

The Triangle TRIBUNE

THE TRIANGLE'S CHOICE FOR THE BLACK VOICE

"Celebrating Our 23rd Year"

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NCCU alumna finds passion in cycling while working on the frontlines.



Fighting lies on vaccine shots

By Christian Green
CAROLINA PUBLIC PRESS

Before the coronavirus pandemic, "anti-vaxxers," or those who oppose vaccinations, were viewed as a small and vocal fringe group, mostly concerned with debunked links between childhood vaccinations and autism. But in the current pandemic, they are just one of several communities hesitant or resistant to receiving a COVID-19 vaccine.

While those who outright dispute the merit of a vaccine may be few, many people are vaccine hesitant. In a December poll published by Pew Research, nearly 40% of those surveyed said they would "probably not" or "definitely not" choose to receive a vaccine for the coronavirus. But around half reported that they were potentially open to receiving the vaccine after other people had gotten it and more information became available. These reservations could have deadly consequences as epidemiologists have estimated at least 60% to 70% of Americans will need to be immunized before there is any level of population immunity.

Vaccine hesitancy can come from a variety of sources, but misinformation leads the list. Scott Brennen, a researcher who studies science misinformation as a senior policy associate at the Center on Science and Technology Policy at Duke University, said he thinks of misinformation not as a root cause, but as a piece of much larger issues. "Misinformation speaks to people because of underlying issues of trust that were already there," he said.

One study found that as many as 25% of people surveyed found false statements about COVID-19 to be credible and that susceptibility to misinformation was a significant predictor of vaccine hesitancy. The challenges are compounded when misinformation moves beyond social media and propels false information into individual lives, generating echo chambers that reinforce false beliefs, a decreased likelihood of engaging in public health measures and an increase in vaccine hesitation.

Some populations are more reluctant to get a COVID-19 vaccine than others. In the United States, older individuals, Black and Latino people, conservatives and women tend to express higher levels of vaccine hesitancy, according to surveys conducted by Texas A&M and Sienna College Research

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STOCK PHOTO

Black women fight to keep their natural hairstyles and respect in Corporate America.

N Carolina state legislators introduce CROWN Act bill

By Freda Freeman
CORRESPONDENT

DURHAM - Back in the early 1990s, when Tia Hall worked for a Wall Street bank, she was warned that natural hairstyles could keep her from moving up in the company.

"In front of the CEO, we were told, as the few Black women who were there, that natural hairstyles would limit our ability to progress within the organization," said Hall, head of the Durham Committee for the Affairs of Black People's political action committee.

During a news conference last week, several state legislators said they plan to introduce a bill to get the CROWN Act passed in North Carolina to keep people from being discriminated against because of

race-based hairstyles.

The CROWN Act, a national bill which stands for Creating a Respectful and Open World for Natural Hair, would prohibit employers from discriminating against employees based on their hair texture and hairstyles, including Afros, braids, cornrows, dreadlocks, and twists.

The bill was passed by the U.S. House of Representatives in September and is currently in the Senate. Since July 2019, seven states and three municipalities have passed the Act.

Senators Natalie Murdock, DeAndrea Salvador, and Valerie Foushee plan to introduce the bill in the Senate this month, along with Reps. Kandice Smith, Amber Baker, Carolyn Logan, and Vernetta Alston, who will sponsor the

bill in the House.

They are also requesting that July 3 be named CROWN Day. Also speaking at the meeting, Durham City Council woman Dedreanna Freeman; She-mekka Ebony, co-founder of the CROWN Campaign; and Aisha Powell, a state employee and member of the CROWN Campaign, shared their personal hair stories and talked about the work they are doing to support passage of the CROWN Act statewide.

On Feb. 1, the Office of State Human Resources enacted an Equal Employment Opportunity policy prohibiting an employer from discriminating against a person by refusing to hire or discharging a person based on his or her hair tex-

Please see **CROWN/2A**

Low-wage workers join leaders in demand for \$15 minimum wage

By Yolanda Barksdale
SPECIAL TO THE TRIBUNE

Tipped and low-wage workers across the country spoke out Monday to demand a federal wage increase to \$15 an hour as they described how the increase would change their lives and improve the economy.

In a Raise the Wage Moral Monday sponsored by the One Fair Wage, SEIU and the Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival, the workers said politicians like to describe them as essential but not pay them what they deserve.

"When I think about what this \$15 an hour can do, I'm thinking about our child care providers, who are mostly women in West Virginia, working for poverty wages," said Amy Jo Hutchinson of the West Virginia Poor People's Campaign. "I'm thinking about the home health aides, who are working for poverty wages. I'm thinking about being told what we need to pull ourselves up by our bootstraps and then



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Workers rally at a Durham McDonald's.

told we don't deserve the bootstraps to pull ourselves up."

One Fair Wage held socially distanced gatherings across the country while others gathered online as politicians debated whether congressional rules allowed the minimum wage increase to be included in a budget reconciliation.

In the House, the Education and Labor Committee has included a \$15 minimum wage in its portion of the pandemic reconciliation package.

And Sen. Bernie Sanders,

chairman of the Senate Budget Committee, said on Monday that the Congressional Budget Office's determination that a \$15 minimum wage would have a "direct and substantial impact" on the federal budget means it can be included in the reconciliation process under the Byrd Rule.

"The last time there was a depression of this scale, we got the minimum wage as a result of it in the New Deal. [One Fair

Please see **WORKERS/2A**

Tenants hold rally when landlord fails to show up

BULL CITY TENANTS UNITED

DURHAM - On Feb. 7, over 35 members of the Garden Terrace Tenants Union gathered with dozens of community supporters to demand that landlord Jonathan Dayan respond to their calls for a collective lease and safe living conditions. Tenants have been organizing over the unsafe and unhealthy living conditions in their apartments for months and formed a union this year, but they have received little response so far.

After involvement from city inspectors, who found over 113 code violations in just 17 units, the landlord has started to make some individual repairs. But the tenants seek a long-term solution to this problem in the form of a binding agreement, which would promise prompt repairs, ensure that rents are kept stable, and require that no tenants are displaced from their community.

"Here at Garden Terrace, multiple tenants - myself included - have been informed that their leases won't be renewed in the middle of a pandemic. This is a way of evicting tenants that takes advantage of the many loopholes in the eviction moratorium," said union member Sheila Crawley at the rally. "And

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'Raise the Age' law making change

By Yanqi Xu
THE POLICY WATCH

A state juvenile justice committee plans to ask the General Assembly for \$6.7 million to accommodate more teens in the Raise the Age program. A year ago, state lawmakers approved Raise the Age, which allows 16- and 17-year-olds to be tried in juvenile court for most first-time offenses. The money would be used to serve more teens, whose numbers are expected to rise after the pandemic, according to an interim report by the committee.

Billy Lassiter, deputy secretary for juvenile justice at the Department of Public Safety, said that while awaiting trial - sometimes for months - these adolescents can have access to education and mental health services through juvenile detention centers. There, they can receive more individualized care because the staff-to-resident ratio is typically 1 to 8, compared with 1 to 30 in jails. "These kids are much better served in our juvenile detention facilities than they would be in a jail," Lassiter said.

The Juvenile Justice Division has added 133 state and county slots for teen offenders since the implementation of Raise the Age, according to DPS's year-end data summary. Lassiter said two reasons underlie the multimillion-dollar request. First, the General Assembly appropriated \$6.7 million to date, only half of the funding the Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee originally requested. Second, a different bill, HB 593, allowed youths to be housed in juvenile detention facilities after having been transferred to adult courts.

Another factor to consider is that the first year of Raise the Age implementation coincided with the COVID-19 pandemic, Lassiter said. Raise the Age helped reduce the number of young people in adult prisons, which have been overcrowded during the pandemic.

In 2019, the division estimated it would admit 8,000 teens the following year; but only 4,107 entered the system between Dec 1, 2019, and Nov 30, 2020. The total of 12,349 complaints received for Raise the Age youths reached only 56% of projections, pre-pandemic.

However, this drop is almost solely attributable to a decrease of low-level felony and misdemeanor complaints, which declined by more than half. School closures account for a large portion of the decrease, as the rate of school referrals to the juvenile justice system plummeted to just 16% of

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N Carolina state legislators introduce CROWN Act

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 ture or hairstyle. Pleased that the Governor's Office is "leading by example," Murdock said, "This is a wonderful stride towards ending racial discrimination, however, this does not prohibit hair discrimination as racial discrimination for all North Carolina workers. This is why passing the CROWN Act here in North Carolina is an important next step to protect all workers from workplace discrimination in the form of hair discrimination."

Murdock said hair remains a proxy for race, affecting Black people more than any other group.

"The history of the nation is riddled with laws and silent norms that equated blackness and their associated physical traits, for example, dark skin, curly or kinky hair, as a badge of inferiority, sometimes subject to separate and unequal treatment. Despite the great strides American society and laws have made to reverse the racial ideology that black traits are inferior, hair remains a source of racial discrimination with serious economic and health consequences, especially for Black individuals," she said.

