The Charlotte Post

Life!

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2026 SECTION B

Push for healthy foods at corner stores may cost US

By Fran Smith
CENTER FOR HEALTH JOURNALISM

Nick Stanley, a third-generation convenience store owner in Huntington, Indiana, is scrambling to meet tough new federal requirements for the foods he must stock if he wants to continue accepting SNAP.

Thousands of small business owners who participate in the low-income food assistance program face the same challenge. As some stores, perhaps many, lose SNAP authorization because complying with the rules is too expensive or impractical, it will be harder for people who rely on the benefits to buy food they need.

Beginning Nov. 4, the government requires stores to offer a wider selection of healthy groceries, including more fresh, perishable options.

That may seem like a reasonable effort to improve nutrition and health in low-income communities. But by more than doubling the variety of healthy foods stores must offer, the policy threatens to squeeze out businesses that serve as an indispensable resource in rural areas, tribal nations and urban neighborhoods that don't have easy access to supermarkets.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture acknowledges the requirements will not affect the Walmarts and Safeways of the world. They already carry everything that's required, and more. But 70% of SNAP retailers are bodegas, convenience stores and other small grocers, and only half of them — about 99,000 — meet the new standards, according to a recent USDA analysis.

Complying will take investments in refrigeration, storage, inventory and new supplier contracts at a time when grocery sales have slowed — in part because so many families are struggling financially and millions of Americans have lost food assistance.

And the stocking requirements come on the heels of unprecedented rules in some states, including Indiana, that restrict the foods and drinks customers may buy with SNAP benefits.

For small business owners like Stanley, all the upheaval may make participating in SNAP more trouble and expense than it's worth.

Stanley and his sister co-own a small chain, JJ's Convenience Stores, started by their grandfather in 1980. One of their stores, in a residential neighborhood of Huntington, population 17,167, takes SNAP.

"It's not a huge money-making venture for us," he said. "We're trying to do this as more of a com-

Please see **PUSH** | 2B



ATRIUM HEALTH

Charlotte-based Advocate Health, which includes Atrium Health, has pledged an additional $1.24 billion in worker compensation and benefits starting in 2027.

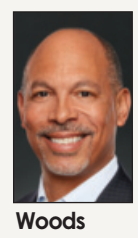
Advocate Health pledges $1.24B for workers pay

Minimum wage for starting employees will rise to $20 per hour

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

Charlotte-based Advocate Health is committing more than $1 billion in workforce compensation and benefits in 2027.

The healthcare company announced $1.24 billion in staff investments, with $846 million more in compensation linked to a starting minimum wage of $20 per hour – $1.15 more than the current rate – and another $390 million in benefits. Advocate will also provide four weeks of paid parental bonding leave and cover most healthcare costs for employees and their families.



Woods

"The most important investment we make isn't in buildings, technology or equipment. It's in our people," Advocate Health CEO Gene Woods said in a statement. "Healthcare is a 24/7 calling and every single day our 170,000 teammates bring extraordinary skill, compassion and commitment to the patients and communities we serve. Their dedication is what brings our purpose to life for the millions of people who count on us each year."

The previous starting wage of $18.85 per hour was established in 2026. With the $20 per hour standard, workers will earn $26,520 more annually than the federal minimum wage over a 40-hour workweek.

Advocate already pays roughly 83% of employee medical costs, with workers responsible for premiums and out-of-pocket expenses. For 2027, Advocate Health will invest an additional $138 million, absorbing more than 90% of the projected $149 million increase in medical plan costs.

> **"The most important investment we make isn't in buildings, technology or equipment. It's in our people."**
>
> Advocate Health CEO
> **GENE WOODS**

The improved compensation, which includes merit increases, incentives, pay-range updates and other investments, are expected to impact about 40,000 patient-facing employees across Advocate Health's network, which includes Atrium Health. The company's total benefits commitment is now $3.2 billion.

"The benefits that matter most are the ones that make a real difference in people's lives," said Nakesha Lopez, Advocate's senior executive vice president and chief people and culture officer. "We want our benefits to reflect what teammates need at different stages of their lives, while keeping affordability at the forefront and providing meaningful support for their health, families and financial futures."

Next year's benefits will include:

· Extended fully paid parental bonding leave to four weeks with

Please see **ADVOCATE** | 2B

Make hosting easy, memorable and fun

FEATURE IMPACT

From celebratory parties to casual get-togethers, hosting is a wonderful way to bring people together, share laughs and make memories.

Of course, planning and hosting can be quite a bit of work, so a little preparation can go a long way to ensure an enjoyable time for everyone, including the host.

Keep the menu simple

Naturally, you want to make sure your guests are well-fed and happy, but trying to achieve a Michelin-star rating in your home kitchen is usually just a recipe for stressing yourself out. If you're serving a meal, stick to some tried-and-true crowd-pleasers you can make in your sleep. Cook or bake in advance as much as possible so you'll have less to worry about on the day itself.

Let guests know what to bring

Good houseguests often enjoy contributing something, so make it easy for them – and yourself – by letting them know how they can help. You could ask one person to bring snacks, another to pick up beverages and a third to cover dessert. Potluck-style lunches or dinners are a great way to make sure everyone has enough to eat and drink while taking the pressure off just one person's shoulders.

Have a backup plan

In case you're arranging an outdoor get-together, remember the weather can betray you. Keep alternative plans on standby in case you need to move

Please see **MAKE** | 2B

A peek behind booming vintage fashion

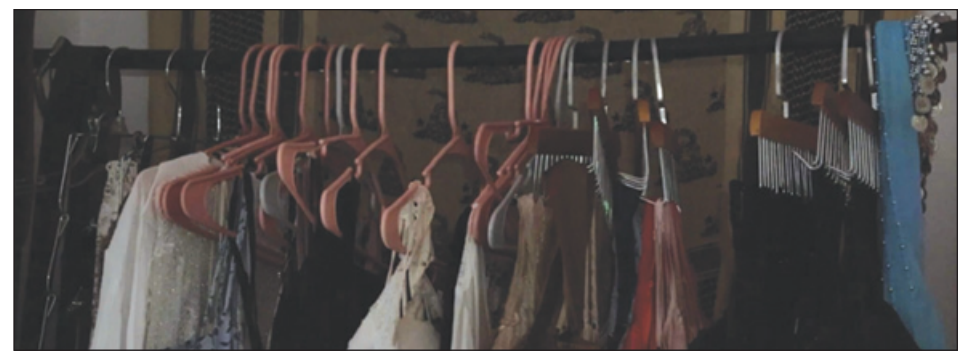
By Daneen Khan
UNC MEDIA HUB

Riley Phillips grew up fantasizing about having a closet like the Disney Channel characters she saw on screen.

Today, her collection of more than 2,000 garments would make even Hannah Montana jealous.

Phillips has amassed sparkly pink halter tops, silk slip dresses, beaded handbags and suede cowboy boots, all of which she sourced for her vintage clothing business, Finders Keepers. She sells hundreds of secondhand pieces at markets across North Carolina, the Durham Vintage Collective storefront in downtown Durham and her recently launched online shop.

Businesses like Finders Keepers are popping up across the state — and country — as young adults increasingly choose secondhand clothing over buying new apparel. More than 60% of Gen Z consumers shopped secondhand in 2025, according to an annual report from the online reselling platform ThredUp. The report found the global secondhand market to be growing twice as fast as the overall apparel market.



