

The Triangle TRIBUNE

THE TRIANGLE'S CHOICE FOR THE BLACK VOICE

VOLUME 22 NO. 19

WEEK OF MAY 10, 2020

\$1.00

North Carolina Central men's basketball adds two transfers.



NEHEMIE KABEYA

ALEX CALDWELL

COVID-19 exasperates racial disparities in health

By Freda Freeman
CORRESPONDENT

DURHAM - During the coronavirus pandemic, access to quality health care is more important than ever. However, the racial divide is ever growing. And, the COVID-19 crisis is shedding light on just how wide the gap is.

A recent report shows that African Americans, and most likely Hispanic/Latino and Native American residents, are bearing the brunt of this crisis, says Casey Wilkinson, executive director of Piedmont Rising.

According to a report released by Piedmont Rising last week, black North Carolinians account for 38% of confirmed coronavirus patients and 35% of deaths from coronavirus, although they make up about 21% of the state's population. Black people also have a higher rate of diabetes - 25% more than whites - and people with diabetes are much more likely to experience serious complications from COVID-19.

Launched in September, Piedmont Rising is a nonprofit organization that is working to make health care affordable and ac-

Please see **DISPARITIES2A**

« **HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!**



Brianna Hargrove Kennedy reads to son, Zion.



Gloria De Los Santos and daughters Taylor and Jordyn.



Jovonia Lewis and son, Caleb, make pizza for dinner.

Mother's Day message: 'Balance not perfection' today

By Freda Freeman

CORRESPONDENT

DURHAM - If there's a message that local mothers could share with each other, it would be: "Be kind to yourself." Being realistic, setting priorities, practicing self-care, and cutting yourself some slack are key survival techniques for mothers today. While taking care of their families, homes and working, mothers must also take care of themselves.

In addition to taking care of their own families, many mothers are working to improve the lives of other women and children. They have started education nonprofit organizations, advocate for children with special needs, and fight for race and

gender equity.

Tracey Hawkins, 37, a mother of three, doesn't think the core role of motherhood - caring for and nurturing your kids and providing them with the love and support they need to thrive - has changed; it's just become more complex. "I feel like a woman can have it all, but it's not going to look the same. My having it all is going to look different from you having it all. That play on words, when it originated, I think it meant you can't work and be a mom, but now you most certainly can. Is there going to be some give and take? Absolutely," she said.

Hawkins and her husband, Rep. Zack Hawkins, have three sons: Zachari, 18; James Preston,

5; and Adam, 4. The younger two have autism. Hawkins recently launched Thriving on the Spectrum, a tech start-up for kids with autism. The app helps to provide them with structure, routine, and balance.

"My having it all is I have that balance of work, supportive husband, loving family, career and friendships, and I am able to engage in various activities, like my sorority and organizations outside of the home. I'm still able to fulfill the needs that I have as a woman outside of my role as a mom and a wife. If I'm able to be fulfilled professionally, personally and spiritually, then I'm able to be present and there for

Please see **MOM** | 2A



Tracey Hawkins and family.

In clamor to reopen, many black people feel overlooked

By Jay Reeves
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. - Many African Americans watching protests calling for easing restrictions meant to slow the spread of the new coronavirus see them as one more example of how their health, their safety and their rights just don't seem to matter.

To many, it seems that the people protesting -

who have been predominantly white - are agitating for reopening because they won't be the ones to suffer the consequences. So far, the facts are proving them right: The consequences of keeping some businesses open have been falling disproportionately on the shoulders of black people and other marginalized groups.

"There has always been a

small, white ruling class that has been OK with seeing certain populations as disposable," said LaTosha Brown, founder of the Black Voters Matter Fund, a power-building organization based in the South.

The pandemic has highlighted - and often deepened - gaping inequalities in the United States and around the world. Black people are dying in disproportionate numbers from

COVID-19 in the United States; people of color are especially exposed because they are more likely to hold many of the jobs that were deemed essential; and, as the reopening starts, they are likely to be among those whose workplaces open first. For instance, in New York City, the epicenter of the U.S. outbreak, black people make up just under 25% of the population, but more

than 40% of public transit workers.

Delmonte Jefferson, a black public health professional in Atlanta, said African Americans and other people of color want to mitigate the economic damage as much as anyone else - especially since those groups are among the ones who are suffering the most from the downturn. But they don't want a return at all

costs, he said. "Even the thought of opening the country back up shows that African Americans aren't being valued," said Jefferson, executive director of the Atlanta-based National African American Tobacco Prevention Network.

Some "reopen" protests have included black speakers, and a handful of black people have at-

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5007 Southpark Dr., Suite 200-G
Durham, NC 27713
(919) 688-9408

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Publisher: Gerald O. Johnson
Managing Editor/Sports Editor: Bonitta Best
Advertising: Linda Johnson
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Moms say the superwoman syndrome is out

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husband, kids, house, and others.”

Kimberly McGhee, 50, said working and being able to attend her daughter Kyla's school and sports activities require her to be flexible and juggle several things at once. When asked if she believes women can have it all — wife, mother, job/career and be happy — McGhee refers to a book by her good friend and local family physician, Nicole Swiner, “How to Avoid the Superwoman Complex: 12 Ways to Balance Mind, Body & Spirit.”

“What she says is, ultimately, we can do it all, but we have to be kind to ourselves and realize that it may not be perfect. It may not mean doing it all every day, and you may make some mistakes, you may miss a load of clothes or a dish being washed, but you have to be kind to yourself and say I'm not a superwoman,” McGhee said.

Juggling it all means balance, not perfection, which McGhee learned while working on her doctorate degree. She'd leave her job at North Carolina Central University, where she works as the director of the Division of Extended Studies, and drive to East Carolina University in Greenville twice a week to attend classes. When she gets home late at night, she looks over her daughter's homework and cleans up the house a little.

“I had to just stop and say, you're going to have to let something go,” McGhee said. “I think we can do it if we can be honest with ourselves and say it's OK if everything is not done every single day. And, for me, I think that's the only way we can achieve the happiness piece.”

Life has settled down since McGhee earned her Ph.D. last month. Surprisingly, in spite of the coronavirus pandemic and having everyone home because of the city's stay-at-home order, she said it's pretty much life as usual. She works at the dining room table; her husband, OJ, is in his office upstairs; and Kyla, 16, has classes in the kitchen. They come to-

gether as a family at the end of the day.

Gloria De Los Santos, 46, said “having it all” is relative, depending on who you ask. For her, it's raising her daughters' Taylor, 16, and Jordyn, 10; helping her husband, Mike, run their family business, Mike D's BBQ; and working as the race and gender equity director of Action NC because “as women have more options, they face more obstacles.”

“For me, having it all means having a very healthy and strong family, a productive family, that's always out there doing something that is productive for society, having a successful business, growing with my husband, a successful career, and being successful as a mom, as much as I can be, considering the time that we are in,” she said. “Doing that and trying not to stress about it because there are going to be other stressors that are going to be far more stressful than what you have today. So, just taking it one minute, not one hour, not one step, but one minute at a time, and growing with it. Growing and learning from what my past has taught me.”

Although more mothers continue to enter the workforce, they still face the age-old issues of classism and racism, said Brianna Hargrove Kennedy.

“One of the things that's unfortunate about that is how much our economy has exasperated certain issues, especially in black households. Knowing the number of black women who are leading households as single mothers, it's unfortunate, because if I were single and raising this child on my own, even with my master's degree, I would still probably be paid less than a white male with the same credentials as me,” she said.

Kennedy, 30, is a former teacher who now works for an education nonprofit organization. She and her husband, Brian, have a 3-year-old son, Zion. “I feel like you can have it all, I don't know if you can have it all at that same time,” Kennedy said. “Looking at my life, with having my

son, I can be happy and joyful about the life that I have because I have a partner who plays an integral role in that, and we have prioritized our faith to continue to carry us. You have to be willing to put in the work and appreciate what you have at the moment because ‘all’ is going to change as I get older and my son gets older and my husband gets older, so I don't think our ‘all’ today will be the same ‘all’ that we have five years from now.”

Jovonia Lewis, 44, is the mother of three sons: Andrew, 12, Joshua, 10, and Caleb, 6. Lewis recently started Empowered Parents in Community, a nonprofit education advocacy group that works to get black parents involved in schools to dismantle systemic inequity, specifically the over suspension of minority students. She was elected to the Durham Public Schools school board in March. Lewis agrees mothers may be able to have it all, but not at the same time.

