

The Triangle TRIBUNE

THE TRIANGLE'S CHOICE FOR THE BLACK VOICE

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The MEAC unveils its spring sports schedule, with fall sports added in



Judges to decide on law

By Jordan Wilkie
CAROLINA PUBLIC PRESS

Civil rights groups are challenging the constitutionality of a North Carolina law that keeps people convicted of felonies from being able to vote even after they are released from prison.

If they win the case, 56,000 North Carolinians would be restored their right to vote before the November elections.

North Carolina laws taking the right to vote away from people convicted of felonies originate with the state's 1875 constitutional amendment, which lawmakers explicitly passed as a mechanism to disenfranchise recently freed Black citizens. The lawsuit, filed in Wake County Superior Court in front of a three-judge panel, names both the legislature and the state Board of Elections as defendants.

The current legal system, under guidance from the North Carolina Constitution, says any person convicted of a felony loses his or her right to vote until that right is restored "in the manner prescribed by law." By state law, originally written just after the Civil War and revised in 1973, the right is not restored until there is an "unconditional discharge" from state custody. That includes probation and post-release supervision, which used to be called parole in North Carolina.

When pressed by the judges, lawyers for the state first said the racially discriminatory intent of the state Constitution's felon disenfranchisement law would be hard to defend. Then state lawyers said there are instances under the current law that are discriminatory and the law could likely be improved. But neither the N.C. Constitution nor the quality of the legislature's 1973 law was at question here, they said, claiming that for the plaintiffs to win, they would need to show that the law in its entirety was unconstitutional.

That is precisely what Daryl Atkinson, lead attorney for the plaintiffs and co-director of the Durham-based civil rights group Forward Justice, tried to do. He couched his arguments in the significance of the current political moment, during a global pandemic, a massive economic downturn that destabilized schooling and housing and civil rights protests of a scope not seen since 1968. "If there was ever a time in this state's history where we need to hear from all the voices of our citizens on the proper direction of our

Please see **EX-FELONS/2A**



Left to right: Kimberly Mukhtarian, Dasia Turner and Octavia Rainey.

East Raleigh residents forced to move

By Lori D.R. Wiggins
CORRESPONDENT

RALEIGH - Residents living in a row of duplexes along the New Bern Avenue corridor, a hotspot for city economic development, have been told to move within 60 days or face eviction.

For Dasia Turner, 25, that means finding a new place for her and her 2-year-old son by Oct. 6.

"It's crazy. We have to leave in the middle of a pandemic," said Turner, who moved into her apartment at 1930 New Bern Avenue less than a year ago. "It's hard."

Hard because, like millions of Americans, Turner was laid off from work due to COVID-19 restrictions and shutdowns, and her son's day care closed its doors, also. In addition, her unemployment benefit has been reduced to

\$94 per week, making it impossible to keep up with her \$800 monthly rent, let alone food, utilities and other basic necessities.

Even so, 3POINTS Properties began delivering the 60-day notices to Turner and her neighbors living in the duplexes located between Raleigh Boulevard and King Charles Road. Other duplexes

Please see **RALEIGH/2A**

Preschoolers are being suspended and expelled

By Liz Bell
EDUCATIONNC

Emily Jackson, a program director at the Appalachian Sustainable Agriculture Project, said that when she started talking about preschoolers being suspended or expelled, the response often depended on the race of the listener.

White people's jaws dropped.

"Black people knew that this has been happening for a long time," Jackson said.

A 2014 national report from the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights found that Black preschoolers were three times more likely to be suspended or expelled than their white classmates. Data from North Carolina public preschool programs showed that 47% of children suspended once and 73% of children suspended more than once were Black in 2015-16.

"Early childhood serves as a protective factor, and so we are ushering the young kids out of the very environments



School suspensions are still along racial lines.

that are supposed to support them" when they are suspended or expelled, said Ebonyse Mead, president of the Educational Equity Institute and instructor at Georgia Southern University. "As an early childhood professional, however, you touch children

... you can't ignore the data." North Carolina activists and researchers such as Mead and Jackson gathered virtually to draw attention to these and other racial inequities in early care and education systems. The conference was funded by

Please see **PRESCHOOL/2A**

'It's your fault, not the students'

By Rob Schofield
THE POLICY WATCH

The news has been coming fast and furious from the UNC System in recent days and little of it has been good. To the surprise of just about no one except, evidently, the leaders of the System, the plan to reopen the state's 17 campuses for in-person instruction has been quickly unraveling.

As Joe Killian reported over the weekend for Policy Watch, East Carolina and UNC Charlotte have joined UNC-Chapel Hill and N.C. State in moving to online-only instruction to counter the spread of the novel coronavirus. This means the state's four largest schools, which in 2019 enrolled 52% of the students in the entire UNC system, have already bailed out of the planned reopening scheme before it really got underway. It's hard to imagine that these schools will be the last to choose such a path.

As best as can be divined from the opaque reporting systems employed by various campuses, hundreds of people have been sickened, though thus far at least, the public has not been made aware of any deaths or hospitalizations. Of course, given our incomplete understanding of the virus and its long-term effects, and the nation's inability to perform effective contact tracing, there is no way to say at this point that this will remain the case. So how did this happen? How could a multi-billion-dollar system that serves and employs hundreds of thousands of people and directly impacts millions so badly miscalculate such a fundamental decision?

To hear the leaders of the System and some individual campuses talk, the fault lies with irresponsible students who flaunted public safety rules. After describing the efforts that went into planning for reopening, new UNC System President Peter Hans said "[t]his hard work is being undermined by a very small number of students behaving irresponsibly off campus, which unfairly punishes the vast majority of their classmates who are following the rules."

Similarly, after describing reports of large parties in Raleigh - particularly in fraternities and sororities - N.C. State Chancellor Randy Woodson echoed those sentiments saying "Unfortunately, the actions of a few are jeopardizing the health and safety of the larger community."