UNC MEDIA HUB

Vintage clothing has become a vibrant section of the fashion industry, with pop-up shops and bazaars growing in prominence.

Instead of spending hours scouring thrift stores for one good find, many young adults buy from small businesses, where people like Phillips have already done the hard work of hunting down high-quality pieces. Vintage markets pop up nearly every week across North Carolina cities like Charlotte and Durham. Larger events like the NC Vintage Bazaar in Raleigh bring more than 65,000 attendees to shop from hundreds of vendors, and digital marketplaces such as Depop and Vinted continue to gain momentum among young consumers.

UNC senior Aisha Moreau-Silva said she bought more than half of her current wardrobe secondhand. She purchases clothing primarily from sellers at pop-up vintage markets, and while the smaller businesses aren't necessarily cheaper than store prices, she still prefers their unique pieces to those in the malls.

"I occasionally buy from Depop or Poshmark, but I do most of my thrifting in person because I like to see how it'll feel," she said.

What makes something 'vintage?'

"Vintage" is a buzzword

Please see **INSIDE** | 2B

Army veterans show how to make an impact in new ways after service ends

BRANDPOINT

For military service members, transitioning to civilian life brings about the question: What comes next?

The answer isn't the same for everyone, but for the 8 million Veterans who are part of the civilian workforce today, there's no question that service has shaped their journeys.

Meet Army veterans whose training and experiences in uniform have paved the pathway to new careers that prove that a soldier's ability to build community and make an impact continues long after military service ends.

Practice corporate law

Lucas Baker credits his Army service with helping him develop skills he still uses today as an attorney, including perseverance, adaptability, and resilience.

Originally from Grimes, Iowa, Baker joined ROTC at Drake University and commissioned as an Army Infantry Officer. At 22, he was leading 40 junior Soldiers, many of whom had combat experience, an assignment he remembers as daunting but crucial to his development as a leader. He also completed Ranger School, where he says he learned perseverance, adaptability, and resilience.

"The Army taught me how to lead under pressure, communicate effectively, and manage competing priorities in demanding environments," Baker said.

Help solve complex problems

At Boston Consulting Group, Collin D'Antonio helps organizations solve complex problems, navigate change, and improve how they operate. He recently earned an MBA from the University of Michigan's Ross School of Business and says his Army experience strengthened the leadership, decision-making, and problem-solving skills he brings to the work.

Before joining Boston Consulting Group as a management consultant, Collin D'Antonio spent 10 years in the Army flying in combat zones where each mission depended on trust and teamwork.

As a child, he was living in Albuquerque, New Mexico, when he witnessed the Sept. 11 attacks unfold on television, an event that inspired him to consider a career in service. "When something bigger than yourself needs to be done, you have a duty to contribute," he says. He went on to attend West Point and graduated in 2014 with a bachelor's degree in systems engineering.

During his 10 years in the Army, he began his aviation career as an AH-64 Apache helicopter pilot before being selected to join the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment, where he transitioned to flying the MH-47 Chinook. He flew in combat and led teams into combat zones, where each mission depended on trust and teamwork.

Leading soldiers in high-pressure environments taught him how to navigate uncertainty, build trust quickly, and solve complex problems, skills he now applies to his work at Boston Consulting Group.



BRANDPOINT

Antonio Johnson (left) is program manager with the Army's Partnership for Your Success which builds corporate partnerships to help veterans transitioning to the civilian workforce.

"If I didn't have my time in the Army, if I wasn't able to do time in Special Operations, I probably wouldn't have gotten into the busi-

Please see **VETERANS** | 3B

Advocate Health boosts workers benefits in 2027

Continued from page 1B

support before, during and after leave, including individualized guidance, lactation resources, childcare planning and parenting support through the child's first year. If both parents work for Advocate Health, each receives the full benefit.

· Expanded paid bereavement leave with five paid days and more covered relationships.

· Continued access to GLP-1 medications for weight loss with added guidance and resources.

· Retirement contributions of up to 6% of eligible pay. Advocate Health contributes up to 6% of eligible pay: a dollar-for-dollar match up to 3%, plus an additional 3% automatically.

· No-cost mental health support for employees and members of their households, including virtual therapy, coaching, self-guided well-being tools and family support resources.

· Education assistance covering more than 1,300 eligible programs, from high school diplomas and English-language learning to doctoral degrees. Eligible full-time employees can receive up to $5,250 a year and part-time teammates up to $2,625, with up to $7,500 a year for select nursing programs.

· A student loan repayment assistance program with lifetime support of up to $21,000 for eligible full-time workers and $10,500 for eligible part-time employees with qualifying federal or private student loans.

"We want teammates to be able to build long, fulfilling careers with us," Lopez said. "That means creating opportunities to learn and grow, removing barriers that can get in the way, and opening more pathways into healthcare. When people can see a future for themselves here, they're more likely to stay, grow and make a difference for the patients and communities we serve."

Inside vintage clothing boom

Continued from page 1B

among secondhand resellers and consumers, but the term's usage fluctuates. Vogue defines vintage clothing as items that are at least 20 years old.

Finders Keepers features items from the '50s to the early 2000s. Phillips describes her curation style as "Carrie Bradshaw meets disco cowgirl": on her online shop, customers can browse through pieces including a sparkly Betsey Johnson leopard-print trench coat, hot pink sequin tank top from the '70s and Versace technicolor miniskirt from the '90s. She's heavily inspired by '90s and 2000s "it-girls" like Cher and Raven-Symoné, as well as iconic characters like Lizzie McGuire and Hannah Montana ("i'm riley & ur watching disney channel," the Finders Keepers Instagram bio reads).

"I thought I would work in galleries full time until I started doing my business," Phillips said. "Then I was like, wait, this is kind of scratching the same itch as curating an art show has scratched for me in the past."

Durham resident Leah Stuebe, the co-owner of Flying Apple Vintage, lists more than 2,000 vintage items on her online shop — including a '40s wool army jacket, '70s mod minidress and '90s satin evening gown — and sells at vintage stores across the Triangle. Her prices vary from $18 to more than $400, depending on quality, brand and decade.

"We want our customers to feel like buying vintage can be as easy as buying from a fast fashion retailer," Stuebe said.

Building a business

Vintage resellers are often criticized on social media for "hijacking" thrift stores, with some users accusing the sellers of snatching high-quality garments away from people in need and upselling them for profit.

UNC senior Sarah Younan, who has sold more than 150 pieces on the reselling platform Depop, sells pieces she thrifted for herself but no longer fit or match her personal style.

"When I did go to the thrift store to buy stuff to sell it on Depop, I would try to think about what people would want to buy on Depop, if that makes sense. But honestly, a lot of the stuff I thrifted to sell on Depop actually didn't end up selling," she explained.

When picking pieces, Younan is drawn to "anything eclectic": beaded embellishments, intricate embroidery, grungy details. Though she no longer posts consistently on Depop, she would aim to keep her prices under $30, knowing consumers on the platform often send lower offers before purchasing items.

Phillips said she also began building her inventory through thrifting. But as Finders Keepers has grown, she now sources with wholesalers — most of Finders Keepers's inventory comes from European suppliers, according to the businesses' website — or through private buys.