“I was always trying to juggle, how can I do this, how can I do that, trying to do everything, being superwoman. There just wasn't enough time. You have to prioritize and ask yourself what is your passion and purpose in this moment and give your all to that. And, have a plan to say this may be on the back-burner, but I'm going to get back to it,” she said. Being home with each other 24/7 is drawing the Lewis family closer together and making them much more intentional about their family time. Some of their activities include playing board games, cooking together, and raising chickens.

“Although we're always together, we're not always in the same room or doing the same thing, but we now carve out more time to make space for that,” Lewis said. “We're also reevaluating. We've been talking to them about what they like about this time and what they don't like, and what are we going to make sure we keep and make it into our new normal.”

COVID-19 exasperates racial disparities in health

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cessible to all North Carolinians. The group's focus is three-fold: lower prescription drug costs; affordable health insurance premiums; and stopping the skyrocketing cost of health care, primarily protecting the Affordable Care Act.

“Unfortunately, right now, even folks who have health care can't afford to use it. Too many families are choosing between ‘do I get the medicine I need that I know can make my kid feel better and protect their health or do I go get groceries and put food on the table for my family?’ We think no family should have to make that choice,” Wilkinson said during a virtual town hall meeting last week.

A big part of what Piedmont Rising does is share people's personal health care stories in an effort to hold elected officials accountable. Wilkinson said policymakers should expand Medicaid and protect the ACA, which, if repealed, would leave more than 500,000 state residents without coverage. Piedmont Rising is advocating for an open or special enrollment period in the ACA.

“Our hope is that what can bring people together and help influence our

elected leaders is to hear from people, the real impact of health care policy on their day-to-day lives, and that will cut through and give us the best chance of effecting change,” Wilkinson said.

Xaviera “Zay” Bell shared her painful story of watching her newborn son, Xander Monroe, die four hours after giving birth. Born early at 21 weeks and six days on April 25, 2018, he weighed 15 ounces. Bell said doctors told her if he had been born at 23 weeks, they could have saved him.

Bell said statistically black women are at risk of dying from complications during pregnancy and childbirth. Because of preexisting health problems, black women who contract COVID-19 are at an even greater risk, she said.

“What we know is African American mothers are more likely to die during childbirth and from preventable pregnancy complications than our white counterparts. We also know we are more likely to lose our children, too. We know that African Americans are more susceptible to COVID-19, and we're definitely being affected because of preexisting conditions,” she said.

COVID-19 changes the face of pregnancy and loss, Bell said.

Because of hospital quarantine restrictions, mothers are isolated from family members and are surrounded by strangers — doctors and nurses they don't know. Bell added that black women who lose their children often suffer from posttraumatic stress disorder, but many do not have insurance to seek counseling.

“It is so critically important that we take a hold of the situation. We need an expansion because there are a lot of individuals who are falling through the gaps,” Bell said. “I am a person who walked into a hospital with a master's degree, making enough money to live comfortably, and also have a great insurance company, but two or three doors down was a woman who did not have the same experience. As a village, we have to be responsible for the villagers. We have to bare this burden as a community and not just alone.”

Bell said support from loved ones is crucial during the time of loss. She said she was fortunate to have a supportive family and health insurance to pay for counseling to help her deal with the death of her son, but “a lot of women will not make it out of the situation because grief will break their hearts.”



Business won't return as usual, Duke experts say

By Lori D. R. Wiggins

CORRESPONDENT

DURHAM — Three Duke University experts predict getting back to business-as-usual once COVID-19 social distancing restrictions soften won't be a smooth sail, but will likely resemble a morphing into new operations born of innovation.

Along the way, the scholars suggest, local media will struggle as advertising habits change, and smaller and rural communities become news deserts.

The panel of scholars discussed the impact of the pandemic on local businesses and media during a video conference briefing that is part of a series hosted by Duke to explore how COVID-19 affects our lives, economy, children and education.

“I'm pessimistic that we're going to experience what people refer to as a V-shaped rebound ... a rapid recovery back to normal,” said David Robinson, a finance professor at Duke's Fuqua School of Business who researches entrepreneurship and small business.

For instance, he said, it's unlikely folks will get three haircuts in the week barbershops and hair salons reopen, or double up on dentist visits. “Some of the consumption that has been lost over the last six weeks...is just lost forever,” Robinson said. “It's never going to come back.”

Robinson offered another determining factor: the consumption businesses rely on is directly linked to already fragile household budgets left weaker in the pandemic. “People are going to come out of this crisis with very strained household bal-

ance sheets,” he said, adding, “and that will put a drag on consumption.”

Robinson was joined by fellow Duke scholars Cathy Clark, a director at the Center for the Advancement of Social Entrepreneurship at Duke's Fuqua, who is researching resources that can help small businesses adapt to the pandemic; and Phil Napoli, a professor at Duke's Sanford School of Public Policy, and a faculty member at the university's DeWitt Wallace Center for Media and Democracy.

Clark said the coronavirus crisis impacts every business that employs people. If businesses can't pay employees, then those workers lose both jobs and health insurance. “Research shows small businesses have two to four weeks of cash on hand, and we're now at least six weeks into the COVID-19 crisis,” she said. “These are really tough times.”

Perspective also is important when weighing the economic fallout for small businesses, Robinson said, pointing to the Small Business Administration's definition of small business as any with fewer than 500 employees, which leads to reports of 30 million small businesses in the U.S. “I think that's misleading,” he said. He reasoned that about 20,000 firms in the country have more than 500 employees and provide jobs for half of the country's labor force. Everybody else, the other half, works for a small business.

“Of these 30 million so-called small businesses, about 25 million of them are non-employer firms. That means the only employee is the founder of that firm, the entrepreneur himself or herself,” Robinson said, adding the major-

ity of roughly 6 million small businesses that employ people employ fewer than 20. “It's important to realize that the vast majority of small businesses have nobody on their payroll. They're a payroll of one.”

Many businesses will have to make choices to stay afloat based on how much cash they have on hand, and which relationships they can leverage and renegotiate — from lines of credit to grant funding, Clark said. “You really have to become a little more of a CFO right now,” she continued. “Every business has to pay attention on a weekly basis to what's going on, what you can hold back, and what you can pivot to in order to bring in business.”

Innovation isn't just a tool for business, however, Clark said. “Everyday people are going to continue to face new and challenging problems, which are opportunities. Why do we like innovation? It solves problems really fast.”

As business pushes to innovate and navigate a new normal, local media could be hardest hit, even as the demand for news peaks, said Napoli, the panel's expert on public policy, media and democracy who also researches social media regulation, “news deserts,” and the shrinking of news media.

It's really a catch-22 of COVID-19. “Our demand for news is peaking, and we're even seeing some increase in a willingness to pay,” Napoli said. “But, on the other side, the ability or willingness for advertisers to advertise on these sites is plummeting. So the economics of journalism are not entirely tied to the demand for journalism.”

Black people wary of law to reopen businesses

Continued from page 1A

tended. But images of the rallies and Facebook pages dedicated to the movement indicate the vast majority of supporters are white. Demonstrators from Alabama to Michigan haven't focused on race. Instead, they advocate preserving constitutional freedoms and talk about the catastrophic toll on small businesses. The protesters have included organized groups like anti-vaccine advocates, gun-rights supporters and even a militia, and many have expressed support for President Donald Trump, reflecting the way the discussion has become partisan.

But many African Americans say the fact that protesters are advocating a riskier path reveals a privileged position — as does their ability to flout social-distancing rules and even brandish weapons. The complaints from protesters that their rights are being trampled, for instance, comes across as misinformed and misguided to racial minorities who have been oppressed for generations, said Nadia Richardson, who heads No More Martyrs, a nonprofit focused on the mental health of black women. “It looks like from that perspective (it's) a group of people who don't really understand what it is to have your rights violated,” said Richardson.

Groups including the NAACP, meanwhile, have called for greater government action to prevent the virus' spread in response to statistics showing that



Volunteers wait to test patients for COVID-19 in Georgia.

COVID-19 is killing disproportionate numbers of black people. An Associated Press analysis of available state and local data shows that nearly one-third of those who have died are African American, with black people representing about 14% of the population in the areas covered in the analysis.

