



Jackson Pushes Back At GOP Critics, Defends Judicial Record

WASHINGTON (AP) — Supreme Court nominee Ketanji Brown Jackson forcefully defended her record as a judge Tuesday, pushing back against Republican assertions that she was soft on crime and declaring she would rule as an "independent jurist" if confirmed as the first Black woman on the high court.

In a marathon day and evening of questioning that lasted more than 13 hours, Republicans aggressively pressed Jackson on

the sentences she has handed down to sex offenders in her nine years as a federal judge, her advocacy on behalf of terror suspects at Guantanamo Bay, her thoughts on critical race theory and even her religious views. At one point, Sen. Ted Cruz of Texas read from children's books that he said are taught at her teenage daughter's school.

Several GOP senators grilled her on her child pornography sentences, arguing they were lighter than federal guidelines

recommend. She said she based the sentences on many factors, not just the guidelines, and said some of the cases had given her nightmares.

Could her rulings have endangered children? "As a mother and a judge," she said, "nothing could be further from the truth."

In what Judiciary Committee Chairman Dick Durbin, D-Ill., described as "a trial by ordeal," Jackson attempted to answer GOP concerns and also highlight the empathetic style on the

bench that she has frequently described. The committee's Republicans, several of whom have their eyes on the presidency, tried to brand her — and Democrats in general — as soft on crime, an emerging theme in GOP midterm election campaigns.

Jackson told the committee that her brother and two uncles served as police officers, and that "crime and the effect on the community, and the need for law enforcement — those are not abstract concepts or political slogans to me."

Tuesday's hearing was the first of two days of questioning after Jackson and the 22 members of the panel gave opening statements on Monday. On Thursday, the committee will hear from legal experts before an eventual vote to move her nomination to the Senate floor.

President Joe Biden chose Jackson in February, fulfilling a campaign pledge to nominate a Black woman to the Supreme Court for the first time in American history. She would take the seat of Justice Stephen Breyer, who announced in January that he would retire after 28 years on the court. Jackson would be the third Black justice, after Thurgood Marshall and Clarence Thomas, and the sixth woman.

Barring unexpected developments, Democrats who control the Senate by the slimmest of margins hope to wrap up Jackson's confirmation before Easter, though Breyer is not leaving un-

(See JACKSON, P. 2)



GOP Holds Voter Reg Push At Gas Stations

Max Greenwood

The Hill

Republicans have launched a series of voter registration drives at gas stations in different parts of the country in a bid to draw attention to an issue they see as a political liability for President Biden heading into the November midterm elections.

The Republican National Committee (RNC) began the effort on Saturday with voter registration drives in Arizona and North Carolina. The party is planning to expand the campaign to other states such as California, Colorado, Florida, Iowa, Michigan, Maine, Ohio, Texas and Wisconsin.

The cost of gas has risen for some time due to the coronavirus pandemic and disruptions to global supply and demand, but prices soared after Biden moved to ban imports of Russian oil and gas amid that country's invasion of Ukraine.

While the spike in gas prices isn't limited to the United States, Republicans have sought to cast the rising costs as a direct result of Biden's policies.

"The Biden Gas Hike is a product of his own doing, and Americans have faced record high gas prices as a result," RNC Chairwoman Ronna McDaniel said.

"The RNC is mobilizing at gas stations across the country to register voters and remind folks that the anti-American energy of Biden and the Democrats is costing them more."

While experts say the spike in gas prices is due to a multitude of factors — and prices have eased somewhat in recent days — the RNC's voter registration drives signal that the party will try to make the rising gas prices a pivotal issue in this year's midterms.

The GOP needs to gain just five seats in the House and one seat in the Senate in November to recapture full control of Congress. Democrats, meanwhile, are facing historical headwinds this year after winning the White House and Senate majority in 2020.

While sitting presidents often get at least some blame when gas prices rise, a recent Yahoo News-YahooGov poll found that only 30 percent of voters believe that Biden would be responsible if prices continue to go up.

Twenty-three percent said they would place the blame on oil and gas companies, while another 19 percent said that Russia would deserve the blame.



Race-Based Hair Discrimination Halted

By Chanté Russell

Staff Writer

The CROWN Act, which stands for Creating a Respectful and Open World for Natural Hair Act, passed the House on Friday, March 18, potentially banning race-based hair discrimination at work, federal programs and public accommodations. The Democrats led the bill with the vote landing at 235-189.

"Routinely, people of African descent are deprived of educational and employment opportunities because they are adorned with natural or protective hairstyles in which hair is tightly coiled or tightly curled, or worn in locs, cornrows, twists, braids, Bantu knots or Afros," according to the bill.

A recent study by researchers at Duke University found that participants viewed Black hair-styles like afros, twists or braids as less professional. A separate study by Michigan State University found that African-American women face the highest instances of hair discrimination. According to the study, Black

women are more likely to be sent home from the workplace because of their hair and 80 percent of African-American women felt they needed to style their hair conservatively in order to fit in at work.

Hair discrimination can also be a problem for Black children in schools. Students across the country have been asked to cut or straighten their hair to meet dress codes and grooming policies that ban natural and protec-

tive styles. Some school districts have banned specific Black hairstyles, preventing students from attending school events including prom, extracurricular and sports activities, and even graduation.

