

The Triangle TRIBUNE

THE TRIANGLE'S CHOICE FOR THE BLACK VOICE

"Celebrating Our 23rd Year"

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Ben Wallace and Bobby Dandridge earn basketball Hall of Fame nods.



UNC backs down on offer

By Joe Killian and Kyle Ingram

THE POLICY WATCH

After conservative criticism, UNC-Chapel Hill backs down from offering acclaimed journalist tenured position.



Hannah-Jones

The Journalism school will instead offer Nikole Hannah-Jones a fixed five-year contract. In her career in journalism, Hannah-Jones has been awarded the Pulitzer Prize and a MacArthur Fellowship "Genius Grant." But despite support from the UNC-Chapel Hill chancellor and faculty, she won't be getting a tenured teaching position at her alma mater. At least not yet.

As Policy Watch reported last week, political pressure from conservatives who object to her work on "The 1619 Project" for The New York Times Magazine, the school changed its plan to offer her tenure — which amounts to a career-long appointment. Instead, she will start July 1 as Professor of the Practice, with the option of being reviewed for tenure at the end of that time period.

"It's disappointing, it's not what we wanted, and I am afraid it will have a chilling effect," said Susan King, dean of UNC Hussman.

"The 1619 Project" is a long-form journalism undertaking that, as the Pulitzer Center put it, "challenges us to reframe U.S. history by marking the year when the first enslaved Africans arrived on Virginia soil as our nation's foundational date." Hannah-Jones, who is Black, conceived of the project and was among multiple staff writers, photographers and editors who put it together.

The project sought to spur a reexamination of how America teaches and celebrates its own history. It caused debate among academics, journalists, even within The New York Times itself. Criticisms of its accuracy by some prominent historians led to edits and clarifications, but Hannah-Jones and the Times stand by the project, the introductory essay to which won her the 2020 Pulitzer for commentary.

Last summer, Hannah-Jones went through the rigorous tenure process at UNC, King said. She submitted a package King said was as well reviewed as any King had ever seen. Hannah-Jones had enthusiastic support from faculty and the tenure committee, with the process going

Please see **UNC/2A**

Critical race theory is not for debate

By Thomas Mills

SPECIAL TO THE TRIBUNE

Republicans have found their latest racial bugaboo. They've elevated something called critical race theory to a threat to the country, another plot to indoctrinate our children in Marxist thought. The North Carolina house passed a bill to prevent it from being taught in schools, and North Carolina Congressman Dan Bishop, author of the Bathroom Bill, introduced similar legislation in Congress.

Critical Race Theory is not some curriculum being adopted by schools systems. It's the theory that certain people have been discriminated against, and continue to be, because of their race and that the discrimination is systemic. Racism, proponents believe, is ingrained in our institutions and continues to adversely affect minorities, especially African Americans.

Republicans want to prevent teaching that one group of people subjugated another group. They argue that we're all individuals and we all make individual decisions, so teaching that white people, as a group, discriminated against Black people implies that all white people are racist. In other words, the people who have pushed discriminatory voting laws, protected Confederate monuments on public property, denied police brutality disproportionately affects African Americans, and ignore discrepancies in stats like the mortality rate for Black babies are concerned that our children will be taught that racism is still alive and well in the U.S. today.

Laws, customs, marketing, and social norms throughout the 20th century indicate that they are wrong. Jim Crow laws were enacted by white people to prevent the social and economic advancement of Black people. All-white country clubs existed long after the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Congress mandated that possession and sale of crack cocaine was treated differently from the blow being used by members of Congress and their offspring. Redlining prevented African Americans from accumulating wealth like their white counterparts. Black kids receive harsher discipline in school, and Black men get harsher sentences in the courtroom.

But let's not talk about all that, Republicans say. They want us to learn what they learned in school. The Confederacy was a noble but misguided cause. Most slave owners treated their slaves well, so the institution wasn't really that bad. Discrimination ended with the civil

Please see **RACE/2A**

Troy Johnson, front row center, holds barber shop talks for young boys.

Young Men for Christ molds boys into men

By Freda Freeman

CORRESPONDENT

RALEIGH - Troy Johnson's father wasn't around much, so his grandfather stepped in to fill those shoes. Today, Johnson's ministry, YM4C, tries to offer young Black boys what they may be missing in their lives.

Johnson started YM4C, which stands for Young Men for Christ, in 2017 to educate, empower, and encourage underserved young men ages 9 to 17. Since that time, the

mentorship program has worked with more than 300 boys. The four cornerstones of the program are love, consistency, opportunity, and exposure.

"Our mission is to create strong, self-aware, responsible young men one conversation at a time. It is easier to build strong children than to repair broken men. We acknowledge the need for a consistent positive male presence in the lives of those we serve. I was 12, I was 15, and I get it. If you don't give them something to

do, they will find something to do," Johnson said.

YM4C gives boys plenty to do. The program includes 12-week virtual mentoring sessions, serving boys as far as New Jersey, Chicago, Florida, and Texas. During the weekly 40-minute one-on-one sessions, Johnson said the boys set personal and academic goals to help prepare them for life's challenges. They discuss self-esteem, stress management, coping skills, conflict resolution, diversity, positive

Please see **YM4C/2A**

LIFE AFTER LOCKDOWN

Raleigh man fights to remove the stigma from incarceration

Pulitzer Center

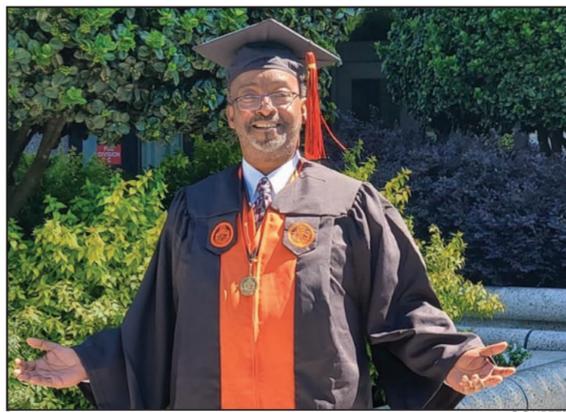
This series was produced in partnership with the Pulitzer Center

By Herbert L. White

THE CHARLOTTE POST

Michael Watkins spent a lifetime finding work after prison. The Raleigh resident struggled with low-wage jobs - if he could find one - after he was freed from lockup more than three decades ago after serving a six-month stretch for felony breaking and entering as a 26-year-old. Without the economic means to support himself with a series of low-wage jobs, Watkins was housing insecure and the cycle of uncertainty was unrelenting.

"I was released from prison in March of 1989, with the hopes of getting great opportunities in Raleigh," Watkins wrote in an email. "I was only able to land fast-food jobs, or at best, work in call centers; in either event, I never made more than \$10/hour, and, as you know, is impossible to live on in Raleigh. I would soon be-



Michael Watkins celebrates at his Campbell graduation.

come homeless in the streets of Raleigh."

Watkins' experience is far from exceptional. More than 22,000 people are released from North Carolina's state prison system annually and 98% of all incarcerated will be released in the future. The stakes are higher for Black people, who make up 61% of

the state's incarcerated. What happens to them upon their release often determines whether they return to prison or ever become contributing members of society.

"It's very difficult but every reentry is a separate story, and there are as different as the

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YM4C molds young boys into men

Continued from page 1A relationships, and making healthy choices. During each session, mentors remind the boys that they are kings: kind, intelligent, noble, and go-getters.

Locally, monthly activities include Man Up Barber Shop Talks, Balling for Brotherhood, and playing golf. The boys also learn the basics of starting a business, proper etiquette, and gardening, and perform community service. During the barber shop talks, which rotate among about 30 participating barber shops in the Raleigh/Durham area, the boys get free haircuts, and the talks bring them together with area law enforcement officers, community leaders, and parents to address social injustice, mental health, and other topical issues.

"They can talk about anything at the barber shop. We believe everything starts with a conversation, and then we add layers. We want to build a bridge between law enforcement and our Black boys, and not let their first interaction be on the side of the road," Johnson said.

The Balling for Brotherhood program, a collaboration with several local YMCAs and the Wake County Public School System, brings the boys together with law enforcement officers, firefighters, and other members of the community for a friendly game of basketball. The goal is to develop positive relationships and bridge the gap between youth and law enforcement while encouraging physical activity to combat childhood obesity, Johnson said.