Salvador said hair-based

discrimination is as much an economic issue as it is a racial justice issue; one that disproportionately affects Black women, who are often the sole wage earners in their households.

"It's an unfortunate reality that Black people, Black women in this country, are viewed upon the basis of their hair or appearance rather than their merit. That's what the EEO change is working to adjust for state level employees, and that's what the CROWN Act legislation will be working to address for Black women across North Carolina," she said.

"It is unfair and unjust for someone to be passed over for a promotion or not hired or have to go under undue mental burden because they are wearing a hairstyle that is natural and a part of their culture. This is what creating a respectful and open workplace for natural hair is all about."

Smith recalled the story of a young Black wrestler who was forced to cut his dreadlocks in the middle of a wrestling match.

"Things like that make me realize we cannot just settle with how things continue to happen," she said.

Last month, the Durham City Council passed an anti-discrimination ordi-

nance that included protection against hair discrimination, making Durham one of the first cities in the state to ban hair discrimination.

And, last week, the council passed a resolution supporting the CROWN Act. Freeman said the city's policy will mirror what's being presented at the state level.

Afterwards, she said, the city's human resources department will need to determine the proper process and protocol to follow in the event of a discrimination complaint.

State and local officials are asking constituents, from state workers to school students, to support their efforts.

Murdock said: "If you are a state employee, let them know about this policy. Ask your agencies, your colleges, your universities, that staff are provided with these same protections. At the local government level, we have draft resolutions, draft proclamations.

"No matter where you live in the state, reach out to your legislators. Let them know that when the CROWN Act is filed, that you want them to support that. Specifically, ask that it be provided at the community level."

Low-wage workers rally for \$15 minimum wage

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 Wage] is possible, and we are closer than we've ever been to passing a full, fair wage with tips on top," said Saru Jayaraman, president of One Fair Wage.

As he called on both Republicans and Democrats to stand fast on the \$15-an-hour minimum wage, the Rev. William J. Barber II, co-chair of the Poor People's Campaign, said minimum-wage workers and their allies "cannot get this close and then fall back."

"We say to all of them: 'Don't turn your back on \$15-an-hour minimum wage,'" Barber said. "Listen: 55% of poor and

low-wealth people voted for this current ticket. That's the mandate. The mandate is in the people who voted. Not in the backslapping of senators and Congress people. It's the people who voted. If we turn back now, it will hurt 62 million poor and low-wealth people who have literally kept this economy alive - who were the first to go back to jobs, first to get infected, first to get sick, first to die. We cannot be the last to get relief and the last to get treated and paid properly. Respect us, protect us and pay us."

The Rev. Liz Theoharis, co-chair of the Poor

People's Campaign, addressed the lies that some tell to make people think the country cannot afford to increase the minimum wage.

"We cannot believe these lies that if we raise the wages, that it means that people are gonna lose work," she said. "We cannot believe the lies that if we pay all workers, including tip workers, a living wage... that it's gonna hurt our society."

"A society that allows 62 million workers to make less than the living wage is a society in crisis. And it does not have to be this way."

Countering the misinformation driving vaccine hesitation

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 Institute. "Often when we talk about COVID misinformation and misinformation in general, it's not one thing," Brennen said. "We're really talking about a whole lot of different problems, and they have different populations."

Certain demographics are more likely to express vaccine hesitancy, but for different reasons.

In minority communities, the ghosts of the Tuskegee experiment, a study wherein scientists deceived Black men with syphilis without providing them access to effective treatments, and a history of medical experimentation are often cited as reasons for lingering doubt in communities.

"But it's not just history," Brennen said. "Health outcomes for people of color in a lot of areas are still far below what they are for white people, so a certain level of mistrust is understandable."

Those involved in anti-vaccination campaigns were well aware of this history and leveraged it even before the pandemic to

seed vaccine concerns in communities of color. "That history is particularly resonant for Black and Brown communities," said Cindy Gay, who led the phase 3 clinical trials for the Moderna vaccine at the UNC School of Medicine. "We have a lot to answer for, but it is for that very reason that it would be a tragedy for them not to benefit from this vaccine for a virus that is impacting those communities."

Along with fears of safety, the survey conducted by Texas A&M also found that Black Americans tended to respond that lack of health insurance and cost of health care were factors behind their responses, indicating that more communication needs to focus on the fact that vaccines are currently free for everyone, regardless of insurance.

Dispelling myths about vaccination requires distribution of accessible evidence from trustworthy sources. For example, individuals concerned with the safety of the Moderna and Pfizer-BioNTech vaccines often point to the speed of the production, claiming

the safety may be compromised because the trials were rushed, and the long-term effects of the vaccines are still unknown.

John Sanders, who oversaw the U.S. Navy's worldwide infectious disease research programs as the commanding officer of the Naval Medical Research Center and is now the lead investigator for the Moderna phase 3 clinical trials at Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center in Winston-Salem, said the COVID-19 vaccines are just as safe as any other. "The only difference between this trial and those trials was the urgency, the efficiency and the leadership behind this one," he said. "Operation Warp Speed deserves enormous credit for moving things along as quickly as possible while doing so at the highest possible safety standards."

Gay, of UNC, echoed the same position. "It's just not possible to have a vaccine even enter phase 3 without having gone through all the proper safety steps," she said. "The timeline was condensed to be more efficient, but all the parts are still there."

One year after 'Raise the Age' legislation

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 total complaints from 45% in 2019, the report stated. After the pandemic, the number of teens whom the Juvenile Justice Division is expected to serve will likely increase, Lassiter said.

There were more 16- and 17-year-olds facing higher-level felonies: 612, which exceeded the projection of 530. The higher-than-expected rate of teens juveniles actually detained, coupled with lengthier stays because of slow court proceedings, tightened the amount of available space in the juvenile detention facilities. Lassiter said his agency is working with lawmakers to introduce legislation that enacts four of the committee's sugges-

tions, including one that raises the maximum age a young person can stay at a juvenile detention center to 21.

This proposal could potentially influence prosecutors' decisions on whether to send a case back to juvenile court. If the maximum age for juveniles is younger than 21, some district attorneys might choose to try a case in adult court, for fear that a teen couldn't navigate the juvenile system before aging out. The state also plans to propose raising the minimum age to 12 that a child can be charged in juvenile court. Currently, children as young as 6 can be tried in this court, the youngest age in the country.

Chris Suggs, a member of the Governor's Crime Commission, is a 20-year-old UNC-Chapel Hill student from Kinston. Suggs first served on the commission at age 16 and has advocated for his peers, particularly young Black males, who constitute a disproportionate share of the youths in jail.

Suggs said Raise the Age has been expanding opportunities that didn't exist for his friends and classmates. Before 2019, they "maybe were involved in a larceny or fighting schools, but ... were prosecuted as an adult because of that mistake," Suggs said. "That possible bad behavior that spurred the moment ... has the permanent record on your life."



Residents at Garden Terrace Apartments in Durham.

Tenants hold rally when landlord refuses to show

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 when different levels of government lack the tools or the will to protect tenants, it's up to tenants ourselves to shift the balance of power and win direct protections through collectively negotiated changes to our leases."

Dayan was present at a Nov. 30 rally at the property manager's office in Raleigh. He indicated a willingness to meet with tenants then, but has since been unresponsive to the union's multiple letters and emails. The most recent letter and petition invited him to meet on Sunday and was signed by

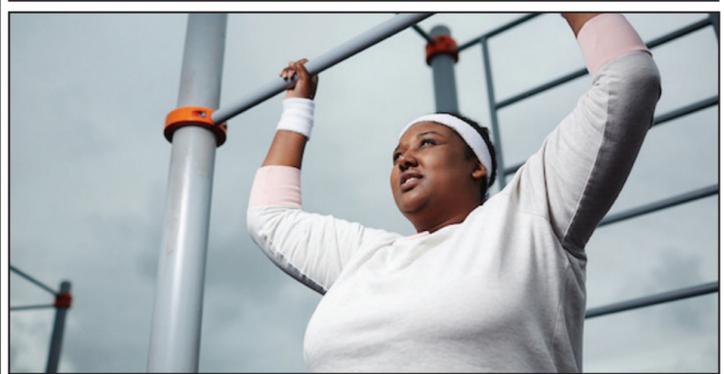
over 75% of the Garden Terrace families.

"We have sent him three letters, which he has not answered," said Martha Mejia, president of the Garden Terrace Tenants Union. "In our last letter, we invited him here to negotiate a collective contract. This empty seat you see is for him. We are here ready to negotiate with him in good faith, and he is not here."

The tenants were not shaken by the landlord's absence, and took the opportunity to hold a public rally and teach-in educating their community about the solution of a collectively held lease. At the end

of the rally, Crawley called on the landlord to meet with the union, and for residents to remain unified.

"We are calling on our landlord to begin good faith, collective negotiations with the Union over revisions to our leases that would benefit everyone and push back against the wave of gentrification in Durham. We will not be intimidated. We will not be silent. And we will not accept any proposal or false solution that tries to divide neighbors or address collective problems in an individual manner. We are united in our struggle for justice," she said.



