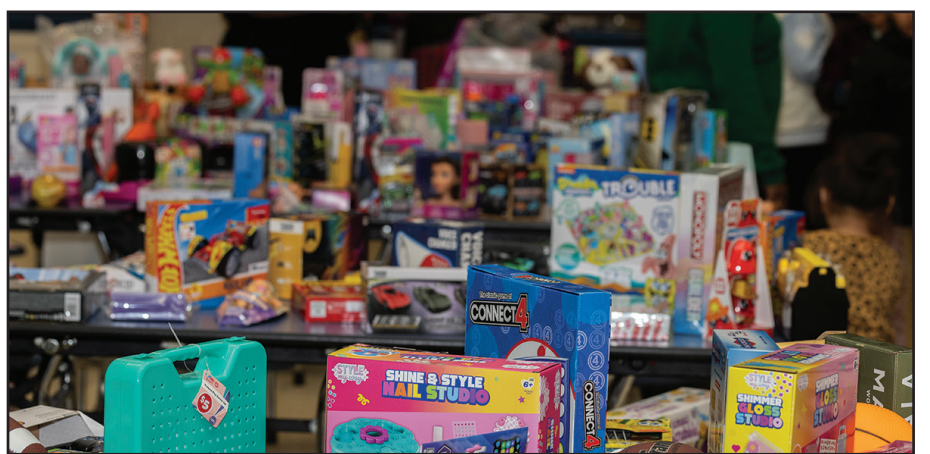
### Filling the bus with joy

Guilford County Sheriff Danny Rogers and his deputies led the charge, arriving with a "mountain of toys and games." The department's annual effort successfully

"filled the bus," with deliveries made to the Hayes-Taylor Memorial YMCA in Greensboro and the Carl Chavis Memorial YMCA in High Point to ensure no child goes without a gift this season.

### Holiday of love

Bessemer Elementary School hosted its annual "Holiday of Love," a festive evening where students and families gathered for games and celebration. The highlight of the night was the gift dis-



Tables overflow with gifts for students at Bessemer Elementary School's annual "Holiday of Love."

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HUNT From Page 1A

farm boy in Wilson County, later becoming perhaps the most skilled, visionary and powerful North Carolina politician in history. After being elected lieutenant governor in 1972, Hunt enjoyed success upon his election as governor in 1976, 1980, 1992 and 1996, and saw himself worthy of the national political stage, like fellow Southern governors Jimmy Carter of Georgia and Bill Clinton of Ar-

kansas, both of whom rose to the presidency.

Under Gov. Hunt, addressing poverty in rural North Carolina was a priority, along with establishing his Smart Start early childhood education program and attracting new industries to the state, thereby creating new jobs and opportunities. Because of those policies and programs, Hunt, the "education governor," enjoyed strong

support in the Black community, particularly after appointing leaders like the late Benjamin Ruffin as a top advisor and several judicial figures, like Henry Frye of Greensboro, as the first African American N.C. Chief Justice of the N.C. Supreme Court, and later Cheri Beasley to the District Court. She would later rise to become the first Black female Chief Justice.

That Black community support would be tested when, in 1977, during his first term in office, Hunt refused to pardon the Wilmington Ten - nine Blacks and one White falsely convicted of firebombing a White-owned grocery store in Wilmington in 1970. In 1972, the ten were tried, convicted and sentenced to a total of over 200 years in prison.

Upon reviewing the case, Gov. Hunt announced on statewide television in January 1977 that he agreed with the controversial trial verdicts but felt that the sentences were too long and commuted them. Hunt drew tremendous criticism from both sides of the controversy, with many surmising that by not pardoning the ten but shortening their sentences, he was being politically expedient.

Because of the worldwide attention to the case at the time, the Wilmington Ten controversy would remain part of Hunt's political legacy, especially in the Black community. Another highlight of Gov. Jim

Hunt's political career was his 1984 battle to unseat conservative Republican U.S. Senator Jesse Helms. The contest is considered one of the most expensive and bruising in American history, ending only when Helms, whose racial politics were well known, predictably played the race card against Hunt, condemning Hunt's support for affirmative action, culminating in a come-from-behind victory.

As bad as that defeat was, Hunt ran twice more for governor and won each time.

"Governor Jim Hunt's extraordinary life of public service and lasting contributions to the people of North Carolina include his tremendous impact on the state judiciary," said Democratic Associate Justice Anita Earls of the N.C. Supreme Court. "He appointed more African American judges than any of his predecessors. I will always be grateful for the way he stood with me when I announced my candidacy for the North Carolina Supreme Court in 2018. My condolences to the Hunt family; it is a great loss for all of us."

Funeral services for former Governor James Baxter Hunt Jr. will be held Friday, December 26th at 1 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church in Wilson.

The public is invited to sign a book of condolence, which will be available at the North Carolina State Capitol beginning Saturday morning.

## Carolina Peacemaker

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# HEALTH

## Pillars of Health: A Guide for 2026

### It's a Matter of Your Health



By Veita Bland, M.D.

As we welcome the New Year, it is the perfect time to establish the foundational habits that will help you obtain and maintain peak wellness in the coming year and beyond. These tips focus on prevention, which is the true key to a long and healthy life. While each of these topics deserves an article of its own,

here are the highlights of the essential pillars of health.

#### 1. Diet and Nutrition

Diet is a personal journey; what works for one may not work for another. However, the fundamentals are universal. Studies suggest a healthy diet can add a decade to your life. The goal is to reduce fast food, processed items, and pro-inflammatory ingredients.

Guidance: Balance your primary macronutrients—protein, carbohydrates, and healthy fats.

Tool: Use apps like “Eat This Much” to help generate a meal plan that monitors salt, sugar, and inflammatory triggers.

#### 2. Consistent Exercise

Exercise is vital for both physical and mental well-being. If you have been inactive, remember that consistency is more important than intensity.

Tip: Start with “exercise snacks”—short bursts of activity for 1–2 minutes—and gradually build your stamina. Walking is an excellent way to start.

#### 3. The Science of Sleep

The body thrives on regularity. To achieve the recommended 7–9 hours of nightly rest: Maintain a consistent schedule by waking up and going to bed at the same time. Seek natural sunlight during the day and limit stimulants like caffeine. Optimize your bedroom en-

vironment and avoid daytime naps.

#### 4. Mindfulness and Meditation

Mental health is a physical health pillar. Practicing mindfulness can reduce stress, improve emotional well-being, enhance your attention span, and even lower blood pressure.

#### 5. Oral Hygiene

Good health starts in the mouth. Proper oral hygiene ensures you can chew food effectively for digestion. It also protects the beneficial microbes in your mouth and gut while preventing systemic inflammation caused by cavities.

#### 6. Substance Moderation

Eliminating smoking and significantly limiting (or avoiding) alcohol are non-negotiable pillars for longevity.

#### 7. Blood Pressure Management

Aim for a consistent home reading below 120/80 mmHg. Since you spend most of your time at home, these readings are often more accurate than those taken in a clinical setting. Maintaining these levels significantly reduces the risk of stroke, dementia, and heart attacks. Ensure you use a properly fitted arm cuff for accuracy.

#### 8. Clinical Prevention & Screenings

Vaccinations: These are essential tools to prevent illness and extend your “healthspan.”

Blood Screenings: Know your numbers. Regularly check your cholesterol (Lp(a), Apo B), blood count, kidney and liver function, HbA1c (for diabetes), thyroid function, and HSCR (for inflammation).

Cancer Screenings: Stay current with mammograms, Pap smears, colonoscopies, PSA tests, and screenings for lung cancer or osteoporosis as age appropriate.

#### 9. Supplementation and Protection

Fiber and Vitamins: Ideally, nutrients should come from whole foods. If your diet is lacking, incorporate a high-quality multivitamin and ensure your fiber intake is sufficient.

Vision: Do not overlook your eyes; wear sunglasses to protect your vision from UV damage.



Submitted photo  
Exercise is important. If you haven't been exercising start slowly. Walking is a good exercise.

#### 10. Community and Connection

Healthy, deep friendships are the “icing on the cake.” Social connection is a scientifically backed pillar of longevity and overall happiness.

While this list is not exhaustive, following these pillars will significantly improve and elongate both your lifespan and your healthspan. Here's to a healthier, longer life in 2026.

Happy New Year!

*Dr. Veita Bland is a board-certified Greensboro physician and hypertension specialist. Dr. Bland's radio show, “It's a Matter of Your Health,” can be heard live on Wednesdays, 5:30 p.m. on N.C. A&T State University's WNAA, 90.1 FM. Listeners may call in and ask questions. The show is replayed on Sirius 142 at 5 p.m. on Wed. Email Dr. Bland at ideas@blandclinicpa.com.*

BROWN From Page 1A



Crystal Boyce, left, Rev. Dr. Cardes H. Brown Jr., Diane Pierce Brown and Brenton Boyce.

Baptist Church as senior pastor.

“It has truly been a joy to preside over this congregation for so long,” Brown said. “I don't know how much longer it will be, but I accept whatever God's plan is for me. For however long God has me in this season, I can say it has been an opportunity of a lifetime.”

Rev. Dr. Brown received his Graduate of Theology degree and Bachelor of Arts degree from the Greensboro Bible College, a Master of Divinity degree from Shaw Divinity School in Raleigh, North Carolina, a Doctor of Ministry / Worship Studies from Eastern Carolina Christian College in Roanoke Rapids, North Carolina, an Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters from Apex School of Theology in Durham, North Carolina, and an Honorary Doctor of

Divinity degree from the South Eastern University in Greenville, South Carolina. He is also a member of the distinguished Morehouse College Martin Luther King, Jr. Board of Preachers and is a proud member of the Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Incorporated.

Throughout his decades of ministry, Rev. Brown has received numerous honors and accolades for his service to the Greensboro community in organizations. He has served multiple terms as president of the Greensboro Branch of the NAACP, on the board of the N.C. NAACP as well as the national board. Brown is a member of the Pulpit Forum of Greensboro, and the Maya Angelou Center for Health Equity in Winston-Salem. Brown is a recipient of the Benjamin L.



Elizabeth Chavis, left, and Cardes H. Brown III.



Bishop George Brooks and Edna Brooks of Mount Zion Baptist Church, Greensboro.

Hooks Keeper of the Flame Award and the Order of the Long Leaf Pine, North Carolina's highest honor. He founded the Justice Coalition USA in support of political, educational, social and economic justice.

Brown noted that he distinguishes between his calling to preach the Gospel and his pastoral assignment, which he views as a respon-

sibility that extends beyond the church walls.

“I believe I was called to New Light. I'm a teacher, a preacher, and certainly a shepherd, and I recognized that my pastoral assignment means to lead my congregation. How could I not be involved in social and political issues when these issues affect the people in my congregation. I do



Rev. Bradley Hunt and Brittani Hunt.



Photos by Ivan Saul Cutler/Carolina Peacemaker  
Rev. Quinzel Comer, left, Rev. Amos L. Quick III, N.C. State Representative (District 58).

not see them as being separate,” he said.

Reflecting on lessons learned throughout his ministry, Brown offered advice to pastors at all stages of their calling.

“What the scripture reveals is the most important to the one who is called to serve. It would have been impossible for me to do what I do without loving the ones to whom God has sent

me to serve,” he noted. “If you want to be great in the Kingdom of God, you must be willing to serve all. I have enjoyed this service, and all that God has allowed me to provide through these various aspects of ministry.”

Brown and his wife have four children, six grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, and a host of others they consider family.

# COMMUNITY Happy Kwanzaa

By Ivan Saul Cutler  
Carolina Peacemaker

With a robust, resonant “Habari gani,” members of the Greensboro Kwanzaa Collective ask, “what’s the news,” opening each evening of the seven-day African heritage and cultural holiday. From Dec. 26 to Jan. 1, 2026, the colorful sights, distinctive sounds, aromatic scents and tasty flavors of the family-friendly celebration will fill Saint Stephen United Church of Christ on 1000 Gorrell St. in Greensboro.

Greensboro’s 16th annual Kwanzaa celebration is free and open to the public, featuring culturally rich daytime and evening activities. Evenings open with the pulsating, rhythmic drumbeats, as leaders of the Kwanzaa Collective dance into the room to initiate the festivities, focusing on personal responsibility, family and community.

“There will be the customary libation and candle-lighting ceremony honoring our ancestors, storytelling, dynamic drumming and dancing, along with opportunities for community building and sharing, plus an African Marketplace, arts and crafts fun for our younger community mem-



In 2024, Kwanzaa Honoree Deena Hayes-Greene (far right) stands with Greensboro Kwanzaa Collective members (L-R) Jamillah Neeariah Nasir, Samantha Boyd, and Dawn Omilade Tafari. Hayes-Greene was honored for her leadership in establishing a Black Wall Street district within the Gorrell Street community.

bers, delicious food tasting and celebrating community,” said organizer and educator Dawn Hicks Tafari.

Each day, Tafari will discuss the symbols and precepts of Kwanzaa, developed in 1966 by Dr. Maulana Karenga to honor the heritage of African Americans and others of the African Diaspora.

“Kwanzaa celebrations emphasize the role of family and community in African American culture by embracing seven principles called the Nguzo Saba: Unity, Self-determination, Collective Work and Responsibility, Cooperative Economics, Creativity, Pur-

pose, and Faith,” Tafari said.

The schedule for the evening formal celebration is as follows: Dec. 26, 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.; Dec. 27, 3 p.m. to 5 p.m.; December 28-30, 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.; and Dec. 31-Jan. 1, 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. The first hour of each evening is dedicated to the African Marketplace.

The three daytime events are: Dec. 27, Family Fest, 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.; Dec. 30, Virtual Sweat Session with Workout Buddie, 8 a.m. to 9 a.m.; and Dec. 31, Kuumba Workshop at The Forge, 219 W. Lewis Street, Greensboro (\$12 for two; \$20 for families of three and up).



Photos by Ivan Saul Cutler/Carolina Peacemaker In 2024, leaders of the Greensboro Kwanzaa Collective conduct a solemn Libation Ceremony honoring African heritage and ancestors. (L-R): Tonya Poole, Jamillah Neeariah Nasir, Dawn Omilade Tafari and Samantha Boyd.



A table decorated with Kwanzaa symbols such as the Kinara candle holder (center).



