

The Triangle TRIBUNE

THE TRIANGLE'S CHOICE FOR THE BLACK VOICE

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Coppin State hires former WNBA player as women's basketball coach.



LAURA HARPER
COPPIN STATE WOMEN'S BASKETBALL
HEAD COACH

NC public schools online

By Gary D. Robertson
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

RALEIGH — Leaders of North Carolina's largest public school district agreed Tuesday to stick with only online student learning to start the academic year, making another system not yet ready to return to classrooms next month due to COVID-19.

The school board for the Wake County system, which has more than 160,000 students, unanimously approved a schedule different from the one it approved three weeks ago. Board members had earlier committed to a rotational plan in which students would return by receiving in-person teaching one week out of every three.

Superintendent Cathy Moore said her staff's recommendation had changed as coronavirus hospitalizations and the percentage of positive cases have increased, and with Gov. Roy Cooper's K-12 announcement last week. He said that while public schools could hold in-person instruction provided everyone wears face coverings and classrooms hold fewer students, districts also could decide to conduct all instruction online.

North Carolina reported on Tuesday another record-high number of COVID-19 patients in the hospital at 1,179, narrowly topping the previous daily record set last week. The number of positive cases in the state since the pandemic began is nearing 103,000, with about 1,670 virus-related deaths, according to state Department of Health and Human Services data.

The Cumberland County school board also voted earlier Tuesday to operate remotely through at least Sept. 25. The Durham County, Orange County and Chapel Hill-Carrboro systems already have decided to keep buildings shuttered when classes resume Aug. 17.

While Cooper has said he's been aiming to get students back in classrooms this fall, the governor said Tuesday he saw no reason to alter his directive in light of decisions by the largest districts.

"We believe that we're in good shape where we are. We want those local school districts to make the best decisions that they can for those children," Cooper told reporters. "There's no easy answer to all of this, but I do think we have a good plan in place."

Wake County's amended proposal would have all students work online at first. Prekindergarten and special education students

Please see **DISTRICT/2A**

Historic swearing-in ceremony at Raleigh City Council



CITY OF RALEIGH

New council member Stormie Forte, center, was sworn in Tuesday morning in the Council Chambers. Forte was selected to represent District D. She is the first African American woman to sit on the City Council. Justice Michael Morgan, who presided over the ceremony, called her swearing in "a special day for Raleigh." Forte is a Raleigh native and a graduate of Broughton High School. She attended UNC-Chapel Hill, where she received her Bachelor of Arts in sociology and Master of Science in rehabilitation counseling and psychology.

Throughout her career, she has worked for the state, private sector, nonprofit organizations and was a small business owner. She is the principle at Obsidian Consulting Services, where she assists local companies with business organization and economic development opportunities. She is also a partner at Cardinal Consulting Company, which provides a broad range of campaign services to candidates seeking elective office.

UNC System workers on dangers in COVID-19 pandemic

'They're showing us what they feel about us'

By Joe Killian
THE POLICY WATCH

When UNC-Chapel Hill recently announced 37 people in its athletics program had tested positive for COVID-19, Tracy Harter wasn't surprised. It followed a pattern around the country of outbreaks among student-athletes returning to campus ahead of the fall semester.

"What is really mind-boggling is, if it wasn't for the newscast, nobody would have known," Harter said.

As part of UNC's housekeeping staff tasked with cleaning apartments where the school's football players stay, Harter assumed the university would tell her if there was an outbreak that might put she or her family in danger. Instead, the school only disclosed the dozens of infections when it made a public announcement about shutting down voluntary football practices for a week.

The incident sent a shock through workers throughout the UNC system, said Jermany Alston, another UNC-Chapel Hill housekeeper. They wondered if they'd been exposed. Why hadn't their employers warned them before they saw it on TV? Is this what they could expect in the coming semester? Were they expected to put themselves and their families at risk without so much as

Jermany Alston

Housekeeper, UNC Chapel Hill

"I have cleaned the rooms that the football players have been in, and I don't know what rooms the ones who tested positive were in or who has it or if have I come in contact with them. It's scary for me because then I have to go home, and if I do have it, then I put my family at risk as well. The only thing we wear right now is gloves and a mask. That's all. I don't even think we should be back at work. It's like a lose-lose situation. You don't know which way to go. You don't know who has it."



a heads-up about outbreaks? "I have kids to go home to," Alston said.

Alston and Harter were just two of a large group of workers from schools throughout the UNC System who came together last week to share their stories and frustration in a video call. Workers, faculty, graduate and undergraduate students from N.C. State, N.C. Central, Winston-Salem State, UNC-Charlotte, UNC-Wilmington, Western Carolina and East Carolina all told similar stories and expressed the same concerns.

With tens of thousands of students scheduled to return to the system's 17 campuses next month, the workers say they are being given little in-

College students question wisdom of returning to campus

By Khaaliq Van-Otoo
NC NEWS INTERN CORPS

Many North Carolina colleges and universities have begun moving forward with plans to reopen on an adjusted schedule this fall. But as the number of COVID-19 cases continues to rise in the state - especially among young people - many college students are feeling uneasy about the prospects of returning to campus in a few weeks.

N.C. State, UNC-Chapel Hill, North Carolina A&T, UNC Greensboro, Elon University, High Point University, and Winston-Salem State are among the schools that have announced plans to bring students back to campus.

"I'm more concerned about going back to school due to North Carolina's recent increase in cases," said David Campos from Long Island, New York, a rising junior at UNC-Chapel Hill. "I have severe asthma that, when triggered, can lead into other health complications, and I won't have access to my primary doctors while in N.C."

According to the N.C. Department of Health and Human Serv-

Please see **COLLEGE/2A**

Black people denied more loans

By Tendayi Kapfudz
LENDING TREE

Racial barriers to homeownership in the U.S. are an undeniable reality for many, with Black Americans often facing the most obstacles when it comes to the home-buying process.

A new study from LendingTree highlights one of the biggest hurdles that disproportionately impacts Black homebuyers: being denied for a mortgage. Specifically, the study looks at the spread in mortgage denial rates between Black Americans and the overall population in each of the nation's 50 largest metropolitan areas.

For both purchase and refinance mortgages, LendingTree found that African Americans are more likely to be denied a home loan than the overall population of homebuyers.

Key findings

* The mortgage purchase denial rate for Black homebuyers is higher than the denial rate for the overall population of homebuyers in each of the nation's 50 largest metros. On average, Black homebuyers are denied mortgages 12.6% of the time. This is 6.5% higher than the overall denial rate of 6.15%.

* Milwaukee, St. Louis and Cleveland are the metros with the largest spread between the denial rate for Black homebuyers and the overall denial rate for mortgage purchase loans, while Sacramento, California; Seattle; and San Diego are the metros with the smallest spread. In North Carolina, Raleigh is 12th among metros with the largest spread for Black homebuyers; Charlotte is No. 32.

* As was the case for mortgage purchase loans, mortgage refinance loans are also denied at a higher rate for Black homeowners in each of the nation's 50 largest metros. Black refinance borrowers are denied mortgage refinance loans, on average, 30.22% of the time. That's 13.1% higher than the overall denial rate of 17.1%.