"I've established some really strong relationships in the area, so people kind of know to come to me when they have a lot of vintage or clothing that they want to get rid of," she said.

Maintaining a successful vintage business requires more time and effort than just picking a piece, snapping a picture and listing it online. Phillips works full time as the director of digital strategy at Duke University's Trinity College of Arts & Sciences, so she dedicates her evenings to building Finders Keepers. She starts by making necessary repairs and cleaning every garment beforehand, excluding fragile materials like silk or leather that require more professional handling. Then, she'll research and price up to 100 items a night.

"I'm using my tagging gun, pricing every item individually, researching brands, textiles, manufacturers, origins, to make sure I actually know everything I can about the item," she said.

Stuebe has a similar approach when sourcing for Flying Apple Vintage: She gathers pieces from individuals and recycling facilities. Her favorite parts of the business include bringing items back to life, styling pieces and, of course, "the thrill of the hunt."

She loves going from being uncertain about a piece to seeing the vision after styling, and she hopes her work inspires others to think creatively in their own fashion choices.

Newer isn't always better

In today's online-shopping-fueled economy, vintage fashion is increasingly accessible. Even when someone stumbles upon a perfect piece in a store, Stuebe said that person can easily search online for similar items from resellers.

"Fashion repeats itself too, so there are absolutely lots of secondhand choices just waiting to be snatched up," she said.

For Phillips, the biggest pull for vintage clothing is its quality. Finders Keepers prides itself in encouraging a deliberate approach to shopping instead of rapidly purchasing clothing that falls apart or gets tossed out after a season. Phillips believes people are more attracted to things designed to last over trendy low-quality brands.

The Environmental Protection Agency found more than 65% of textiles generated in 2018 ended up in landfills that same year. Popular fast fashion brands such as Zara, H&M and SHEIN mass-produce trendy pieces to sell at low prices, sacrificing quality — and safe working conditions — for profit.

Younan and Moreau-Silva both agreed that buying newer apparel often involves spending more money on lower-quality pieces. Plus, the college students love to shape their personal styles through unique pieces.

"To the degree which I thrift, it is still giving consumerism," Younan said. "But it does make me feel better knowing that I'm not investing a lot of money into modern companies, and I'm more so investing money into brands and thrift stores that I know will get back to my local community."

Make hosting easy and fun

Continued from page 1B

the party indoors. Tidy up your living areas and ensure there is enough seating for everyone attending. It doesn't hurt to have indoor-friendly entertainment options available too – often, people are content to just sit and chat with one another, but depending on the crowd, classic party games can still be a hit.

Set up kids' zones

If you'll be welcoming children to your home, provide one or two dedicated areas where they can safely play and enjoy themselves away from the rest of the action. Having an assortment of toys, games, coloring books, chalk, bubble wands and other sources of kid-friendly fun makes it easy for the whole family to have a great time.

Make prep and cleanup a breeze

Keeping quality cleaning supplies on hand like Bravo paper towels means you can quickly wipe up spills and messes while you're prepping. Then, after your guests depart, the strong, absorbent sheets make it easy to get your countertops sparkling again. They're made with 75% curbside recycled paper and cardboard, making them sustainable-household-approved. Use them with water or your go-to cleaning solution before enjoying some well-deserved post-hosting relaxation in your fresh, clean home.

"Hosting can put paper towels to work, from quick countertop wipes to stuck-on foods and bigger cleanup jobs," said chef and lifestyle expert Jamie Gwen. "Bravo has a clothlike feel that is soft on your hands, but it is still durable enough for scrubbing and strong enough to rinse and reuse."

Find more smart cleaning tips at BravoTowel.com.

Push for healthy foods at corner stores may cost US

Continued from page 1B

munity service."

The two major supermarkets in town are across a four-lane highway, he said. Many of his customers have limited transportation and walk or bike to his store. People don't load up on groceries but pop in for basics: eggs, milk, cereal, not to mention a pack of cigarettes or a bottle of soda.

The stocking requirements are not Stanley's first round of wrestling with new SNAP rules. Since January, he has contended with Indiana's ban on using SNAP to purchase soda, other sugary drinks and certain candy.

Indiana didn't publish a detailed list of forbidden items, Stanley said. And he doesn't have a compliance department, as big-box stores do, to figure out exactly what was off limits. Pepsi was obvious, but what about orange juice? If it was 100% juice, a customer could still pay with SNAP. If the drink contained an added sweetener, customers would have to use their own money.

Stanley hauled his laptop around the store, scanned product barcodes one by one, and studied the ingredients. Then he and his sister "did our best," he said, to determine what's allowable and not.

With the new stocking requirements, he's dealing with another layer of complexity — again, with little government support.

Until the change, stores had to carry three varieties of food in each of four staple categories — fruits and vegetables, dairy, grains, and protein. Now stores must stock seven varieties in each category and more perishables.

It's no small task to figure out which foods count toward which category. USDA published only limited guidance in September, just a few weeks before the deadline to comply, said Margaret Mannion, director of government relations for the National Association of Convenience Stores.

Store owners have struggled to understand complicated rules and arcane food distinctions. For example, in which category do peas fit? Under the old requirements, they counted as a vegetable. Now they're considered protein. Nuts and seeds are protein, too — but almonds, walnuts and sunflower seeds count as one variety, not as three different proteins, Mannion said.

An even bigger challenge for owners is choosing new products to offer that convenience store shoppers actually want. "They don't come here to buy whole wheat flour," Stanley said.

Nor do his suppliers carry all the foods he now needs, he said. "Some of those things, we're going to have to just go to Walmart and buy them."

The push to expand healthy food options in SNAP retailers isn't new. Congress mandated tougher stocking requirements in 2014. The Obama administration finalized regulations two years later.

But research showed that only 30% of small retailers in low-income neighborhoods — and a mere 17% of convenience stores — could meet the requirements. Congress has blocked them from taking effect. Now they've come amid unprecedented federal cuts to the safety net and skyrocketing food prices. Putting more pressure on small SNAP retailers may compound the hardships already facing low-income families.

And it may not do much to promote healthier eating.

The new requirements say nothing about limiting ultra-processed foods, Mannion said — though they did bump beef jerky from the protein category. And as nutritionist and New York University professor emerita Marion Nestle has pointed out, the rules are not accompanied by incentives for SNAP recipients to buy fruits, vegetables or whole grains.

Now is a good time for journalists to visit bodegas, corner stores and small grocers that accept SNAP. What products do owners have to add to their shelves, at what cost? Are they considering dropping SNAP, or do they worry the government will cut them from the program?

Talk with customers who rely both on food assistance and small neighborhood food stores, especially older people, people with disabilities and families without reliable transportation.

Stanley said he plans to continue taking SNAP. If he and his sister get any stocking details wrong and the government cancels their authorization, they could reapply after six months.

But they probably wouldn't.

"If the government goes down that road we may just give up," he said. "We may just throw up our hands and say, 'Okay, sorry, we're out.'"

Fran Smith is an independent journalist, author, editor and communications consultant who helps people to tell their stories.

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Veterans make an impact in new ways after service

Continued from page 1B

ness school I got into. I definitely wouldn't be here at Boston Consulting Group," said D'Antonio. "Those hard experiences I had shaped me."

