



Working stiffs: Blue-collar jobs keep Charlotte moving — and the appreciation is booming across industries

THE VOICE OF THE BLACK COMMUNITY SINCE 1906

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MARYLAND GOVERNOR'S OFFICE

Maryland Gov. Wes Moore is a rising star in Democratic politics and using his platform to campaign for candidates like former North Carolina Gov. Roy Cooper, who is campaigning for the state's open U.S. Senate seat. Moore, 47, is also considered a potential 2028 presidential candidate.

'A rock that's higher than I'

Rising political star Wes Moore stumps for Democratic campaigns, voting rights

By Herbert L. White
herb.l.white@thecharlottepost.com

Maryland Gov. Wes Moore is running for re-election, but his profile is national.

Moore, the first Black chief executive in that state's history, is often mentioned as a potential contender for the 2028 Democratic presidential nomination. As a result, he's a hot commodity as a speaker, and spent a couple of days in Charlotte as commencement speaker at Johnson C. Smith University and campaign appearances with U.S. Senate candidate Roy Cooper, North Carolina's former governor.

Moore, a former Army lieutenant and Bronze Star recipient as well as a Rhodes Scholar who is in his first term as governor, has not committed to running for president, but the question persists.

In an interview with The Post, Moore, 47, talked about campaigning for Cooper, mid-decade redistricting and voter suppression in the South as well as White House aspirations. Responses are edited for clarity and brevity.

TCP: You had commencement at Johnson C. Smith University, and some campaigning with Senate candidate Roy Cooper. What was that like?

WM: I'm excited to campaign for (Cooper), because I know it's not just that North Carolina needs him, this country needs his leadership, this country needs his morals, and this country needs a fighter. He's someone who has shown what that fight looks like for years in statewide office of North Carolina, and he's someone who I think the country's going to need at the same

time, especially right now.

We're watching this type of assault that is taking place on all our values and basic rights, where in Washington the federal administration is just seemingly unchecked."

TCP: There's a lot of whiplash going on in national politics that's seeped to the local level, where everything now is about Washington, even for city councils and state governments. What is your sense around the country?

WM: There's a reason that people are focusing on Washington, because Washington seems to be focusing on making life harder on us. You know that when you're looking at everything from rising grocery prices to rising energy prices to the fact that gas prices have gone up

Please see **WES** | 2A

High price to end I-77 South toll program

NC transportation chief warns \$600M would disappear

By Herbert L. White
herb.l.white@thecharlottepost.com

Charlotte's decision to walk away from the I-77 South toll lane project could cost the city millions in state transportation funding.

North Carolina Transportation Secretary Daniel Johnson notified Mayor Vi Lyles in a May 15 letter that withdrawing support for the public-private initiative would prompt the state to remove Charlotte from the state's long-term transportation plan, which could divert \$600 million to other projects.



Johnson

City Council voted 6-5 on May 11 to rescind support for private contractor to build toll lanes on I-77. As a result, Charlotte's representative on the Charlotte Regional Transportation Planning Organization is required to oppose the plan.

"Under North Carolina's Strategic Transportation Investments (STI) law and the current State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP), the I-77 South Express Lanes Project remains programmed with \$600 million in Statewide Mobility funding," Johnson wrote. "The project will remain in the STIP unless and until CRTPO removes or materially changes the project in their Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP)."

Critics of NCDOT's preferred plan insists alternatives that alleviate traffic congestion and connects neighborhoods should be explored. Public input on multiple plans should be part of the process, said Shannon Binns, founder of Sustain Charlotte.

"No one disputes that the I-77 corridor needs major investment."

Please see **\$600M** | 2A

Order for Duke Energy to hit brakes on solar raises policy, legal questions

By Lucas Thoma
CAROLINA PUBLIC PRESS

Renewable solar energy represents a key component of Duke Energy's plan to be carbon neutral by 2050, but a surprise order from the chairman of the North Carolina Utilities Commission directed the company to halt its procurement of new solar energy resources until a new carbon plan is approved later this year.

Clean energy advocates called the directive illegal and tantamount to an outright cancellation of this year's procurement process, given that the deadline for the commission to approve a new carbon plan is Dec. 31.

If the order stands, 770 megawatts of generating capacity that was expected to be added to North Carolina's electric grid by the early 2030s could be wiped out with no clear alternatives to make up for it.

That's enough electricity to power more than 100,000 homes, and the loss could portend bad news for North Carolina residents whose electric bills are already rising as Duke attempts to accommodate surging demand from "large load customers" such as AI data centers.

Nick Jimenez, an attorney for the Southern Environmental Law Center, called the order "baffling," in part because it came on the heels of a Duke Energy report which revised its 10-year forecast of electricity demand from large load customers by an increase of more than 2,000 megawatts.

"You've got this 2-gigawatt increase in load, and

Please see **DUKE** | 2A

« CLASS OF 2026 »



WINSTON-SALEM STATE UNIVERSITY

North Mecklenburg High School and Winston-Salem State University graduate Ja'Moya Blue earned a scholarship to pursue a master's degree at Brown University.

It all adds up: Winston-Salem State graduate's long journey to purpose

By Kimberly Harrington

FOR THE CHARLOTTE POST

WINSTON-SALEM - Ja'Moya Blue began her journey at Winston-Salem State University as a biology major with aspirations of attending medical school.

That changed after the North Mecklenburg High School graduate took Bao-Ahn Maddux's elementary statistics class as a freshman.

Three years later, Blue earned a degree in mathematics and a scholarship to pursue a master's degree at Brown University, where she will join 2025 WSSU graduate Torre Lloyd in the fall.

In Maddux's class, Blue found herself becoming increasingly interested in statistics. But aside from teaching, she wasn't aware of the many career

Please see **IT ALL** | 3A

Flurry of NC amendments for voters to consider

By Brandon Kingdollar
NC NEWSLINE

North Carolina Senate lawmakers could vote this week on whether to put constitutional amendments guaranteeing the "right to farm" and the "right to work" on the ballot in November 2026. But while Republicans say it is important to give voters a say on these policies, Democrats contend the amendments are unnecessary and will have no legal effect.

Senate Bill 1081 would give voters the opportunity to enact a constitutional right to engage in farming and forestry. Senate Bill 1082 would do the same for a constitutional right to work, forbidding workplaces to require membership or nonmembership in any labor union or association.

Both amendments were passed by the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Energy, and Environment on Monday afternoon. S1082 is set for a vote before the Senate Rules Committee on Tuesday, while S1081 has yet to be scheduled.

