

# The Triangle TRIBUNE

THE TRIANGLE'S CHOICE FOR THE BLACK VOICE

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**Cary brothers enter into the sports podcasting business.**



## Departing NC chief justice unveils panel to examine bias

By Gary D. Robertson

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

RALEIGH — Outgoing North Carolina Supreme Court Chief Justice Cheri Beasley last week detailed a commission that will recommend how to discourage and ultimately eliminate unfair treatment in the judicial system based on race, gender or other factors.

The Chief Justice's Commission on Fairness and Equity was created by a Supreme Court order in October, but the panel and its members weren't announced by the court system until Beasley's final week on the job. Associate Justice Paul Newby, a Republican, becomes the next chief justice after narrowly defeating Beasley, a Democrat, in the November election. Beasley has since become a partner in the law firm McGuireWood.

The text of the order acknowledged inequalities in the judicial system "that stem from a history of deeply rooted discriminatory policies and prac-



Bryant



McGee

Please see BIAS/2A

## NC students missing in action

By Bryan Anderson

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

RALEIGH — North Carolina education officials recently estimated that educators can't account for about 10,000 to 15,000 public school students this school year amid the COVID-19 pandemic. Lawmakers and educators worry more students are falling through cracks in the system than is presently known, as the coronavirus pandemic upends students' learning plans and keeps some out of virtual or physical classrooms.

David Stegall, the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction's deputy superintendent of innovation, told lawmakers earlier this month that a survey the state conducted of some districts concluded that the whereabouts of about 0.7% to 1% of the state's 1.5 million K-12 public school students are unknown. This happens when a school has lost contact with a student, often because the student dropped out without alerting the school or moved elsewhere without the parent notifying the school or responding to repeated requests to get their kid back in class.

If a student misses at least 10 consecutive days of school in North Carolina, they are typically unenrolled, and the school works to account for them. The education department said in a statement that "unaccounted for" doesn't necessarily mean the school doesn't know where a student is or that the student is in danger.

North Carolina has long kept track of enrollment and attendance numbers but has no database for counting the number of students who educators can't account for. Republicans and Democrats on the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee asked the department to provide the information and now worry the estimates grossly understate the scope of the problem.

Rep. Craig Horn, a Republican from Union, said he heard reports in his district and elsewhere earlier this year that upward of 1 in 5 students could not be found or had parents who didn't inform the district that their child moved and enrolled elsewhere. He believes that number has fallen slightly but remains nowhere close to the state's claims.

"I talk to superintendents, principals and teachers across this state, and I'm hearing numbers significantly higher than 1%," Horn said. "I'm hearing numbers going from

Please see STUDENTS/2A



COURTESY

Terrance Ruth is the first candidate to challenge Raleigh Mayor Mary-Ann Baldwin.

## NCSU professor runs for mayor

By Bonitta Best

editor@triangletribune.com

Terrance Ruth, a professor at North Carolina State University's School of Social Work and executive director of the Justice Love Foundation, announced this week his candidacy for Raleigh mayor.

Ruth is the first to declare his intention against Raleigh Mayor Mary-Ann Baldwin, who is seeking a second term.

"I'm running to unite Raleigh, because I see a city that has become divided, and defensive," Ruth said in a statement. "I want to re-

store active citizen engagement and trust so we can find common purpose.

"I want to work with all of our residents to create a stronger, more inclusive and prosperous Raleigh. It is only by working together, as a united community, that we can meet the challenges ahead."

Ruth is a former teacher and principal with Wake County public schools.

He also was the executive director of the N.C. NAACP.

He and his wife Kiara have one son, Miles, a first-grader at Green Elementary School.

## Minority-owned companies waited months for loans

By Joyce M. Rosenberg and Justin Myers

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK — Thousands of minority-owned small businesses were at the end of the line in the government's coronavirus relief program as many struggled to find banks that would accept their applications or were disadvantaged by the terms of the program.

Data from the Paycheck Protection Program released Dec. 1 and analyzed by The Associated Press show that many minority owners desperate for a relief loan didn't receive one until the PPP's last few weeks while many more white business owners were able to get loans earlier in the program. The program, which began April 3 and ended Aug. 8, and handed out 5.2 million loans worth \$525 billion, helped many businesses stay on their feet during a period when government measures to control the coronavirus forced many to shut down or operate at a diminished capacity. But it struggled to meet its promise of aiding communities that historically haven't gotten the



FILE

help they needed.

Congress has approved a third, \$284 billion round of PPP loans. While companies that did not get loans previously have another chance at help, according to a draft of the legislation, businesses hard-hit by the virus outbreak will be eligible for a second loan. The first round of the program saw overwhelming demand and the Small Business Administration approved \$349 billion in loans in just

two weeks. But many minority-owned firms applied to multiple banks early in the program and were rejected, while others couldn't get banks to respond to their applications and inquiries. "Many of our businesses were being turned down in the first and second round of funding. That caused application fatigue and frustration," says Ron Busby, president of the U.S. Black

Please see MINORITY/2A

## Fewer people in North Carolina jails

By Yanqi Xu

N.C. HEALTH NEWS

Backlogged court system and delayed trials create social justice inequities during COVID-19.

While the number of people in county jails has dropped because of the pandemic, some incarcerated people in North Carolina are staying locked up longer, a study monitoring these populations shows.

Judges have halted some hearings and jury trials to limit the spread of the coronavirus. This has caused a backlog in the court system, even as COVID-19 outbreaks continue to rack jails and prisons. And, as Phase 1 of vaccinations begins, only jail staff and incarcerated people with two or more chronic conditions or over age 65 will receive their shots - after health care workers, according to the state's COVID-19 vaccination plan. "Please help us make it back to our family," an inmate in Forsyth County Correctional Detention Facility wrote to advocacy group Prison Outreach Initiative. "They will quarantine us, keep us from contacting family if we test positive."

Anna Harvey, the lead researcher of the study and a politics professor at New York University, said the longer detentions are consistent with the slowdown of court activities and district attorneys' work. Harvey's research team is monitoring jail populations prior to and amid the pandemic.

In January, a person who had yet to go to trial stayed an average of less than a week in jail, according to a sample of 14 that consistently self-reported their data. In July, the average length of stay had increased to more than month. By the end of 2020, the time period had dropped to just under three weeks, still longer than a year prior. This sample showing length of stay is from 14 county jails that consistently self-report their populations on the website.

"You don't want to give someone a death sentence while they're awaiting trial... and that's what some people believe being incarcerated equates to right now," said Durham District Court Judge Amanda Maris.

There is also a social justice aspect to these backlogs. Some incarcerated people have family or friends to bail them out, but others awaiting trial cannot afford bonds. This financial inequity forces them to stay in jail, some of them hotbeds of COVID-19, and possibly contract the virus, which in some cases can be fatal or result in long-term health problems.

Following a 30-day suspen-

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## Minority-owned cos. waited months for loans

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Chambers, a nationwide chamber of commerce.

Loan data analyzed according to ZIP codes found that in that first round of funding, six loans were approved for every 1,000 people living in the 20% of ZIP codes with the greatest proportions of white residents, nearly twice the rate of loans approved for people living in the 20% of ZIP codes with the smallest proportions of whites. That pattern reversed itself over the final four weeks of round two, partly because banks responded to criticism by making it easier to apply for a loan. Over the entire course of the program, the number of loans approved grew and evened out at 14 loans per 1,000 residents in the most ZIP codes with the most and fewest number of white-owned businesses.

Still, minority owners were kept waiting while their companies were in jeopardy. "Many are hanging on by the skin of their teeth. Most are in the professional services, small retail shops, restaurants, barber shops," says Ramiro Cavazos, president of the U.S. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce.

The SBA did not address the timing of loans to minority-owned businesses when asked for comment by the AP.

But spokesperson Shannon Giles said in an email that \$133 billion, or 25%,

of PPP funding had gone to companies in economically disadvantaged areas known as Historically Underutilized Business Zones, and 27% went to low- and moderate-income neighborhoods.

The AP analysis shows restaurants slammed by the virus outbreak got the most loans in the first round, but they were followed by businesses in two high-income professions: law firms and doctors' practices. When the first round ended, millions of small businesses were left waiting.

The program's disparities were apparent from the start. An AP analysis of the initial data release found some of the nation's largest banks had processed larger loans first. That included loans to well-known and well-financed companies including Shake Shack, Ruth's Chris Steakhouse and the Los Angeles Lakers. Many have returned the money.

What's more, the program's terms helped exclude minority-owned firms. A primary goal for the loans was to allow owners to keep paying employees who otherwise would go on unemployment.

So, non-employer firms, or businesses that have owners but no other staffers, weren't allowed to apply until a week after the program began. Of the 2.6 million Black-owned companies in business be-

fore the pandemic, 2.1 million were non-employer firms, according to the U.S. Black Chambers. That discouraged many minority owners, Busby says.

Minority-owned and other very small companies were also left out at first because some banks refused to process applications that weren't from well-established customers with multiple accounts. Many of those banks ended that practice after being criticized publicly. The SBA, which initially had more than 3,000 lenders in the program, eventually brought in 2,000 more banks, non-bank lenders and online lenders, which helped more minority applications get approved as the PPP wore on.