Last year, the Kwanzaa Collective honored the memory of Yvonne Johnson, a member of the Greensboro City Council and the city’s first African American mayor.

# MAKE SURE CUTIE PIE IS IN THE RIGHT SEAT.

## NHTSA.gov/TheRightSeat



### HOLIDAY From Page 2A



Guilford County Sheriff Danny H. Rogers accepts toy donations to help fill the bus with holiday gifts.



Photos by Ivan Saul Cutler/Carolina Peacemaker Phebe Oyekunle receives a warm coat from Olin A. Dunford III, executive general manager, during the Capital Hyundai clothing drive.

tribution, featuring tables stacked high with colorful toys and sports equipment for families to select from.

### Warmth and wellness

The community also focused on essential needs as the temperature dropped. For instance, Heads Up For Our Youth & Capital Hyundai/Subaru: This partnership transformed an automobile showroom into a winter wonderland. Hundreds of children received warm coats, jackets, caps, and socks, topped off with a special visit from Santa Claus.

### Cone Health & faith partners address food insecurity

Cone Health’s Center for Health Equity teamed with Evangel Fellowship Church and Mt. Olivet AME Church. Together with the Black Farmers Network, they distributed 550 boxes of fresh, locally grown produce and grocery bags across 10 venues in Guilford County.

From warm coats to fresh food and toys, these collaborative efforts ensured that the true essence of the holiday season—community and care—was felt by all.

# EDUCATION

## NCCU gets a clean financial audit

By Cash Michaels  
Peacemaker Senior Contributor

NCCU Chancellor Karrie G. Dixon was more than happy to tout the Eagles' success.

"This clean audit is a testament to the effectiveness of the many difficult, yet necessary decisions made to better organize our financial operations," she said.

It was just last March when an audit revealed that NCCU had racked up a whopping \$45 million in financial errors, forcing immediate

course correction by Dixon and her leadership team.

"Part of what makes our university system so great is we hold the institutions to high standards and strive to bring the very best out of our public universities," said State Auditor Dave Boliek then. "NCCU's financial reporting fell far short of the standards expected of our high education institutions, but I've had productive meetings with

university and UNC system leadership and have confidence NCCU is on a better path."

Those "productive meetings" certainly paid off, resulting in zero financial deficiencies this time around.

"North Carolina Central University has posted a welcomed turnaround from the financial errors previously reported by the North Carolina Office of the State Auditor," wrote



North Carolina Central University.

State Auditor Boliek. "This year's financial statement audit is a step in the right direction

toward managing the University's finances in compliance with accounting standards."

### WISHES From Page 1A

distribution to the children by A&T's social services staff before Christmas.



Larry Smith collects gifts at Winter Wishes on the A&T campus.



Photos by Ivan Saul Cutler/  
Carolina Peacemaker  
Glenn McNeill carries a gift during A&T's Winter Wishes program.

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## COMMENTARY

## Carolina Peacemaker

*"If there is no struggle, there is no progress. Those who propose to favor freedom, and yet deprecate agitation, are men who want crops without plowing up the ground. They want rain without thunder and lightning. They want the ocean's majestic waves without the awesome roar of its waters."*

— Frederick Douglass

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**John Marshall Kilimanjaro, Ed.D.**

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By Julianne Malveaux, Ph.D.

## Congress went home. Health care didn't get fixed. Americans pay the price.

Congress has headed home again, leaving behind a familiar mess. Health care costs are rising, insurance premiums are climbing, millions of people are struggling to stay covered—and lawmakers have once more failed to act. This is not a surprise. Thess Congressional cowards love to run and hide, leaving, always, unfinished business, and their cowardice has consequences.

Health care consumes roughly **17 to 18 percent of U.S. gross domestic product**, far more than any other wealthy nation. We spend nearly one out of every five dollars in the economy on health care, yet our outcomes—life expectancy, maternal mortality, chronic disease management—are among the worst in the developed world. That disconnect is not accidental. It is the result of policy choices, including the choice to do nothing.

One of the clearest examples is Congress's failure to extend the **enhanced Affordable Care Act (ACA) premium tax credits**, sometimes misleadingly referred to as "Obamacare subsidies." These credits lowered monthly insurance premiums for people who purchase coverage through the health insurance marketplaces. During the pandemic, Congress expanded them, making coverage more affordable for millions of working- and middle-class families, including older adults not yet eligible for Medicare, gig workers, and the self-employed.

Those enhanced credits have now expired. Not because they didn't work—but because Congress (including Democrats) chose not to renew them. The result was immediate and predictable. Premiums rose, in some cases sharply. For some families, monthly costs increased by hundreds of dollars. Many people responded the only way

they could: by downgrading coverage, taking on higher deductibles, or dropping insurance altogether. Coverage did not disappear overnight—**affordability did**.

This matters not only to individual households but to the entire health care system. When people lose affordable coverage, they delay care. Preventable conditions worsen. Emergency rooms absorb more uncompensated care. Hospitals, particularly rural and safety-net hospitals, face greater financial strain. Costs are shifted rather than reduced.

And, as always in the United States, the burden falls unevenly.

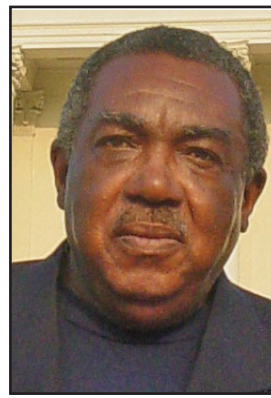
Health disparities are not just about biology or behavior. They are about access, affordability, and policy design. Black and Latino households, already more likely to be uninsured or underinsured, were disproportionately affected by rising premiums. Older adults aged 50 to 64—too young for Medicare but often facing higher health risks—were hit particularly hard. People with chronic conditions faced higher out-of-pocket costs or narrower provider networks.

Geography compounds the problem. Because health care is still largely administered state by state, access and affordability vary dramatically depending on where you live. States that refused to expand Medicaid under the ACA continue to have higher uninsured rates and worse outcomes. Rural areas face hospital closures and provider shortages. In effect, Americans experience different health care systems depending on their ZIP code.

This fragmentation is expensive and inefficient. It weakens bargaining power with drug companies and insurers. It creates massive administrative

See MALVEAUX page 7A

## Reality Check



By A. Peter Bailey

Those people, who for whatever reason, are nervous about or hostile toward the celebration of Kwanzaa (Dec. 26 - Jan. 1) among an increasing number of Black people, need to chill. They are way off the mark.

Christmas, as celebrated by Christians is - or at least is supposed to be - a religious celebration, whereas Kwanzaa is a cultural celebration. Both have a strong spiritual element.

It is not the fault of Kwanzaa celebrants that too many people treat Christmas more like a cultural celebration than a religious one. That is something that Christians have to deal with, the re-taking of their religious celebration from the merchants who regard it as an opportunity for dollar bills to be rained upon them.

The mission of the seven-day Kwanzaa celebration is to encourage Black people, no matter what their personal religious beliefs, their personal political beliefs, their nationality or their ethnicity, to strive for individual and group achievement and excellence.

The seven principles of Kwanzaa pertain to the family, the community, the nation and the race. They are unity (Umoja); self-determination (Kujichagulia); col-

lective work and responsibility (Ujima); cooperative economics (Ujamaa); purpose (Nia); creativity (Kuumba); and faith (Imani).

Dr. Maulana Karenga created Kwanzaa in 1966 as a call for both reflection and action. It has remained just that for the past 59 years. As more and more of us commit ourselves to its principles, there will be a much-needed psychological change among significant numbers of our people. After a while, the major holdouts will not be those people who have religious concerns about Kwanzaa, but those pathetic secular types who are vehemently opposed to anything that has a Black perspective. Many of them prefer to remain exotic pets of White folks. This is fine because such accommodationists are irrelevant to Kwanzaa's overall mission.

Happy Kwanzaa!

*Journalist/Lecturer A. Peter Bailey, is a former associate editor of Ebony Magazine and former editor of Blacklash, the news letter of the OAAU (Organization of Afro-American Unity), founded by Malcolm X. This article was previously published in 2013.*



By Ben Jealous

## When big tech's thirst threatens our health, we must demand better

In Morrow County, Oregon, families are living through a crisis. According to a Rolling Stone investigation, mothers have suffered miscarriages. Neighbors are battling rare cancers.

Local officials have raised concerns about dangerously elevated nitrate levels in the community's drinking water following the siting of a nearby Amazon data center. The investigation reports that the facility's massive water consumption—up to five million gallons per day—may have accelerated nitrogen migration into the aquifer faster than natural filtration can occur. Amazon strongly denies any connection between its operations and these health problems.

Whatever the ultimate cause of the health crisis in Oregon, the broader concern is undeniable: when data centers consume enormous amounts of water, communities can face real risks. And now, similar pressures are emerging in Ohio.

Central Ohio already hosts about 130 data centers, representing more than half the state's total. In Marysville, just two facilities consume roughly ten percent of the city's entire daily water supply. Amazon operates dozens of data center facilities and campuses across the New Albany, Hilliard, and Dublin region. Residents are watching water demand surge as new facilities are proposed.

Here is what should concern every Ohioan. The Ohio Environmental Protection Agency has issued a draft General National Pollutant Discharge Elimination

System permit governing wastewater discharges from data center facilities into state waters, including non-contact cooling water, cooling tower blowdown, and associated stormwater. The publicly released draft does not specify nitrate limits among the listed regulated pollutants.

The draft permit also relies on existing antidegradation standards that allow a lowering of water quality when deemed necessary to accommodate important social or economic development. In plain terms, regulators are signaling that some degradation of water quality may be acceptable to support data center growth.

This is not just about water. Modeling by researchers affiliated with the California Institute of Technology suggests that air pollution associated with data center growth could contribute to approximately 1,300 premature deaths annually nationwide by 2030, with an estimated public health burden approaching \$20 billion.

But it does not have to be this way.

We can build data centers today that eliminate operational water consumption entirely—and with the right policy reforms, they can be built at lower total cost than conventional designs.

The solution is zero-water cooling through immersion systems with dry heat rejection. Instead of water, servers are cooled using specialized dielectric fluids. Instead of evaporative cooling towers, heat

See JEALOUS page 7A

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# FAITH & VALUES

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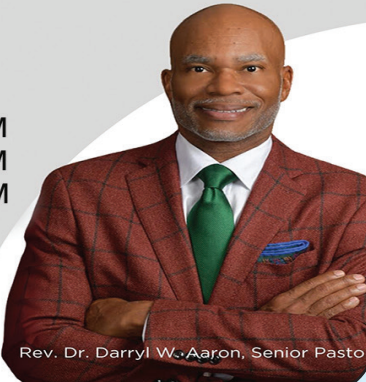


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**RDU CAMPUS WORSHIP EXPERIENCE - 9AM**  
(ALSTON RIDGE MIDDLE SCHOOL - 7833 FUSSELL AVE, CARY, NC 27519)  
**CHARLOTTE METRO CAMPUS WORSHIP EXPERIENCE - 9AM**  
(WINKLER MIDDLE SCHOOL LOCATED AT 4501 WEDDINGTON RD, CONCORD, NC 28027)



**BISHOP BRYAN J. PIERCE, SR. SENIOR PASTOR**

**A GREAT PLACE FOR A BETTER FOR YOU!!!**

**JEALOUS** From Page 6A

is rejected through air-cooled radiators or geothermal systems. In these configurations, operational water use is eliminated.

Some raise concerns about the safety of dielectric cooling fluids. Modern formulations are engineered to be non-toxic, biodegradable, and safe for humans and wildlife. The answer is not avoiding zero-water systems, but requiring the safest available fluids rather than the cheapest.

Industry representatives argue that zero-water cooling is too expensive. That claim does not withstand scrutiny.

Multiple industry analyses, pilot deployments, and academic studies indicate that zero-water data center systems increase up-front capital costs by roughly 35 to 45 percent. However, analyses synthesizing findings across these studies suggest that targeted policy and procurement reforms can more than offset those added costs.

These reforms include streamlined permitting for zero-water systems, public sharing of facility designs tied to development incentives, competitive bidding requirements, bulk purchasing cooperatives, standardized modular systems, antitrust enforcement in cooling equipment markets and shared geothermal infrastructure where appropriate.

Taken together, these measures could reduce total project costs by more than ten percent while eliminating operational water consumption altogether. In other words, we can build cheaper data

centers without draining aquifers or compromising drinking water.

Strong safeguards must accompany any expansion. Communities deserve meaningful input on whether data centers locate nearby. Facilities should be confined to industrial zones, with enforceable buffers for noise, heat, and air quality. Homes and schools should be off limits.

Jerome Township has already enacted a moratorium on new data centers, citing utility and safety concerns. Other communities across Ohio are paying close attention.

The technology exists. The economics can work. What remains is political will.

Big Tech will complain. Some companies may threaten to locate elsewhere. But no community should accept development that requires sacrificing clean water or public health.

Whatever ultimately caused the health crisis in Oregon, Ohio communities are already feeling the strain of unchecked data center growth. We know how to prevent similar harm. We know it can save money.

The only remaining question is whether our leaders will act in time—or wait until the damage is done.

*Ben Jealous was formerly National President and CEO of the NAACP. He is currently a Professor of Practice at the University of Pennsylvania.*

**Letter to the Editor**

### Thanks for Toys for Joy event support

To the Editor:

UNC Greensboro is grateful to our community for the extraordinary support shown during this year's Toys for Joy event. Thanks to the generosity of residents, organizations, and volunteers, we collected nearly 1,000 donations, including toys, bikes, blankets, helmets, and other items that will bring comfort and happiness to children and families in our region.

These donations were shared with Family Room Triad and the Cone Health Tim & Carolynn Rice Center for Child & Adolescent Health, two organizations that provide vital support to families during difficult moments. The outpouring of kindness underscores Greensboro's deep commitment to caring for its neighbors.

The success of this year's event—the tenth anniversary of Toys for Joy—was made possible through the dedication and leadership of our sponsors, volunteers and participants. We are especially grateful to the Greensboro (N.C.) Chapter of The Links, Incorporated; Dean Barksdale and the UNCG School of Nursing; the Marcus T. Johnson Alumni House; the UNCG Board of Trustees; the Greensboro Men's Club; Greensboro Jack and Jill Associates; the North Carolina Tennis Association; Great Decision Group; Beta Epsilon Boule; Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., Pi Zeta Chapter; students from the UNCG School of Education; and Imagine Design & Production Services.