ECU interim chancellor Ron Mitchelson used similar language in an Aug. 18 letter to faculty and staff in which he stated that "a small but visible fraction of our total student body scare us and the community with parties that

Please see **UNC/2A**

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East Raleigh residents forced to move

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on the back side of the property have been emptied. 3POINTS manages the nearly 7-acre development built in 1947, which was bought by Austin, Texas, real estate investment firm, Artesia Real Estate, doing business locally as New Bern Poole, LLC, for a reported \$4 million in November 2017.

Until it expired in June, a statewide eviction moratorium issued by Gov. Roy Cooper was a safeguard for residents like Turner from economic strain and exposure to COVID-19. A federal moratorium remains in place, including for federally financed properties, accounting for 28% of the nation's rental units.

Meanwhile, housing and legal experts forecast a surge of evictions in North Carolina. In the midst of a health and economic crisis, that means not only an increase in homelessness, but also a likely rise in cases of the coronavirus, as well as other social and mental health stressors, they predict.

"This is a crisis," said Octavia Rainey, a longtime Raleigh housing and community advocate. "The City

of Raleigh needs to stop this from happening, and stop this right now! Where are they going to go in this pandemic? City of Raleigh, you ought to be ashamed of yourself. You are not protecting the protected class."

Larry Jarvis, who heads the city's Housing and Neighborhoods Department said, while he is familiar with Duplex Village, he is unaware that tenants are being forced out. As for any help the city is providing for the residents, Jarvis pointed to the city giving funds to nonprofits to help residents who have lost wages during the coronavirus pandemic.

The situation calls for more, said Rainey, especially in a city already in a housing crisis, reeling from the effects of gentrification and begging for affordable housing that truly is affordable. The rush to vacate Duplex Village, Rainey suggests, is a matter of the city's urgency to demolish the property and redevelop it for more upscale housing, and tenants to match its focus on the area's streetscape, urban design, economic development, and

transit possibilities.

"There needs to still be a moratorium," Rainey said. "Where're the emergency vouchers? Where's the money from the Community Development Block Grant program? This is a pandemic. We're asking for fair housing."

Anything less, said Kimberly Mukhtarian, ignores the impact of the economic downturn, especially on low-income residents, and creates an "unnecessary crisis" devoid of any semblance of equity. Already, Mukhtarian's organizations, Save Our Sons and S.O.S. Consulting Group, have come together to save from eviction a single mother of four children who had been padlocked out of her home in another Raleigh neighborhood.

"We all know, once that eviction is on your record, other renters will not rent to you...it's like you have a felony," Mukhtarian said, noting evictions also cause HUD disqualifications. "Displacing low-income residents is not good. It increases the crisis to the next level."

"It's economic lynching."

Preschoolers expelled

Continued from page 1A
the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and organized by ASAP, the Educational Equity Institute, the National Black Child Development Institute, and the Jordan Institute for Families at UNC-Chapel Hill's School of Social Work.

"We know that when we push these bodies out of the classroom, when we're not being intentional about providing high-quality child care to all of our children, particularly our Black and our brown babies, that we have the potential to destroy academic careers before they even begin," said Devonya Govan-Hunt, president of the Charlotte affiliate of the Black Child Development Institute. "That's what's happening in this space."

A 2016 study from the Yale Child Study Center pointed to teachers' implicit bias as a possible explanation for the racial disparities in preschool discipline.

Using eye-tracking technology, the researchers found that pre-K teachers

spent more time looking at Black children, particularly Black boys, than white children when watching videos in which they were told to press a key "every time you see a behavior that could become a potential challenge." The children in the videos were participating in normal classroom activities.

According to the N.C. Early Childhood Foundation, both N.C. Pre-K and Head Start have either prohibited or strongly discouraged suspension and expulsion. The state Division of Child Development and Early Education released a statement in 2017, saying the division's intent is "to prevent, severely limit, and work toward eventually eliminating the expulsion and suspension - and ensure the safety and well-being - of young children in early learning settings."

Jennifer Neitzel, Educational Equity Institute's executive director, said workforce issues around minimal education standards, low compensation,

and stressful working conditions often leave early educators without the resources to address children's behaviors. North Carolina child care workers made a median hourly wage of \$10.35 in 2019, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. The state's minimum education standard to be a lead early childhood teacher is one community college course. "We're not adequately preparing our workforce to keep children, and so because a lot of teachers don't know what to do with behaviors, it's just easier to kick them out," Neitzel said.

Digging deeper than programmatic fixes or single-issue focuses is necessary, Mead said.

"Implicit bias, preschool suspension and expulsions, the idea of colorblindness, all of that is just a symptom of whiteness in our society," Mead said. "We have questions that we have to unpack, and that larger question is: How do we reimagine a system that is inclusive for everybody?"

Durham native serves aboard USS Ronald Reagan

STAFF REPORTS

Durham native and Westover High graduate Deandre Hallmon is serving aboard USS Ronald Reagan, which is continuing to conduct operations in the Indo-Pacific region.

Hallmon, an Aviation Ordnanceman Airman, is responsible for ordnance handling throughout the ship and ensuring aircraft are properly armed and disarmed. "I take pride in being an AO and supporting the mission," he said. "Without ordnance, the mission wouldn't be possible because unarmed aircrafts makes us vulnerable."

Since the ship's Yokosuka departure in June, the Ronald Reagan continues to operate in the Indo-Pacific alongside allies and partners to demonstrate the United States' commitment to defense agreements, as well as provide security and stability in support of a free and open Indo-Pacific region.

Last month, USS Nimitz and USS Ronald Reagan Carrier Strike Groups started conducting dual carrier operations in the Philippine Sea and South China Sea. These carrier strike groups incorporate the capabilities of embarked fixed and rotary wing aircraft, Aegis guided-missile cruisers and attack

submarines. This opportunity for two carrier strike groups to train and operate together in the region pro-

vides combatant commanders with significant operational flexibility and capabilities.

Judges to decide on voting rights for ex-felons

Continued from page 1A
state and country, now is that time," Atkinson said.