MBE Capital, a lender focusing on minority-owned companies, received a commitment in mid-May from NBA Hall of Fame member Magic Johnson for funding for \$100 million in PPP loans.

MBE loans accounted for nearly a quarter of approvals on the PPP's last day, according to the AP analysis. More than half of the company's loan approvals came in the last three weeks of the program. MBE did not respond to requests for comment.

Busby noted that the PPP was supposed to help underserved communities. "We know that did not happen," he says.

## More than 10,000 NC students unaccounted for

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8% to 14%. I just find it very difficult to believe that if we had 20-25% students missing in May that now we only have .7%. I'm sorry. It just doesn't ring right."

In the Dec. 1 hearing with members of Horn's committee, Stegall said he was "relieved" the numbers weren't higher and noted the state's efforts to track people down. "Our schools are continually working with social workers, truancy officers, their counselors to track down every student," Stegall said. "And sometimes, that means not only home visits but visiting neighbors, friends, family and trying to find out where they may be."

Erik Naglee, a principal at Page High School in Greensboro, has worked to support the roughly 1,800 students at his school who were learning entirely online during the two fall

quarters this year. He said several dozen students remain unaccounted for and dozens don't have access to a computer or the internet, disrupting their ability to show up to class even when they're accounted for.

Three or four buses serve as Wi-Fi hotspots in some of the community's lowest-income neighborhoods, but that is only helpful to those who already have devices at their disposal. Naglee and fellow administrators spent a weekend last month tracking down seniors to give them hard copies of learning materials and help them remain on course to graduate.

Before the pandemic, an average of 21% students were failing at least one class. During the first quarter of classes this academic year, however, 53% students had at least one class they were failing.

"The gap will continue to widen and has widened during this time," Naglee said. "Our students that were struggling already are struggling even more during this time. That's very hard to address."

State Rep. Ashton Clemmons previously worked as a local elementary school principal for eight years and has three children enrolled in public school. The Democrat from Guilford questions the accuracy of the state's estimates and wants the education department to adopt a broader definition of "unaccounted for" that also factors in students who are technically enrolled but haven't been able to learn and keep in contact with their teachers during the pandemic.

"Signing in one time doesn't mean you're accounted for from my perspective," Clemmons said.

## Fewer people incarcerated in NC's county jails

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sion of most in-person hearings, trials are expected to resume later in January. But even then, the backlog will continue, especially in pending criminal cases. As of October, there were more than 980,000 criminal cases in the pipeline, an increase of nearly 100,000 from 2019. Felony cases account for 25% of the increase, the second-fastest growing offense category according to a report by the state's Judicial Branch.

Meanwhile, many county jails have reported recent spikes in COVID-19 cases. Statewide, 20 correctional facilities are reporting outbreaks, according to the latest data from the state Department of Health and Human Services. And those numbers are likely an undercount. Some jails don't regularly test everyone who is incarcerated. Nor is there a statewide protocol for testing, according to DHHS. The decision is

often made by the county health department and local medical providers.

When the pandemic began in North Carolina last March, Cheri Beasley, who was then state Supreme Court Chief Justice, issued a directive postponing most hearings in district and superior courts to protect the safety of those who interact with the judicial system. That's when the 12 sampled county jails in North Carolina witnessed the largest drop of prison populations, according to the report by Harvey's team.

At the time, several county sheriff departments reported a decrease in jail population because of pretrial release policies. Durham District Court Judge Maris said judges "were certainly amenable to reviewing any proposed bond reductions" at the beginning of the pandemic.

"During the pandemic, the courts want to avoid increased pending caseloads

whenever possible," Sharon Gladwell, communications director of the state Judicial Branch said in a statement.

Yet the number of people in custody experiencing delays while awaiting trial or transfer is difficult to ascertain because there are a lack of comprehensive data at the state and federal level.

"I think all of us continue to be really sensitive to the fact that if you're going to allow someone to remain in jail during a pandemic where there's an increased risk of exposure to COVID-19, that has to be for a legitimate reason grounded in the law," Maris said.

Harvey's NYU study showed that the proportion of people re-entering jail after being released during the pandemic has decreased. "We can see that rebooking rates are lower now, which indicates basically lower public safety risk," Harvey said.



## Most NC nursing home workers are refusing COVID-19 vaccine

By Bryan Anderson

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

RALEIGH — North Carolina's top public health official said Tuesday that most nursing home workers are refusing to take coronavirus vaccines being offered in a state that has now become one of the slowest in the nation to get doses into peoples' arms.

In an interview with The Associated Press, Mandy Cohen, secretary of the state Department of Health and Human Services, attributed some of the sluggishness behind rollout to staffing shortages, lack of familiarity with the state's technological systems, and logistical hurdles of working with dozens of hospitals and 100 different counties throughout the state.

Her comments came shortly after the governor announced Tuesday the deployment of National Guard members to accelerate the administration of doses. "We have a decentralized system in North Carolina," Cohen said. "We have 83 local public health departments, we have 100 counties. We have great pride in that, but when you decentralize things, it does create slowness. We're trying to find that right balance of recognizing the strengths in our local areas but also recognizing where are the challenges."

Roy Cooper, North Carolina's newly reelected Democratic governor, wrote on Twitter that en-

suring vaccines are given to individuals "is our top priority right now."

"We will use all resources and personnel needed," Cooper wrote. "I've mobilized the NC National Guard to provide support to local health providers as we continue to increase the pace of vaccinations."

Dozens of states also are getting vaccine assistance from their guard units. Nearly 110,000 people in North Carolina had received their first dose as of Tuesday morning, according to data from the state health department. Nearly 500 people had received a second dose.

The administration of initial doses thus far account for less than 1% of the state's population of 10.5 million people. Data gathered and shared by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on Monday placed North Carolina as the sixth worst state in the country in per capita first-dose vaccinations. Kansas, Georgia, Mississippi, Alabama and Arizona ranked worse.

Cohen noted that vaccine hesitancy among long-term care staff is "concerning," given the anecdotal reports the state has gathered thus far. North Carolina is working with Walgreens and CVS, which are responsible for vaccinating residents and workers in long-term care settings, to access and report concrete data. She believes North Carolina is experiencing something similar to an estimate Ohio

Gov. Mike DeWine made last week noting that about 60% of staff in long-term care settings have refused vaccination.

"I caution it's anecdotal, but we are definitely hearing that more than half (are) declining (the vaccine), and that is concerning," Cohen said.

Still, demand across the state greatly outpaces the available weekly supply of 120,000 doses North Carolina expects to get this month from President Donald Trump's administration.

Cohen said some of the National Guard members will serve as vaccinators, while others will assist local health departments with logistical processes of checking people into sites and ensuring they remain masked and physically distant from one another.

Hospital workers were the first in line to receive doses and some remain unvaccinated due to limited supply. Starting Wednesday, a small number of counties will begin administering doses to elderly people 75 years or older.

"If you are over 75, it's your turn for a vaccine," Cohen said. "Providers are already starting to vaccinate those over 75 this week, more of them will move into that next week. You want to call your local health department or your local hospital. Those are your first calls right now, but things are changing rapidly. We're trying to bring in more providers."

## New panel to examine bias in criminal justice system

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tices, and the ongoing role of implicit and explicit racial, gender, and other biases." Beasley, the first Black woman serving as chief justice, also delivered an address following the death of George Floyd that acknowledged enduring racial inequalities in North Carolina's system.

The October order made the chief justice or her designee the commission's chair. Beasley chose before she left office to delegate the leadership role to two jurists — Associate Justice Michael Morgan and Court of Appeals Judge Valerie Zachary. Other commission members include Justice Sam Ervin IV, trial court judges, court attorneys, law enforcement and representatives of several interest groups.

While there is no time limit on the commission, the order directs the panel to work in 2021 and 2022 toward several recommendations.

They include ways to reduce situations where low-income defendants effectively suffer more punishment because they can't pay fines and other fees, and how to ensure no one is prevented from jury

service due to explicit or implicit bias. The commission is also supposed to help create educational programs for court officials and private lawyers on systemic racism and bias.

Commission members also are asked to carry out portions of 2017 recommendations from a previous blue ribbon panel on improving North Carolina's courts, championed by then-Chief Justice Mark Martin, a Republican. The panel's massive final report cited 2015 surveys that found a substantial number of respondents believed members of certain groups received better treatment in state courts than others.

"If justice is to be served without favor, denial or delay, the Judicial Branch must create an atmosphere in which every person serving in the Judicial Branch understands the importance of bias-free courts, and every person who interacts with the Judicial Branch experiences a bias-free environment," the 2017 report reads.

### JUDGES RETIRE

Chief Judge Linda M. McGee and Judge Wanda G.

Bryant, both serving on the N.C. Court of Appeals, retired on Dec. 31. Both judges have served long and distinguished careers, and were recently honored for their service by Governor Roy Cooper with the Order of the Long Leaf Pine. This high honor was presented by Attorney General Josh Stein at a retirement luncheon for both.