Stereotypes by medical professionals can hinder full-figure patients from seeking help.

Fat bias at the doctor's office takes a serious toll

By Liora Engel-Smith
 CAROLINA PUBLIC PRESS

Alyssa McCord would rather not see a doctor at all. The upstate New York native who now lives in Jacksonville with her husband and daughter attributes some of her reluctance to upbringing. Her parents only went to the doctor when absolutely necessary, she said.

The other part of that reluctance, says the 38-year-old, is how providers react to her weight. McCord, who wears size 20 pants, is used to providers making demeaning comments about her body. Often, they'd blame her weight for every ailment — from heavy periods to colds to numbness and tingling in her hands.

In September, McCord had an experience that sur-

prised even her. She'd gone to a family doctor to discuss consistently heavy periods and constant exhaustion. The doctor said her stomach was cramping because she is fat. If she lost weight, he told her, the pain would go away.

The doctor did not order any of the customary tests, such as abdominal ultrasound or blood tests to confirm his assertion. He looked at her and made up his mind, McCord said. McCord would later learn from another provider that an enlarged uterus caused the cramps and heavy bleeding. Blood loss from the heavy periods made her anemic, accounting for her fatigue.

Nearly every person in a bigger body has their own story of weight-based bias at the doctor's office. It

could be anything: a too-small blood pressure cuff or medical gown, a wince from a triage nurse during a weigh-in, a negative comment from a physician, or, as in McCord's case, blaming every symptom on weight. It's impossible to know exactly how pervasive weight bias is in the health care system, especially because it involves provider attitudes, but it's safe to say that fat discrimination is rather common, said Ya-Ke "Grace" Wu, assistant professor at the UNC Chapel Hill's school of nursing.

Wu, who studies weight discrimination, said the maltreatment can also be nonverbal, from flimsy chairs that cannot accommodate larger bodies in the clinic waiting rooms to

Please see **FAT/3A**

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Fat bias can take serious toll at doctor's office

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weighing them in hallways, rather than in a room that offers some privacy from passers-by. No matter how the bias is delivered, the message is clear to any person in a big body: Weight isn't just a number, it's a moral failing and a cause for shame.

These negative attitudes from providers have far-reaching health implications, Wu said. Some fat people may avoid the doctor altogether, delaying diagnosis of conditions such as diabetes, high blood pressure, or more serious conditions like cancer. Sense of shame about body size can also lead to a host of mental illnesses, from depression to anxiety to suicidal thoughts. It's even correlated with weight gain and binge eating disorder, a condition that involves cycles of compulsive and restrictive eating.

"The 'fat is bad' lens kind of corrupts everything," said Lindo Bacon, author, researcher and a member of the Health at Every Size movement, a grassroots effort to eliminate weight stigma in all areas of society. "And at this point, it just seems like it's basic good health care or so it seems to the doctors, that everybody's supposed to get thinner."

Weight stigma isn't just about hurt feelings; it is also linked to higher mortality rates, in part because discrimination often leads to unhealthy behaviors. The stress of weight stigma

is associated with metabolic changes that can make people sicker, including higher levels of the stress hormone cortisol and inflammation markers.

As obesity rates in adults continue to rise, the public health consequences of fat discrimination could be significant. In North Carolina, for example, adult obesity rates more than doubled between 1990 and 2019. While the scientific community has established that weight alone is not a predictor for health, societal understanding of obesity continues to lag. Many people, including health care providers, believe that diet and exercise are the only ways to manage obesity, despite evidence to the contrary.

Public health experts have known for years that obesity is a multifactorial condition, affected not only by behaviors but by the social determinants of health, including income, access to healthy food and neighborhoods that may discourage walking, to name a few. The focus on diet and exercise alone assumes that obesity is always within a person's control, said Bacon.

Rashelle Hamilton was used to providers taking her seriously. Hamilton, who had always been trim, had gained 30 pounds after the birth of her youngest daughter, Violet. She thought her birth control implant may be at fault.

Hamilton, who weighed 218 pounds late last year after the birth, was sur-

prised to find that her new weight affected the quality of care she received. "Before they would mostly believe me when I said I had a problem," the Cary resident said. "They believed me and listened to my symptoms and then went off of my symptoms."

But at an annual physical last December — her first in a larger body — the doctor looked at her and determined that she had Type 2 diabetes without a blood test or a review of diabetes symptoms, Hamilton said. The physician immediately prescribed Hamilton an \$800-a-week diabetes injection and then ordered tests to confirm what she thought was the correct diagnosis.

Hamilton didn't have diabetes, the blood tests later showed. The experience left her with a sense that she cannot trust medical providers. At the recommendation of a friend, Hamilton found a different doctor to go to. But the December physical cost her time, money and aggravation.

Wu said that many overweight and obese people take the same route, moving from doctor to doctor until they find someone who would listen. But that approach can still cause damage, because of delayed diagnoses. "Some diseases have a golden window for treatment," Wu said. "And so, if you delay the treatment, you may delay the whole improvement [trajectory] of the disease."



Left to right: Stacey Adams and Nancy Pelosi.

Stacey Abrams, BLM nominated for Nobel Peace Prize

By Lauren Victoria Burke
NNPA NEWSWIRE

Both Stacey Abrams and the Black Lives Matter movement have been nominated to win the Nobel Peace Prize.

The nominations represent an opportunity for either Abrams or Black Lives Matter to win over even more support around the globe should they win. The Nobel Prizes have been distributed since 1901 and were started by Swedish industrialist and inventor Alfred Nobel. Prizes are given out for distinguished work in chemistry, physics, physiology or medicine, and literature.

There have been many controversies around the Peace Prize and a win by Abrams or the BLM would likely extend the line of

controversies. Past winners have included Martin Luther King Jr. (1964), Nelson Mandela (1993), President Barack Obama (2009), Kofi Annan (2001) and Jimmy Carter (2002).

"Stacey Abrams political activist, voter registration & voting rights advocate has set a national standard for democracy. Her political activism has resulted in a nomination for a Nobel Prize. She deserves it & would become an even bigger voting rights, VR & democracy champion," wrote the Rev. Jesse Jackson Sr. on Twitter.

The news of the Abrams nomination arrived on the same day that Georgia Republicans launched a "Stop Stacey" group. The group was created to support current Georgia Governor Brian Kemp in his expected rematch against Abrams.

The race will be in 2022.

The defeat of former U.S. Senator Kelly Loeffler to the Rev. Raphael Warnock demonstrated the strength of the Black vote in Georgia even before Abrams announced whether she'll run again, a sign of deep concern among Republicans about the threat she poses next year to the first-term governor. Abrams' efforts were so noticeable and the turnaround from red to blue in Georgia so pronounced that Donald Trump brought her up during his effort to flip the election results in his favor in Georgia. The recipients of the Nobel Peace Prize will be announced in October.

Lauren Victoria Burke is an independent journalist for the NNPA and the host of the podcast BURKEFILE.

BOOK

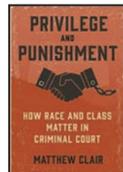
Privilege and Punishment
How Race and Class Matter in Criminal Court
By Matthew Clair

The number of Americans arrested, brought to court, and incarcerated has skyrocketed in recent decades. Criminal defendants come from all races and economic walks of life, but they experience punishment in vastly different ways.

"Privilege and Punishment" examines how racial and class inequalities are embedded in the attorney-client relationship, providing a devastating portrait of inequality and

injustice within and beyond the criminal courts.

Clair conducted extensive fieldwork in the Boston court system, attending criminal hearings and interviewing defendants, lawyers, judges, police officers, and probation officers. In this eye-opening book, he uncovers how privilege and inequality play out in criminal court interactions. When disadvantaged defendants try to learn their legal rights



and advocate for themselves, lawyers and judges often silence, coerce, and punish them. Privileged defendants, who are more likely to trust their defense attorneys, delegate authority to their lawyers, defer to judges, and are rewarded for their compliance.

Clair shows how attempts to exercise legal rights often backfire on the poor and on working-class people of color, and how effective legal representation alone is no guarantee of justice. "Privilege" draws needed attention to the injustices that are perpetuated by the attorney-client relationship.

Why Black America could care less about Emanuel Jackson's fate

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA NEWSWIRE

Emanuel Jackson is realizing — perhaps a bit too late — that the grass is never greener on the other side. In other words, according to dozens of African American social media users, Jackson is getting a lesson on how different American justice is for Black people — even if you are a supporter of former President Donald Trump.

Jackson turned himself into the Metropolitan Police Department in Washington, admitting his role in the Jan. 6 Trump-inspired insurrection that resulted in the death of a Capitol Police officer, disrupted an act of Congress, and much destruction. Unlike the more than 100 people arrested, Jackson is one of the few held without bail. A trial may not come for at least another year.

"It's his fault," Twitter user Lola (@Defenses009) wrote. "This was white people's business, and he decided to attend knowing the dangers it poses to black folk."