At the end of each 12-week session, the boys are treated to a "mind-blowing

experience." In March, following the etiquette training, they went out to dinner at Second Empire Restaurant and Tavern in downtown Raleigh. In preparation, they received free haircuts and manicures, and were given suits, shoes, and socks. The YM4C membership fee is used to cover the curriculum, events, and activities. The program, which has a core leadership team of four, operates with the help of volunteers. Johnson said he is grateful for the support and donations he gets from local churches, community organizations, and area businesses.

Terri Freeman's sons, Cartier, 16, and Chance, 15, have been a part of YM4C since it started. She said the program teaches them things she can't. "I'm a single parent, and there are certain things I can't provide for my boys, and Mr. Troy and the program, they teach them various things about grooming themselves, etiquette, just being young men growing up in America and knowing how to handle certain situations. The Barber Shop Talk is where officers and the sheriff talk with them.

They get information about what you do if stopped by an officer or what things promote an officer to come after a person doing certain things. It's a great opportunity for them so they can have that information and know how to carry themselves," said Freeman, of Raleigh.

Latishia Hodge, of Raleigh, enrolled her son, Abel "AJ" Terry, 10, and godson Mel-leek King, 13, in YM4C because they needed a male mentor. Hodge said it is important for young boys to have

Black men in their lives who are positive role models to counter the negative images they see in videos and on social media and reality TV. She also likes that the program is based on Christian values such as obey your parents, respect adults, and care for others.

"It's helping them build character and become good men. It gives them someone to learn from, someone to depend on, someone to talk to. A lot of times, it's hard being a single mom; the boys don't always run to talk to mom, but it's easier for them to sit down and have a one-on-one man-to-man talk with Troy," she said.

Danielle Polk and her son Darnell, who moved to Raleigh from Baltimore in 2018, stumbled upon a YM4C barber shop talk when she took him to get a haircut. YM4C mentors not only spend time with Darnell weekly, but they also helped out when she was injured in a car accident.

"My son needed positive men to be around. I wanted a positive role model, and I also wanted him to have interactions with other young men," she said. "For me personally, YM4C has been a saving grace for myself and Darnell. There are things I'm not sure he would have been exposed to socially and emotionally outside of myself had it not been for YM4C."

Darnell, 12, said he's learned a lot about business, and has even started his own company, DR Drawings and Design. He sells paint and sip kits for children that include a pre-drawn canvas of his original artwork, paint, paint brushes, and a juice box. His next venture is to release a comic book next year.

Can Democrats do the 2022 math and finally win

Continued from page 1A cratic. Many are older retirees or military retirees. Many left other states because of high taxes. There are still many rural, religious, conservative white voters. In both 2016 and 2020, the Trump turnout surprised Democratic pollsters.

James Carville, the sharp-tongued Democratic warhorse, thinks the problem is language. In a scathing interview with Vox, he said, "Wokeness is a problem, and we all know it." Democrats are guilty of "faculty lounge language".

"You ever get the sense that people in faculty lounges in fancy colleges use a different language than ordinary people? They come up with a word like 'Latinx' that no one else uses. Or they use a phrase like 'communities of color.' I don't know anyone who speaks like that. I don't know anyone who lives in a 'community of color.' I know lots of white and Black and brown people and they all live in

... neighborhoods. "There's nothing inherently wrong with these phrases. But this is not how people talk. This is not how voters talk. And doing it anyway is a signal that you're talking one language and the people you want to vote for you are speaking another language."

He added: "And maybe tweeting that we should abolish the police isn't the smartest thing to do."

In an essay, "The Bitter Heartland," Clinton administration veteran William A. Galston says "social conservatives and white Christians" - that is, Trump voters - feel a powerful resentment toward political and cultural liberalism.

Why? "They have a sense of displacement in a country they once dominated. Immigrants, minorities, non-Christians, even atheists have taken center stage, forcing them to the margins of American life. They believe we (liberals) have a powerful desire for moral

coercion. We tell them how to behave - and, worse, how to think. When they complain, we accuse them of racism and xenophobia....They believe we hold them in contempt.

"Finally, they think we are hypocrites. We claim to support free speech - until someone says something we don't like. We claim to oppose violence - unless it serves a cause we approve of. We claim to defend the Constitution - except for the Second Amendment. We support tolerance, inclusion, and social justice - except for people like them."

Carville concedes: "Democrats are never going to win a majority of these voters.... But the difference between getting beat 80-20 and 72-28 is all the difference in the world."

For their 2022 homework, Democrats should study both math and messaging.

Gary Pearce blogs about politics and public policy at www.NewDayforNC.com.

UNC backtracks on hire of acclaimed journalist after conservative ire

Continued from page 1A smoothly every step of the way - until it reached the UNC-Chapel Hill Board of Trustees.

The board reviews and approves tenure applications. It chose not to take action on approving Hannah-Jones's tenure.

"I'm not sure why, and I'm not sure if that's ever happened before," King said.

UNC-Chapel Hill Chancellor Kevin Guskiewicz stood up for Hannah-Jones before the board, King said, telling the members she was such a strong candidate that he was willing to bring her on in a fixed-term position with the opportunity to be approved for tenure after five years.

That's a departure from the school's usual practice. Knight Chairs, sponsored by the Knight Foundation, are important and influential journalists who bring their expertise to the classroom at some of the nation's most respected universities. While continuing their work in journalism, Knight Chairs offer students the perspective they've gained through their experience in the industry.

Not all Knight Chair professors are tenured. But since UNC began working with the foundation in 1980, all of those teaching at the flagship Chapel Hill campus have been. Fixed-term positions, like the one now being offered to Hannah-Jones, do not need board approval.

"It was a work-around," a UNC-Chapel Hill Board of Trustees member told Policy Watch this week.

The board member, who had direct knowledge of the board's conversations about Hannah-Jones, asked not to be identified so that they could discuss a confidential personnel process. "It's maybe not a solution that is going to please everyone. Maybe it won't please anyone. But if this was going to happen, this was the way to get it done."

The board member had one word for the roadblock to Hannah-Jones gaining tenure. "Politics," the board member said.

"This is a very political thing," the trustee said. "The university and the board of trustees and the Board of Governors and the legislature have all been getting pressure

since this thing was first announced last month. There have been people writing letters and making calls, for and against. But I will leave it to you which is carrying more weight."

As Policy Watch previously reported, conservative groups with direct ties to the Republican-dominated UNC Board of Governors have been highly critical of Hannah-Jones's work and the idea of her teaching at UNC-Chapel Hill.

Last week, a columnist for the James G. Martin Center for Academic Renewal (formerly known as the Pope Center for Higher Education) wrote that UNC-Chapel Hill's board of trustees must prevent Hannah-Jones's hiring. If they were not willing to do so, the column said, the UNC Board of Governors should amend system policies to require every faculty hire to be vetted by each school's board of trustees.

"That is the argument we've been hearing and that is what some people on the board of governors are expecting, I can tell you that," said the trustee. "There is already a lot of pressure about oversight."

Raleigh man fights to remove the stigma

Continued from page 1A

people that are coming back into the community," said Kenn Shrader, a volunteer with Reentry Housing Alliance in Charlotte and a former offender. ... "There's a stigma of once a criminal always a criminal. Nobody seems to really understand the concept that we say we believe in that once people served their time they paid their debt to society, but, in reality, that's not really true."

Statistics bear out Shrader's assertion. According to the Raleigh-based North Carolina Second Chance Alliance:

- More than 90% of large employers conduct criminal background checks and often will automatically reject applicants based on dismissed charges, long-ago convictions, and convictions that aren't related to a job's qualifications and responsibilities.

- Applicants with a criminal record are half as likely to receive a call back, with the chances of being passed over doubling for Black applicants.

- More than 1,000 state laws and regulations denies privileges and rights based on a criminal record. For instance, a conviction disqualifies people from earning a barber license.