Superior Court Judge Lisa Bell said the court will make its decision no later than Sept. 4, which is the beginning of by-mail voting and 60 days before Election Day.

The disenfranchisement law disproportionately harms Black North Carolinians, who make up 22% of

the state's population but 42% of people disenfranchised due to community supervision.

This limits the Black community's ability to exercise political influence through a vote. A common misperception, though, is that this influence, if restored, would help a single political party.

There is little evidence to support that claim, which

tends to exaggerate the number of Black people with felonies and the rate at which Black people vote for the Democratic Party.

Though Black North Carolinians are disenfranchised at by far the highest rates as a percentage of the state's population, just over half of the people disenfranchised are white.

UNC System: 'It's your fault, not the students'

Continued from page 1A
are too large, too dense, unmasked, and irresponsible."

Unfortunately, there are several problems with the "student irresponsibility" explanation. First and foremost is the fact that such behavior was and is utterly predictable;

System leaders had to have foreseen it. All the members of the UNC Board of Governors and the individual campus leaders were once 18- and 19-year-old college students with illusions of immortality. No doubt, many of them were members of fraternities and sororities who sought to mimic the antics celebrated in films like Animal House and Revenge of the Nerds. It strains credulity to imagine that many of them didn't engage in similarly "irresponsible" behavior that flouted the rules of administrators 30, 40 or 50 years ago.

And even if one sets aside the obvious foreseea-

bility of large student parties and kids acting like kids, the simple fact is that rapid virus spread is almost always what occurs when you gather hundreds of individuals to live together in close, congested living quarters. As Killian also reported last week, "[t]he full-capacity dorm plans embraced by most UNC system schools...are considered highest risk by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's guidelines for colleges and universities."

The failed reopening was also something that scores of system faculty and staff members - the people closest to the students - had forecast and pleaded with System leaders to avoid. Now add to all this the fact that many students hail from families and communities in which straight-out virus denialism continues to hold sway, and the notion that disciplined behavior could somehow win the day is

rendered even more of a "Hail Mary" long shot.

The driving factor in this whole mess - as it has been in so many other parts of the nation's disastrous pandemic response - lies in the failure of conservative elected leaders to lead. From President Trump down through Education Secretary Betsy DeVos to the conservative budget makers at the N.C. General Assembly and, ultimately, to their handpicked UNC Board of Governors, the message has been as loud and clear as it has been disastrous: reopen as quickly as possible, and don't count on the kind of financial aid that would allow you to avoid doing so.

The bottom line: While there's nothing wrong with using it as a teachable moment to help some young people learn important lessons, the failed UNC System reopening is the fault of the people in charge, not the students.

Relief coming to help with evictions for renters

Continued from page 1A
the remaining money in the coming weeks, according to Cooper's office.

The announcement comes as North Carolina grapples with a large uptick in coronavirus cases across many college campuses.

During the second week of classes, the proportion of COVID-19 tests coming back positive at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill was 32.2%, up from 13.6% during the first week of classes and 2.8% the week before in-person learning.

Mandy Cohen, secretary of the state's Department of Health and Human Services, said at a news conference on Tuesday that she wants colleges to more strictly enforce their honor codes by punishing students who participate in large, off-campus parties. Cooper's executive order

limits gatherings to 10 people indoors and 25 people outdoors.

"This is about making sure that the guidance that we have on paper turns into the implementation that we need to see, and we need to see the universities do that ... to make sure students, whether on or off campus, are abiding by that guidance and the protocols to keep them and their communities safe," Cohen said.

Since UNC-Chapel Hill resumed classes on Aug. 10, at least 635 students have tested positive for the coronavirus. North Carolina State University has reported 258 cases in the same period. At East Carolina University, 291 students got the coronavirus between Aug. 9 and Aug. 22. By Wednesday, all three campuses will have halted in-person classes for undergraduate students.

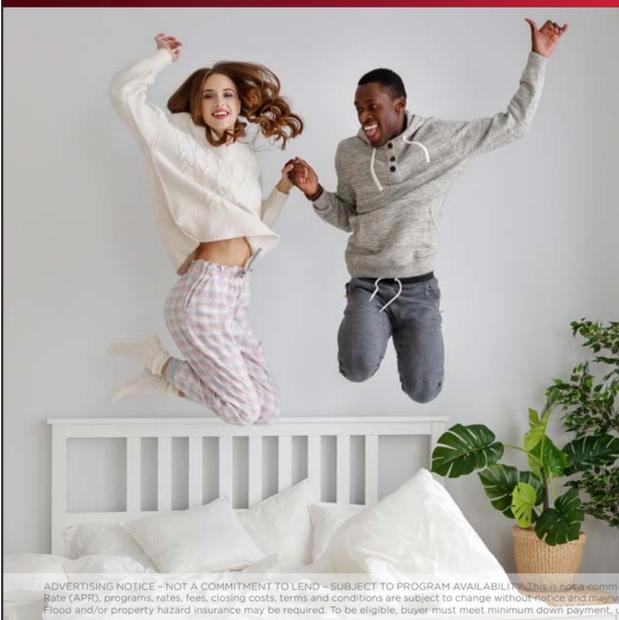
UNC-Charlotte begins classes Sept. 7 with online-only instruction. In-person classes for both undergraduate and graduate students is delayed until Oct. 1.

The four campuses that have shut down in-person learning to undergraduate students represent the four largest public colleges and universities in the University of North Carolina System in terms of undergraduate enrollment.

Thousands of students across the state have left their dorms and are about to get prorated refunds for housing and dining costs, which will put the already-worried UNC System in greater financial distress.

Jennifer Haygood, chief financial officer for the UNC System, pleaded with state lawmakers on Tuesday for \$100 million in "flexible funding."