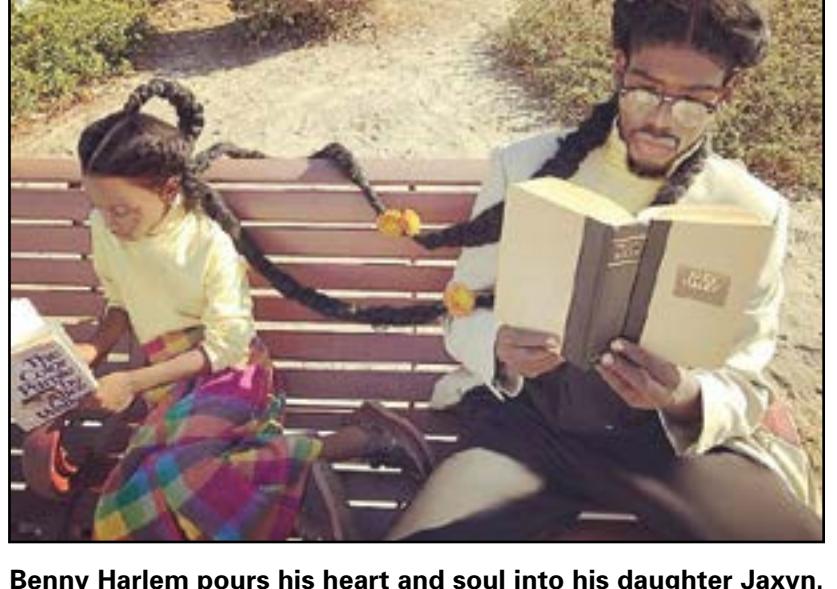
"For too long, Black girls have been discriminated against and criminalized for the hair that grows on our heads and the way we move through and show up in his world," Rep. Ayanna Pressley (D-Mass.) said on the House floor Friday.

The house also passed the CROWN Act last Congress but the bill stalled in the Republican-controlled Senate. Democrats now have a 50-50 majority in the Senate, with Vice President Kamala Harris serving as the tie-breaking vote.

The Biden administration said in a statement last week it "strongly supports" the CROWN Act.

The statement continues, "The President believes that no person should be denied the ability to obtain a job, succeed in school

(See HAIR, P. 2)



Benny Harlem pours his heart and soul into his daughter Jaxyn. This duo took the internet by storm with their hair expressions

Eliz. City Denies NAACP Parade Permit

By Tyria McCray

Staff Writer

In Elizabeth City, on the first anniversary of the fatal shooting of Andrew Brown Jr. by three Pasquotank sheriff's deputies, the Pasquotank NAACP were denied a "parade-walk" in commemoration of Browns' passing.

During public comments at a March 14 council meeting, Keith Rivers (NAACP President) said that the NAACP filed the parade permit for April 21 on March 1 for a "Journey for Justice."

However, after one week of submitting the parade application, he received a call from Deputy City Clerk Doris Walton advising him the request had been denied.

"The reason for the disapproval by the interim city manager (Ralph Clark) was based on the interim police chief's recommendations and the fire chief's disapproval," Rivers told the city council.

Clark then stated that he denied the permit based on concerns that the parade would block traffic and create safety hazards, saying he had the final "say so" in the matter. "It was not clear enough if it was going to be just a walk from one place to the other or would they

stop and block traffic," Clark said. "If we go back to the results from some of the past permits they got, some of them have stopped and blocked traffic."

"We don't have the manpower to deal with rerouting traffic. And everything else."

Clark's last day as the city's interim manager was Monday, March 14.

The form also includes initials from interim Police Chief Larry James and Fire Chief Chris Carver, indicating they disapproved of the application.

"I told her it was the 'Journey to Justice,'" Rivers said. "(Walton) responded about the anniversary

Rivers said no city "executive person" called to discuss any alternative actions or any other plan for the parade. Furthermore, after submitting the permit request on March 1, Rivers stated City Clerk April Onley contacted him and told him the city had received the NAACP's application. Deputy City Clerk Walton reached out to the NAACP in which she inquired about the purpose of the parade walk application.

"I told her it was the 'Journey to Justice,'" Rivers said. "(Walton) responded about the anniversary

of Andrew Brown. I concurred that was the date of (Brown's) murder."

Onley (City Clerk) said Tuesday in an email that Deputy City Clerk Walton also asked Rivers about three questions on the permit application that had been left blank.

Rivers left the "approximate number of persons participating" blank; Walton wrote "100-plus." He also left empty types of "animals and/or vehicles" that would participate.

Instead, Walton wrote "cars" after talking with Rivers. Walton also made a notation that the parade would end at 7:30 p.m. after that question was also left blank, whereas Rivers' application stated that the parade would start at 5:30 p.m. on April 21 with marchers assembling at 5 p.m. at Waterfront Park.

Furthermore, Keith Rivers told the City Council that the proposed parade route was 1.1 miles long. However, his application states that the parade would begin at Waterfront Park and proceed on Ehringhaus Street before turning right onto Road Street. It would then proceed to Elizabeth Street, where marchers would take a right onto Water Street back to Waterfront Park.