Offered Tia H (@tiaa345): "He was here for the racist version of America. Well, I hope they show him what the justice system is like for folks like him on that side."

Many others tweeted similar sentiments, while Instagram was flooded with comments expressing why Black America could care less about Jackson's jailing, and his fate. Authorities claim that Jackson was one of the first to enter the U.S. Capitol during the riot. At one point, video taken during the insurrection shows him repeatedly



COURTESY

hitting a police officer as law enforcement tried to prevent the mob from breaking into the building.

Jackson allegedly admitted to being the individual captured on video carrying a military-style backpack while wearing a black sweatshirt and blue mask. The footage purportedly shows him striking out at police with a metal baseball bat. Authorities have arrested and charged at least 134 people involved in the insurrection that immediately followed a Trump rally near the U.S. Capitol. More than 200 case files have been opened in connection with the Capitol siege.

During the rally, Trump, Donald Trump Jr., and former New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani encouraged thousands of supporters to "stop the steal" about Trump's false claims that the 2020 election was stolen. The former president and many close to him at the rally suggested violence.

The Black Press learned from Congresswoman Stacey Plaskett, D-U.S. Virgin Islands, Trump telephoned Senate members while the violent attack was occurring. She said the former president urged them to overturn President Joe

Biden's election victory.

"The senators themselves were victims," Plaskett remarked. "They received phone calls from Donald Trump in the middle of the riot, not asking about their well-being, but if they would continue to obstruct the election."

Michael Sherwin, the U.S. Attorney for the District of Columbia, said officials are looking at "significant felony cases" that include sedition and conspiracy. While Jackson apparently will linger in jail until trial, bail was granted to most insurrection suspects. Several were released without having to post bail.

Eric Munchel, who was photographed carrying zip-ties into the Senate Chambers, was released to home confinement despite federal agents finding a cache of high-powered weapons, tactical vests, and more plastic restraints at his Nashville, Tennessee, house.

"I found that those actions are dangerous to our system of government and our democracy and our Constitution," Magistrate Chip Frenshley stated during Munchel's court appearance. "But the consequences of those actions is for another day."

Triangle Tribune Business Spotlight

WEBINAR SERIES



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South Mecklenburg High School

Contact info

Gerald Johnson • 704-376-0497
president@thepostfoundation.org



http://tcpldn.org/2020PB8E

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

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LEGAL NOTICES



LEGAL NOTICE

Residuals Transport and Disposal for Durham County Triangle Wastewater Treatment Plant
RFP No. 21-023

The County of Durham will receive proposals for Residuals Transport and Disposal for Durham County Triangle Wastewater Treatment Plant on March 11, 2021, at 2:00 PM Eastern Time in the Durham County Purchasing Division, 201 East Main Street, 7th Floor - Finance, Durham, North Carolina 27701. No proposals will be accepted after the official time and date.

Site Visit: Site Visits will be conducted February 15th through February 19th, 2021 between 8:00am-3:00 pm **by appointment only**. Contact Wade Shaw at wshaw@dconc.gov or (919)560-9038 to schedule an appointment. **Attendees will be required to wear masks and follow social distancing protocols.**

An electronic copy of this Request for Proposal (RFP) can be obtained from Durham County's eBidSystem located under Bid Opportunities at <http://www.dconc.gov/government/departments-fz/finance/bid-opportunities>. Proposers can download a copy of the solicitation and all addenda without registering in the system. However, in order to **automatically** receive email notifications of solicitations and addenda issued by the Purchasing Division, Proposers **MUST** register in the eBid System.

The County reserves the right to accept or reject, in whole or in part, such proposals as appears in its judgment to be in the best interest of the County.



LEGAL NOTICE

Request for Letters of Interest and Statements of Qualifications for Architectural Services for the Analysis and Conceptual Studies for the Former DSS Main Street Facility
(RFQ No. 21-024)

The County of Durham, North Carolina requests Letters of Interest and Statements of Qualifications for Architectural Services for the Analysis and Conceptual Studies for the Former DSS Main Street Facility, will be received on March 11, 2021 at 2:00 P.M., Eastern Time, in accordance with applicable provisions of North Carolina General Statutes and Durham County Ordinances and policies.

An electronic copy of this Request for Qualifications (RFQ) can be obtained from Durham County's eBid System located under Bid Opportunities at <http://www.dconc.gov/government/departments-fz/finance/bid-opportunities>. Proposers can download a copy of the solicitation and all addenda without registering in the system. However, in order to **automatically** receive email notifications of solicitations and addenda issued by the Purchasing Division, Proposers **MUST** register in the eBid System.

The County reserves the right to accept or reject such proposals as appears in its judgment to be in the best interest of the County



LEGAL NOTICE

Replacement of Rooftop MUA and AHU Units at Durham County Detention Center
RFP No. 21-025

The County of Durham will receive proposals for the Replacement of the Rooftop MUA and AHU Units at Durham County Detention Center on March 18, 2021 at 2:00 P.M. Eastern Time, in the Durham County Purchasing Division, 201 East Main Street, 7th Floor, Durham, North Carolina 27701. No proposals will be accepted after the official time and date.

Site Visit: Site Visits will be conducted on February 22, 2021 through February 26, 2021. Contact David Alpaugh at 919-560-7331 or dalpaugh@dconc.gov to schedule a Site Visit.

An electronic copy of this Request for Proposal (RFP) can be obtained from Durham County's eBid System located under Bid Opportunities at <http://www.dconc.gov/government/departments-fz/finance/bid-opportunities>. Proposers can download a copy of the solicitation and all addenda without registering in the system. However, in order to **automatically** receive email notifications of solicitations and addenda issued by the Purchasing Division, Proposers **MUST** register in the eBid system.

The County reserves the right to accept or reject, in whole or in part, such proposals as appears in its judgment to be in the best interest of the County.

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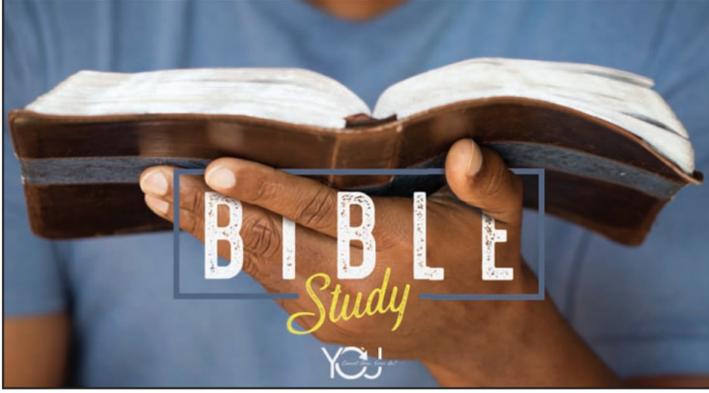
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BIBLE STUDY



Fight evil with mercy and grace through the Word

LIFEWAY CHRISTIAN RESOURCES

Bible Passage:
Luke 6:27-38

Discussion questions:

* What makes showing love and compassion to all people so difficult? Can you disagree with a person and still love them?

* How is the way we treat others an extension of God's mercy shown to us?

Food for thought:

Assigning a label to a person gives us permission to ignore them. We may decide they are too old or too young to garner our attention. We may label them based on where they grew up, the type of car they own, or if they like cats ... or not. If we can label a person in a specific way, we can find a way to justify our mistreatment of them. That label makes them somehow less human and therefore unworthy of our time, attention or compassion.

Jesus reminded His followers that He expects

something different from us.

After spending the night on a mountain in prayer, Jesus and His disciples encountered a large group of people who were intrigued by Him. Jesus addressed the disciples as the crowd looked on, calling on them to demonstrate compassion and care to all people, especially one's enemies.

His sermon included three rhetorical questions about loving others in return for their love, doing good to those who do good back to you, and lending to those you know will return the item.

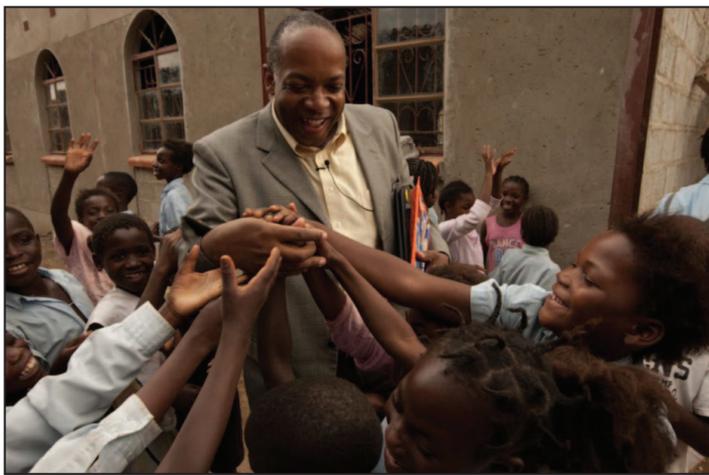
Jesus noted that even sinners will do those things. He called on those who followed Him to express love to others regardless of their response. Jesus directed His followers to show mercy to others in the same way they had been shown mercy by God.