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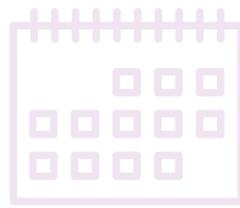
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Classified Deadline: Wednesday at 5p.m., prior to Sunday's edition

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LEGAL NOTICE
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(IFB 21 - 001)

Pursuant to North Carolina General Statutes 143-129, the County of Durham will accept sealed bids for Durham County Sheriff's Office X-Ray Scanners & Metal Detector Equipment at the Durham County Purchasing Division, 201 East Main Street, 7th Floor Conference Room, Durham, North Carolina 27701, until 2:00 P.M. Eastern Time, on September 15, 2020, at which time they will be publicly opened and read. Only sealed bids will be accepted. No bids will be accepted after the official time and date.

Copies of the solicitation may be obtained in the Durham County Purchasing Division, County 201 East Main Street, 7th Floor, Durham, North Carolina, from 8:30 A.M. until 5:00 P.M. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday. An electronic copy of this IFB can be obtained by sending your request to purchasinggroup@dconc.gov. Questions concerning administrative matters should be directed to Candy Harmon, Procurement Specialist, at (919) 560-0741.

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



LEGAL NOTICE REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS: Durham Public Schools has issued an RFQ for Professional Design Services for Facility Renovation, Demolition and Addition(s)-for various Elementary Schools. Submittal due date/time: September 18, 2020 at 3:00 p.m. For Legal Notice and RFQ information, go to http://www.dpsnc.net and select Resources/Construction & Capital Planning. Issue date 8-21-20.

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Hezekiah Walker holds newly minted platinum plaque for his hit single. DARYL TILLMAN

Hezekiah Walker's hit certified platinum

By Bill Carpenter

SPECIAL TO THE TRIBUNE

After Hezekiah Walker performed "Every Praise" at the Minneapolis memorial service for George Floyd, there was a massive renewed interest from people wanting to add a dose of faith-filled inspiration to their personal playlists during one of the most challenging times of social unrest in recent history.

"Every Praise" is featured on Walker's 14th album "Azusa: The Next Generation," which was released in 2013. The song had a 26-week No. 1 run at Gospel radio, and was on the Billboard Hot Gospel Songs chart for an incredible 67 weeks.

In 2019, "Every Praise" was named Gospel Song of the Decade by Billboard Magazine.

"Every Praise" is the epitome of worship and its proper direction," said singer and radio host Yolanda Adams when the song was first released. It has served as a mainstay for Christians around the world, and this is not the first time that it has pro-

vided a reference for healing and strength during immense challenge.

In 2014, a young boy in Georgia sang the song for nearly three hours straight while he was in the back of a car after being kidnapped from his driveway. His kidnapper kept telling him to "shut up," but he didn't, and he was ultimately released unharmed.

"When I first heard 'Every Praise,' I knew it was a song that I needed to record. To know that the song physically saved a young child's life is the greatest feeling that no award or crowd can give," said Walker. "I love the song because it is simple and has a purity about its worship essence. I believe those are also the elements that draw people in, and that make it a song that - once you hear it - just stays with you. I'm grateful to everyone who has been a part of 'Every Praise' being certified platinum."

Walker is a Gospel music pioneer, and the traditional sound and energetic style of his Love Fellowship Choir has influenced a generation of great singers and ensembles. His passion for

choirs led him to launch HezHouse Entertainment as a platform for keeping progressive choir music alive.

The first two artists signed to HezHouse, which is distributed through RCA Inspiration, are Vincent Bohanan & SOV, and Kevin Lemons & Higher Calling. Walker says that both of these groups embody "the strength of the new millennial sound of choirs."

Walker is senior pastor of Love Fellowship Tabernacle, with locations in Brooklyn, New York, and Bensalem, Pennsylvania. He is also a bishop in the Pentecostal Church through which he oversees 28 churches in the U.S. and South Africa. The Brooklyn native is a dedicated New Yorker and a seminal figure in his home borough. He will break ground soon on HezHouse Apartments, an affordable and supportive housing development by Hezekiah Walker & Love Fellowship Tabernacle, Brooklyn Community Housing & Services, and Alembic Community Development.

SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING



Beware those always seeking a pat on the back

By James A. Washington Jr.

NNPA NEWSWIRE

My mother used to have a phrase when she was alive. Usually referring to me and my attitude when I thought I had done something particularly noteworthy. She used it when describing somebody who started acting like they were better than someone else or felt their No. 2 didn't stink. She would say that person was simply "smelling himself." I came to see it as fishing for a compliment.

The Bible says unless your deeds are done to glorify God rather than yourself, you're "smellin' yosef." I'm here to tell you it's at these times that one ought to be very careful because, spiritually, you're entering deep water. "Be careful not to do your acts of righteousness before men, to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward in heaven." (Matthew 6:1)

It appears that intent and motivation are the true indicators of a person's real character and, ultimately, how he is viewed by God. Doing the right thing for the wrong reasons gets you nothing, zilch, nada. I mean, if you are trying to impress friends and family, or trying to receive honors from your fellow man for doing good deeds, you're smelling yourself

and sorely in need of some Right Guard.

Doing what you know is right — forgiving your enemies, turning the other cheek, helping the less fortunate, speaking truth to power — these are the things that are supposed to be done so that others might see the deed(s) as glorifying the Almighty; not so that people will be impressed with you. Even in prayer, the Bible says, "But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Your Father will reward you." (Matthew 6:6)

Haven't we all been unimpressed with someone who appears to sincerely help us or help another person out of what appears to be the goodness of their heart, only to find them with their hands out to get theirs, or their backs turned so the world can pat them on it? God tells us in His own ways that if you do that, talk to the Hand because the ears ain't listening. You don't give to receive, and you don't love to be loved. That's blackmail. That's extortion. It's impure and spiritually unacceptable.

Give because you want to and love because it's who you are. Anything else is a fraud and an affront to Jesus who gave His all and loved unconditionally so that we all might live. "In the same way, let your light

shine before men that they may see your good deeds and praise the father in heaven." (Matthew 5:16)

Granted, walking around with that level of purity in one's heart might be a bit much for most of us, present company included. However, it's pretty easy to know, acknowledge and understand that the real reason we reach out to someone else is to be seen as a good person by others.