McGee was appointed to the Court of Appeals in 1995 by Governor Jim Hunt. She is the longest serving judge of the Court of Appeals in state history. She was elected to an eight-year term in 1996, and was reelected in 2004 and 2012. In August 2014, she was named Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals, where she has led the court, oversaw its administration, served on the State Judicial Council, and served as vice chair of the Chief Justice's Commission on Professionalism.

Bryant was appointed to the Court of Appeals by Governor Mike Easley in March 2001 and reappointed in December 2002. She was elected to a full eight-year term in November 2004, and reelected in November 2012.

### BUSINESS BRIEFS

#### RALEIGH CHAMBER

\* Jan. 20, 9 to 11:30 a.m. - Young Professionals Network Conference virtual event. RSVP by Jan. 14 to [raleighchamber.org](mailto:raleighchamber.org).  
\* Jan. 26, 9 to 10 a.m. - Coffee with Sharat Nagaraj, CEO of Celito Communication. RSVP by Jan. 19.  
\* Jan. 29, 10 to 11:30 a.m. - Chamber Professional

Women's Luncheon. RSVP by Jan. 21.

#### GRANTS

Downtown Raleigh Alliance has awarded an additional \$98,000 in pivot grants from the Duke Energy Storefront Revitalization Grant program. Thirty-four Raleigh businesses affected by COVID-

19 will split the funds.

#### OPENINGS

\* Eleanor Health, a drug treatment provider, has opened an addiction and mental health clinic in Cary.

Send business briefs to [info@triangletribune.com](mailto:info@triangletribune.com).



Catherine Truitt is sworn in as Superintendent of Public Instruction on January 2, 2021.

## Catherine Truitt takes the lead of the DPI

By Mebane Rash  
EdNC

"How do we change things to put kids at the center of everything we do?" asked Catherine Truitt in her first remarks after being sworn in as State Superintendent of Public Instruction. It's the question that framed her campaign, and it's the question that will frame her leadership.

Back in February, before the primary election and COVID-19, Abdur Gantt, a student at Edgecombe Early College High School, asked Truitt, "Who are you?" And he asked her that question over and over as a way for students at EdNC's town hall to get to know her.

More than 10 long months later, in an outdoor courtyard at Carroll Magnet Middle School in Raleigh, Truitt was sworn in by Court of Appeals Judge Chris Dillon. T

hen, Secretary of State Elaine Marshall did the rest

before announcing, "It's official."

As Truitt told Gantt, "I am Catherine." At her swearing in, she laid her hand on a Bible given to her by her aunt and uncle for her own christening on June 30, 1971. A note inside the cover wishes for her faith and wisdom, happiness and love.

Truitt told Gantt she is "a military spouse" and "a mom." At her swearing in, her husband, Jeff, held the Bible, as her children — Susie, Chorley, and Charles — looked on. Her children attend Wake County public schools.

The family wore masks except for this photo, which was taken outdoors and socially distanced from the others in attendance. When Truitt told the students at the town hall she was a breast cancer survivor, there was spontaneous applause. At the swearing in, she thanked a former boss who had offered to help her with car-

pool while she was in treatment. She described herself to Gantt as "compassionate" and a "hard worker," as a "consensus builder" and a "leader." At her swearing in, she thanked the State Board of Education for welcoming her with open arms.

She told the students she thinks of herself as "a practitioner" and "a former teacher." The first student-painted paver on the right as you walked into the courtyard said, "Don't forget me."

"We are going to do amazing things together in the name of the students," Truitt said as she concluded her remarks.

Truitt thanked Carroll Middle principal Elizabeth MacWilliams, which was one of the last schools she visited before COVID-19.

"I love your leadership in the school and your vision and your innovation, and that for me is a microcosm about what I want my administration to be about," said Truitt.

## NC revises vaccine distribution plan, halts evictions

By Bryan Anderson  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

RALEIGH — North Carolina is making substantial changes to its coronavirus vaccine distribution plan, paving the way for all adults 75 years or older to be prioritized under the first phase of distribution.

Mandy Cohen, the state's top public health official, said that residents in that age group can expect to get their first dose of a Pfizer or Moderna vaccine as early as this week, even if they don't have any underlying medical conditions that make them particularly vulnerable.

Most health care providers won't start offering vaccines to people 75 years or older until the week of Jan. 11, Cohen said.

The announcement comes as North Carolina sees a sharp decline in the number of doses it is getting from President Donald Trump's administration.

When Pfizer's vaccine was first made available in North Carolina the week of Dec. 14, the state received nearly 85,000 doses. North Carolina got more than 175,000 doses of Moderna's vaccine the following week.

Now, North Carolina expects to get 60,000 weekly doses of each vaccine through the end of January.

Cohen said the federal government would be better able to explain the decrease, though she believes it is likely the result of manufacturing and production processes that will slowly ramp up.

The limited supply prompted the state to unveil changes to its sweeping 148-page vaccine distribution plan.

Most notably, anyone 75 years or older will now be placed at the top of the list

within the so-called "Phase 1b," regardless of their health status or living situation. The state previously committed to vaccinating all residents with two or more serious underlying health issues beforehand. Prison staff and inmates had also been given greater priority.

The state is now in Phase 1A, which focuses on hospital workers who come into regular contact with COVID-19, health care workers administering the vaccine, and staff and residents in long-term care settings.

"Vaccines will be available to everyone, but currently supplies are limited and will continue to be limited for the next few months," Cohen said.

When adults 75 or older are vaccinated, the state will prioritize health care workers and frontline essential workers 50 years or older, followed by other health care and frontline workers of all ages. In phase 2, adults between the ages of 65 and 74 will be vaccinated first, even if they don't have any chronic conditions. Next will be adults with high-risk medical conditions, anyone who is incarcerated and other essential workers, including those in transportation, water, food service, public health, construction, engineering and media.

Phase 3 prioritizes college students and high school students at least 16 years old. Anyone who wants a vaccine can get one under Phase 4, which Cohen expects to occur "well into the spring."

Some believe the plan remains too complicated and encourages line-jumping.

"I have reservations about putting healthy college students ahead of people in their early 60s

who face a 10,000% higher risk of death," said a statement from Republican Senate leader Phil Berger. "I understand the concern that college students spread the virus, but the whole basis for that concern is they spread the virus to older people who might die. We should vaccinate those older people first."

Democratic Gov. Roy Cooper stood by the plan and stressed the importance of making sure vaccine distributors follow the prioritization schedules now in place. He and Cohen want the state's medical board to propose punishments for non-compliance, such as fines and revoking medical licenses.

Cooper signed an executive order to follow through on a commitment he made last week to prevent evictions for another month. His directive extends the existing moratorium through the end of January. "This order will help them stay in their homes, which is essential to slowing the spread of the virus," Cooper said.

The pace of vaccine rollout will remain slow as the state sees its worst levels of transmission yet.

For the first time since the start of the pandemic, more than 8,500 people tested positive for the virus last week. The state recorded its highest number of COVID-related hospitalizations yet, with more than 3,300 patients hospitalized. Nearly 15% of tests came back positive on Monday — a grim milestone that has not been reached since the middle of April, when the number of daily tests performed were nearly eight times less than they are today. "I'm very, very worried," Cohen said of the trends.

## Warnock's rise from poverty to US senator

By Russ Bynum  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SAVANNAH, Ga. — The Rev. Raphael Warnock's roots showed little promise of a future that led to the U.S. Senate.

He grew up in Savannah in the Kayton Homes public housing project, the second youngest of 12 children. His mother as a teenager had worked as a sharecropper picking cotton and tobacco. His father was a preacher who also made money hauling old cars to a local scrapyards.

"My daddy used to wake me up every morning at dawn," Warnock told a hometown crowd at a drive-in rally two days before his election Tuesday. "He said, 'Boy, you can't sleep late in my house. Get up, get dressed, put your shoes on. Get ready.'"

Pushed by his parents to work hard, Warnock left Savannah and became the first member of his family to graduate from college, helped by Pell grants and low-interest student loans. He earned a Ph.D. in theology that led to a career in the pulpit, eventually as head pastor of the Atlanta church where the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. preached.

Now Warnock, 51, will go to Washington as the first Black senator elected from Georgia, a Southern state still grappling with its painful history of slavery, segregation and racial injustice.

"Only in America is my story even possible," Warnock told the cheering drive-in crowd Sunday.

Warnock defeated Republican Sen. Kelly Loeffler, a wealthy businesswoman who spent more than \$20 million of her own money to try to keep the Senate seat to which Georgia's Republican governor appointed her a year ago.

His election followed a year scarred not only by a pandemic that disproportionately killed African Americans and left many jobless and struggling to pay rent, but also marked by the volatile outcry over

the killings of Black Americans, including George Floyd in Minneapolis, and Ahmaud Arbery and Rayshard Brooks in Georgia.

Warnock isn't the first Black candidate to win statewide office in Georgia, where voters elected Black men to serve as attorney general, state labor commissioner and a state Supreme Court justice in the 1990s. But the Senate seat is by far the most high-profile office won by an African American from the state.

"A barrier has been broken, a wall has literally been shattered and splintered," said Michael Thurmond, the elected CEO of DeKalb County in metro At-

lanta. "Historically, it didn't matter how qualified you were, primarily you were prohibited by color. It was an office reserved for white men."