Please see **A FLURRY** | 3A

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Wes Moore stumps for Cooper and voting rights

Continued from page 1A

over \$1.50 in the past 10 months. It's not lost on any of us that the policies that we are seeing coming out of Washington, D.C. are making life harder for each and every one of us, and so that's why I think being able to put different, more sensible people in Washington - people who are moral, people who are fighting for. Why [is] the governor of Maryland in North Carolina? Because what happens in North Carolina is going to impact the entire country.

TCP: We're in uncharted territory with a Supreme Court that now allows states to redraw legislative maps at will to gain a competitive advantage. What will it mean to communities of color who now, depending on where you live, may not have the ability to vote for the candidate of their choice?

WM: It's deeply frustrating because I'm a big believer in national redistricting reform. I think that Congress needs to do its job and actually do larger redistricting reform. I also don't believe that right now we're watching a federal administration trying to steal an election in broad daylight, that we're watching a federal administration deciding which states, which hand-picked states should choose to go through the decade resisting and which ones should not, and I think that is deeply dangerous.

While I believe in federal and national redistricting reform, I also believe that every state that has the chance to be able to examine their maps to be able to counter this theft of democracy that we're seeing in this political redlining that is specifically impacting communities of color.

Every state that can should be able to look at and examine what their maps are actually representative of their body, so these are all things that I think, not just for the state of Maryland (where a redistricting effort failed in the legislature), but as these other states are making these moves, I don't see why Maryland has to stay out of that conversation.

TCP: We're a couple of years away from the presidential election cycle. Your name has been mentioned as a possible contender.

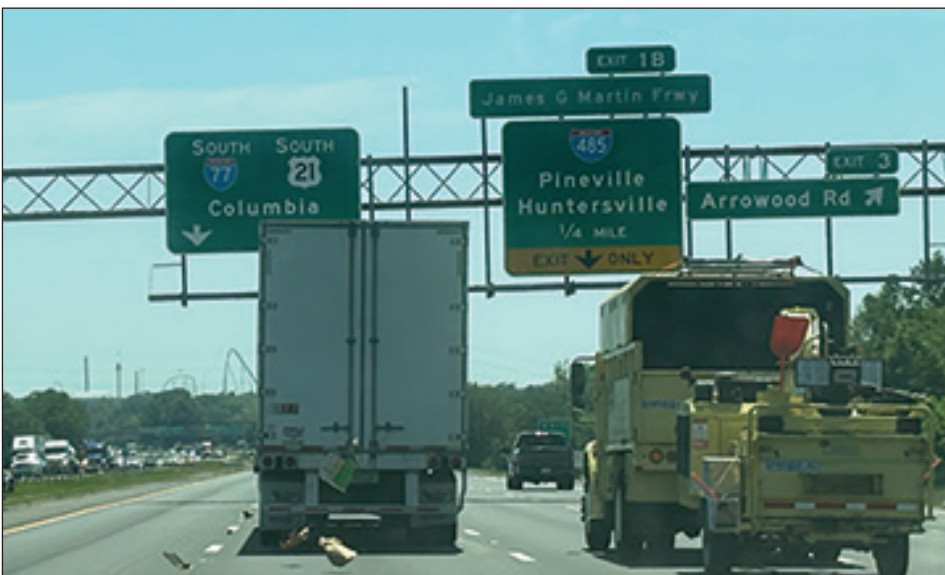
WM: I think anyone who has ever known me or working me knows that I'm a pretty mission-driven person, and right now my mission is clear. My mission is we have (a gubernatorial) election in November that I'm taking very, very seriously. Three, three-and-a-half years ago, the people of Maryland gave me the honor of making me the 63rd governor of the state of Maryland, and I've been really proud of the work that we've done, and I've been really proud of the impact that (I've been) able to make, and the fact that the nation is taking notice to it. I also know that my mission continues, and I'm very clear about what the task at hand is, and that's really where all my focus is.

TCP: There is that larger constituency of an entire country that could be considered.

WM: Part of the reason that I'm going to spend time campaigning in other states is because I believe that leadership does matter, that leadership matters in this area, and that includes people who are running for governor in other states. That includes members of the House of Representatives and the Senate, and that we all have a unique responsibility for it. ...

I was at Johnson C. Smith, where I had a chance to talk to the students, and I reminded them that Johnson C. Smith, for example, was built for a moment like this, that it was built during Reconstruction when the country was on the brink of deciding what type of country it wanted to be, and it was Johnson C. Smith students who really helped to bring the country to, as it said in Psalm 61:2, a 'rock that's higher than I.'

I think that it's important that we all understand our unique responsibility inside this moment as well, that we don't have the luxury of sitting on the sidelines.



HERBERT L. WHITE | THE CHARLOTTE POST

Charlotte's withdrawal of support for a public-private partnership to add toll lanes to I-77 South from Center City to the South Carolina border could lead North Carolina to shift at least \$600 million in state transportation funds to other projects, according to a May 15 letter from state Transportation Secretary Daniel Johnson to Mayor Vi Lyles. Another \$100 million in bonus allocation would be at risk, too.

\$600M in state funds at risk if city withdraws toll road support

Continued from page 1A

he said in a statement. "No one disputes that congestion, safety, and reliability must be addressed. The question is whether widening the highway deeper into existing neighborhoods and parks - taking more land from communities already shaped by I-77 - while relying on privately operated toll lanes for decades, is the best use of limited public resources."

Johnson cautioned Lyles that local officials could pursue an alternative version of the project, but the state would have to restart the planning and environmental review process, which takes years.

An alternative project could still be eligible for state funding, he said, but complete withdrawal would cost Charlotte \$600 million earmarked for I-77 in addition to "approximately \$100 million in bonus allocation funding awarded for the use of tolls would no longer be made available."

"In our listening sessions and work at the Community Engagement Center,

we've also heard from community members about the importance of reconnecting communities along the corridor and other potential benefits the [public-private partnership] could bring," Johnson wrote. "Without private investment through the P3, these opportunities are not available from a funding perspective. Additionally, transportation improvements along the corridor identified in partnership with Charlotte Department of Transportation would not be available."

The council vote dealt a severe blow to the project's viability as Charlotte's proportional representation - 41% - on the regional planning board carries more weight. Mecklenburg County and the town of Matthews have previously voted against supporting the project.

The I-77 design has drawn criticism over concerns of a lack of transparency by the state Department of Transportation, environmental impacts of elevated lanes and displacement in historically Black neighborhoods, using the Brooklyn community's razing in the 1960s to make way for the I-277 loop as a prime example.

Duke Energy halt on solar raises policy, legal questions

Continued from page 1A

then two weeks later the commission says 'actually, let's cancel this large procurement,'" Jimenez told Carolina Public Press.