* Phoenix, Philadelphia and Denver are the metros where the spread between the denial rate for Black homebuyers and the overall denial rate for mortgage refinance loans is the largest. Dallas, Minneapolis and Miami are the metros where the refinance denial rate spread is the smallest. In North Carolina, Charlotte ranked No. 9 among metros with the largest spread in refinance loans; Raleigh is 39th.

* Racial disparities in denial rates for purchase and refinance loans can be even more extreme on the county level. In some counties, even those with relatively high black populations, the denial

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Douglas Mathis

College students worried about returning to school

Continued from page 1A ices, North Carolina set a record for coronavirus cases on July 18., with a reported 2,462 new COVID-19 cases. The number of hospitalizations and deaths set a new record on Tuesday.

"I am relatively nervous about returning to campus in the fall," said Douglas Mathis, a Texas native and rising senior at High Point University. "With the school's new regulations in place, it is a matter of trusting the school to be able to handle the virus while we are on campus."

Most N.C. universities are following a schedule that would forgo fall break and end in-person instruction before Thanksgiving, with final exams being taken remotely in early December. Many of these colleges and universities have been announcing new policies and guidelines that aim to assure the health and safety of faculty, staff, and students. These include face covering policies, which were mandated statewide by Gov. Roy Cooper a few weeks back. Students will have to wear masks in classes and in most spaces on campus.

"My biggest concerns do not necessarily extend from the university itself,

but more from fellow students who may not follow the guidelines properly," Mathis said. "If certain students do not follow the guidelines in place, it puts all students at risk."

University administrators are also having to reimagine what classroom instruction will look like. Under the current guidelines in phase two of the state's reopening plan, gatherings of over 10 people within a single indoor space is prohibited. That means class sizes will need to be reduced, increasing the demand for large spaces such as lecture halls and auditoriums for classes.

"We're not going to bring students, faculty, staff back onto a campus where we don't believe it's a safe environment," UNC Chancellor Kevin Guskiewicz said in an interview with CBS last month. "There certainly is some risk, but we believe we're putting in place the right measures to mitigate that risk."

But even with the increased health and safety protocols, students worry that potential spread of the virus is out of the universities' control. "We understand the nature of the virus and how to slow down the spread more

than we did in March," said Austin Green, a Boston resident and rising junior at Elon University. "But it's a little concerning to me that all 6,700 students from around the country and the world will all be returning to campus when, if anything, conditions have worsened since we left campus."

Campos, who is returning to campus in early August, is looking forward to reuniting with friends but worries about the possibility of a repeat of the spring, where schools were shut down and students were sent home in the middle of the semester. "It's an inconvenience to have to drive all the way from New York to North Carolina multiple times," he said. "In addition, I put myself at risk if I decide to fly back home, so I worry about having to constantly commute back and forth due to the uncertainties surrounding the current pandemic."

The NC News Intern Corps is a program of the NC Local News Workshop, funded by the North Carolina Local News Lab Fund and housed at Elon University's School of Communications.



N Carolina's largest district to begin year with online learning

Continued from page 1A would return to class as soon as Sept. 8. Other students would return when practical, although Moore said already extremely high enrollment for Wake County's "virtual academy" could make it easier for students to return to classrooms under social distancing guidelines.

Cooper announced on Tuesday that over 900,000 face masks and other supplies were being shipped this week to cooperative extension offices

in 31 counties for distribution to agricultural workers. Many farm workers live in close conditions, increasing their risk for the virus, DHHS Secretary Mandy Cohen said.

"Some of these supplies have been difficult for farmers to source as demand has exceeded supply. I am grateful that farm workers and farmers have been prioritized for these much-needed materials," Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler said in a news release. Cohen said North Caro-

lina's case trends show "this pandemic remains a simmer, not a boil" in the state, and wearing face masks in public places remain critical to prevent them from getting out of control. Cooper, who issued a statewide mask requirement almost four weeks ago, had stern words for store patrons who won't comply.

"Either wear one or don't go in the store," he said. "The refusal to wear a mask is selfish. It infringes on the life and liberty of everyone else in the store."



Black homebuyers more likely to be denied mortgages and refinance

Continued from page 1A

rate for Black homebuyers and refinance borrowers alike can be as high as 100%. This can result in the spread between the overall denial rate and the denial rate for Black homeowners and buyers being over 90%. That being said, there are some counties where the denial rate for Black homeowners and buyers is lower than the denial rate for the overall population.

* Even in majority Black counties, the denial rate is disproportionately high for both Black homeowners and homebuyers. Black homebuyers in 83 of the 95 counties with majority black populations looked at in LendingTree's study face a higher denial rate than the overall population in those areas. Denial rates for Black refinance borrowers are equal to or lower than those of the overall population in only nine counties.

Rex Kearney
Housekeeper, UNC Charlotte

"We want a seat at the table. Now they are trying to force us to start shifts at 3am, which is impossible for our families. Front line workers, students, facility and all of us have serious health and safety concerns. The administration is making changes even before the students get here, and we don't have all the information about what's happening. They sent out all kinds of emails and it's all a mess."

UNC System workers on dangers in pandemic

Continued from page 1A many are too afraid of losing their jobs to question what seem like dangerous conditions with little institutional support.

"I have co-workers who are scared to speak up because of retaliation," Morgan said. "I have co-workers who won't say they don't understand because of the fear that's being put into them because of this COVID-19. We need better communication for everyone when it comes to any and everything that goes on at our universities that we work at."

Crystal Biscoe, a housekeeper at North Carolina Central, said the campus has seen infections that

staff only heard about from each other. Beyond information, Biscoe said, they aren't even being given the necessary equipment to do their jobs safely.

"We have to buy our own masks," Biscoe said. "They're not providing any for us. As an essential worker, I need a protective mask. That's part of my job."

David Brannigan, a long-time groundskeeper at UNC, said a largely minority workforce is being economically coerced into working under unsafe conditions to ensure the financial health of the university system.

"The only thing they're paying attention to is the

bottom line," Brannigan said. "We cannot let their bottom line mean that some of us are going to flatline and die. It's absolutely immoral."

Jeff Eaddy, an undergraduate and worker at NCCU, said it's insulting to call university workers essential but expect them to work without hazard pay or testing and treatment offered to students should they contract the disease.

"The system is showing us what they feel about us," Eaddy said. "As a student, I want to be here, I want to come to learn. I don't want to do those things if I'm going to put someone else's life in danger."

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JOIN THE GDBCC!

HELP BUILD A STRONG & SUSTAINABLE BLACK BUSINESS ECOSYSTEM

The Greater Durham Black Chamber of Commerce (GDBCC) exists to support the growth and development of the Black entrepreneur, the Black business, and the Black Business ecosystem. Join us to help us carry out our mission.