He credited Warnock's victory largely to Georgia voters defying stereotypes and expectations.

"African American voters did something many political pundits didn't believe they would do, which is come back for a runoff," said Thurmond, who also noted that many whites supported Warnock — even as Republicans spent huge sums to portray him as being too radical for the traditionally conservative state. "The fact that whites weren't scared to vote for

this Black man was quite amazing."

Michaëlle Viosa moved to Atlanta last year from New York and said she's been unable to find a job amid economic fallout from the pandemic. Hearing of Warnock's win when she woke Wednesday, Viosa, a Black woman of Haitian descent, cheered his victory — but also wondered what he'll do when he gets to Washington.

"I believe God wanted it," Viosa said. "I'm hoping he uses his powers for good for our community. There has been so much oppression on our people."

Warnock framed his campaign for the Senate as an extension of his years of



COURTESY

progressive activism as the leader of Atlanta's storied Ebenezer Baptist Church. He won election on a platform that called for bail reform and an end to mass

incarceration; a living wage and job training for a green economy; expanded access to voting and health care, and student loan forgiveness.

Join us back in the heart of Raleigh for all that makes our Village great. Bring your friends for the familiar warmth and fun felt on the sidewalks of Cameron Village. You and your family can safely enjoy the same shopping and dining North Carolinians have loved for the past 71 years. Welcome back, Villagers!

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Count ON ME NC

Classified Deadline: Wednesday at 5p.m., prior to Sunday's edition

## AUCTION

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## LEGAL NOTICES

### REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS TOWN OF CARRBORO COMMISSIONING AGENT

Statements of qualifications will be received by the Town of Carrboro - Purchasing Office, 301 West Main Street, Carrboro, North Carolina 27510, until 5:00 p.m., on Monday February 1st 2021.

The Town of Carrboro is seeking qualifications from interested Commissioning Agent Firms to complete the Commissioning for the new Town of Carrboro and Orange County Community Center (The 203 Project). The proposed site is an existing gravel parking lot located at 203 South Greensboro Street.

The 203 facility will include a new three-story, 53,000 GSF building and adjacent 173 car capacity parking deck. The project is currently planned for a Construction Manager at Risk delivery method.

The Request for Qualifications (RFQ) is available for review at the following locations:  
Town of Carrboro, Capital Projects Manager  
100 Public Works Dr.  
Carrboro, North Carolina, 27510  
On-line at the Town's website:  
<http://www.townofcarrboro.org/967/Bid-Opportunities>.

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# Supernatural help needed for my new year's resolutions

By Neil Joiner  
BAPTIST PRESS

VIENNA, Ga. - I don't recall ever making a list of new year's resolutions. If I did, the goals were not memorable enough to stay with me. The year 2020, however, has left many of us wanting a fresh start.

COVID-19 has taken a great toll on people around the globe. It's affected our neighbors across the street and those we'll never meet. Political divides are severe and lacking civility, with the bridge to connect that widening chasm in great need of repair. And those are just two of many concerns that beleaguere the year to which we're saying goodbye.

The problems looming before us are massive, numerous and not easily solved, but dwelling on such difficulties can be debilitating, robbing us of our collective faith in a more promising future. So, for 2021, I've decided to focus on a few personal areas where change is both needed and possible.

My initial thought was to find easy targets such as eating more dark chocolate for its potential health benefits. There are days when I only have a couple of bite-sized square shaped Dove dark chocolates that come in the red wrapper with the upbeat quotes inside. But this didn't seem like the right year to aim at low aspirations so I'm looking upward instead.

There are three resolutions on my current list which will require significant effort. I can't say with confidence that I'll follow

through, but maybe writing them down will help me stay on track.

First, I resolve not to rush through my daily devotions. Sometimes I read without reflecting as my eyes race toward the bottom of a page or I hastily scroll down my computer screen.

It's easy to slip into a routine of going through the motions without absorbing the message, of being content to scan a formation of words rather than seek a transformation of heart.

I receive a daily email devotional titled "First15," which is consistently worthwhile. The name suggests that we give God the first 15 minutes of our day. That may not always be practical, and 15 minutes isn't a formula for the perfect amount of time, but the concept is solid.

Morning, noon or night will work if it's a priority and not something we reluctantly squeeze into our schedules.

Second, I resolve to improve my prayer life by asking less of what I want from God and more of what God wants from me. And I'll try to stop talking long enough to listen. Psalm 46:10 says, "Be still and know that I am God." It's hard to still my wandering mind.

Selling computers with Burroughs Corporation in Tallahassee, Florida, was my first job after college. Burroughs provided quality training, which admittedly I often ignored. One thing I recall being emphasized was how to close a sale. Their mantra

was, "Ask for the order, then shut up."

When we ask for an order but get no response, our tendency is to break the awkward silence by restarting the conversation. That's also my tendency in prayer, jumping ahead with my own solutions rather than giving God the opportunity to answer. There's no doubt I've interrupted His replies with my own suggestions. And there have been too many times when I asked for His input, but what I really wanted was His blessing on plans I'd already made.

Resolution number three: Do more for those who can't pay me back. Heard George, son of U.S. Senator Walter F. George, was a member of my church when I joined in 1976. Someone, I don't remember who, told me that he regularly prayed, "God help me to help someone who can't do anything for me." That prayer captures the essence of what Jesus taught. He even said that when we help the least among us, it's like we're doing it for Him personally (Matthew 25:31-46). When we think in those terms, serving others is not a burden but a privilege.

My approach to accomplishing these resolutions has changed while I've been writing this. I thought these were goals I could reach on my own but realize now I can't do it alone. So, I'll ask for some help, then try to be still until The Helper speaks. And occasionally, if my progress is substantial enough to warrant some reward, I may have an extra piece of chocolate.

# Five things I learned from reading the Bible through in a year

By Michael Davis  
SPECIAL TO THE TRIBUNE

DAVIS, Okla. - In 2019, I bought the CSB Day-by-Day Chronological Bible and attempted to begin in late March only to find myself lacking discipline, focus and good tactics.

At the end of 2019, I knew I needed to read the whole Bible in 2020 and resolved that I was going to stick with it - a decision that changed my life.

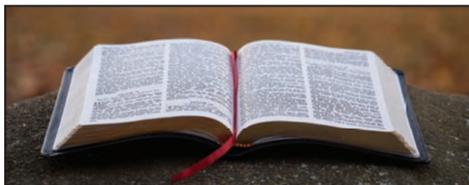
Through reading the whole Bible, I realized many things about it and about myself that I would not otherwise have seen. If you're thinking about reading the Bible in 2021, or you've already started, here are five things I learned that might be an encouragement to you.

1. **The Bible is long.** In college, I read Les Miserables and deemed it one of the greatest accomplishments of my life, but now I sit here having completed the world's greatest masterpiece, and I found the length of it, spread out over 52 weeks, completely manageable.

For a society inundated with short, concise, dramatically flippant messages, reading through the Bible faithfully in a year takes discipline.

"For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it" (Hebrews 12:11 ESV).

2. **The Bible is one big story.** From Creation to New Jerusalem, through the law, prophets, poetry, gospels and letters, there is one story: Christ Jesus and His mission to redeem creation. Jesus was foreshadowed by Adam and Isaac and Boaz and Elijah, and each, while sinful, raised anticipation for the fully perfect Christ to come. While inside the covers you'll find 66 books, they



serve as one large picture of God's redemption plan for mankind.

"Thus it is written, 'The first man Adam became a living being;' the last Adam became a life-giving spirit" (1 Corinthians 15:45 ESV).

3. **The Bible isn't arranged chronologically.** If you're new to the Bible, it's helpful to know that the Bible is not laid out chronologically. In fact, one of the things I liked about the Day-by-Day Chronological Bible is that as I read 1 and 2 Kings, I was also reading 1 and 2 Chronicles where their content matched. Just as the gospels are essentially reporting the same event from different perspectives, so, too, other books of the Bible generously give us different angles from which to see these moments in history. Don't let format overwhelm you!

"For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope" (Romans 15:4 ESV).

4. **The Bible has purpose on every page.** Sometimes it's easy to gloss right over passages only to realize you read nothing while reading all of it. A strategy I use is to read so as to teach. As I read, I am searching the content for something to write down and be able to teach. I learned through looking for teachable content that on every page there is something from which we can both learn and teach. The Lord completely saturated the Bible in purpose.

"For as the rain and the snow come down from

heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it" (Isaiah 55:10-11 ESV).

5. **The Bible is worth reading.** Repeatedly throughout my college career, I would fail to read the material needed for learning the subject matter. I would rely on skimming and context to get me through, consistently finishing with mediocre scores and a poor GPA. If you are anything like me, your method of ingesting the Bible has taken a similar approach, and as you hop around chapter and verse following topics, suggestions or study materials other than the Bible, you skip over important material necessary for your spiritual development. Studies about the Bible are good, but they do not replace studying the Bible. Rest assured, you cannot skim the Bible and ace the test.

"You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me, yet you refuse to come to me that you may have life" (John 5:39-40 ESV).