The Carolinas Clean Energy Business Association, a trade association that represents independent power producers (the types which might have submitted bids for the solar energy resources procurement), shared Jimenez's concerns about the long-term impact of the order.

"At a time when there is incredible demand for new, fast electricity, the better part of a gigawatt would not be available to the public," CCEBA executive director Chris Carmody said.

"That has implications for price and for reliability. Customers are seeing their electric bills go up, and this would not help them."

Duke Energy spokesperson Bill Norton said that the company was still evaluating how the order might impact its long-term resource planning and emphasized that solar energy projects already approved for development through 2030 will not be affected.

"Solar and solar paired with storage remain a key part of our diverse energy mix," Norton said.

What is the NC carbon plan?

The carbon plan at the center of the order originates from a 2021 law requiring the state's electric utilities to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050. Neutrality means any carbon being emitted into the atmosphere is offset by an equal level of carbon removal.

That state law, which was a bipartisan effort to address the negative effects of climate change caused by greenhouse gas emissions, directed the Utilities Commission to develop a plan to reach carbon neutrality and update it every two years.

Duke Energy, which operates as a near-monopoly in North Carolina, has significant influence over the carbon plan. The drafting process involves Duke filing a proposed plan which is then tweaked and approved by the commission.

The commission issued its first carbon plan order at the end of 2022, and in 2024, it approved the first biennial update to the carbon plan.

Duke Energy submitted its proposal for the 2026 iteration of the carbon plan last fall, and the commission has until the end of this year to hold hearings, make necessary changes and issue a final order.

Unintended consequences for solar energy

In the 2024 carbon plan, the commission directed Duke to conduct competitive procurements in 2025 and 2026 targeting 3,460 megawatts of new solar energy resources which would connect to the grid and be placed into service by 2031.

Duke conducted a 2025 procurement which achieved half of that goal, but this year it tried to scale back with a procurement target of only 770 megawatts of solar, citing increased costs and the expiration of federal tax credits for solar projects by 2030.

In a filing dated March 17, Duke urged the commission to quickly accept its new procurement target so that it could open the bidding process by July.

Utilities Commission chairman Bill Brawley issued a response on April 23 in which he declared that any change to an existing procurement target should be based upon a commission-approved carbon plan.

However, he did give credence to the idea that the solar energy resources procurement should be adjusted to reflect changing circumstances, including the state legislature's recent rollback of a benchmark goal to significantly reduce carbon emissions by 2030.

So rather than making Duke proceed with its 2026 solar procurement under the previous target, Brawley instead or-

dered the utility to stop its procurement altogether until the new carbon plan is approved.

Since competitive procurement is a months-long process and the commission likely won't issue its 2026 carbon plan order until late in the year, this order "effectively cancels the procurement," Jimenez said.

Is chair's unilateral action legal?

The commission's order to stop procurement of resources to generate solar energy was atypical in that Brawley appeared to be the sole author without input from the four other commissioners. Brawley, a former Republican member of the state legislature, was elected as chairman last year following a 2024 state law which flipped the commission to a Republican-appointed majority.

The CCEBA filed a petition for the commission to reconsider its order, arguing that Brawley lacked the legal authority to unilaterally change a prior commission order and that such an action would first require notice and a public hearing.

Jeff Hughes, a former commissioner whose term ended in 2025, also found Brawley's order peculiar, telling CPP that he "can't explain how or why it was done this way."

"If I was on the commission, I wouldn't have been happy not participating in this type of decision," he added.

Hughes was nominated to the commission in 2019 by then-governor Roy Cooper. He now works at the Nicholas Institute for Energy, Environment & Sustainability as a climate leader in residence.

A spokesperson for Gov. Josh Stein also criticized Brawley's order in an email to CPP.

"Governor Stein knows that North Carolinians are already struggling with rising energy costs, and the NC Utilities Commission Chairman's unilateral decision will only make things more expensive," the spokesperson said.

"In a time when energy affordability and sustainability are top of mind for North Carolinians, this decision moves our state in the wrong direction."

An uncertain path forward on solar energy

The commission has yet to issue an official response to the CCEBA's petition, and its general counsel James West told CPP that he couldn't comment on pending legal matters.

Carmody said his organization didn't receive any explanation of the order before or after it was issued. Duke Energy also seemed to have been caught off guard, but it hasn't weighed in on how it would like the commission to proceed.

"We're concerned about the message that this sends to the private sector," Carmody said. "Whether you're bringing new generation or new energy technology or something else to the state, it's not encouraging when a regulatory body unilaterally ceases your business."

The SELC, representing a group of other environmental advocacy organizations, supported the CCEBA with a filing of its own. That filing additionally argued that the commission's deferral of the 2026 solar procurement was arbitrary and capricious, wasn't based in evidence and would be costly for consumers.

Solar energy is critical as a lower-cost resource, the SELC argued, especially because other energy options like nuclear or gas-powered facilities aren't viable as near-term replacements for the lost solar energy because of development timelines and volatile cost fluctuations.

"The commission's theory was that the cost of solar might have gone up," Jimenez said. "Well, that's ignoring the very high likelihood that the cost of other resources that you'll need to fill in instead has gone up even more."



Binns



ARMY WOMEN'S FOUNDATION

The 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion, the only all-Black Women's Army Corps unit to serve overseas during World War II, marches in formation.

Six-year fight to honor Black women America forgot after World War II duty

By Camille D. Ford

FOR THE CHARLOTTE POST

On Feb. 3, 1945, more than 800 Black women boarded the SS Ile de France and sailed toward a war zone.

The ship encountered German U-boats in the Atlantic and took evasive maneuvers to survive the crossing. Nobody asked these women if they were afraid. They had volunteered to serve a country that was still debating whether to let them.

They were the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion, the only all-Black Women's Army Corps unit to serve overseas during World War II. They arrived in Birmingham, England, and found warehouses stacked floor to ceiling with undelivered mail, some of it backlogged for two years. Seven million American service members and civilians were waiting for letters from home. The Army estimated the job would take six months.

Please see **THE FIGHT** | 3A

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It all adds up for WSSU mathematics graduate

Continued from page 1A

paths available in the math field.

"Professor Maddux really won me over," Blue said. "She saw my potential and helped me shift my focus to math. I didn't know where I could go in math. She broke down different types of career paths. She introduced me to biostatistics, where I could use biology and math. It's the best of two worlds."

Soon, Blue decided to combine her interests in math and biology. She began research with Felicia Simpson, department chair and professor of mathematics, studying the effects of diabetes on aging among African Americans.

Blue credits Simpson with helping her achieve career goals through advice, experience and opportunities.

"The professors here made sure that we understood the material and that we developed a passion for math," she said.