This milestone is the result of the remarkable support and collaboration of the entire Greensboro community. We sincerely appreciate everyone who contributed their time, effort and resources.

Toys for Joy is a powerful example of what can be accomplished when a community comes together with compassion and purpose. UNCG is proud to partner with such dedicated organizations and grateful to everyone who helped make this event so meaningful for the families we serve.

Jacqueline Gilliam and Chancellor Franklin D. Gilliam, Jr.  
 UNC Greensboro

**Letters to the Editor are Welcome**

**MALVEAUX** From Page 6A

waste. And it normalizes inequality as a feature rather than a failure of the system.

Congress's inaction also reinforces the growing sense that health care insecurity is something individuals must navigate alone. That framing is wrong. Health care is not merely a personal expense; it is economic infrastructure. It shapes labor markets, retirement decisions, family finances, and long-term productivity. Medical debt remains one of the leading sources of financial stress for American

households, even among those who are insured.

What makes this moment especially troubling is that **we know what works**. Other wealthy nations negotiate drug prices. They provide universal baseline coverage. They invest in primary care and prevention. They achieve better outcomes at lower cost. The United States does not lack technical solutions; it lacks political will.

Letting enhanced ACA tax credits expire was not an inevitability. It was a choice—one

that made health insurance less affordable, widened disparities, and destabilized coverage for millions of people. Congress went home without fixing health care, but the consequences did not take a recess.

Health care policy is often discussed in abstractions—budgets, subsidies, market dynamics. But at its core, it is about who gets care, when they get it, and at what cost. When Congress chooses delay over action, inequality fills the gap.

A system this large, this ex-

pensive, and this unequal does not fail quietly. It fails in bodies, budgets and lives. And every time lawmakers walk away, Americans are left to pay more—for less.

*Dr. Julianne Malveaux is an economist, author and former president of Bennett College. She is based in Washington, D.C. Contact her through juliannemalveaux.com.*

# WORLD BRIEFS



Courtesy Govt. of Mali

Sahel countries have launched a unified armed force.

## Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger launch a Sahel regional force

AP Africa

At an air force base in Bamako, Mali's army ruler General Assimi Goita presided over a ceremony marking the creation of a unified force for the Sahel countries. The force is the latest in a series of measures by Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger to achieve closer integration.

The three countries are all led by juntas and are beset by an Islamist insurgency. In January, Niger's defense minister said that the 5000-strong force would "intervene together" to counter security threats in the region.

Burkinabe General Daouda Traoré was appointed to head the force, which will maintain a command base in Niamey, Niger's capital.

The ceremony in Bamako was attended by the defense ministers of the Sahel Alliance member states, as well as ambassadors and representatives of international organizations accredited to Mali.

Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger formed the Sahel alliance after withdrawing from ECOWAS, which the alliance accuses of inhumane, coup-related sanctions and working against the interests of citizens in alliance countries.

## Burkina Faso starts building first expressway in push to modernize

AP Africa

Approximately 200 miles long, Burkina Faso's first expressway will connect the capital Ouagadougou and Bobo Dioulasso in the country's south-west.

Burkina Faso's army ruler Captain Ibrahim Traore inaugurated its construction near Ouagadougou. The project is under his Faso Mebo initiative, an ambitious plan to modernize the Sahel country. With at least \$357 million earmarked in the 2026 state budget, authorities say they are using locally generated funds to finance the construction.

The completion of the highway will facilitate traffic flow along the corridor connecting the ports of Abidjan, Lomé, Tema, and Cotonou with the landlocked Sahel.



A graphic representing the construction of the first expressway to be built in Burkina Faso.

## Morocco hosts AFCON 2025 Soccer Tournament

AP Africa

After months of anticipation, the Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) finally kicked off this week in Morocco. Twenty-four teams, six host cities, nine stadiums and a football-mad nation are welcoming the continent for Africa's biggest tournament.

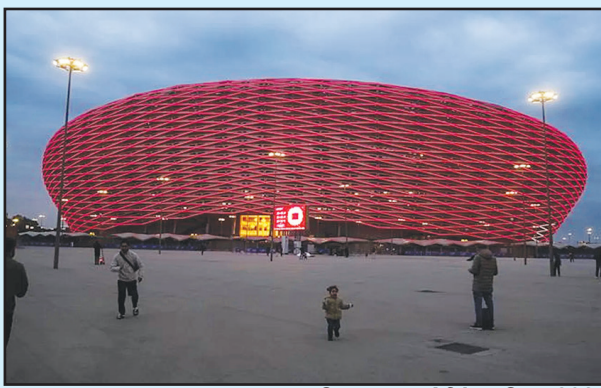
The four-week tournament has been framed as a high-visibility dress rehearsal for the World Cup in 2030, when Morocco will be one of the main co-hosts, and the kingdom has embarked on one of the most aggressive infrastructure programs in African sporting history to prepare.

Defending champion Ivory Coast enjoyed a hardly believable run to the title as host last time out, and Nigeria will hope to go one better after losing the final.

Sadio Mané of Senegal is back again after winning the 2021 edition, and Egypt will hope speculation over Mohamed Salah's future does not distract the team from claiming a record-extending eighth continental crown.

### The Groups

**Group A:** Morocco, Mali, Zambia and Co-



Courtesy Africa Cup 2025

Prince Moulay Abdellah Stadium, which hosts the Africa Cup of Nations, in Rabat, Morocco.

moros

**Group B:** Egypt, South Africa, Angola and Zimbabwe

**Group C:** Nigeria, Tunisia, Uganda and Tanzania

**Group D:** Senegal, DR Congo, Benin and Botswana

**Group E:** Algeria, Burkina Faso, Equatorial Guinea and Sudan

**Group F:** Cameroon, Gabon, Ivory Coast and

Mozambique

### 'Underdogs' Comoros embrace the moment

While Morocco shoulders the weight of a host nation's hopes, the mood in the Comoros camp is more relaxed. The island nation is about to play in just its second Africa Cup of Nations.

"We missed the AFCON in Côte d'Ivoire. It was sad, but today we've proved once again that we have the level to be at this AFCON," said forward El Fardou Ben Mohamed. "So yes, it's a source of pride for the entire Comorian people, even though we are a small country."

The importance of the moment has not gone unnoticed at home. Comoros President Azali Assoumani has personally visited the squad, known as the Coelacanths, to show his support before their opening match.

Now the players must face the imposing atmosphere of Rabat's Moulay Abdellah Stadium, where nearly 70,000 fans – most of them backing the Atlas Lions – will create an intimidating backdrop.

## Thousands pay tribute to beloved reggae star Jimmy Cliff

Associated Press

Prime Minister Andrew Holness leads the tributes as thousands turn out in Kingston to pay their respects to Jamaican reggae star Jimmy Cliff.

The instructions on Wednesday were clear: no serious, sad or long faces. And the crowd filing into a gymnasium in Jamaica's capital largely obliged as they honored reggae giant Jimmy Cliff.

"Jimmy didn't want a sad or somber occasion," said Olivia Grange, Jamaica's culture minister. "He gave so much of his life to delivering music."

The charismatic Jamai-



Jamaican musician, singer and actor Jimmy Cliff performs at the Rototom Sunsplash Festival in Benicassim, located in Spain's Castellon province.

can artist known for classics including "Many Rivers to Cross," and his role in the landmark movie, "The Harder They Come," died last month at 81 years old.

Nearly a month later, many around the world were still in mourning and paying their respects.

Among them was 84-year-old Purcell Johnson, who said she attended Somerton Elementary School with Cliff.

"I had to be here," she said of his tribute Wednesday in his native Jamaica, her face beaming. "We used to play while attending school and on our way home. I am proud of him. He has done well."

Johnson recalled how Cliff was jovial and used to tease her and call her "Little Tuku" because she was short as a child.

A messenger from Jamaica

Sadness mixed with pride at Wednesday's tribute, where official speeches were punctuated with dances, live music and interview excerpts of Cliff sitting by a mixing board.

Songs including "Bongo Man," "Many Rivers to Cross," and "Wonderful World, Beautiful People," filled the gymnasium throughout the ceremony. It was broadcast live, drawing in thousands of viewers from New York to the United Kingdom and incorporating video messages from artists ranging from Shaggy to Sting.

"We pause to honor a man whose voice, music and spirit carried his nation far

beyond its shores long before the world truly knew our name," said Jamaican Prime Minister Andrew Holness.

He noted that Cliff was more than a singer, songwriter, actor and performer.

"Jimmy Cliff was a messenger, one who carried the story of this small island, its struggles, resilience, faith and beauty to the widest possible audience and ensured that Jamaica was heard, recognized and respected," Holness said.

He added that Cliff's message is that hope remains possible despite hardship: "Jimmy Cliff didn't merely entertain the world. Jimmy Cliff uplifted the world."

## U.N. urges Rwanda to leave eastern Congo

UN News

The U.N. Security Council has urged Rwanda to withdraw its forces from eastern Congo and extended the U.N. peacekeeping mission in Congo, known as MONUSCO, for a year, as fighting in the region escalated despite a peace deal.

The U.N.'s most powerful body on Friday condemned an offensive by the Rwanda-backed M23, demanded Rwanda stop supporting the rebels and withdraw its troops. The Security Council also renewed the peacekeepers' mandate, keeping about 11,500 military personnel in the country, in an unanimously adopted resolution.

The resolution comes as M23 claimed Wednesday to have withdrawn from Uvira, a strategic city in eastern Congo it seized last week. After pressure from the U.S., Congo's government said the withdrawal was "staged" and that the rebels were still in the city.

U.S. deputy ambassador Jennifer Locetta told the Security Council on Friday, Dec. 19, that M23 must immediately withdraw at least 75 kilometers (47 miles) away from Uvira.

M23 took control of the city last week in a deadly offensive that came despite a U.S.-mediat-

ed peace agreement signed earlier this month by the Congolese and Rwandan presidents in Washington.

The accord didn't include the rebel group, which is negotiating separately with Congo and agreed earlier this year to ceasefire that both sides accuse the other of violating. However, the accord obliges Rwanda to halt support for armed groups like M23 and work to end hostilities.

Congo, the U.S. and U.N. experts accuse Rwanda of backing M23, which has grown from hundreds of members in 2021 to around 6,500 fighters, according to the U.N.

More than 100 armed groups are vying for a foothold in mineral-rich eastern Congo, near the border with Rwanda, most prominently M23. The conflict has created one of the world's most significant humanitarian crises, with more than seven million people displaced, according to the U.N. agency for refugees.

The MONUSCO force arrived in Congo in 2010, after taking over from an earlier U.N. peacekeeping mission to protect civilians and humanitarian personnel and to support the Congolese government in its stabilization and peace consolidation efforts.



AP Photo

An archive photo dated August 22, 2006, showing UN soldiers on patrol in the city of Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo.

However, frustrated Congolese have said that no one is protecting them from rebel attacks, leading to protests against the U.N. mission and others that have at times turned deadly.

In 2023, at Congo's request, the U.N. Security Council voted unanimously to draw down the peacekeeping force and gradually hand over its security responsibilities to Congo's government.

# Sports, Arts & Entertainment

The Week of Thursday, December 25, to Wednesday, December 31, 2025

## Northern Guilford, Greensboro Day win AAR Invitational

Peacemaker Sports

The Novant Fieldhouse was the epicenter of high school hoops this weekend as Northern Guilford and Greensboro Day School (GDS) walked away with championship hardware at the 2025 AAR Invitational.

Point guard Leena McField put on a clinical performance to lead the Northern Guilford Nighthawks (9-2) to a 56-44 victory over Bishop McGuinness Villains (8-2). McField was the engine for the Nighthawks, earning Tournament MVP honors after scoring a game-high 29 points. She was nearly perfect from the floor and the charity stripe, shooting 10-of-17 overall and a flawless 6-of-6 from the free-throw line. McField also fell just one rebound shy of a double-double, hauling in nine boards.

The Nighthawks took control in the second half, outscoring

the Villains 33-23 across the final two quarters. Aliyah Settle added 12 points and four assists, while Anaya Pearley contributed 11 points to the winning effort.

Bishop McGuinness struggled to find their rhythm against a stifling Northern Guilford defense, shooting just 27 percent from the field. Claire Sullivan led the Villains with 15 points, while Jenna Moore added 11 points and eight rebounds. Both Sullivan and Moore were named to the All-Tournament team for their efforts throughout the week.

The following players made the Women's All-Tournament Team: Claire Sullivan, Bishop McGuinness; Zoey Goodman, Grimsley; Shyla Simms, Grimsley; Anaya Pearley, Northern Guilford; Aliyah Settle, Northern Guilford; and MVP: Leena McField, Northern Guilford.



Kevin L. Dorsey/Carolina Peacemaker

Leena McField (#3) shoots over Wesleyan defender Lexi Powell (#12).

### Men's AAR Invitational

## Greensboro Day dominates early to defeat Wesleyan

Peacemaker Sports

Behind a relentless defensive effort and a high-powered offensive attack, Greensboro Day School (18-1) captured the 2025 AAR Invitational Men's Championship with a decisive 72-43 victory over Wesleyan Christian Academy on Saturday night. From the opening tip at the Novant Fieldhouse, the Bengals established a pace that the Trojans (7-6) struggled to match. By halftime, Greensboro Day had mounted a 19-point lead, effectively putting the game out of reach before the third quarter began.

Tournament MVP Micah Gunter was the catalyst for the Bengals. Gunter turned in an efficient performance, shooting 8-of-15 from the floor and 2-of-4 from beyond the arc to finish with a game-high 22 points. He also showcased his versatility by cleaning up the glass with five rebounds. Joining Gunter in the offensive surge was Marty Giant, who earned All-Tournament honors after a physical 18-point performance. Giant was nearly automatic at the free-throw line, sinking 6-of-7 attempts, while also leading the team in playmaking with four assists. Grant Duggins added 11 points, including a three-pointer, to round out the Bengals' double-digit scorers.

Despite the lopsided score, Wesleyan showed flashes of grit, particularly at the free-



Micah Gunter (#12), Greensboro Day point guard and tournament MVP, was the catalyst for the Bengals.

throw line, where they shot a perfect 11-of-11 as a team. Nate Alexander led the Trojans with 12 points, followed by Thomas Penland with 9.