Today, my prayer for you is that you would have a deep desire to study God's whole Word and submit to it as it impacts your life, and that you would find yourself in the middle of a new discipline that will mark the rest of your life.

## AROUND THE TRIANGLE

### RALEIGH BREAKFAST

Annual MLK, Jr. Interfaith Prayer Breakfast is virtual this year. For more information about the Jan. 18 event, email planner4trianglemlk@gmail.com.

### ASSISTANCE

Households can now apply for assistance with utility bills. Visit [www.epass.nc.gov](http://www.epass.nc.gov).

### WINTER DRIVE

Fathers Forever is holding a winter drive for gently used men's items: coats, scarves, socks and gloves. Drop off at 3029-105 Stony Brook Drive or Headquarters Barbershop, 5720 Capital Blvd. Visit [www.afatherforever.com](http://www.afatherforever.com).

### CLUB

Triangle Shooting Club is offering a mentorship pro-

gram for women. Visit [www.inherpiece.com](http://www.inherpiece.com).

### DURHAM WORKSHOP

School Choice workshop for Durham parents is Jan. 13, 6-7:30 p.m. Email [cgibson@dconnc.gov](mailto:cgibson@dconnc.gov).

### HEALTH

"Understanding and Reversing Diabetes, Heart Disease, and Most Chronic Illnesses" webinar is Jan. 14, 6:30-7:45 p.m. Register at <https://niehs.nih.gov/whad>. Deadline: Jan. 13.

### POP-UP

King Weekend Pop-Up is Jan. 16, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., 1500 E. Club Blvd. Contact [church@thecomplexxnc.net](mailto:church@thecomplexxnc.net).

### MEETINGS

Public meetings to dis-

cuss the former Department of Social Services Building on Main Street will be held Jan. 16, 10 to 11:30 a.m., and Jan. 19, 5:30-7 p.m. via Zoom or 877-835-5257.

### BOOK DRIVE

Dream Big Book Harvest's MLK Day Book Drive & Community Celebration is Jan. 18, noon to 4 p.m., Durham Central Park on Foster Street. Visit [www.bookharvestnc.org/dream-big](http://www.bookharvestnc.org/dream-big).

### CHAPEL HILL SEMINAR

UNC School of Social Work will hold a seminar on "Diversity in Neurodivergence: Girls and Women with Autism" Jan. 12, 12:30-1:30 p.m. Register at [ssw.unc.edu/ssw-events](http://ssw.unc.edu/ssw-events).

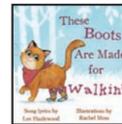
## BOOK

**These Boots Are Made for Walkin'**  
Song lyrics by Lee Hazelwood  
Illustrations by Rachel Moss  
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While there have been numerous recordings over the past several decades,

"These Boots Are Made for Walkin'" was originally recorded by Sinatra and released in early 1966 to instant success.

A No. 1 Billboard hit in the United States, United Kingdom, Canada, and Australia that was nominated for three GRAMMYS,



Hazelwood's tough-talking hit song (popularized by Nancy Sinatra) is adapted into a playful children's book about the inner life of a jealous cat.

These Boots Are Made for Walkin' is an adorable story of friendship and family set against the backdrop of Hazelwood's

Hazelwood's song continues to be embraced to this day.

With lyrics by Hazelwood and illustrations by Moss, this captivating picture book tells the story of a boy and his extremely attached and very jealous cat who must adapt to the introduction of a new family member — a puppy.

The funny story line and delightful images are sure to have the entire family curled up and laughing together, pets included!

## IN MEMORY



COURTESY

# Novelist Eric Jerome Dickey dead at 59

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Eric Jerome Dickey, the best-selling novelist who blended crime, romance and eroticism in "Sister, Sister," "Waking With Enemies" and dozens of other stories about contemporary Black life, has died at age 59.

Dickey's publicist at Penguin Random House, Emily Canders, told The Associated Press that the author died Sunday in Los Angeles after a long illness. She did not immediately provide details beyond listing four daughters among his survivors.

Dickey was an aspiring actor and stand-up comic who began writing fiction in his mid-30s, and shaped a witty, conversational and sometimes graphic prose style. It brought him a wide readership through such novels as

"Sister, Sister" and "Naughty or Nice" and through his "Gideon" crime fiction series, which included "Sleeping With Strangers" and "Resurrecting Midnight."

He also worked on the screenplay for the 1998 movie "Cappuccino," wrote a comic book miniseries for Marvel, and contributed to such anthologies as "Mothers and Sons" and "Black Silk: A Collection of African American Erotica."

"In comedy you learn to write with flow — segue, setup, and punch line — but in a way that people won't see or notice. And in theater you learn about character," he told BookPage in 2000. "You've got to bring something to it, and what you bring is the understanding of the character you get from doing your homework, from understand-

ing the little stuff like speech patterns and the way the character walks, and from understanding the big stuff — your character's motivation."

He wrote 29 novels in all, according to his publisher, and has more than 7 million copies in print worldwide. His final book, "The Son of Mr. Suleman," comes out in April. "I am truly saddened to hear about the passing of Eric Jerome Dickey," author Roxane Gay tweeted Tuesday. "His were some of the first novels I ever read about black people that weren't about slavery or civil rights. He was a great storyteller."

Dickey was a native of Memphis, Tennessee, and a computer technology major at the University of Memphis. He moved to Los Angeles after college.

# Will b'ball season make it till the end?

LeVelle Moton Jr. is going to be shaving before North Carolina Central men play another game.

NCCU hasn't played since last month, and its next scheduled contest isn't until Jan. 23 - if then. If the Eagles win their fourth straight MEAC championship this season, Moton Sr. should be named national coach of the year 'cause he'll have done one heck of a coaching job.

The MEAC has canceled or postponed over 70 basketball games as of Jan. 6. It makes you wonder how a football season can go on with 50 to 70 players per team if administrators can't even keep 10 to 15 healthy on a basketball team.

How can teams find any rhythm when it's on one night, off the next, on again, off again? Most are playing without home fans, so not much money is coming in, but schools keep trying.

Only the CIAA has canceled all of its fall sports. Not only are they canceled, but schools are not even allowed to play outside the conference.

Lincoln (Pa.) women's and men's basketball got a few games in before the announcement was made and, unfortunately for the men, they looked good early on. The Lions were 3-0.

Both the CIAA and SIAC made joint statements in announcing the postponement of fall sports into the spring and the cancellation of their football seasons. But the CIAA is alone in its decision to cancel its money-making basketball tournament.

The SIAC is trying to hold on. It pushed the start of winter and spring sports to March 1, which includes basketball, tennis, golf, track and field, baseball and softball. I feel sorry for the sports information directors.

Despite the roller coaster ride in the MEAC, women's basketball - when played - continues to be entertaining. Howard (5-2, 1-1 MEAC) particularly so with victories over Mount St. Mary's, La-Salle, George Washington and Richmond. Jayla Thornton leads the team in scoring with 15.3 points per game, while freshman teammate Anzhane Hutton is averaging a league-best 9 rebounds per.

Morgan State women's coach Ed Davis (formerly of Bowie State) has the Bears in second place. Davis has revitalized the program from a doormat into a contender.

Over in the Southern Division, N.C. A&T women have the only winning record (2-1), but doesn't mean much since they've played the fewest games of anybody.

On the men's side, only Morgan State and Norfolk State are above .500. The Bears have big victories over Iona, Delaware and James Madison.

The Spartans opened the season by winning three of their first four contests. Since then, their schedule has gone like this: postponed, loss, postponed, loss, win, canceled, postponed, postponed, postponed.

The worst of the two Division I HBCU conferences is definitely the SWAC.

Only one women's team has a winning record and that's Alabama State at 1-0. The same holds true on the men's side, except the team is Alabama A&M, which is 2-0 after victories over Samford and South Alabama.

Four of the 10 men's teams are winless - Southern, Alcorn State, Mississippi Valley State and Alabama State - and, well, with the exception of AAMU, have you seen a SWAC game this season?

Ugh! Like watching paint dry.

Bring on football - PLEASE!!!



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The Triangle TRIBUNE

SUNDAY, JANUARY 10, 2021 - PAGE 6A



Brothers Aarav and Arsh Pareh

## Bull City sports bros talk good game

By John McCann  
CORRESPONDENT

DURHAM — The Parekh brothers aren't as loud as Stephen A. Smith. They are, however, just as opinionated.

"We like Duke the most out of anyone. We're probably one of the most hardcore fans," Arsh Parekh offered, setting up his argument.

He and his brother, Aarav, co-host the "Two Brothers and Their Sports" podcast,

and there was that episode when they went there — debating whether former UCLA basketball coach John Wooden could draw X's and O's better than Duke basketball coach Mike Krzyzewski. Understand that the brothers live right here in the Bull City where Duke is located, yet Arsh threw down the gauntlet for the Wizard of Westwood. "When you come to the Coach K-versus-John Wooden topic, to me there's just no discussion," Arsh

told The Triangle Tribune. Aarav is 13, but factoids like Krzyzewski previously coaching at Army second-naturedly rattle off his tongue. He knows his sports. So does Arsh, 12, who had no notes in front of him when recalling Hall of Famer Troy Aikman's rough beginning as a Dallas Cowboys quarterback. Relatively deep cuts like those give the "Two Brothers" podcast the heft that causes

Please see [PODCAST/7A](#)

## Indiana will host March Madness

By David Worlock  
NCAA.ORG

The NCAA will stage the entire 2021 men's basketball championship in Indiana, with the majority of the tournament's 67 games taking place in Indianapolis. Selection Sunday is still scheduled for March 14, and plans remain to have the Final Four on April 3 and 5, with exact preliminary-round dates to be determined.