The toll in black communities, leaders say, reflects systemic policies that have made many African Americans far more vulnerable to the virus, including unequal access to health care and economic opportunity. That means many will face an untenable choice: go back to work or face unemployment with no benefits, said Antonio Lightfoot, an organizer for the Workers Center for Racial Justice in Chicago.

The Rev. William J. Barber, who advocates for groups that often perform front-line jobs, said black people aren't the only ones being devalued. “The issue is not what these protests are saying to just black people but what

they are saying to poor and low-income people who are the most impacted,” said Barber. “Invitations to open up society and encourage people to return to their routines is an invitation to death.”

As the debate over reopening has become increasingly heated, some have used racist language or symbols. Democratic Atlanta Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms, who is black and has been an outspoken critic of Republican Georgia Gov. Brian Kemp's decision to allow some businesses to reopen, recently tweeted an image of a text message that demanded she reopen Atlanta and called her a racial slur. Confederate flags have been visible at some demonstrations, but far more American flags are evident.

Although Americans remain overwhelmingly in favor of stay-at-home orders and other restrictions, a survey conducted in mid-April from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research revealed a partisan divide.

NC State Supreme Court addresses exclusion of black jurors

STAFF REPORTS
RALEIGH - A new decision from the North Carolina Supreme Court has taken an important first step to address a problem that civil rights advocates have long highlighted: the epidemic of race-based exclusion of black citizens from jury service.
 In the case of Cedric Hobbs, the court ruled 6 to 1 last week that the judge at Hobbs' 2014 murder trial allowed the prosecutor to strike African American citizens from the jury without fully considering the evidence that race was a key factor in their strikes. The decision marks a turning point in North Carolina, where two separate studies have found that qualified black citizens are struck from juries at more than twice the rate of qualified white citizens. It will begin a culture change in a state where trial judges routinely dismiss complaints of racially motivated jury strikes without thorough investigation, and where the appellate courts have never in their history upheld a claim of race discrimination against a juror of color.
 "For a long time, our courts have stood by as scores of black citizens have been denied the basic civil right to serve on a jury," said David Weiss, senior staff attorney at the

Center for Death Penalty Litigation. "The North Carolina Supreme Court has just said that has to change."
 The decision established that, when claims of race discrimination against jurors are raised, judges must take into consideration the history of disproportionate strikes in that county. For instance, in Cumberland County, where Hobbs was tried, studies show that prosecutors were about 2.5 times more likely to strike qualified potential jurors who were black, a statistically significant finding.
 The courts also must compare the strikes of black jurors to those of white jurors to see if they are held to similar standards. At Hobbs' trial, the defense alleged that the prosecutor struck a black juror based on his race. When the judge asked the prosecutor to state his reasons for the strike, the prosecutor claimed he struck the juror because the juror had experience with mental health professionals. The judge accepted this reason as "race neutral" without considering the fact that several white jurors who the prosecutor accepted had received extensive mental health treatment. Such comparative juror analysis is key to rooting out dis-

criminatory intent in jury strikes.
 Hobbs was convicted of robbery and murder in 2014 and is serving a life sentence without parole. His case will now return to a Cumberland County trial court for a new hearing on whether black jurors were unlawfully excluded from his jury. If the court finds that they were, he will get a new trial.
 However, legal experts say the salient aspect of the decision is the precedent it sets for future cases. "What's most important is the message that courts across North Carolina must vigorously investigate the reasons why jurors of color are excluded, not simply rubber stamp the prosecutor's strikes," said James E. Coleman Jr., John S. Bradway Professor of the Practice of Law, at Duke Law School. "This decision is a good starting point in addressing North Carolina's shameful record of denying African Americans their civil right to serve on juries.
 These issues will continue to come up. As they do, my hope is that the state supreme court will continue to take this civil rights problem seriously by enforcing and strengthening legal protections against race discrimination."

Obama to headline prime-time graduation

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
NEW YORK — Former President Barack Obama will deliver a televised prime-time commencement address for the high school Class of 2020 during an hour-long event that will also feature LeBron James, Malala Yousafzai and Ben Platt, among others.
 ABC, CBS, Fox and NBC will simultaneously air the special May 16 at 8 p.m. EDT along with more than 20 other broadcast and digital streaming partners, according to the announcement Tuesday from organizers.
 Several high school students from Chicago public schools and the Obama Youth Jobs Corps will join, as will the Jonas Brothers, Yara Shahidi, Bad Bunny, Lena Waithe, Pharrell Williams, Megan Rapinoe and H.E.R.
 The event is titled "Graduate Together: America Honors the High School



Class of 2020." It's hosted by the education advocacy group XQ Institute, The LeBron James Family Foundation and The Entertainment Industry Foundation.
 Obama will reflect on the COVID-19 pandemic's disruption of school life, especially for seniors who have missed out on their milestone rites of passage. "This high school graduation season will be anything but ordinary — but that's all the more reason why the Class of 2020 deserves extraordinary advice, heartfelt encouragement, and hard-won wisdom about facing new challenges in an uncertain world," Russlynn Ali, CEO and co-founder of XQ Institute, said in a statement. "We are grateful to President Obama for giving this gift to our nation's three million high school seniors as they #GraduateTogether."

MOVERS AND SHAKERS

DURHAM COUNTY

Kweli Rashied-Henry has been hired as Durham County Government's first racial equity officer. Rashied-Henry was recently the director of health equity for the March of Dimes. She is a graduate of Bennett College and Emory University.



Rashied-Henry

Are you or someone you know a Mover and a Shaker? Drop us a line at *Movers and Shakers*, c/o The Triangle Tribune, 5007 Southpark Drive, Suite 200-G, Durham, NC 27713, or email us at info@triangletribune.com. Photos welcome.

MAY 2020 SESSIONS SCHEDULE

TUESDAYS 12-1PM | THURSDAYS 8 - 9PM | SATURDAYS 12-1PM

Topic: Changing Your Business during the coronavirus pandemic
 Tuesday, May 5, 2020, 12-1pm
 Saturday, May 16, 2020, 12-1pm
 Thursday, May 21, 2020, 8-9pm

Topic: Unemployment for Self-Employed/Independent Contractors
 Thursday, May 7, 2020, 8-9pm
 Tuesday, May 12, 2020, 12-1pm
 Saturday, May 23, 2020, 12-1pm

Topic: Financial Preparedness for Small Businesses
 Saturday, May 9, 2020, 12-1pm
 Thursday, May 14, 2020, 8-9pm
 Tuesday, May 19, 2020, 12-1pm

Topic: Post-Covid Business Strategies
 Tuesday, May 26, 2020, 12-1pm
 Thursday, May 28, 2020, 8-9pm
 Saturday, May 30, 2020, 12-1pm

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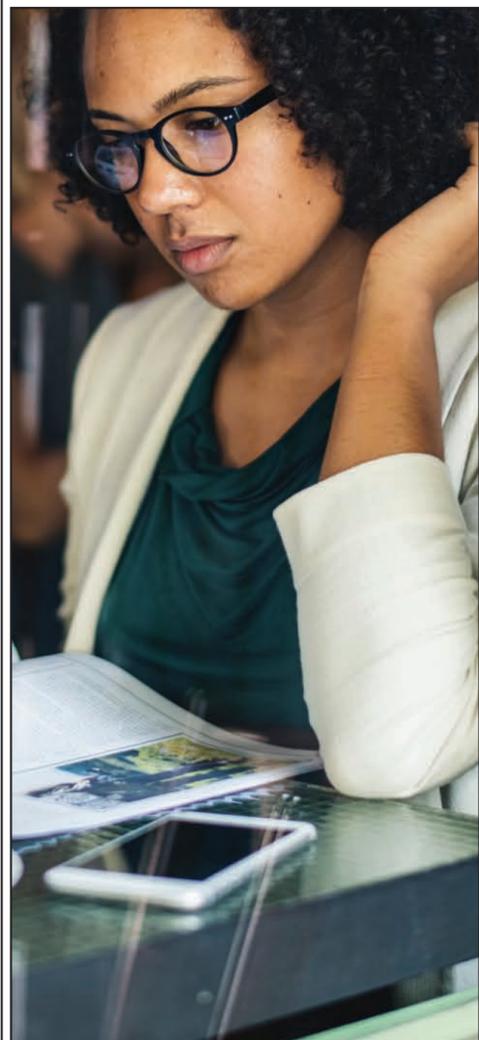
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The Carolina Times publisher dies



Special from the N.C. Black Publishers Association

DURHAM - Kenneth William Edmonds, editor/publisher of The Carolina Times, died on May 2 at the age of 66.