Photos by Kevin L. Dorsey/Carolina Peacemaker  
Dudley guard Bryce McKenzie (#15) drives to the basket against a Wesleyan player.

Nick Keith anchored the Trojan effort on the boards, pulling down 8 rebounds and tallying 2 assists. However, Wesleyan struggled to find their range from deep, failing to convert on any of their three-point attempts (0-for-3) against a suffocating Greensboro Day perimeter defense.

Players selected for the Men's All-Tournament Team were as follows: Thomas Thompson, Bishop McGuinness; Grant Duggins, Greensboro Day; Marty Giant, Greensboro

See AAR INVITATIONAL page 4B

The Bookworm Sez

## Cocktails, Mocktails, and New Year's Eve books By Various Authors

Book Reviews  
By Terri Schlichenmeyer

Here's a toast to you.

For months now, you've been planning a seasonal fête that nobody will ever forget. You've got the decorations and noisemakers, the menu's set, the caterer's been hired, and you've ordered the libations. So do you know what to actually do in case you're behind the bar? Check out these books, and bottoms up.

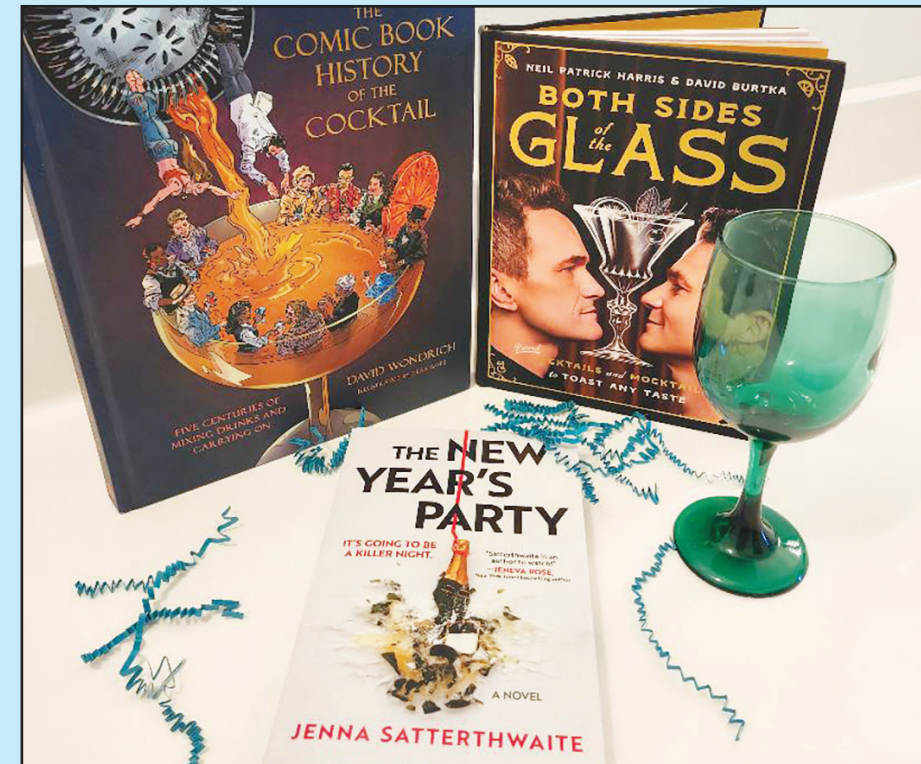
So what's on the shelf in your personal bar? A few bottles and some random glasses, soda, and a lot of things that you simply don't know what to do with, right? Which is why you need **"Both Sides of the Glass: Paired Cocktails and Mocktails to Toast Any Taste"** by Neil Patrick Harris & David Burtka. With full-color, refreshing-looking photos, and little story to go along with each drink, this book is

loaded with help for you.

Authors Harris and Burtka offer step-by-step instructions, starting with the kind of glasses you'll want to use and the garnishes you'll need to make dozens of delicious treats for your relaxation and your guests' enjoyment. You'll get tips, alternates, and suggestions for pairing, in segments representing the places you might want to enjoy your libations. Bonus: many of the recipes here are non-alcoholic, so everyone can safely join in the fun.

But here's a question: why are there so many different ways to drink? Read **"The Comic Book History of the Cocktail: Five Centuries of Mixing Drinks and Carrying On"** by David Wondrich, illustrated by Dean Kotz, and you'll learn the stories of some of your favorite drinks and where they began.

Who first put the sprig in a Mint Julep? Who invented the Sherry Cobbler? What's the evolu-



tion of a dry martini? And why do we call 'em "cocktails," anyhow? These burning questions are an-

swered in a fun manner - comic-

See REVIEW page 2B

We've got your sports, arts and entertainment news!

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# SPORTS

## Peacemaker SPORTS SCHEDULE

### MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL Last Weeks Scores

Hampton 84, Jackson State 77	Howard 67, UNC Wilmington 66
Mid-Atlantic Christian 53, WSSU 90	Elon 81, Virginia Tech 82
Fayetteville State 99, CP3 Classic 96	Mid-Atlantic Christian 55, NCA&TSU 95
Virginia (Lynchburg) 72, Shaw 120	Longwood 74, NCCU 72
Coastal Carolina 49, App State 67	Texas Tech 82, Duke 81
Morris 58, UNC Asheville 89	Ohio St. 70, UNC Chapel Hill 71
Western Carolina 82, Georgia 112	Georgia St. 70, App State 63
Lafayette 67, UNC Charlotte 81	Elon 81, Virginia Tech 82
La Salle 72, High Point Univ. 84	Livingstone 63, Lincoln Univ. 73
JC Smith 36, Virginia Union 88	UNC Greensboro 131,
Hampton 72, Grambling 81	Virginia Univ. (Lynchburg) 53
Fayetteville State 72, CP3 Classic 75	Campbell 50, Minnesota 78
Greensboro College 95, Johnson & Wales (N.C.) 94	

### MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL

<b>December 27</b>	<b>December 31</b>
Columbia College at UNC Wilmington 12 p.m.	HPU at UNC Asheville 2 p.m.
<b>December 28</b>	Converse Univ. at Livingstone 2 p.m.
Pfeiffer Univ. at HPU 2 p.m.	Mount Olive at Elizabeth City 2 p.m.
<b>December 29</b>	Campbell at Monmouth 2 p.m.
Coast Guard at Guilford College 4 p.m.	Charleston at Elon 2 p.m.
Stony Brook at Hampton 7 p.m.	Towson at Hampton 2:30 p.m.
UNC Wilmington at NCA&TSU 7 p.m.	Northeastern at NCA&TSU 3 p.m.
Northeastern at Elon 7 p.m.	Drexel at UNC Wilmington 7 p.m.
Campbell at Hofstra 7 p.m.	Belmont Abbey at WSSU 1 p.m.
NCCU at Penn State 1 p.m.	Georgia Tech at Duke 4 p.m.
<b>December 30</b>	Wake Forest at NC State 12 p.m.
Concordia-Morehead/Skidmore at Guilford College TBA	Tulane at East Carolina 12 p.m.
Howard at Northwestern 5 p.m.	Wofford at Western Carolina 1 p.m.
Florida St. at UNC Chapel Hill 7 p.m.	App State at Old Dominion 2 p.m.
	Temple at UNC Charlotte TBA

### CAROLINA HURRICAINES -NHL

<b>December 29</b>	
New York Rangers at Carolina Hurricanes	7 p.m.
<b>December 30</b>	
Carolina Hurricanes at Pittsburgh Penguins	7 p.m.

### EAST COAST HOCKEY LEAGUE- ECHL

<b>December 26</b>	
(ECHL) Norfolk Admirals at Greensboro Gargoyles	7 p.m.
<b>December 27</b>	
Detroit Red Wings at Carolina Hurricanes	7 p.m.
(ECHL) Norfolk Admirals at Greensboro Gargoyles	7 p.m.
<b>December 28</b>	
(ECHL) Norfolk Admirals at Greensboro Gargoyles	3 p.m.

### WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL Last Weeks Scores

Warren Wilson 99, Greensboro College 92	Barton College 74, Livingstone 70
Radford 73, Hampton 67 OT	Univ. of Mount Olive 50, WSSU 86
JC Smith 51, Converse 54	St. Bonaventure 74, Howard 76
Livingstone 63, King 83	App State 54, Georgia Southern 67
WSSU 44, Ferrum College 44	Duke 76, Belmont 46
Univ. of Miami 64, Wake Forest 61	Western Carolina 44, Indiana 71
South Dakota St. 54, Duke 97	Campbell 59, East Carolina 81
Georgia Tech 58, NC State 87	Elon 58, Norfolk State 41
Elizabeth City 87, NSU 55	UNC Charlotte 50, ETSU 51
Elizabeth City 101, Univ. of Fort Lauderdale 58	UNC Wilmington 72, Longwood 98
Yale 83, High Point Univ. 85 OT	Shaw 79, Virginia Union 73
Ferrum College 39, NCA&TSU 84	

### WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL

<b>December 28</b>		Piedmont at Guilford College	11 a.m.
St. Mary's (Maryland) at Guilford College	2 p.m.	Averett at NCCU	2 p.m.
Duke at Syracuse	4 p.m.	Montreat at Western Carolina	2 p.m.
<b>December 29</b>		UAB at East Carolina	6 p.m.
Howard at Army	12 p.m.	<b>December 31</b>	
Hampton at Eastern Kentucky	1 p.m.	Mount Olive at Elizabeth City	12 p.m.
Columbia International at UNC Wilmington	7 p.m.	UNC Asheville at High Point Univ.	2 p.m.
UNC Chapel Hill at Boston College	TBA	JC Smith at Johnson & Wales	1 p.m.
Carolina Univ. at App State	6:30 p.m.	Memphis at UNC Charlotte	3 p.m.
<b>December 30</b>		Newberry College at NCA&TSU	12 p.m.
NC Wesleyan at Elon	7 p.m.		

### NBA- REGULAR SEASON

<b>December 16</b>	
Charlotte Hornets at Orlando Magic	7 p.m.
<b>December 27</b>	
G-League Iowa Wolves at Greensboro Swarm	6 p.m.
<b>December 29</b>	
Milwaukee Bucks at Charlotte Hornets	7 p.m.
G-League Texas Legends at Greensboro Swarm	7 p.m.
<b>December 31</b>	
Golden State Warriors at Charlotte Hornets	1 p.m.
G-League Texas Legends at Greensboro Swarm	1 p.m.

### NFL REGULAR SEASON WEEK 17

<b>December 28</b>	
Seattle Seahawks at Carolina Panthers	1 p.m.



# UNCG men's basketball soars past Va.-Lynchburg, 131-53

Courtesy UNCG Athletics

The UNC Greensboro (UNCG) men's basketball team dominated in a 131-53 victory over Virginia University of Lynchburg on Sunday afternoon at Bodford Arena to conclude the 2025 slate. Every Spartan that had minutes, recorded at least one point.

Six Spartans scored double figures, including Justin Neely and Donald Whitehead Jr., who paced the game with 20 points apiece. Clinton Efinda was third with 16 points, while KJ Younger had 15 points. Landon King and Noah Norgaard rounded out the double figure scoring with 13 and 10 points, respectively.

Neely also contributed 14 rebounds, which pushed him over the 500 career-rebounds milestone. He now has 507 career rebounds in 80 games played.

The Spartans' 131 points is the second-most in program history, where UNCG's 135 points from Dec. 21, 2023, against the Dragons is the most. The Blue & Gold's 65 rebounds against the Dragons are also the second-most in program history, with 68 being the program record from Dec. 21, 2023, against Va. Univ. of Lynchburg.



Kevin L. Dorsey/Carolina Peacemaker  
UNCG player Justin Neely (#12) takes a free throw shot.

UNCG's 50 field goals is also the second-most in program history, again sitting behind the record of 55 field goals from Dec. 21, 2023, against the Dragons.

The 78-point margin of victory matches the highest in program history. According to UNCG records, this is the third time in program history that the Blue & Gold have won by 78 points. The Spartans won on Nov. 27, 2018, 111-33, against Greensboro College and Dec. 21, 2023, 135-57, against Virginia University of Lynchburg.

### BY THE NUMBERS

- Neely had his seventh double-double of the season with a game-high 20 points and 14 rebounds.
- This was his 14th double-double of this career.
- Younger recorded his first double-double of his collegiate career, scoring 15 points and 12 rebounds.
- He also had a career-best five assists.
- Efinda registered a career-

high 16 points and eight rebounds, shooting 5-for-11 from field goal range and 5-for-6 at the charity stripe.

- Whitehead Jr. chipped in a season best five rebounds and seven assists.
- Senior Clyde Bailey II recorded six points and went 3-for-6 from the field, while grabbing a career-best seven rebounds.
- Junior Landon King scored a career-best 13 points and matching his career-best with five rebounds and four assists.
- Freshman Chane Bynum scored seven points and six rebounds for a career-best game.
- Freshman Braylen Bowman scored his first collegiate points in the game, appearing in his second game. Bowman registered eight points, going 3-for-4 from field goal range and 2-for-2 from behind the arc.

### UP NEXT

UNCG will return to play on New Year's Day, hosting its first Southern Conference (SoCon) opponent in Chattanooga at 4 p.m. at Bodford Arena. This will be part of a doubleheader with the women playing Carolina University at 1 p.m. before the men.

### REVIEW From Page 1B

book-like, but absolutely for grown-ups only - in chapters that are serious but fun to read. Bonus: history, mixology, ideas, and recipes.

And finally, what can you pair up with a quiet holiday cocktail? A novel, of course - one like "The New Year's Party" by Jenna Satterthwaite.

For years, Olivia and her best pals celebrated New Year's Eve together, but it seemed like once they all hit their thirties, partying was at the bottom of the list of important things. This year, though, they're getting together, no worrying about kids or work, no fussing about mortgages or relationships or any of that, just togetherness. No drama, except for a little murder, maybe. No biggie, just an entertaining read for your between-holiday or you-made-it-through, post-holiday relaxation.

And if these great books for your New Year's Eve celebration aren't enough, head for your favorite library or bookstore, where the staff can steer you toward shelves and shelves of cocktail and mocktail books, party ideas, great toasts to offer, and recipe books that will make you look like the best, most knowledgeable barkeep around.