During the past year, Blue has attended math conferences in Boston, Washington and New Orleans. She also presented at the Mathematical Association of America's Joint Mathematics Meetings in Washington.

Last summer, Blue completed an internship at the University of Iowa. Soon, she will head to Providence, Rhode Island, to continue her academic journey at Brown University, an Ivy League institution.

"Dr. Simpson exposed us to so many different opportunities. She's really helped us learn to do research. She

made sure we had resumes and CVs."

Through these experiences, Blue gained valuable exposure to the field from math professionals, who offered motivation and guidance.

"Dr. Simpson makes sure she gets us in the conferences," Blue said. "We get to see other people like us and get to hear more about their careers and their journeys. When we hear why they do what they do, it helps us with our journey."

A Charlotte native, Blue said she always knew she wanted to attend an HBCU. She chose WSSU based on recommendations of cousins who enjoyed their experiences and went on to have successful careers. In addition to academic performance and conducting research, Blue devoted time to Chi Alpha Bible study group.

"I felt like I could be myself here, and I was right," Blue said. "I found my spark here and learned how to live on my own. Winston-Salem State helped me chart my path and grow as an individual. There are always people here who are on my side who I can go to. There's the feeling that we're all in this together."

Though her lab work with Simpson, Blue envisions a future using her statistical expertise to improve health care outcomes in underserved communities.

"Primarily, I want to focus my research on the disparity in health care in African American communities because there isn't a lot of research," she said.

The fight to honor Black women America forgot after WWII duty

Continued from page 3A

They finished it in three.

When they came home in February 1946, there was no parade. No ceremony. No acknowledgment from the country they had crossed an ocean to serve. For eight decades, most Americans had never heard their names.

No mail, low morale

The 6888th worked in unheated warehouses in three shifts around the clock, processing 65,000 pieces of mail per shift. They designed their own card index system containing 7 million entries, using military serial numbers to distinguish between service members who shared common names, including 7,500 soldiers named Robert Smith. Their motto was "No mail, low morale," and they took it personally.

Maj. Fannie McClendon, who would go on to serve more than two decades in the military, remembered what drove them: "The girls were so happy to be able to find these gentlemen and get the mail to them."

Their commander, Major Charity Adams, the first Black woman commissioned in the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps, held the standard without apology. When a general threatened to send a white officer to take over the operation, Adams answered: "Over my dead body, sir."

Eighty-five percent of the 6888th women held college degrees or were former schoolteachers. They ranged in age from 17 to 52 and came from across the country. In Europe, many found something they hadn't fully experienced at home: people who treated them as equals. They shopped in Paris, visited British families, were welcomed in ways their own country hadn't offered them. Then the war ended and they went back.

What they came home to

The National Archives described what waited for them plainly: the absence of recognition "typified the general indifference, and even hostility, that Black veterans generally received from the broader American public after the second World War." A country that needed them badly enough to send them across U-boat-patrolled waters had little interest, once the war was won, in saying so.

Three of their number never came home at all. Pfc. Mary J. Barlow, Pfc. Mary H. Bankston, and Sgt. Dolores M. Browne were killed in a jeep accident in Rouen, France, on July 8, 1945, after the fighting ended. Their unit mates paid for their caskets out of pocket, organized services in a hospital chapel, and buried them in their service dress uniforms.

They now rest at Normandy American Cemetery, three of only four women among 9,387 Americans in foreign soil. For decades, almost no one came looking for them.

The woman who came looking

Colonel Edna W. Cummings read the story of the 6888th in 2015, more than a decade after retiring from 25 years of Army service.

She had risen to the rank of colonel, achieved by fewer than 5% of all Army officers, and had been the first Black woman commissioned through Appalachian State University's ROTC program. She understood from the inside what it cost to serve an institution that didn't always see you back.

"The story resonated with me as a veteran, as a Black woman," she said. "But

long before I served, this group of Black women served in the 6888th. They didn't have the freedoms I had, yet what they were able to accomplish and contribute to our nation in the last victory of World War II, that was a story I just knew needed to be told."

The campaign

In 2018, Cummings helped erect a monument at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, honoring the battalion. It was the first public act of a campaign that would take six more years. The Congressional Gold Medal, the nation's highest civilian honor, had been awarded to fewer than 200 recipients since George Washington received the first one, among them the crew of Apollo 11 and the Navajo Code Talkers.

Getting the 6888th into that company required navigating Congress district by district, reaching lawmakers through constituent connections to specific unit members. Senator Jerry Moran of Kansas became a champion. The House passed the legislation 422 to 0 in February 2022. President Biden signed the Six Triple Eight Congressional Gold Medal Act on March 14, 2022.

The legislation had less than a 3 percent chance of passing when Cummings started. A retired general officer friend had asked her a question that kept her moving: "How would you feel if you didn't at least try?" She had already given herself the answer by the time anyone got around to asking.

Great day coming

When the House passed the legislation in February 2022, Lena King, a 6888th veteran then 98 years old, said: "I wish more of the 6888th members were here, and I hope that I'm still here when President Biden signs the bill. That will be a great day."

She was.

Before she died in 2024 at age 100, Tyler Perry rushed an unfinished cut of his Netflix film about the battalion to show her on an iPad. Her response: "Thank you for reminding the world of the women, the Black women's contribution, to the world, to liberation, to the war effort, to all that matters." She didn't live to see the 2025 Capitol ceremony.

At the ceremony, the six surviving members and their families finally received what had been withheld for eighty years. Maj. Fannie McClendon, who said when the legislation first passed that "it never occurred to me that it would happen," was there. As of 2025, she was the last living member of the 6888th.

Keeping the promise

Cummings addressed the audience at the Capitol ceremony with the steadiness of someone who had spent years making sure the moment happened for someone else.

"Due to the tenacity of families and hundreds of supporters worldwide," she said, "the Six Triple Eight's history is known internationally. Please know that everyone in here helped shape the enduring legacy of the Six Triple Eight." She now serves as historical advisor for a Broadway musical about the 6888th in development and as tour historian for the 6888th Legacy Tour. Her memoir, "A Soldier's Life: A Black Woman's Rise from Army Brat to Six Triple Eight Champion," was published in 2025.

Fannie McClendon is still here. She is the last one.

Camille D. Ford is founder and editor-in-chief of Veteran Excellence Magazine.

A flurry of amendments for midterm voters to consider

Continued from page 1A

The amendments are two out of six proposed amendments as of Monday that could appear on the ballot in November, which would be the most since 2018, the last time Republicans faced a midterm under President Donald Trump. Critics have suggested the amendments are a bid to juice Republican turnout in a year where the GOP is in danger of losing a U.S. Senate race in the state for the first time since 2008.