Employer hesitancy isn't the only obstacle the formerly incarcerated face. Housing can be daunting as well, especially with property managers and owners leery of renting to people with criminal convictions. Even

as government and non-profit programs provide resources to reintroduce the formerly incarcerated into the workforce, the results are relatively small compared to a couple decades ago. The COVID-19 pandemic, which wiped out thousands of jobs across the state and weakened the economy, has made the situation more difficult for people looking to start over. Without opportunities and hope for the future, many formerly incarcerated will reoffend and be sent behind bars.

Andrew Berger-Gross, in a 2019 report for the North Carolina Department of Commerce, cited that formerly incarcerated people were "benefiting from improved job prospects as our labor market heats up. However, they continue to struggle with low rates of employment and poor wage earnings compared to the rest of the population."

"In the late 1990s," Berger-Gross wrote, "it was relatively normal for people to find work after exiting prison; in 1998, 62% found employment in North Carolina within a year after release. Now, only a minority of former prisoners find work after release, despite record-high employer demand for labor in our state."

There are initiatives to get the formerly incarcerated on their feet. The North Carolina Division of Adult Correction, for instance, provides transition services like independent living, workforce training, housing, health care and

family responsibilities. The State Reentry Council Collaborative, a combination of government, law enforcement, advocacy, faith-based and judicial organizations that formulated a Reentry Action Plan, aims to remove barriers people face upon return to their communities and reduce recidivism, which is 40% over a three-year period, according to the North Carolina Justice Center.

Watkins didn't give up on improving his situation. He located stable housing two decades after his release and enrolled in college to improve his employment opportunities. Watkins, who graduated Campbell University last year, is pursuing a master's degree in health care administration at Walden University. He's also building a new career with a Portland, Oregon, nonprofit that provides substance abuse and suicide prevention counseling.

After 32 years, he's found purpose and responsibility. All he needed was an opportunity. "I got a great job in the same week I began my classes at Walden in January 2021," he said. "I work for a FEMA-funded nonprofit called Lines for Life. We are the 2.0 version of 211. We provide community resources to Oregonians who need them and, after having been employed there for three months, I was promoted to a team lead and now have my own staff I am responsible for."

Critical race theory debate is not debatable

Continued from page 1A rights movement.

And, most importantly, they want to make sure that not all white people are painted with a broad brush. That's really the crux of the matter.

Dan Bishop financially supported Gab, a white power website. He introduced a bill to discriminate against transgender people, one that overrode local control, but he is loath to be called a bigot.

In other words, the people who perpetuate the need to teach the history and impact of racial discrimination are the ones who most want to ban it.

Make no mistake, the audience Republicans are trying to reach are white

voters uneasy with the Black Lives Matter movement, but who also aren't happy with the Trumpist direction of the GOP, either. They are using a racial wedge to divide the nation while pointing fingers at African Americans accusing them of playing the race card. It's been going on for generations.

The whole critical race theory debate is nothing more than a manufactured crisis created originally by Trump and embraced by people who ignored the growing white power movement within their ranks for years.

These are the people who see teaching the history of racism as more of a threat to our nation than the

white power groups that attacked the Capitol on Jan. 6.

Denying that our country embraced an apartheid that systematically discriminated against African Americans is far more dangerous than giving students the information they need to resolve the lingering problems in our society caused by that system.

Our children need to learn more about our history, not less. They need critical thinking skills, not the myths that perpetuated racism for so long.

Thomas Mills is the founder and publisher of PoliticsNC.com.



COURTESY

Actress Phylicia Rashad named dean at Howard University

By Walter Hudson
DIVERSE ISSUES IN EDUCATION

Howard University has hired a well-known actress and stage director to serve as the dean of the school's recently reestablished College of Fine Arts. Phylicia Rashad, 72, who played Claire Huxtable on "The Cosby Show," will begin her post on July 1.

Rashad, who graduated magna cum laude from Howard in 1970 with a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree, will undoubtedly catapult the school's theater and directing programs, which has a reputation of producing actors like the late Chadwick Boseman, to greater heights.

"I can think of no one individual better suited to take on this role than Ms. Phylicia Rashad," said Howard President Wayne A. I. Frederick. "Given Ms. Rashad's reputation, as well as her capabilities and impressive lists of accomplishments, she will undoubtedly empower the college to transcend even our incredibly high expectations. Under her leadership, Howard will continue to inspire and cultivate the artists, and leaders who will shape our niche and national cultures for generations to come."

While it's rare to see actors take on administrative roles at colleges and universities, it is not unprecedented. Actor Clifton Davis, who starred in television shows as "Amen" and "That's My Mama," served as vice chancellor for development at Elizabeth City State University in the early 2000s. Experts predict that Rashad's visibility on campus will undoubtedly help the university maintain its connection with the acting community, while also helping to secure deep philanthropic gifts from wealthy donors.

In a versatile career that has spanned more than four decades, Rashad has been recognized with a Tony Award, an NAACP Image Award and induction into the Theater Hall of Fame. She is the recipient of numerous honorary



COURTESY

doctorates from mostly historically Black colleges and universities, including Howard, Spelman College, Tuskegee, St. Augustine's University, Clark Atlanta and Morris Brown College.

But it was her role as Claire Huxtable, the tough and loving mother and lawyer on "The Cosby Show" that introduced Rashad to millions of viewers in the 1980s. Thanks to reruns of the show across the years, a new generation of students have become familiar with the sitcom.

Academia is not entirely new to Rashad. She has served as guest lecturer and adjunct faculty member at a number of colleges and universities. "It is a privilege to serve in this capacity and to work with the Howard University administration, faculty and students in reestablishing the College of Fine Arts," said Rashad.

Dana A. Williams, Howard professor of African American Literature and dean of The Graduate School, said Rashad understands that visual and per-

forming artists "also need scholars and critics to talk about their work with adequate cultural nuance and depth, so you should also expect growth on that front as well," she said. "Howard's reputation in the arts is historically and temporarily strong on all fronts. Her appointment fortifies this."

Spelman College recently announced that it was naming its arts center after actress LaTanya Richardson Jackson and her husband, actor Samuel L. Jackson. LaTanya is Spelman alumnus and Samuel L. is a Morehouse graduate.

"The love that both LaTanya and Sam continue to exhibit for Spelman since their time on stage decades ago is heartwarming," said President Mary Schmidt Campbell. "These living legends met and acted together on stage on our campus. Their dedication to their artistry will leave a legacy that will inspire students in the Atlanta University Center for years to come."



COURTESY

The Dignity for Women Who are Incarcerated bill would end the practice of keeping women in chains during labor. But what happens after they give birth?

A new bill opens up questions about children born to incarcerated moms

By Hannah Critchfield
THE POLICY WATCH

Fifteen minutes outside Durham, an abandoned hospital stretches across a bed of verdant land. The concrete-potted plants lining the entrance have begun to crumble, with erosion and wear visible on the walls of the red brick building. Long before a global pandemic descended upon the state and its correctional centers, even before Barack Obama was elected as the nation's first Black president, North Carolina planned to create a home out of the abandoned facility, where incarcerated women could live with their infants and toddlers.

"It really is outside of the box," said Melissa Radcliff, a program director at Our Children's Place of Coastal Horizons Center. When the organization was created, the intent was to partner with the state to help allocate funding for the renovation and programming of the center in the 2000s.

"The moms would have still been incarcerated, they just would have been serving their incarceration in this residential facility off-site," Radcliff said. "It is about as radical as you can get, I think, short of not incarcerating to start with."

Then the 2008 financial crisis hit, and North Carolina clawed back the funding earmarked for the project and shuttered its plan for a child care center for incarcerated mothers. Today, birthing women serving time or awaiting trial behind bars are often restrained using shackles while receiving medical care at hospitals and health centers. Once they give birth, new mothers behind bars typically have about

72 hours to spend with their newborns.

House Bill 608 would end shackling of pregnant women behind bars. The bill heads to Gov. Roy Cooper's desk for a signature. Although it's still early in the lawmaking process, HB 608 has strong bipartisan support and is expected to become law. Child advocates and law enforcement alike are reflecting on future reforms for incarcerated women, including the child care model from North Carolina's recent history.

"I think it's also our motivation to say, but where do we go from here?" said Radcliff. "This is a huge first step, emphasis on first. Let's not forget when kids are born, and what they need and what their parents need, and how to keep them and that relationship strong."