Don't drink and drive, but Salud! Here's mud in yer eye! Cheers! Santé! And here's to you!

Terri Schlichenmeyer is the Peacemaker bookworm. She resides in LaCrosse, Wisconsin.

**Carolina Peacemaker**

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## SPORTS

# Aggie women dominate Ferrum, 84-39

Courtesy  
A&T Athletics

It is hard to give an honest assessment of the North Carolina A&T women's basketball team even after its impressive 84-39 win over Division II Ferrum Saturday afternoon at Corbett Sports Center.

After all, the Aggies lost to four Power Fours, including two Top 25 teams. They have faced three other Division I teams, including a close loss at New Mexico, a road win over North Carolina Central University (NCCU), and a home loss to Norfolk State.

The Ferrum Panthers marked the third Division II team the Aggies have blown out this season, leaving them at 4-6, with their final non-conference game of the 2025-26 season coming against Division II Newberry on Tuesday, December 30, at 5 p.m. from Corbett.

With a résumé like that, a long holiday break ahead, and a challenging 18-game Coastal Athletic Association (CAA) slate approaching, head coach Tarrell Robinson doesn't want a team of seven new-

comers focused on its win-loss record.

"One of the things I tell them is we can't be our record," said Robinson. "We got a lot of freshmen that are trying to figure things out. To me, those (Power Four) games expose what you need to work on. But we can't look at it like we're a bad team. We got injuries to some key starters, so I try to encourage them to that end, and I also try to encourage them to do the right thing."

Robinson and his team will take some time off during the holidays before preparing for Newberry. He will also take the time to instill in his team that the journey they have been on is about getting prepared for CAA action. Oh, and there is one more reminder he wants them to keep in mind.

"We were 2-7 last year during this time," said Robinson, who led his team to the CAA regular-season championship last season. "We understand you use this time to build character."

It took the Aggies 16 1/2 minutes to build a sizable lead against the Panthers



Courtesy A&T Athletics  
**Eva Andrews (#11) shoots one of her four 3-pointers to score a career-high 12 points in A&T's win over Ferrum.**

on Saturday. Freshman Ja'naya Meyers spotted a trailing Chaniya Clark and tossed her a pass for a 3-pointer that gave the Aggies a 32-19 lead. Graduate guard D'Mya Tucker then spotted sophomore Eva Andrews open for another three to build A&T's lead to 16.

A turnaround jumper from freshman center Anaya Karriem gave the Aggies a 39-23 lead at halftime. Karriem ended the game with a career-high 17 points on 7-for-12 shooting

from the floor and 2-for-2 shooting from 3-point range.

"Was today a confidence builder? I would say that this makes me feel good about myself," said Karriem. "Just being a freshman and being able to know that the work you put in sometimes will show. The day before the game, I got some shots up, and they were falling in during the game, so we just got to keep doing the same things."

A&T scored the first seven points coming out of the locker room after

halftime, culminating in another 3-pointer from Clark. A&T's lead ballooned to 63-28 on a Karriem 3-pointer. Clark, the Aggies' starting center, also had 17 points and added seven rebounds on 7-for-12 shooting from the floor and 3-for-6 from 3-point range.

"Learning behind Shaq (Clark) is like learning from someone who has experienced the game, someone who understands the pace of the game," said Karriem about Clark, who is closing in on 1,000

points and 700 rebounds for her career. "Once we got into the season, I started asking Shaq what to do more than the coaches because she is someone who has been in the game and knows how to read the defense.

I think our games are very similar, but certain things that she does and certain things that I do are different, so we balance each other out."

The presence of Karriem, Clark and junior Darrionna Howard helped the Aggies outscore the Panthers 38-20 in the paint. Howard finished with eight points and a season-high 12 rebounds. A&T's guard play was also solid, led by sophomore Eva Andrews, who finished with a career-high 12 points on 4-for-7 shooting from three.

After Newberry, the Aggies can begin measuring themselves against CAA competition, starting with defending CAA tournament champion William & Mary on Friday, January 2, at 7 p.m. from Corbett.

# UNCG women's basketball wins defensive battle against Elon, 54-50

Courtesy UNCG Athletics

The UNC Greensboro (UNCG) women's basketball team claimed a heavy defensive battle against the Elon Phoenix, 54-50, inside Bodford Arena.

The win over the Phoenix marks 22-straight home wins for the Spartans and makes the team 33-1 over the past two seasons.

Jeni Levine, Leyla Minor and Jaila Lee paced the Spartans in double-figures. Levine led the way with 17 points, while Minor and Lee chipped in 14 and 10 points, respectively.

The first frame went back-and-forth in the early goings. However, with the game tied, 8-8 at 2:28, Levine and Minor secured a layup apiece to give the Spartans a four-point advantage, 12-8, at the conclusion of the first quarter.

Both teams traded baskets and Elon chipped in a free throw at 8:34 before a jumper from Levine began an 8-0 Spartan run for a 22-



UNCG Athletics/Segio Guerra  
**UNCG women celebrate a close win over Elon.**

11 lead at 4:56. The Phoenix closed the gap to four with seven-straight points to make it 22-18 UNCG at 1:29. Minor secured the final basket of the half with a layup at the seven-second mark to give UNCG the six-point lead heading to the locker room, 24-18.

UNCG turned on the jets coming out of the break, starting things off with 11 unanswered

points. However, after the Phoenix called a timeout, the visiting team concluded the third quarter with a 16-4 run to cut the deficit to five going to the huddle, 39-34.

Elon knocked down a triple at 8:31 to make it a two-point game, 39-37. However, Tasia Johnson responded on the other end with a triple of her own at 7:21, 44-37. The remainder of the contest was

a point-for-point duel with UNCG holding the slight edge throughout. Elon came back within two points on three occasions, but UNCG continued to maintain the advantage. With the Spartans in control, 52-50, Levine went 2-for-2 at the free throw line to grant the squad with the 54-50 victory.

## BY THE NUMBERS

- Levine led the team with six rebounds.
- Johnson paced the squad with three assists.
- Rylan Moffitt led the way with two blocks.
- Ciara Harris led with three steals.
- UNCG led the way in points off turnovers (18-38), rebounds (38-24), second chance points (15-9), points in the paint (42-20) and assists (8-5).
- Elon held the edge in bench points (23-16), fast break points (8-4), blocks (5-2) and steals (11-10).

# Martinez's career night 26 points fuels Panthers in victory

Courtesy  
HPU Athletics

The High Point University men's basketball team welcomed La Salle University to the Qubein Center for the first time. The Panthers took care of business and defeated the Explorers 84-72.

Conrad Martinez had himself a night scoring a career-high 26 points on 7-12 shooting from the field with a career-high five made threes. Martinez also added seven points from the charity stripe going a perfect 7-for-7.

"Good win and great crowd, which



Courtesy HPU Athletics  
**Conrad Martinez, High Point guard, moves down the court. Martinez led the Panthers with 26 points.**

we're really thankful to have over the holiday break," Head Coach Flynn Clayman stated. "With the students gone the

crowd gave us some good energy today. The guys tried to really buy in on the defensive end. We did a fantastic job on the

glass, especially with Cam being out from an illness right now. It was a good bounce back win against a DI team since the App

game and I'm proud of their effort."

High Point opened the game from the perimeter, knocking down three threes in the first possessions to give HPU a 9-3 lead. Owen Aquino was one of the players to drain a three, knocking down his first of the season.

A Caden Miller layup at the 12-minute mark gave the Panthers a seven point lead, 16-9. La Salle continued to trail but stayed within arm's reach. Aquino highlighted the first half throwing down a one-handed poster dunk over two defenders to make it 23-17 with

eight minutes to go in the half.

The Spain duo continued to thrive as Martinez followed up Aquino's poster dunk with a step-back three. Chase Johnston extended HPU's lead to 12 with an automatic three after entering the game. High Point led 31-19 with five minutes to go before the break.

La Salle closed the gap the six at the half as HPU led 35-29.

High Point opened the second half similar to the first, draining three threes with two from Martinez

# SPORTS

## High School Football

# West dominates East in All-Star football game

Peacemaker Sports

The West All-Stars turned Jamieson Stadium into their personal playground on Sunday, Dec. 21. By the time the dust settled on the 2025 East-West All-Star Game, the West had a commanding 50-14 victory, widening their historic series lead to 43-32-2.

While the game featured the best seniors from across North Carolina, the story of the afternoon was written by the defense and a handful of Greensboro's own local stars. Several Greensboro-area players left their mark on the game: Hudson Cooper of Grimsley scored two touchdowns in the second half. Jeremiah Deese (Northeast Guilford) landed multiple tackles, a fumble recovery and an interception. Aaryn Tate (Northeast Guilford) caught a 35-yard touchdown on a trick play. Robert McCollum from Dudley High School, The Metro 6A/7A Defensive Player of the Year, covered the backfield with multiple tackles for loss.

The local flavor didn't stop there. Dudley's Robert McCollum, the Metro 6A/7A Defensive Player of the Year, lived in the East backfield, recording a tackle for loss on the very first drive to set a physical tone that lasted all four quarters.

In the second quarter, Davie County's Ethan Driver for the West caught a backward screen and fired a 35-yard touchdown strike to Northeast Guilford's Aaryn Tate, a play that drew the loudest cheers of the first half.

The East found a few bright spots, including a 58-yards deep ball from Geronimo Sanchez (Cape Fear) to Javonte Brooks (Jack Britt), but the West's depth was too much.

For the Greensboro fans in the stands, the fourth quarter felt like a Grimsley High School highlight reel. Grimsley Whirlie Hudson Cooper took over the final frame, showcasing a telepathic connection with Watauga quarterback Cade Keller. Cooper hauled in two touchdown passes—a 24-yard strike followed by a crisp 17-yard post



Freedom quarterback Kaden Davis (#1) hands off to Northern Guilford running back Amare Akers (#30) for the West team.



Photos by Kevin L. Dorsey/Carolina Peacemaker Northern Guilford linebacker Chance Crews (#20) stares down the East offense.



Grimsley wide receiver Hudson Cooper (#9) lines against the East defense.



Dudley linebacker Robert McCollum (#4) plays defense for the West squad.

pattern—to put the game completely out of reach.

The final exclamation point came from Bubba Simms from Burlington Williams High School, who recorded a fourth-quarter interception and later recovered a fumble in

the end zone for the West's final touchdown.

Offensive MVP of the game was Cade Keller (West) of Watauga and defensive MVP of the game was Calvin Ramseur (West) of Shelby.

# Swarm close Winter Showcase with 127-117 win over clippers

Courtesy The Swarm

**ORLANDO, FL.** – The Greensboro Swarm defeated the San Diego Clippers, 127-117, on Sunday to close out its pair of Winter Showcase contests.

With the win, the Swarm improved to 1-1 in regular-season action, while the Clippers fell to 0-2. Greensboro and San Diego both dropped their opening-round matchups in the Winter Showcase Tournament, resulting in Sunday's placement game between the fourth- and eighth-seeded teams.

Greensboro was led by a balanced scoring effort,

with Terrell Brown Jr. finishing with 22 points and a game-high 11 assists, while Liam McNeeley added 22 points on efficient shooting. Antonio Reeves contributed 20 points, and PJ Hall recorded a double-double with 12 points and 16 rebounds – the most rebounds by a Swarm player this season – as Greensboro placed six players in double figures. The Swarm shot 50 percent from the field and 39.4 percent from three-point range.

San Diego was paced by TyTy Washington Jr., who tallied 36 points on 14-of-18 shooting, while

Patrick Baldwin Jr. added 28 points on an 11-of-17 clip.

Greensboro set the tone early, closing the first quarter on a 13-4 run to take a 31-22 lead after 12 minutes. Keyontae Johnson provided an immediate spark off the bench with seven first-quarter points, while Brown Jr. controlled the tempo by recording three of Greensboro's first five assists. The Swarm shot 54 percent in the opening frame and limited the Clippers to 17 percent shooting from three-point range.

San Diego answered in the second quarter, kick-

starting a seesaw period that featured six lead changes and four ties. Tied at 51, Greensboro responded with an 11-3 run to close the half and take a 62-54 lead into intermission, with the Clippers' offense largely driven by Washington Jr. and Baldwin Jr.

The Clippers carried that momentum into the third quarter, outscoring Greensboro 37-26 to grab a 91-88 advantage heading into the fourth. Washington Jr. scored 14 points in the frame, while Brown Jr. kept the Swarm within striking distance with 10 third-quarter points, including

a pair of three-pointers.

Greensboro responded with its strongest stretch of the night in the final period, outscoring San Diego 39-26 to pull away late and secure the victory. The Swarm shot 68.4 percent in the fourth quarter, regaining control with a pair of decisive runs, as Reeves led the way with 13 points in the final 12 minutes.

The Swarm return to action with their regular-season home opener against the Iowa Wolves on Dec. 27 at 6 p.m.

ARR INVITATIONAL From Page 1B

Day; Nick Keith, Wesleyan; Isaiah Whitsett, Wesleyan; and MVP: Micah Gunter, Greensboro Day.



Nick Keith (#3) of HP Wesleyan dunks the ball against Dudley.



Dudley forward Josiah Price (#11) lays up the ball against Bishop McGinness.



Photos by Kevin L. Dorsey/Carolina Peacemaker Caleb Baptist (#1) of Northern shoots over Greensboro Day defender Micah Gunter (#12).

# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

## At the Movies

## 10 BEST FILMS 2025 (Part 1)



By Dwight Brown  
NNPA Film Critic

These 10 best films floated to the top of the pack in 2025. All are Oscar worthy on some level, in some category. Screen them in theaters or stream them and you'll see for yourself.

### Hamnet (★★★★)

A woman in a forest has a lot to learn about life and forgiveness. Watching her metamorphosis is transfixing. It becomes a wondrous and increasingly enchanting narrative that segues into one of the most famous plays ever written. Scripted and directed by Oscar-winner Chloé Zhao. Expertly acted by Jessie Buckley and Paul Mescal. Features drama of Shakespearian proportions. A catharsis that will leave audiences spent and in a meditative state.