Democrats on the committee raised doubts about the purpose and effect of both amendments: What issues do they address, and how do they actually change the law?

"Given the answers to a number of the questions, it doesn't seem like this amendment is actually changing anything," Sen. Julie Mayfield (D-Buncombe) said of the farming amendment. "I'm just curious why we're doing this. I mean, normally, what we do changes something, right?"

Sen. Lisa Barnes (R-Franklin), one of the bill's primary sponsors, said it's about showing support for the state's farmers. When asked to identify any specific threats to farming in North Carolina, she pointed only to nuisance lawsuits against farmers, which are already limited by state law.

Legislative staff indicated that would not change under the amendment. She could not identify any effects of the amendment's passage.

"This will give voters a chance to weigh in on this provision and enshrine it in our North Carolina constitution," Barnes said. "It sends a strong message to our farmers and our ag community that we value what they do, the job they do, the food they produce, and we want to protect farming and have food security here in North Carolina."

In response to a similar question from Mayfield over the right to work amendment, Sen. Ted Alexander (R-Cleveland), one of the bill's primary sponsors, called the amendment "an insurance policy that in the future, that this will be enshrined into our law." Right to work protections,

he said, have helped provide North Carolina "one of the most booming economies anywhere."

"I'm a simpleton and this is simplistic," said Sen. Carl Ford (R-Rowan), another primary sponsor on the bill. "All it says is, you can join all the unions and associations you want, but you cannot be forced or bullied into doing so."

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, North Carolina has the second-lowest union participation rate in the U.S. at 2.5%. The state passed right to work legislation in 1947, and it has remained intact through more than 60 years of Democratic control of the legislature and 15 years of Republican control.

The amendment keeps in place broad deference for the General Assembly to interpret the right to work, allowing the state's legislature to "prescribe general laws to further define and implement this section."

North Carolina's right to farm is similarly long-lived, passing in 1979 and remaining in place since then. And it's unclear whether the amendment would protect it from a future General Assembly — the right remains "subject only to laws enacted by the General Assembly and rules adopted pursuant to authority granted by the General Assembly," leaving open the possibility for substantial change to what that right entails.

Public speakers from labor organizations spoke against the right to work measure, saying it doesn't do anything more than the law that's already been in place for nearly 80 years.

Braxton Winston II, president of the North Carolina AFL-CIO, said during public comment that this is a waste of the legislature's resources while North Carolina workers urgently need lawmakers' help. "They are worrying about the impossible choice between keeping the lights on and putting food on the table."

"Our constitution is a sacred document, not a political tool," said Winston, a former Charlotte City Council member. "The constitution need not be riddled with laws that have already been securely in place for decades."

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Gerald O. Johnson | CEO/PUBLISHER

gerald.johnson@thecharlottepost.com

André P. Johnson | CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER

andre.johnson@thecharlottepost.com

Herbert L. White | EDITOR IN CHIEF

herb.white@thecharlottepost.com

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Callais v. Louisiana decision a direct threat to Black political power

The U.S. Supreme Court attempted to push this country backward, toward rules that echo the Jim Crow South, an era when millions of Black people were systematically denied their right to vote.



MIKAYLA MASSEY

Ruling on Callais v. Louisiana, the Court gutted one of the most important protections for free and fair elections in modern American history: Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

For decades, Section 2 has been a guardrail. It stopped politicians from drawing maps that diluted Black voting power through tactics like cracking and packing, which split Black communities across districts or squeezed us into districts to weaken our broader electoral influence. It ensured that racial discrimination in voting didn't have to be explicit to be illegal, only consequential.

Now, that protection is being stripped away.

This case began in Louisiana in 2024, after Black

voters successfully sued for fair representation, winning a map with two majority-Black congressional districts out of six, instead of just one. As a result, plaintiffs challenged the new map, claiming it was discriminatory. The Supreme Court took that argument and used it to fundamentally reshape how voting rights are protected in this country.

The ruling sets a dangerous standard: Racial gerrymandering must now be intentionally discriminatory to be illegal, not simply produce discriminatory outcomes.

Black communities know far too well that discrimination in America has never needed to announce itself to be effective.

Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act was designed to enforce the promises of the Fourteenth and Fifteenth amendments of U.S. Constitution — that Black and Brown voters have equal access not only to the ballot but also political power.

The consequences will not be abstract. Experts warn this ruling could eliminate nearly half of Black-majority districts across the South and poten-

tially cost up to 30% of seats held by the Congressional Black Caucus.

That means fewer Black representatives. Fewer advocates for policies that impact our communities. Fewer people in power who understand the lived realities of the people they serve.

This ruling impacts more than one district in Louisiana. National, state and local elections all over the country — from school boards to county commissions and state legislatures will be affected. Every level of government where decisions are made about our schools, our health care, our infrastructure and our futures.

And it will hit hardest in the South, the region of our home state, North Carolina.

Here, the state legislature already holds overwhelming power over redistricting. The governor cannot veto maps for redistricting or local bills in many cases. That means there are now even fewer checks at the federal level on lawmakers who want to redraw districts for political gain.

This decision is about more than simply redrawing maps; it is about

whether Black communities can elect leaders who represent them.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. once said, "The Voting Rights Act is not just a victory for Black Americans, it enriches the lives of all Americans." And President Lyndon B. Johnson made it plain: Denying people the right to choose their leaders is to deny democracy itself.

That is exactly what is at stake now, when politicians can redraw maps to choose their voters, rather than voters choosing their leaders — democracy is under attack.

North Carolina lawmakers have the power to act where the Supreme Court has weakened our rights. Real protection will require more than court decisions. It will take our communities organizing and mobilizing across the state. Make a plan to vote early this year between Oct. 15-30 in the upcoming general election and support leaders who are willing to protect our rights when the court will not. [5]

Mikayla Massey is the democracy and economy program manager for North Carolina Black Alliance.

NC lawmakers and courts turn their backs on our future

It was 22 years ago, in 1994, when five mostly rural Eastern North Carolina counties sued the state for failing to live up to North Carolina's constitutional obligation to deliver a "sound basic education."

For decades, the case that would come to be known as Leandro has stood as a clear affirmation that every child in this state is entitled to a sound, basic education, even as the case bounced around the courts. In the meantime, our legislature has overseen a willful decline in our public education system.



KIMBERLY JONES

The case recognized what educators and families have always known: opportunity should not depend on your zip code.

That is, until early April, when the North Carolina Supreme Court overturned enforcement of the Leandro case, marking a troubling departure from that promise.

I was raised and educated in Harnett County, the kind of community the original Leandro decision was meant to serve. In so many communities in our state, public schools are not just schools but the center of everything, the place where communities invest their time, their trust, and their hopes for the future.