The Dignity for Women Who are Incarcerated bill would require prisons and jails to limit the use of shackling after the second trimester, during labor, and in the six weeks after delivery. While the bill was being drafted, Dr. Kerianne Crockett personally called each of North Carolina's 100 sheriffs, who oversee county jails as elected officials, to speak to them about the importance of the legislation and solicit their support. At first, the North Carolina Sheriffs' Association opposed the bill.

Law enforcement officials Terry Johnson, a Republican sheriff from Alamance County most recently in the spotlight for his policies around the treatment of detained immigrants and Black Lives Matter and voting rights demonstrators, and Garry McFadden, a Democratic sheriff who ran on a plat-

form of liberal reforms in Mecklenburg County, got on board.

"A child didn't ask to come into this world," said Johnson. "We need to keep that child's welfare a top priority. There's a bond between mother and child, and if that child is separated from his mother, their chances of making it good in the world, I would say, are slim to none."

With compromise language, the sheriffs' organization fell in line. "This brought people together who will probably agree on nothing else this year," said McFadden. "The thing that sticks with me is you have the moment of birth, and then you have to give your child up right after. And we're taking away their dignity by putting them in chains and cuffs while expecting. It was a no-brainer for me to fight for these young ladies."

In addition to banning shackling for pregnant women receiving medical care, the proposed HB 608 would formalize allowing women who have just given birth to bond with their child for the duration of time they stay in the hospital. The bill would also mandate that women be placed in correctional facilities within 250 miles of any of their children under the age of 1 and allow for visits with newborns twice a week.

It would additionally set basic requirements for providing menstrual and nutrition products, establish guidelines for body inspections that limit interaction with male officers and prevent pregnant or postpartum women from being held in restrictive housing, such as solitary confinement or isolation.



PHOTO/RAISE UP NC

Durham McDonald's staff continue fight for \$15/hour

Staff Reports

As fast-food companies scramble to find workers, McDonald's cooks and cashiers in Durham went on strike May 19, the day before the company's annual shareholder meeting, to demand McDonald's pay every worker a wage of at least \$15/hr.

Amidst a national reckoning on low pay and poor job quality, striking cooks and cashiers rallied to demand fair wages and a voice on the job for all McDonald's workers.

Employees and community allies marched down North Pointe Drive in Durham carrying giant happy meal props and banners reading "McDonald's Don't Wait for DC. Pay \$15 Today," before holding a rally outside of a McDonald's store.

Speakers included striking workers from NC Raise Up's Durham and Western North Carolina chapters, as well as community leaders from Siembra, N.C. Poor People's Campaign

and Sunrise Movement. Ronald McDonald also made an appearance. McDonald's workers in Fayetteville held a simultaneous rally.

McDonald's recently announced that it netted nearly \$5 billion in profits in 2020 and paid out almost \$4 billion in dividends to its shareholders. Even as elected officials in Washington, D.C., resist demands to increase the federal minimum wage to \$15/hr, striking workers say that the company doesn't have to wait for Washington to raise wages for all workers who wear the company's uniform.

In a call with investors earlier this year, CEO Chris Kempczinski said, "McDonald's will do just fine" with increases to the minimum wage.

McDonald's workers also called on the company to withdraw from the National Restaurant Association and the International Franchise Association.

In 2019, the company

pledged to stop lobbying against local, state and federal minimum wage increases, while continuing to retain membership in the NRA and the IFA.

But since then, the NRA and IFA have spent more than \$3 million lobbying against increasing the federal minimum wage.

In recent months, McDonald's has sounded the alarm about a nationwide shortage of individuals willing to work in fast-food.

However, the company has ignored the lingering impacts of the global pandemic and longstanding issues in the industry, from wage theft to sexual harassment to racial discrimination.

One McDonald's store in Florida has even begun to pay people \$50 just to show up for an interview and another store in Fayetteville is offering a \$500 signing bonus.

ABC's new series about Emmett Till's mother

By David Bauder

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK — ABC will air a short-run series "Women of the Movement" next season about Mamie Till-Mobley, whose son Emmett Till became a symbol of the civil rights movement after he was lynched in Mississippi in 1955.

The network, which announced its plans for the next television season on Tuesday, is also reviving "The Wonder Years," this time with a Black cast that will feature Don Cheadle as the adult narrator. ABC said its popular comedy "black-ish" will conclude its run next year after eight seasons. It will return in midseason so the final episodes can run straight through.

Till-Mobley made sure Americans didn't forget about her son, a Chicago resident killed while visiting relatives in the South, and memorably insisted upon an open casket to display his broken body. Actor Will Smith and rapper Jay-Z are on the production team working on the midseason series.



MATT SAYLES/AP

Cedric Joe as Emmett Till, left, and Adrienne Warren as Mamie Till-Mobley in "Women of the Movement."

Fred Savage, who starred in "The Wonder Years" when it ran originally on ABC from 1988 to 1993, directed the pilot episode of the new version and is a producer of the series. It is one of two new series debuting on ABC in the fall.

"Queens" features musicians Eve and Brandy in a

series about four women from a 1990s-era hip-hop group who reunite in their 40s to try to recapture some of their glory years. The network's other new series are "Abbott Elementary," a workplace comedy set in a Philadelphia public school, and "Maggie," about a woman psychic.



The Staple Singers, from left, Pervis, Cleotha, Pops, Mavis, and Yvonne pose at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame induction ceremony in New York.

Pervis Staples, member of famed Staple Singers, dead at 85

By Herbert G. McCann
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHICAGO — Pervis Staples, whose tenor voice complimented his father's and sisters' in the legendary gospel group The Staple Singers, has died. He was 85.

Pervis Staples died May 6 at his home in Dolton, Illinois, according to Adam Ayers, a spokesman for Staples' sister, Mavis Staples. The cause of death wasn't given.

Pervis Staples sang gospel songs with his father, the guitar-playing Roebuck "Pops" Staples, and sisters Mavis, Yvonne and Cleotha in Chicago churches before gaining a national following when they began recording songs such as "So Soon," "If I Could Hear My Mother Pray Again," "Will the Circle Be Unbroken," and "Uncloudy Day" for Vee Jay records in the 1950s.

The group gained fame in the 1960s by singing music that urged change on a variety of social and religious issues. The Staple Singers gained a huge audience with their first No. 1

hit, "I'll Take You There" in 1972 and followed with top 40 hits "Respect Yourself," "Heavy Makes You Happy," and "If You're Ready (Come Go With Me)."

However, Pervis' last album with The Staple Singers was their first for Stax Records, "Soul Folks in Action" in 1968. The album featured new songs such as "The Ghetto" and their interpretations of tunes like Otis Redding's "(Sittin' On) The Dock of the Bay" and The Band's "The Weight." He went on to manage the girl group The Emotions and operated a popular nightclub, Perv's House.

Pervis Staples was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame with his family in 1999. The group also received a lifetime achievement award from the Grammys in 2005. Mavis Staples, the lone survivor of the group, said in a statement that her brother's childhood was filled with wonderful experiences. "He liked to think of this period of his life as setting the stage for all that he wanted to do in life," she said. "Some of Pervis' best friends as a youngster included Sam

Cooke, Lou Rawls, and Jerry Butler. Pervis and the guys would stand under the lamp posts in the summertime singing doo-wop songs."

Despite the success of Rawls and Cooke, Roebuck Staples routinely rejected offers to the group to record rhythm and blues, saying it was in conflict with his faith. However, it was with the nudging of Pervis Staples that the group compromised by performing message music in the 1960s, performing at music festivals around the country.

Pervis Staples was born Nov. 18, 1935 in Drew, Mississippi. He and his family moved to Chicago for economic opportunities. That is where Roebuck Staples started teaching his children gospel songs to entertain them and occupy their time.

Pervis Staples was preceded in death by his parents, Roebuck and Ocoela; and three sisters, Cynthia, Cleotha, and Yvonne. He is survived by his six children, seven grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

AROUND THE TRIANGLE

RALEIGH HOPE

Low-income renters who need help with rental assistance can apply for a second round of HOPE money. Visit www.hope.nc.gov or call (888) 927-5467.

MARKET

Black Farmers' Market is May 23, 1:30-4 p.m., YMCA, 1436 Rock Quarry Road.