Edmonds succeeded his mother, Vivian Edmonds, in 2002, and carried on the legacy of his grandfather, Louis Austin.

Edmonds began working for The Carolina Times in his youth, as he assisted his grandfather by serving as "keeper of the keys."

He remarked that his grandfather would misplace his keys around the house, the office, the post office, and other places that he frequented. Edmonds' first job was to keep up with them as they moved around Durham.

He held numerous positions at the paper, including selling newspapers outside the office and later in the neighborhoods, which gave him keen insights into the lives of

those featured weekly in "The Times."

He progressed, and his first writing assignment was writing obituaries and, eventually, editorials. His photography also graced the newspaper, and he began laying out the paper and exploring the business side of the profession.

The Carolina Times was founded as The Standard Advertiser in 1921 by Charles Arrant, who died in 1922. In 1927 Louis E. Austin, originally from Enfield, North Carolina, purchased the paper and renamed it The Carolina Times.

Austin transformed the paper into the most important voice for black North Carolinians during the 1930s. He edited and published The Times from 1927 until his death in 1971.

He was succeeded as publisher by his daughter, Vivian Edmonds.

She carried on the tradition of publicizing racial

inequities and fighting for racial equality. Kenneth Edmonds took the helm at his mother's retirement and continued the legacy.

He brought the newspaper into the age of digital technology and ushered in an era of a new relevance to the publication with the inclusion of national wire service stories, as well as incorporated color photography.

Though he made these improvements, Edmonds was always mindful of a statement his mother once made, "I'm trying to work my way out of a job."

She made that comment in the hopes that someday the playing field for all Americans, economically as well as socially, could be leveled.

Born on Dec. 5, 1953, to the late Woodrow "Woody" W. and Vivian Edmonds, Kenneth leaves to cherish his memories his son, Christian Edwards, and cousins Bernard Austin and Vivian Austin.

"Although considered soft spoken by some, Kenneth William Edmonds had a way of making a point that got the attention of everyone in the room. His carefully thought out points were a significant voice in the direction for black Newspapers in North Carolina," said Paul R. Jervay Jr., NCBPA Media Services specialist.

Funeral arrangements are under the direction of Fisher Memorial Funeral Parlor and are incomplete at press time.



COURTESY

LifeWay announces budget cuts and staff reductions

STAFF REPORTS

NASHVILLE, Tenn. - In response to a sudden and steep decline in revenue and amid uncertainty over the near future, LifeWay Christian Resources announced plans for budget cuts of \$25 to \$30 million - approximately 10% of its budget - including spending freezes and staff layoffs.

LifeWay CEO Ben Mandrell said the cuts were necessary because of the onset of an economic crisis prompted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

"We hope these proactive steps will allow LifeWay to continue ministering to churches throughout the crisis, however long it lasts, and long into the future," Mandrell said. "We know the COVID-19 crisis has created a unique challenge for churches as they find new ways to gather, and many are also facing severe financial strains. We want to make sure LifeWay is in a position to continue serving churches and church leaders to help them fuel their ministries."

LifeWay was unable to provide current employee headcount numbers or the number of employees affected by the layoffs when requested by Baptist Press. In addition to staff reductions, LifeWay plans to freeze hiring and discretionary spending, to suspend salary increases and matching 401(k) contributions for all employees. Additionally, members of the executive leadership team will give up one month's salary beginning in May.

The cuts come after five consecutive weeks of steep revenue decline across all sales channels, a trend that is expected to continue. Revenue across key channels is down 24% compared to the year prior.

While book and Bible sales continue to see strong growth through LifeWay channels, the decline in revenue is largely due to a sharp drop in bulk orders from churches for resources like ongoing Sunday School curriculum, Bible study materials and VBS.

"Churches and church leaders are enduring a season of heartbreak and pain," Mandrell said. "Since our mission is tied so closely to local churches, we expect the impact of COVID-19 to continue to be felt here at LifeWay as churches slowly and cau-

tiously begin to reopen their facilities and gather in person."

Mandrell also noted the continued uncertainty over whether LifeWay would be able to host camps and other events this summer, saying LifeWay could lose "tens of millions of dollars" from those, as well as sales of VBS and other summer curriculum.

"LifeWay is mitigating these losses as much as possible through various expense reduction plans, including staff reductions and cuts in non-employee expenses," Mandrell said. "Additionally, LifeWay will likely have to use money from its reserves to cover a portion of the lost revenue."

LifeWay announced last week it is exploring options for the sale of Ridgecrest Conference Center and Summer Camps in North Carolina due to changes in organizational strategy, rising costs and uncertainty surrounding COVID-19. LifeWay will provide a comprehensive package of benefits to those impacted by the staff reductions, including severance pay where applicable.

Questions your church must answer before welcoming people back

By Ken Braddy
BAPTIST PRESS

NASHVILLE, Tenn. - The country is going to slowly reopen, and that includes houses of worship. But, if you think we'll all rush back to church and pick up where we left off, don't kid yourself, it's not going to happen. Or at least it shouldn't happen.

We need to think and plan carefully so we don't endanger people simply because we let our guard down and believed that the coronavirus crisis had passed. As believers, let's agree to live by faith and not operate in fear. But let's also agree to be proactive and to act in wisdom toward members and guests, especially those among us who are most susceptible to becoming infected with COVID-19. We have a short time to prepare for the return of the church to the church campus.

As I've thought about my church and listened to friends and ministry experts over the past.

* What if your worship gathering is initially limited to no more than 100 people? Never happen, you say? Remember that we've been limited to gatherings of no more than 10 people in the recent past. Should we plan to add a third service, reducing the time to 45 minutes with a 15-minute "passing period" so worshippers can either go to Bible study or go home?

One friend in ministry said, "My church runs 2,000 people in worship. We can't have 20 worship services all weekend long! What will we do?"

* What adjustments will you make to the Lord's Supper, baptisms and your choir ministry? Do you believe you can conduct communion like you have in the past? Your church's tradition may involve passing a plate of elements or it

may include drinking from a common cup in some denominations. Will you use self-contained juice and cracker cups?

What about baptism? It's going to be impossible to practice physical distancing in a baptism pool. And, as one reader said, "What do I do about my church's choir program?" He realizes people standing side by side won't be practical.

* How will you go forward with VBS? This is a burning question on church leaders' and parents' minds. There are practical alternatives, and I know many churches are going to find new times and ways to provide a VBS experience.

* Is a physical "pass the plate" offering a thing of the past? How would you feel if you were the 100th person in a worship service to touch the offering plate that 99 other people just touched? Would you be worried about COVID-19 transmission? Sure you would. So how will you take up your weekly offering? Will you install boxes at the doors of the worship center and perhaps place some of those in the lobby so worshippers can slide their envelopes, cash or checks into those secured boxes?

* What are you doing now to sanitize and sterilize your church building? Now is the time to wipe down all classrooms, especially those where children meet because of the toys and other items they touch. Have you sprayed pews and chairs with disinfectant? Who is wiping door-knobs and handles? Have you had carpet cleaned and disinfected? Now is the time for all this to take place, not the week of the "you can go back to church" announcement by government officials.

* Are you going to con-

tinue offering children's church? As a short-term alternative, can family worship be encouraged as the primary option in these COVID-19 days? Should parents take their kids to worship, practice physical distancing and keep a close eye on their little ones?

* Are you going to continue hosting special events? Will your church continue to host weddings? How about funerals? Reunions? You get the idea. There are a number of special events that our churches might host. Which ones will continue, and which ones will be put on hold?

* Will you continue offering online worship? Some churches may think of their recent foray into Facebook Live worship experiences as a thing of the past, a stop-gap measure during some really strange days. Happy they can meet together again, churches may dissolve Facebook Live services as they return to worship experiences on campus. But is stopping online worship services altogether the right strategy?

I've heard of church after church whose leaders tell me their worship attendance and small group attendance are up significantly because people are finding them online. One church in Las Vegas had 1,300 people watch their service online a few weeks ago. Why is that a big deal? They normally average 100 on campus.

* What is your plan when volunteers step down? I'm already hearing that older volunteers are telling their church leaders they aren't coming back to serve until a vaccine is readily available; it's just too risky for them because they're most at risk from COVID-19. Will you be able to fully staff your classes like you did back in February?