The sanctity of human life means that because

God creates humans in His image, each of us is responsible for treating every person with honor, respect, dignity and mercy. Jesus did not direct us to walk away from evil and let it reign, but instead directed His followers to fight evil with mercy and grace. We were shown mercy when Jesus came to earth to die for our sin.

One way we show thankfulness for the mercy shown to us is by showing mercy to others, even those who oppose us. The way we treat others opens the door for God to work in that person's heart, making us an extension of God's mercy.

Explore the Bible is an ongoing Bible study curriculum that helps groups dig into the key truths of each Bible book, while keeping the group on pace to study through the Bible books in a systematic way. More information can be found at LifeWay.com/ExploreTheBible.



IMB missionary Troy Lewis plays with children at Streams of Living Waters School in Lusaka, Zambia. COURTESY

Celebrating the service of African American missionaries over the years

INTERNATIONAL MISSION BOARD

RICHMOND, Va. - The International Mission Board celebrates the ongoing and indelible legacy of African Americans who have served and are serving on the mission field. IMB President Paul Chitwood says as the organization reflects on its history, Southern Baptists must be quick to confess the organization began with roots in slavery.

"Only God's redeeming love and the reconciling power of the Gospel could result not only in repentance from that but in a convention of churches today, that is among the most diverse in the world and whose membership includes thousands of African American churches, as well as many other ethnicities," Chitwood said. "That diversity from such a regretful beginning is not only humbling, but it causes us to celebrate what God is doing through Southern Baptists today with even more joy to think that He would use us."

Here are just a few of many stories of African American brothers and sisters who have served with the IMB. One little-known aspect of Foreign Mission Board (now IMB) history is that some of the very first missionaries

were African Americans - free men and women already living in Liberia who were appointed to serve as Southern Baptist missionaries.

Southern Baptists' first African American missionary, John Day, was appointed to Liberia. He was a free man already living in that country who started churches and disciplesd believers while working within the government to help establish Liberia as a nation. As an African American and the first Southern Baptist missionary appointed to Africa, Day was uniquely gifted for the task. He wrote of his service there and his calling, "Let me but be in the path of duty, with the promises of God to sustain me, and I can hope against hope and persevere, though mountains of difficulty oppose me. God is omnipotent, and he who is promised is faithful."

On Feb. 6, 1859, when he stepped to the pulpit to begin a sermon, weakness overcame him, and he could not speak. He was taken home to rest and died Feb. 15. His preaching on earth was over, but his influence in Africa, specifically Liberia, was just beginning.

Mary Sue Thompson served with the FMB from 1967 to 1979. There were

African American missionaries who served between Day and Thompson, but it had been more than 80 years since the FMB had appointed any African Americans for career missionary service. Thompson, a teacher, wanted to teach in Nigeria and build a ministry that would support FMB's missionary work in Africa.

FMB's executive leader Baker James Cauthen told her at her appointment service: "We have waited for you a long time. We are glad you are going because of who you are, of what you represent, of what is in your heart. Let me give you a commission: Go to Nigeria, as Paul said, as 'a letter written on our hearts,' a love letter from us to them." Thompson's work paved the way for future generations.

Yvette Aarons was the first deaf missionary sent by the Foreign Mission Board. A native of Jamaica and a naturalized U.S. citizen, Aarons first applied to the FMB in 1985. Her request for consideration was denied because she was "handicapped." Two years later, the board voted to eliminate deafness as a handicap. Aarons didn't hesitate to reapply.

She was appointed in 1993 as a church associate developer for the deaf.

AROUND THE TRIANGLE

RALEIGH ALZHEIMER'S

The Alzheimer's Association NC Chapter's next workshop is Feb. 17, noon to 1:15 p.m., titled "Navigating a Dementia Diagnosis: The Power of Planning." Call 1-800-272-3900.

MUSEUM

NC Museum of History will host a virtual trip through the Green Book, a travel guide for African Americans during Jim Crow, Feb. 17, 1-2 p.m., for ages 10-13. Visit ncmuseumofhistory.org.

BLACK HISTORY

Raleigh Parks will host a scavenger hunt for all ages Feb. 20-21 virtually. The link will go live at 9 a.m. Visit raleighnc.gov.

RECRUITMENT

NC Education Corps is recruiting additional corps members to support students affected by COVID. Visit www.nceducation-corps.org. Deadline: Feb. 20.

SORORITY

Raleigh Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta will

host its virtual Crimson & Cream Scholarship Gala Feb. 20, 7-9 p.m. Visit www.raleighdst.org/gala.

DURHAM BLACK WALL STREET

A talk on the founding father of Durham's Black Wall Street, Aaron McDuffie Moore, is Feb. 16, noon to 1:30 p.m. via Zoom. Visit www.preservationdurham.org.

BLOOD DRIVE

Red Cross will host a blood drive Feb. 16, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Aloft Durham at American Tobacco, 345 Blackwell St. Register at redcrossblood.org.

CEMETERY

A virtual panel discussion on the historic Geer Cemetery is Feb. 20, 11 a.m. Visit durhaminplain-sight.com.

BOOK DRIVE

ETA Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma presents Coffee and Culture multicultural book drive Feb. 20, 9 a.m. to noon, Pearson-town Elementary, 4915 Barbee Rd.

AWARDS

Capital Area Section-National Council of Negro Women will host a virtual 2021 Harambee Annual Women of Excellence Awards Feb. 20, noon to 1:30 p.m. Register at eventbrite.com.

FUNDRAISER

Together We Stand NC commemorates the murder of runner Ahmaud Arbery with MAUD 2.23, a virtual 2.23 mile run and strength training session. Visit www.strongerandfasterdurham.com to participate.

CHAPEL HILL STORYTELLING

UNC Process Series presents Storytelling Festival: Remembrance and Renewal streaming live Feb. 17-21. Visit www.process-series.unc.edu.

MISC. CODING

Reskills Americans is offering tuition-free coding classes for Black and Latinx U.S. citizens. Visit Reskills-Americans.org. Deadline: March 7

BUSINESS BRIEFS

ENTREPRENEURS

Innovate Durham is accepting applications for its 2021 Innovate Durham program. Contact Darin Johnson at darin.johnson@durhamnc.gov. Deadline: Feb. 15.

RALEIGH CHAMBER

* Feb. 16, 6:30-8 p.m. - Black Business Momentum. Register at raleighchamber.org.

* Feb. 18, 9-11 a.m. -

Community Success Forum online event. Deadline: Feb. 17.

BLACK CHAMBER

Greater Durham Black Chamber of Commerce will host its Third Thursdays Virtual networking Feb. 18, 7-8 p.m. Register at 2021connect.eventbrite.com.

WOMEN HOF

Nominations are open for 2021 NC Women Business

Owners Hall of Fame. Visit ncwbhloffame.org/nominations/. Deadline: Feb. 26.

ENTREPRENEURS

NC IDEA has received \$100,000 from The Wege Foundation to support its North Carolina Black Entrepreneurship Council. Visit www.ncidea.org.

Send business briefs to info@triangletribune.com.

Get the most out of Valentine's Day bouquets

By Diana Chandler
 BAPTIST PRESS

Treat that someone special in your life to a floral Valentine. You will have them smiling within seconds and feeling happier throughout the week ahead.

Ensure your gift of cut flowers will look its best and provide many days of enjoyment with proper selection and care. You will also enjoy a bit of floral relief when taking time to select the freshest flowers possible.

A whiff of the water will let you know if the flowers are fresh and have been properly tended. Look for upright and perky flowers with lots of firm buds that are just starting to open. Your Valentine will enjoy watching the buds burst into fully open flowers.

Avoid cut flowers with drooping, discolored leaves and slimy stems. These will not last as long or look as good as those with firm green leaves and stiff stems.

Ask the florist for a packet of floral preservative to keep the bouquet looking its best for as long as possible. Make sure the florist wraps your flowers to protect the blooms from extreme temperatures and jostling during the ride home.

Remove the lower leaves so just leafless stems are sitting in the water. This will eliminate bacterial growth that can shorten the vase life of your cut flowers.

Recut the stems on a 45-degree angle to increase the amount of stem exposed and able to absorb water. Arrange your blossoms in a clean vase filled with fresh water and floral preservative.

Keep the vase filled with fresh water to prevent flowers from drying up and wilting. Change the water every few days to further extend their life.



Remove the flowers, recut the stems and add fresh water and floral preservative. Eliminate any faded flowers and keep adjusting your arrangement, using the longer lasting flowers and greens that remain attractive.

Share these tips whenever giving a bouquet of flowers. With proper care, you will help the recipient enjoy your gift for as long as possible.

Even when you and your Valentine do everything right, the stems of fresh roses may bend just below the blossom. Fortunately, there is an easy cure. Remove the roses from their vase. Recut the stems and submerge the whole rose, stem, leaves, flowers and all in a sink or tub of warm water. Leave the roses submerged for 30 minutes.