Help soldiers connect with civilian employers

Antonio Johnson is a program manager with the Army's Partnership for Your Success, or PaYS program, which builds partnerships between the Army and corporate America to create employment opportunities for soldiers transitioning to civilian life, grounded in the belief that planning for the transition should start much earlier than most people expect.

After serving 22 years in the Army, Antonio Johnson is now a program manager with PaYS, which helps to create employment opportunities for soldiers transitioning to civilian life.

Johnson spent 22 years in the Army, including time as a recruiter, an experience that influenced his current career. He also earned his bachelor's degree through the Army tuition assistance program and a master's degree in management and leadership from Western Governors University.

"My ability to influence senior executives at an organization to partner with the Army stems from my 14 years of Army recruiting experience," Johnson said.

Lead a team of 35 at John Deere dealerships

Jared Beckham is the general operations manager for two John Deere dealerships in Arizona, where he oversees operations generating more than $35 million in annual revenue and leads a team of 35 employees.

Originally from Flagstaff, Arizona, Beckham joined the Army because, when college looked out of reach financially, he saw opportunities to further his education through service. As an armor crewmember, he served with the 2nd Infantry Division in Korea and the 1st Infantry Division at Fort Riley, Kansas, on two tank crews that earned the top tank designation in their brigades.

The Post-9/11 GI Bill later made it possible for him to earn his bachelor's degree and MBA at the University of Arizona.

"The Army gave me the discipline, leadership, and problem-solving skills that have been instrumental throughout my career," Beckham said.

Help veterans and retired athletes find community

Nate Boyer co-founded Merging Vets & Players, an organization that builds connections between retiring military service members and professional athletes to ease the transition to civilian life, alongside television personality and sports reporter Jay Glazer. He says careers for both groups often end young, and that it's easy to fall into the trap of self-doubt afterward. He is also a filmmaker whose work includes "Indivisible," "MVP," "Survive the Raft," and an upcoming D-Day 80th anniversary documentary.

Nate Boyer served as a Green Beret before pursuing a professional football career, and he now leads the Merging Vets & Players organization which builds connections between retiring military service members and professional athletes.

Boyer enlisted in the Army in 2005 and served as a Green Beret in the Special Forces, completing three overseas combat deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan. A self-described "city boy," he entered the Army with limited experience and confidence in his real-world abilities. But through hands-on training in skills like land navigation, developing long range communications systems, and overall tactical proficiency, he learned to step outside his comfort zone, solve problems under pressure, and trust his training - skills that would serve him well in the Army and beyond.

After six years of service, Boyer swapped one uniform for another by earning a spot on the University of Texas football team. Despite never having played organized football, he walked onto the Longhorns in 2011, eventually becoming the team's starting long snapper. He continued serving in the Texas Army National Guard during summer breaks before signing with the Seattle Seahawks in 2015, becoming the oldest rookie in NFL history at 34 years old.

"It was because of the training in the military that I had the confidence to just dive into new ventures, like filmmaking and football, and know eventually I'd figure it out," said Boyer. "Going into the military, I didn't really know this world, and I wasn't familiar with it, but I just told myself that it was OK and that I may suck for a bit. I told myself I would have to work harder than everybody else and hang in there. Just don't quit and you'll start to figure it out. And that applies to anything in life."

The Charlotte Post

« BLACK BRILLIANCE »



ARHOOLIE FOUNDATION

Big Mama Thornton's classic blues tunes "Hound Dog" and "Ball and Chain" became hits for Elvis Presley and Janis Joplin.

Big Mama Thornton the heart behind 'Hound Dog'

BRITANNICA

Big Mama Thornton (1926-1984) was an American singer and songwriter whose powerful, gritty vocals and instrumental style had tremendous influence on blues, R&B, and rock and roll.

Overlooked by white audiences during her lifetime, Thornton's work inspired imitation by Elvis Presley and Janis Joplin, who recorded popular cover versions of Thornton's "Hound Dog" and "Ball and Chain," respectively.

The daughter of a minister, Thornton was introduced to church music at an early age. She was inspired by classic early blues singers such as Bessie Smith and Memphis Minnie. A skilled singer and dancer and a self-taught drummer and harmonica player, she toured the South and the Chitlin' Circuit as a member of Sammy Green's Hot Harlem Revue during the 1940s.

Settling in Houston in 1948, she came under the influence of blues greats Lightnin' Hopkins, Lowell Fulson, Junior Parker, and Clarence ("Gatemouth") Brown.

'Hound Dog'

In the early 1950s Thornton began performing with bandleader Johnny Otis, with whom she recorded many songs for Peacock Records. The most famous of these is the Jerry Leiber and Mike Stoller composition "Hound Dog," a brazen, bluesy number about a lying, mooching man whom Thornton commands to "quit snoopin' round my door." She attacked the song with everything she had vocally, and it became a number one R&B hit on the Black charts in 1953. "Hound Dog" was an even bigger pop hit in 1956 for Presley, whose rock and roll version owed much to Thornton's original. Reportedly, Thornton was paid only $500 for her recording, whereas Presley's version reaped him immense fame and much greater financial rewards.

'Ball and Chain'

As interest in blues declined, Thornton ceased recording but continued to perform in the San Francisco Bay area, where she came to the attention of Joplin, whose late 1960s version of the Thornton-penned "Ball and Chain" revived interest in the blues singer called "Big Mama" because of her girth and larger-than-life voice and stage presence.

Though Thornton resented Presley's success with her song "Hound Dog," she held much greater respect for Joplin, perhaps because Joplin was more vocal about acknowledging her artistic debt to Thornton.

Legacy

Thornton's version of "Hound Dog" was inducted into the Grammy Hall of Fame in 2013. Three years later the U.S. Library of Congress added the song to the National Recording Registry, a list of audio recordings deemed "culturally, historically, or aesthetically significant."



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ANNOUNCEMENTS

I am requesting a name change from Tanay J Kargbo, back to my original name Tanay J Robinson.

BIDS

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS (RFQ)
Cabarrus County Schools

Cabarrus County Schools (CCS) and Kannapolis City Schools are requesting Separate Statements of Qualifications (SOQ) from the following firms due on the following dates:

- Architectural Firms December 10, 2026
- Civil Engineering Firms December 10, 2026
- Construction Materials Testing, Geotechnical Engineering, and Environmental Site Assessment Firms December 10, 2026
- Electrical Engineering Firms December 10, 2026
- Mechanical Engineering Firms December 10, 2026
- Professional Land Surveying Firms December 10, 2026
- Structural Engineering Firms December 10, 2026

The scope includes anticipated professional services, as needed for miscellaneous type projects and construction projects with expected construction budget up to $55,000,000.00 per project and reroofing projects with a construction budget up to $5,000,000.00 per project.

Firms interested in providing professional services, as needed, for selections occurring during the time frame of July 2027, through June 2030 should review the RFQ's and submit SOQ's as requested by visiting our website at www.cabarrus.k12.nc.us. Go to "Departments", "Facilities Management", then "Upcoming Projects, Bids and RFQ's". Separate Statements of Qualifications in response to the RFQ's will be received until 12 pm on date listed with each type of firm at the Cabarrus County Schools Facilities Management Department, 4425 Old Airport Road, Concord, NC 28025.