AROUND THE TRIANGLE

RALEIGH FAN RELIEF

Seniors 60 and up, and persons with disabilities, can receive a free fan beginning May 1. Contact any local aging agency to apply.

DIVINE 9

Divine 9 Virtual NC Legislative Day is May 13. Register at <https://rebrand.ly/2020-divine9>.

COFFEE

Sheetz is offering free coffee to first responders and health care workers till June 1.

DURHAM BUDGET

Durham County Manager Wendell Davis will present his recommended budget for the new fiscal year May

11, 7 p.m. on Durham Channel 8 on Spectrum.

TAKEOUT

The Carolina Theatre will begin offering takeout of its full concessions every Friday from 4 to 8 p.m. Visit carolinatheatreofdurham.mobilebytes.com.

VOLUNTEERS:

Durham County is seeking volunteers 18 and up to help pack meals, deliver food and perform other essential volunteer roles. Visit <https://tinyurl.com/feedingdurham>.

Triangle Nonprofit & Volunteer Leadership Center needs volunteers in several areas. Visit www.handsontriangle.com

SMALL BUSINESS FUND

The N.C. Institute of Minority Economic Development and the Women's Business Center of North Carolina have partnered to launch the Small Diverse Business Emergency Relief Fund. Visit www.theinstitute.org/marketplace.

CARRBORO HEAD START

Orange County/Head Start-Early Head Start applications are now being accepted. Visit www.chtop.org.

HILLSBOROUGH FOOD

Orange Co. Social Services will host a food box distribution for veterans, active military and spouses May 13, 11:30 a.m., Cedar Ridge High, 1125 New Grady Brown School Rd.

BOOK

Sexual abuse survivor releases children's book

My Mommy's Boyfriend
By Theresa Bowe
Publishing Concepts, LLC

Theresa Bowe, founder of the "Don't Touch Me" movement, released her premiere, groundbreaking children's book, "My Mommy's Boyfriend," for National Child Abuse Prevention Month in April.

Published by Publishing Concepts, "My Mommy's Boyfriend" is the newest children's book addressing the subject of sexual abuse with a younger audience.

It educates young children about sexual abuse so they know how to respond if they ever find themselves in this situ-

ation. It empowers children to speak up to multiple trusted adults.

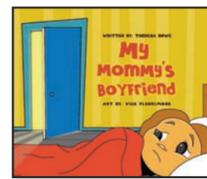
This book also conveys that un-wanted touch, secret-keeping, and punishments are common signs that sexual abuse is happening to children. "My Mommy's Boyfriend" emphasizes the phrase "Don't Touch Me" so children know to use these words if they ever fall victim.

Bowe was sexually abused at age 12, and had

never heard of sexual abuse when it happened to her.

She uses her platform, and her firsthand knowledge, to educate young children and bring awareness to the common signs of child molestation.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR: Bowe is a philanthropist, entrepreneur, author, and full-time mother who is featured on the premiere season of OWN's *Love Goals*. This 501(c)3 was initiated with her husband, Dwayne Bowe, who is a recently-retired NFL star.



Have a news tip?
Email: editor@triangletribune.com

Jordan's teams saw price of fame

By Tim Reynolds
The Associated Press

There were obvious perks to being teammates with Michael Jordan. Plenty of his Chicago teammates own multiple championship rings, they appear in some of the most-replayed NBA highlight clips of all time, and they've got a lifetime of stories to tell about one of the best to ever take the court.

B.J. Armstrong also learned to move quickly — off the court, that is.

Whether it was during his rookie season when his stall in the Bulls locker room was adjacent to Jordan's locker, or at a dinner with the six-time NBA champion and Kobe Bryant about a quarter-century later, Armstrong often found himself with a front-row seat to witness the true cost of fame for arguably the world's most recognizable athlete.

"I remember as a young player I had this dream of playing in the NBA," Armstrong, the longtime NBA guard and three-time NBA champion with the Bulls who is now a California-based sports agent, told The Associated Press. "And I vividly remember when I got to Chicago thinking, 'You better be careful what you wish for, because you just might get it.' Michael was the first person to show me what it meant to be a star ... but you cannot be that star and not accept all the things that came with it."

The strain of Jordan's practically unprecedented level of stardom was one of the dominant themes in the latest installments of the ESPN and Netflix documentary "The Last Dance," a 10-part series that showed episodes five and six on Sunday night.

Every story about Jordan always seemed to become a big story, and Jordan felt some things were overblown such as his infamous stances on not wanting to endorse political candidates publicly or going with his father to Atlantic City for a quick gambling trip during the 1993 Eastern Conference finals.

"We understood his pressures, he understood what we needed and that was just a special group of people who got together," said Armstrong, who was a Jordan teammate for the 1991, 1992 and 1993 championships. "I don't wish stardom on anyone."

"I always say, to this day, that the Air Jordan guy was great and God bless him. But I'll always just remember Michael, the guy."

Knowing that there would always be an enormous media horde at Jordan's locker, Armstrong found himself getting dressed and out of the way quickly because otherwise his shoes would get stomped on and his space would be invaded.

If he forgot how that exercise went, he got a reminder in 2014. Jordan was in Los Angeles and dinner with Armstrong was arranged. Armstrong got to the restaurant and found a third seat at the table, asked Jordan if a guest was coming and was told that Bryant would be joining them for the meal.

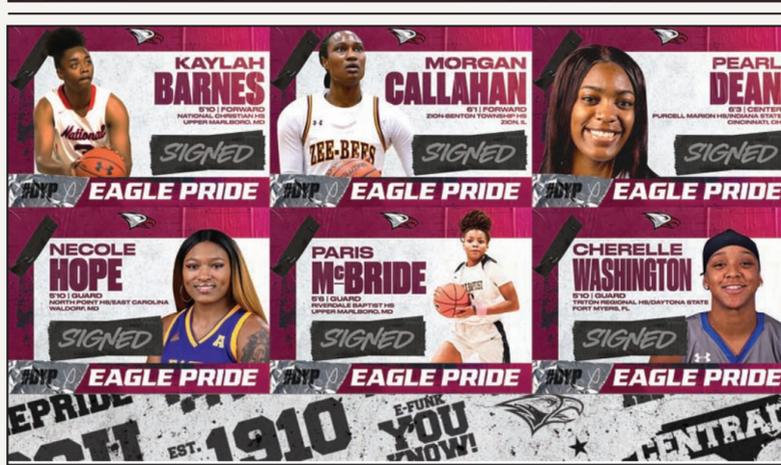
Armstrong and Bryant knew each other; they shared an agent, Arn Tellem, at one time. Bryant arrived and before long, he and Jordan were dissecting every nuance of each other's game. In the end, they decided that Jordan would have a slight edge because his hands were bigger than Bryant's.

"They were playing a virtual game of 1-on-1 at dinner," Armstrong said. "I just sat there and listened to them talk about the love they had for the game. They were so sophisticated; they were talking about footwork, how they conditioned themselves, how they would box out. The detail that they had, the respect that they had for the game ... I wish I could have seen them play in their prime."

Word got out over the course of the evening that Jordan and Bryant were in the restaurant. Eventually, one got out through a back door, another through a side door and Armstrong was left.

Sports

HBCU BASKETBALL



MEAC champs add 2 recruits

By Bonitta Best
editor@triangletribune.com

North Carolina Central coach LeVelle Moton has added two transfers to his 2020-21 roster.

Nehemie Kabeya of Seattle, Washington, is a 6-foot-10 center from the College of Southern Idaho. Kabeya led CSI last season with 7.4 rebounds per game plus 5.4 points.

"Kabeya will bring height, size and athleticism on the frontline that will make it more difficult for teams to score at the rim," Moton said.

Southeast Missouri transfer Alex Caldwell will have to sit out next season per NCAA transfer rules. The sophomore led SEMO with 11.7 points and 3.1 assists per game.

"Caldwell is different. His shiftiness and burst of speed will add a different dimension to our program," Moton said.

NCCU women sign 6
Six new faces will sideline NCCU's bench for the upcoming season.

Coach Trisha Stafford-Odom's recruits include three transfers. The six will

join 10 returning letter winners that recorded their best record since reclassifying to Division I.

* Kaylah Barnes is a 6-foot guard/forward from Riverdale Baptist High in Upper Marlboro, Maryland.