RALEIGH — The North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services Tuesday announced that an average of nine North Carolinians died each day from a drug overdose in 2020, a 40% increase from the previous year.

"A single life lost to an overdose is a life we should have saved. Stress, loss of housing and loss of employment for those in recovery caused by the COVID-19 pandemic has led to a backslide in our fight against substance use disorders," said NCDHHS Secretary Kody H. Kinsley. "Improving behavioral health and resilience is a top priority for NCDHHS, and we will rally our community partners and our team to meet these new challenges as we focus on saving lives, prevention and the lasting supports needed for long-term recovery, including increasing the number of people with health insurance."

This stark increase during 2020 aligns with the increases experienced nationwide with the nation exceeding 100,000 deaths. In North Carolina, the number of drug overdose deaths — from illicit substances and/or medications — increased by nearly 1,000 deaths, from 2,352 in 2019 to 3,304 in 2020. There were also nearly 15,000 emergency department visits related to drug overdoses in 2020. Provisional surveillance data suggest these increases continued through 2021. Both overdose deaths and the increases disproportionately affect historically marginalized populations.

Amidst the challenging backdrop of the COVID-19 pandemic, NCDHHS is working to reverse this trend. It continues to implement the North Carolina Opioid and Substance Use Action Plan, which aims to prevent addiction, reduce harm from substance use and connect people to substance use services, housing and employment support, and to do all of this with attention to equity. Specific actions include:

To prevent overdoses, NCDHHS regularly provides free naloxone to syringe services programs, local government agencies, treatment providers and other community-based organizations.

This year, 15 mobile health clinics funded by NCDHHS will begin working in hard-to-reach areas to assess clients and provide treatment, primary care and recovery support services.

Community-based organizations receive funding and other support to extend the reach of overdose prevention, harm reduction and substance use treatment services. Certain programs are tailored for those with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

NCDHHS funds a variety of trainings for professionals working locally in the field on initiatives like syringe services and harm reduction programs, justice-involved linkages to care, post-overdose response teams and prescribing medications for opioid use disorder. Progress is monitored on a data dashboard that tracks state, regional and county-level metrics and local actions.

The Hope4NC helpline (1-855-587-3463), continues to assist those who need confidential emotional support, counseling referrals or connection to community resources.

Jackson Pushes Back At GOP Critics—CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

til the current session ends this summer.

She said the potential to be the first Black woman on the court is "extremely meaningful" and that she had received many letters from young girls. Jackson, who grew up in Miami, noted that she had not had to attend racially segregated public schools as her own parents did, "and the fact that we had come that far was to me a testament to the hope and the promise of this country."

Her nomination also "supports public confidence in the judiciary," Jackson said.

Democrats have been full of praise for Biden's Supreme Court nominee, noting that she would not only be the first Black woman but also the first public defender on the court, and first with experience representing indigent criminal defendants since Justice Marshall.

Republicans praised that experience, too, but also questioned it, focusing in particular on work she did roughly 15 years ago representing Guantanamo Bay detainees. Jackson said public defenders don't pick their clients and are "standing up for the constitutional value of representation." She said she continued to represent one client in private practice because her firm happened to be assigned his

case.

Picking up on a thread started by Missouri Sen. Josh Hawley and amplified by the Republican National Committee in fundraising emails, Cruz questioned Jackson on her sentences for child pornography, at one point bringing out a large poster board and circling sentences he said he found egregious.

Jackson defended her decisions by saying she takes into account not only sentencing guidelines but also the stories of the victims, the nature of the offenses and the defendants' histories.

"A judge is not playing a numbers game," she said. "A judge is looking at all of these different factors."

The White House has rejected the criticism as "toxic and weakly presented misinformation." And sentencing expert Douglas Berman, an Ohio State law professor, wrote on his blog that while Jackson's record shows she is skeptical of the range of prison terms recommended for child pornography cases, "so too were prosecutors in the majority of her cases and so too are district judges nationwide."

Cruz, Hawley and Arkansas Sen. Tom Cotton are potential 2024 presidential candidates, and their

rounds of questioning were some of the most combative, hitting on issues that are popular with the GOP base. Cruz asked her about critical race theory, a premise that centers on the idea that racism is systemic in the nation's institutions. Jackson said the idea doesn't come up in her work as a judge, and it "wouldn't be something I would rely on" if confirmed.

The Texas senator also questioned her about her daughter's private school in Washington, where she sits on the board, bringing up a book called "Antiracist Baby" he said was taught to younger children at the school.

"Do you agree with this book that is being taught for kids that babies are racist?" Cruz asked.

Visibly annoyed, Jackson took

a long pause. She said no children should be made to feel they are racists, victims or oppressors. "I don't believe in any of that," she said.

Cotton asked whether there should be more police or fewer, a question she declined to answer, and questioned her on drug sentencing.

Jackson also bristled at questions from South Carolina Sen. Lindsey Graham, who voted for her confirmation as an appeals court judge last year but has openly expressed his frustration after President Joe Biden picked her over a South Carolina judge.

Graham asked her about her religion, and how often she goes to church, angrily noting what he said was unfair criticism of Justice Amy Coney Barrett's Catholicism ahead of her 2020 confirmation.