That perspective has never left me. I have seen firsthand in my career as a teacher and in my travels across the state how schools shape opportunity, hold communities together, and how much is lost when they are not fully supported.

This is not simply a legal shift. It is a decision by these justices to abandon this constitutional obligation.

It's striking how quickly people wax nostalgic about how "great public schools used to be." They speak fondly of what those systems offered them, the teachers who shaped them, and the opportunities a strong public education created. Yet those same voices refuse to make the investments of time and money that made those experiences possible. We cannot celebrate the past while refusing to fund the present. That is not nostalgia; it's willful neglect.

Across this state, our public school classrooms are filled with students who are just as capable and full of promise as their predecessors. They don't need the empty promises and words of our neglectful legislature. They need resources, highly qualified and experienced educators, safe and well-equipped learning environments, and access to programs that prepare them for college, careers, and civic life.

Historically, there has been bipartisan recognition of this responsibility. Even the most conservative legislatures of the past understood that public education was foundational to the state's success. There were lines that were not crossed, principles that were treated as essential: namely, the idea that every child deserves a meaningful education.

That consensus is fading.

When a state retreats from its constitutional obligation to fund and support public education, it sends a clear message about whose futures matter and whose do not. As a veteran public school educator in North Carolina, it's becoming harder and harder to believe that some decision-makers truly see the education of all children as a real priority, especially as funding for private school vouchers that mostly go to wealthy families, skyrocket at the expense of our public schools.

The consequences of that shift have not been abstract. They are felt in under-resourced classrooms, in overextended and undercompensated teachers, and in the narrowing of opportunity for thousands of young people.

Republican leaders have justified this shift through conspiracy theories and fear-mongering campaigns. Let's be clear. The claim that North Carolina public schools are engaged in widespread indoctrination, along with similar incendiary accusations, is not only unfounded, but it is an intentional and deeply harmful distraction. Educators across the state are working every day to help students think critically, read deeply, solve problems, and engage meaningfully with the changing and diversifying world around them.

That work is demanding, complex, and deeply human. It deserves support, not baseless accusations from internet trolls and uninformed lawmakers.

When we invest in public schools, we invest in a more informed, capable, and engaged citizenry. That we don't is an indictment of the world our leaders seem to want. We should invest in the long-term health of our economy and our democracy. The question is not whether we can afford to uphold the promise of Leandro. It is whether we are willing to.

We must not give up this fight. It now shifts to local communities, school boards, county leaders, and anyone willing to advocate for public education and our collective future. That work is already taking place.

Kimberly Jones is a high school English and humanities teacher. She was the 2023 Burroughs Wellcome Fund North Carolina Teacher of the Year.

Time for use of the 25th Amendment

The U.S. Supreme Court attempted to push this country backward, toward rules that echo the Jim Crow South, an era when millions of Black people were systematically denied their right to vote.



LIB CAMPBELL

Ruling on Callais v. Louisiana, the Court gutted one of the most important protections for free and fair elections in modern American history: Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

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Lib Campbell is a retired Methodist pastor, retreat leader, columnist and host of the blogsite www.avirtualchurch.com.

Living on the minimum wage in NC

When the calendar turned to 2026, the minimum wage was increased in Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Hawaii, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Vermont, Virginia, and Washington.



GWEN FRISBIE-FULTON

But not North Carolina. Our minimum wage remains at \$7.25, the same as it was in 2009. The federal minimum.

Recently, I spoke to a young father in his early 20s in Wilkesboro. He and his girlfriend, and their two-year-old son, live with his grandmother, where they pay for a room. It's not ideal, he told me, and he's eager to set out on his own and set his family up in their own house or apartment somewhere.

"But I can't imagine how we are going to get there," he said, shaking his head.

I can't imagine either. He works for \$8.50 an hour on a landscaping crew, and his girlfriend waits tables at a locally owned restaurant, earning North Carolina's tipped wage of just \$2.13. On a busy night, she can clear \$10 an hour.

In 2026, that doesn't get you very far in Wilkesboro or anywhere else. It didn't do much back in 2009 either. The family is in the easiest possible situation given the financial circumstances — two working parents with just one child between them living in a relatively low-cost rural county — but still, their financial future looks bleak.

The MIT Living Wage Calculator estimates that a family of this size and makeup needs nearly \$10,000 a year for food and another \$10,000 for childcare, \$14,000 a year for transportation, and \$17,000 a year for housing. In other words, both parents need to be making over \$20 an hour to move out of grandma's home.

They are far, far from that.

There have been at-

tempts to raise the minimum wage in North Carolina; the most recent legislation was introduced just last year.

But both House Bill 339 (Economic Security Act), which would raise the wage to \$20 an hour, and Senate Bill 326 (Fair Minimum Wage Act), which would raise the wage to \$18 an hour, remain stuck, without even so much as a hearing.

It's a wild disservice to North Carolinian workers to refuse to raise the minimum wage, and that inaction is creating a slow-rolling crisis in our communities.

On the same visit to Wilkesboro, I visited a homeless camp set back in the woods behind a strip mall. Of the six men living there, every single one of them worked, but their wages weren't enough to get them into housing. Living outdoors in the winter was taking a toll on their health; one man had spent the last two nights in the emergency room.

All the men were relying on services from churches,

and one relied on a church to get to his job each day, the others for food and other basic support.

I'm glad those churches are there for them, but it's beyond time for N.C. and federal lawmakers to step up, too. This is a great state, but it's not cheap to live here. We are being outpaced by states with significantly lower costs of living.

No one who is working should have to rely on charity, and towns and counties shouldn't be forced to scramble to support more and more people being rendered unstable due to criminally low wages.

For too long, North Carolina has touted itself as one of the most business-friendly states. My trip to Wilkesboro reminded me of the reality — it comes at the expense of our people.

Gwen Frisbie-Fulton is a North Carolina writer and organizer who writes about working-class issues and people. She writes *Working Class Storytelling on Substack*.

Sports

THURSDAY, MAY 21, 2026



TENNESSEE ATHLETICS

The Carolina Panthers believe receiver Chris Brazzell II's speed and competitiveness as a pass-catcher will translate to the NFL.

Brazzell answers predraft concerns

Carolina Panthers rookie receiver shows off athletic skills and maturity in his first NFL minicamp

By Jeff Hawkins
FOR THE CHARLOTTE POST

Chris Brazzell II could provide the Carolina Panthers' evolving offense with a deep threat Bryce Young covets.

If, that is, the rookie wide receiver "can hold it together," as one NFL Draft analyst suggested moments after general manager Dan Morgan made his third-round selection April 24. ESPN's Adam Schefter utilized the term "maturity" during a pre-draft take on the former Tennessee standout.