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Sealed, hand-delivered proposals will be received until 1:00 pm EST, on Thursday, November 19, 2026, in the office of Mecklenburg County Asset & Facility Management Department, 3205 Freedom Drive, Suite 6000, Charlotte, NC 28208, for the **Spratt A Deep Energy Retrofit Project**, at which time and place Bids will be opened and read aloud. Single-prime, lump sum bids will be taken for the construction project as indicated in the bidding documents. The project is located at 500 Spratt Street Unit A, Charlotte, NC 28206 and a **pre-bid** meeting shall be held there on **November 12, 2026, at 10am**. Prime General Contractors wishing to submit a bid must provide a MANDATORY written Letter-of-Interest to the County's authorized Design Consultant at least 48 hours in advance of the bid opening in order to be placed on the official Bidders List for automatic distribution of potential addenda and offered consideration by the County as a responsive bidder. **Bid, performance, and payment & material bonds are required.** NC law and applicable regulations of various licensing boards apply. For Drawings with Specifications, please contact: Garrett Sutcliffe, WSP, 1001 Morehead Square Dr, Charlotte, NC 28203, Phone: (561)906-3301, garrett.sutcliffe@wsp.com Mecklenburg County reserves the right to waive technicalities and to reject any or all bids. This information will be made available in an alternative format for persons with disabilities by calling (561)906-3301.

NOTICE TO BIDDERS: REBID

Sealed proposals will be received until **2 pm, on Thursday, December 15, 2026, in the office of Mecklenburg County Asset & Facility Management Department, 3205 Freedom Drive, Suite 6000, Charlotte, NC 28208, for the** construction of the **Mecklenburg County Courthouse 8th Floor Interior Finishes Updates Project** at which time and place Bids will be opened and read aloud. Single-prime, lump sum bids will be taken for construction as indicated in the bidding documents. Proposals must be made on standard forms furnished by the County. The project is located at **832 E 4th St, Charlotte, NC 28202.**

The Contractor can obtain the Bid Documents digitally at **no cost** from the County's **authorized Design Consultant: Progressive Companies.** Contact Gary Runions via email at grunions@weareprogressive.com

Prime Contractors wishing to submit a bid for this project must provide a MANDATORY written, Letter-of-Interest to the **authorized Design Consultant** at least 48 hours in advance of the bid opening in order to be placed on the official Bidders List for automatic distribution of potential addenda and offered consideration by the County as a responsive bidder. **Bids submitted by Prime NC Licensed General Contractors that have not provided a Letter-of-Interest may be considered non-responsive.**

A mandatory pre-bid meeting shall be held at **7:15 am on Tuesday, November 17, 2026,** at the **Mecklenburg County Courthouse located at 832 E 4th St, Charlotte, NC 28202. Bidders will have to go through security screening at the Courthouse entrances prior to entering the Mecklenburg County Courthouse.** All interested parties shall meet on the first-floor lobby beside the escalator after going through security.

Performance & Payment and Materials Bonds and a Bid Bond shall be required for this project. The laws of North Carolina and applicable regulations of various Licensing Boards will be observed in receiving bids and awarding contracts. Mecklenburg County reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive informalities or technicalities, as it may deem to be in its best interest. Upon request, this information will be made available in an alternative format for persons with disabilities. Please call 980-314-2432 for assistance.

BIDS

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Sealed, hand-delivered proposals will be received until 1:30 pm EST, on **Thursday, November 19, 2026,** in the office of Mecklenburg County Asset & Facility Management Department, 3205 Freedom Drive, Suite 6000, Charlotte, NC 28208, for the **Ivory Baker Rec Center Deep Energy Retrofit Project,** at which time and place Bids will be opened and read aloud. Single-prime, lump sum bids will be taken for the construction project as indicated in the bidding documents. The project is located at 1920 Stroud Park Ct. Charlotte, NC 28206 and a **pre-bid** meeting shall be held there on **November 12, 2026, at 12pm.** Prime General Contractors wishing to submit a bid must provide a MANDATORY written Letter-of-Interest to the County's authorized Design Consultant at least 48 hours in advance of the bid opening in order to be placed on the official Bidders List for automatic distribution of potential addenda and offered consideration by the County as a responsive bidder. **Bid, performance, and payment & material bonds are required.** NC law and applicable regulations of various licensing boards apply. For Drawings with Specifications, please contact: Garrett Sutcliffe, WSP, 1001 Morehead Square Dr, Charlotte, NC 28203, Phone: (561)906-3301, garrett.sutcliffe@wsp.com Mecklenburg County reserves the right to waive technicalities and to reject any or all bids. This information will be made available in an alternative format for persons with disabilities by calling (561)906-3301.

ADVERTISEMENT TO BID –
7th & College Street Parking Deck –
Charlotte, NC

Gilbane Building Company, Construction Manager for the 7th & College Street Parking Deck for Mecklenburg County, is soliciting BIDS from Prequalified subcontractors interested in bidding the following scopes of work.

01A Site Services	09D Paint
01D Site Security	09E Flooring
01E Final Cleaning	10A Specialties
02A Demolition	10B Signage
02B Deep Foundations	11A Parking Control
02C Subsurface Investigation	Equipment
03A Concrete	14A Elevators
04A Masonry	21A Fire Protection
05A Structural Steel	22A Plumbing
07A Roofing	23A Mechanical
07B Waterproofing	26A Electrical
07D Metal Panels	27A Communications
07E Vapor Mitigation	28A Security and Access
08A Doors, Frames & Hardware	Control
08B Glazing	31A Sitework
08C Overhead Coiling Doors	32A Landscaping
09A Drywall	32B Fences & Gates

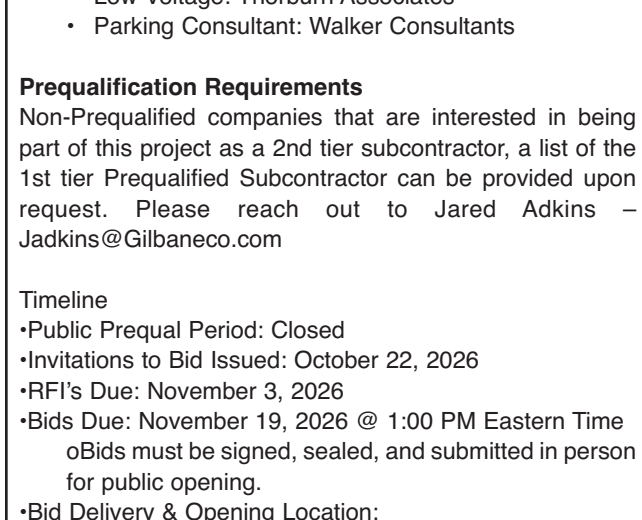
The project includes demolition of an existing structure and construction of a 263 space urban parking deck with elevators, egress stairwells, emergency generators, fire pump, and approximately 7,000 SF of retail shell space along 7th Street. Streetscape improvements to 7th Street are also included. Construction duration is anticipated to be approximately 12 months, subject to change based on Construction Drawings release.