Jackson — who thanked God in her opening statement and said that faith "sustains me at this moment" — responded that she is a Protestant. But she said she is reluctant to talk about her faith in detail because "I want to be mindful of the need for the public to have confidence in my ability to separate out my personal views."

Asked about abortion, Jackson readily agreed with comments that conservative Justices Barrett and Brett Kavanaugh made when they were up for confirmation. "Roe and Casey are the settled law of the Supreme Court concerning the right to terminate a woman's pregnancy. They have established a framework that the court has

reaffirmed," Jackson said.

Jackson's answers bypassed a key point: The court right now is weighing whether to overrule those cases that affirm a nationwide right to abortion.

Near the end of the day, Sen. John Kennedy, R-La., asked Jackson when life begins. She told him that she didn't know, and added, without elaborating: "I have a religious view that I set aside when I am ruling on cases."

The White House said Tuesday that Biden had watched part of the hearings and was proud of Jackson's "grace and dignity."

The president was struck by how "she swiftly dismantled conspiracy theories put forward in bad faith," said White House deputy press secretary Chris Meagher.

Race-Based Hair —CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

or the workplace, secure housing, or otherwise exercise their rights based on a hair texture or hairstyle."

According to Republicans who objected to the bill, federal law already covers this kind of discrimination and the Democrats should be focusing on other issues like inflation and high gas prices.

"Fourteen months of chaos and we're doing a bill on hair," Rep. Jim Jordan (R-Ohio) said Friday. "I hope we can actually focus

on the things that matter to the American people."

Democrats have acknowledged that such discrimination is prohibited under existing federal law, such as the 1964 Civil Rights Act but said courts have interpreted the definition of race in such a way which continues to allow discrimination against people who wear natural or protective hairstyles.

One of the bill's creators, Adjoa B. Asamoah, told the Grio, "The CROWN Act amends the existing definition of race to in-

clude traits that are historically associated with it; such as hair texture and what we call protective styles, including but not limited to braids, locs, twists, Bantu knots, et cetera."

Asamoah said that under current laws "courts have interpreted race (that) has not included our hair because the thought is if we can alter our hair, then it's something that is not inherently part of our racial identity."

"Our military took steps to end hair discrimination last year,"

House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer (D-Md.) said. "If anybody thinks this isn't a real issue, obviously the military thought it was an issue. And it was an important enough issue they took action."

Several states have also already implemented their own versions of the CROWN Act with Massachusetts becoming the latest on Thursday. While the CROWN Act has not been passed or filed in North Carolina, Durham, Orange County and Greensboro all have versions of the law.

High School Teachers Save Student's Life

By Tyria McCray

Staff Writer

Thanks to the heroic acts of teachers and staff at Gates County High School in Gatesville, North Carolina, a 16-year-old sophomore is still alive. Although February 24 began as a typical day at the school, the day ended on another note. Around mid-day, Jaylen Beamon had just finished up one of his classes and was walking in a hallway with a few friends when he collapsed.

Immediately alerted to the incident, GCHS staff went to work on saving Beamon. Unfortunately, he was in cardiac arrest, and it took every ounce of training by those teachers and staff, including performing CPR and using an AED unit to shock his heart back into rhythm, to ensure the teen would live to see another day. He later underwent surgery to implant a defibrillator, a device that monitors heart rate and delivers a strong electrical shock to restore the heartbeat to normal. Thankfully, he is now recovering at home and counting down the days until he can return to school.

"Jaylen is doing good, he is resting up and getting stronger," said his mother, Sakara Miller. "He's a trooper. It's a process to go through such as taking his medications and following doctor's orders. What we plan to do is after his first follow-up appointment with the doctor, if everything is clear at that time, Jaylen will return to school. We are so grateful and appreciative that they were trained to handle such high-level medical events like heart attacks. They

immediately jumped into action. They saved my son's life," she stressed.

The actions of those who saved Beamon's life did not go unnoticed by the Gates County Board of Education during their regularly scheduled meeting last week. During the meeting, Dr. Barry Williams, Superintendent of Gates County Schools, paid special recognition to the teachers and staff that came to Beamon's aid.

"Each school year our faculty and staff are required to participate in training to promote the health and safety of our students and staff," Dr. Williams said in his remarks to the school board. "We do training for bloodborne pathogens, tornado drills, fire drills, lockdowns, and CPR and AED, to name a few." Dr. Williams added. "I am so proud to say that staff members at Gates County High School were placed in a situation on February 24th

where they used their CPR and AED training in an emergency situation and saved the life of one of our students."

Gates County Schools Hero Award plaques were also presented to, in no particular order, Matt Biggy, Renee Kittrell, Whitney Farmer, Renee Perry, Don Hudson, Rebecca Leary, and many more.

Sakara Miller, along with her mother-in-law, Julia Beamon (Jaylen's grandmother), attended the school board meeting and made remarks on behalf of the family. "Thanks to each and every one of you for allowing God to use you because, without you, my son wouldn't be here today," Miller said. "It's definitely a drastic change in our life, but it's a change for the better and without you, it could have gone the other way. I'm so grateful; my family is so grateful for all that you do, not just for that day, but every day. I don't know what

Biden Wants To Spend Infrastructure Billions On Initiatives, But Not His Call.