### A House of Dynamite (★★★★)

"Object remains inbound!" Those aren't the words you want to hear when a nuclear missile is headed your way. Yet that's the ominous news that bombards government officials in this pulse-quick-

ening thriller. Oscar-winning director Kathryn Bigelow (*The Hurt Locker*) skillfully offers three perspectives of the same astounding incident. The sterling, lockstep ensemble cast includes Anthony Ramos, Rebecca Ferguson, Jason Clarke and Idris Elba. Bigelow, Noah Oppenheim's script and the talented actors take you there. By film's end you'll need a stiff drink, some strong weed or a calming walk around the block. That's the mark of a riveting thriller. That's what's coming inbound.

### The Lost Bus (★★★½)

It started with a spark, and no one knew how it would end. That's how the deadliest fire in California history went down on November 18th, 2018, in Butte County, California. School bus driver Kevin McCay (Matthew McConaughey) swings into action and tries to save lives. Meticulously, director Paul Greengrass (*United 93*) sets up the story, coordinates the genius special effects, places the characters in position and lights a blaze under it all. A sustained chaos lasts for two hours and nine minutes. Dread and fear linger. That's why your nerves will be frayed long after the final credits roll.



Photo courtesy of the Toronto International Film Festival. Photo by: Agata Grzybowska  
Jessie Buckley and Paul Mescal star in *Hamnet*.



Photo courtesy of Toronto International Film Festival  
Matthew McConaughey in *The Lost Bus*.

### Marty Supreme (★★★½)

He's reckless and ambitious. A loser who never gives up. Born poor but has big dreams. Ping-pong becomes his way up and out of his low-income Jewish American community on New York's Lower East Side. Marty Mauser (Timothée Chalamet) tries desperately to become a table tennis champion in the '50s and '60s. Writer/director Josh Saffdie (*Uncut Gems*) has chosen a worthy subject and the perfect, brassy young actor for the lead. It's as if every role Chalamet has ever done was a building block to this moment. Kinetic.

Chaotic. Continuously barreling towards disaster. Innovative direction. Pretty good script. Koto Kawaguchi, Gweneth Paltrow and Odessa A'zion costar. If only roller coasters were this exciting.

### My Father's Shadow (★★★★)

"May the four colors of the earth bless me. I will see you in my dreams." Writer/director Akinola Davies has a poetic way with words. Also, a great feel for sensitive and compelling storytelling in this father/son allegory. Two young bickering Nigerian brothers, the extroverted Remi (Chibui-



*A House of Dynamite*  
Anthony Ramos in *A House of Dynamite*.



Timothée Chalamet in *Marty Supreme*.



*My Father's Shadow*  
Chibuike Marvelous Egbo stars in *My Father's Shadow*.

ke Marvelous Egbo) and introverted Aki (Godwin Chiemerie Egbo), live in a rural town. The day they reunite with their estranged dad Folarin (Şoşę Dirisù, Gangs of London) in Lagos, there's a monumental shift in their father/son relationship. Reminiscent of the Oscar winning film *Moonlight*. A touching meditation on fatherhood, political strife and the frailty of life.

Visit Film Critic Dwight Brown at [DwightBrownInk.com](http://DwightBrownInk.com).

## 'The Greatest' - Boxer and Cultural Force Muhammad Ali 'Floats Like a Butterfly' onto Forever Stamp

The U.S. Postal Service will honor Muhammad Ali, known as "The Greatest," with two stamps. Ali once said, "I should be a postage stamp, because that's the only way I'll ever get licked." Born Cassius Marcellus Clay Jr. in Louisville, KY, Ali was known across the globe as a champion in and beyond the boxing ring.

Known as "The Greatest," Muhammad Ali (1942-2016) was a three-time heavyweight boxing champion. In his life, he challenged the best fighters in the world — and the world itself. At a time when African Americans fought to have a voice, he spoke loud and clear about his beliefs, defying expectations and empowering people around the world on his way to becoming a globally celebrated cultural icon.

Ali's influence extended far be-



yond the ring. He used his platform to stand for peace, faith and justice, emerging as a global symbol of courage and compassion. His humanitarian work spanned continents — supporting medi-

cal relief, feeding the hungry and speaking up for those in need. In 1998, he was named a United Nations Messenger of Peace, and in 2005, he received the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian honor. That same year, Muhammad and his wife, Lonnie, founded the Muhammad Ali Center in his hometown of Louisville.

Muhammad Ali's life was defined not only by his victories but by his conviction, generosity and enduring belief in the power of love and humanity. His spirit continues to inspire people everywhere, and his legacy lives on as "The Greatest."

Customers can preorder Muhammad Ali stamps on [usps.com](http://usps.com) and they will be shipped on Jan. 15, 2026.

### Postal Products

Customers may purchase stamps and other philatelic products through the Postal Store at [usps.com/shopstamps](http://usps.com/shopstamps), by calling (844) 737-7826, by mail through USA Philatelic or at Post Office locations nationwide.

The first-day-of-issue event for the Muhammad Ali Forever stamps is free and open to the public. News of the stamp is being shared with the hashtag #MuhammadAliStamps. The stamp will be issued Thursday, Jan. 15, 2026, at noon EST.

The event will be at the University of Louisville L & N Federal Credit Union Stadium, Angel's Envy Bourbon Club, 2550 S Floyd St.; Louisville, KY 40208.

Attendees are encouraged to register at: [usps.com/muhammadalistamps](http://usps.com/muhammadalistamps).

## Let's Craft!

## Popsicle Stick Snowflakes

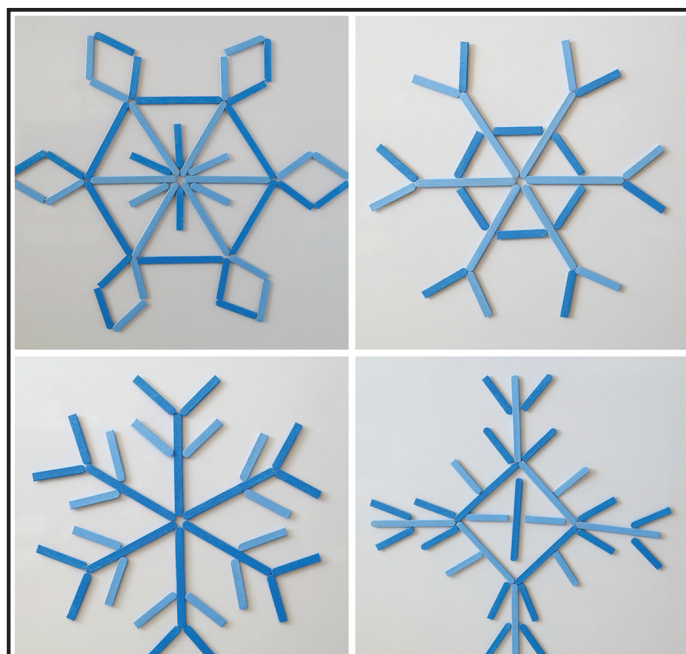
Saturday, Dec. 27, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. (10 a.m. - Noon: Sensory Friendly) come to the High Point Museum's Little Red Schoolhouse to craft popsicle stick snowflakes.

Let it snow, let it snow,

let it snow with this fun decorations. We're making popsicle stick snowflakes for this winter season in Little Red Schoolhouse. Come join. The Sensory Friendly environment (dim lights, calm room,

limited people) will be from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. For all ages, the event is a free drop-in event.

For more information call (336) 885-1859 or visit [www.highpointmuseum.org](http://www.highpointmuseum.org)



# SPORTS

## Carvey earns second MEAC weekly honor

Courtesy The MEAC

**NORFOLK, VA.** – For the second time this season, North Carolina Central’s Khouri Carvey of the men’s basketball team was named the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference Defensive Player of the Week, announced on Monday morning.

Carvey was one rebound shy of consecutive double-doubles last week, averaging 15 points and 10 rebounds. The senior finished with 13 points

and nine rebounds in last Wednesday’s victory over Mid-Atlantic Christian in just 22 minutes of action.

The Wilson, N.C. native followed that performance with a 17-point, 11-rebound outing against Longwood, as the game slipped from the Eagles in a final second buzzer-beater by the Lancers. Carvey shot 72.2 percent from the field and totaled five steals and two blocks.

Monday’s honor is the first time since the open-

ing week of the season that Carvey garnered this award. The forward leads the Eagles in rebounding and is second in the MEAC in the same category at 6.8 rebounds per game. He’s also first in the conference in field goal percentage (57.9).

The next contest for N.C. Central comes on the road next Monday, Dec. 29 as the Eagles visit the Penn State Nittany Lions at 1 p.m. The game will be available on the Big Ten Network.



Kevin L. Dorsey/Carolina Peacemaker  
NCCU forward Khouri Carvey on defense.

## NCCU volleyball players named to CSC Academic All-District team

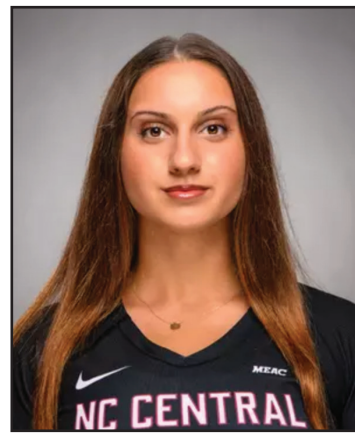
Courtesy N.C. Central Athletics

**GREENWOOD, IN.** – North Carolina Central student-athletes Neira Joldic, Loren Johnson, Makenzi Searcy and Manuela Cripa Nasser earned spots on the College Sports Communicators (CSC) Academic All-District Division I Volleyball Team this week.

The CSC Academic All-District honor recognized student-athletes who were at least a sophomore academically



Johnson



Joldic



Makenzi



Nasser

and athletically, posted at least a 3.5 cumulative grade point average and played in at least 90 percent or started in at least

66 percent of the team’s games in the 2025 season. Liberos qualified as starters for nominating purposes.

The CSC Academic All-America program separately recognizes honorees in four divisions: NCAA Division I,

NCAA Division II, NCAA Division III and NAIA.

PANTHERS From Page 3B

and one from Braden Hausen, boosting HPU’s lead back up to double-figures, 44-34.

Martinez gave the Panthers their largest lead of the night, 50-36 picking up a steal and driving in for a layup to force an Explorers timeout.

High Point maintained a 10-point advantage through the next five minutes of action.

La Salle made it a seven point game 58-51 with nine minutes left on the clock. Rob Martin answered with a corner three to go back up 10.

With eight minutes to go, Scotty Washington joined the 1000 career points club after getting fouled and going to the line to go 2-2. He later went on to score a layup and a turnaround jumper to finish the night with seven

points. In the last five minutes of the game, High Point was able to hold its double digit lead and win 84-72 for the 12-point victory. Aquino finished with 10 points and eight rebounds while Hausen added 11 points for a new career-high.

## Carolina Peacemaker

# Classifieds

DEADLINE: Monday, 5:00 p.m. • \$10.00 per column inch

Contact our classifieds department at (336) 274-6210

Solicitors with ads from non-established accounts must pay in advance.

### Public Notices

#### FILE NO. 25 E 001916-400 NOTICE TO CREDITORS

This notice is hereby given to all individuals, firms, or corporations with claims against the estate of the deceased, William Johnson, formerly of Guilford County, North Carolina. Please present your claims to the undersigned no later than March 11, 2026; failure to do so will result in the barring of recovery. Additionally, any persons indebted to the estate are kindly requested to make prompt payment to the undersigned.

This is the 11th day of December 2025

Donna Johnson, Administrator  
3940 Bluestem Drive  
Greensboro, NC 27405

Publish date: December 11, 18, 25, 2025; January 1, 2026

Peacemaker 1197

#### FILE NO. 25 E 002655-400 NOTICE TO CREDITORS

This notice is hereby given to all individuals, firms, or corporations with claims against the estate of the deceased, Wilhelmina E. Martin, aka, Wilhelmina Elise Martin, formerly of Guilford County, North Carolina. Please present your claims to the undersigned no later than March 4, 2026; failure to do so will result in the barring of recovery. Additionally, any persons indebted to the estate are kindly requested to make prompt payment to the undersigned.

This is the 4th day of December 2025

Jeffrey T. Jones, Administrator  
301 S Elm Street, 10th Floor – Suite 1001  
Greensboro, NC 27401

Publish date: December 4, 11, 18, 25, 2025

Peacemaker 1181

#### NOTICE TO CREDITORS STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF GUILFORD

The undersigned, having qualified as Administrator of the Estate of John Daniel White, deceased, late of Guilford County, North Carolina, in Estate File No. 25E003109-400, does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said estate to present them to the undersigned on or before March 18, 2026, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms or corporations indebted to said estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned. This the 18th day of December, 2025.

John Daniel White II, Administrator  
c/o 403 Blandwood Avenue  
Greensboro, NC 27401

December 18 and 25, 2025 and January 1 and 8, 2026.

Peacemaker 1216

#### FILE NO. 24 E 003227-400 NOTICE TO CREDITORS

This notice is hereby given to all individuals, firms, or corporations with claims against the estate of the deceased, Luis Alberto Nunez, formerly of Guilford County, North Carolina. Please present your claims to the undersigned no later than March 11, 2026; failure to do so will result in the barring of recovery. Additionally, any persons indebted to the estate are kindly requested to make prompt payment to the undersigned.

This is the 11th day of December 2025

Marta Mayra Uva Mora, Administrator  
2411 Running Brook Drive  
Greensboro, NC 27408

Publish date: December 11, 18, 25, 2025; January 1, 2026

Peacemaker 1195

#### FILE NO. 24 E 003815-400 NOTICE TO CREDITORS

This notice is hereby given to all individuals, firms, or corporations with claims against the estate of the deceased, Willie Mae Graves, formerly of Guilford County, North Carolina. Please present your claims to the undersigned no later than March 4, 2026; failure to do so will result in the barring of recovery. Additionally, any persons indebted to the estate are kindly requested to make prompt payment to the undersigned.

This is the 4th day of December 2025

Jeffrey T. Jones, Administrator CTA DBN  
301 S Elm Street, 10th Floor- Suite 1001  
Greensboro, NC 27401

Publish date: December 4, 11, 18, 25, 2025

Peacemaker 1180

#### NOTICE TO CREDITORS STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF GUILFORD

The undersigned, having qualified as Administrator of the Estate of Evelyn Flaxene Liggins, deceased, late of Guilford County, North Carolina, in Estate File No. 25E00301 1-400, does hereby notify all persons firms and corporations having claims against said estate to present them to the undersigned on or before March 18, 2026, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms or corporations indebted to said estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This the 18th day of December, 2025.