We all want to be thought highly of by our peers, our parents and those closest to us. But in reality, only God counts when it comes to appreciating who we really are. Anything else is show. The rest is ego. "Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall." (Proverbs 16:18)

All of this points to being true to one's self, then talking the talk and walking the walk. The echo of mother's wit resonates in my mind as I try to remember exactly what mom was trying to teach me about myself.

Before I get too full of me, the real test just might be a good whiff of the fragrance underneath my arm. Nobody can pour anything into a full vessel. How you 'smellin' today?

May God bless and keep you always.

James A. Washington Jr., is the publisher of the *Dallas Weekly News*.

AROUND THE TRIANGLE

KNIGHTDALE FESTIVAL

Annual Mama Afrika Festival is Aug. 30, 2-6 p.m., Knightdale Station Park, 810 N. First Ave.

RALEIGH MARKET

The Raleigh Market has reopened after being shuttered since March due to the pandemic. The market is held at NC State Fairgrounds on Saturdays and Sundays.

FLEA MARKET

The next Black Flea Market is Aug. 30, 3-7 p.m., Garner Road Community Center, 2235 Garner Rd. Visit www.blackfleamarketnc.com.

GRANTS

Duke Energy is donating \$750,000 in grants to NC nonprofits dedicated to social justice and racial equity. \$25,000 grants will

be awarded to nonprofits that provides services to communities of color. Visit www.duke-energy.com. Deadline: Aug. 31.

CONFERENCE

A virtual Dementia Education Conference is Sept. 2, 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Register at tinyurl.com/DementiaConf2020, or call (800) 272-3900.

SROs

A virtual seminar on SROs in Wake County Public Schools is Sept. 9, 7-9 p.m. Register at attendee.gotowebinar.com

FOOD TRUCK

Chill. Claw. Chew. Black Food Truck Edition is Sept. 13, 2-6 p.m., Raleigh Boys Club, 605 N. Raleigh Blvd.

DURHAM SENIORS

Senior PHARMAssist will host a virtual Biscuits or

Beers conversation Sept. 17, 8-8:30 a.m. or 6-6:30 p.m. Email: info@senior-pharmacist.org.

APPLICANTS

Durham is seeking art lovers to serve on the Cultural Advisory Board's Public Art Committee. Visit durhampublicart.wufoo.com. Deadline: Sept. 7.

MENTORS

Greater Durham Black Chamber will host a small business discussion on working with a mentor, business counselor or coach Sept. 8, 2-3 p.m. Visit faq9820.eventbrite.com.

VOLUNTEERS

Triangle Nonprofit & Volunteer Leadership Center is seeking more volunteers for various needs throughout the Triangle. Visit www.handsontriangle.com.

Why companies so quickly endorsed BLM

By Eugene Y. Chan

THE CONVERSATION

It's not every day that you see companies switch gears on a dime. Not too long ago, few companies paid much attention to Black Lives Matter.

Today, in the wake of the George Floyd protests, it seems as if most major companies, including Apple, Amazon and Facebook, have endorsed the movement - or at a minimum pledged millions of dollars to fight racism and vowed to do more to end discrimination in their workplaces.

So how did companies so swiftly decide to align with Black Lives Matter? As with anything, there usually are lots of reasons. But one stands out: young people.

A post-Floyd poll found that nearly 90% of members of Generation Z - those born from 1997 to 2005 - believe African Americans are treated differently and support Black Lives Matter. That compares with just 60% of respondents under 30 who said they supported the movement back in 2016. More than two-thirds of Generation Z and millennials think brands should be even more involved in



Black Lives Matter. What's more, a group of people who notably don't follow the news paid very close attention to coverage of Floyd, with 83% of 18- to 29-year-olds following the news closely.

While a growing share of Americans of all ages and demographics have responded to Floyd's murder by acknowledging systemic racism pervades the criminal justice system, the views of generations Y and Z are particularly significant because attracting younger consumers is so vital to brands' future growth. As of 2020, there were 82 million millennials and 86 million members of Gen Z in the United States, compared with 69 million baby boomers.

As a result, the spending power of millennials - born from 1981 to 1996 - is currently estimated at about

\$2.5 trillion a year, according to YPulse, which researches younger generations. That could grow significantly in the coming years as they inherit \$68 trillion in wealth from their baby boomer parents, which will constitute one of the greatest wealth transfers in modern times.

Generation Z's spending power is a lot lower since few of them have entered the workforce, but Morgan Stanley predicts their spending to swell in the coming years. And the vast majority of millennials say it's important that the companies they buy from share their values, which is also true for Gen Z. It's also noteworthy that brands are expressing their support for the movement largely via social media, which is the primary place millennials learn about brands.

BOOK

D Hunter is at it again

THE DARKEST HEARTS
By Nelson George
Akashic Books,
\$16.95 PB

Former bodyguard D Hunter has moved to Los Angeles to become a talent manager.

Business is good: he has signed a hot Atlanta rapper named Lil Daye for management and negotiated a lucrative endorsement with a liquor band.

However, when D learns of the liquor CEO's unsavory sexual habits and reactionary political views, he worries that he has sold his soul.

Back in Brooklyn, New York, a body has been found in the waters near the Canarsie Pier; a body that connects D and the re-

tired hit man Ice to incidents from back in "The Plot Against Hip Hop," the second book in the series. Because of this discovery, an FBI agent wants to speak to D, which is making Ice nervous. And Ice is not a man you want worrying about you.

Meanwhile, in London, Serene Powers, a vigilante and sometime collaborator with D, breaks up a human trafficking ring.

In the process, she makes some new, unlikely allies. When Serene returns to the U.S., D asks her for

assistance with a sensitive and volatile matter in Atlanta involving Lil Daye, his wife, his mistress, and a thug on his payroll named Ant.

The Darkest Hearts reflects the challenges of being a black businessperson in an era when the rules of entrepreneurship are constantly shifting beneath an increasingly polarized political environment.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR: George is an author, filmmaker and lifelong resident of Brooklyn. His books include the first four novels in his *D Hunter* mystery series. He was also a writer/producer on the Netflix series "The Get Down."