- Project Location: 119 East 7th Street, Charlotte, NC 28202
- Owner: Mecklenburg County
- Architect: Little Diversified Architectural Consulting, Inc.
- Civil Designer: LandDesign
- Structural Engineer: Stewart MEP/FP
- Engineer: Barrett, Woodyard, & Associates
- Electrical Engineer: Caldwell Electrical Collaborative
- Low Voltage: Thorburn Associates
- Parking Consultant: Walker Consultants

Prequalification Requirements
Non-Prequalified companies that are interested in being part of this project as a 2nd tier subcontractor, a list of the 1st tier Prequalified Subcontractor can be provided upon request. Please reach out to Jared Adkins – Jadkins@Gilbaneco.com

Timeline
•Public Prequal Period: Closed
•Invitations to Bid Issued: October 22, 2026
•RFI's Due: November 3, 2026
•Bids Due: November 19, 2026 @ 1:00 PM Eastern Time
oBids must be signed, sealed, and submitted in person for public opening.
•Bid Delivery & Opening Location:
Goodwill Industries of the Southern Piedmont Inc.
5301 Wilkinson Blvd., NEO Room 1217 Charlotte NC 28208

•For questions, contact Jared Adkins at Jadkins@Gilbaneco.com.
Website: https://7andcollegeparking.gilbaneco.com



EMPLOYMENT

Tech Mynds Inc has multiple openings in Charlotte, NC. Business Analyst ($131,477/yr): Collab, Asst, Trck, Comm, Supp, Cntrb&Prpre regular status Rprts. Computer Programmer ($93,330/yr): Wrt, Idfy, Updte, Cntrb, Collab, Cndct, Docmnt&Asst in rslvng Isss. Programmer Analyst ($158,746/yr): Wrt, Trblsht, Rvw, Dvlp, Collab, Cndct, Prpre&Asst tech changes. Software Developer ($138,840/yr): Dvlp, Collab, Intgrt, Mng, Implmnt, Monitr&Dsgn quality of Softwre Apps. Sr. Software Developer ($158,746/yr): Ovrsee, Dsgn, Ld&Optmz Cmplx Systms. All Pos req travel/reloc to var unanticipated client Locs U.S.-wide w/exp. employer paid. Std. benefits. Mail resume&position to Vice President, Tech Mynds Inc, 1981 J N Pease Pl, Ste 104, Charlotte, NC 28262;immigration@techmyndsinc.com. EOE

MISCELLANEOUS











The Charlotte Post

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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2026 PAGE 5B



WARNER BROS

Naomi Ackie plays Dr. Caitlyn Corr in a scene from "Clayface," an origin story for one of Batman's many villainous rivals.

'Clayface' is pretty good as a horror and romance flick

By Mark Kennedy
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Someone rather bluntly popped up on X recently to ask Hollywood writer-producer James Gunn a pointed — and here sanitized — question: "Who asked for a 'Clayface' movie??"

Gunn, the guy behind the seriously weird "Guardians of the Galaxy" franchise, clapped back, asking who called for "Back to the Future," "Casablanca" or "Weapons," among others. "Clayface" may have no right belonging at that exalted level, but after seeing it, the score is Random Internet Hater, 0; Gunn, 1.

"Clayface" is a surprisingly good revenge thriller-romance, body-horror origin story for a lesser-known villain from the Batman comics. We may not have asked for it, but it's a crowd-pleaser, mimicking its title character's ability to be a little something for everyone.

James Watkins directs from a screenplay by Mike Flanagan and Hossein Amini, part of Gunn and Peter Safran's first wave of DC Studios films, following "Superman" and "Supergirl."

Tom Rhys Harries stars as Matt Hagen, a pretty-boy rising actor whose long road from poverty finally nets him an Oscar nomination and industry respect. Cue celebratory drinks at a nightclub.

Except that night he gets involved with a mobster's girlfriend and the mobster isn't happy, using a switchblade to carve open our hero's face. And without those cheekbones and perky nose, he's finished. "My life is over," he wails. Harries brings a sweet hangdog defiance to the role.

He soon thinks he's found salvation in Dr. Caitlyn Corr, a rebel scientist on the cutting edge of nanotechnology, played with real soul by Naomi Ackie. He offers to be her human guinea pig and she injects him with her still-unproven serum of stem cells that begin to repair his scarred face.

It works and the movie's over. No, no, of course not. The serum does work but only temporarily — leaving Hagen's

Please see **CLAYFACE** | 6B



AFRO VOICES

Margaret Bonds (1913-1972) composed more than 400 works, but fewer than half were published during her lifetime.

UNC Charlotte professor brings composer to digital

Sequina DuBose honors Margaret Bonds with 'Bonds Unsung'

By Nikya Hightower
FOR THE CHARLOTTE POST

Vocalist and scholar Sequina DuBose is bringing the works of composer Margaret Bonds to the digital age.

Alongside pianist Gregory Thompson, DuBose, associate professor of classical and contemporary voice at UNC Charlotte, is bringing Bonds' archived works to audiences with her new album, "Bonds Unsung: Revival of an American Legacy," including pieces from the unfinished musical "Bitter Laurel." The 18-track album released by Albany Records can be streamed through digital platforms.

DuBose focuses on hybrid vocal literature, music that combines elements of different genres, including classical music, jazz, and spirituals. Her interest led her to study the works of Bonds (1913-1972) and composer Florence Price.

The making of the album began after DuBose attended a lecture by musicologist John Michael Cooper about Bonds' work. During the lecture, Cooper discussed pieces that DuBose had never heard before. She discovered Bonds had written unpublished spirituals, jazz arrangements and a musical called "Bitter Laurel."

"He started talking about all of this music that I had never heard of," DuBose said. "I was flabbergasted because I wasn't considering myself a Bonds expert, but I thought that I knew all of her rep."

With support from UNC Charlotte and Queens University of Charlotte, DuBose worked with Cooper and composer Christopher Washington to develop the musical's score, which had not been fully realized. "Bitter Laurel" tells the story of Elizabeth Keckley, an enslaved woman who worked her way to freedom through her work as a seamstress. She later became a seamstress for first lady Mary Todd Lincoln.

"She wrote the whole musical," DuBose said. "It's in songs. We have songs, and we have lead sheets, and we have a complete libretto. Most of the work's done, but it hasn't been orchestrated, and it has to be fully scored."

DuBose said the importance of getting Bonds' work into streaming is deeper than just having it published. It's also about correcting an artistic injustice. Bonds composed more than 400 works, but fewer than half were published during her lifetime.

The album closes with "Note on Commercial Theater," which DuBose hopes listeners remember.

"It's like this seizure of ownership of the culture and the music and this self-autonomy that's professed by the end of the piece," she said. "I was just like, 'this is powerful. 'She infuses blues elements in the song. It's technically an art song, but it has this blues element too." "That's the last song on the album. That's what I want them to walk away with hearing – we're taking it back. We are reclaiming our story."

DuBose said her goal is to let Bonds speak through her and to create the pieces as accurately and authentically as possible.



UNC CHARLOTTE

UNC Charlotte associate professor of classical and contemporary voice Sequina DuBose is reviving Margaret Bonds' archived works to a digital audience with "Bonds Unsung: Revival of an American Legacy."

"It's kind of like this calling to make sure that this music is not just on the playlist and in the ears of audiences, but it needs to be in the vocal studios," she said. "It needs to be in academic institutions. Young people need to learn about this."

DuBose said every listener will find something to connect with on the album because Bonds' work is not one-dimensional.

"Her music is really a vessel for whatever it is that you're supposed to hear and feel and need and be moved by, you're going to receive it," DuBose said. "Because it's just that broad and that diverse, I think it has the ability to touch us all in a very human way."

« ON THE MARQUEE »



THREE BONE THEATER

The cast of Three Bone Theatre's production of "Liberation" takes the stage at through Nov. 22 at The Arts Factory.

