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The Fayetteville Observer

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James Wilson, left, of the NineTen Literary Collective, with Reddick Mack II inside the new Concourse 107 gallery on Oct. 2 at 116 Hay St. in downtown Fayetteville. Pieces from Black Artist Forward's 26:26 exhibition are in the background.

ALEX GOLDSTEIN/FAYETTEVILLE OBSERVER

This arts space wants to be more than a gallery

Alex Goldstein
Fayetteville Observer
USA TODAY NETWORK

After a seven-year hiatus, a creative space that's "for artists, by artists" has reemerged in downtown Fayetteville.

Concourse 107 operated at 107 Gillespie St. until 2019. After closing its downtown location, the business continued as an online marketplace. During the first week of September, local creatives Reddick Mack II, originally from Wilson, and James Wilson, a

Pittsburgh native, soft-opened a new gallery space on Fayetteville's main strip at 116 Hay St. Since the soft opening, Fayetteville's Black Artist Forward coalition

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Poll: Most Americans support 'Medicare for all'

Voters see health care reforms as a priority

Amina Niasse
REUTERS

NEW YORK – Most Americans now favor government-paid health insurance for all, according to a new poll, as voters across party lines see major health care reforms as a priority less than a month before midterm elections to decide control of Congress. Two-thirds of U.S. adults – up from 53% in 2020 – said they are in favor of universal U.S. health insurance often referred to as “Medicare for all,” according to a poll conducted by health policy research firm KFF released on Oct. 6. When told such a single-payer model would eliminate private insurance plans, that overall support dropped to 52% – still well ahead of the 37% favorability seen in the 2020 survey. Medicare is the U.S. government program that provides health coverage to about 70 million people aged 65 and older or with disabilities. Lawmakers, including U.S. Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vermont, have suggested expanding Medicare to ensure health coverage that currently relies

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ELECTION 2026: MEET THE CANDIDATES

Val Applewhite, Venus de la Cruz in NC Senate District 19 race

Beth Hutson
Fayetteville Observer
USA TODAY NETWORK

Incumbent Sen. Val Applewhite, a Democrat, will face Republican Venus de la Cruz in her bid for a third term representing North Carolina's Senate District 19. Applewhite was first elected in 2022 to represent the district, which encompasses most of Cumberland County's population and land mass, including the



Val Applewhite, left, and Venus de la Cruz are vying for the North Carolina Senate District 19 seat. FILE PHOTOS

rural areas on the northern, southern and eastern sides, plus Hope Mills and portions of Fayetteville. The general election is Nov. 3. Ahead of early voting, which begins Oct. 15, The Fayetteville Observer asked candidates to complete a questionnaire. Responses have been edited for minor spelling errors but are otherwise published as submitted. Read on to see how the candidates responded to our questionnaire.

Val Applewhite

- **Age:** 64
- **Occupation:** Retired U.S. Air Force; Licensed North Carolina Real Estate Broker
- **Relevant experience, including any current or previous elected office:** I retired after 20 years on active duty in the U.S. Air Force, followed by senior civil service as the Information

See RACE, Page 2A

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