Hold it together? Maturity?

Certainly, those terms could be deemed red flags, along with reports that surfaced last August when Brazzell was arrested after a traffic stop near

campus in Knoxville, Tennessee.

Team research started in earnest.

After carefully cultivating Carolina's locker-room culture, coach Dave Canales confirmed Brazzell confidently cleared the club's pre-draft character concerns.

"It was just a matter of us getting to know the guy, how he learns, how he relates from a personal standpoint," Canales said after Saturday's rookie minicamp practice. "And we did the work. We had him at the combine in the formal meetings. We brought him in for a (top) 30 visit. We followed up with Zooms. Just to check

all those boxes of, 'This is a guy we would love to work with.'"

Razzle and dazzle

Brazzell proved plenty during his NFL baptism.

Competing against draft picks, undrafted free agents and other first-year prospects, the 6-foot-4, 189-pounder flashed his speed and catch radius. After getting a close look at the second-generation NFL player during practices, the Panthers were left with few concerns about his potential.

"He's a heck of an athlete, a different type of level, for sure," undrafted rookie quarterback Haynes King said. "He makes plays. He's made plays throughout this camp."

King, who played at Georgia Tech,

didn't know Brazzell before minicamp, but left impressed.

"We've had conversations and I've gotten to know him over this weekend," King said. "He's a great person. He's funny, for sure."

But not mistake-free.

Brazzell's legal problems stemmed from driving with a suspended license after failing to appear in court regarding a speeding ticket. When asked for his side of the story by reporters, Brazzell came clean and admitted making a mistake.

"Long story short, I just really didn't know my license was suspended," he said. "It wasn't one of those things where I was driving around with a sus-

Please see CHRIS | 6A



Brazzell

We want everybody. HBCU is an inclusive community. We want to make sure that everyone knows that.

Minority Baseball Prospects President REGGIE HOLLINS

HBCU baseball and softball showcase returns



MINORITY PROSPECTS BASEBALL

The annual Black college baseball and softball showcase returns for games, fastest-man and fastest-woman competitions and a symposium June 4-6 in Charlotte and Kannapolis.

By Cameron Williams
cameron.williams@thecharlottepost.com

Black college all-star baseball and softball are returning to the Charlotte area.

Carolina Metro Reds, Minority Baseball Prospects, Knothole Foundation and Atrium Health Ballpark are collaborating for HBCU All-Star Weekend, a showcase of family-friendly games and engagement June 4-6 in Charlotte and Kannapolis.

The goal is to shape a community event centered around HBCU student-athletes.

The calendar of events:

June 4

Life After Sports Symposium at Atrium Health Ballpark in Kannapolis, 4:30 p.m.

The symposium brings together student athletes with leaders in business, finance and community development. The aim is to help prepare the student athletes for life after baseball and softball.

"We had a great life after sports seminar where we talk to kids, we talk to the athletes, their parents, about a lot of different things," said Jeff Johnson, the showcase's lead marketer.

"When you hang the cleats up, what are you going to do? We've got leaders from the financial world, leaders from the business world, from the sporting world, and they come and they just talk to the kids straight up. And these

Please see HBCU | 6A

Gaines seizes NCCU moment

Olivia Gaines is getting a second chance at redemption.

After leading the SIAC's Allen University to a 36-19 overall record in two seasons and 29-14 in conference play, Gaines was fired in March.

According to WIS News, the university released an email stating, "The priority remains providing a positive and competitive environment for our student athletes both on and off the court."

Take that for what it's worth.

Gaines was officially introduced to Egleland last week.

She sounded ready to lead a program that has never won a MEAC regular season title or advanced to a tournament final. North Carolina Central's last conference championship was in 2007 as a Division II member of the CIAA.

"North Carolina Central is where I really wanna be," said Gaines, who played under South Carolina coach Dawn Staley. "I think I can do really, really well here. ...You guys all believed in me. You believed in the vision. ...I want to change it back to a winning program."

Gaines is the third former D2 coach to lead the Eagles in the Division I era. Former coach Joli Robinson, who coached at NCCU for 16 seasons (1996-2012), led the transition before getting the boot in a no-win situation.

NCCU was in a five-year tran-

Please see GAINES | 6A



BONITTA BEST



Gaines

Charlotte FC breaks winless drought, aims for momentum

By Herbert L. White
herb.l.white@thecharlottepost.com

Charlotte FC finally played with energy, and three points followed.

The Crown snapped a six-match winless streak with Saturday's 3-1 win over Toronto FC, their fourth straight in the series. After a month of struggles across all competitions, Charlotte (5-6-3, 18 points) put things right with a game left before the two-month World Cup break.

I think they can hopefully take some confidence from the game," coach Dean Smith said. "There were some good performances,

there was some parts that we can do better, and that's what we did on the training ground last week. I said to them before the game that pressure is a privilege. When you're a professional sports person, then there's going to be pressure on you. Treat it as privilege but go and enjoy playing football because there's a lot of other people who would want to be in their position, and a lot of the players ... went and tried to enjoy the game."

There was plenty to enjoy after a slow start against Toronto, especially on the attack. Wilfried Zaha, who is out of contract next month, opened the scoring 19 minutes in.

Pep Biel scored his seventh goal and fifth assist, which boosted his tally to 39 total MLS goal contributions at Charlotte FC career (19 goals and 20 assists). Biel's 84th-minute penalty kick closed the scoring.

Kerwin Vargas added two assists to give him to three for the season and his second match with multiple assists with the Crown. His first multi-assist match was in 2023 against FC Cincinnati.

David Schnegg put Charlotte FC in front for good with his tally in the 35th minute. The goal - a left-footed strike from outside the box

Please see CHARLOTTE | 6A

Gaines seizes moment

Continued from page 5A

sition period with no conference home. Those seasons for women's and men's basketball were brutal.

Vanessa Taylor was hired in 2012. Taylor had a successful track record at Johnson C. Smith, including a CIAA Tournament championship, but her selection had its share of critics. Some people wanted an alumna with a DI background.

Taylor's coaching philosophy of recruiting only high school student-athletes wasn't popular either, particularly as the transfer recruiting process was becoming more popular. Her contract was not renewed after a 33-113 record.

Next came Trisha Stafford-Odom in 2017 from D2 Concordia University Irvine.

Bad. BAD. B-A-D hire in so many ways on so many levels that had little to do with basketball. Stafford-Odom was fired in 2023. She compiled a 55-108 record.

Associate head coach Terrence Baxter was named interim and after a decent season in which the Eagles finished

above .500, was named permanent. It was downhill from there. Baxter went 18-41 the last two seasons.