* Paris McBride also graduated from Riverdale and is a former teammate of Barnes'.

* Morgan Callahan is a 6-foot-1 forward from Zion-Benton Township High in Zion, Illinois.

* Pearl Dean is a 6-foot-3 Indiana State transfer, where she averaged 3.1 points per game.
Please see **ROSTER/7A**



Howard University All-American Oliver Bridges.

Bison's run of the century

HOWARD UNIVERSITY ATHLETICS

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Every student-athlete who has entered the Howard University track & field office in the basement of Cook Hall has had the chance to admire the four circular plaques mounted on the wall. Engraved in gold are the words, "University of Pennsylvania Relay Carnival."

Although many schools are now given the chance to compete at this high level meet, Howard was among the first HBCUs to be granted admission to compete in 1920. Last month would have been the 100-year celebration of HBCUs competing at the historic Penn Relays; however, due to the coronavirus, this year's festivities were canceled.

"We must make sure everyone is safe during these unprecedented times," Howard Director of Track & Field David Oliver said. "When the time comes, we'll be ready for the event."

In 1942, Xavier (La.) became the first HBCU relay squad to win at the illustrious event, setting the standard in the men's 440-yard relays. The team had Pittsburgh native Herb Douglas as its leadoff man, a three-time state champion (100 dash, 220 dash and long jump) in high school. He received numerous offers, including his hometown University (Pittsburgh), but the Pitt Panthers refused to offer him financial aid; instead, he accepted a scholarship from Xavier's coach Ralph Metcalfe. "The first year we were eligible, we came back up in 1942 and beat Pitt in the 440 relay," Douglas recalls. "To win a championship at the Penn Relays, we could say was the equivalent of winning an Olympic medal."

Now, at age 97, Douglas has remained a Penn Relays official long enough to celebrate the 100th year of HBCU participation. In Howard's history, the relay events have been a cornerstone throughout generations of Bison with a plethora of All-Americans, including the 4x400 relay squad of Richard Louis, Kenny Wilson, David Charlton and Oliver Bridges that won the 1983 Penn Relays Championship of America. "It was a great experience," said Bridges, who was the anchor on that championship relay team. "When you win the Championship of America at the Penn Relays, it's an awesome accomplishment. It took a superb team effort."

William "Bill" Ritchie, a 1971 HU graduate, holds the distinction of being the first known NCAA All-American in school history, competed in the Penn Relays, where he was a member of the 1967 squad that took home the gold in the freshmen consolation mile. Ritchie's team included Ron Lassiter, Tyrone Malloy and Paul Mathis.

"It was my honor to represent Howard University [at the Penn Relays]," Ritchie recalls. "The event was like no other in the track and field world, except for the Olympics. The Penn Relays created memories that will live with me forever."

From 1967-70, Ritchie participated at the Penn Relays, where he also earned a pair of medals in the men's 100-yard dash (1969 and 1970). Howard has its list of Bison in the history books, with names like Theresa Allen, Zachary Jones, Brenda Bailey, and former Olympic and Howard coach Bill Moultrie, just to name a few.

Oliver, a former Olympian and Penn Relay champion in the 110 hurdles, was eager to see what this year held for all the team in the storied event. "This was destined to be a huge edition of the Penn Relays from a HBCU perspective," he said. "I think all of us were looking forward to this special edition. The cancellation of this year's event is not a denial of an opportunity for the HBCUs; it is just a dream deferred for another year."



Norfolk State football breakdown: offensive line

NORFOLK STATE
ATHLETIC COMMUNICATIONS

NORFOLK, Va. - The coronavirus pandemic forced the cancellation of not just all collegiate spring sports seasons, but also all off-season practices and team workouts for the time being. That includes spring football practice and intrasquad scrimmages.

In lieu of reports from spring practice, NSUSpartans.com will give a breakdown of each position grouping for Spartan football in the coming months. Last week featured a look at the receivers and tight ends. This week is a breakdown of the offensive line.

After getting out of the gate to a 1-5 start last season, the Spartans won four of their last six games, with the two losses (at Bethune-Cookman and vs. S.C. State

in overtime) coming down to the final minutes. Perhaps no position group at Norfolk State embodied the midseason turnaround more than the offensive line.

In the final six games, the Spartans averaged 194.7 rushing yards per game, topping the 200-yard mark twice.

For the season, the Spartans finished third in the MEAC in rushing offense (144.7 ypg), their highest finish since the MEAC championship season of 2011. NSU ranked 10th in the MEAC in rushing the two years prior to 2019.

Led by first-year offensive line coach Brandon Torrey, the linemen placed a school-record four players on the All-MEAC teams. Tackle Kenneth Kirby was a first-team All-MEAC pick, center Dominic Jordan and guard Justin Redd were second-team se-

lections, and guard Jalen Powell was voted to the third team.

"I think the guys' chemistry finally connected well as the year went along," Torrey said. "It took them some time to pick up on my style as a coach, what was being taught and what was expected. Once they became more consistent, we looked better and better."

The good news for Torrey and the Spartans: seven of the top eight linemen, and 4 of 5 starters, are back for the 2020 season.

Only Jordan is lost from last year's group. All told, returning linemen have accounted for 119 career starts. Kirby and Powell have started all 34 games in their careers, while Redd has started 17 straight.

Kirby graded out at 96% on

Please see **NSU/7A**



N.C. A&T men add 5 to 2020-21 season roster

Continued from page 6A
points and 2.5 rebounds per game.

* Necole Hope is a 5-foot-10 guard from East Carolina. She has one year of eligibility remaining.

* Another 5-foot-10 guard, Cherelle Washington is a junior college transfer from Dayton State College. She averaged 15.7 points and 2.9 rebounds per game.

A&T men sign 5

North Carolina A&T acting men's coach Will Jones announced five new additions to the Aggies roster.

"This recruiting class will complement our core very, very well," he said. "That staff and I have addressed our needs in every area: shooting, overall talent and overall depth at every position was accomplished."

* Jeremy Robinson is a 6-

foot-5 JUCO from West Los Angeles College who averaged 13.5 points and 6 rebounds per game.

* Blake Harris didn't travel far from home. The N.C. State transfer also attended Word of God Christian Academy in Raleigh. He averaged 25 points and just under 10 assists at WOG.

* Guard Milton Matthews hails from Rock Creek Christian Academy in the Maryland area.

* Six-foot-8 forward Quentin Jones is another JUCO from Missouri State University-West Plains. He averaged 12.8 points last season.

* Tyler Jones is a graduate transfer from Maryland Eastern Shore. He sat out last season.

You can go home again - and again
Nathaniel Kilbert returns

to Alcorn State women's basketball program for the third time.

Kilbert was a graduate assistant from 1987-89, then an assistant coach from 1991-2001, and now the head coach announced at a press conference on Tuesday.

In between, he coached at Mississippi Valley State and at Arkansas-Pine Bluff.

"What an awesome opportunity this is to be able to return to Alcorn State, where I not only earned my master's degree, but also helped the Lady Braves establish themselves as a powerhouse in the SWAC," Kilbert said.

"...The return of Lady Braves basketball to their glory days begins right and right now. We've had some good days, but the best is yet to come."

Twins great Battey built on a legacy at Bethune

By Jim Patrick
SPECIAL TO THE TRIBUNE

Earl Battey never used one of his signature catcher's mitts to help the Bethune-Cookman baseball team on the field. His discerning eye at the plate never produced a hit nor did his rifle of a right arm ever take out an opposing baserunner.

But his fingerprints are still all over the program. Battey, a four-time All-Star with the Minnesota Twins who passed away in 2003, worked as an assistant with the team from 1980 to 1982, laying the foundation for a program that's won 19 Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference championships and is a regular fixture in the NCAA postseason.

"Earl was a vital part of BCU," said Lynn Thompson, vice president for intercollegiate athletics. "He elevated our program because of his work ethic and attitude. ... His guidance was unbelievable. He set the stage for our program to evolve. He brought a major-league attitude to our school."

Bethune-Cookman usually helps young men and women learn and mature into role models. It was the other way around for Battey, who was 45 years old by the time he arrived in Daytona Beach. He played in parts of 13 MLB seasons, mostly with the Twins. He finished in the top 10 in MVP voting three times. He won three Gold Gloves. And when that was all over, he went to New York City to work as an inner-city youth ambassador, taking kids to Yankees games for 12 years.