Dwayne Eric Sturdivant  
c/o 403 Blandwood Avenue  
Greensboro, NC 27401

December 18 and 25, 2025 and January 1 and 8, 2026

Peacemaker 1182

#### FILE NO. 24 E 004098-400 NOTICE TO CREDITORS

This notice is hereby given to all individuals, firms, or corporations with claims against the estate of the deceased, Jeffrey M. Barlow, aka, Jeffrey Mark Barlow, formerly of Guilford County, North Carolina. Please present your claims to the undersigned no later than March 18, 2026; failure to do so will result in the barring of recovery. Additionally, any persons indebted to the estate are kindly requested to make prompt payment to the undersigned.

This is the 18th day of December 2025

Jeffrey T. Jones, Administrator CTN DBN  
301 S Elm Street, 10th Floor, Suite 1001  
Greensboro, NC 27401

Publish date: December 18, 25, 2025; January 1, 8, 2026

Peacemaker 1201

#### NOTICE TO CREDITORS STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF GUILFORD

All persons, firms and corporations having claims against EL TAHIR ABDO YAHIA HAROUN, deceased, late of Guilford County, North Carolina, are hereby notified to present them to Hanan Ibrahim, as Administrator of the decedent’s estate, on or before March 25, 2026, in care of the undersigned’s attorney, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms and corporations indebted to the said estate will please make immediate payment to the above-named Administrator.

This, the 25th day of December, 2025.

Hanan Ibrahim, Administrator  
Estate of El Tahir Abdo Yahia Haroun

Steven W. Arrington, Esq.  
The Arrington Firm, P.C.  
P. O. Box 4753  
Greensboro, NC 27404

Dec. 25, 2025; Jan. 1, 8, 15, 2026

Peacemaker 1225

#### NORTH CAROLINA GUILFORD COUNTY (High Point)

IN THE MATTER OF:

S.V.R.H., A minor female child born April 25, 2024 in Greensboro, Guilford County, North Carolina.

NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION

TO: FREDY WILLIAMS ZELADA HERNANDEZ, biological father of the above juvenile.

TAKE NOTICE that a Petition seeking to terminate the parental rights of FREDY WILLIAMS ZELADA HERNANDEZ of the above juvenile, S.V.R.H., was filed on October 28, 2025, with the Clerk of Superior Court, Juvenile Division, Guilford Co., NC. The mother’s name is Metisha Latoria Rankin.

You must answer this Petition within 40 days of December 25, 2025, exclusive of that date. Upon your failure to answer the Petition within time prescribed your parental rights to the juveniles shall be terminated. You are entitled to attend any hearing affecting your rights. You are entitled to appointed counsel if you cannot afford to hire one. Attorney Kevin Dowling (336-271-4732 has been provisionally appointed to represent FREDY WILLIAMS ZELADA HERNANDEZ and you should contact your attorneys immediately. The next hearing is scheduled to be heard on February 3, 2026, or as soon thereafter as the matter can be heard. If you fail to attend any hearing in this matter, the Court may release your court appointed attorney without further notice to you.

This the 25th December, 2025

Jason F. Hicks, Deputy County Attorney  
P.O. Box 3427, Greensboro, NC 27402

Peacemaker 1224

#### IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE DISTRICT COURT DIVISION 25 JT 000396-400

#### MISCELLANEOUS

Get a High Quality, Modern Design bath or shower transformation in as little as One Day. \$0 Down, \$0 Installation, \$0 Payments for 12 months! Call: 1-877-243-7050.

#### MISCELLANEOUS

We Buy Houses for Cash AS-IS! No repairs. No fuss. Any condition. Easy process: Call, get cash offer and get paid. Call today for your fair cash offer: 1-919-925-6362.

#### MISCELLANEOUS

We Buy Vintage Guitar’s! Looking for 1920-1980 Gibson, Martin, Fender, Gretsch, Epiphone, Guild, Mosrite, Rickenbacker, Prairie State, D’Angelico, Stromberg. And Gibson Mandolins / Banjos. These brands only! Call for a quote: 1-833-641-6577

#### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Having qualified as Administrator of the Estate of Brenda Ann Neal, deceased, of Guilford County, North Carolina, the undersigned does hereby notify all persons, firms, and corporations having claims against said Estate to present them to the undersigned on or before March 16, 2026, or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said Estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This the 16th day of December, 2025.

1017 John Dimery Drive  
Greensboro, NC 27406

Peacemaker 1204

Carolina Peacemaker

Classifieds

DEADLINE: Monday, 5:00 p.m. • \$10.00 per column inch

Contact our classifieds department at (336) 274-6210

Solicitors with ads from non-established accounts must pay in advance.

Public Notices

FILE NO. 25 E 002730-400  
NOTICE TO CREDITORS

This notice is hereby given to all individuals, firms, or corporations with claims against the estate of the deceased, Kenneth Dale Burton, formerly of Guilford County, North Carolina. Please present your claims to the undersigned no later than March 4, 2026; failure to do so will result in the barring of recovery. Additionally, any persons indebted to the estate are kindly requested to make prompt payment to the undersigned.

This is the 4th day of December 2025

Brenda Booker, Administrator  
1407 Maple Street  
Greensboro, NC 27405

Publish date: December 4, 11, 18, 25, 2025

Peacemaker 1177

FILE NO. 25 E 002652-400  
NOTICE TO CREDITORS

This notice is hereby given to all individuals, firms, or corporations with claims against the estate of the deceased, Shirley Patrick Lee, formerly of Guilford County, North Carolina. Please present your claims to the undersigned no later than March 18, 2026; failure to do so will result in the barring of recovery. Additionally, any persons indebted to the estate are kindly requested to make prompt payment to the undersigned.

This is the 18th day of December 2025

Teresa L. Hall, Co-Executor  
731 Plott Street  
Greensboro, NC 27406

Rudolph C. Lee, Co-Executor  
2196 McLaughlin Drive  
Greensboro, NC 27406

Publish date: December 18, 25, 2025; January 1, 8, 2026.

Peacemaker 1200

FILE NO. 25 E 003066-400  
NOTICE TO CREDITORS

This notice is hereby given to all individuals, firms, or corporations with claims against the estate of the deceased, Ramona Jasso-Cortes, formerly of Guilford County, North Carolina. Please present your claims to the undersigned no later than March 11, 2026; failure to do so will result in the barring of recovery. Additionally, any persons indebted to the estate are kindly requested to make prompt payment to the undersigned.

This is the 11th day of December 2025

Fatima Perez, Administrator  
1507 Barto Pl  
Greensboro, NC 27405

Publish date: December 11, 18, 25, 2025; January 1, 2026

Peacemaker 1194

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Having qualified as Executor of the Estate of THEODORE MACK, late of Guilford County, North Carolina, the undersigned does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the estate of the decedent to exhibit them to the undersigned at the office of Ivey & Eggleston, Attorneys at Law, 111 Worth Street, Asheboro, North Carolina 27203, on or before March 27th, 2026, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms or corporations indebted to said estate should make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This 25th day of December 2025

TERRY MACK  
Executer of the Estate of  
THEODORE MACK

S. SCOTT EGGLESTON, Attorney  
IVEY & EGGLESTON,  
ATTORNEYS AT LAW  
111 Worth Street  
Asheboro, NC 27203  
(336) 625-3043

PUBL/DATES:  
12/25/25  
01/01/26  
01/08/26  
01/15/26

Peacemaker 1217

NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS  
BY PUBLICATION  
FILE NO: 25E003058-400

NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND DEBTORS ON ESTATE OF: Arlethea Campbell  
ALL persons, firms and corporations having claims against Arlethea Campbell, deceased are notified to exhibit them to Mary Staton, c/o Kenneth M. Johnson, P.A. 701 E. Market Street, Greensboro, NC 27401, Administrator for decedent's Estate, on or before the 11th day of March 2026, or be barred from their recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment to the above-named Administrator.

This 11th day of December 2025.

Mary Staton  
c/o Kenneth M Johnson  
701 E Market Street  
Greensboro, NC 27401

Kenneth M. Johnson  
Attorney at Law  
PO Box 21247  
Greensboro, NC 27420  
(336) 272-8273

Publish: December 11, December 18, December 25 and January 1st

Peacemaker 1193

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
RUTHERFORD COUNTY

IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE  
SUPERIOR COURT DIVISION  
BEFORE THE CLERK  
25 SP 31

MERRIMON B. OXLEY,  
ADMINISTRATOR CTA OF THE  
ESTATE OF LUCILLE W. ELLIOTT,  
Estate File No. 12 E 639,  
Petitioner,  
vs.  
PREAMA EDGERTON,  
KEOSHIA RUDISILL, and  
MILLER PAUL REID,  
Respondents.

NOTICE OF SERVICE OF  
PROCESS BY PUBLICATION

To: Preama Edgerton

TAKE NOTICE that a pleading seeking relief against you has been filed in the above entitled special proceeding. The nature of the relief being sought is as follows:

Petition for Surplus Proceeds arising out of the tax foreclosure sale in Rutherford County File No. 18 Cvd 670.

You are required to make defense to such pleading not later than February 27, 2026, and upon your failure to do so, the party seeking service against you will apply to the Court for the relief sought.

This the 15th day of December, 2025.

Merrimon B. Oxley, Attorney/Petitioner  
Wolf & Oxley, PLLC  
138 S. Broadway St.  
Forest City, NC 28043  
Phone: (828) 245-7366  
Fax: (828) 245-7359  
NC State Bar No. 19650

Peacemaker 1213

NORTH CAROLINA  
GUILFORD COUNTY

IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE  
SUPERIOR COURT DIVISION

BEFORE THE CLERK  
2025 E 002888-400

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF:  
LINWOOD BLANCHARD,  
Deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS  
BY PUBLICATION

DOROTHY RENEE STROUD having qualified as the Administrator of the Estate of LINWOOD BLANCHARD, by and through the undersigned attorney for the aforementioned estate of the decedent, of Guilford County, North Carolina does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said estate to present them to the undersigned attorney on or before 19th day of March, 2026, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms or corporations that are indebted to the decedent must make immediate payment to the undersigned for the benefit of the estate.

This, the 15th day of December, 2025.

/s/ Kathryn S. Lindley, NCSB No. 24379  
Attorney for the Estate  
LINDLEY LAW FIRM, PLLC  
314 S. Eugene Street  
Greensboro, NC 27401  
(336) 333-9600  
Kathryn@lindleylawnc.com

Publication dates: December 18, 25, 2025, and Jan 1, and Jan 8, 2026.

Peacemaker 1209

NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND DEBTORS ON ESTATE OF: Sibyl E. Curry ALL persons, firms and corporations having claims against Sibyl E. Curry, deceased are notified to exhibit them to Rex Harris, Administrator c/o Kenneth M. Johnson, P.A., 701 E. Market Street, Greensboro, NC 27401, for decedent's Estate, on or before the 18th day of March 2026 or be barred from their recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment to the above-named Administrator.

This 18th day of December 2025.

Rex Harris, Administrator  
c/o Kenneth M. Johnson  
Attorney at Law  
PO Box 21247  
Greensboro, NC 27420  
(336) 272-8273

Published: December, 18th, 25th, January 1st & 8th

Peacemaker 1202

FILE NO. 25 E 003113-400  
NOTICE TO CREDITORS

This notice is hereby given to all individuals, firms, or corporations with claims against the estate of the deceased, LaDonna Renee Moore Savary, formerly of Guilford County, North Carolina. Please present your claims to the undersigned no later than March 25, 2026; failure to do so will result in the barring of recovery. Additionally, any persons indebted to the estate are kindly requested to make prompt payment to the undersigned.

This is the 25th day of December 2025

Aaron Michael Savary, Co-Administrator  
5610 Landerwood Drive  
Greensboro, NC 27405

Carolyn McClendon Moore,  
Co-Administrator  
5610 Landerwood Drive  
Greensboro, NC 27405

Publish date: December 25, 2025; January 1, 8, 15, 2026

Peacemaker 1220

Public Bids

GUILFORD COUNTY SCHOOLS  
ADVERTISEMENT FOR BID  
IFB #6798 INTERCOM UPGRADE PROJECT

Guilford County Schools seeks qualified vendor to provide new, factory-sealed, Valcom intercom equipment that will be installed in multiple school locations. Sealed bids will be received by Guilford County Schools Purchasing Department until 2:00 pm EST on Thursday, January 15, 2026 and immediately thereafter publicly opened and read aloud in Conference Room 2A.

For bid information and questions, contact Eddie Greene via email at greeneL3@gcsnc.com and Letitia Hines at HinesL@gcsnc.com. Proposal documents are available through the GCS website http://purchasing.gcsnc.com/BidCurrent/PurchasingQuoteList.aspx Click on Bid Solicitations for All Projects under IFB #6798.

Minority and Women Owned Businesses are encouraged to submit bids for this project. The Guilford County Board of Education awards public contracts without regard to race, religion, color, creed, national origin, sex, age or handicapped condition as defined by North Carolina General Statutes, Section 168A-3. GCS reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids presented, and the right to waive any informalities or irregularities.

GUILFORD COUNTY SCHOOLS  
Velicia Moore  
Director of Purchasing

Peacemaker 1218

GUILFORD COUNTY SCHOOLS  
ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS  
IFB #6799 NETWORKING EQUIPMENT – INTERCOM UPGRADE

Guilford County Schools seeks qualified vendor to provide new, factory-sealed, Cisco Networking Switches that will be installed in multiple school locations. Sealed bids will be received by Guilford County Schools Purchasing Department until 2:30 pm EST on Thursday, January 15, 2026 and immediately thereafter publicly opened and read aloud.

For bid information and questions, contact Eddie Greene via email at greeneL3@gcsnc.com and Letitia Hines HinesL@gcsnc.com. Proposal documents are available through the GCS website http://purchasing.gcsnc.com/BidCurrent/PurchasingQuoteList.aspx Click on Bid Solicitations for All Projects under IFB #6799.

Minority and Women Owned Businesses are encouraged to submit bids for this project. The Guilford County Board of Education awards public contracts without regard to race, religion, color, creed, national origin, sex, age or handicapped condition as defined by North Carolina General Statutes, Section 168A-3. GCS reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids presented, and the right to waive any informalities or irregularities.