VACCINES

Moderna vaccination clinic is May 24, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Crosby-Garfield Center, 568 E. Lenoir St. Call (919) 833-3111.

INSPECTOR

Ask-An-Inspector public meeting is May 25, noon to 1:30 p.m. via Zoom. Visit raleighnc.gov.

SUGAR RUSH

NC Sugar Rush all-dessert food truck rodeo is May 30, 1-5 p.m., 200 Block E. Martin St.

BUDGET

A public hearing on Raleigh's proposed budget is

June 1, 7 p.m.. Visit www.raleighnc.gov.

MOTOWN

The Legacy Motown Revue is June 3, 7 p.m., North Hills Mall.

NCMA

North Carolina Museum of Art will resume its Art in Bloom exhibition beginning June 3-6 on Blue Ridge Road.

DURHAM POLICE CHIEF

Residents can share their thoughts on the next police chief search in two virtual sessions: May 25, 6 p.m., and May 26, 1 p.m. Visit durhamnc.gov.

BUDGET

Virtual work sessions on the proposed Durham budget for the new fiscal year is May 26-27. The public can watch on the city's YouTube channel.

FUNDRAISER

The Carolina Theatre will host a Back To The The-

atre" online fundraiser May 26, 7 p.m. Visit carolinatheatre.org.

SOUL FOOD

Taste of Soul Food Truck event is June 5, 2-7 p.m., Durham Central Park, 501 Foster St.

BASKETBALL

Coach2Inspire offers basketball instruction to Durham youth ages 5-12. Visit www.coach2inspire.org.

FULL FRAME

The passes have sold out so the only way to see the Full Frame Film Festival is single ticket sales only. Visit fullframefest.org.

MISC. GRANTS

Dominion Energy is offering grants to nonprofits providing housing and shelter, access to health care, food security and more. Visit www.dominionenergy.com/communityneedsgrants.

RECIPE OF THE WEEK

A beautifully baked beef dinner

CULINARY.NET

For something truly wholesome, try this beef tenderloin with roasted cauliflower and spinach salad. It's a full meal the whole family can enjoy, and you'll be surprised at how easy it makes it to feed all the smiling faces. This meal has layers of flavor and sneaks in a few vegetables like spinach and cauliflower, but even picky eaters can't resist trying it.

Start with a beef tenderloin and drizzle it generously with olive oil. Add 2 tablespoons of pepper. Flip and repeat on the other side. Bake for 12 minutes at 475 F.

Next, add one head of cauliflower to a mixing bowl with five shallots cut into quarters. Add 2 tablespoons of olive oil; mix



well with salt and pepper, to taste. Add this to the baking sheet with the beef tenderloin and bake 18-25 minutes.

While that's cooking, add 3 tablespoons of olive oil to a mixing bowl with lemon juice, Dijon mustard, salt, pepper and baby spinach. To plate, add baby spinach salad first, then the cauliflower and shallot mixture and, fi-

nally, that juicy, perfectly cooked beef tenderloin. Garnish with cranberries for a splash of color.

This meal is satisfying and only requires some mixing bowls and a large sheet pan to make cleanup a breeze so you can focus on what really matters most: time with your loved ones. Find more recipes and savory main dishes at Culinary.net.

Many transracial adoptive families don't talk race

By Bob Smietana
RELIGION NEWS SERVICE

A dispute over a proposed change to a 1990s-era federal law has landed one of the nation's largest evangelical adoption agencies in the middle of the "woke" wars.

A recent report from Grand Rapids, Michigan-based Bethany Christian Services suggests making changes to the "Multiethnic Placement Act." Known as MEPA, the 1994 law bars adoption agencies or foster care programs that take government funds from "delaying or denying the placement of a child based on his race, color or national origin."

While well-intentioned, the law hurts children of color, Bethany argues, by requiring a "colorblind" approach to adoption. "We're not saying there needs to be some type of 'woke' test," said Cheri Williams, senior vice president of domestic programs at Bethany. "What we are saying is, it's very harmful to children to go into this situation with a colorblind philosophy."

Williams said the recent report was prompted by conversations with adoptive parents and adult adoptees in the wake of the death of George Floyd. "We heard an outcry from Bethany families saying, 'we don't know how to talk about race with our child,'" she said.

Among the families looking for help were Bob and Sally Schmid, a white couple living in the Chicago suburbs. They have two adoptive children; one was born in Ethiopia and the other was born in China, and the racial reckoning that followed Floyd's death really hit home. "I don't think anything could have



Melissa and Cody Busby with their children.

prepared us for last year," Bob Schmid said.

Schmid admitted it has been hard for him to talk about race with his kids. First and foremost, they are his kids and he loves them dearly. So he doesn't always think about how the world sees them differently. That's something he has been working on. For support, Schmid said he and his family got help from Bethany. They also turned to their church. Some folks, he said, tried to be supportive. Others were not so understanding. "Some people would just really push back hard and turn it into a political issue," said Schmid, whose family has moved to a more diverse church in Chicago. "And that was really very discouraging."

Nathan Bult, senior vice president of government affairs at Bethany Christian Services, said, when it was first passed in 1994, the MEPA permitted adoption and foster care agencies to consider the best interest of a child before placing him with a foster or adoptive family. That included the child's race or ethnicity, the adoptive parent's race or ethnicity, and whether an adoptive parent of one race was prepared to parent a child of a

different race.

That "permissible consideration" was taken out of the MEPA in 1996. According to Bethany's report, the Black children they serve had the lowest rate of reunification with their families. Most Black children adopted through Bethany are placed with white families, and the agency can do little to help those families "preserve Black children's cultural heritage."

Naomi Schaefer Riley, an author and resident fellow at the American Enterprise Institute, argued Bethany is more concerned about being "anti-racist" than caring for children. "They want people to feel bad about transracial adoption," Riley, who has been critical of Bethany, told Religion News Service in an interview. The MEPA, she told RNS, has made it easier for Black children to be adopted by prohibiting discrimination, not training. "There is nothing in the MEPA that prevents people from having conversations about race, she said.

Bult, a former Trump administration staffer, said Bethany is not trying to reverse the MEPA, but the agency believes the law should return to its original

Please see ADOPT/8A

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George Williams is living the Miller High Life

I dreaded making the call. I had no clue what I was going to hear on the other end: sobbing, bitterness, self-pity. But none of that was evident.

George Williams is living the good life.

"Pup," as most people call him, is doing just fine since being backstabbed after 40-plus years as St. Augustine's legendary track coach and later athletic director.

Williams was in Daytona Beach, Florida, when he answered his cellphone this week. One of his granddaughters was in a gymnastic championship final, and he was there as a cheering granddad.

After Florida, he said he was leaving for Cincinnati, Ohio, to see another grandchild graduate from high school; then it was on to help another grandchild pack and travel to Penn State for summer school, and then assist ANOTHER grandchild who is heading to Howard University.

Oh yeah, in between all this, Williams is training a few athletes for the upcoming Olympics. Whew! So much for a pity-party.

Williams has been "freelancing" since being unceremoniously fired last July by interim president Maria Lumpkin. Lumpkin had been interim barely four months before sacking Williams and three other former employees, but that was what she was hired to do - get rid of George. The rest were just collateral damage.

Williams and the three employees sued the university for wrongful termination, age discrimination, whistleblower retaliation, going to the bathroom too many times - OK, I made the last one up, but you get the jest.

St. Aug's would be nothing without Williams' legacy. N-O-T-H-I-N-G! I don't care how many championships the Falcons win in other sports - which you can count on one hand - the track program put the school on the national map. Thirty-nine national championships under Williams' tenure - third most in NCAA history. Not to mention all of the fundraising dollars through his national and international contacts.

Williams wasn't perfect. It's no secret that he was a much better coach than administrator. But unless he was caught with a suitcase full of cocaine stashed in his office wall, or on an X-rated video with someone still in puberty, he didn't deserve to be humiliated.

I will never understand the toxic relationships between some HBCU presidents and popular coaches. They want the coach to win, as long as the coach doesn't get more pub than they do. "Prez" get a clue, nobody cares about you.

And board of trustees can be just as bad. Some of them think the university is their playground and all the toys belong to them.