Membership Fees

Nonprofits - \$100/year
Small Businesses - \$125/year
Government Department - \$750/year
Large Corporation - \$1000/year
Sustainer - \$5000+/year



To join the GDBCC, visit our website at www.gdbcc.org/join and fill out the form. We will follow up with an electronic invoice via QuickBooks. If you have any questions, please email us at thegdbcc@gmail.com.

www.gdbcc.org/join

Inaction is not an option.

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next ten years
for your
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Classified Deadline: Wednesday at 5p.m., prior to Sunday's edition

LEGAL ADS

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
for the
District Of South Carolina

Progressive Direct Insurance Company,)
)
)

Plaintiff(s)
v.
)
)
)

Darnell Burgess, Johnnie Smoak,
Shakiea Brown, Daphine Hutchinson,
Jervony Hutchinson, and Kayden Smith)
)
)

Defendant(s)

Civil Action No.
9:20-cv-770-BHH

SUMMONS IN A CIVIL ACTION

To: (Defendant's name and address) Darnell Burgess and Johnnie Smoak, 474 N. Main Street, Brunson, SC 29911; Shakiea Brown, Daphine Hutchinson and Kayden Smith, 538 Sprayfield Road Estill, SC 29918; Jervony Hutchinson, 2106 Willow Oak Drive Estill, SC 29918

A lawsuit has been filed against you.

Within 21 days after service of this summons on you (not counting the day you received it) — or 60 days if you are the United States or a United States agency, or an officer or employee of the United States described in Fed. R. Civ. P. 12 (a)(2) or (3) — you must serve on the plaintiff an answer to the attached complaint or a motion under Rule 12 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. The answer or motion must be served on the plaintiff or plaintiff's attorney, whose name and address are:

J.R. Murphy, Esquire
Murphy & Grantland, P.A.
P.O. Box 6648
Columbia, SC 29260

If you fail to respond, judgment, by default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint. You also must file your answer or motion with the court.

Date: February 20, 2020



CLERK OF COURT
s/ Virginia Druce, Deputy Clerk
Signature of Clerk or Deputy Clerk

Civil Action No. 9:20-cv-770-BHH

PROOF OF SERVICE

(This section should not be filed with the court unless required by Fed. R. Civ. P. 4 (l))

This summons is for (name of individual and title, if any) _____

was received by me on (date) _____.

I personally served the summons on the individual at (place) _____ on (date) _____; or

I left the summons at the individual's residence or usual place of abode with name _____, a person of suitable age and discretion who resides there, on (date) _____, and mailed a copy to the individual's last known address; or

I served the summons on (name of individual) _____, who is designated by law to accept service of process on behalf of (name of organization) _____ on (date) _____; or

Other (specify): _____

My fees are \$ _____ for travel and \$ _____ for services, for a total of \$ 0.00.

I declare under perjury that this information is true.

Date: _____

Server's signature

Printed name and title

Server's address

Additional information regarding attempted service, etc:

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF SOUTH CAROLINA
BEAUFORT DIVISION
CASE NUMBER: 9:20-cv-770-BHH

Progressive Direct Insurance Company,
Plaintiff,

v.
Darnell Burgess, Johnnie Smoak, Shakiea Brown, Daphine Hutchinson, Jervony Hutchinson, and Kayden Smith,

Defendants

COMPLAINT
(Declaratory Judgment)
(Non-jury)

Plaintiff, Progressive Direct Insurance Company, seeks declaratory relief to determine the rights of the parties and alleges and shows as follows.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

- The Plaintiff, Progressive Direct Insurance Company (hereinafter "Progressive") is an insurance company organized and existing pursuant to the laws of the state of Ohio, with its principal place of business in the state of Ohio. Plaintiff is licensed and authorized to transact business, including selling insurance policies in South Carolina, and Plaintiff sells insurance policies in South Carolina.
- Upon information and belief, Defendant Darnell Burgess is a citizen and resident of Hampton County, South Carolina.
- Upon information and belief, Defendant Johnnie Smoak is a citizen and resident of Hampton County, South Carolina.
- Upon information and belief, Defendant Shakiea Brown is a citizen and resident of Hampton County, South Carolina.

5. Upon information and belief, Defendant Daphine Hutchinson is a citizen and resident of Hampton County, South Carolina

6. Upon information and belief, Defendant Jervony Hutchinson is a citizen and resident of Hampton County, South Carolina.

7. Upon information and belief, Defendant Kayden Smith is a citizen and resident of Hampton County, South Carolina.

8. This action is brought under the provisions of the Federal Declaratory Judgment Act, 28 U.S.C. § 2201 et seq. and Rule 57 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure; there is a real and justiciable controversy between the parties, and by these proceedings Plaintiff asks this court to inquire into and declare the rights and obligations of the parties arising out of the facts set forth below.

9. The amount in controversy exceeds seventy-five thousand and 00/100 (\$75,000.00) dollars, exclusive of interests and costs, and there is complete diversity of citizenship; therefore, this Court has jurisdiction to hear this matter under 28 U.S.C. § 1332(A)(1).

10. Venue is proper in this Division and this Court under 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b)(1).

PROGRESSIVE POLICY

11. Upon information and belief, Johnnie Smoak purchased a 1989 Chevrolet Celebrity, VIN no. 1G1AW51W1K6207072, on November 13, 2018 and was the owner of the 1989 Chevrolet Celebrity, VIN no. 1G1AW51W1K6207072, at all times relevant to the allegations herein according to the vehicle's title history. A copy of the title history is attached hereto as Exhibit "A".

12. Progressive issued a policy of personal automobile insurance to Darnell Burgess, policy number 931046121, with effective dates of July 5, 2019 to January 5, 2020 (hereinafter the "Policy"). The Policy lists the 1989 Chevrolet Celebrity, VIN no. 1G1AW51W1K6207072, as an insured vehicle. A copy of the Policy's declarations page is attached hereto as Exhibit "B".

13. For the listed 1989 Chevrolet Celebrity, the Policy provides bodily injury liability coverage with limits of \$25,000 per person and \$50,000 per accident and property damage liability coverage with limits of \$25,000 per accident.

14. The Policy provides coverage to persons qualifying as an "insured" for certain risks under the insuring agreement and excludes certain risks through policy exclusions. Progressive craves reference to the Policy for all terms, conditions, and provisions therein and incorporates them by reference herein.

15. The Policy provides in pertinent part:

PART I LIABILITY TO OTHERS

INSURING AGREEMENT If you pay the premium for this coverage, we will pay damages for **bodily injury** and **property damage** for which an **insured person** becomes legally responsible because of an accident.

ADDITIONAL DEFINITION

When used in this Part I:

Insured person means:

a. **you**, a **relative**, or a **rated resident** with respect to an accident arising out of the ownership, maintenance or use of an **auto** or a **trailer**;

EXCLUSIONS READ THE FOLLOWING EXCLUSIONS CAREFULLY. IF AN EXCLUSION APPLIES, COVERAGE WILL NOT BE AFFORDED UNDER THIS PART I.