GUILFORD COUNTY SCHOOLS  
Velicia Moore  
Director of Purchasing

Peacemaker 1219

NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS  
BY PUBLICATION

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
GUILFORD COUNTY  
In the Superior Court Division:

Tonaejah Taylor, )  
Plaintiff, )  
vs. )

Guilford County Schools, Kenneth )  
Robinson )  
individually, and Dr. Whitney Oakley, )

Superintendent of Guilford County )  
Schools, )  
Defendants. )

TO: Kenneth Robinson

TAKE NOTICE that a pleading seeking relief against you has been filed in the above-entitled action in SUPERIOR COURT of Guilford County file number 25CV019746-400 the nature of the relief is seeking monetary damages from an accident that occurred on or about May 7, 2015.

You are required to make a defense to such pleading no later than January 26, 2025, upon your failure to do so, the party seeking service against you will apply to the Court for the sought of relief.

Dated: December 11, 2025

Kenneth M. Johnson  
Attorney for Plaintiff  
PO Box 21247  
Greensboro, NC 27402  
(336) 272-8273

Peacemaker 1189

NOTICE TO CREDITORS  
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
COUNTY OF GUILFORD

The undersigned, having qualified as Executor of the Estate of David Malcolm Cox, Sr., deceased, late of Guilford County, North Carolina, does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said Estate to present them to the undersigned on or before the 25th day of March 2026, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms and corporations indebted to said Estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This the 25th day of December, 2025.

David Malcolm Cox, Jr.  
Executor of the Estate of  
David Malcolm Cox, Sr.,  
Deceased  
c/o Shope Krohn Attorneys at  
Law, P.A.  
3703 W. Market St., Suite B  
Greensboro, NC 27403  
(336) 275-1607

December 25, January 1st, 8th, and 15th.

Peacemaker 1223

FILE NO. 25 E 002530-400  
NOTICE TO CREDITORS

This notice is hereby given to all individuals, firms, or corporations with claims against the estate of the deceased, Henry Ross, formerly of Guilford County, North Carolina. Please present your claims to the undersigned no later than March 18, 2026; failure to do so will result in the barring of recovery. Additionally, any persons indebted to the estate are kindly requested to make prompt payment to the undersigned.

This is the 18th day of December 2025

Tangie R. Mack, Administrator  
3218 Edenwood Drive  
Greensboro, NC 27406

Publish date: December 18, 25, 2025; January 1, 8, 2026

Peacemaker 1207

FILE NO. 25 E 002531-400  
NOTICE TO CREDITORS

This notice is hereby given to all individuals, firms, or corporations with claims against the estate of the deceased, Ernestine Ross, formerly of Guilford County, North Carolina. Please present your claims to the undersigned no later than March 18, 2026; failure to do so will result in the barring of recovery. Additionally, any persons indebted to the estate are kindly requested to make prompt payment to the undersigned.

This is the 18th day of December 2025

Tangie Ross Mack, Executor  
aka Tangie R. Mack  
3218 Edenwood Drive  
Greensboro, NC 27406

Publish date: December 18, 25, 2025; January 1, 8, 2026

Peacemaker 1206

Employment

ITG Brands, LLC in Greensboro, NC seeks Supply Chain MFG Excellence Learning & Development Manager to be responsible for managing and executing the IOS Education and Training strategy to transform the Company's operations to world class. Requires a Bachelor's degree or foreign equivalent in Industrial Engineering, Supply Chain, Management, Manufacturing, or related field of study and 5 years in corporate training and development. Technical skills required. Apply at https://careers.itgbrands.com/job/34115

Peacemaker 1221

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Having qualified as Executor of the Estate of Cynthia Darlene Cook (a/k/a Cynthia Cook, Cynthia Cook Little, Cynthia Little, Cynthia Darlene Little, Cyndi Cook, Cyndi Little, Cynthia Darlene Cook Reed), late, of Guilford County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the Estate of said Decedent to exhibit them to the undersigned, Holly Diane Little, Administrator for the Estate, at 6400 Old Oak Ridge Road, Apt 1-11, Greensboro, NC 27410, on or before the 22nd day of March, 2026 or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said Estate will please make immediate payment to the Administrator.

This is the 18th day of December, 2025

Harry A. Boles  
Administrator of the Estate of Cynthia Darlene Cook

Law Offices of Harry A. Boles  
Harry A. Boles, Attorney-at-Law  
214 East Mountain Street, Suite 101  
Kernersville, NC, 27284  
Telephone: (336) 996-7783  
E-mail Address: adminassistant@harryboles.com

Dates of Publication: December 18th, 25th, 2025 and January 1st, and 8th, 2026

Peacemaker 1214

Public Bids

ADVERTISEMENT FOR REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS  
RFP#6797  
TECHNOLOGY ITSM & ITAM SOLUTION

Guilford County Schools (GCS) is seeking proposals for an IT Service Management (ITSM) and IT Asset Management (ITAM) system, including Incident Management, Service Management, Problem Management, Change Management, Release Management, Asset Management, Service Level Agreements, Knowledge Management, and Reporting.

Please provide two (2) hard copies and one (1) electronic copy in Adobe PDF on a flash drive of the RFQ submission no later than 2:00 pm on February 5, 2026. The Board may determine in its sole and absolute discretion whether to accept any responses that are not received by the date and time set forth in this paragraph. RFP submissions may not be submitted via facsimile machine. Respondents should allow sufficient delivery time to ensure timely receipt. Failure to provide all the requested information or otherwise comply with these provisions may disqualify a response. Firms should submit their response to:

Velicia Moore, CLGPO  
Director of Purchasing  
714 Green Valley Dr.  
Greensboro, NC 27408  
Phone: (336)-370-3240  
gaddyv@gcsnc.com

GCS will retain, and is under no obligation to return, all materials submitted in response to this RFQ. Please make specific reference to the response and in any accompanying cover letter or document to any legitimate and appropriately confidential or proprietary materials contained in the response and mark the material accordingly. All questions or requests for information regarding this RFQ should be submitted in writing by email to Velicia Moore at gaddyv@gcsnc.com no later than 12:00 noon, January 15, 2026. The Request for Proposals, along with all responses to questions or requests received by this deadline and any addenda, will be posted on the Purchasing Department website at: http://purchasing.gcsnc.com/BidCurrent/PurchasingQuoteList.aspx under Q6797. Late requests will not receive a response.

Minority businesses are encouraged to submit proposals for this project. The Guilford County Board of Education awards public contracts without regard to race, religion, color, creed, national origin, sex, age, or handicapped condition as defined by North Carolina General Statutes, Section 168A-3.

Guilford County Schools reserves the right to reject any or all proposals presented and to waive any informalities and irregularities.

Guilford County Schools  
Velicia Moore, CLGPO  
Director of Purchasing

Peacemaker 1222

# MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR

## Have a Happy, Hearty Holiday Meal

**FAMILY FEATURES**

The holiday season is about celebrating with friends and family over warm, memorable meals, and few things make those gatherings more special than serving dishes made at home.

To elevate your menu, consider a versatile, beginner-friendly ingredient like Wild Caught Texas Shrimp for your next occasion. For a luxurious Italian dish, try creamy

Shrimp Risotto with arborio rice. Or, for a comforting bowl of goodness, serve Shrimp Wonton Soup with tender pork and chopped shrimp.

You can feel good knowing you're serving seafood free from antibiotics and additives while supporting local shrimpers and the Texas shrimping industry. Choosing domestic over imported shrimp ensures your meal is responsibly sourced, meets strict

U.S. standards and helps sustain a Texas tradition worth celebrating.

"Asking for Wild Caught Texas Shrimp brings quality to your plate that's delivered with pride and shines a light on the people that make Texas seafood exceptional," Texas Agriculture Commissioner Sid Miller said.

For cooking tips and fresh seafood recipes, visit [WildCaughtTXShrimp.com](http://WildCaughtTXShrimp.com).

### Shrimp Wonton Soup

Servings: 4

**Wontons:**

- 1/2 pound ground pork
- 1/2 pound Wild Caught Texas Shrimp, peeled, deveined, finely chopped
- 4 scallions, thinly sliced
- 2-3 garlic cloves, minced
- 1 teaspoon ginger, minced
- 1 teaspoon sesame oil
- 1 tablespoon soy sauce
- 1 teaspoon cornstarch
- salt
- pepper
- 1 package square wonton wrappers

**Soup:**

- 48 ounces chicken broth
- 1 piece ginger (2 inches), grated
- 2 tablespoons soy sauce
- 1 tablespoon dry white wine
- 1 tablespoon sesame oil
- 1-2 baby bok choy

### 1/2 pound Wild Caught Texas Shrimp, peeled and deveined 3 scallions, sliced

To make wontons: In large bowl, mix ground pork, shrimp, scallions, garlic, ginger, sesame oil, soy sauce, cornstarch, salt and pepper.

One wonton wrapper at a time, brush edges of two sides of wrapper with water. Add 1-2 teaspoons filling to center. Fold wrapper corner to corner so two wet edges meet two dry edges, creating triangle shape.

Press sides together to seal. Take two corners of triangle and join with water to create purse-like shape. Press to seal. Repeat with remaining wrappers and filling.

To make soup: In saucepan over high heat, stir broth, ginger, soy sauce, wine and sesame oil. Bring mixture to simmer.

Cover pot and turn down heat, simmering 10-12 minutes. Add bok choy leaves, shrimp and scallions. Cook until shrimp are pink and heated through.

In separate saucepan, heat water to boil.

Drop in wontons in small batches and cook until floating, 5-7 minutes.

Transfer cooked wontons to bowls along with shrimp and bok choy from soup pot. Ladle broth, as desired, into bowls.



Shrimp Risotto

### Shrimp Risotto

Servings: 4

- 1 pound Wild Caught Texas Shrimp
- 2 cups arborio rice
- 1 teaspoon paprika
- salt
- pepper
- 8 cups broth
- 2 tablespoons butter
- 1 white onion
- 3 cloves garlic
- 1/2 cup dry white wine
- 1 cup grated Parmesan
- Italian parsley, for garnish

Peel and devein shrimp, leaving tails on. Rinse, pat dry and set aside.

Heat oven to 375 F.

Season shrimp with paprika, salt and pepper. Drizzle with olive oil then toss to combine.

Lay shrimp in single layer on baking sheet and refrigerate.

Heat medium saucepan over medium-low heat and add broth.

In separate deep, heavy-bottom pot, melt butter. Chop onion and garlic then add to pot and cook until soft and browning. Add arborio rice and stir to incorporate. Cook until fragrant, 1-2 minutes.

Add wine and cook, stirring, until alcohol smell evaporates. Add warm broth one ladle at a time, stirring consistently. Do not add another ladle until liquid from previous ladle is mostly soaked up by rice.

Risotto has finished cooking when rice is chewy with consistency of thick oatmeal.

Roast shrimp until cooked through.

Remove risotto from heat and stir in grated Parmesan and chopped parsley.

Scoop into bowls and lay roasted shrimp on top.

Season with salt and pepper. Garnish with chopped parsley and serve.



Shrimp Wonton Soup



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## Showstopping Party Bites for *Holiday Celebrations*

**FAMILY FEATURES**

When gathering around the table with family and friends during the holidays, the main course is often front and center, but every great host or hostess knows it's not always the star of the show. Kick off the evening with effortless, crowd-pleasing party bites that will impress your guests and set the tone for a memorable night.

If you're looking for inspiration for your next seasonal gathering, look no further than accompaniments made with premium European ingredients like Grana Padano PDO cheese and Prosciutto di Parma PDO – some of the world's most delicious cheeses and cured meats.

Only products made following traditional methods within defined geographic regions, under strict supervision and using carefully monitored ingredients, qualify for Protected Designation of Origin (PDO) certification from the European Union. The PDO system helps distinguish these foods from imitators and guarantees high quality, authenticity and traceability.

Made in the Po River Valley in northern Italy from raw, semi-skimmed cow milk, Grana Padano PDO cheese is naturally lactose free due to the characteristics of its production and long aging process and rich in protein, vitamins and mineral salts, especially calcium. A 100% natural product, Prosciutto di Parma PDO contains no additives such as nitrites, nitrates or hormones. Produced only in Parma, Italy, its all-natural aging process creates a wide variation in flavor profiles and textures, from mild and nutty to mature and full-flavored.

These artisan meats and cheeses can be enjoyed on their own alongside olives, nuts, bread and your favorite jam for a quick and easy holiday snack board. And they shine in culinary treasures like Whipped Ricotta Toast with Prosciutto di Parma and Hot Honey or Grana Padano and Nutmeg Cheese Puffs that feed the soul and warm the heart.

To ensure authenticity, look for the red and yellow PDO logo, and visit [distinctlydeliciouslyeuropean.eu](http://distinctlydeliciouslyeuropean.eu) for more seasonal recipe ideas and pairing tips for your next get-together.

### Whipped Ricotta Toast with Prosciutto di Parma and Hot Honey

Yield: 3 toasts (6 halves)

- 3 large slices thick-cut sourdough bread
- 1 container (16 ounces) whole milk ricotta cheese
- salt, to taste
- pepper, to taste
- hot honey
- 6 slices (3 ounces) Prosciutto di Parma PDO

In toaster oven, toast bread to desired doneness. Set aside.

In large bowl, with electric mixer, beat ricotta until whipped and creamy, about 2 minutes. Add salt and pepper, to taste.

Spoon ricotta onto each toast evenly. Drizzle each with hot honey, as desired. Top each with two slices prosciutto.



### Grana Padano and Nutmeg Cheese Puffs

Servings: 4

- 1 3/4 cups milk
- 1 cup unsalted butter
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 2/3 cups flour
- 1 cup, plus 1 tablespoon, grated Grana Padano PDO cheese, divided
- 6 medium eggs
- black pepper, to taste
- nutmeg, to taste
- canola oil, for frying

In pan, boil milk, butter and salt until butter is dissolved.

Add flour and stir using wooden spoon over low heat until mixture doesn't stick to bottom of pan. Add 1 cup cheese and stir 1 minute. Remove from heat.

Put mixture in mixing bowl and add eggs one by one until mixture is smooth. Add black pepper and nutmeg, to taste.

Let mixture cool and form dough into small, round parcels.

Fry parcels in hot canola oil, about 325 F, until golden. Dust with remaining cheese and serve.



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