Use that time to clean and refill the vase with fresh water and a bit of floral preservative. Recut the stems on a 45-degree

angle if possible, and place the revived roses back in the vase. You will have perky, fresh roses to enjoy for a week or more.

Don't worry if your budget doesn't allow for a bouquet of roses. Many less expensive, but equally beautiful cut flowers, are available. Even a single rose in a bud vase or large bloom floating in a shallow bowl can generate a smile and enjoyment.

So this Valentine's Day, take a break to visit your local florist and pick up a fresh bouquet or heart-shaped plant for your favorite Valentine. And if you cannot visit a floral shop in-person, check reviews before ordering flowers online. Customer and recipient testimonials can help you select the best florist for the occasion.

Melinda Myers has written more than 20 gardening books, including *Small Space Gardening*.

Subscribe to The Tribune.
Every month is Black History Month.

HBCU football teams dwindling as season kicks off

After Super Bowl LV concluded on Feb. 7, North Carolina A&T tweeted that the football season wasn't done yet.

The Aggies were, of course, referring to the start of the MEAC season on Feb. 20. But at the rate it's going, the season may be over before you can blink.

The conference is down to five teams after Norfolk State opted out on Monday. That set the sports chatrooms ablazing with conspiracy theories on why the Spartans waited so late to drop out, especially since they will begin spring practice next month.



BONITTA BEST

NSU was to play South Carolina State on Feb. 20 in Orangeburg. Both teams were expected to challenge the Aggies for the championship crown.

The Spartans finished 4-4 in the conference in 2019, and won three of their last four contests. But their loss to S.C. State in the regular-season finale cost them a tie for the title. Coach Latrell Scott sure didn't sound like there were any problems at the virtual football media day a while back.

Even Commissioner Dennis Thomas was confident. "I'm confident today that all six schools will participate (in spring football)," Thomas said. "We have openings throughout the football schedule for flexibility if a team cannot play on any given week."

Many have wondered why cancel play in February, and then turn around and hold practice in March? Well, in practice, coaches can control everything around them; whereas in a game, you don't know what germs the opponent is bringing in.

Another reason could be talent and conditioning. Maybe Scott looked at what he had and realized the players weren't in any shape to compete. Better to opt-out than to get beat up.

As of Wednesday, the MEAC hadn't reissued another revised schedule. Maybe Thomas & Co. don't want to jinx it. But if you think the season is going to be canceled, think again.

A&T wants to leave the MEAC with a fourth consecutive championship while singing "Hit the road, Jack!"

Pough tied with A&T for the conference title last season, but lost the tie-breaker to go to the Celebration Bowl. He wants that trip to Atlanta - BAD!

Plus, the winner of the MEAC Championship Game in April earns an automatic berth to the FCS playoffs - for this year only. Thomas is not giving up that freebie. Nope. Nada.

But the MEAC wasn't the only HBCU conference stunned this week.

Although the SWAC has yet to make an official statement, Alcorn State will not be defending its title. Football-Scoop.com first reported rumors two weeks ago that the Braves were opting out. Seemed tongues started wagging after folks noticed the team wasn't practicing with less than a month before the start of spring football.

The Braves have been among the elite of the SWAC teams since Fred McNair took over as head coach. Alcorn lost to A&T in the 2019 Celebration Bowl.

At the SWAC football media day, McNair looked and sounded ready to defend. He brushed off the hype surrounding Deion Sanders and Jackson State, saying he was too busy concentrating on his own team to worry about anybody else. So what changed?

ASU's campus is in a rural area in Lorman, Mississippi, where, like still most of the country, COVID rates are high. But rumor has it there's

Please see **HBCU/7A**

Sports

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The Triangle TRIBUNE

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2021 - PAGE 6A



COURTESY

Naima Stennett

NCCU alumna frontline worker finds passion in cycling

By Kia C. Bell

N.C. CENTRAL COMMUNICATIONS

North Carolina Central University alumna and former student-athlete Naima Stennett (2010, '13) fell in love with cycling two years ago. During the coronavirus pandemic, that love flourished into a passion to help others while also introducing her favorite sport.

Most recently, she rode over 500 miles during a two-month period in the Great Cycle Challenge for the Children's Cancer Research Fund. Her efforts raised more than \$1,000 for the initiative to fight childhood cancer.

Stennett returned to Durham last July following medical school and formed the NCCU Cycle Club to encourage cycling among NCCU students, faculty, staff and alumni. She soon joined forces with Bike Durham to increase awareness of cycling in the Durham community.

During the pandemic, she traveled Bike Durham's custom routes with Ride With

GPS, which has a custom NCCU Bike Tour, and took advantage of the American Tobacco Trail. "Riding a bike is the closest you can get to flying," Stennett said. "I truly believe this is an opportunity where Eagles can soar."

A native of Kingston, Jamaica, and a volleyball standout, Stennett was awarded a full scholarship to NCCU at 16. She credits her humble upbringing in Jamaica to her success on and off the court. "My high school played a huge role in education and access to sports," she said. "The curriculum encouraged everyone to participate in physical education and sports. It was encouraged to do your best in the classroom, and also through sports."

Stennett participated in the 2006 Pan-American Games, the 2017 World Qualifiers international volleyball tournaments, and numerous Caribbean volleyball championships. She obtained her bachelor's and master's degrees in biology

from NCCU. She earned her medical degree from East Carolina University Brody School of Medicine.

Stennett completed a residency at the University of Miami's Jackson Memorial Hospital before accepting a one-year sports medicine fellowship at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. While working in Miami, she was highlighted by ESPN as a former student-athlete now on the front lines fighting COVID-19.

As a UNC Sports Medicine fellow, Stennett is training to provide care for UNC and NCCU athletes. She aspires to continue her work in sports medicine, emphasizing in services for young athletes in underserved communities.

While in high school, she observed firsthand the need for better medical resources for athletes in Jamaica. "We often have very limited resources," she said of her home country. "I hope that I can use the tools provided to me to make a

Please see **CYCLING/7A**

COLLEGE CORNER



COURTESY

Hampton lacrosse

CIAA cancels spring sports

Individual institutions can still participate

To no one's surprise, the CIAA canceled spring sports competition. C'mon, if the board canceled its biggest money-makers of the season, you should have known spring sports wouldn't be far behind.



Jeffries

However, the difference this time is each school has the option to play independently.

In other news, the conference has launched a Minority Business Marketplace on its website for people to find minority-owned businesses in their community.

Many of the company are previous vendors at the CIAA Tournament, which, by the way, is canceled this year. If there's a minority business you'd like to see listed, contact the conference office.

Shaw buys in

After the CIAA announcement, the Bears immediately posted that they would compete during the spring in women's and men's tennis, softball, women's and men's soccer, and women's outdoor track and field.

Down the street, St. Augustine's has decided not to participate.

Jeffries honored

Somehow CC missed this last month, but our good friend Anthony Jeffries was honored for his 15 years as St. Aug's sports information director. We remember like it was yesterday when Anthony took that job. Sad to say, 15 years later, he is still basically a one-man shop, which is just ridiculous in this digital age of nonstop news. How he managed to have a child with his lovely wife is beyond CC's imagination.

But speaking of the number 15, Anthony wrote a story this week touting the 15 student-athletes that posted a 4.0 GPA last semester. Thirty-two earned 3.5 to 3.99 GPAs and 36 had 3.0 to 3.49 GPAs.

Those with a 4.0 were Okhalia Buchanan, Marcus Davis, Joyce Jepleting, Phillip Marcelle, Gregory Matthews, Louis McLean-Lowndes, Randy Mendoza, Janina Mayers, Daniel Rainey, Jordan Rozier, Jovevsky Seme, Dachye Stubbs, Thomas Washington, Ashley Weekes and Marquize Woodson. Kudos!

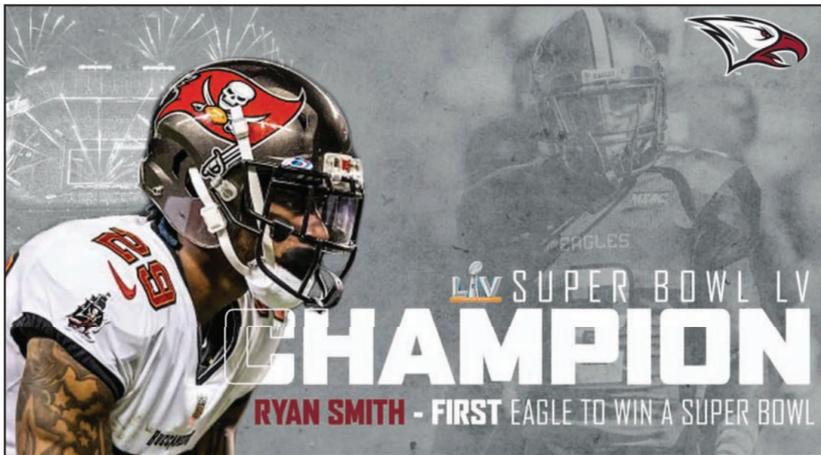
NCCU softball gets 4

Senior Kiara Hurley was named the MEAC preseason pitcher of the year. Teammate Joirea Dumas was named first team all-conference, and Olivia Daniel and Tamiera Sanchez to the second team.