Coverage under this Part I, including **our** duty to defend, will not apply to any **insured person** for:

9. **bodily injury** or **property damage** caused by an intentional act of that **insured person**, or at the direction of that **insured person**, even if the actual injury or damage is different than that which was intended or expected. For damages arising out of the ownership, maintenance, or use of a covered auto, this exclusion applies only to those damages in excess of the minimum limit mandated by the motor vehicle financial responsibility law of South Carolina;

15. **bodily injury** or **property damage** caused by, or reasonably expected to result from, a criminal act or omission of that **insured person**. This exclusion applies regardless of whether that **insured person** is actually charged with, or convicted of, a crime. However, this exclusion will apply only to those damages in excess of the minimum limit mandated by the motor vehicle financial responsibility law of South Carolina. For purposes of this exclusion, criminal acts or omissions do not include traffic violations;

PART VII GENERAL PROVISIONS

FRAUD OR MISREPRESENTATION

We may deny coverage for an accident or loss if **you** or a person seeking coverage has concealed or misrepresented any material fact or circumstance, or engaged in fraudulent conduct, in connection with the presentation or settlement of a claim. However, this shall not affect coverage under Part I Liability To Others up to the minimum limit mandated by the motor vehicle financial responsibility law of South Carolina for any injured person who has not knowingly concealed or misrepresented any material fact or circumstance.

FACTS

16. Progressive received notice of a purported collision that occurred on or about October 1, 2019 involving a 1989 Chevrolet Celebrity, VIN no. 1G1AW51W1K6207072, allegedly driven by Johnnie Smoak and a vehicle allegedly driven by Shakiea Brown on Sprayfield Road in Estill, South Carolina.

17. Upon information and belief, Johnnie Smoak owned the 1989 Chevrolet Celebrity, VIN no. 1G1AW51W1K6207072, at the time the Policy inception on July 5, 2019 and at the time of the purported collision on October 1, 2019.

18. Upon information and belief, Shakiea Brown, Daphine Hutchinson, Jervony Hutchinson, and Kayden Smith claim that they were in the vehicle operated by Shakiea Brown and each allege injuries resulting from the purported collision.

19. Upon information and belief, the purported collision did not occur or was intentionally staged by the Defendants.

20. The Policy only provides coverage for legal liability of an insured arising out of an accident.

21. Upon information and belief, the collision did not occur and/or was not an accident.

22. South Carolina Code § 38-55-170 makes it illegal to submit a false claim for payment to an insurance company transacting business in South Carolina.

23. South Carolina Code § 38-55-540 provides that "A person who knowingly makes a false statement or misrepresentation, and any other person knowingly, with an intent to injure, defraud, or deceive, or who assists, abets, solicits, or conspires with a person to make a false statement or misrepresentation" for an economic benefit commits insurance fraud.

24. Paragraph (B) of South Carolina Code § 38-55-540 provides that, "a person convicted pursuant to the provisions of this section must be ordered by the court to make full restitution to a victim for any economic advantage or benefit which has been obtained by the person as a result of that violation.

25. South Carolina Code § 38-55-550 establishes civil penalties against any person who has violated South Carolina Code §§ 38-55-170 or -38-55-540.

26. Public policy prohibits a party who participates in insurance fraud from recovering any stuns from the insurance company.

27. Upon information and belief, some or all of these Defendants conspired together to stage or claim a collision that did not exist in order to recover insurance funds from Progressive.

28. Upon information and belief, the Defendants have or will make claim for coverage under the Policy for Injuries and/or property damage they allegedly suffered in the purported collision.

FOR A FIRST DECLARATION

29. Progressive repeats and realleges the allegations above as if set forth fully verbatim below.

30. According to the vehicle title history for the 1989 Chevrolet Celebrity, VIN no. 1G1AW51W1K6207072, Johnnie Smoak owned the vehicle at the time of the purported collision.

31. Progressive is entitled to a declaration that Darnell Burgess was not the owner of the 1989 Chevrolet Celebrity, VIN no. 1G1AW51W1K6207072, driven by Johnnie Smoak at the time of the purported collision.

32. Progressive is entitled to a declaration that Johnnie Smoak owned the 1989 Chevrolet Celebrity, VIN no. 1G1AW51 WIK6207072, allegedly involved in the purported collision.

33. Therefore, Progressive respectfully requests that this Court declare that Darnell Burgess did not have an insurable interest in the 1989 Chevrolet Celebrity, VIN no. 1G1AW51W1K6207072, at the time of the purported collision, and that the Policy is void as to the 1989 Chevrolet Celebrity, VIN no. 1G1AW51W1K6207072.

FOR A SECOND DECLARATION

34. Progressive repeats and realleges the allegations above as if set forth fully verbatim below.

35. The Policy only provides coverage for legal liability resulting from an "accident."

36. The Policy only includes in the definition of "insured" "you" "with respect to an accident arising out of the ownership, maintenance or use of an auto..."

37. Upon information and belief, the collision claimed by the Defendants was not accidental and was intentional or staged.

38. Therefore, Progressive is entitled to a declaration that the Policy does not provide coverage for claims arising out of the purported collision.

FOR A THIRD DECLARATION

39. Progressive repeats and realleges the allegations above as if set forth fully verbatim below.

40. South Carolina has a strict public policy prohibiting insurance fraud as evidenced by the General Assembly's enactment of criminal statutes and civil statutes penalizing insurance fraud.

41. As a matter of public policy, an insurance company is not required to pay any benefits for a claim resulting from insurance fraud.

42. Therefore, Progressive is entitled to a declaration that the Policy does not provide coverage for the claims arising out of the purported collision.

FOR A FOURTH DECLARATION

43. Progressive repeats and realleges the allegations above as if set forth fully verbatim below.

44. Some or all of these Defendants knowingly provided false information regarding the facts of the purported collision to Progressive in making claims under the Policy.

45. The facts of the purported collision are material to Progressive's settlement of the Claims Defendants have made, or will make in the future, under the Policy.

46. Therefore, Progressive is entitled to a declaration that the Policy is void due to fraud.

WHEREFORE, Progressive prays that this honorable court inquire into these matters and declare that Progressive owes no duty to defend or indemnify any claims arising out of the abovereferenced alleged collision, a declaration that Progressive owes no coverage under the policy, a declaration that the policy is void due to fraud, and award attorney's fees and costs associated with this action and any other relief this Court deems just and proper.

MURPHY & GRANTLAND, P.A.
s/Sarah E. Caiello
J.R. Murphy, Esquire (Fed. I.D. No. 3119)
Sarah E. Caiello, Esquire (Fed. I.D. 13091)
P.O. Box 6648
Columbia, South Carolina 29260
(803) 782-4100
Attorneys for the Plaintiff
Columbia, South Carolina
February 18, 2020



Why Black Lives Matter is controversial to many Christians

By Bobby Ross Jr.
RELIGION UNPLUGGED

To Christians such as Taise Perry, the phrase "Black Lives Matter" voices a simple truth about the importance of equal treatment and justice for Black Americans. To Perry, a Black mother of three sons, the viral hashtag #BlackLivesMatter has little to do with an activist organization that has raised millions of dollars and maintains a website at BlackLivesMatter.com.