Doug Williams gets center at GSU

By Raven Thissel
SPECIAL TO THE TRIBUNE

GRAMBLING, La. - Grambling State University has announced the establishment of the Doug Williams Center for the Study of Race and Politics in Sports to develop potential social and political solutions to issues concerning professional sports. The Center will be supported by the NFL Campus Connection program and collaborate with the Eddie G. Robinson Museum.

"Politics and race have historically been intertwined in the sporting world," said Williams, an NFL executive and Grambling State University alum. "It's not a new concept, but it is one that we must educate our future leaders on to cultivate an ideal environment for the next wave of great athletes, coaches and sports leadership."

Grambling State has sent more players to the NFL than any other HBCU, including Williams who was the first Black quarterback to win a Super Bowl. In 2010, the university became home to the Eddie G. Robinson Museum, which commemorates the many contributions of university legends to national and global professional sports.

"The sports legacy left by the great coach Eddie Robinson and so many others makes GSU uniquely positioned as a home for this type of education," said university President Rick Gallot. "It's never been clearer that these conversations are essential to making a lasting impact on our athletes and the politics of the sports industry."

In 1974, Grambling State became the first HBCU to offer a master's degree in sports marketing. In 2020, the Doug Williams Center will serve as an academic hub for understanding the intersection of professional sports, politics and race can be used to progress social justice among other key objectives.

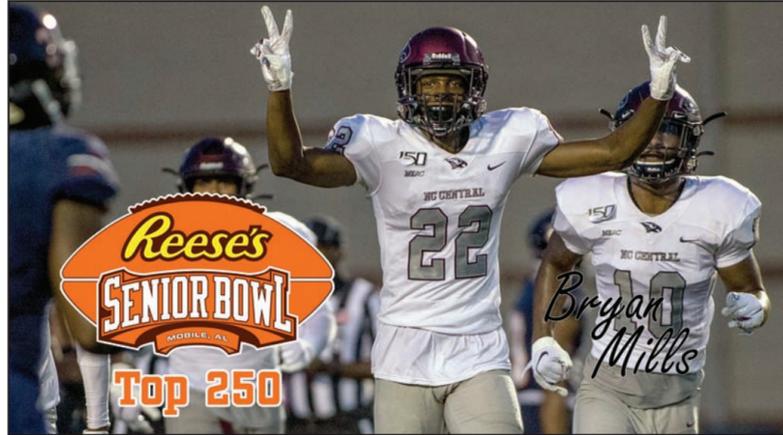
"Students can expect assignments that explore the historic significance of sports in racial justice as well as modern case studies like Colin Kaepernick's protest," said Connie Walton, provost and vice president of academic affairs. "We are looking forward to the progressive ideas and brilliant initiatives that our students put forth as a result of these relevant studies."

Campus Connection is just one of several HBCU-focused programs the NFL has implemented to recognize and strengthen its relationships with HBCUs across the country. Through Campus Connection, the NFL will support Grambling State students with career development opportunities such as involvement in career fairs, case study programs, and the Executive Leaders Series hosted by NFL personnel. Student support will also include participation in the NFL Experienceship program, which provides nominated students hands-on experience and networking opportunities at NFL Tentpole events.

"The NFL-HBCU partnership acknowledges, celebrates and honors the history and impact HBCUs and their players have had on the game of football," said Troy Vincent, NFL executive vice president of football operations. "We are pleased to honor Grambling State's historic contribution to both football and the nation by driving awareness for students of color opportunities in professional football beyond the playing field."

Sports

COLLEGE CORNER



MEAC unveils spring schedule, with fall sports

Last week the MEAC released a preliminary schedule on fall sports to be played in the spring.

"Although it's still too early to tell if the coronavirus conditions will improve fast enough to allow us to reconvene spring sports, we want to be prepared with a plan of action," Howard President Dr. Wayne A.I. Frederick said.

Football teams will play six conference games from Feb. 27 to April 24, with the championship game on May 1. Volleyball season will run January through February, and the tourney in March.

Fall teams have the option of opting out of spring competition, but we know they won't. Stay tuned.

NCCU news

Jason Beaulieu has been added to North Carolina Central women's basketball staff as director of player enhancement. Beaulieu spent the past 10 seasons at UNC as the strength and conditioning coach.

"Jason Beaulieu is the much-needed addition to my coaching staff," said coach Trisha Stafford-Odom. "His immediate strengths elevate and sharpen the overall preparation and production of each player. ... His personality embodies commitment, work ethic and total dedication to the well-being of the student-athlete."

* Senior cornerback Bryan Mills has been selected as one of the Top 250 players to watch for the Reese's Senior Bowl, an all-star game that showcases the best NFL draft prospects.

Mills was named to several All-America teams last season after leading the MEAC with five interceptions, and ranking second in 13 passes defended.

* In fundraising, the Eagles have sold out Section A at O'Kelly-Riddick Stadium in its virtual homecoming. The section has 436 seats.

Just a little over 7,000 seats are left for a complete sellout of O'Kelly. Text "Stronger" to 243725 by Oct. 31.

* In volleyball, the Eagles were picked to finish next to last in the Southern Division in the preseason poll. No player made the preseason All-MEAC team.

SAU's Gathright inks deal
St. Augustine's alum Tyre



Gathright



JORDAN COFIELD
2000-2020

Gathright has signed a one-year deal with the Randers Cimbria in Denmark. Gathright played for the Norrkoping Dolphins in Sweden last season and averaged 14.7 points.

He played for two seasons at SAU and scored over 1,000 points.

Shaw's SID earns grant

Jolisa Williams, Shaw's assistant athletics director for media relations, is among seven people to earn an NCAA Division II Women's Leaders X grant.

Jolisa is the best sports information director Shaw has had since the late Le-Counte Conaway.