When he and his wife Sonia moved with their five kids to Ocala in 1980, he had a plan: Go to Bethune-Cookman, get a physical education degree and teach at a local high school. So that's what he did, graduating in two and a half years after taking 34 credits a semester and commuting from the dorms in Daytona to Ocala on the weekends.

"Earl was on a mission," Thompson said. "Earl had already done his thing. Earl was in the prime of his professional career, and he wanted to prove to those kids, 'This degree means more to me now.'



That was amazing."

Thompson had a front-row seat. Back when the Twins held their spring training in Orlando, Battey came to Daytona and met Thompson's cousin, whom he later married. Battey would show up for dinner at Thompson's house with Tony Oliva, Rod Carew or Boog Powell.

It wasn't all fun and games, however. While his family got to see superstars in their living rooms, Battey also fought for social justice. The Twins were the last MLB team to integrate their spring training, with African American players and coaches staying in separate hotels and eating at different restaurants from their white teammates. Battey spoke out, and the Twins finally integrated in 1965.

His son, Corey, remembered a different side of his Dad. Earl liked to tell a story about his good friend, former Twins pitcher Mudcat Grant, whose grandson played basketball at Bethune-Cookman in the 1990s. During their playing days, there was a lawn jockey statue posted in Orlando. The statues have a connection to the Old South and the Revolutionary War. Battey and Grant hated the statues, but they let it slide in their playing days.

Retirement was another story. Battey liked to hold court and tell a story about how he and Grant got together in their later years and stole the offending lawn jockey. Was it true? Well...

"One thing about my Dad, he had plenty of stories and they changed with the environment. You just didn't know," Corey Battey said. "He's famous for sitting down for hours and holding court for hours."

Praise for Earl Battey is easy to find. Harmon Killebrew called him one of the

best catchers he ever played with. Modern analytics show Battey was one of the best defensive catchers in history. He threw out 44% of would-be base stealers in his career, with a high of 59% as a regular catcher. He hit more than a little. In 1963, he hit .285 with 26 homers and finished seventh in MVP voting.

Battey's legacy to Bethune-Cookman also includes perhaps its best known player - Stanley Jefferson, the Mets' No. 1 pick (20th overall) in 1983 and the first Wildcat to make the show. Battey was Jefferson's godfather and arranged a scholarship for Jefferson to move to Daytona Beach from New York.

Corey Battey also continues the legacy through the work he does with inner-city ballplayers. Corey remembers his dad wouldn't let him play for an upper-middle class Little League team that had better uniforms and facilities than his neighborhood team. This is where you live. This is where you play. That's it.

The lesson stuck with Corey, who has paired with Chip Lawrence, a San Diego Padres national crosschecking scout, to give black high school baseball players a chance to show their stuff to historically black colleges and universities. Lawrence and Battey put on the Historically Black Colleges and Universities Showcase in Atlanta, a two-day event where players pay \$100 to play in front of coaches with the hope of earning some scholarship money.

"It's a problem when I look at the ACC or SEC rosters, and there's more black kids on those rosters than on an HBCU roster," Battey said.

Jim Patrick is sports editor at the Sacramento Bee and an avid Minnesota Twins fan.

NCAA faces lawsuit over violence against women at colleges

By Noah Trister
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The NCAA is facing a federal lawsuit accusing the organization of failing to address gender-based violence by male athletes against female students at colleges and universities.

Plaintiffs in the suit, filed in U.S. District Court in Michigan, include women who have been athletes at Michigan State, Nebraska and an unidentified America East school. Other plaintiffs have been students at Michigan State or Nebraska.

"Defendants routinely issue harsh punishments against student-athletes who accept payments in exchange for use of their likenesses, or who accept free meals, but they have no specific penalty for student-athletes who commit sexual assault," the suit says. "Defendants have repeatedly and persistently failed to take any meaningful action to mitigate the severe issue of sexual misconduct perpetrated by male student-athletes against women at their member institutions."

A Nebraska spokeswoman said the school received a copy of the lawsuit against the NCAA and cannot comment on pending litigation. A message was left with the NCAA seeking comment.

A former track athlete at Michigan State, a former volleyball player at Nebraska and a swimmer at an America East school are among the plaintiffs.

The lawsuit accuses the defendants of negligence, intentional infliction of emotional distress, negli-

gent infliction of emotional distress, negligent supervision, fraud, breach of contract with student-athletes and breach of contract with non-student athletes.

The suit accuses a men's track athlete at Michigan State of rape in 2017, and it accuses football players at Nebraska of rape in 2018 and 2019, and of nonconsensual groping in 2019. It also accuses a Nebraska athlete of rape in 2015, and a men's basketball player at the America East school of rape in 2019.

The suit includes allegations of rape against three Michigan State basketball players in 2015. The woman who made those allegations spoke about them last year and filed a lawsuit in 2018.

The lawsuit against the NCAA alleges that after the female track athlete at Michigan State was raped by a member of the men's team, she reported the rape to an assistant coach, who told her "if she pursued any claims against (the man), no one would like her, and that because (she) is 'pretty,' she would become a 'distraction.'"

The suit says members of the men's track team threatened her if she pursued charges. The suit says the woman was removed from the sprint squad so she would not be around the man she said raped her.

The female track athlete also filed her own suit against Michigan State. The school would not comment on the suit against the NCAA, while spokeswoman Emily Guer-

rant said it would be inappropriate to comment about the suit against MSU.

"That said, we take allegations of sexual misconduct and retaliation very seriously, and our Office of Institutional Equity reviews all allegations it receives," she said. "In the last several years, MSU has taken significant steps to increase resources for survivors, to revise and to educate the campus community on our policies, as well as to further its prevention efforts."

The lawsuit against the NCAA says the swimmer at an America East school was raped by a basketball player last year, and that the swimmer's mother was told by an athletics employee that a formal Title IX investigation would result in an immediate suspension of the basketball player, pending the outcome of the investigation.

According to the complaint, the athletics employee said an informal Title IX resolution process could not result in the player being suspended "because it 'wouldn't be fair to other players' and it 'would have a negative impact on the community' who attended games expecting to see (him) play."

The woman did not want to initiate the formal Title IX investigation because she feared retaliation, the suit says. In January, she learned the school was going to be running an ad featuring the basketball player to promote the athletic department. The America East Conference said it doesn't comment on legal matters.

NSU offensive line led a dominate Spartans offense

Continued from page 6A

his blocking assignments last year. Torrey is expecting the Spartans' left tackle - one of four fifth-year seniors on the line - to contend for MEAC Offensive Lineman of the Year honors. "K.J. will be looked to as one of the leaders on the O-line," Torrey said. "He will be moved around more in the run game because of his ability to block and pull."

Like Kirby, Redd rarely if ever came out of a game. The pair led the team with 884 snaps played apiece. Redd started all 12 games at right guard and emerged as a force in his sophomore season, earning FCS Sophomore All-America honorable mention by Hero Sports. "I look for Justin to keep solidifying his play this year and make another jump like he did from his freshman to his sophomore year," Torrey said. "I

think he can become one of the top guards at the FCS level."

Powell was the lone lineman to start at multiple positions. He started twice at center and 10 times at left guard, grading out at 93% for the year. His versatility has been a big asset to the squad.

Lipscomb, who will also be a redshirt senior in the fall, started much of the '19 season at right tackle before missing the final two games due to injury. He committed just two penalties in the 10 games in which he played.

One thing for the Spartans to figure out is who replaces Jordan at center. Powell is a contender, but there are several other players who figure to battle for time. The other candidates include junior Colby Byrd, senior Josh Culberson, sophomore D'Montre Smith, redshirt freshman

Elijah Hale and true freshman Desmond Williams.

Culberson is the most experienced of the group, having played in 10 games in his career. Torrey says Culberson is the only lineman capable of playing all five spots up front. Smith started two games at right tackle last year, but has the ability to help out inside, as well. Byrd sat out the year and Hale redshirted.

All told, Torrey has an experienced group which offers depth, size and versatility. But he still sees room for growth from that unit. "I still think we can work on improving communication and committing fewer penalties," he said. "I want to keep building the identity that we are one of the top lines in the conference; tough, well-conditioned, violent and able to protect the ball and run it against anyone."

AAMU's San chasing career in professional golf

ALABAMA A&M
SPORTS INFORMATION

Paul San is living his dream. While growing up in Malaysia, San dreamed of playing professional golf. Now He is making it happen.