"For me, it's a really sad day to know that racism is a political issue," said Perry, a Church of Christ member who lives in Charlotte. "Most people — I would say 99% of people who are out there protesting — are not card-carrying, dues-paying members to that organization. It's really about supporting a movement."

But to other believers, including Merijo Alter, the Black Lives Matter Global Network — incorporated in Delaware — pushes a radical agenda that threatens the Christian way of life. "Their own writing shows that they are on the opposite side of the spectrum from those of us who try to follow Christ's teaching," said Alter, who is white and a member of the High Ridge Church of Christ in Missouri. "We should be at the forefront of being politically incorrect by affirming that 'All Lives Matter,' yet this is construed as a racist remark. I was taught as a child (to sing), 'red and yellow, black and white, we are precious in his sight.' We have been hijacked by this disgusting organization."

Larry Knight, a member of a Church of Christ in Tulsa, Oklahoma, expressed similar thoughts: "I am a Bible-believing Christian, so I naturally believe that all lives matter. But it appears that some of our brethren ... need to look into what the organization Black Lives Matter stands for. ... One of BLM's

stated goals is to disrupt the family structure prescribed by God."

John Edmerson, who is Black and serves as the senior minister and an elder of the Church of Christ at the Vineyard in Phoenix, said he is not a proponent of the Black Lives Matter Global Network's stands. But Edmerson said: "Yes, you can say 'Black Lives Matter' and not sign onto a platform that represents a lot of things that Christians in the Churches of Christ don't really espouse or adhere to."

The hashtag preceded the Black Lives Matter Global Network, which was founded in response to the 2013 acquittal of a neighborhood watch volunteer who killed Trayvon Martin, an unarmed Black teenager. Also, FactCheck.org points out that a number of groups use the phrase "Black Lives Matter" in their name. "BLM grew initially out of the death of Trayvon Martin," Edmerson said, "but has now expanded to include Black people represented in any societal setting with special emphasis supporting the LGBTQ+ platform and the doing away with male-oriented leadership in the family."

Nationwide protests and racial unrest after the police killing of George Floyd have intensified the debate over the Black Lives Matter movement. Two statements on the "What We Believe" section of the group's website particularly alarm many Christian critics:

* "We disrupt the Western-prescribed nuclear family structure requirement by supporting each other as extended families and 'villages' that collectively care for one another, especially our children, to the degree that mothers, parents, and children are comfortable."

• "We foster a queer-affirming network. When we gather, we do so with the intention of freeing ourselves from the tight grip

of heteronormative thinking, or rather, the belief that all in the world are heterosexual (unless s/he or they disclose otherwise)."

"I wonder if Christians who hold up signs that indicate they support this organization are aware of all that they stand for," said John Telgren, preacher for the Nebraska City Church of Christ in Nebraska. "Shouldn't Christians have their own movement that is not in danger of accepting the global network's agenda?"

But as some advocates of saying "Black Lives Matter" see it, the organization's agenda is not the main reason many Christians oppose the expression. "In my experience, many people's reluctance to say 'Black Lives Matter' is not based on connections to Marxism or the LGBTQ movement," said Tim Parish, who is white and the preaching minister for the Huntingdon Church of Christ in rural West Tennessee. "For many, it seems to be rooted in old Southern racism. Often, people are unaware of their own biases and may not even know themselves that racism or white supremacy lives deep within their hearts."

Parish, whose predominantly white congregation drew 325 to 350 worshippers on a typical Sunday before the coronavirus pandemic, read a Scripture and said a prayer during a recent peaceful protest march in his community. "Many white Christians were reluctant to be associated with the protest, and several countered with the phrase 'All Lives Matter,'" he said. "Somehow, even saying 'Black Lives Matter' was offensive to them."

"But one protester's sign said something that I thought was powerful: 'All lives can't matter until Black lives matter.'"

Bobby Ross Jr. is a columnist for Religion Unplugged and editor-in-chief of The Christian Chronicle.

AROUND THE TRIANGLE

MARKET
Black Farmers' Market is July 26, 1-4 p.m., 1436 Rock Quarry Rd.

NCSU
NC State Dining will hold a virtual information session on employment opportunities July 29, 1, 2 or 3 p.m. Register at www.NCWorks.gov.

WORKSHOP
Step Up Ministry is offering an employment workshop July 29-31. Contact: Cynthia Aytch at (919) 781-0156, ext. 113.

PARK, PARTY
My Brother's Keeper Wake County will host Summer Park & Party July 30, 8-11:30 p.m., NC State Fairgrounds, Gate 11. Food truck rodeo is 5-7 p.m. Visit mbkwakeco.org.

SHAW
Shaw University is hosting a virtual town hall on "The Role of Black Businesses in the Wake of Protests, Policing, and a Pandemic" July 30, 7-8:30 p.m. Register at zoom.us.

SUPPLIES
Back 2 School drive-thru bookbag giveaway is Aug. 1, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., Kappa Center Raleigh, 750 Kin Richard Rd.

EXPO
Black Excellence Expo is Aug. 1, 4-6 p.m., Dior Candle Co., 2013 New Hope Church Rd. Register at dior-candle-co.myshopify.com.

FORUM
A Critical Conversation with Wake County Youth about Racial Justice virtual forum is Aug. 1, 1-2:30 p.m. Email: Paul.Brown@unitedwaytriangle.org.

FAMILY
Family Reflections will host a virtual program for grieving families with children Aug. 4-6, 6-8 p.m. Visit its Facebook page to register.

SCHOOL
Project CATCH, a program of The Salvation Army, is collecting school supplies for children who are homeless. Items can be dropped off at the Judy D. Zelnak Center of Hope, 1863 Capital Blvd., M-T, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., and F, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Call (919) 390-6495.

DURHAM VIGIL
#SAYHERNAME Drive-In Vigil is July 26, 6:30-7:30 p.m., 330 E. Main St. Visit aapf.org/sayhername.

MARKET
Durham Night Market is Aug. 1, 5-8 p.m., CCB Plaza on Corcoran Street.

CHAPEL HILL FUNDRAISER
Ronald McDonald House of Chapel Hill is hosting its Carolina Love Gala Aug. 6, 7 p.m., on Facebook live. Register at one.bidpal.net.

CHILD CARE
CCSA COVID-19 Child Care Relief Fund is now open for a second round of grant funding to support child care programs. Visit www.childcareservices.org

FEES
Chapel Hill residents unable to afford Orange County fees and costs can now apply for relief. Call (919) 968-2806.

CARRBORO FISHING
Fishing for beginners, Session B, is July 27-31 for ages 12-15 at Anderson Park Pond. Call (919) 968-2784.

MISC. SCHOLARSHIPS
Thurgood Marshall College Fund and McDonald's are offering financial assistance to HBCU students. Visit www.tmcu.org.