"I'm thankful for our great conference office, the CIAA, for putting me in this position. I look forward to this amazing opportunity and event, which will assist with my development, networking, and advancement within athletic administration as well as my future endeavors with Shaw University," she said.

TSU hires Evans

Tennessee State has hired Tywaune "Ty" Evans as its new women's basketball

coach. Evans was an associate head coach at Auburn for the past seven seasons.

"Ty Evans will bring an abundance of energy, enthusiasm and a winning mentality to the TSU women's basketball program," athletics director Mikki Allen said. "Coach Evans comes to us highly respected in the coaching field, and has earned a national reputation for being a program builder, a phenomenal teacher of the game, an elite recruiter and an outstanding developer of talent."

MSU player killed

Morgan State junior wide receiver Jordan Cofield was killed in a tragic motorcycle accident on Aug. 23. The 20-year-old was a business administration major with a 3.26 GPA.

"It's a very, very sad day for our football program, we are in shock with the news..." coach Tyrone Wheatley tweeted. "Jordan was a tremendous student-athlete, great teammate and will be missed by all."



COURTESY

St. Aug's Barnes gives back to her community

By Anthony Jeffries
SPECIAL TO THE TRIBUNE

RALEIGH - St. Augustine's student-athlete Nyasia Barnes is doing her part to assist the residents of Bertie County, which was recently ravaged by Hurricane Isaias. Now, she wants others to help as well.

A member of the women's basketball team, Barnes is spreading the word about the Bertie County YMCA Hurricane Relief Program. The YMCA, located in Windsor, is asking for donations such as men's and women's clothing (all sizes), paper towels, tissues and non-perishable items in addition to hand and big towels. "This situation really touched me because this involved the people I grew up with," Barnes said. "I had never seen a storm like that."

Barnes has already donated clothes to the Bertie YMCA. She hopes that folks are moved enough to do the same. Items can be sent to Bertie County through the St. Aug's women's basketball program. The Bertie YMCA leaders are also willing to pick up donations in Raleigh.

The donation drop-off has special meaning for Barnes, who is from Bertie County. A Merry Hill, North Carolina, native, Barnes was home when Hurricane Isaias struck two weeks ago. She says the storm knocked down trees in her hometown, but it was nothing like other parts of the county. The hurricane spawned a tornado that hit the county. At least two people died and many folks were injured after the tornado devastated a mobile home park and destroyed numerous homes. Debris was everywhere.

Storms in Eastern North Carolina are known to pack a punch, but the trail of damage from the hurricane even shocked Barnes. "This is about the worse I have seen since living here," Barnes said. "It usually floods bad, but nothing like this."

Barnes and her family avoided much of the devastation. She worried about relatives and friends, however, as they caught the full brunt of the storm. After the storm passed, Barnes immediately sprang into action.

Among the first people she reached out to was her head coach, Montel Jones. Jones, also from Eastern North Carolina, immediately drove to Windsor and gave items to the Bertie County YMCA. "She is a really sweet and dependable person in addition to being a really good student-athlete and hard worker," said Jones, a Kinston, native. "Her teammates know they can call her if they need a ride or if they are hungry."

"She loves her community. She will do anything to give back."

YMCA Director Casey Owens says Bertie County is a tight-knit community, and Barnes is a reflection of that. When Jones contacted him about the relief program, Owens immediately knew it was Barnes who initiated the call.

Owens is not surprised that Barnes is a supporter of the hurricane relief program. She always wants to help people. "She comes from a good background," Owens said. "She always shows respect. You can tell her and her brother are raised on great qualities and character."

Her caring traits come from her parents, Kristie and Charles, and living in Bertie County. "We are all one big family," said Barnes. "Everybody knows everybody, and we try to help each other because we are all we got."

For information about the Bertie County YMCA Hurricane Relief Program, contact Owens at (252) 509-9999 or ctowens14@gmail.com.



Kevin Reddick of InfraRED Elite Fitness

Retired NFL linebacker brings mobile fitness to Triangle residents

STAFF REPORTS
 RALEIGH - Former NFL linebacker and UNC student-athlete, Kevin Reddick, has launched InfraRED Elite Fitness. Reddick recently moved back to the Triangle area wanting to open a business tailored to fitness that would meet the needs of residents. With most gyms still closed due to COVID-19 restrictions, InfraRED Elite Fitness provides another option.

The InfraRED Elite Fitness van is equipped for mobile fitness. From squat rack to cardio bike to battle ropes, nothing is missing from the mobile gym experience that you would not find at your local gym, except maybe the crowds. Reddick offers his clients the convenience of working out on sanitized equipment that comes to them on their time.

The added benefit is the tailored workout with a certified personal trainer. Reddick graduated from UNC with a degree in exercise sports science. Reddick says he is on a mission to help Triangle residents continue to stick to and achieve their fitness goals - no matter their fitness level or age. "I tell my 60-year-old clients: 'I'm not going to train you like I train my 18-year-old clients...I'm going to train you in a way that works for you,'" he said.



Job hunting tips to restore your hope during pandemic

STAFF REPORTS
 This can be an especially frustrating and worrisome time for job seekers. Massive unemployment resulting from the coronavirus pandemic reflects decline and uncertainty in many industries. With fewer companies hiring, some workers who were laid off or furloughed face a more competitive job search. But while it's easy to get discouraged, employment numbers are creeping back, and retooling the job search method can help them stand out in the crowd and find desirable employers, says Jack Whatley (www.humancodeof-hiring.com), a recruiting strategist who specializes in creating employer-branding campaigns. "Many companies still are actively recruiting and looking for people with the right skill set and mindset to fit these changing times," Whatley said. "People seeking employment not only have to pay the bills but also to find work that is meaningful to them can leverage this time to be strategic and nimble. "While there are factors job seekers can't control, they can choose to equip themselves with more in-

formation, skill and overall preparation, and, in the process, conduct a successful job search." Whatley offers five tips to help job seekers navigate their job search during the pandemic:
 1. **Gather intel.** Whatley says the pandemic can reveal the essence of a company's culture, which is a priority for many job candidates today. In the process of searching companies, pay attention to their social media sites and websites, reviews by former employees, and how they are handling things now.
 2. **Expand your skill set.** With fewer positions or expanded roles in different positions, versatility is key. "This is an ideal time to take online courses to expand your professional toolkit," Whatley said. "Acquiring new certifications will be helpful when applying for new roles. Use online learning modules for platforms such as Zoom and Skype, which help practice interview skills and remote work. Hiring managers want to know you have the capabilities to navigate the tools and platforms for remote work."
 3. **Expand your network.** Data shows that networking remains a frequent factor in getting hired.