A month for books, Bach and taste of 'Liberation'

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

The latest events, productions and exhibits in Charlotte and beyond:

Through Nov. 29

"A Room of Her Own," Queen City Art Gallery, 4237 Raleigh St, Suite 5.

A month-long celebration of women, creativity, healing, storytelling, and the power of making space.

Curated by Carolyn Faulkner and Ida Mae Irby, "A Room of Her Own" brings together artists and community members for an immersive exhibition and series of participatory arts experiences designed to inspire connection, reflection, creativity, and conversation.

Event dates and times:

Stitching Therapy: The Science of Crochet for Health and Wellbeing with guest facilitator Dr. Portia M. York, Nov. 5, 6-8 p.m.

Positive affirmation totes with Caro-

Please see **BOOKS** | 6B

Backstory behind underdog 'Rocky' franchise

By Dwight Brown
NATIONAL NEWSPAPER PUBLISHERS ASSOCIATION

I Play Rocky
(3.5 stars)

He's punching above his weight class. Hollywood bets against him, but they shouldn't.

That's how writer-actor Sylvester Stallone got his classic movie "Rocky" made. It's a feat that must have impressed director Peter Farrelly ("Green Book") and his creative team, who now retell the journey behind that iconic film. If they've done it the right way, they've got a crowd-pleaser. If they've done it the wrong way, they've got a tacky melodrama on their hands.

The story begins in New York City, where the fledgling actor (Anthony Ippolito) can't land a role that pays a living wage. Eventually, he finds work in porn films. The money helps, but it's just a bridge to something bigger. Few believe in him except his dog, Butkus, a bullmastiff, and his new girlfriend, Sasha (AnnaSophia Robb). She becomes his positive life force, telling him, "I'd rather be an opportunist and be wrong." Those humble beginnings make Stallone immediately relatable to audiences familiar with Rocky and those discovering his story for the first time.

After the couple and pup pack up and move to L.A., little changes. Their grappling continues until Stallone, now a car valet, shows some of his scripts to famed producers Irwin Winkler (P.J. Byrne) and Robert Chartoff (Toby Kebbell). A screenplay about a boxer catches their eye. At first, that bit of fortune appears life-changing. In reality, it's only the beginning of another onslaught of aggravation, indignities and struggles to realize potential.

Peter Gamble's script unfolds in three



CLAIRE FOLGER

Stephan James (left) as Carl Weathers' Apollo Creed and Anthony Ippolito as Sylvester Stallone's Rocky Balboa in a scene from "I Play Rocky."

clear acts: Stallone's suffering in New York, his hardships pitching projects in Los Angeles and, finally, the making of the highest-grossing film of 1976. But every step forward seems to bring another setback. Viewers ride an engaging emotional roller coaster, moving from sorrow to happiness, love to anger and satisfaction to disappointment. It's as if the world is against the young man and his dreams, and the Hollywood machine is the biggest hurdle he's ever faced. David looks up at Goliath; Goliath stares down at David. The battle is on!

The trials and frustrations the emerging actor-writer experiences while trying to get a project made in the 1970s remain relevant today. It's the kind of inner and outer battle audiences love — especially if the protagonist has a chance to succeed. Thus, the monumental ending becomes one fans of the OG film will remember kindly and newcomers will appreciate for the first time.

All the magic of the Oscar-winning Best Picture "Rocky" is here. Brick by brick, editor Sam Seig builds the footage into an increasingly compelling portrait. When Stallone's spirits rise or fall, Dave Palmer's score appropriately underscores his emotions. Sleeping in alleys, tense Hollywood negotiations and sparring in boxing rings feel immediate because Anthony Gasparro's production design anchors each setting. All of it is captured through Sean Porter's perceptive cinematography, which faithfully evokes New York's grimy streets, Los Angeles' sunny skies

Please see **BACKSTORY** | 6B

'Clayface' is pretty good at horror and romance

Continued from page 5B

face droopier than after a visit to the orthodontist — and Corr has to find a way to stabilize the experiment.

Wait, did we detect some other chemicals drifting between the good doctor and her patient, maybe dopamine and serotonin? (One clue is the weird use of Chicago's 1976 romantic hit "If You Leave Me Now.") Yes, sparks are indeed flowing between them, which the American Medical Association frowns on. Plus, she's got a boyfriend.

"Clayface" then shoots along on twin rails — the race to harness this technology and our hero's bloodthirsty revenge stampede. All the while, it's a biting satire of Hollywood and its obsession with beauty, led by an actor playing an actor, who is complimented on being a chameleon.

"This business is all surface," Hagen is told by an agent who dropped him. The stem cells injected into his face are described as Method actors and a TV talk-show host offers a foreshadowing question: "There's so many of you. It must be hard to find the real Matt Hagen."

The last third of the movie gets as unstable as the serum, with Hagen weirdly able to take on anyone's identity and pass as them if he acts well enough. The scientist's boyfriend also happens to be a homicide detective and, wouldn't you know it, he gets assigned to whoever is slaughtering people linked to Matt Hagen. The ultimate showdown, naturally, happens at, you guessed it, a nightclub.

There's a charming low-rent vibe to "Clayface" after so much expensive bombast from Marvel and DC. Parts of Gotham were shot on real streets — thanks, Liverpool — and practical effects were encouraged over computers. No less than a huge cockroach makes us squeal and one of the best gross-out bits happens in an airplane bathroom as our hero tries to cut skin growing over his eyes with scissors — during turbulence.

One grumble during a recent preview is that the movie is totally Batman-less, with only vague references to the Caped Crusader, like Kane's Candy Store named after "Batman" co-creator Bob Kane. You'll get over it. There's more than enough going on.

"Clayface," a Warner Bros. Pictures release that lands in theaters Friday, is rated R by the Motion Picture Association for "strong bloody violence, gore, language, some nudity and brief drug use." Running time: 108 minutes. Three stars out of four.

Backstory behind birth of the 'Rocky' film franchise

Continued from page 5B

and Philadelphia's urban spirit.

Farrelly masterfully balances comedy, romance, drama and moments of bravura without disturbing the film's equilibrium. Expect viewers to break into applause during this film, whether they're in a theater or at home on the couch.

That's the kind of reaction a film can inspire when its characters fight like hell for what they want. It's a spirit that holds the entire film together for two hours and eight minutes.

And in the process, Sylvester Stallone, now a media darling, isn't portrayed as a cartoon image of himself. His on-screen character never loses his self-respect despite the humbling — sometimes embarrassing—situations he encounters.

Ippolito catches Stallone's nuances—his speech patterns, distinctive voice and physical mannerisms. He looks, talks and walks like the real man. All hope rests on this actor's shoulders and his ability to bring the young Stallone to life, without it turning into an imitation, and he handles the challenge impressively.

Robb, as Sasha, his supportive girlfriend and future wife, is the voice of reason and hope.

Stephan James plays a charming Carl Weathers, making it feel as if he and Stallone have stumbled into a stroke of good fortune bigger than either one of them.

Tracy Letts plays studio head Sandy Maddox, a fictional composite character who wants the milk but not the cow, and badgers Stallone endlessly. That makes him the adversary viewers will want to strangle. The character benefits from a compelling screenplay, a distinct personality and an actor who knows how to turn the villainy up to a fever pitch. Add Matt Dillon as the father with the sensitivity of a tree, and the ensemble cast becomes strong enough to go the distance in a 15-round match.