Religious leaders in the civil rights struggle

By Lawrence Burnley
THE CONVERSATION

With the deaths of Rep. John Lewis and the Rev. Cordy Tindell "C.T." Vivian, the U.S. has lost two civil rights greats who drew upon their faith as they pushed for equality for Black Americans. Vivian, an early adviser to the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., died July 17 at the age of 95. News of his passing was followed just hours later by that of Lewis, 80, an ordained Baptist minister and towering figure in the civil rights struggle.

That both men were people of the cloth is no coincidence. From the earliest times in U.S. history, religious leaders have led the struggle for liberation and racial justice for Black Americans. As Patrisse Cullors, a founder of the Black Lives Matter movement, says: "The fight to save your life is a spiritual fight."

For both men, activism was an extension of their faith. Speaking to PBS in 2004, Lewis explained: "In my estimation, the civil rights movement was a religious phenomenon. When we'd go out to sit in or go out to march, I felt, and I really believe, there was a force in front of us and a force behind us, 'cause sometimes you didn't know what to do. You didn't know what to say,

you didn't know how you were going to make it through the day or through the night. But somehow and some way, you believed — you had faith — that it all was going to be all right."

Fellow civil rights activists knew Vivian as the "resident theologian" in King's inner circle due to "how profound he is in both his political and biblical exegesis," fellow campaigner Rev. Jesse Jackson recalled.

Faith traditions inform the civil rights and social justice work of many Black religious leaders. They interpret religious teachings through the prism of the injustice in the here and now. Speaking of King's influence, Lewis explained: "He was not concerned about the streets of heaven and the pearly gates and the streets paved with milk and honey. He was more concerned about the streets of Montgomery and the way that Black people and poor people were being treated in Montgomery."

This focus on real-world struggles as part of the role of spiritual leaders was present in the earliest Black civil rights and anti-slavery leaders. Nat Turner, a leader in the revolt against slavery, for example, saw rebellion as the work of God, and drew upon biblical texts to inspire his ac-

tions. Likewise fellow anti-slavery campaigners Sojourner Truth and Jarena Lee rejected the "otherworld" theology taught to enslaved Africans by their white captors, which sought to deflect attention away from their condition in "this world" with promises of a better afterlife.

Incorporating religion into the Black anti-slavery movement sowed the seeds for faith being central to the struggle for racial justice. As the church historian James Washington observed in 1986, the "very disorientation of their slavery and the persistent impact of systemic racism and other forms of oppression provided the opportunity — indeed the necessity — of a new religious synthesis."

In 1965, Vivian was punched in the mouth by Dallas County Sheriff Jim Clark in an incident caught on camera and carried on national news. Vivian later said: "Everything I am as a minister, as an African American, as a civil rights activist and a struggler for justice for everyone came together in that moment." Though their activism was grounded in Christianity, Lewis and Vivian both forged strategic and powerful coalitions with those outside of their faith. In some ways, they transcended theologically informed ideologies.

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SWAC sets plan in motion for spring football

As the other three HBCUs conferences announced their decision to postpone fall sports, the Southwestern Athletic Conference held out to the bitter end.

But as it became apparent that student-athletes' lives were in jeopardy, officials made the only decision they could - with a twist.

Unlike their colleagues, who stated that they "hoped" to potentially play football in the spring, the SWAC came up a plan.

Football practice will begin in January for eight weeks. Teams will play a seven game schedule: six conference and one non-conference.



BONITTA BEST

The Cricket Wireless SWAC Football Championship will be played in the spring, and possibly the Bayou Classic, which announced this week that it was considering a spring move. The Classic pits rivals Grambling State and Southern in New Orleans before thousands of rabid fans.

Fall student-athletes will be able to attend classes and practices upon return to campus - under federal health and safety guidelines, of course.

While COVID-19 could derail any proposed scheduling, the SWAC's detailed plan made national news. ESPN's "Get Up" sports show even had a segment about it.

Football is not the only fall sport, of course. There's still scheduling for women's soccer, volleyball, and women's and men's cross-country to work out.

But, let's face it, football is the biggest game in town. A successful team sets the mood on campus for the rest of the season. There's a reason homecomings are during football season and not basketball.

And SWAC fans love their football. The conference has ranked No. 1 in attendance in Division I-FCS - not just among HBCUs - for 42 of the past 43 seasons.

It's the conference that former Grambling State star quarterback Doug Williams played in under legendary coach Eddie Robinson before leading the Washington so-to-be-renamed Redskins to a Super Bowl title.

It's the conference where ex-Alcorn State great Steve McNair rewrote the NCAA record books on his way to a stellar NFL career.

COVID-19 will ultimately decide whether there is football in the spring. But at least one conference has a plan.

"When you talk about black college football, it's that entire package, and the bands are such a significant part," SWAC Commissioner Charles McClelland said. "... There were pieces of the puzzle we had to figure out, but absolutely no question about it, we want a full robust football season, and we felt like the spring was the opportunity to do it. We had to take into consideration the health and safety of not only our student-athletes but the fans as well."

"I'm going to protect my two children, and I have the same responsibility to protect other parent's children as well."

New ballgame

There's been a lot of news lately about top players either transferring to HBCUs from predominately white institutions or high school recruits selecting an HBCU.

Daniel Ingram, a top high school football recruit in Cincinnati, decommitted from the University of Cincinnati to enroll at the SWAC's Arkansas-Pine Bluff.

Tayvion Land recently transferred from Liberty University to attend the MEAC's Norfolk State. He also will play football.

Land was quoted as saying his reason for transferring was due to a hostile campus environment.

Sports

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The Triangle TRIBUNE

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COLLEGE CORNER



LAURA HARPER

COPPIN STATE WOMEN'S BASKETBALL HEAD COACH

Coppin State nabs former WNBA player

Another former WNBA player will lead an HBCU program.

Laura Harper, who was drafted by the Sacramento Monarchs in 2008, was named Coppin State's new women's head basketball coach.



Harris

"...Having a platform as a woman of color, while coaching at an HBCU during this racially sensitive time in our country, inspires me, and I am beyond ready to help lead this group of committed, young women into a new era of Eagles basketball," Harper said at her Monday press conference.

Harper has Division I assistant coaching experience at four institutions: Florida, George Washington, High Point and Loyola University Maryland.

The University of Maryland alumna led the Terrapins to the 2006 NCAA Tournament championship. Her jersey number was retired in 2009.

"Coppin State is getting one of the most passionate people we've ever had in our program," Maryland coach Brenda Frese said. "She will be great for the players at Coppin because she fully understands what it takes to be successful."

Astronaut Scholarship

Morgan State rising senior Micaela Fleetwood was recently selected for an Astronaut Scholarship. The prestigious award honors high achieving students pursuing degrees in the STEM field.

"Initially I was in shock because I wasn't necessarily expecting to be awarded, but was really honored to be nominated and be able to represent Morgan as an Astronaut Scholarship candidate," said Fleetwood, who is a biology major with a minor in chemistry and psychology.

Fleetwood and the other scholars receive a \$10,000 scholarship, mentors, professional and personal development, and networking with astronauts and major industry leaders to help advance their careers.

The Hagerstown, Maryland, native is also on the Bears track and field team. After graduation, she says she plans to take a year off to work and save up for medical school.