By Zack Colman

Politico

President Joe Biden sold last year's \$550 billion plan for new infrastructure spending by promising it will spur transformative climate and equity programs nationwide. The problem: states control most of the cash and may not share his goals of tackling climate change or reversing the effects of institutional racism.

With Democrats' sweeping social and climate spending bill dead in the water, it's looking increasingly like that bipartisan package that invests hundreds of billions in repairing roads, bridges and water systems will represent Biden's signature domestic achievement going into the midterms. But the lack of federal control over how these dollars are spent is raising doubts about whether Biden can meet his pledges, disappointing his supporters.

"People are saying 'Where are the projects?'" Robert Bullard, a Texas Southern University professor and member of Biden's White House Environmental Justice Advisory Committee, said of frustration in communities of color. "They know the pressure they're going to be under with the midterms. There has to be something tangible rolled out because these people stood for hours in line [to vote] during the pandemic and they're going to be

asked to do it again in November — and if nothing happens they're going to ask, 'Why?'

Biden's inability to control how a large portion of the infrastructure money gets spent is largely due to legal constraints. About 75 percent of the infrastructure law will be distributed to states via a complicated formula set by existing statute, including the bulk of federal highway dollars.

Communities that have for decades been on the short end of federal funding worry that these constraints will leave them in the same position, missing out on historic cash infusions.

"Environmental justice communities have faced more [hardship] than many people have faced in this society, in this country. We have paid with our lives, with our blood, with our labor in addition to the taxes and whatever else we bring to the table," said Donele Wilkins, CEO of Detroit-based environmental justice group Green Door Initiative. "We just want to get a return on our investment wherever we can get it."

The infrastructure law mandates that 49 percent, or about \$21 billion, of funds provided through the drinking water and lead service line replacement programs must be provided as grants and forgivable loans to disadvantaged communities. That funding is intended to address the needs of low-income residents struggling to afford

their water bills and lead poisoning disproportionately plaguing communities of color.

Federal agencies have largely tried to nudge states to support the administration's goals and address these funding inequities. EPA issued a 56-page memo earlier this month outlining recommendations and requirements to ensure the revolving funds hit equity targets, such as setting aside a portion of those funds for technical assistance to identify communities in need, help them develop projects and assist with applications. The Federal Highway Administration, similarly, is "encouraging" states to invest their formula dollars on repair and improvements before building new highways, but its statutory and regulatory tools to ensure compliance are limited.

While the bill puts tremendous power in the hands of state transportation departments, which historically have preferred to use their money to build highways instead of transit and walking and biking infrastructure, Transportation Department Deputy Secretary Polly Trottenberg said these days, a lot of state DOTs don't need to have their arms twisted into looking at carbon emissions and social equity.

"Just as U.S. DOT is evolving, a lot of state and local DOTs are evolving as well," she told POLITICO in an interview.

But prying federal dollars loose from state governors and

legislatures isn't always easy. Some environmental justice advocates and community leaders have worried aloud that Republican-run states opposed to Biden's political objectives would stifle funds from flowing to Democratic strongholds.

"We have to do a really better job of making sure there's a fair allocation of these resources from the statehouse to the communities that are more desperately in need — not places that voted for you for governor," said Greenville, Miss. Mayor Erick Simmons, who is a Democrat. "The funds are coming from the federal government to help folks particularly that are more in need. They may not look like you, but they are Mississippians, and they need help."

Mississippi, which has a Republican governor and statehouse, has only just begun spending the \$1.8 billion it received through the \$1.9 trillion coronavirus pandemic relief funds Congress passed in March 2021.

With states controlling so much of the investment in play, activists are working across several states to ensure the federal dollars Biden promised to pollution-ravaged communities actually make it to those areas.

Legislation, regulations and executive orders are being utilized in a handful of states to try to create environmental justice

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Business & Finance

Pandemic Made The Rich \$1.7T Richer

By John Nichols

The Nation

Two years ago this week, shortly after President Donald Trump issued a proclamation declaring "A National Emergency Concerning the Novel Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Outbreak," under 45,000 Americans were infected. The pandemic death toll was still below 500. But the economic ramifications were already being felt, as fears about the rapid spread of the disease were leading to mass layoffs, stock-market turbulence, and genuine concern about whether Americans would be able to put food on the table and pay the rent.

But it was a different story for the very rich. They were about to experience a redistribution of wealth that would see their fortunes skyrocket at an astronomical rate. While the pandemic has been hard on the vast majority of Americans, it's been nothing but good times for the billionaire class.

Elon Musk was worth \$24.6 billion when Trump issued his pandemic proclamation in mid-March of 2020. Today, he is worth \$234 billion—an 851 percent spike that adds up to roughly \$209.4 billion. During the same period, Google cofounders Larry Page and Sergey Brin doubled their wealth, to nearly \$114 billion and \$109 billion, respectively. Amazon's Jeff Bezos enjoyed a more modest increase in his fortunes, gaining a mere \$5.21 billion during the period. But Bezos still finished this remarkable run for the billionaire class as the second wealthiest man in America, with a net worth of \$165.1 billion, according to Forbes magazine's latest study of "The World's Real-Time Billionaires, Today's Winners and Losers."

