

James, Herro popularity rises in NBA

By Tim Reynolds
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla. — LeBron James' popularity, even in his 17th season, cannot be argued.

The NBA released jersey-sales and social media data Wednesday, with the Los Angeles Lakers' star forward atop both lists. James had the top-selling jersey, measured by online sales through the NBA Store, for the period that started when the season resumed on July 30 through Monday's end of the conference finals.

Rounding out the top five: Dallas' Luka Doncic, the Lakers' Anthony Davis, Boston's Jayson Tatum and Milwaukee's Giannis Antetokounmpo. Interestingly, the next two spots on the jersey-sales list were taken by players who weren't part of the NBA restart at Walt Disney World — Golden State's Stephen Curry and Brooklyn's Kevin Durant.

The top Heat player on the list was Jimmy Butler at No. 10.

The Lakers are also the top team in terms of merchandise sold through the NBA Store's site, the league said, followed by Boston, Chicago, Miami, Golden State, Toronto, Dallas, Milwaukee, Portland and Denver.

James also has added more than 4.1 million followers on his Twitter and Instagram accounts since games resumed July 30. Miami's Tyler Herro was second on that list, adding nearly 800,000 followers to his social totals.

Herro, according to the NBA, saw the biggest increase in followers added -- 41% -- among all players during the conference finals. His Instagram total has nearly doubled since the season resumed, going from 990,000 to 1.7 million.

SCORING RECORD

The NBA is on pace for more points in these playoffs than ever before.

The record for total points in a postseason is 17,719, set in 2014. The league was up to 16,900 going into Game 1 of the NBA Finals on Wednesday night — meaning, even if one team sweeps the other in this series, the clubs would have to average only 102.4 points per game for the total-points record to fall.

In terms of points per game, that record is safe — teams averaged 115.8 in the 1967 playoffs. But this season's clip, entering Wednesday, of 109.7 points per team per game is the highest since clubs averaged 110.4 in 1987.

BOSH SPEAKS

Heat coach Erik Spoelstra has always felt close to Chris Bosh, the four-time finalist with the Heat and two-time champion — someone who saw his career end prematurely because of blood clots.

Bosh and this Heat team have been particularly close; Bosh was a regular at games and even was with the team for some workouts before the season was suspended in March because of the coronavirus.

"We need that energy from our alumni," Spoelstra said. "I'm not on social media, but I love it and I've heard some of it."

Bosh knows what players are feeling at this time of year.

"If I could give any advice to the players participating in this year's Finals — or anyone with any championship opportunity — it would be to not get too high in the wins, or too low in the losses," Bosh wrote in his newsletter Wednesday, "The Last Chip." "In the quest to accomplish great things, you have to anticipate that it's going to be a challenge. And in that challenge, you have to accept that it's not going to be easy."

EL TRAFICO

The Lakers were the home team for Game 1, and got a little taste of home on their way from the hotel to the arena Wednesday. "We just sat in traffic for some soccer moms waiting to pull into a little soccer tournament," coach Frank Vogel said.

Sports

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Girl Scout Troop #300 endows scholarship

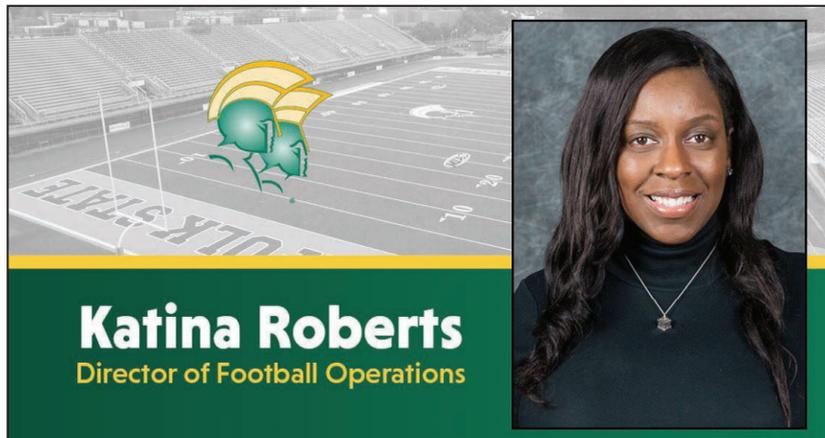


Former Shaw baseball and women's basketball coach Bobby Sanders, plaid shirt, recently had a college scholarship fund named in his honor by Girl Scout Troop #300.

HBCU FOOTBALL



North Carolina Central graduate Stephen Stokes.



Katina Roberts
Director of Football Operations

North Carolina Central's Stokes on AllState Good Works team

By Bonitta Best
editor@triangletribune.com

North Carolina Central red-shirt senior defensive back Stephen Stokes and Howard sophomore wide receiver DeShawn Simon have been named to the AllState AFCA Good Works Team.

The prestigious team recognizes student-athletes and student support staff off-the-field accomplishments.

"This year has brought new meaning and purpose to the AllState AFCA Good Works Team, and this group of 22 players has risen to these challenges to give back to their communities in tremendous ways," AFCA Executive Director Todd Berry said.

Stokes volunteers with Project BUILD in Durham, a non-profit that works with youth at risk of becoming involved in gangs.

He's also a volunteer with Harris Elementary's Big Brother program.

Stokes graduated in May with a degree in criminal justice and is working on a second undergraduate degree in psychology.

Simon participates in The Grassroot Project, which educates middle school students in Washington, D.C., on the importance of sexual, mental and nutritional health.

Fans can vote for the team captain at ESPN.com/Allstate. Deadline is Nov. 22.

History maker

Norfolk State football coach Latrell Scott recently hired Katina Roberts as director of football operations.

"We are very excited to add someone with Katina's personality and skill set to our program," he said. "She is very organized and detail oriented in her job. She adds a dynamic that will help our staff and student-athletes move forward."

Roberts transitions from NSU's business office, where she was the travel coordinator for the athletics department. She will handle all administrative tasks for the football program.

"I'm honored that coach Scott entrusted me to be one of the few women nationally to serve in this role at the collegiate level," Roberts said. "I

found a new love working in athletics, as it has allowed me to forge new relationships and collaborate with new people."

Bad break

Less than two weeks after he signed a multiyear million-dollar contract extension, Chicago Bears running back and former N.C. A&T star, Tarik Cohen suffered a season-ending injury in last Sunday's game against the Atlanta Falcons.

Cohen was diagnosed with a torn ACL that occurred as he was fielding a punt.

Fat lady hasn't sung

The Winston-Salem Journal reported this week that a judge overturned the decision to fire Winston-Salem State coach Kienus Boulware last year, stating Boulware was denied due process.

That means it's back to the drawing board with another hearing on his appeal. For the entire saga surrounding his firing, visit the Journal's website.

COLLEGE CORNER



Hampton alumnae Kellie Wells-Brinkley and LaVonne Idlette.

Hampton alumnae on reality TV show

Michelle McLeod, basketball operations assistant for North Carolina Central men's basketball, is a part of the inaugural class of the McLendon Minority Leadership Initiative.

The initiative was launched by the John B. McLendon Minority Scholarship Foundation and partnered with more than 50 head basketball coaches. Kentucky coach John Calipari endowed the NCCU position.

McLeod joined the men's program in 2018 as a graduate assistant. She was promoted a year later to her current position as she also received her master's.