Since graduating from Alabama A&M last May with a degree in sports management, San has returned home to Malaysia and is in the early stages of pursuing his dreams of professional golf.

During the past few months, San has earned a spot on the PGM Tour (Professional Golf of Malaysia) and is in the process of attempting to earn a tour card with one of the region's larger golf organizations.

For San, the challenges of professional golf have been ones he has embraced. "I believe that everybody has their own way

to deal with different adversities that come with playing professional golf," said the 23-year-old, who made his professional debut at the PGM Impian Closed Championship last July.

San's attempt to earn a spot on a major professional golf tour has been placed on a temporary hiatus. This was out of his control.

Just after taking his first crack at the Asian Tour's Qualifying School in March, most of the world was placed on a social break as the novel coronavirus pandemic spread across the globe. The pandemic also had an impact on the world of sports, temporarily pausing athletic competition - including pro golf events.

San holds a PGM Tour card through July, and is optimistic about continuing

his career beyond. When golf resumes, he plans to participate in PGM Tour events along with events in the Asian Developmental Tour.

San's first professional outing at Impian Golf & Country Club ended on a positive note, as he closed with a 2-under 70 for a 288 total, sharing the 18th spot with fellow pros Rizal Amin and Daeng Abdul Rahman. "I was excited and nervous at the same time, because I've waited all my life to turn professional," he said. "I managed to calm the nerves a little better on the last day and finished the tournament strong."

San is grateful to his personal coach, Shane Gillespie, not only for his instructional advice, but also for helping him realize the virtues of having a good education.

HBCU NEWS



A rendering of the new MLK Student Center.

ST. AUGUSTINE'S
Several months ago, SAU received a \$3.5 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education to make post-hurricane renovations and repairs to three campus facilities. The Martin Luther King, Jr. Student Center was one of the three facilities chosen by the university's administration for renovation to provide an accommodating and enriching experience for the modern student.



Sampson

This project, known as the Martin Luther King, Jr. Student Center Reinvigorating Renovation Project, is a combination of a renovation and expansion of over 4,000 square feet. The MLK Student Center will feature a 110-seat multimedia movie theater, stu-

dent leadership space, a student lounge, and recreation space. The renovation will also include covered patios as well. The estimated completion date is December 2021.

Architect Andre Johnson explains the renovation in detail: "The design creates an open feeling for the building by introducing transparency at the major social and gathering spaces. The design incorporates much needed general classroom and meeting space, a movie theater, campus merchandise store, study and lounge areas, and an enlarged student recreation and game area and Student Government Association space with additional student meeting and collaboration areas."

The project is near to the hearts of current SAU administration, who are focused on the student experience. "A student

union is not just a noun, it is a verb - an active space for our students to engage in discourse, civic engagement, social justice, service, leadership and social engagement that informs their learning. The MLK Student Center is a lasting monument on this campus," SAU President Maria A. Lumpkin said. "It's a monument to student life and leadership and a campus hub that will play such a large role in deepening the intellectual climate of the university, and welcoming a variety of stakeholders to our campus."

Josiah J. Sampson III has been named provost and vice president of academic affairs. Sampson is a native of Jackson, Mississippi, and his father was an orchestra director and music professor at Jackson State University. He has years of academic experience at various institutions.



N Carolina works to improve how teachers assess kids in kindergarten

By Nadia Ramlagan
N.C. NEWS SERVICE

RALEIGH - This fall, North Carolina is expanding how teachers gauge children's development during their first few months of school.

Advocates say the move could help school principals, superintendents and the state make better decisions about children's strengths, and also where they may need more support.

Dan Tetreault, an early education consultant with the N.C. Department of Public Instruction, says the new guidelines place a stronger emphasis on what's known as social-emotional learning. "Children have various

experiences and various risk factors as they enter kindergarten," he said.

"So, it's a way to better understand where children are, so you can better personalize the instruction that you provide for them."

North Carolina's kindergarten classrooms are increasingly diverse. One study found the number of Hispanic kindergartners in the state has nearly tripled since 2000.

A report by a group of experts facilitated by the N.C. Early Childhood Foundation says the state should be developing ways to identify and remedy racial and cultural biases in these types of child assessments. Tetreault says as

teachers observe children for these evaluations, they'll look for more signs that a child is able to manage his own feelings, interact with peers and solve social problems.

"The process that teachers use in the classroom, that observational process, is the same process, you know, it's not a direct assessment, where you sit one-on-one with a child and the child completes tasks," he said. "It's something more holistic. And often, children don't realize they're being assessed."

Mounting evidence suggests that young children's social-emotional skills are strongly linked to long-term academic success.

SENIOR CORNER

Could you be missing out on senior discounts?

By Chris Orestis
SPECIAL TO THE TRIBUNE

People who reach or near their retirement years often need to watch every penny. Sure, some of them are financially fit and don't lose sleep worrying that their bank accounts and investments will run out of money. For many, though, frugality is the watchword as they struggle to make it through

each month. Fortunately, aging does come with at least one financial perk - senior discounts that restaurants, grocery stores, retail stores, airlines, car rental companies, hotels and other businesses offer to their older clientele. These discounts give senior Americans a break on prices for everything from a gym membership to a fast-food meal to a movie

ticket. You would think all seniors and their families would be all over these opportunities. But, surprisingly, many people don't take advantage. In some cases, that could be because it doesn't occur to them to ask whether a discount is available. In other cases, people just have a hard time thinking of themselves as seniors. But you need to be

aware, and you should always ask. In scouring for discounts, here are a few other things to keep in mind:

- * Don't assume you're too young. That's one reason it's always good to ask. You could already be eligible for a discount at a business and not realize it. For example, AARP membership starts at 50 and comes with numerous discounts built into the mem-

- * Commercial driver license
- * Commercial learner's permit
- * Temporary driving certificate
- * Special identification card
- * Handicapped placard
- * Vehicle registration
- * Temporary vehicle registration
- * Dealer license plate
- * Transporter plate
- * Loaner/Dealer "LD" plate
- * Vehicle inspection authorization
- * Inspection station license
- * Inspection mechanic license
- * Transportation network company permit
- * Motor vehicle dealer li-

- * Sales representative license
- * Manufacturer license
- * Distributor license
- * Wholesaler license
- * Driver training school license
- * Driver training school instructor license
- * Professional house-moving license

The bill also extends the due dates for motor vehicle taxes that are tied to vehicle registration to correspond with the extended expiration dates. There is also an extension of the expiration of an Intrastate Medical Waiver for up to five months if the DMV Medical Review Unit determines the extension is appropriate.

Hillside High seniors win college scholarships



Hillside High seniors Cierra Redden and Kamryn Sneed each have won a \$10,000 scholarship from the NCSECU Foundation People Helping People.



Mid-South Medical has purchased B&C Care System. B&C Care System is a 10-year-old agency credentialed to provide home care to veterans and Medicaid patients. For Tommy T. McNeill, above, president of Mid-South Medical, the acquisition was a no-brainer. "There are thousands of veterans who need, require, and benefit from home care in North Carolina due to service-related issues, such as PTSD," he said.

As B&C Care System expands, the company is seeking investors who believe health care is a growth industry, and home care agencies will play a pivotal role in America's recovery. Visit www.bccaresysteminc.com.

NCDMV license and registration dates extended

STAFF REPORTS

RALEIGH - North Carolina motorists have an extra five months to renew their licenses and vehicle registrations. The COVID-19 bill also allows the DMV to waive any penalties for a late registration renewal during the extension period. Customers who already paid a \$15 fee for a late renewal in March or April will be reimbursed.

The five-month extension applies to any credential that expires on or after March 1, and before August 1. The list includes:

- * Driver license
- * Learner's permit
- * Limited learner's permit
- * Limited provisional license
- * Full provisional license

- * Commercial driver license
- * Commercial learner's permit
- * Temporary driving certificate
- * Special identification card
- * Handicapped placard
- * Vehicle registration
- * Temporary vehicle registration
- * Dealer license plate
- * Transporter plate
- * Loaner/Dealer "LD" plate
- * Vehicle inspection authorization
- * Inspection station license
- * Inspection mechanic license
- * Transportation network company permit
- * Motor vehicle dealer li-

- * Sales representative license
- * Manufacturer license
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- * Driver training school license
- * Driver training school instructor license
- * Professional house-moving license

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