"This is a historic moment for NCAA members and the state of Indiana," NCAA President Mark Emmert said. "We have worked tirelessly to reimagine a tournament structure that maintains our unique championship opportunity for college athletes. The reality of today's announcement was possible thanks to the tremendous leadership of our membership, local authorities and staff."

The NCAA is partnering with a local health provider to administer COVID-19 testing within the controlled environment for players, coaching staffs, administrators and officials. The Marion County Health Department has approved medical protocols shared by the NCAA, and will continue collaborating with the NCAA leading up to and during the championship.

The tournament will be hosted by Ball State, Butler, the Horizon League, Indiana, Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis and Purdue, which are lending their facilities and staffs to assist with tournament operations. The Indiana Convention Center will be used as a practice facility, with multiple courts set up inside the venue. Marriott properties, an official NCAA corporate partner, will house most of the tournament teams. The properties are connected to the convention center via skywalks and within a controlled environment. All teams will be housed on dedicated hotel floors, with physically distanced meeting and dining rooms, as well as secure transportation to and from competition venues.

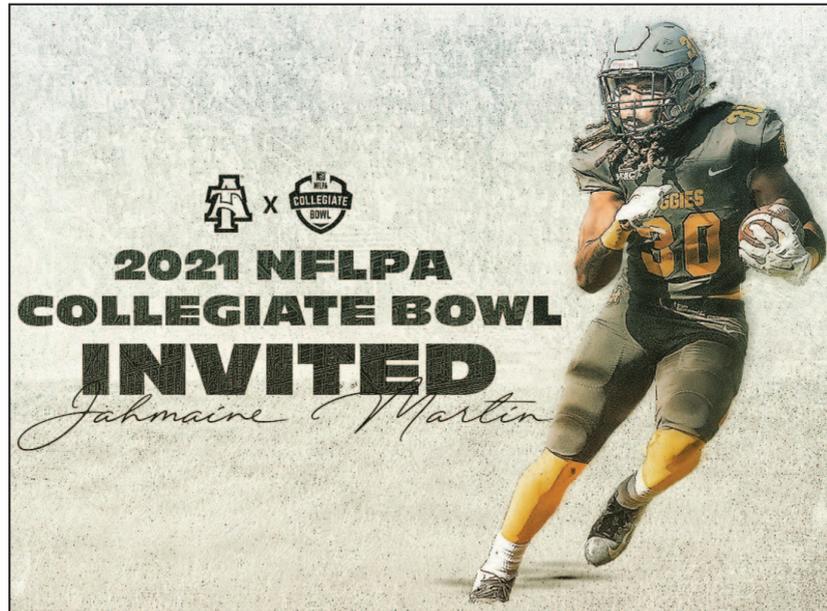
Games will be played on two courts inside Lucas Oil Stadium, as well as Bankers Life Fieldhouse, Hinkle Fieldhouse, Indiana Farmers Coliseum, Mackey Arena in West Lafayette and Simon Skjodt Assembly Hall in Bloomington. Only one game at a time will be played at Lucas Oil Stadium. CBS Sports and Turner Sports will continue to distribute all 67 games of the tournament across TBS, CBS, TNT, truTV and their digital platforms.

"The 2021 version of March Madness will be one to remember, if for no other reason than the uniqueness of the event," said NCAA Senior Vice President of Basketball Dan Gavitt. "With the direction of the men's basketball committee, we are making the most of the circumstances the global pandemic has presented. We're fortunate to have neighbors and partners in Indianapolis and surrounding communities who not only love the game of basketball as much as anyone else in the country but have a storied history when it comes to staging major sporting events."

The NCAA is closely monitoring the ongoing pandemic and will continue to work with local officials to determine the feasibility of having fans attend games at any of the venues, though a limited number of family members of each participating team's student-athletes and coaches will be permitted to attend their team's games. Details pertaining to the possible allocation of other tickets will be finalized later, as will any decision about fan events.

The NCAA also is working with the city and state to promote "Mask Madness," an initiative to promote health and safety by practicing social distancing and wearing a mask. As part of this program, the NCAA will donate thousands of masks throughout the state leading up to the tournament.

### HBCU FOOTBALL



## North Carolina A&T Jah-Maine Martin gets prestigious invite

By Bonitta Best  
editor@triangletribune.com

North Carolina A&T star running back Jah-Maine Martin will participate in the prestigious 2021 NFLPA Collegiate Bowl. The invitation-only event showcases the best senior collegiate talent before NFL and other professional scouts.

Martin, a Coastal Carolina transfer, rushed for 1,446 yards and a program-record 23 touchdowns last season. He also led the nation in yards per carry (7.7) and rushing TDs.

### FAMU '21 schedule

Florida A&M stole the spotlight last week when it released its 2021 football schedule. The Rattlers will be a new member of the Southwestern Athletic Conference by then - along with rival Bethune-Cookman - and their schedule reflects their new digs.

FAMU takes on Deion Sanders and Jackson State in its season opener on Sept. 5 in the Orange Blossom Classic in Miami Gardens, Florida. Sanders has captivated fans and the media since his hire in September. Soon, it will be time to put the hype where the money is.

Division II Fort Valley State of the Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference is up next before a killer against South Florida Sept. 18.

Alabama State is Oct. 2 before the Rattlers face off against former MEAC opponent South Carolina State.

Former Hampton coach Connell Maynor's Alabama A&M team and Mississippi Valley State follow before Oct. 30 blockbuster homecoming against Grambling State. Hotel rooms may already be booked solid.

Southern and Arkansas

Please see [MAINE/7A](#)

## Cary brothers run popular sports podcast

Continued from page 6A  
pro athletes to deal with Aarav and Arsh as industry peers, as opposed to talking down to them like they're, well, kids. "Out of all the podcasts I've done this quarantine, this is definitely one of my favorites," said Mason Plumlee, suiting up this season for the Detroit Pistons.

The brothers launched their podcast in April. That was after North Carolina Governor Roy Cooper ordered the closure of the state's schools to limit the spread of COVID-19. Aarav said the podcast was on the drawing board before the pandemic. However, school shifting to remote instruction facilitated more time toward produc-

ing "Two Brothers."

"That is what really fueled us," Aarav said. The brothers are on the right track, said Umar Muhammad, a St. Augustine's University professor of sports business in Raleigh. "I generally tell students to learn how to meet new people, know what you are offering and teach what you know," he said.

Podcast guests also have included N.C. Courage forward Jessica McDonald and former NFL offensive lineman Marques Odgen. There was Philadelphia Phillies pitcher David Hale, and Dorrit Eisenbeis, who plays field hockey for the North Carolina Tar Heels.

With no shortage of podcasts on all manner of platforms in the market-

place, Aarav said "Two Brothers" is a must-listen because he — a high school freshman — and Arsh — a seventh-grader — are calling the shots.

"Kids interviewing guests, I think, bring a unique perspective," Aarav said. "We see the next generation of kids coming up. Maybe there's a next LeBron James that we see in our school."

Added Arsh: "We don't have an allowance or anything of the sort. We just try to do work, hard labor to get money in, and maybe we can use it to post social media ads for our podcast, or different marketing skills that we can use to grow our podcast."

## COLLEGE CORNER



## Postponements plague NCCU basketball

Will we get the HBCU season played or not?

North Carolina Central women had their doubleheader against Norfolk State last weekend postponed due to the Lady Spartans' COVID issues. The Lady Eagles haven't played since a 71-56 loss to Charleston on Dec. 19.

The team added a non-conference matchup against Division III North Carolina Wesleyan College for Jan. 11 on campus. The Eagles are slated to host six consecutive conference games, beginning with South Carolina State Jan. 16-17 at 2 p.m.

### NCCU men on lockdown

OK, they aren't exactly, but it feels like it.

The Eagles haven't played since Dec. 12 and won't until — maybe — Jan. 23 when North Carolina A&T comes to town.

NCCU's doubleheaders against Florida A&M and SCSU have been postponed due to COVID issues within the program. The team's Dec. 15 matchup against Charleston Southern was also postponed.

### Hampton reschedules

The Lady Pirates had their Big South doubleheader against Radford postponed last weekend. Hampton travels to UNC Asheville Jan. 10-11, which had to be pushed back a day due to Asheville's pause in activities.

### HU men recognized

Hampton players Davion Warren and Edward Oliver-Hampton were among the top players listed by HoopHD.com for their performances in the first half of the season.

Warren was named the Big South Player of the

Year so far, while Oliver-Hampton was selected to the 2020 all-conference team. The Pirates are 4-7 overall, 3-3 Big South.

### No recession here

HBCU Gameday's FAST-BREAK basketball show will return to Aspire TV Sundays at noon. The show highlights the best and brightest in HBCU basketball, and couldn't come at a better time for starved fans.