"This is such a huge accomplishment, and to be selected to serve in this position at my alma mater is a huge bonus," she said. "...This is an opportunity for me to not only grow professionally, but to also bring attention to and shine a light on Black women in sports."

"This is well deserved for such a remarkable young lady," NCCU coach LeVelle Moton said. "Her energy, leadership and work ethic has been imperative to the success of our program. She's affectionately known as the 'Olivia Pope' of our program, and we're excited for her accomplishments."

* In other NCCU news, star alum Dominique Sutton has won a basketball championship playing for Al Ahli of the Bahrain's Zain Basketball League. (Say that real fast!) Sutton recorded 22 points and seven rebounds in the final game.

Every time CC thinks of Sutton, we remember that charge called on him in the MEAC Tournament that cost the Eagles the game.

SAU still hiring

St. Augustine's has hired two new members to its strength and conditioning team.

Kevin Moroney is the new director of strength and conditioning. Moroney was an assistant strength and conditioning coach at the University of Minnesota Duluth.

Michael Johnson is an assistant strength and conditioning coach. The Raleigh native is a Fayetteville State grad.

BOXTOROW on ESPN

National sports talk show FROM THE PRESS BOX TO PRESS ROW w/Donal Ware will begin airing Oct. 2 on ESPNU Radio on SiriusXM Friday nights at 7 p.m. The show recently celebrated its 15th anniversary.

"HBCU sports feature great teams and some of the truly historic rivalries in college sports. So many of the pro athletes we

Please see SUTTON/2B

Dominique Sutton wins championship overseas

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have watched over the years are products of HBCU programs," SiriusXM Senior Vice President Steve Cohen said. "Donal and his guests do a terrific job each week presenting the latest HBCU news and in-depth analysis."

'The Amazing Race'

Hampton alumnae Kellie Wells-Brinkley and LaVonne Idlette will compete on the CBS reality show "The Amazing Race" in the fall. The show pits 11 teams in competition for a \$1 million prize. The two Olympic hurdlers can be seen beginning Oct. 14 at 9 p.m.

"I have traveled to so many countries and continents before having children, and I definitely have a wanderlust itch that needs to be scratched, and I really miss the element of competition," said Wells-Brinkley on "TAR" website.

Added Idlette: "Spending time creating new memories with my best friend."

Wells-Brinkley holds three school records and won a bronze medal in the 100-meter hurdles in the



Sutton

2012 London Olympics. Idlette was named all-conference in the 100m hurdles and also participated in the '12 Olympics.

Ramblin' Ram

In case you've been living in a cave and missed the news, Oklahoma City star guard Chris Paul has

enrolled at Winston-Salem State. Paul said he will take a class and encourage students to get out and vote, including providing transportation to the polls. Paul, whose parents attended WSSU, played for two seasons at Wake Forest.



Trevor Stewart, blue, and AT&T teammates work out.



Lady Aggies track and field team

Women are being left out of collegiate esports

STAFF REPORTS

A new study from North Carolina State University reports that the rapidly growing field of collegiate esports is effectively becoming a two-tiered system, with club-level programs that are often supportive of gender diversity being clearly distinct from well-funded varsity programs that are dominated by men.

"Five years ago, we thought collegiate esports might be an opportunity to create a welcoming, diverse competitive arena, which was a big deal given how male-dominated the professional esports scene was," said Nick Taylor, co-author of the study and an NCSU associate professor of communication. "Rapid growth of collegiate esports over the past five years has led to it becoming more professional, with many universities having paid esports positions, recruiting players, and so on. We wanted to see how that professionalization has affected colle-

giate esports and what that means for gender diversity. The findings did not give us reason to be optimistic."

For this qualitative study, the researchers conducted in-depth interviews with 21 collegiate esports leaders from the U.S. and Canada.

Eight of the study participants were involved in varsity-level esports, such as coaches or administrators, while the remaining 13 participants were presidents of collegiate esports clubs. Six of the participants identified as women; 15 identified as men.

"Essentially, we found that women are effectively pushed out of esports at many colleges when they start investing financial resources in esports programs," said Bryce Stout, co-author of the study and a Ph.D. student. "We thought collegiate esports might help to address the disenfranchisement of women in esports and in gaming more generally; in-

stead, it seems to simply be an extension of that disenfranchisement."

"Higher education has been spending increasing amounts of time, money and effort on professionalizing esports programs," Taylor said. "With some key exceptions, these institutions are clearly not putting as much effort into encouraging diversity in these programs. That effectively cuts out women and minorities."

"Some leaders stress that they will welcome any player onto their team, as long as the player has a certain skill level. But this ignores the systemic problems that effectively drive most women out of gaming such as harassment. There needs to be a focus on cultivating skill and developing players, rather than focusing exclusively on recruitment."

The paper, "Gender and the Two-Tiered System of Collegiate Esports," is published in the journal Critical Studies in Media Communication.

Minorities closing the gap in recreational fishing

PR NEWSWIRE

ALEXANDRIA, Va. - Recreational fishing has reached new diversity milestones, according to a new industry study from the Recreational Boating & Fishing Foundation. The 2020 Special Report on Fishing found that:

* 3.7 million African Americans participate in fishing, an increase of nearly 1 million over the last 10 years.

* Hispanics are participating at a new record of 4.4 million.

* Women are also participating at an all-time high of 17.9 million.

* Overall, more than 50 million Americans participate in fishing, the highest number in 12 years.

* The activity gained more than 3 million new participants last year, the highest in five years.

"The outdoors belongs to all of us — not just those who fit a certain image," said Stephanie Vatalaro, senior vice president of marketing and communications for RBFF. "Fishing is about enjoying nature, making memories and bonding with the people you love. It's an experience that everyone should get a chance to have, which is why our work is grounded in the belief that the water is open to everyone."

The new participation



data comes as Americans overall take increased interest in fishing as a remedy for COVID-19-related stress and anxiety. According to a separate study, 1 in 5 Americans is more likely now to try fishing than prior to the pandemic. Among parents, the statistic is 1 in 4.

"Social distancing has taken a sizable toll on our collective mental health," said Vatalaro. "But being on the water has been shown in studies to have a calming effect that can help treat stress and anxiety naturally. Fishing — and by extension, boating — are excellent ways to practice self-care and recreate responsibly."

To help further increase diversity in fishing and boating, the RBFF has launched a new public service initiative called Get On Board in partnership with Discover Boating. The

campaign aims to raise awareness about the ways people from all walks of life can support their mental health and wellness on the water.

Outside Get On Board, the RBFF's ongoing commitment to underrepresented audiences on the water has made the organization an industry leader in diversity and inclusion. Launched in 2014, Vamos A Pescar is the organization's Hispanic outreach initiative, the first of its kind in the fishing and boating industry. The campaign helps Hispanic families break through perceived barriers to the sport through the George H. W. Bush Vamos A Pescar Education Fund.

In 2018, the RBFF launched its Women Making Waves social media movement to increase female visibility in fishing.

COVID cancels multiple dreams in North Carolina A&T track and field

N.C. A&T SPORTS INFORMATION

GREENSBORO - Inside the Albuquerque Convention Center in the high altitude state of New Mexico in March, North Carolina A&T track star Trevor Stewart takes his extra-large hands and wraps them securely around a small inhaler.

Stewart places it inside his nostril and breathes in gently. He places the inhaler inside his other nostril and repeats the routine.