According to lawsuit documents, SAU board members James Perry and Brian Boulware had been trying to fire Williams a year before it actually happened. They wanted Gaddis Faulcon, SAU interim president before Lumpkin, to do the dirty deed but he refused. So, he had to go.

Things got progressively worse between Williams and the board. According to the suit, Boulware threatened to have Williams fired on the spot and have his name removed from the George Williams Athletics Complex. In board meetings, the suit alleges Boulware took to turning his back on Williams whenever he spoke - the ultimate disrespect.

A year later, Williams says he still wants his "final year" before he officially retires. Campus sources say the SAU Alumni Association wants a big goodbye shindig for him.

As for the lawsuit, Williams



BONITTA BEST

Please see **George/7A**

Sports

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The Triangle TRIBUNE

SUNDAY, MAY 23, 2021 - PAGE 6A

COLLEGE CORNER



Left to right: Ben Wallace and Bobby Dandridge

CIAA greets Wallace, Dandridge selected for HOF

If you're good, they will find you.

Virginia Union superstar Ben Wallace and Norfolk State great Bobby Dandridge, who both played for Division II institutions in college, will be enshrined into the 2021 Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame Sept. 11 in Springfield, Massachusetts.

Wallace played for the Panthers from 1995-97 under legendary coach Dave Robbins. He set a school record for blocks with 114 during the 1995-96 season.

Wallace played 16 seasons in the NBA despite being undrafted. He won the defensive player of the year award four times as a Detroit Piston, and was an important anchor on the 2004 NBA championship team. He is the first undrafted player and first VUU alumnus to make the Hall.

For some of y'all that

don't know, Norfolk State was a member of the CIAA until 1997. Dandridge was a Spartan from 1965-69, and averaged 22.6 points and 13 rebounds per game. He upped that average to 32.8 ppg. during his senior season.

Dandridge, who was nominated by the HOF Veterans Committee, played in the NBA for 12 seasons with the Milwaukee Bucks and Washington Bullets, and won two championships. He was a four-time NBA All-Star in the 1970s.

Dandridge and Wallace will join 14 other honorees:

- * Rick Adelman, NBA coach
- * Chris Bosh, Miami Heat
- * Paul Pierce, Boston Celtics
- * Bill Russell, Boston Celtics
- * Chris Webber, NBA
- * Jay Wright, Villanova
- * Yolanda Griffith, WNBA
- * Lauren Jackson, WNBA

* Val Ackerman, contributor

* Cotton Fitzsimmons, contributor

* Howard Garfinkel, contributor

* Clarence "Fats" Jenkins, played during segregation

* Peal Moore, Women's Veterans Committee selection

NCCU baseball makes history

Well, lookie here: look who won their first MEAC Southern Division title. Look who has a chance for that elusive conference championship in their last season of play.

The Eagles are in the MEAC Tournament after sweeping Florida A&M last weekend. Tourney play began past our print deadline, but you can catch all the action on the NCCU Sports Network. How ironic

Please see **HOF/7A**

HBCU FOOTBALL



'First Take' heads to MEAC/SWAC Challenge

By Bonitta Best
editor@triangletribune.com

The fall football season is months away, but the excitement is building.

ESPN Events has signed a new, six-year agreement with the MEAC and SWAC in partnership with the MEAC/SWAC Challenge and the Cricket Celebration Bowl - both in Atlanta.

To beef up the excitement, ESPN sports show "First Take" will air live in Atlanta during the Challenge game weekend of activities in August. The show, featuring Winston-Salem State alumnus Stephen A. Smith, Max Kellerman and Molly Qerim Rose, will be one of many spotlights and telecasts celebrating the HBCU culture throughout the season.

"Also, these nationally tel-

vised games are tremendous opportunities for recruiting talented students to our institutions. ESPN Events renewing its investment shows ESPN's commitment to the MEAC and the SWAC on a national scale and platform," MEAC Commissioner Dennis Thomas said. "The national publicity enhances our brand and exposure, and showcases our institutions, student-athletes and coaches to the world."

History has been made

Southern defensive end Jordan Lewis is the first SWAC player to earn the Stats Perform FCS Buck Buchanan Award, which goes to the top defensive player in the NCAA FCS.

Ironically, Buchanan played in the SWAC. Lewis played in just five

games during the spring season, but made a humongous impact: 15 tackles for loss and 10.5 sacks - both the best in the FCS.

"He's relentless in pursuit of the ball," said former Southern coach Dawson Odums who is now the coach at Norfolk State.

Lewis beat out Presbyterian linebacker Colby Campbell who came in second. No other HBCU player made the top 18 in voting.

* SWAC players Storey Jackson and Tyrin Ralph were named to the Stats FCS All-American teams.

Jackson, a senior linebacker at Prairie View A&M, was voted to the second team. He recorded 50 total tackles, including 8.5 for loss, two forced fumbles

Please see **FIRST/7A**

Equity plan for Black college athletes

PR NEWSWIRE

WASHINGTON - The Knight Commission on Intercollegiate Athletics called on universities, athletics conferences, the College Football Playoff and the NCAA to take decisive action to address systemic policies and practices that create barriers to the success of Black college athletes.

The Commission's report, "Achieving Racial Equity in College Sports," was guided by a task force led by chair Len Elmore and co-vice chairs and former college athletes Shanteona Keys and Jacques McClendon. The report outlines policy changes in four core areas that the NCAA and its member institutions should make to achieve racial equity in sports:

1. Close educational opportunity gaps to create equitable pathways for Black college athletes' success during and after college. These recommendations include permanently eliminating standardized test scores as an athletics eligibility criterion and instead employing a more holistic review of student readiness. The report also calls for the NCAA to dramatically boost financial support for historically Black colleges and universities in the Accelerating Academic Success Program.

2. Hold institutions accountable in recruitment and hiring to achieve diversity and equity in athletics leadership. Among other recommendations, the report urges conferences and schools to adopt the "Russell Rule" as standard practice (named in honor of Bill Russell and first adopted by the West Coast Conference). The Russell Rule requires each institution to include a member of a traditionally underrepresented community in the pool of final candidates for athletics leadership positions, including athletic director and head coach. Each conference school and the conference office would file an annual report card on the demographics of athletic leadership searches and hiring.

3. Invest in programs that support and enhance Black athletes' college experience and promote inclusion and belonging. Schools and conferences should be establishing a network of Black alumni and faculty to serve as mentors and providing a dedicated stream of funding for summer bridge programs for incoming Black college athletes.

4. Create more equitable opportunities for Black college athletes to assume leadership roles, especially in advocacy and governance. Reforms should include establishing mentorship programs outside of the athletics department that enrich the development of Black athletes and expanding the ranks of college representatives who serve as advocates for the experiences of Black athletes. The report also calls for a safe process for Black athletes to report any discrimination or treatment concerns, without fear of reprisal.

The Knight Commission invites the public to a virtual town hall on May 24 at 2 p.m. The event will be a live panel sharing the timelines and details of the report's important recommendations, as well as a Q&A section for guests.

Register for your spot here: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_0g05e9RmT4KZlfd18VrQzW.

"The Commission's report comes in the midst of a historic reckoning on race and a rise in Black student activism on college campuses. This moment demands transformational actions that specifically improve the college experience for Black athletes, coaches, and athletics personnel throughout all competitive divisions of college sports," said Elmore. "The Knight Commission's report lays out a road map for how the CFP and the NCAA and its member institutions can turn pledges into policies that do just that."

Please see **EQUITY/7A**



The staff at Seven Springs Farm and Vineyard



CIAA greets Wallace, Dandridge selected HOF

Continued from page 6A
it would be if NCCU won a title in the final year of the program.

And, in no surprise to anyone, Ryan Miller was named MEAC pitcher of the year; Chet Sikes, rookie of the year; and Jim Koerner, coach of the year.

* In softball, kudos to the Lady Eagles for advancing to the championship game. They lost to Morgan State. Senior Joirea Dumas and freshman Hailey Bastista were named all-conference.

St. Aug's golf tourney

Seven Springs Farm and Vineyard is the title sponsor for St. Augustine's annual golf tournament fundraiser. The June 18 event will be held at Heddingham Golf Course in Ra-

leigh.