### CIAA honored

The conference is a finalist for the 2021 NCAA Division II Award of Excellence for its CIAA Mac Attack podcasts. The show airs weekly on the CIAA Sports Network and is hosted by Commissioner Jacqie McWilliams and Bowie State Vice President of Athletics Clyde Doughty.

## NCA&T's Jah-Maine Martin gets invite

Continued from page 6A

Pine-Bluff count down to the regular season finale against hated rival B-CU.

### CIAA proud

Ohio State associate head football coach Larry Johnson Sr. is one of — if not the — best defensive line coach in the country. He also happens to be an Elizabeth City State graduate. The Buckeyes face off against Alabama Jan. 11 in the College Football Playoff Championship Game.

### Another one?

Stop if you've heard this before: a top recruit has signed with Jackson State. This time its Florida high-schooler Trevonte Rucker, who initially committed to Florida but has since changed to board the "Prime Time" show.

## Boston Red Sox hire first Black woman

By Stacy M. Brown  
NNPA NEWSWIRE

Bianca Smith has made baseball history. Smith, who most recently was an assistant baseball coach and hitting coordinator at Wisconsin's Carroll University, was named a coach in the Boston Red Sox minor league system.

Smith, 29, becomes the first Black woman to coach in professional baseball. She will work with the team's infielders at the Red Sox minor league facility in Fort Myers, Florida.

"She was a great candidate coming in," Red Sox vice president of player development Ben Crockett told the Boston Globe. "She's had some really interesting experiences and has been passionate about growing her skillset and development herself."

That Smith's historic hiring happened in Boston, a city where angry mobs violently attacked school buses carrying Black children to previously all-white schools in the 1970s, could be a sign of racial progress.

The Red Sox have a history of racism at Fenway Park. In 2019, four fans hung a banner that read

"Racism is as American as Baseball," from the famed Green Monster. Last year, retired baseball star Torii Hunter told ESPN that he was called the N-word several times by fans as young as "little kids."

He later said he had heard more racist remarks in Boston than any other city.

"When I went to Boston, it was so consistent. After a while, I just kind of shoved it off, and I went out and played. I played with aggression, though," Hunter relayed.

He added that he felt uncomfortable with the idea of his family living in Bos-



Bianca Smith will work with the team's infielders at the Red Sox minor league facility in Fort Myers, Fla.

ton if he had signed there.

"That's why I got the no-trade clause, the list of teams, and I put Boston in there," Hunter added. "I love Boston. I wanted to play there. It just hit me that I can't have my wife and my kids in this area. There is no way I can do that because I don't ever want them to go through that, and if they do, I don't know what I would do, and I would be the angry Black guy, and that wouldn't be good."

Hunter's comments prompted the Red Sox to issue a statement acknowledging his experience. The team noted that, in 2019, there were seven reported incidents of fans using racial slurs at Fenway Park.

In 2017, Baltimore Orioles star outfielder Adam Jones said he was on the receiving end of racial slurs at Fenway Park no less than 100 times. Fans even threw bags of peanuts at him,

Jones said.

But the hiring of Smith is barrier-breaking. She joins a list of female professional baseball coaches, including Rachel Balkovec of the New York Yankees, Rachel Folden of the Chicago Cubs, and Christina Whitlock of the St. Louis Cardinals. Last year, Alyssa Nakken of the San Francisco Giants became the first on-field female coach in Major League Baseball. She once served as an intern for the Texas Rangers and Cincinnati Reds.

Smith also played softball at Dartmouth from 2010-12 before working as director of baseball operations at Case Western Reserve University from 2013 to 2017 and as an assistant coach with the University of Dallas in 2018.

"It's a meaningful," Crockett said of Smith's hire. "Meaningful thing for the organization."



## Delicious ideas for big game Sunday

STATEPOINT

Craft Blends pellets

With just a grill and a bit of smoke, your menu will be the real MVP of the big game. Ben Madden, product manager at Bear Mountain BBQ Woods, shares his winning tips and gameday recipes.

### Beer Cheese Dip

1-1/2 cups cheddar cheese grated  
1/2-cup gruyere cheese grated  
8 ounces cream cheese softened  
1 tablespoon Dijon mustard  
1/2 of a 1-ounce Hidden Valley Ranch Packet  
2 tablespoons green onions chopped  
1/2-cup German lager beer  
2 tablespoons baking soda  
1 can biscuits  
1 large egg, mixed with 1 tablespoon water, for brushing biscuits  
12-inch cast iron skillet  
Bear Mountain's Bourbon BBQ or Savory BBQ

Preheat pellet grill to 350 F. In large bowl, combine 1 cup cheddar, gruyere, cream cheese, Dijon mustard, Hidden Valley Ranch seasoning, beer and 1 tablespoon green onions. Mix evenly. Cut biscuits in half. Roll each half into a ball, then slice an X across top.

Boil 2 cups water in medium saucepan. Once boiling, add baking soda and mix immediately. Add biscuits in batches and cook until puffy, approximately 1 minute. Remove and transfer to skillet, forming ring along inside edge. Brush biscuits with egg wash. Sprinkle with salt. Transfer dip to center of skillet. Sprinkle with remaining cheddar. Bake until biscuits are golden and dip is bubbly, 30-35 minutes. Garnish with remaining green onions. Serve!

### Smoked and Roasted Wings

Prep time: 5 minutes  
Cook time: 2 hours depending on size and amount of wings

Ingredients:  
Essential BBQ Rub or poultry seasoning  
Chicken wings  
Sauce of choice  
Bear Mountain's Savory BBQ Craft Blends pellets

Lightly coat wings in seasoning. Arrange wings on smoker or grill at 225 degrees with at least 2 inches of space between. Smoke for 1 to 1.5 hours. Turn up grill to 350 degrees to finish. Start brushing on sauce and turning wings periodically.

Once wings hit an internal temperature of 165, remove from the smoker or grill and toss in a bowl with remaining sauce. Then they're ready to serve!

## Former NBA star purchases EBONY Magazine

By Stacy M. Brown  
NNPA NEWSWIRE

The legendary EBONY magazine is being revived. Former NBA star Junior Bridgeman reportedly has anted up \$14



million for the famed Black media publication.

The magazine, which was founded by John H. Johnson in 1945, was forced into bankruptcy last year after an attempt to revive EBONY failed. EBONY sold its photo archive for \$30 million last year, and Willard Jackson briefly took over as CEO but left

the company soon after.

"EBONY kind of stood for Black excellence, showing people doing positive things that could benefit everyone," Bridgeman said to Black Enterprise. "It just made you feel good."

Bridgeman has a history of business success, Black Enterprise reported. As the CEO of Manna Inc., the

holding company for his franchise empire of quick-service restaurants, he is a longtime member of the (Black Enterprise) 100s. According to the Michigan Chronicle, Bridgeman, who played for the Milwaukee Bucks and Los Angeles Clippers, was once featured on a 2016 Forbes top-paid athletes list.

He is the CEO of a Coca-Cola bottling company and part-owner of Coca-Cola Canada Bottling Limited. The former athlete attempted to purchase Sports Illustrated in 2018 but eventually withdrew his bid a year later.

EBONY earned fame by honoring Black identity — portraying Black life, refut-

ing stereotypes, and inspiring readers to overcome racial and other barriers to success. Johnson began his career with Negro Digest in 1942 and started Ebony three years later. Both magazines were so successful that in 1972, the Magazine Publishers Association selected Johnson "Magazine Publisher of the Year."

## ADOPT US!

Jalisa, Jasmine  
Ages: 10, 6

Jalisa and her younger sister, Jasmine, are seeking a family to call their own.



Jalisa



Jasmine

Jalisa is a sweet, young lady whose smile will light up a room. Her bubbly personality is easy to love and allows her to connect with those she meets. Astute and observant, she loves to read and takes trips to the local li-

brary. Jalisa loves to attend and participate in the theatre program each summer.

It is often noted that she is a "girly girl," however don't let that fool you! She loves to be active and play sports like football, basketball, and taekwondo. Jalisa has many amazing qualities and strengths to build upon and would benefit from a family who ensures she is a treasured gem in the family unit.

Jasmine is an adorable little girl who has many astounding attributes. She has a loving demeanor and loves to please others. She has a huge personality that comes with a contagious smile.

Jasmine is energetic and should be involved in ac-

tivities. She has an eye for purses and clothes. During her quiet times, dolls will easily occupy her time.

These two precious siblings will flourish in a loving family who is able to provide security, structure, and boundaries. Patience, acceptance, and consistency will be keys to success with the girls. They both deserve and want a family who will provide them with unconditional love, commitment, support, and understanding. A family who is willing to support and encourage birth family connections is essential.

If you are interested in adopting Jalisa and Jasmine or other children in foster care, call 1-877-NCKIDS-1.