Stewart is preparing to compete in the 2020 NCAA Indoor Track and Field Championships. Along with him, eight other Aggies are competing for individual, relay and a team national championship.

The inhaler is for Stewart's asthma, a condition the 23-year-old has had since he was a child. He has mastered asthma to the point where he was the NCAA runner-up in the 400 meters in 2019.

But as he inhales, there are rumors and whispers throughout the convention center of the national meet being canceled.

"Something felt off," said Stewart about the NCAA indoor nationals. "The atmosphere felt off. Normally it's easy to focus on the task ahead, but there was just so much uncertainty all around us. 'Do you think they are going to send us home?'" Stewart remembers asking Quincy Hall, a competitor from the University of South Carolina.

Stewart's question is soon answered. Yes. Word spreads that indeed the NCAA has canceled its indoor championship and with it ending the indoor

collegiate careers of seniors like Stewart and teammates Akeem Sirleaf and Madeleine Akobundu. They will never have a chance to compete for another NCAA indoor championship.

"I will be coming back to (NCAA indoor championships) and, of course, I have been there before," said Duane Ross, the Aggies director of track and field programs. "But for the seniors, they will never be able to duplicate 2020 no matter how well they do in their careers. I continue to feel bad for them."

In a matter of days, the NCAA canceled the 2020 outdoor track and field season. In the latter weeks of May, the 2020 Tokyo Olympics were postponed until 2021.

The decision made by Japan Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and the International Olympic Committee forced N.C. A&T track and field superstars such as Christopher Belcher, Rodney Rowe and national champion Kayla White to put their dreams on hold.

"I try not to think about what could have been because that just opens up a whole lot of wombs," said Akobundu about the cancellation of the NCAA indoor championships. "We were ready, and we definitely had the team to make some noise. Being there for the last time, being so close to it and having it snatched away from you, it hurts."

Deaths, cases and uncertainty are what COVID-19 has introduced to the world. Multiple conferences across the nation

have canceled or postponed their fall seasons. The hope is an indoor season will begin this winter followed by an outdoor season and then the Tokyo Olympics.

"We can sit here and keep crying woe is me or we can use this to our advantage," said Ross. "We can rest up and let our bodies heal. We can come up with a better training regimen that deals with the excess time we have to get ready. We can't dwell on not having the 2020 Olympics too much. It's a year later, so let's make the best of it."

That is the attitude of Sirleaf who qualified for the Tokyo Olympics in July 2019 for Liberia, a place where he lived as a baby after being born in the Ivory Coast.

Sirleaf stayed in Liberia until he was 5 before moving to Minnesota. "COVID is difficult, but it might be a blessing in disguise," he said. "I don't think I could have competed to the best of my ability because I was hurt."

Sirleaf said at the time he qualified for the Olympics, he was in the best shape of his career. With the injury, he had second thoughts about whether he was good enough to compete in the Olympics. "I was doing everything right, but I still got injured," he said. "I was stretching, eating right and getting eight hours of sleep. But my body wasn't recovering like it usually does. Looking back on it, I'm glad we're getting this time off because I get to refocus my mind and body to get ready for this upcoming season."

Hurley partners with Black Girls Surf in multiyear deal

PR NEWSWIRE

COSTA MESA, Calif. - Hurley has announced a new multiyear global partnership with Black Girls Surf, a performance training program and organization that supports girls and women of color whose career goals are to compete in professional surfing.

With locations in the United States, Africa, Jamaica and Brazil, BGS invites surfers to both training camps and "board meetings," encompassing beginners all the way to female surfers at the expert level. It is an inclusive or-

ganization that works to further the future of females in surfing. BGS's goal is to make sure anyone who has ever wanted to surf is given the chance. In addition to having a solid roster of experienced surfers on its team, BGS ensures its athletes also have the opportunity to get an education through its sponsorship program.

These women not only get to work towards their professional surf dreams, they're empowered through education along the way.

Founder Rhonda Harper

has championed women in surf and worked to create a platform to unite people through the sport. As a longtime surfer with aspirations of becoming a professional surfer, she understands the need for coaches, mentors and trainers of color and is ecstatic about the partnership.

"Today, my vision came to fruition. It hasn't been an easy road, but nothing great comes from things being easy. I want to thank Hurley for allowing Black Girls Surf to be the example for the next generation.



Adrienne and Rolland Slade

Pastor calls churches to higher standard regarding sex abuse

BAPTIST PRESS

EL CAJON, Calif. — It perplexes Pastor Rolland Slade that certain secular institutions have the good sense to strip professional credentials from sex offenders, while some churches seem to overlook their crimes. “The world can’t have a better idea than we do. We’re serving God. So how could their standard be that person’s got to change their career, and our standard is we put them back? That doesn’t make sense, at least not to me.”

Slade made the remarks in an interview with the Baptist Press shortly after his election in June as chairman of the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee. “It’s very personal to me,” he told the EC in his opening remarks. “For the last 40 years of my life, I have been in touch with a survivor of sexual abuse in church; in fact, we’ve been married 39 years. So when I say it’s personal, it’s personal.”

The pastor of Meridian Baptist Church in El Cajon, California, has worked as a teacher and a part-time high school track-and-field coach, and has seen secular groups tackle sexual abuse decisively, although some cases may still remain undetected. But Slade doesn’t appreciate grace and mercy being used to

restore sexual abusers and return them to ministry. “I understand we can restore them ... but we can’t put them back in leadership,” he continued. “They can’t go back there. They’ve got to find another vocation.”

Slade’s EC chairmanship garners him a seat on the SBC Credentials Committee, charged with reviewing reports of churches operating in ways that are not in friendly cooperation with the SBC. Slade said he appreciates the solid accomplishments the SBC has made in fighting sexual abuse, and doesn’t intend to cast a negative tone on advancements already made in ministering to sexual abuse survivors.

He said he doesn’t anticipate a solution in handling sexual abuse that will please everyone. He realizes that while teachers, doctors and others are stripped of their credentials, stripping ministers of ordinations likely would be neither plausible nor effective among autonomous Southern Baptist congregations, as each church handles ordinations differently.

Slade envisions a multi-pronged approach to fighting sexual abuse, much in the same way the medical community targets certain diseases with medical care, education and behavior modifications. He recommends the Caring Well

Challenge the SBC launched in 2019 as a resource for churches, coupled with other targeted steps.

The Caring Well Challenge was created as the SBC addressed sexual abuse extensively in 2018 and 2019. SBC President J.D. Greear initiated in 2018 a Sexual Abuse Advisory Study in collaboration with the Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission that released its findings shortly before the 2019 SBC Annual Meeting in Birmingham, Alabama. There, messengers received the report, established the work of the Credentials Committee, passed the first of two votes required in two successive years to make sexual abuse the grounds for a church to be disaffiliated from the SBC, and amended applicable by-laws.

“We need to figure out a way, and I hope that over the next couple of years, we get a chance to really drill down and find a way that we can deal with this issue in the Southern Baptist Convention,” he said, “so that we’re not passing sexual predators from one church to another.”

Caring Well materials to help churches learn how to prevent and deal with sexual abuse are available at CaringWell.com.

5 types of church members who will not return

By Thom Rainer
BAPTIST PRESS

FRANKLIN, Tenn. — It is one of the most common questions we get from church leaders: When will all the church members return to in-person services? Leaders do not like my response: Never.