Gaines is looking for quick results. "I don't want to take a long time to win basketball games, I really don't," she said. "I don't want to get too big, but I'm just telling y'all the truth. I'm just not used to losing as a player or as a coach, so I'm going to stand on business - be all gas and no brakes."

NCCU hasn't been running on high octane in a long time. Some of it was coaching but it also was a lack of funding. Baseball had more scholarships than women's basketball before it was eliminated as a sponsored sport.

Gaines knows NCCU doesn't have the NIL funds to compete for certain players, but there are plenty of fish to be caught with the right bait.

"Especially in the state of North Carolina, anything that we can get in our tax bracket, I want to get," she said. "... I'm going to aim to get kids who actually want to be here."

Bonitta Best is sports editor at The Triangle Tribune in Durham.

Chris Brazzell answers predraft concerns in camp

Continued from page 5A

research on Brazzell, who developed into one of Canales' "favorite" prospects. "Yeah, they asked me (about the arrest), but they understand," Brazzell said. "I'm not a troublemaker. I'm 22 now, and that's my only experience with the law. Like I said, pay your speeding tickets on time." During his brief time with the Panthers, Brazzell drew early comparisons to former receiver Robbie Anderson. Canales didn't fall into the question trap but anticipates Brazzell could develop into an Anderson-type receiver. Anderson's best season was in 2020 with the Panthers when he posted 95 catches for 1,096 yards and three touchdowns. Forty-nine catches resulted in first downs.

"I try to stay away from comparisons, but I'll be fair - tall guy like that with the speed that he has, there are some similarities there," Canales said. "And Robbie was able to make an impact pretty early with his ability to capture the offense. That's the challenge that's out there for Chris. How quickly can we get him up to speed in our concepts? There's a lot of things he's gotta work on."

After starting his college career at Tulane, Brazzell spent two seasons at Tennessee, breaking out with 62 receptions for 1,017 yards and nine touchdowns last season, earning All-America and All-SEC honors. Morgan and the scouting crew did their

research on Brazzell, who developed into one of Canales' "favorite" prospects.

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HBCU showcase returns

Continued from page 5A

guys and all the athletes have opportunities to ask questions in small groups together. We rotate around, and it's just a great, great event."

June 5

Minority Softball Prospects HBCU Softball All-Star Event at Stick Williams Dream Fields in Charlotte. Gates open at 6 p.m.

"We're taking it over to the big field," Johnson said. "That field has given us more of an arena type atmosphere, more of a big-time event type atmosphere, better sound system, better visuals; the lighting is better. There is a lot more space for people to sit."

"That change alone has helped elevate it and putting the young ladies out front in the arena they need to be in."

The event will include a fastest prospect race, home run derby and the game. Johnson C. Smith President Valerie Kinloch will throw the ceremonial first pitch and the HBCU All-Star Alumni band will perform in the middle of the fourth inning.

"Right now, we've got about 40-45 band members from various HBCUs all over the Southeast ... and really all over the country coming in to be a part of it," Johnson said. "They'll be performing in both the softball and baseball games."

June 6

Minority Baseball Prospects HBCU Baseball All-Star Event at Atrium Health Ballpark starts at 3:30 p.m.

There's also a free MBP Helping Hands Youth Clinic that lets children engage directly with HBCU athletes and coaches on the field.

Batting practice will take place from 3:45-5:05 p.m. and at 5:30 p.m. field level fan access opens. There's a fastest man competition, home run derby and the all-star game.

The HBCU alumni band will perform a 10-minute pregame show as well.

Growing the community

MBP President Reggie Hollins said the showcase is for everyone. He wants people of all backgrounds, races and walks of life to participate.

"We want everybody," Hollins said. "HBCU is an inclusive community. We want to make sure that everyone knows that. ... This is year six on the baseball side and our impact reports say we have had more than 30% of other ethnicities other than African American participate and on the softball side it is close to that."

"We are right about 23% on the softball side. This is year four on that side and they are continuing to grow as well."

The Crown loans Neeley to Independence

By Herbert L. White
herb.l.white@thecharlottepost.com

Charlotte FC has loaned defender Jack Neeley to Charlotte Independence for a month.

Neeley, 20, is Charlotte FC's third-ever homegrown signing, when he joined in 2023 after moving through the club's academy system. Since then, Neeley has made 74 appearances for Crown Legacy FC, the Crown's MLS Next Pro side, totaling more than 6,000 minutes while contributing

four goals and one assist. He's also made five first-team appearances with Charlotte FC, including a 45-minute stretch in the U.S. Open Cup last month against Atlanta United.

"We appreciate Charlotte FC working with us to bring Jack in," Independence coach Mike Jeffries said in a statement. "As a local player, we've had plenty of opportunities to watch him, and we feel he can add to our group with his defensive qualities and ability on

the ball. He gives us another quality option at center back and outside back as we enter a busy stretch of matches."

Neeley's contract with Charlotte FC goes through 2026 with an option for 2027. Neeley followed Brian Romero and Nimfasha Berchimas as homegrown prospects to sign with the Crown. Neeley joined the Charlotte FC academy in 2020 from Charlotte Soccer Academy.



TROY HULL | THE CHARLOTTE POST

Kerwin Vargas tallied an assist on David Schnegg's goal in Charlotte FC's 3-1 win against Toronto FC on May 16, 2026 at Bank of America Stadium. The win pushed Charlotte (5-6-3, 18 points) into seventh in the MLS Eastern Conference.

Charlotte FC breaks drought

Continued from page 5A

- was Schnegg's second goal for Charlotte FC and first in MLS play.

"It was good ball, I think, from Kerwin," he said. "This is how we trained [over the] week, and then I got the opportunity ... to shoot, and happy that it went in."

Said Smith: "Really good finish. That's the kind of thing he can do. I thought he made some really good runs at times, just want the final ball as well from him."

Schnegg has seven goal contributions in all competitions in 2026 (five in MLS, two in U.S. Open Cup), which topped his season high in only eight games with the Crown. He had four with DC United over 32 games in 2024.

With three points in tow, Charlotte's attention shifts to Saturday's home match against New England Revolution. With two months off, adding three points that could potentially move them past New York Red Bulls into sixth in the Eastern Conference would build momentum for the stretch drive.

"I think we came back from a few not great results, where maybe we deserved a little bit better, so it was not easy for us," Schnegg said. "In the dressing room we were talking about how important it is to win at home again, and overall, to be honest, it's always hard to reflect on the game immediately after, so it's just so superb to get the three points."

The Charlotte Post

The Charlotte Post
SPORTS CHARLOTTE
Podcast with a home team advantage