## HBCU NEWS

## St. Augustine's University launches first graduate program in school history

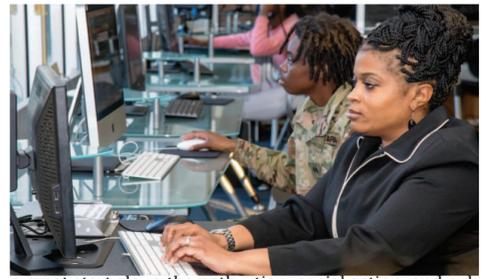
One year after being approved by SACSCOC to offer online programs, Saint Augustine's University has officially launched its first graduate program in its 154-year history.

Starting this year, SAU will offer a fully online practitioner-oriented Master of Public Administration program. The MPA program is a rigorous study designed to prepare career professionals to serve in leadership roles such as public administrators, public managers, and policy analysts with critical decision-making skills.

"Launching the MPA program is a new dimension that we have reached to support the workforce needs of the region," said interim president Maria A. Lumpkin. "Saint Augustine's educates change makers to build flourishing futures. Transformative leaders in the public and social sectors need education that helps to move organizations beyond the status quo. The academically rigorous program is accessible in price and format to be equitable for students and working professionals from every background."

Introducing a graduate-level program initiates a new chapter for SAU and the students that enter its gates, aligning with the school's vision of being nationally recognized as a comprehensive institution with high performing students, renowned faculty, focused community engagement and a strong alumni base of change agents.

"Gaining the SACSCOC Level III designation, which permits graduate programs, ushers in an entirely new frontier for SAU," said Michael Boone, online program consultant. "I see the MPA program as



a great start along the path of offering many exciting new graduate degree programs. I am delighted to be a part of this development and am excited about the future benefits to students who pursue the MPA program at SAU."

The program operates in six, eight-week sessions throughout the academic year and is designed to accept students regardless of their undergraduate degree background. Once students are accepted, the program provides five foundational courses that provide an understanding of the nature of public administration. After completing these courses, students move on to take remaining courses in the major areas of study. There is a total of 36 credit hours required to complete the program.

"The Masters of Public Administration degree is one of the most sought-after degrees of this time period," said Provost Josiah Sampson III. "It provides strategic value, insight, and ability to the individual holding it and the entities that hire those people. It leverages the ability to understand and develop policy with management of resources of all types; human, fiscal, and other. The added plus of the MPA from Saint Augustine's University is ability of individuals to flow through a cutting-edge program at an institution that is known for innova-

tion, social action, and cultural awareness."

The SAU MPA program is one of the most affordable advance degree programs in the region, boasting a tuition rate of \$450 per credit hour (all program courses are three credit hours) and an administrative fee of \$125 per session. It is designed to be a high-quality, affordably priced, fully online program of study leading to greater career and professional achievement. The SAU administration anticipates this program becoming one of the most desirable and practical advanced degree programs in the marketplace.

"I am thrilled about the continued impact that we at Saint Augustine's University will have on society with the newly-minted Master of Public Administration degree," said Dean Wanda Coneal. "MPA graduates will be innovative problem solvers at all levels of government and business."

The MPA Program uses rolling admissions and is accepting applications to enroll students throughout the academic year. For more information about the SAU MPA Program's admissions requirements and program features, contact Dr. Shawn Lewis, Interim Director of the MPA Program at 919.516.4741 or email MPAsupport@staug.edu.

## PROBLEM SOLVED

## A fraudulent charge on my PayPal account

By Christopher Elliott  
SPECIAL TO THE TRIBUNE

**Q:** Someone accessed my PayPal account and made two purchases of software. I opened disputes with PayPal. PayPal refunded one transaction but denied the second. I appealed PayPal's decision, but it denied my appeal. I opened a new case for the same transaction and it denied again.

I tried calling and an automated message said, "We cannot help you over the phone." I wrote to PayPal on Twitter and through the PayPal site, and they are refusing to help me. Can you help me get my \$1,450 back? - Vladislav Perebikovskiy, Sacramento, Calif.

**A:** If PayPal credited you with one of the fraudulent purchases, it should have done so for both. Why didn't it? It looks like one was made through your credit card and the other was made through your checking account.

If you use a credit card to make a purchase, you can

file a dispute under the Fair Credit Billing Act. I imagine PayPal's dispute department knew that it would get drawn into a dispute with your credit card company, which would have cost it time and resources. So it reversed the credit card transaction. Interestingly, both of these fraudulent purchases were made with the same merchant and for about the same amount. It's inconceivable that a human resolution specialist would have flagged one as fraudulent and not the other.

As I review the correspondence between you and PayPal, I'm left with the impression that no human ever saw your case. This looks like the work of an algorithm, which makes a decision without emotion or common sense. But it's hard to know for sure. Strangely, PayPal's emails to you claimed it was denying your dispute because the purchase was "consistent" with your PayPal history. If that were true, then PayPal should have charged you for the other

purchase as well.

Another area of concern is the security of your PayPal account. If "someone" accessed your PayPal account, you need to immediately change your password. You don't want that to happen again, obviously. I can understand why bringing this to PayPal's attention by phone or social media was so appealing. If someone had responded, you could have received an almost instant resolution. But PayPal, like other large companies, has built a fortress around itself to protect it from unhappy customers. Again, probably no human saw your online complaints or heard your phone call. PayPal's dispute resolution is your first, last, and only recourse.

That leaves me and my team of consumer advocates. And we can be pretty persuasive. I contacted PayPal on your behalf and showed my contact your painful, maddening paper trail. It refunded your \$1,450.

## SCHOOL NEWS

## DURHAM COUNTY

Durham Public Schools is asking the public's help to name its new elementary school in South Durham off of Scott King Road.

Visit dpsnc.net for more information. Below is a description of the land the new school will be built on from the school's website:

Nearly a decade ago, Durham Public Schools purchased 50+ acres off of Scott King Road -- land that was once owned and operated as the Lyons' family farm.

With growth and development in Southern Durham continuing in the years ahead, there is an urgent need for additional elementary school seats to provide equitable opportunities for all DPS students, present and future.

The site and location for this new school along Scott King Road are ideal in sup-

port of DPS' Strategic Plan to provide all DPS students with a rich education connected to the community.

Southern Durham's lush agricultural and cultural landscape provides a fitting backdrop to the community's deep and complex history.

The heavily wooded area nestled in Durham County along Scott King Road is a mosaic of old, historic farmhouses and the fast-growing housing developments rising out of the thicketed forest.

This area of Southern Durham was once the site of a bustling tobacco boom that supported small-to large-scale family farms raising livestock and other crops.

For many families, especially African Americans, this land represented community, thriving commerce, freedom, and

financial stability.

One such historic family was the Lyons' family, who worked the land as many of Durham's families during this time.

The Lyons owned a piece of property that was around 70 acres and leased portions of it out to tobacco farmers. Through post-reconstruction and much of the 20th Century, the Lyon family fought legally, emotionally, and sometimes physically to keep their land and protect their livelihood. Through their farm, the Lyons' family was one of many African-American families that contributed to the growth and economic opportunities for Durham.

We hope through your feedback a name can be chosen for the school that represents the past, present, and future of the area and possibilities.

## 6 Triangle orgs. awarded health mini-grants

STAFF REPORTS

Six Triangle organizations have been awarded health mini-grants by the American Heart Association and Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina.

The grants focus on blood pressure, healthy eating and physical activity and will impact uninsured and under-insured adults with chronic health conditions, low income, food insecure families and seniors, and neighborhoods without infrastructure to make streets safe for pedestrians and cyclists.

"It is very exciting to continue our efforts with Blue Cross NC to address health equity issues in our communities and to offer community mini-grants to bolster existing programs or inspire new programs to bloom," said Annie Thornhill, vice president of community impact for the American Heart Association, Southeast. "Together

we are working to build sustainable change in the health of our communities."

## The awardees:

\* Alliance Medical Ministry (Raleigh), \$2,500: distributing fresh produce to uninsured adults with chronic diseases, commercial refrigerator to properly store fresh vegetables from garden at clinic for easier and safer distribution to patients

\* Bike Durham, \$5,000: Protected Light Individual Transportation lanes and shared streets as areas for residents to walk, ride, and play; create safe, semi-permanent spaces on neighborhood streets and transform existing bike lanes into LIT lanes using flexi-post barriers to separate the pedestrian, cyclist or person riding a scooter or motorized wheelchair from traffic

\* Cary Downtown Farmers Market, \$5,000: begin a farmers' market

bucks program to double the value of WIC and Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program vouchers to encourage purchase of healthy foods at the market and support local farmers

\* Feed My Sheep of Durham, \$10,000: two freezers and a pre-owned transport truck which will allow for more efficient transportation and storage of perishable foods to distribute to community

\* Lincoln Community Health Center (Durham), \$4,500: treating hypertension in a high-risk, low-resource population through at home BP monitoring, funds blood pressure monitoring kits for high-risk patients

\* YMCA of the Triangle, \$5,000: food prep area and a commercial refrigerator to make it easier to store healthy food for youth and adults and get reimbursement for USDA food programs

## FIND CERTAINTY IN UNCERTAIN TIMES.

When faced with times like these, anxiety about the future can easily take hold. It's why WUNC is committed to providing fact-based news that helps keep you informed and eases fear of the unknown. For North Carolinians who seek to make sense of their current world, WUNC is the trusted source they can always rely on.

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