It is a reality church leaders and members are hesitant to accept. For most churches, not all the church members who were attending before the pandemic will return.

In fact, our anecdotal conversations with members and leaders indicate somewhere between 20% and 30% of the members will not return to your church.

From an attendance perspective, if 20% of a church with a pre-pandemic attendance of 200 do not return, the new reality attendance will be 160 after everyone feels safe to return. You can do the math for your own church.

So, who are these non-returning church members? Why are they not returning? Here are the five most common dropout groups. The groups are not mutually exclusive; there could be significant overlap.

1. The decreasing attendance members. These were your members who,

at one time, attended church almost four times a month. Before the pandemic, their frequency of attendance declined to twice a month or even once a month. COVID accelerated their trends. They are now attending zero times a month.

2. The disconnected church members. If a church member is in a small group, his likelihood of returning is high. If they attend worship only, their likelihood of attendance is much lower. Please let this reality be a strong motivation to emphasize in-person small groups once everyone feels safe to return.

3. The church-is-another-activity church members. These church members see gathered attendance as yet another activity on par, or lower, than other activities. They were the church members who let inclement weather keep them from church but not their children’s Sunday soccer games. Commitment to the church was a low priority before the pandemic. They have no commitment in the post-quarantine era.

4. The constant-critic church members. These members always had some complaints for the pastor. In fact, your pastor may be dying a death by a thou-

sand cuts. They are likely still complaining even though they have not returned to in-person services. Many of them will not return at all.

5. The cultural Christian church members. They were part of a declining group well before the pandemic. They were those church members who likely were not Christians but came to church to be accepted culturally. Today, there are few cultural expectations for people to attend church.

These cultural Christians learned during the pandemic that it was no big deal to miss church. It will be no big deal for them never to return.

Church leaders and church members, however, should not fret about these losses. Your local church has the opportunity to write its future on a blank slate, and these church members really had no plans to be a part of that future anyway.

You may feel the pain of the losses; that is normal. But God has a plan for your church to embrace the new reality to which you are headed.

Head into His future with confidence. God’s got your church. And He’s got you. It’s cliché, but the best days are likely just ahead.



Anthony George and Charles Stanley

Charles Stanley transitions to pastor emeritus at First Baptist

By Scott Barkley
CHRISTIAN INDEX

ATLANTA — In a video announcement following the online service at First Baptist Church in Atlanta last month, longtime pastor Charles Stanley announced his transition to pastor emeritus.

Stanley, who came to First Baptist as an associate pastor in 1969 before being named pastor two years later, informed the church’s board earlier this month of the decision.

“I’m so grateful [God] saw fit to allow me to serve as your pastor for more than 50 years,” he said. “As much as I love being your pastor, I know in my heart this season has come to an end.”

Stanley explained he isn’t retiring, but will focus his energies on In Touch Ministries, which he founded in 1977. “As you know, I don’t believe in retirement. ... I’ll continue to preach the Gospel as long as God allows,” he added. “My goal remains the same — to get the truth of the gospel to as many people as possible as quickly as possible in the power of the Holy Spirit to the glory of God.”

Anthony George will transition from his position of associate pastor, which he accepted in 2012, to senior pastor. In 2017 the church announced a succession plan for Stanley, George, and First Baptist’s pastorate.

He followed Stanley’s comments in the video with some of his own. “Thank you for being strong and of good courage through every battle that you’ve had to fight, through every trial you’ve had to overcome,” said George. “You have stood tall and confident through all these years while at the same time remaining dependent and prayerful before an almighty God.”

“Because you were a yielded vessel of the gospel of Jesus Christ, through you, has blanketed this globe. Truly, God has been with you wheresoever you have gone.”

Calling the last 87 years “the honor of a lifetime,” George directly addressed Stanley in the video on how the now-pastor emeritus will have a continued presence at the church. “It will be your legacy, sir, that is my standard, the standard that will inspire me to always do my best with God’s help for as long as God gives me to serve here.”

Stanley, who will turn 88 later this month, led First Baptist through a time of rapid growth not long after becoming pastor that eventually strained its space. In 1997, the church sold its properties in downtown Atlanta and relocated to its current location just north of I-285 on North Peachtree Road in Dunwoody. First Baptist currently counts more than 12,000

members and an estimated global viewing audience into the millions.

Stanley’s election as Southern Baptist Convention president in 1984 and reelection in 1985 came during a crucial junction of the Conservative Resurgence. His 1985 election to another one-year term, specifically, has been called a watershed moment for the SBC and came in front of an estimated crowd of 45,519 messengers at the Dallas Convention Center in Dallas.

Last year, the church held a celebration of Stanley’s 50 years at First Baptist. His children, Pastor Andy Stanley, of North Point Community Church in Alpharetta, and Becky Stanley Broderson, of Dallas, testified about their father and Georgia Gov. Brian Kemp issued a proclamation in Stanley’s honor.

“The words in this proclamation — I can promise you — cannot do honor and justice to everything that you’ve done,” Kemp expressed. “But it is a symbolic gesture on behalf of your state for your service Dr. Stanley. ... Thank you for your service and God bless you.”

Stanley issued a final challenge to the congregation in his address today. “I will do what I’ve encouraged all of you to do,” he said. “I’m going to obey God, and leave all the consequences to him. God bless you all.”

Personal evangelism gets creative during pandemic

By David Roach
THE TEXAN

AUSTIN, Texas — COVID-19 may have impeded some traditional avenues of evangelism, but it hasn’t stopped the Gospel’s advance.

Rick Pittman, a member of Great Hills Baptist Church in Austin, reinforced that lesson when a tree limb fell on one of his neighbor’s vehicles and the neighbor asked him for assistance. Pittman removed the limb with a chainsaw,

hailed it away and shared his personal testimony with the neighbor as they drove to dispose of the wood. Later, the neighbor came to Pittman with follow-up questions. “We hear stories like that” regularly, Great Hills pastor Danny Forshee said.

While masks, social distancing and extra time cloistered at home have made personal evangelism more challenging, Forshee and other evangelism leaders have found ways around those challenges.

The apostle Paul “didn’t let being shackled in place prevent him from sharing the Gospel,” said Matt Queen, Scarborough Chair of Evangelism at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. If Paul “can do it shackled, we can do it sheltered.”

Still, the challenges for personal evangelism are real. Distributing Gospel literature, inviting people to church and holding evangelistic meetings all have

Please see **CREATIVE/5B**

AROUND THE TRIANGLE

RALEIGH FESTIVAL

The annual Raleigh Film & Arts Festival is virtual Oct. 2-4. Visit www.raleighfilmandartfestival.com.

FORUM

Wake County Commission Candidates Forum is Oct. 6, 6 p.m., virtually. Visit wakeupwakecounty.com.

HIP-HOP

Hip Hop Caucus will hold virtual tour rallies in NC to mobilize voters on Oct. 6 & 20. Register at <https://respectmyvote.com>.

TOWN HALL

Jessica Holmes, a candidate for Commissioner of Labor, is hosting a virtual town hall Oct. 7, 7-8 p.m. Visit her Facebook page to register.

EXPO

Triangle Career Expo virtual recruiting event is Oct. 8, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Employers are also invited to participate. Visit durhamnc.gov.