Hurley is the team leader in ERAs, strikeouts, WHIP, innings pitched and opponents' batting average for the past two seasons. In 2019, she led the MEAC with 18 wins, which tied a program record in the Division I era.

Please see **CIAA/7A**

HBCU FOOTBALL



Ryan Smith keeps N Carolina Central football on map

By Bonitta Best
editor@triangletribune.com

They say the best publicity is free publicity.

North Carolina Central alumnus Ryan Smith will have a wing named after him soon.

Smith has been a productive member of the Tampa Bay Buccaneers since he was drafted in 2016. He's gotten better and earned more playing time with each season.

Smith made Eagles history Feb. 7 by becoming the first NCCU player to earn a Super Bowl championship, and

just the third to play in a SB. Richard Sligh of the Raiders in Super Bowl II and Louis Breeden of the Bengals in Super Bowl XVI are the other two.

Of course, those that watched Smith play at NCCU are not surprised. He amassed a career record 168 solo tackles (263 total), 31 passes defended, seven interceptions and 24 breakups. But most important, he graduated with a degree in criminal justice.

And then there were 5 Norfolk State made it official Monday that it was opt-

ing out of spring football competition. The Spartans, however, will begin spring practice next month.

"...Football is a high-impact sport that creates numerous challenges in carrying out a season during this pandemic," athletic director Melody Webb said. "After careful consideration with members of our coaching staff, university administration and medical personnel, the health, safety and well-being of our football student-athletes prevailed as the No. 1 factor in this decision."

NCCU alumna finds joy in cycling from frontline

Continued from page 6A

difference both in the United States and in the Caribbean."

Along with cycling, Stennett uses her free time play recreational volleyball and running. She also enjoys traveling, do-it-yourself projects and cooking. And she serves as a mentor to pre-medical and medical students.

A true servant-leader, Stennett established the Dr. Naima A. Stennett Scholarship Fund to assist deserving high school students in Jamaica and other Caribbean countries with the pre-college expenses, such as admission test fees for eligibility to study in the United States.

The fund covers the costs of taking the SAT examination, as well as supplementary support services and study materials.

"The most lasting and fulfilling achievements are earned by helping others fulfill their dreams," she said.

HBCU BASKETBALL



Hampton senior guard Davion Warren



Preston Bungei and Aleek Pauline

NCCU men lose 2nd straight; countdown on

By Bonitta Best

editor@triangletribune.com

North Carolina Central had a rough Florida trip, losing back-to-back games to Florida A&M.

The Eagles were upended in the first contest, 59-50 before losing 60-47 on the second night. The losses leave NCCU at 4-5 with six games left. The Eagles must play a minimum of 13 games to be eligible for the NCAA Tournament should they win the MEAC Tournament, which is an automatic qualifier.

In one of the craziest rules ever, the NCAA only counts a basketball tournament as ONE game. NCCU can ill-afford to have any postponements or cancellations. The team is off until Feb. 20, when it travels to South Carolina State.

On the women's side, the Lady Eagles (3-4) haven't had an opponent since Jan. 24. They also need 13 minimum games. Rival North Carolina A&T is slated to travel to Durham this weekend for two matchups. Then again, maybe not.

Change. Change.

The SWAC and Big South recently announced changes to their upcoming basketball tournaments.

The Big South, of which Hampton is a member, will allow the higher seed to host games throughout the tournament, including the championship. Before, the women's and men's No. 1 seeds were to host the quarterfinal and semifinal rounds. The tourney dates are still being worked out.

The SWAC has moved its entire tourney to Bartow Arena in Birmingham, Alabama. A limited number of general admission tickets will be made available.

"Hosting athletic events in the midst of a global pandemic has without a doubt presented an unprecedented number of unique challenges," said SWAC Commissioner Charles McClelland. "It has truly been impressive to witness how our student-

athletes and teams have responded and acclimated to what is our new normal. The sincere amount of understanding and the flexibility they have collectively exhibited on a daily basis must be commended."

All tourney games will be streamed on ESPN3.

Watch List

Hampton senior guard Davion Warren is on the 2020-21 Lou Henson Award midseason watch list. Warren leads the Big South in scoring (21.8 ppg) and steals (2.1 pg), and is second in rebounding (6.9 rpg). The award is presented to the top mid-major player in Division I.

And then there were 7 South Carolina State women's basketball canceled its remaining season due to COVID concerns. The Bulldogs (1-9) also had lost several players to injuries, which barely gave them a full roster.

Another we-saw-it-coming is Howard men canceling the remainder of their season. What started out with such ballyhooed promise with the recruitment of freshman Makur

Maker never panned out. The Bison played just five games after numerous cancellations and postponements due to positive tests.

"We had several team members test positive in January, and were forced to place the program on hold, cancel several games and finally cancel our season. It was and remains the right thing for us to do," head coach Kenneth Blakeney said. "Fortunately, this gives our student-athletes the opportunity to finish their academic year strong while demonstrating their resiliency upon return."

Spartans

Former Norfolk State players Preston Bungei and Aleek Pauline will continue their overseas career this season.

Bungei signed with Randers Cimbria of the Denmark Basketball League, the highest professional league in the country. Pauline moved on to BC Silute of the National Basketball League in Lithuania.

The duo join six other Spartans playing overseas: Kyle O'Quinn, Pendarvis Williams, Derrik Jamerson Jr., Jermaine Bishop, Anell Alexis and Edward Seward.

BOXTOROW announces preseason All-America team

By Donal Ware

SPECIAL TO THE TRIBUNE

The 2021 spring college football season is right around the corner and media members from across the country have selected the 2021 BOXTOROW HBCU Preseason Spring Football All-America Team.

Defending HBCU national champion North Carolina A&T leads the way with five selections. Arkansas-Pine Bluff has three selections. This is the 14th year BOXTOROW has released the preseason team.

OFFENSE

QB Felix Harper, Alcorn State
RB Jah'Maine Martin, North Carolina A&T

RB Devon Benn, Southern

OL Dacquari Wilson, North Carolina A&T

OL Kenneth Kirby, Norfolk State

OL Mark Evans II, Arkansas-Pine Bluff

OL Danny Garza, Prairie View A&M

OL Cam Durley, Tennessee State

TE Kendric Johnson, Alabama A&M

WR Abdul-Fatai Ibrahim, Alabama A&M

WR Harry Ballard III, Arkansas-Pine Bluff

State

LB Keonte Hampton, Jackson State

LB Armoni Holloway, Alabama A&M

LB Kyrin Howard, North Carolina A&T

LB Jacob Roberts, North Carolina A&T

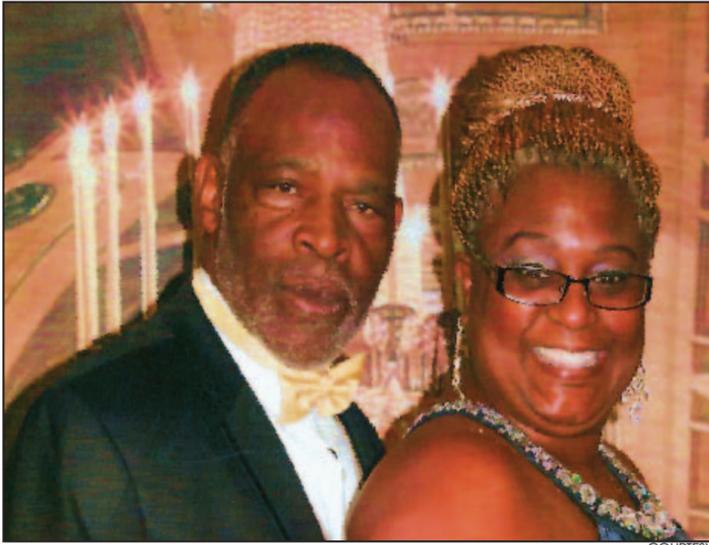
DB Qwynnterrio Cole, Alcorn State

DB Decobie Durant, South Carolina State

DB Nick Harper Jr., Tennessee State

DB Jaylen Harris, Prairie View A&M

DB Jaylen Harris, Prairie



Clifton and Tempie Dunn

Raleigh business celebrates 50th year anniversary

By Debra Dunn
Robertson

SPECIAL TO THE TRIBUNE

RALEIGH - Raleigh Carburator Auto Inspection Station is celebrating 50 years. Its owners, Clifton and Tempie Dunn, are still carrying the torch since its inception in 1971.

Raleigh Carburator & Tune-Up Clinic was the original name created by brothers' James and Clifton Dunn. These young men left the fields and sights of Knightdale and moved to the metropolis of Baltimore, Maryland, in the 1960s.

One following the other, they both landed jobs with Barco Rebuilding, Inc.,

where they learned the skill of rebuilding carburetors. After they mastered the skill, they returned to the Triangle, opening the first African American carburetor rebuilding business in the area.

