

NAACP WEEKLY NEWS RECAP



Variety: [NAACP Podcast 'Our Culture, Our Stories' to Feature Sterling K. Brown, Roy Wood Jr., Ruth Carter, Dawn Porter and More](#)

“The NAACP Image Awards and ‘Our Culture, Our Stories’ are powerful platforms that do more than celebrate the accomplishments of Black icons and trailblazers — they demand change,” NAACP president and CEO Derrick Johnson said in a statement. “They remind us that true progress requires breaking down barriers and creating real opportunities where talent, passion and vision can thrive, allowing the next generation of activists, creators and entertainers to rise up with power and purpose, and transform the future.”

Entertainment Weekly: [Beyond the Gates is ready to showcase 'different side of the Black experience' with groundbreaking new soap](#)

Gates was spearheaded by a determined Sheila Ducksworth, the president of CBS’ production partnership with the [NAACP](#) and an executive producer on the show, in a four-year effort to break new ground in the genre.

Spectrum News 1: [NAACP youth mentor program fosters creativity](#)

NAACP's ACT-SO program helps high school students, like sophomore Jewel Cruz-Nix, pursue creative talents.

Raleigh News & Observer: [Raleigh NAACP calls for federal investigation into Holly Springs man's conviction](#)

In an impassioned speech outside the North Carolina Legislative Building on Tuesday, the president of the Raleigh-Apex NAACP called for a federal investigation into a Holly Springs man's lengthy sentence in a Wake County case. Henderson Atwater, 48, was sentenced in July to a minimum of 49 years and a maximum of 75 years in prison by Wake County Superior Court Judge Keith Gregory on multiple charges tied to pellet gun shootings throughout the county, court records show.

ABC11: [NAACP calls for investigation of Holly Springs PD, Wake County DA in man's lengthy sentencing](#)

The NAACP argues that the district attorney's office presented insufficient evidence against Atwater during the trial and that testimony in the case did not support Atwater being present at the scene. The group wants the DOJ to get involved and Atwater released.

WRAL: [NAACP calls for federal investigation into Henderson Atwater case](#)

Advocates on Tuesday will call for a federal investigation into the case of Henderson Atwater, a Holly Springs man facing decades in prison.

The St. Louis American: [WASH U charters first NAACP chapter](#)

The NAACP was formed in 1909 to ensure the rights of Black people were protected under the law. The human rights group has over 550 youth chapters and councils. Harris-Stowe State University and Southern Illinois University Edwardsville also have active student chapters. Over 50 members have already joined the newest charter at Wash U.

STLPR: [New Wash U student NAACP chapter looks to get more young people civically engaged](#)

The chapter is housed under the university's African and African American Studies Department. Its goals are to register to vote as many students as possible, create civically minded leaders and work to promote diversity, equity and inclusion on campus.

Iowa's News Now: [African American Museum of Iowa and Women In NAACP](#)

[celebrate Kwanzaa](#)

The African American Museum of Iowa and the Women In NAACP are joining forces to honor their culture.

Santa Cruz Sentinel: [March for the Dream in Downtown Santa Cruz to honor MLK Jr.](#)

The Santa Cruz County Branch of the NAACP will commemorate the life and legacy of iconic civil rights activist Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. later in January with a march down Pacific Avenue and a resource fair at the Santa Cruz Civic Auditorium.

KATV: [Jacksonville's NAACP branch to honor Dr. King with community-focused celebrations](#)

The NAACP Jacksonville branch will honor the life of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., through educating and celebrating the example he set for community advocacy and stewardship.

NAACP NEWS AND UPDATES

- [Keep Advancing in 2025](#)

KEEP ADVANCING



Change is on the agenda for 2025. New leaders will take office this month across the country. Climate change continues and no one knows what the economy will

look like from one month to the next.

We know the only constant is change. The Black Panthers showed us the power of community and taking care of our own. And our legacy has equipped us with what we need to make it through what feels like unprecedented times.

The path to our ultimate goal - an equitable future for all - isn't a straight line. There will be peaks of great progress and pits of setbacks. **But we keep advancing.**

The fight wasn't done when we secured the Civil Rights Act in 1964 or the Voting Rights Act in 1965. We kept fighting and advancing. Though we've helped elect candidates who look like us, the fight isn't done. We have more work to do...

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IN VS. OUT 2025



Black people have always been at the forefront of all forms of cultural phenomenon, especially when it comes to setting trends. From music to fashion, and from sports

to STEM, Black contributions are everywhere. When we create, we inspire. When we innovate, we change the world. And when we lead, we move the masses.

As the new year begins, we reflect on the year that's passed — a year that challenged us, a year that at times let us down, a year we rose above time and time again.

To keep advancing, we must fight back and reject anything less than excellence — politically, socially, economically, creatively, and culturally.

To that end, the NAACP compiled its own list of what's in and out for 2025 — [visit our website to see the full list.](#)

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