MOVIES

Friday Blockbuster Movie

Night is Oct. 9, 6-10 p.m., Compass Rose Brewery, 3201 Northside Dr., #101.

FUNDRAISER

The Alzheimer’s Association Walk to End Alzheimer’s is Oct. 10. To learn more, visit act.alz.org/triangle or call 800-272-3900.

SALE

Raleigh Little Theatre is hosting its 2020 costume sale Oct. 10, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., 301 Pogue St. Tickets at raleighlittletheatre.org.

GUNS

N.C. Concealed Carry Handgun class is Oct. 10, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., 4410 Craftsman Dr. Tickets at bookwhen.com.

DURHAM CANCER

A virtual breast cancer 101 seminar is Oct. 8, 6:30-7:45 p.m. Register at niehs.nih.gov/whad.

GALA

Komen NC Triangle will host its virtual Together We Thrive gala for metastatic breast cancer research Oct. 10, 7-8 p.m.

Tickets at one.bidpal.net.

CONCERT

Duke Performances presents Stefanie Batten Bland in a virtual dance concert Oct. 10, 8 p.m. Tickets at tickets@duke.edu.

GIFTED

Young, Gifted and Black pop-up event is Oct. 10, 1-5 p.m., Durham Central Park, 501 Foster St.

MARKET

The next Black Farmers Market is Oct. 11, 1-4 p.m., 411 W. Chapel Hill St.

CHAPEL HILL SEMINAR

UNC School of Social Work will host its next seminar on “Let’s Get Innovative: Cultivating a Movement for Engagement, Empowerment, and Community Inclusion” Oct. 13, 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. Register at ssw.unc.edu/sswevents/.

MISC.

NAACP
The 77th annual N.C. NAACP State Convention is Oct. 8-10 virtually. Register at www.emailmeform.com.

BOOK

#1 Amazon new release

Black Girl, White School: Thriving, Surviving, and No, You Can't Touch My Hair.
By Olivia V.G. Clarke



Clarke



In a summer filled with calls for racial justice, a high school senior is amplifying voices of Black girls in predominantly white schools, leaving her mark and sparking important conversations. At just 16 years old, Clarke created and edited an Amazon popular anthology, "Black Girl, White School: Thriving, Surviving, and No, You Can't Touch My Hair."

"I want to raise up Black voices, especially Black fe-

male voices that aren't necessarily heard because we're young. I wanted Black girls and women to know they are not alone and that others have similar experiences. I also wanted them to be inspired and empowered by both the book and the accompanying journal," Clarke said. "This book is also an opportunity for parents, school administrators, and educators to understand experiences of Black girls in white schools, and use that knowledge to make anti-racism a focus, not just in words but action."

Clarke has just released a support journal for Black girls to accompany the book and has plans to publish an ally journal this month.

Navigating predominantly white institutions as a young Black girl provides amazing opportunities as well as challenging experiences. The poems, anecdotes, and stories

found in "Black Girl, White School..." seek to provide support and guidance for Black girls in PWIs and are written by Black girls and women who are current or past attendees of PWIs.

Hair, friendship, dating, motivation, information, racism, self-esteem - nothing is off limits. Fans of Black Lives Matter books "The Hate U Give" by Angie Thomas, "Dear Martin" by Nic Stone, and "The Poet X" by Elizabeth Acevedo will love this nonfiction look at life as told by girls who have lived it.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR: Clarke is a high school senior, leader, and activist in diversity work.

Additionally, she is a multi-year, full scholarship attendee at The Ohio State University. In 2018, she was selected to be a part of the Student Diversity Leadership Conference, a multicultural conference for high school student leaders in diversity.

PROBLEM SOLVED

Home Depot tile problem

By Christopher Elliott

SPECIAL TO THE TRIBUNE

Q: Home Depot screwed up our tile job twice over 17 months.

Six supervisors and managers later, everyone agreed, without exception, it needed to be done again.

Somehow, when it went to corporate, this agreement morphed into only providing a full refund, conditioned on signing a two-page nondisclosure agreement they over-looked to us for signature. We never asked for a refund. Home Depot needs to pay for a true professional to remove this disaster of a kitchen wall and replace it, as they promised us.

We are both disabled veterans and specifically used Home Depot because they supposedly help veterans. It is difficult and time-intensive for me to compose emails. I've had six hand surgeries, and that isn't

even a major medical issue. My voice, however, still works just fine, so phone calls are my preferred method of contact. This abuse is starting to wear me down. I'm afraid it will end up putting me in the hospital again. Can you help us fix our Home Depot tile problem? - Michelle Odd, Snohomish, Wash.

A: I'm looking at the pictures of your tiles and all I can say is, "Wow!" I think I could have done a better job. Home Depot should have quickly fixed your tile job. Sending you a non-disclosure agreement and offering a refund was not the correct response.

Companies routinely send out non-disclosures when they want to fix a consumer problem but don't want anyone else to find out about it. Home Depot was understandably wary that your case might receive some public attention. If it wanted to limit the publicity your tile job got, it probably should have just sent someone over to finish the job.

How could this have happened? Well, Home Depot

isn't doing any of this work itself. It hires subcontractors, who complete the tiling on the company's behalf. But Home Depot guarantees the work, so if something goes wrong, you can expect it will step up and do the right thing.

One issue that made progress in your case difficult: All of your contacts with Home Depot were by phone. I understand you had a valid medical reason to avoid typing, but as I've always said, you have to get everything in writing. If you can't type, find someone who can do it for you. When you're talking on the phone, you have no record of your call.

I reached out to Home Depot on your behalf. A district manager contacted you, sent a new team of contractors to your home, and you now have a beautiful new tile wall.

Christopher Elliott's latest book is "How To Be The World's Smartest Traveler." Get help by contacting him at <http://www.elliott.org/help>.

Barry Jenkins to direct 'Lion King' follow-up

By Jake Coyle
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK — The Walt Disney Co. will make a follow-up to the 2019 live-action "The Lion King," with Barry Jenkins, the director of the Oscar-winning "Moonlight" and the James Baldwin adaptation "If Beale Street Could Talk," set to direct.

Disney announced plans Tuesday for a kind of prequel to last year's poorly reviewed but highly popular photorealistic remake. The new "Lion King" grossed more than \$1.6 billion worldwide, so a



sequel was perhaps always likely. Less expected was a "Lion King" with Jenkins directing. The film, Disney said, will explore the my-

thology of "The Lion King," including Mufasa's origin story.

"Helping my sister raise Please see LION KING/6B

Evangelism gets creative during the pandemic

Continued from page 5B
been impeded by the pandemic, according to an analysis by Ed Stetzer, executive director of The Billy Graham Center at Wheaton College. Added to that, conversations can be hindered by face coverings, and many social settings require people to keep their distance from one another.

Yet the challenges are met with opportunity. Four evangelism leaders interviewed by the TEXAN all said lost people are more

open to the gospel than they have been in recent memory. It remains to be seen whether Christians will take full advantage of the openness.

Sharing the Gospel with those in our normal social circle generally is not inhibited by coronavirus restrictions, Queen said. But it can "be kind of awkward" to bring up Christ if a Christian has known someone for years but has never broached the subject. To break the ice, a believer can say, "I've really

been thinking a lot through COVID," and "I realized that I have sinned against you. I want you to know I need to ask your forgiveness." Tell the person the sin is failing to talk about the hope available in Jesus, Queen said. Then admit the reason for hesitancy was fear of how they would react. Finally, begin a Gospel presentation.