Seven Springs is based in Norlina, North Carolina, and is just 1 of 23 black-owned farms and vineyards in the country.

"We look at this as an opportunity for us to partner with the university through academics," said owner Preston Williams Jr. "This is an opportunity for us to partner in developing young minds and young entrepreneurs, and be an example for those who are stepping out to the real world."

To register for the tourney, visit saintaugfalcons.com.

MEAC softball

Morgan State will take on No. 1 seed Oklahoma in the 2021 NCAA Softball Championships. The Bears

travel to Norman, Oklahoma, for a May 21 contest at 8:30 p.m. The matchup will be streamed on ESPN3.

SWAC softball

Alabama State won't have to go far for the Tuscaloosa Regional. The Hornets face No. 3 seed Alabama May 21, 5 p.m., on the SEC Network.

SIAC partnership

How many times can CC say it? HBCUs are hot right now. The SIAC and Coca-Cola have extended their partnership for another five years.

The soft drink company will continue to be the "official beverage partner" of the conference.

Plan to create racial equity for Black college athletes

Continued from page 6A

In addition to the new action steps, the Commission underscored the importance of its April 2020 principles to guide new rules to allow all athletes to earn compensation for the use of their name, image and likeness. While new NIL opportunities will benefit all athletes, it is expected that the greatest financial benefit will be for athletes in Football Bowl Subdivision football and Division I basketball, which have a higher percentage of Black athletes, many of whom face formidable financial strains at college.

The Commission also urges action on its prior proposals to add current college football players, including Black college

football players, to the CFP governing board. As reports emerge that the CFP is considering expanding to include more teams, the Knight Commission renewed its 2017 request to the CFP Board of Managers to set aside at least 1% of its nearly \$500 million annual distribution — a penny of every dollar — to fund initiatives to boost the diversity of leadership in college football and in athletics departments. The CFP does not designate any of its revenues to support national diversity initiatives, and FBS head coaches are among the least diverse groups in all of Division I leadership, despite the fact that about half of all FBS players are Black.

To advance and build

collaboration to achieve the equity goals highlighted in its report, the Knight Commission is announcing that it will offer \$100,000 in multi-year Challenge grants to fund research that demonstrates how specific interventions impact the Black athlete experience and/or Black athlete advocacy areas.

The Commission plans to award grant recipients who exhibit a partnership between researchers and athletics department administrators. The grants will be directed towards NCAA Division I, II or III institutions. More information on this program will be available on <http://www.knightcommission.org/grants>.



Storey Jackson



Jacoby Jones

'First Take' heads to MEAC/SWAC Challenge

Continued from page 6A
and an interception. He led the nation in tackles per game with 16.7.

Ralph is also on the second team. The University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff's punt returner finished third in the FCS with 892 all-purposes yards and first in combined kick returns (589 yards).

From Raven to Bear

Former Baltimore Ravens kickoff returner Jacoby

Jones has joined Morgan State's staff as tight ends coach.

"He is a person of high integrity, a great family man, a relentless recruiter and a proven winner who checked all the boxes during this critical time for the Morgan State football program," head coach Tyrone Wheatley said. "His ability to connect with young men and develop them to excel both on and off the field has been proven throughout his young career."

Despite playing for Division II Lane College, Jones was drafted by the Houston Texans in the third round of the 2007 NFL Draft.

He played in the league for nine seasons, amassing 203 receptions for 2,733 yards and 14 touchdowns, plus five kickoff returns and four punt returns for scores. He helped lead the Ravens to a 34-31 win over San Francisco in Super Bowl XLVII.

Are you at higher risk for having a life-changing stroke?

STATEPOINT

Latia Howard, lead scorer of the University of Pittsburgh women's basketball team, was being recruited by the WNBA and at the top of her game. But that all changed after she suffered a stroke at just 21 years old.

Early one morning, Howard began experiencing weakness in her arm and leg. While she decided to skip practice that day, she didn't think too much of it. When her roommate told her trainer why Howard wasn't at practice and what she was experiencing, he called her and noticed she didn't sound right on the phone. He went straight to her apartment, and after realizing something was very wrong, he immediately called 911 and she was rushed to the emergency room.

According to the American Stroke Association, African Americans have a higher prevalence of stroke and the highest death rate from stroke than any other racial group. Among stroke survivors, African Americans are more likely to be disabled and have difficulties doing daily activities.

A star athlete before her stroke, not only was Howard unable to play basketball afterward, she had to relearn how to walk and talk, falling into a depression. The stroke forced Howard to re-imagine her goal of being a professional basketball player. She shifted her dream of playing in the WNBA to coaching young, up-and-coming basketball players.



"I am grateful I am here and can share my story," says Howard who, now 43, is an educator and basketball coach. "I encourage my team to always give 100% because at one time in my life, I couldn't give anything."

A testament to the fact that stroke can happen to anyone, of any age, at any time, Howard encourages everyone to know their body so they can recognize when something feels different or wrong. "When it comes to stroke, every moment counts," she says. "A person could lose everything to stroke, so it's important to call 911 the moment something seems off."

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports that almost half of African Americans have at

least one risk factor for stroke, including manageable conditions like high blood pressure and diabetes, as well as genetic conditions like sickle cell disease. That is why it's important for everyone to be aware of their risk factors and learn the signs to watch.

BE FAST stands for Balance, Eyes, Face, Arm, Speech, Time and refers to these signs of stroke:

- * Balance: sudden loss of balance
- * Eyes: loss of vision in one or both eyes
- * Face: face looks uneven or droopy
- * Arm: arm or leg is weak or hanging down
- * Speech: slurred speech, trouble speaking or seems confused
- * Time: immediately call 911

Durham Police Athletic League honored



COURTESY

The Durham Police Department's Police Athletic League recently was honored as "Community Champions" by Blue Cross Blue Shield NC and Duke Athletics. For 10 years, the program has built relationships between police officers, youth, and their families through recreation, sports, academics, career exploration, and more with the goal of building trust in the community.

Williams is loving life

Continued from page 6A

says he's not allowed to discuss it for legal reasons. But here's no secret: he's having the last laugh.



Left to right: Walter Clyburn II, Corey Robinson and Thomas Massey gather in Charlotte for a photo shoot.

Black tech start-up plugs in, flips switch for authentic connections

By John McCann
CORRESPONDENT

DURHAM — You might call Thomas Massey the Black Mark Zuckerberg. Massey doesn't mind the label, understanding that what he's doing as a Gen Xer in the tech space is something millennials like Zuckerberg would, well, subscribe to and like and share.

Launched in December, inquireaboutme.com (i.am) is a free social media network enabling individuals to provide, share and view professional or personal video references. Similar to, say, Facebook and LinkedIn, the i.am platform is nimble enough for users to pretty much do what they want to do with it.

Where i.am is different is with its laser focus on building intentional relationships. No behind-the-scenes algorithms hawking ads, funneling news stories and otherwise pushing undesirable content to users. "My platform allows you to see the face of the individual providing the reference, authenticating the reference before finalizing a recommendation for employment, college admission, patronizing a business," Massey said. "Whether you're applying for a job, trying to get in college, highlighting your personal achievements, professional achievements, inquireaboutme does the talking for you with videos, pictures and blogs."

The idea is to get away from that tired line on cover letters and résumés

about references being available upon request, Massey said. His platform, available through Google Play and Apple's App Store, lets users compile those references in one tidy spot, allowing employers to go online and hear for themselves what references have to say about individuals they're considering hiring — not just hear but watch. University admissions officers could listen to someone talk authentically about the way a student prospect volunteered at the local homeless shelter, and there might be video references from a teacher or counselor, for example.

"Since we live in the information age, I believe that the timing for i.am couldn't be better," said Richard Burton, chief financial officer. "With virtual meetings and working from home now being the norm, i.am is perfectly positioned for this time where online activity is on the rise. As i.am begins to gain traction, I can see it as one of the top social media apps for sharing information."

Launched during the pandemic, the i.am platform was years in the making. It required a lot of money — money Massey didn't have. From computer programming and web development to all of the legal aspects necessary to lay the foundation for a multi-million-dollar company, Massey either was pushing all of those buttons or establishing the right relationships in order to make it happen. Short on funds,

Massey offset that with friends, and it made all of the difference.