By the time the film gets deep into its final chapter, audiences are captivated by the recreation of the iconic scenes from "Rocky." Visions of the boxer running through the streets of Philadelphia, punching hunks of meat in a freezer and getting bludgeoned during fierce battles evoke the excitement of the original. But that indelible image of Rocky running up the steps of the Museum of Art and raising his fists to the heavens takes fans of the film to a state of nirvana.

Learning how all those famous moments were created is almost as stirring as watching Stallone struggle to bring his signature movie to life.

It's easy to root for this underdog pugilist in an inspiring biographical drama that wins by a TKO.

Visit film critic Dwight Brown at DwightBrownInk.com.

Books, Bach and 'Liberation'

Continued from page 5B

lyn Faulkner, Nov. 7, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.

Beginning violin experience and youth workshop with Susan Shoemaker, Nov. 7, 4-6 p.m.

Earring painting workshop with Carolyn Faulkner, Nov. 11, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.

Paper quilting collage with Ida Mae Irby, Nov. 11, 5-7 p.m.

Snack & Relaxing: Earring painting workshop with Carolyn Faulkner, Nov. 28, 12–2 p.m.

Closing reception and artists' talk with guest speaker Barbara Saul (Reiki & Enhance Your Creativity) Nov. 29, 2-5 p.m.

On the Net: queencityart.org.

Through Nov. 22

Three Bone Theatre's production of *"Liberation,"* Arts Factory, 1545 W. Trade St.

Showtimes: Thursdays–Saturdays at 7:30 p.m.; Sundays at 2 p.m. Tickets: $32.50 in advance online at threebonetheatre.com; $37.55 on night of show and $21.80 for students and educators.

Three Bone opens its 15th season with Bess Wohl's Tony and Pulitzer Award-winning play directed by Donna Bradby. The play production follows six women who form a women's liberation group in the 1970s and a daughter who revisits their stories 50 years later.

The program explores feminism, friendship, generational divides, and the fight for equality.

Nov. 12

Best-selling author *Walter Mosley* is among the literary heavyweights highlighting Verse & Vino, Charlotte Mecklenburg Library Foundation's top fundraiser.

The showcase at Charlotte Convention Center's Crown Ballroom includes authors Lucy Foley, R.F. Kuang and Isaac Fitzgerald. Library advocates and book lovers will gather to raise a glass to the joy of reading, the library system's impact and the larger community.

Proceeds fund library foundation initiatives.

Tickets are available at foundation.cmlibrary.org/verse-vino.

Nov. 13

Special EFX featuring Chieli Minucci, Middle C. Jazz, 300 S. Brevard St.

The acclaimed jazz fusion ensemble performs. For tickets: middlecjazz.com.

Nov. 13-14

Bach 360, Charlotte Symphony, Booth Playhouse.

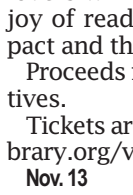
Take in a 360-degree view of the musicians as you dive into the lives and works of monumental composers through theatrical storytelling and intimate performances in the round.

All musical roads lead to J.S. Bach in a look at his enduring music and the musicians who bring it to life. Resident Conductor Christopher James Lees traces Bach's reach across generations, exploring how his music became a foundation for composers long after his time.

Details: charlottesymphony.org.

Nov. 14

Boney James, Knight Theater, 7:30 p.m.



James

The contemporary jazz artist is live in town for one night only. The concert includes an intimate show of classics and live music. Tickets: blumenthalarts.org.

· Children's Theatre of Charlotte presents "Amelia Earhart." 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. For ages 8 and older. Tickets: ctccharlotte.org.

· *"Trouble So Hard – Songs & Stories of Slavery, Freedom, & Civil Rights,"* St. Peter's Episcopal Church (Uptown at 115 West 7th St.) at 3 p.m. Tickets: $15. Free parking beneath Transamerica Building at 401 N. Tryon St.

For tickets and information: https://troublesohard.com/shows.

Nov. 18

Chris O'Leary, the chart-topping blues harmonica master, plays Middle C Jazz, 300 S. Brevard St. For tickets: middlecjazz.com.

Nov. 19

"Rhythm & Roots," a fundraiser for Foundation for Black Philanthropy at Carolina Theatre at Belk Place, 230 North Tryon St.

Al Jasper & Friends open the evening, followed by Gena Does Tina, a Tina Turner tribute led by Gena Chambers.

Tickets at ticketmaster.com.

Nov. 19-21

The Lotus Project production of *"Shrek the Musical."* Showtimes are at 7 p.m. with a 2 p.m. matinee on Nov. 21.

Opening Night performance is dedicated to Charlotte's LGBTQ+ community, featuring a post-show discussion with partners Charlotte Trans Health, Time Out Youth, and Gender Education Network.

Tickets are $18 at thelotusprojectnc.com/tickets.

Nov. 27-Dec. 12

Hickory Community Theatre production of "Frozen," are Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m.; Sundays at 2:30 p.m.; and Thursday at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are $18 for adults and $12 for students and youth 18 and under. They're available online at hickorytheatre.org/box-office or call 828-328-2283.

Nov. 28-Dec. 23

"Christmas at the Carolina," Carolina Theater. Tickets and additional information for Christmas at the Carolina events are available at www.thecarolina.com. The lineup includes:

Nov. 28 – *"Duke Ellington's Nutcracker Suite."* Duke Ellington's jazz interpretation of Tchaikovsky's holiday ballet performed by Charlotte-based Blackhawk Quintet featuring musicians Braxton Bateman, Harvey Cummings, Phillip Howe, Tim Scott, Jr. and Tyrone Jefferson alon with vocalist Dawn Anthony.

Dec. 5 – *Ricky Skaggs & Kentucky Thunder Christmas.* The Grammy Award-winning bluegrass artist and band are in town for a Christmas performance.

Dec. 13 – *"It's a Wonderful Life"* (1946 film). Celebrate 80 years of Frank Capra's holiday classic.

Dec. 17 – *"The Holiday"* (2006 film). A 20th anniversary screening of the romantic comedy starring Cameron Diaz, Kate Winslet, Jude Law and Jack Black.

Dec. 19 – *Sainted Trap Choir* Presents "This Christmas, A Celebration of Black Holiday Music and Traditions." Sainted Trap Choir brings its distinctive blend of choir traditions and contemporary sounds to a spirited holiday performance.

Dec. 20 – *"Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas"* (2000 film): A holiday screening of the live-action adaptation starring Jim Carrey as the Grinch, whose plan to steal Christmas from Whoville takes an unexpected turn.

Dec. 23 – *"Elf"* (2003 film): Get into the Christmas spirit with a screening of the comedy starring Will Ferrell as Buddy, a human raised by elves who travels to New York City to find his father and spread holiday cheer.

Dec. 19

Jodeci closes its 35-city U.S. tour celebrating the 35th anniversary of the R&B group's No. 1 debut album, Forever My Lady at Ovens Auditorium.

The group, which got its start in Charlotte in the late 1980s, has sold over 20 million albums sold, five No. 1 singles, three No. 1 albums, and including Soul Train Awards and Billboard Music awards.

Tickets: $74.90-$431.30 at ticketmaster.com.