Another method of witnessing to people in familiar social circles is telling "the story of you and Jesus," said Chuck Kelley.

Beware of COVID-19 Scams and Fraud

Scammers are exploiting your fears about the COVID-19 pandemic to steal your money and information. The North Carolina Department of Justice (NCDOJ) is here to help you stay safe during the pandemic.

Here are a few ways you can protect yourself:

- Do not provide personal or financial information in response to unsolicited calls or messages.
- Legitimate contact tracers will not request personal information or demand that you pay a fee. If you receive a call in which sensitive information or payment is requested, hang up and call your local health department to verify the call.
- If you see essential items such as cleaning supplies or toilet paper at highly inflated prices, please report them to our office. Price gouging is illegal under a state of emergency in NC.
- Scammers may offer a "miracle cure" or preventive supplement for COVID-19. Always check with a doctor before buying or taking a new medication.
- Be wary of links in texts or emails that appear to be from a government agency. Phishing scams are a common tactic used by scammers to steal your information.

NCDOJ is working to protect North Carolinians from scams. If you believe you have been scammed, file a complaint at [NCDOJ.gov/complaint](https://www.ncdoj.gov/complaint) or 1-877-5-NO-SCAM.



Attorney General

Josh Stein

FOOD

The Bake with Paris

By Paris Brown
NNPA

NEWSWIRE CONTRIBUTORS

The Bake with Paris is a new series presented by 13-year-old Paris Brown. Paris loves to bake, and over her summer vacation, she will write about some of her best experiences.

Quarantine day 1,000,587. At least that's how it feels. I needed something new to bake.

I had recently made a peach cheesecake, and my family and I agreed that the crust was our favorite part. It was buttery, sweet, and crunchy, which made my mouth water just thinking about it. Then we figured, why not make a cookie that tastes just like that?

So, I looked up a recipe and got to work, but it wasn't all that great when we tasted it. After that, I decided to go rogue and make my own recipe. I used Graham crackers as flour and mixed it with unsalted butter and sugar to get that great buttery flavor.

I added both white and brown sugar for an extra bit of depth, and then I used vanilla extract and a dash of salt as flavor enhancers. Lastly, I added two eggs as a binder, and into the oven it goes!

There are many things you can do with these cookies: eat them by themselves, put some chocolate and marshmallows on top to make s'mores, or create a cheesecake filling, just like I did.

I mixed cream cheese, butter, a little bit of milk, vanilla extract, and powdered sugar to make the filling. It tasted like everything I'd want in a cheesecake. Sweet, tangy, and creamy. Delicious!

The last step for the cookies was to let them cool and fill them. Once



Paris Brown whips up some cheesecake cookies.

they were completely cooled, I put filling on them and sandwiched them together. They were so good, my mom jumped up and started dancing!

I love baking because it brings so much joy, not only to me but to those who help me bake and to those who eat it. It's also a distraction from all the negative from the outside world. So, if you're looking for something to do, look up a recipe and see where it takes you. Delicious things can happen when you take a chance.

Cheesecake
Cookie recipe

Cookie:

- * 2-1/2 cups crushed Graham crackers (about 24 Graham crackers)
- * 1/2-cup melted unsalted butter
- * 2 tablespoons dark brown sugar
- * 1/2-cup white sugar
- * 1/4-teaspoon salt
- * 1-1/2 teaspoon bour-

bon vanilla extract (you can use regular extract, too)

* 2 large eggs
Cream cheese filling:

- * 8 oz softened cream cheese
- * 1/2-cup softened butter
- * 2 tablespoons milk
- * 2 cups powdered sugar
- * 1-1/2 teaspoon bourbon vanilla extract

Baking:

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F. In a large bowl, mix together crushed Graham cracker crumbs, butter, brown sugar, and white sugar. Then add the eggs and vanilla extract. Mix until it looks like wet sand. Scoop on cookie sheet and flatten. Bake for 8-10 minutes.

For cream cheese

frosting:

Cream together butter and cream cheese. Slowly add powdered sugar. Add milk and vanilla extract. Once cookies are completely cooled, put filling in the middle and sandwich together, then enjoy!

Barry Jenkins to direct 'Lion King' follow-up

Continued from page 5B

two young boys during the '90s, I grew up with these characters," Jenkins said in a statement. "Having the opportunity to work with Disney on expanding this magnificent tale of friendship, love and legacy while furthering my work chronicling the lives and souls of folk within the African diaspora is a dream come true."

Jenkins earlier this year completed shooting on the Amazon limited series "The Underground Railroad," based on the Colson Whitehead novel. He won an Oscar for the script to the best-picture-winning "Moonlight" and was nominated for the screenplay to 2018's "If Beale Street Could Talk."

He also last year made plans to direct a film based

on the life of choreographer Alvin Ailey for Disney's Searchlight Pictures.

Disney didn't announce any further plot details or casting on the new "Lion King" project, which was first reported by Deadline Hollywood. Jeff Nathanson, who wrote the 2019 movie, is returning to pen the follow-up.



AKAs raise \$1M in support of HBCUs

STAFF REPORTS

CHICAGO - Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, for the third consecutive year, has successfully raised \$1 million in 24 hours for the benefit of HBCUs. The sorority's annual HBCU Impact Day on Sept. 21 exceeded its \$1 million goal in online donations alone from local AKA chapters, private donors and corporate matching dollars from across the globe.

"We did it, we did it again!" Glenda Glover, AKA international president and chief executive officer, shared with excitement in a video message to sorority members. "The online receipts alone totaled more than \$1.3 million. We can now continue to provide endowments to our treasured HBCUs."

HBCU Impact Day is one part of a four-year \$10 mil-

lion fundraising goal set by Glover, who has challenged the AKA women to lead the charge in helping to secure fiscal sustainability and success for accredited HBCUs around the country. The sorority was successfully able to reach the \$1 million goal consecutively in 2018 and 2019, supporting the organization's HBCU for Life: A Call to Action platform, which aims to promote HBCUs by encouraging students to attend and matriculate through these institutions.

Last year, AKA gifted \$1.6 million to the first 32 of 96 HBCUs through the AKA-HBCU Endowment Fund. Each HBCU received \$50,000 in unrestricted endowment funds as part of a phased approach to help schools reduce student debt through scholarships, fund industry-specific research, recruit and retain

top faculty, and other critical operations especially during this global pandemic.

"These institutions continue to make a powerful impact in our communities and throughout our country, graduating 22% of all African Americans with bachelor's degrees, nearly 80% of all African American judges and 50% of all black lawyers," said Glover, who is also the president of Tennessee State University and an HBCU graduate. "It's gratifying to know that funds raised will establish endowments, providing sustainability to our historically black colleges and universities."

Although HBCU Impact Day has passed, individuals or organizations interested in supporting the effort can still text AKAHBCU to 44321.

COVID 19 vaccine trials

The only side effect is hope

By Hannah Towey

UNC MEDIA HUB

It's 6:30 a.m., her alarm is blaring, and all Dr. Cindy Gay wishes for is a couple more hours of sleep. But there are eggs to scramble, blueberry pancakes to cook and two young kids to wake, dress and feed. Gay and her husband take turns making coffee for the long day ahead and log the kids in for virtual learning. The babysitter arrives and Gay hops in the car, just in time for her first phone call.

