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The Fayetteville Observer

FRIDAY, JUNE 19, 2026 | FAYOBSERVER.COM

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PRESERVING A LEGACY



The Broadell neighborhood, a historically Black community along the Murchison Road corridor, has advanced in its push for historic designation — a reminder that, like Juneteenth, recognition of equity often comes later than it should.

ANDREW CRAFT/THE FAYETTEVILLE OBSERVER

Fayetteville's Broadell edges toward National Historic status



Myron B. Pitts
Opinion Editor
Fayetteville Observer
USA TODAY NETWORK

Juneteenth is a time of remembering.

The national holiday, which commemorates the end of slavery two years after the 1863 Emancipation Proclamation, has always been a reminder of a formerly forgotten part of Black history. Not in opposition to the upcoming July 4 — the 250th no less — the Juneteenth holiday is more properly to be considered “the rest of the story” of American independence.

Telling the whole story can be a job for all of us, and it strikes me as the effort to get the historically Black Broadell neighborhood on the National Register of Historic Places illustrates the concept neatly.

The effort surpassed a big milestone Thursday, June 11, when the North Carolina National Register Advisory Committee unanimously approved the Broadell Historic District to be sent to the National Park Service in Washington, D.C., for consideration for the National Register.

“Oh my goodness, I’m just overjoyed,” said Cyn-

thia Leeks, a Broadell neighborhood leader, who has worked hard toward this outcome and attended last Thursday’s advisory committee meeting and gave remarks. “It’s on to D.C.”

A Fayetteville neighborhood reaches a milestone but not the finish line

In one sense, the effort is a step away. But it’s also a big step.

“It’s gratifying. It’s one more step closer to fruition,” said Dr. Tamara Brothers, of the North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, on June 16. Her research as a student was a catalyst for the Broadell project; she has been with it ever since, and she also spoke Thursday. She cautioned: “We’re not done yet. A lot of people think that ... the state approved it, we’re good — and we’re not.”

She said the Park Service would review the nomination package, and the Broadell team would receive feedback of “maybe just over two months” before a decision, if the review goes normally.

Brothers believes the nomination has a “really good chance” because of the depth of research performed by consultant Kraemer Design Group and the documentation assembled over the years.

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Suzanne Blum Malley has been named as the next president of Methodist University.

PROVIDED BY METHODIST UNIVERSITY

Methodist University names first woman president

F.T. Norton

Fayetteville Observer
USA TODAY NETWORK

For the first time in its 70-year history, Methodist University in Fayetteville has selected a woman to serve as president.

Provost and Executive Vice President Suzanne Blum Malley will assume her new role effective July 1, 2027, following the retirement of current President Stanley Wearden on June 30, 2027. Blum Malley was selected June 12 by the university’s

See **MALLEY**, Page 2A

New DMV location opens to serve Fort Bragg families

Beth Hutson

Fayetteville Observer
USA TODAY NETWORK

North Carolina Gov. Josh Stein was on Fort Bragg this week to celebrate the grand opening of a driver's license office at the Fort Bragg Soldier Support Center.

This new office will provide dedicated driver's license services to service members, veterans and military families on post, according to a news release from the governor's office.

See **DMV**, Page 2A

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Volume 209 | No. 228
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