The first physical location was at 128 E. Cabarrus Street in Raleigh, next to the historic Lincoln Theatre. It's now at 114 Ilegnes Road. The brothers became the popular carburetor experts, rebuilding or replacing all types of carburetors.

They loved the art of rebuilding so much that James gave himself the nicknames "the handle," "4-Barrell." The business still includes minor and

major tune-ups and repairs. It later gained recognition as a North Carolina Official Inspection Station.

True to the vision, yet having to press through good and difficult times, changing technology, and swings in the economy, Raleigh Carburator is still in business.

In the words of the late Maya Angelou, "Nothing will work unless you do."

And, in the words of Booker T. Washington, "Success is to be measured not so much by the position that one has reached in life as by the obstacles which he has overcome while trying to succeed."



COURTESY

Durham fundraiser honors Ahmaud Arbery

STAFF REPORTS

DURHAM - MAUD 2.23, organized by Together We Stand NC, commemorates the murder of runner Ahmaud Arbery last year in Brunswick, Georgia.

On Feb. 23, Fleet Feet Durham will host a virtual 2.23 mile run and Together We Stand NC will host a virtual Maud 2.23 strength training session.

Together We Stand NC is dedicated to the silent protest of the social and racial injustices against people of color in America.

The Durham-based organization seeks to lend its voice to the discussion of race relations in Durham and the state.

"Maud 2.23 is a reminder

that it's not just some law enforcement that has targeted people of color. Arbery was the first in a slew of killings of people of color in 2020," says TWS founder Tyrone Irby.

Stronger and Faster Durham and Fleet Feet Durham will donate \$2.23 for every Maud 2.23 shirt sold to the Durham People's Alliance.

Together We Stand NC developed the Maud 2.23 long sleeve shirt to commemorate the event.

The front of the shirt features the two color MAUD 2.23 logo in white and red, and on the back is the Nelson Mandela quote, "As long as poverty, injustice, and gross inequality persist in the world, none of

us can truly rest."

"As of today, we have 180-plus runners registered for the virtual run and 50-plus registered for the virtual workout. We have already raised almost \$2,000 for the Durham People's Alliance with a goal of \$5,000," says Irby.

TWS is asking people on Feb. 23 to participate in the virtual run or virtual workout and post on their social media feed while tagging @togetherwestandnc.

The workout will be posted on @strongerandfasterdurham and @togetherwestandnc, and available in pdf form at www.strongerandfasterdurham.com.

SCHOOL NEWS

DURHAM COUNTY
Recent data from the N.C. Department of Public Instruction shows the student dropout rate at Durham Public Schools has decreased to 2.26% for the 2019-20 school year. There have been 2,947 dropouts in DPS between 2012-13 and the 2019-20 school year. Overall, dropouts in DPS are continuing to decrease. The COVID-19 pandemic has had an impact.

Also, DPS has implemented various strategies as part of Priority 2 which aims to provide a safe school environment that supports the whole child. Through this strategy, DPS is better able to identify students who are at risk of

dropping out and provide them the support they need to succeed.

The Durham County Board of Commissioners fulfilled a longtime priority of DPS leaders by fully funding a minimum wage of \$15 an hour for DPS employees. "This has been at the top of our list for a long time," said Superintendent Pascal Mubenga. "We are profoundly grateful to Durham County for finding the resources to bring us to parity with city and county employees."

The average salary increase for affected employees is \$1,200 a year. Pay will be increased for all employees who formerly earned less than \$16.50 an

hour, with employees earning less than \$15 an hour receiving the largest pay increase. Employees received the new monthly salary beginning with the January paycheck, and will receive back pay from July through December in February.

"I'm grateful for the collaborative work with our Durham County Board of Commissioners to make this priority a reality for our staff," said school board Chair Bettina Umstead. "A minimum wage of \$15 an hour will honor the hard work of our current staff and have a positive impact on our ability to recruit and retain great DPS employees."

Online school during COVID: a student/mentor learns to balance

By Samantha Martinez
THE DURHAM VOICE

Life in this pandemic has not been easy for any of us. Some people have lost their jobs, lost family members, lost their homes and have struggled greatly. Many other people are just stuck at home watching the world change.

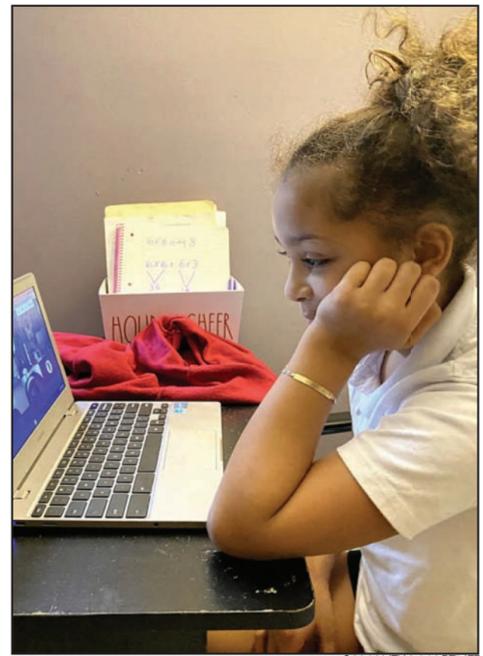
Meanwhile, one hardship I have faced during this pandemic has been dealing with online school.

Since the pandemic has grown very quickly, my school system, along with numerous others, decided not to have in-person learning this year. Instead, we are having online school so we can all stay home and protect our health.

Online school is not as easy as it sounds. My family has experienced difficulties with juggling and balancing our schedules while trying to meet the challenges of online schooling and learning. Online school has been a struggle for not only me, but also for my siblings and younger family relatives as well.

My little brother is a 6-year-old first-grader, and my niece is an 8-year-old third-grader. As both an aunt and a sister, I have noticed how online school and the pandemic have affected them. With them not being as adept with the technology as are high school students, it has been harder for them to focus and understand in this new way of learning to which they have to adjust. All kids learn differently; some learn best by hands-on in-person engagement. Others can learn by more traditional methods.

But in my experience as a babysitter, I've noticed younger kids are very energetic and not used to sitting down for hours staring at a computer screen. Also, parents fortunate enough to still have to work can't afford to take the time to sit with their kids all day to help them understand and figure out math problems. When parents are usually not around, it can be hard for teachers to control and help the kids learn and listen. Also, the students may have a hard time stay-



Jazelle Colato, 8, a Durham third-grader, sits in on one of her online learning classes.

ing awake during the classes since they're in a comfortable home setting.

When I'd come home from school before COVID-19, I would relax — and that's probably what most kids are used to doing. This factor could cause some kids to be lazy and lose interest in school. Other kids may get distracted by TV or their electronics.

Here's another issue with learning online: All of these distractions have translated into a point where students are expected to complete assignments for grades without actually having learned anything. It feels as if students aren't learning anything because they're all just trying to meet the many deadlines placed upon them.

My experience in online high school has been a very stressful and a difficult way of learning. I have had to balance my school schedule with my niece and my younger brother's schedule, along with having to make sure they're back on the computer in time for their next class. I also have to make sure that on their breaks they use that time with either finishing classwork or using that free time

to get things taken care of so that while they're in class they can focus.

I also have to stay on top of my own schoolwork and classes, a challenge which can become daunting when I have to multitask. If you're someone who has to balance your schedule with younger relatives, it isn't easy at all. But, on a positive note, I'd say you can absolutely get through it with time and patience.

I've learned that as long as I balance both schedules, a skill that can help young people as they get older, it will become easier for me to meet all my deadlines. This terrible pandemic has not been easy for anyone. But looking back in history, I see that many people have gone through hard times before — hard times that they thought they couldn't face or triumph over.

Like many other Durham high school students, I am facing the challenges of online learning. It takes everything we can do to try and stay sane through it all.

The article was first published in The Durham VOICE, a monthly publication in Durham.



The Durham County Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) Board will begin accepting applications on March 1, 2021 for its FY 2021 grant program. All 501 (c)(3) community based non-profit agencies and educational institutions with programs that address alcohol abuse education and prevention within Durham County are eligible to apply. The Durham County Criminal Justice Resource Center (Drug Treatment Court) is also eligible to apply.

Applications must be submitted online using our ZoomGrants application process no later than midnight on April 30, 2021. All applications will be assessed to determine which applicants best meet the eligibility and performance criteria outlined in the Durham County ABC grant program guidelines. Grant funding decisions will be determined by the Durham County ABC Board. Grant recipients will be notified by June 15, 2021 of their selection.

To submit an application this year, applicants will need to create a ZoomGrants account or use an existing account, if applicable. Information about the ZoomGrants application process and the grant program guidelines can be found at <https://durhamabc.com/grant-program/>.

Interested organizations are strongly encouraged to attend the **Information Meeting** which will be held virtually via Zoom Meetings on Tuesday, March 2, 2021 at 11:00 am. Please visit our website at <https://durhamabc.com/grant-program/> to RSVP and to access the virtual meeting information.

For questions, please email grants@durhamabc.com.