By now she's on her second cup of coffee, ready to lead a team of infectious disease experts administering Phase 3 of Moderna's COVID-19 vaccine trial. With nearly 1 million deaths around the world, medical professionals are in a life or death sprint to provide immunity against the virus. Sleep, Gay knows, will have to wait. "I felt like I needed to do my part," Gay said. "So it's a lot more work, but totally worth it given what we're trying to do.... It's asking yourself, what did you do when you saw something that needed to happen or a situation that wasn't right?"

Six months into the COVID-19 pandemic, life appears permanently changed. Time has been rendered meaningless. Daily life alternates between virtual interaction and isolation, a slow-moving and monotonous haze. That is, for everyone except the patients and medical professionals working at extraordinary speeds to combat the deadly virus. In the race for a COVID-19 vaccine, time has never moved quicker for Gay and her team.

"I think it really hit home when my kids were no longer going to school, to be perfectly honest," Gay said. "That really changes your daily life.... I feel like I'm trying to answer at least one question about how we're going to get back to something closer to normal."

Even still, 78% of Americans worry the vaccine approval process is being driven more by politics than science. In a rare bipartisan sentiment, 72% of Republicans and 82% of Democrats expressed such worries, according to a survey from STAT and the Harris Poll.

Despite concerns of a rushed approval process, thousands of volunteers across the nation have stepped up as patients for the COVID-19 vaccine trials. "The biggest motivator is that people are taking a vaccine not for themselves but for their loved ones," Gay said. "I had a working mom who enrolled in the study, she's trying to do her job and homeschool her kids. So, like me, she really wants her kids to be able to go back to school."

After multiple medical examinations, participants receive either the vaccine or a placebo. In the weeks that follow, any symptoms are monitored through an E-diary mobile application and follow-up appointments as patients continue with daily lives. "There's going to be 30,000 participants — that's 30,000 people willing to step up to get a vaccine," Gay said, referring to all Moderna trial sites. "It's really just tremendous."

Louise Stephenson, a senior at UNC-Chapel Hill from Wilmington, was one of 600 participants to receive the Moderna vaccine in phase 2 of the clinical trials. She said her main motivation for enrolling was to help expedite the development of a vaccine, and that she looks forward to telling her future children and grandchildren that she helped in the small ways she could. "I hope it works so I can say I'm one of the founding members of the Moderna vaccine trials study," Stephenson said, laughing. "I'm optimistic about it. My only fear is that it's just a lot of wasted time."

Gary Kayye, a professor at UNC-Chapel Hill, vol-

unteered for Pfizer's stage 3 accelerated trial, administered by Duke University. "I had somebody in my office who worked for me for 15 years die from it," Kayye said. "So it certainly affected me directly. She had been a big part of my life for such a long time."

Neither Kayye nor Stephenson has experienced any side effects, a concern that escalated among participants after an AstraZeneca vaccine patient suffered from adverse neurological symptoms. The symptoms were consistent with a rare but serious spinal inflammatory disorder called transverse myelitis, causing the trial to pause immediately. However, both volunteers felt one concrete change after receiving the vaccine: a strong sense of hope.

Those who are at a higher risk of contracting the virus, such as essential workers, minorities and the elderly, are preferable vaccine trial patients. Moderna recently slowed enrollment to ensure minority representation in the study, with 24% of their participants coming from communities of color. "I would rather we have higher diverse participants and take one extra week," Moderna CEO Stephane Bancel said. "Diversity matters more to us than speed."

At the local level, recruiting diverse patients comes with unique challenges. In North Carolina, Hispanics make up 44% of COVID-19 cases where ethnicity is known, despite making up just 9.3% of the population. Throughout it all, Gay said the highlight of each day is getting to talk with the trial's volunteer participants, who bring with them a spectrum of experiences and backgrounds.

"It's very interesting to see who decides to participate in the study and why they do it. It's uplifting," Gay said. "I'm thanking them. They're thanking me. I think hard times sometimes truly do bring out the best in people and I love that."

Lose your job and health insurance due to COVID?

By Rose Hoban

N.C. HEALTH NEWS

Who knew? The tens, if not hundreds, of thousands of North Carolinians who have lost health insurance since the onset of the coronavirus pandemic might have a new option. They should check out the federal marketplace created by the Affordable Care Act.

A change quietly enacted on the federal Healthcare.gov website sometime in August creates a "special enrollment period" for anyone who lost employer-sponsored insurance since January.

Usually, someone who doesn't have insurance through their employer and wants to get something on the marketplace needs to wait until open enrollment, which is to begin Nov. 1 and run through Dec. 15. A person seeking insurance can also sign up if they've had a "life-changing event" such as marriage, giving birth or losing a job.

The catch? You have to complete your enrollment within 60 days of the life change. This spring, as many as 190,000 North Carolinians lost their insurance along with their jobs. They may not have been aware that they were eligible to get on the exchange and missed that 60-day window of opportunity. And despite calls from advocates for these special enrollment periods to be extended, the Trump administration declined for months to lengthen that window. Then it did. But there was no fanfare, no announcement from the

president at one of the many press briefings he held this summer.

According to Julieanne Taylor, who runs the health insurance navigator program at the Charlotte Center for Legal Advocacy, a North Carolina navigator was assisting a client with getting on the marketplace when they noticed a new question on the website. "It said, 'Since January 1, have you lost your health coverage?'" Taylor said. It was a new question and a new criteria for being able to sign up for insurance.

"Oftentimes when we see something like that, it's usually a glitch," she said. So her agency called the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, which manages the healthcare.gov website to be sure. It turns out the federal agency had realized that within the Affordable Care Act, a special enrollment period could be triggered in the case of a disaster declaration such as the one for COVID-19.

What was strange to Taylor about this new special enrollment period was that CMS did no advertising about it: no announcement, no press release, nothing from an agency that issues multiple press releases a day. During the week of Sept. 14-18 alone, the agency issued 17 press releases. "Usually we get CMS notices and updates, but we didn't get anything," she said. "It's bizarre, and frustrating that they're not advertising it. It's kind of up to us to do it."

Tara Straw from the Center for Budget and Policy Priorities, based in Washington, D.C., said it

was unfortunate the agency didn't do a wider announcement. "You always want people to have every opportunity to enroll in the coverage they're entitled to receive," she said.

Straw noted that back in the spring, advocates had asked the Trump administration to extend the 60-day window for people to sign up for coverage on the federal marketplace after losing their jobs. In about a dozen states and the nation's capital, which run their own marketplaces, the window was opened for the newly unemployed and uninsured to get coverage. But in the 38 states that use the federal marketplace, people were out of luck.

"It does help people who could have enrolled earlier, but failed to enroll," Straw said. "People's lives were exceptionally chaotic, around, you know, the spring and summer when people were losing coverage.... They probably didn't have the bandwidth to pursue that because, you know, people were experiencing all sorts of other needs like housing, food, and, you know, homeschooling their kids and everything else."

Straw herself was unaware that the special enrollment period had been initiated until she talked to the folks at Taylor's agency, who'd noticed it and flagged it to her. "People were going through the application and they were seeing some strange questions," she said. "You could see that something different was happening, just by the questions they were asking."

A few simple recipe hacks for time-saving meals

FAMILY FEATURES

With many families spending more time than usual at home, scratch cooking trends are popular among home chefs.