Indeed, Musk and Bezos have over the course of the past 24 months grown so rich that they can casually rocket into space in a Billionaire Boys Club game of atmospheric oneupmanship.

While almost a million Americans have died from Covid-19 over the span of two traumatic years, and while tens of millions of Americans have experienced financial hardship and uncertainty as a result of the economic troubles that extended from the pandemic, America's billionaires have experienced an unprecedented run.

Americans for Tax Fairness's latest assessment of the condition argues that "U.S. billionaires' wealth continues to soar above the misery." ATF explained:



[As] of March 10, their collective wealth has shot up by \$1.7 trillion, or 57 percent, since the pandemic emergency was proclaimed in mid-March 2020. Their total wealth reached \$4.6 trillion, up from \$2.95 trillion on March 18, 2020.... The number of U.S. billionaires increased by 15%, from 614 to 704.

Globally, during the course of the pandemic, Oxfam estimates that "[a] new billionaire has been minted every 26 hours, as inequality contributes to the death of one person every four seconds." The growth has been particularly pronounced in the United States, where ATF has argued that the \$4.6 trillion in assets controlled by this country's 704 billionaires is "one-third more than the collective \$3.4 trillion net worth of the entire bottom half of American society, or some 65 million households."

Those are some astounding numbers.

Now, consider this fact: "Under current law, none of that wealth gain—essentially income—will likely ever be taxed," noted ATF.

ProPublica found after an assessment of IRS data that in a number of recent years, Musk, Bezos, and many of their fellow billionaires paid zero federal income taxes even as their fortunes soared. Those billionaires who actually pay taxes do so at a dramatically lower rate than working Americans do.

"Working families pay what they owe in taxes each paycheck. Billionaires generally pay little or nothing in taxes on these extraordinary gains in wealth," said Frank Clemente, executive director of ATF, who wants Congress and the Biden

administration to start taxing wealth gains as income each year, so that billionaires will start paying their fair share of taxes. "Such a reform is not yet part of President Biden's investment and tax legislation now being revised by Congress, but it should be."

That idea has gained traction in Congress. Last fall, Senate Finance Committee chair Ron Wyden, an Oregon Democrat who has long advocated for raising taxes on billionaires, released a new version of his proposed Billionaires Income Tax, which is designed to force billionaires to start paying taxes on a regular basis. Wyden said at the time:

There are two tax codes in America. The first is mandatory for workers who pay taxes out of every pay check. The second is voluntary for billionaires who defer paying taxes for years, if not indefinitely. Two tax codes allow billionaires to use largely untaxed income from wealth to build more wealth, while working families struggle to balance the mortgage against groceries, and utilities against saving for the future. That's why it's time for a Billionaires Income Tax. The Billionaires Income Tax would ensure billionaires pay tax every year, just like working Americans. No working person in America thinks it's right that they pay their taxes and billionaires don't.

We have a historic opportunity with the Billionaires Income Tax to restore fairness to our tax code, and fund critical investments in American families.

Under the Wyden plan—which would only apply to taxpayers with more than \$1

trillion in assets or more than \$100 million in income for three consecutive years—tradable assets, such as stocks, would be marked-to-market every year. Billionaires would pay tax on gains like those they experienced during the pandemic. If enacted, the plan could raise roughly \$550 billion over a decade from just 704 very wealthy taxpayers.

Another plan, the "Make Billionaires Pay Act," was proposed by Senate Banking Committee chair Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) in the last Congress. That measure, presented in response to initial reports of spikes in billionaire wealth during the pandemic, sought to impose a one-time 60 percent tax on wealth gains made by billionaires between March 18, 2020, and January 1, 2021. Sanders proposed to "tax the obscene wealth gains billionaires have made during this extraordinary crisis to guarantee healthcare as a right to all for an entire year."

No matter which approach Congress takes to tax the rich, there is no question that it needs to happen. "It is shameful that billionaires profit off the suffering of working families as the pandemic ravages the economy and kills thousands of Americans every day," said Representative Ilhan Omar, the Minnesota Democrat who has been a leading advocate for taxing the rich in order to fund services for those in need.

"For far too long, the richest 0.001% of America, have avoided paying their fair share in taxes," said Omar, who favors legislation that will tax the billionaire class with an eye toward "addressing our nation's massive wealth inequality and finally guaranteeing healthcare as a human right."

Unless the government acts, the expansion of billionaire wealth and economic inequality will continue. The next two years could see an even greater redistribution of wealth upward.

Sanders argued in the first year of the pandemic, "At a time of enormous economic pain and suffering, we have a fundamental choice to make. We can continue to allow the very rich to get much richer while everyone else gets poorer and poorer. Or we can tax the winnings a handful of billionaires made during the pandemic to improve the health and well-being of tens of millions of Americans."

The pandemic is not over. But the era of pandemic profiteering by the billionaire class can, and should, be finished.