* Sticking with Morgan State, former forward David Syfax has signed a pro contract with AS Soleuvre (Nationale 2) in Belvaux, Luxembourg. Syfax averaged 7.5 points and 4 rebounds a game his senior season.

"This has been my dream my whole life," he said. "I expect to bring toughness and energy to my new team and just to do whatever I have to do to help us win, like I did at Morgan."



Simeon Gatling



Micaela Fleetwood



Chazz Woodson



Aggies receive laptops

HBCU Heroes recently donated 15 Intel NUC computers to support N.C. A&T student-athletes. Heroes is a nonprofit founded by former UNC great George Lynch and Tracey Pennywell. A&T is the second HBCU to receive computers.

More NCAA nominees

* Morgan State grad Roi Wallace is a nominee for the 2020 NCAA Woman of the Year Award.

Wallace graduated with a 3.4 GPA in sociology. She is just the third player in program history to amass 3,000 career assists in volleyball.

* Hampton's Jakari Harris graduated with a degree in chemical engineering and earned the Big South Conference George A. Christenberry Award. She finished her golf career with a 79.5 stroke average.

HU names soccer coach
Former Major League La-

crosse star Chazz Woodson has been named Hampton's new men's lacrosse coach. Woodson was selected 19th overall in the 2005 MLL Collegiate Draft and played for 10 seasons.

"What an honor and a blessing it is to come full circle and find myself back home in Hampton Roads," he said. "It's also important to acknowledge the work that was done by the men who preceded me...Their commitment to the men of this program is what has ultimately provided me an opportunity to step into this position of servant-ship."

Gatling on watch list

Morgan State safety Simeon Gatling is on the 2020 William V. Campbell Trophy Watch List. The trophy honors the best football student-athlete in the nation. Gatling amassed 74 tackles, 50 solo. He graduated with a 3.67 GPA in Applied Liberal Sciences and is pursuing a master's.



NCCU's Moton supports initiative

By Kyle Serba

NCCU SPORTS INFORMATION

CLEVELAND - North Carolina Central men's basketball coach LeVelle Moton has joined more than 35 collegiate coaches in support of the McLendon Minority Leadership Initiative, a partnership with the John McLendon Minority Scholarship Foundation.

This coach-driven initiative will provide minorities a jump-start to their careers through practical experiences, opportunities to build their network, and instilling the values of McLendon: integrity, education, leadership, and mentorship. Participants in the initiative will be known as MLI Future Leaders.

"I simply see myself as a caretaker of a NCCU basketball program pioneered by John McLendon. He was a trailblazer for so many coaches and leaders across the country," said Moton. "As an NCCU Eagle, it's not only my moral obligation, but my social responsibility to continue the legacy of coach McLendon. I'm excited to join a program that will touch and enhance lives, and provide life-changing opportunities for minorities."

McLendon was the Eagles' men's basketball coach for 12 seasons from 1940-52, winning a school record 77.9 percent of his games.

Kentucky men's basketball coach John Calipari and Harvard men's basketball coach Tommy Amaker are the two co-chairs of the initiative.

"The MLI is about access and opportunity: real-world experience and networking platforms designed to elevate talented young women and men of color who have previously been ignored by a system that lacks diversity and inclusion," said Calipari. "For this work, I couldn't think of a more appropriate vehicle than the McLendon Foundation. I'm excited about where we're headed and feel this is a great first step toward affecting measurable change in our corner of the world."

"It is a true honor to serve as an ambassador for the McLendon Minority Leadership Initiative under the umbrella of the John McLendon Foundation," said Amaker. "Coach McLendon's name is synonymous with education, teaching, service, excellence, and leadership. I cannot think of a better way to honor Coach McLendon's legacy than by providing young minority women and men with a pathway into athletics administration."

The McLendon Foundation, along with G3 Marketing and Pro-Link Staffing Services, will be assisting in the solicitation of collegiate coaches, administrators, and corporations to build this program and provide opportunities within athletics departments at all levels, with the ultimate goal of expanding and enhancing the pipeline for minorities interested in pursuing careers in athletics administration. As an added benefit, the Joel Cornette Foundation will assist the Future Leaders with corporate mentorship, development, and job placement.

More information regarding the MLI, including a pre-application for interested and qualified individuals, can be found at MinorityLeaders.org. In conjunction with this announcement, the McLendon Foundation is unveiling a newly designed website to showcase the efforts of the Foundation, highlighted by its mission to empower and develop minorities who aspire to be principled leaders in athletics administration by providing educational resources and access to a life-long community of mentors.

Boss of Vegan offers 'big time' burger

By Freda Freeman
CORRESPONDENT

DURHAM - Demetrius Liverman wants to be the boss of vegan, thus the name of his curbside pickup burger business. Liverman opened his first location in Raleigh in April, and a second location in Durham last week.

His 100% vegan menu offers the Boss Burger, Boss Burger Deluxe, Chili Burger, seasoned veggie (potato) chips, and fresh lemonade. He uses Impossible (soy) and Beyond (pea protein) patties in his burgers. The bacon is also made of soy. They're all served on a vegan Hawaiian bun. And, of course, he has his own secret sauce - the Boss sauce, what else?

Liverman describes Boss of Vegan as a movement, a way to bring people together around good, healthier food. "The community needed something. There was so much going on with the pandemic and protests. I just wanted to bring people together and introduce them to vegan food, to eat healthier food," he said.

As the "Boss Movement" picks up followers, Liverman is quickly turning those who have tried his burgers into regular customers. Nolan Smith, a former Duke University All-American basketball player, said: "The vegan burger was one of, if not the best, vegan burgers I've ever had. The chips were an added bonus that completed the meal. Demetrius is doing something special; he has a consistent customer in me for sure."

Taking a big bite out of the Boss Burger Deluxe in an Instagram post, Smith said, "Yeah, that's big time right there." Agreeing, others said it tastes like a regular beef burger, some said it tastes even better, and others said it tastes so good they didn't believe it was vegan.

Liverman, 30, of Raleigh, graduated from North Carolina Central School of Business in 2012. He worked in construction for about five years to save money to go into the restaurant business. He opened Top Dog in Southpoint Mall in Durham in 2018 but closed in November 2019 after a dis-



Demetrius Liverman

agreement with mall management.

He had planned to introduce Boss of Vegan to the community at J. Cole's Dreamville Festival, but it was canceled because of the pandemic. Plan B: find some commercial kitchen space he could rent. He was so busy the week he opened that he had to hire additional kitchen staff.

Searching for healthier options for himself, Liverman became a vegetarian/vegan. "I discovered this tastes really good; this is something I'd eat on the regular. So, I started researching and changing my own lifestyle by finding vegetarian foods I could eat. The body breaks down or processes vegan food easier," he said, adding, "and you're not harming animals."

Statistics show Black people are the fastest-growing ethnic group to become vegans; health being the primary reason. According to a 2016 Pew Research Center survey, about 8% of Black adults followed a vegan diet, compared to only 3% of the overall American population. More recently, a January 2020 Gallup report

showed 10% of whites reduced their meat consumption over the previous year, while Black people reported eating 31% less meat.