Whatley says this is the time to make new connections and reestablish existing ones.
 4. **Be flexible in career paths.** The kind of work one has been accustomed to may not be feasible given the current economic climate and the changes some industries are undergoing. "Research what industries are hiring, those in which you could apply your skills, and consider taking something that may not be on your Plan A list, but rather might be Plan B or C," Whatley said. "Consider temporary opportunities. Search for opportunities in which you can leverage your transferable skills in a different capacity."
 5. **Be prepared for the virtual interview.** Virtual interviewing is the new normal. "Treat the video interview as though it were in person. Be aware of making eye contact through the monitor, your tone, and your mannerisms," Whatley said. "Be proactive and persistent, but also be patient. Hiring processes may go slower for some companies, but there is a lot a job seeker can do to be ready when they call."

SCHOOL NEWS

DURHAM COUNTY
 Fifteen DPS schools were honored by Magnet Schools of America. In addition to Burton Magnet Elementary being named one of the top 20 magnet programs in the nation, an additional 14 magnet programs were given Magnet School of Excellence or Magnet School of Distinction honors. Joining Burton as Magnet Schools of Excellence this year were two of DPS's Montessori magnet programs: Lakewood Montessori Middle and Morehead Montessori Magnet Elementary. Twelve DPS magnet programs earned Magnet School of Distinction recognition:
 * City of Medicine Academy
 * Club Boulevard Humanities Magnet Elementary
 * George Watts Montessori Magnet School
 * Hillside High School
 * Holt Elementary Language Academy
 * Lowe's Grove Magnet Middle School of Technology
 * Middle College High School at Durham Tech
 * Neal Magnet Middle School
 * R.N. Harris Integrated Arts/Core Knowledge Magnet School
 * Sandy Ridge Visual and Performing Arts Elementary School
 * The School for Creative Studies
 * W.G. Pearson STEAM Magnet Elementary School
 The Magnet School of Merit Awards recognize member magnet schools/programs that demonstrate an exemplary commitment to academic standards, curriculum innovation, desegregation/diversity efforts, specialized teaching staffs, and parent and community involvement.
ORANGE COUNTY
 Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools and the Chapel Hill-Carrboro YMCA have partnered to provide free academic support and supervised care for 100 identified K-5 students in two learning centers. The program will serve the students for the entire first semester, operating from 8 a.m. until 3:15 p.m., with extended care available. This collaboration will be funded primarily by the Oak Foundation and the CHCCS Public School Foun-

dation to cover tuition, food and transportation. The YMCA "We Build People" annual campaign will also underwrite some of the costs. The programs will open at Hargraves Center and the Town of Chapel Hill Community Center on Sept. 1 with a YMCA staff program director at each site, along with five academic support leaders from the CHCCS after school program staff. Additional student support staff (school social workers, counselors, nurses) will also provide in-person services as needed. Buses will provide transportation for those students who do not live in walk zones. "The Y is so glad to partner with CHCCS to reach as many families as possible during this challenging time. We feel strongly that our teams complement each other well, and our aligned missions to support students and families make this a natural collaboration to address a critical need," Chapel Hill-Carrboro YMCA Executive Director, Kim Grooms, said.

HBCU NEWS



N.C. CENTRAL
 NCCU's Fabrication Laboratory has been honored with the 2020 Inspiring Programs in STEM Award from INSIGHT Into Diversity magazine. The award honors colleges and universities that encourage and assist students from underrepresented groups to enter the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. NCCU will be featured, along with 73 other recipients, in the September 2020 issue. The Fab Lab was selected based on its efforts to inspire and encourage a new generation of individuals to consider careers in STEM through mentoring, teaching, research and successful programs and initiatives. "To be honored by INSIGHT Into Diversity magazine underscores the work of NCCU's FAB Lab in bridging the digital divide that separates certain populations from learning experiences and opportunities with tools of technology," said Fab Lab Director Eric Saliim. "As we move into the 21st century, it is important to provide learning experiences that engages individuals with technology that will shape our society to ensure everyone has the skills and competencies suitable for a highly technologically advanced society." The Fab Lab hosts Fab Fridays for students in Durham schools twice each month. So far, Fayetteville Street Elementary, Pearson-town Elementary and Shepard Middle School have participated by sending students over to work in the lab. Members of the public

can also use the lab and even get an orientation on the equipment. "We know that many STEM programs are not always recognized for their success, dedication, and mentorship for underrepresented students," said Lenore Pearlstein, owner and publisher of INSIGHT Into Diversity magazine. "We want to honor the schools and organizations that have created programs that inspire and encourage young people who may currently be in or are interested in a future career in STEM. We are proud to honor these programs as role models to other institutions of higher education and beyond." For more information about the 2020 Inspiring Programs in STEM Award, visit insightintodiversity.com.

Read us online!
triangletribunenewspaper.com



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

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www.gdbcc.org/join



Student, Census Taker



Musician, Census Taker



Analyst, Census Taker



Baker, Census Taker



Retiree, Census Taker



Writer, Census Taker

Everyone counts, and we'll count everyone, safely.

Census takers are now visiting neighborhoods to help households respond to the 2020 Census. They will be wearing masks and following local safety guidelines. An undercounted community can miss out on billions of dollars in public funding each year, so don't miss the chance to have an impact. **It's not too late.**

Complete the census at:
2020CENSUS.GOV

Paid for by U.S. Census Bureau.

Shape
 your future
 START HERE >

United States®
Census
2020