FUNDraising Good Times

By Mel & Pearl Shaw
Saad & Shaw



DONOR GIVING ON AUTOMATIC

Does your nonprofit receive gifts automatically without your having to ask? If you do, we say congratulations! This is a fundraising ideal. With automated giving a donor makes one decision to give, and then ensures that giving continues without having to make that decision again. The result can be an annual or monthly transfer from one of their accounts to your nonprofit. Is this the result you want? Before you answer "yes!" Let's look at a few alternatives that can increase the value of "automated gifts."

Increasing the value of automated gifts. If you have a pool of donors who give automatically you should feel good about what that means in terms of work done over the years to engage donors and encourage their continuous giving. But you don't want these donors to "drift"—you want to stay in contact with them and as appropriate encourage them to increase their annual gift, or to make a gift to a special campaign or project.

What to do. We recommend you run a report showing those gifts that come each year or month on an unsolicited basis. These can take the form of online giving, bank or brokerage account transfers, or checks and credit card donations. Include those who purchase tickets or a table for your events each year. The commonality is that they are unsolicited. Once you know who these donors are, "assign" each to a board member, volunteer, staff person, or other donor who will stay in touch. People assigned to an automatic donor should decide how they want to stay in touch. This could be with a personal email or phone call, or perhaps an invitation to coffee or lunch once a year. The idea is to have people from within the nonprofit reach out to your automatic donors. Don't worry if they don't reach back... most people are too busy to respond to every outreach. The goal is to create a personal touch.

Increase the responsiveness of donors by assigning them to someone they know. Ensure they are personally invited to meet up at one of your organization's events. Other points of contact can include sharing the organization's case for support or new brochure, discussing upcoming projects and programs, extending an invitation to a small gathering, or asking for a special one-time additional gift for a special project.

Remember, people may want to be more engaged. Not a lot engaged, but perhaps a little... When you assign someone to follow up with your automatic donors you create opportunities to retain their gift at the minimum or increase it if possible. Related to all of this is making sure your communications are not automatic. Watch those thank-you letters and acknowledgements—are you sending out the same thing over and over again? Do you use the same look and feel to your materials year-over-year, so people think it's the same thing one more time?

Let's not be lazy when it comes to automated gifts: let these serve as the beginning of a deeper relationship.

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BIDEN

Continued from page 2

spending oversight committees to give communities of color, rural towns and low-income neighborhoods more say at how states steer federal money as well as align with the Biden administration's goals to eliminate environmental and economic burdens in these communities.

So far Delaware, which has a Democratic governor and legislature, is the only state to enact such an accountability panel. Similar efforts are afoot in North and South Carolina, while the idea is being discussed in other states including Kentucky, Michigan, Florida, Illinois, Louisiana and Nebraska.

"If you don't put in the guardrails and the teeth, this money will get spent anywhere and everywhere," said Harold Mitchell Jr., who is spearheading the efforts through his environmental justice group ReGenesis Institute and is a member of the White House Environmental Justice Advisory Council.

The effort comes as the administration has decided against including race as a determining factor in the president's promise to steer 40 percent of the benefits from federal programs to disadvantaged communities. Some environmental justice advocates argued failing to consider race avoids confronting the chief reason certain neighborhoods face higher economic, employment, health and environmental burdens.

"Folks may be missed," said Mustafa Santiago Ali, a former EPA career staffer who now leads environmental justice efforts at the National Wildlife Federation. "There are middle-income Black communities and communities of color that are being impacted."

Early analysis shows that is already happening.

Advocacy group Climate Nexus in March found the Biden administration's environmental justice screening tool overlooked 2,854 Census tracts with a majority-minority population that surpassed one of eight climate and environmental indicators. The tool is how the Biden administration is identifying which communities are eligible for the 40 percent of benefits intended for "disadvantaged" areas.

The Biden administration would use that tool to determine spending over grant-driven initiatives, the portion of the law not bound by statutory formulas that automatically dispense cash to states. It has already started opening up programs with eye-popping dollar figures: \$52.5 billion for highways, \$27 billion for bridge repair and replacement, \$7.4 billion for water systems, \$3.5 billion for rural and tribal broadband and more so far.

Minority and rural communities, like the ones the Biden administration seeks to boost, may be at a disadvantage next to their richer, more populous neighbors when it comes to finding the time and expertise to put together winning applications. Such concerns are common among small communities that don't have the resources to have in-house experts or hire consultants to write applications tailor-made to the administration's goals and interests and in compliance with every iota of agency guidance.

In a November letter to governors, EPA Administrator Michael Regan said his agency will provide technical assistance to disadvantaged communities that want to apply for funds—but that process will take time.

Formula-driven funding can be attractive to administrations looking to champion their accomplishments because getting such funding out the door is easier, requiring less review time. Yet such formulas have systematically reinforced a divide between who does and doesn't receive resources. Sen. Martin Heinrich (D-N.M.) said while states receive significant portions of wildlife management funding, the formulas fail to give Native American tribes a fair share of those dollars.

"There are lots of examples where ... tribal communities are just not baked into the funding formulas. That's not just true for climate," Heinrich said. "I think we need to look at those formulas across the board and make sure we're dispersing those federal resources equitably."

The formula funding calculations or disbursements could have been adjusted by the infrastructure bill, but weren't. On transportation funding, Republicans opposed Democrats' desires to insert policies to steer money away from highway building in rural areas and toward transit programs that would have benefited largely Democrat-voting cities. Instead, agencies are issuing memos, guidance or exploring top-down changes to formulas to advance the administration's goals whenever possible.