From homemade sourdough to elaborate multi-course dinners, the kitchen has become a place for creativity for many.

However, since summer brings all sorts of fun and outdoor activities, busy families may be looking for ways to spend less time in the kitchen without compromising on quality or flavor. Try to work smarter, not harder, and let your local grocery store do some of the heavy lifting.

Starting with pre-packaged salads, casseroles, fresh-baked breads or prepared items from the deli case, like a rotisserie chicken, opens an array of possibilities for quick family meals.

For example, Signature Cafe and Signature Select, available exclusively at Albertsons and Safeway stores, can be your go-to for meal solutions, and you can find these products at a value compared to many leading national brands without giving up the quality you crave. With products available across the entire store, you can find easy-to-implement recipe hacks the whole family can enjoy.

Serving up a tasty and comforting dinner can be as easy as mixing together fresh ingredients like pre-made macaroni and cheese, rotisserie chicken, frozen broccoli and topping your dish with cracker crumbs in this Chicken and Broccoli Mac and Cheese. You'll have food on the table in less than 30 minutes and more time to spend with family and friends.

With the resources available at your neighborhood store, you can build restaurant-quality Spicy Chicken Sandwiches with Nashville-Style Dressing at home by visiting the deli depart-



Chicken and Broccoli Mac and Cheese is a quick and easy recipe hack.

ment for fried chicken and swinging by the bakery for a loaf of European-style bread. Crunchy fried chicken, cool lettuce, crisp pickles and spicy dressing including a handful of pantry staples make for the perfect flavor and texture combination.

End the day with a Neapolitan-Style Milkshake as classic flavors come together with vanilla bean ice cream, fudge striped shortbread cookies, strawberry preserves and whole milk. This ice cream treat is an indulgence that blends in a flash.

Visit albertsons.com/exclusivebrands to shop for grocery delivery or pickup at your local store.

Chicken and Broccoli Mac and Cheese

Servings: 4
Nonstick cooking spray
2 packages (12 ounces each) Signature Cafe Classic Macaroni and Cheese
1 cup frozen broccoli
2 Signature Cafe Whole Roasted Chicken Breasts (about 1 cup), skin removed and diced into 1/2-inch cubes
1/2 cup cracker crumbs

Preheat oven to 400 F. Coat 6-by-9-inch baking dish with nonstick cooking spray. Add macaroni and cheese, broccoli and chicken, stirring to combine until well incorporated. Top with cracker crumbs.

Bake 20 minutes, or until heated through.

Neapolitan-Style Milkshake

Servings: 2-4

4 scoops (1/2 cup each) Signature Select Vanilla or Vanilla Bean Ice Cream
6 Signature Select Fudge Striped Shortbread Cookies
4 tablespoons Signature Select Strawberry Preserves

1 1/2 cups whole milk, plus additional (optional)

In blender, process ice cream, cookies, strawberry preserves and whole milk.

If desired, add milk to achieve desired thickness.

Serve in chilled glasses.

Spicy Chicken Sandwiches with Nashville-Style Dressing

Servings: 2

Nashville-Style Spicy Mayonnaise:

1/2 cup mayonnaise

1/2 teaspoon cayenne pepper

1/2 teaspoon paprika

1/4 teaspoon garlic powder

1/2 teaspoon salt

1/2 teaspoon black pepper

Spicy Chicken Sandwich:

1/2 cup Nashville-Style Spicy Mayonnaise, plus additional (optional)

4 slices Signature Select Artisan French or Italian Bread

2 pieces hand-breaded Signature Cafe Fried Chicken Breast, cut into slices

1 cup lettuce mix

8 sweet or dill pickle chips

Take the fear out of trying unfamiliar produce

FAMILY FEATURES

Introducing kids to unfamiliar flavors doesn't have to be a frightful experience. Getting creative and taking cues from some beloved characters may be all it takes for families to explore produce in a new way and discover how delicious, satisfying and enjoyable fresh fruits and vegetables can be.

A passion for produce may begin with America's favorites, like bananas, apples, citrus, celery, carrots and broccoli, but that's just the beginning.

Whether it's their angry names and tough exteriors, or simply a fear of the unknown about taste and preparation, dozens more diverse and exotic fruits and vegetables like dragon fruit, horned melon and Brussels sprouts are often the sources of produce paranoia.

An initiative from Dole, in collaboration with Disney and Pixar's "Monsters, Inc.," is helping to take the scare out of specialty fruits and vegetables and widen America's produce horizons. That's because, like a good book or the characters in a beloved film, you can't judge a fruit or vegetable by its appearance; nature's true beauty often lies within.

The campaign offers character-inspired recipes, serving suggestions, digital and social activations, family-friendly activities, fun trivia and influencer partnerships that celebrate the not-so-scary world of the planet's more unusual fresh bounty.

One easy way to introduce new flavors is by trying a variation of a familiar fruit or veggie. For example, there are more than 500 edible banana varieties in the world. You might sample a red banana or a Manzano, or even an ice cream banana, with a taste resembling vanilla custard.

These fun and kid-friendly Green Slime Nacho Cups feature plantains, for



Green Slime Nacho Chips with plantains have a different taste and texture than run of the mill yellow bananas.

example, a member of the banana family with a different taste and texture than everyday yellow bananas - more firm and starchy - like a potato. Increase your family's produce intake even further with a Slippery Slimy Smoothie, which calls for green grapes, spinach, banana and pineapple.

Find more recipes and other not-so-scary fun at dole.com/Disney, and follow #Dole and #DoleRecipes.

Green Slime Nacho Cups

Prep time: 5 minutes

Cook time: 20 minutes

Servings: 4

1 green starting to turn yellow Dole Plantain, peeled and thinly sliced on bias

1 1/2 teaspoons canola oil

1/4 teaspoon salt, divided

1 Dole Avocado, halved, pitted and peeled

1 tablespoon lime juice

1 clove garlic, minced

1/2 cup thinly shredded Dole Purple Cabbage

Preheat oven to 375 F.

Toss plantain slices with canola oil and season with pinch of salt. On parchment paper-lined baking sheet, arrange slices in single layer with no overlapping.

Bake 18-20 minutes, or until crispy and lightly

golden. Cool completely and set aside.

Using spoon, scoop flesh of avocado into small bowl and mash, reserving one half avocado shell. Stir mashed avocado with lime juice, garlic and remaining salt.

Stir in slaw, reserving some for garnish. Scoop into reserved avocado shell and smooth top with back of spoon. Stick reserved cabbage shreds out of avocado mixture to look like hair.

Serve slime nacho cups with plantain chips.

Slippery Slimy Smoothie

Prep time: 10 minutes

Servings: 2 (8 ounces each)

1/2 cup Dole Spinach

1 Dole Banana, peeled and frozen

1/2 cup Dole Green Grapes, frozen

1/3 cup cucumber, diced

1/2 cup Dole Pineapple

1/2 cup unsweetened vanilla almond milk

1/2 cup nonfat plain Greek yogurt

5 ice cubes

In blender, blend spinach, banana, grapes, cucumber, pineapple, almond milk, Greek yogurt and ice cubes until smooth.

Pour smoothie into two glasses and serve.



One of the easiest ways you can fight the spread of COVID-19 is to wear a mask that covers your nose and mouth. Whatever your reason, get behind the mask.

For more information, visit covid19.ncdhhs.gov



NC DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES



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