"As an investor who works in the technology industry, I can recognize the drive and determination from the CEO — Thomas Massey — on his vision. I can tell that he is passionate about the development of the product, and failure is not an option," said Ken Rhone, a software product developer for Boeing.

Before entering the tech space, Massey, a North Carolina Central University graduate, enjoyed a successful career as the marketing and design manager for The Herald-Sun, a daily newspaper in Durham. Massey is a relationship guy, and the newspaper role allowed him to maximize that soft skill. "Thomas is a dear friend who provides an unbiased listening ear and unwavering support. As a businessman, Thomas Massey is a creative, punctual and driven visionary who strives for excellence and quality in all of his endeavors," Walter Clyburn II said.

"I've had the pleasure of growing up with Mr. Thomas Massey since we were 5 years of age," Corey Robinson said. "So when the opportunity presented itself to invest into i.am, it was a no-brainer. For the last 45 years, Thomas has always presented himself with high integrity and character, which is a direct reflection of an exciting new tech start-up that will simply take the world by storm."

HBCU NEWS

N.C. CENTRAL
Associate professor of history Tony Frazier, Ph.D., has been named a fellow of the National Humanities Center.



Frazier has been chosen for the 2021-22 Mellon-HBCU Fellowship, an initiative that provides residential fellowships for 12 scholars from Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

"My excitement about the National Humanities Fellowship is beyond boundless. I am truly enthused and overjoyed to partici-

pate in the fellowship," Frazier said. "It will not only enrich my current project but will afford me time to research and visualize future research ideas, as well."

Frazier will use the fellowship to spend a year at the National Humanities Center in Research Triangle Park working on his book manuscript, "Slaves Without Wages: Runaway Black Slaves and Servants in Eighteenth-Century London."

His research focuses on social and legal history of Africans in Great Britain during the 18th century, Atlantic slavery and eman-

cipation, and African American history. Frazier is also an NCCU-Duke University Franklin Humanities Institute Digital Humanities fellow. During his fellowship, he explored prominent African-British people from the 18th century and digitally mapped the travels of NCCU founder James E. Shepard and abolitionist Frederick Douglass.

Frazier obtained a bachelor's in history and political science, and a master's degree in history from NCCU. He earned a doctoral degree in modern European history from Western Michigan University.

Most transracial adoptive families don't talk race

Continued from page 5A
form, with the permissible consideration language restored. He also said Bethany remains fully committed to transracial adoption.

Kris Nohe, a writer and consultant in Virginia, said she and her husband had very little training in transracial adoption when their children Nicholas and Rachel, who are Black, came to live with them.

The couple called a Black friend for some advice about bath time. The friend, Nohe recalled, told her to hold off until she could come over and lend

a hand. "That was our first introduction into 'this is going to be different,'" she said.

Some friends and neighbors were supportive. Others were not. Having Black children, Nohe said, made her aware of how much she did not know.

"You're going to need to step out of your comfort zone and face issues you've blissfully been allowed to ignore," she said.

Nicholas Nohe, who is 18, said he always knew his parents had a different skin color than he did. But he didn't realize those differences mattered, at least

to the outside world, until he was about 10.

Some of his friends didn't think his parents were his "real parents," and he felt he had to prove he belonged in his own family at times.

Today, he said, things are better. But still, there are reminders he is different from his parents and his white brothers.

"It's still a struggle for me," he said. "Just going to restaurants, where I'll take my brothers out to eat and they'll always try to seat them first. We'll have to say, 'no, we're actually all together.'"



New 'Selfies' store opens in Crabtree Valley Mall

STAFF REPORTS

RALEIGH — You Love Selfies will open its doors this weekend at Crabtree Valley Mall.

The space boasts 15-plus unique installations, offering endless opportunities for capturing the perfect "selfie" photo.

You Love Selfies provides all guests with a fun, entertaining experience where you get to express yourself in your own creative way.

Each of the 15-plus spaces was designed by Don Ricardo Massenburg Jr. Recognized for his use of bright, bold patterns and colors in home décor, Massenburg's love of art,

music, furniture, and anything creative fuels his passion for design.

This collaboration is a great example of small businesses supporting one another to create a better community. Massenburg is the owner and lead designer at DESiGN iNK-REDiBLE, based in Durham.

"We wanted to create a space that everyone could enjoy, something fun and different," says co-owner Arica Scott.

After visiting a few selfie museums during their out-of-town travels, the mother-daughter duo, Benita Scott and Arica Scott, loved the experience so much, they thought it

would be a good idea to bring one to the Triangle area.

"This has truly been a labor of love for us. We've had a few setbacks, but we're excited about what's to come," says co-owner Benita Scott.

You Love Selfies offers individual day passes, packages for photo shoots and private events.

Hours of operation are Wednesday through Thursday from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Friday-Saturday, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.; and Sundays, 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. For more information, visit <https://www.youloveselfies.com>.

Maximize your harvest with the proper care

By Melinda Myers
SPECIAL TO THE TRIBUNE

Grow an abundant harvest with some timely garden care. Arm yourself with a few basic tools, a bit of time and regular visits to the garden throughout the growing season to keep plants healthy and more productive.

You don't need to invest in every garden tool on the market. A shovel, trowel, weeding tool, gloves and kneeling pad are the basics. If your budget is tight, ask gardening friends and family if they have extras to spare or lend.

Now you are ready to get started. Weed control is an ongoing task. Working in a few minutes of weeding time as your schedule allows makes this a much less overwhelming task. Keep a bucket with your favorite weeding tool, gloves, and kneeling pad by the door. Anytime you have a few minutes between other activities pull a few weeds.

If tools are handy, you spend less time looking for them and more time accomplishing the task. Consider keeping all your tools conveniently stored and ready for the garden in a mobile tool storage caddy (gardeners.com). It has room for short and long handled tools, a bucket for gathering weeds plus wheels and a handle for easy maneuvering.

Spread a layer of shredded leaves, evergreen needles or other organic matter over the soil surface surrounding your vegetable plants. This layer of organic matter helps conserve moisture so you will need to water less often. It also helps suppress weeds and improves the soil as it decomposes.

As your seeds sprout and begin to grow, you will need to do a bit of thinning. Remove extra plants, leaving enough space for those remaining seedlings to reach full size.

The seed packet recommends the proper spacing for the vegetables you planted. Good news, some seedlings like radishes,



GARDENER'S SUPPLY CO.

Keeping all your garden tools organized and conveniently stored will save time and energy throughout the growing season.

beets and spinach are edible so think of this as harvesting instead.

Once you make your first harvest, leaving space in the garden, fill it with another planting. Succession, also called relay planting, allows you to grow several different vegetables in the same space. Just make sure the second planting has time to reach maturity and produce before the end of the season. Seed packets and plant tags contain information on the number of days from planting to harvest. Compare this to the number of days until the average first fall frost.

Keep plants healthy with proper watering and fertilization. Water new plantings often enough to keep the top few inches of soil slightly moist. Wait until the top few inches of soil are crumbly and moist to deeply water established plants.

Deep watering, moistening the top six inches of soil, encourages plants to develop a more drought resistant root system. Frequent shallow watering keeps roots near the soil surface where they dry out quickly. Insufficient water means fewer and smaller vegetables.

Follow soil test recommendations for fertilizing your plants. If these are not available, consider using a fertilizer recommended for vegetable gardens. Apply it according to the label directions.

Providing plants with space to grow and keeping them healthy means fewer insect and disease problems. That means a bigger harvest for you and your family to enjoy all season long.

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

MOVERS AND SHAKERS

COMMUNITY HEALTH COALITION

Dr. Ruth Gilliam-Phillips has been named the new executive director of the Community Health Coalition. She replaces Dr. Elaine Hart-Brothers, co-founder and executive director of the



Gilliam-Phillips

CHC. Phillips, nicknamed "Dr. Ruth," will oversee the growth, strategic direction and business operations of the organization. She earned both her bachelor's and master's degrees at Morgan State University.

DURHAM COUNTY
Claudia Hager has been named interim county manager for Durham County Government. She replaces Wendell Davis

who was fired after seven years. Hager is a graduate of Winston-Salem State.

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.