Liverman dreamed of becoming an entrepreneur and owning his own restaurant, not only to help people eat healthier but because he wants to leave a legacy. "I wanted to create something that would be left here for a long time, something that would be impactful, something I could leave to the family and to the black community, and not only the black community but everybody," he said.

Boss of Vegan operates out of a commercial kitchen at 3108 Glen Road in Durham and 2161 S. Wilmington St. in Raleigh. The hours are noon to 7 p.m., Monday through Saturday, closed Sunday. Customers can place orders online or order curbside. Liverman hopes to open another curbside location in Charlotte in August.

He also sells groceries: vegan chicken, bacon, and shrimp. For more information, visit bossofvegan.com.

BOOK

The Boyfriend Book
By Michael E. Reid
(Just Mike the Poet)
Dreams on Paper Entertainment Publishing
\$16.99 PB

No more boyfriends: 300 women sat down with Reid, and after three hours, 299 of them agreed that they never wanted a boyfriend again.

The Boyfriend Book tells you why.

Modern love poems and philosophy: When entrusting her heart to somebody, a woman doesn't want to worry about the bad and the ugly, such as disloyalty and disrespect, indifference and contempt, microaggression and outright violence.

In a perfect world, every

guy would be a "good guy," and every guy would have her best interest at heart. Unfortunately, the real world is a dangerous place, particularly when women have to let strangers in.

And while some women are decent judges of character, others don't see the train coming until it hits them.

Not only does this book serve as a cautionary tale, it also offers an important perspective on modern love and equips women with strategies to effec-

tively change their love life and, most importantly, their inner lives.

Before you open this book, ask yourself: Where am I now? What are my struggles? What sort of pain do I carry? What parts of myself have I lost? Then, figure out where you want to be.

The possibilities for rebirth and reinvention are endless, but it's ultimately up to you to make it all happen.

This book will help you find a way to go forward that does not involve sideways. Read it slow. Plant the seed. Let it grow.

The Boyfriend Book is a gripping collection of short stories, thoughts and poems from Just Mike The Poet.



Sales spike for black-owned syrup brand

BLACKNEWS.COM

Meet Michele Hoskins, founder of Michele Foods Inc., a multimillion-dollar business whose products are sold in more than 10,000 stores nationwide. Her line of syrup products has recently seen a huge increase in sales since the owners of Aunt Jemima decided to pull its brand from grocery store shelves.

Hoskins is not new to the industry. She began manufacturing her specialty breakfast syrups in 1984. That same year, she secured the top two largest retail chains in the Chicago area, which took her out of the basement and into 400 retail chains.

She became the first minority supplier for Denny's and Walmart, and has part-



nered with General Mills and Sara Lee.

Hoskins laughs when she recalls her early struggles and countless mistakes. She overcame incredible odds to turn this family secret into a formula for success.

"There were no mentors for an African American female entrepreneur in the food industry in those days. I had to learn from

my mistakes. Had I not been naïve, I may not have started this journey. All I had going for me was my goal and a commitment to making it work," she said.

Today, her products can be found in the top retail chains, including Kroger, Albertson's, Jewel Foods, Publix, Safeway and more. The recipe that started it all is known as Michele's Honey Crème Syrup.

Hundreds attend 2nd Black Flea Market

The second annual Black Flea Market was held at the Loading Dock on Whitaker Mill Road in Raleigh. Local black entrepreneurs showcased items from clothing to food.



COURTESY OF MATHIAS BISHOP



Healthy plants, but no tomatoes? Help is here

By Melinda Myers
SPECIAL TO THE TRIBUNE

No fruit on your tomato plants is likely due to the weather. Tomatoes thrive in warm, sunny conditions, but temperature extremes can prevent otherwise healthy plants from setting fruit.

When daytime temperatures rise above 90 degrees and night temperatures remain above 70 degrees, blossom drop, and poor fruit development can occur. Combine this with low humidity and the pollen is not viable. In hot and humid conditions, the pollen is too sticky and doesn't move from the male to the female part of the flower. Without pollination, the flowers won't be fertilized and fruit will not develop.

Cool weather can also hinder fruiting. Night temperatures below the optimum of 59 to 68 degrees reduce the amount and viability of pollen the plant produces.

The simplest solution is to wait for the temperatures and humidity levels to return to those tomatoes need for pollination and fruit formation to occur. Once this happens, the plants will begin producing fruit.

When hot weather arrives, make sure the plants receive ample moisture. Mulch the soil with shredded leaves, evergreen needles or other organic matter to keep roots cool and moist. Consider providing a bit of cool afternoon shade during hot spells.

Some gardeners enlist the help of blossom set hormone spray when conditions are not favorable for pollination and fruit formation. These hormones won't increase productivity but may help plants set fruit when temperatures are not ideal. These products are most effective when temperatures drop below 60 degrees. They are less effective at initiating fruit



set when temperatures rise over 80 degrees.

Don't let cooler summer temperatures greatly reduce your tomato harvest. Consider pinching off the growing tips of indeterminate tomatoes a month before the first killing frost. This redirects the plant's energy into ripening the existing fruit instead of producing more flowers and tomatoes that won't have time to mature.

When frost is in the forecast, harvest green tomatoes to finish ripening indoors. Pick any tomatoes that are starting to show color before the killing frost and finish ripening them indoors.

Harvest tomatoes when the blossom end turns a greenish white or starts to color up. Store the tomatoes in a cool 60- to 65-degree location to extend their storage life. And don't let those green tomatoes go to waste. Fry them or use them in salsa and relish. You'll find lots of delicious green tomato recipes on-

line or from friends.

Extend the growing and harvesting season with the help of floating row covers or other season extending strategies. These products protect plants from cold temperatures, allowing you to harvest weeks after the first fall frost.

If poor fruiting is a yearly problem in your garden, look for tomato varieties better suited to your growing conditions. Next season look for recommendations from your local university extension service. They can help you select the best heat or cold tolerant varieties and those that best fit your gardening style and cooking needs.

With the proper selection and care, you will enjoy an abundant harvest in spite of less-than-ideal weather conditions.

Melinda Myers is the author of more than 20 gardening books, including *Small Space Gardening*.

MOVERS AND SHAKERS

GLOBAL SCHOLARS

Pamela Baldwin has been named head of school at Global Scholars Academy in Durham. Baldwin was the superintendent of Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools.

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](mailto:info@triangletribune.com). Photos welcome.



Baldwin

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But due to COVID-19, most local news publications are losing money, fast. Advertising has plummeted during the crisis and readers aren't subscribing fast enough to fill the void. This has led to thousands of local reporters being laid off. Just as our society faces numerous, urgent challenges.

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information they need to stay informed. That's why the Local Media Association and the Local Media Consortium are working with local news providers to build a strong future for local journalism. And that's why our long-time partner Google is purchasing ads like this in local publications across the country, as well as providing a Relief Fund to help struggling local news outlets. But those actions alone aren't enough.

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