Farmers In No Rush To Pivot Due To War



DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Russia's war in Ukraine could mean changes for Ed Kessel's farm along a quiet stretch of western North Dakota.

Worldwide, farmers like Kessel are weighing whether to change their planting patterns and grow more wheat this spring as the war has choked off or thrown into question grain supplies from a region known as "the breadbasket of the world."

Ukraine and Russia account for a third of global wheat and barley exports, which countries in the Middle East, Asia and Africa rely on to feed millions of people who subsist on subsidized bread and bargain noodles. They are also top exporters of other grains and sunflower seed oil used for cooking and food processing.

Kessel said he may plant some more wheat and ride the tide of high prices that have spiked by a third since the invasion, helping offset losses from drought and the increasing cost of fuel, but not a lot more.

"Honestly, it probably will help us plant a few more wheat acres. We'll put a few more acres into wheat and a few more into sunflowers," said Kessel, also first vice president of the North Dakota Grain Growers Association.

Major grain producers like the United States, Canada, France, Australia and Argentina are being closely watched to see if they can quickly ramp up production to fill the gap from lost Ukrainian supplies. But farmers are facing the prospect of another year of drought, climbing fuel and fertilizer costs, and supply chain disruptions from the COVID-19 pandemic. Major producers also are hamstrung by factors like legal limits on exports and farming patterns.

That means uncertainty for countries like Egypt, Lebanon, cus

distributed.

There are unanswered questions about how Western sanctions on Russia, the world's top wheat exporter, could affect its grain exports and distribution networks. Russia is also the biggest exporter of fertilizer, while Ukraine ships huge amounts of corn, rye, oats and millet. The Black Sea region is a top producer of the grains used to feed livestock worldwide.

Australia and India have responded with increased grain exports, but there's little room for others to immediately do the same. That's mainly due to recurrent drought, said Arnaud Petit, executive director of the International Grains Council.

The U.S. produced around 44 million tons of wheat for the 2021-2022 season. Just two to three years ago, it was over 50 million tons. Petit pointed to drought and farmers switching to more profitable crops.

"It will impact millions and millions of people, particularly in the poorest countries of the world," WFP Executive Director David Beasley told The Associated Press in the western Ukrainian city of Lviv last week as he visited a refugee center where food aid was

more on grains like wheat.

Doug Martin said it's too late for his family farm in Manitoba, Canada, to make significant changes to what's being planted now. Plus, growing a range of crops spreads out risks.

"Most producers have a set idea of what they are seeding and will probably stick to that," Martin said.

Although higher wheat prices will reap earnings for farmers, that isn't enough incentive to expand production because prices are also climbing for crops like oats, canola and barely.

"There are other crops that are going to get good returns," Martin added.

Any increased production is running up against surging costs for supplies. The price of fuel has skyrocketed, and the cost of fertilizer was already high because of a crunch in natural gas acutely felt in Europe.

"With cheaper fertilizers, it could have been possible to grow our way out of a global food security problem — possibly — but nutrients are anything but affordable or even accessible right now," said Sylvain Charlebois, a professor in food distribution and policy at Dalhousie University in Canada.

Philippe Dutertre grows wheat in Chemiré-le-Gaudin, in the Sarthe agricultural region about 210 kilometers (130 miles) southwest of Paris. He hasn't decided whether to expand his wheat given soaring energy and electricity costs.

"We might be able to act a little bit on the crop rotation, but today, France produces wheat, corn, rapeseed for oils and other cereals," he said. "We don't have the certainty anymore to say that we will be able to guarantee the food security of France and Europe tomorrow."

Championing their accomplishments because getting such funding out the door is easier, requiring less review time. Yet such formulas have systematically reinforced a divide between who does and doesn't receive resources. Sen. Martin Heinrich (D-N.M.) said while states receive significant portions of wildlife management funding, the formulas fail to give Native American tribes a fair share of those dollars.

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First But Not Last: Black Girls See Themselves In Court Pick

By Anne Ma

Associated Press

In 2013, as she watched President Barack Obama's second inauguration, 7-year-old Veronica Bofah decided she wanted to be just like him. She would go to Harvard and one day be president, too.

Nine years later, the memories are fuzzy, but she remembers everyone around her pointing to Barack and Michelle Obama as the power couple of the moment, and how few Black leaders, especially Black women, she learned about in school.

"At that age, I didn't see many influential Black figures who went to Ivy League or really elite schools," Bofah said. "I like to put

quotations around that because it's very subjective, but that time period was when I started idolizing him. That's what led me to want to become a role model to other young girls who like look like me."

Now 17, Bofah has shifted her sights from the presidency to law school. The teenager from Charlotte, North Carolina, wants to represent vulnerable people like immigrants and children who are at a disadvantage when it comes to navigating the legal system. To see Ketanji Brown Jackson, a Black woman and former public defender, nominated to the Supreme Court, felt both empowering and affirming of her own path forward.

"Having someone who knows what it's like to support clients

who are disadvantaged in the system ... I think that's kind of what makes her unique," Bofah said.

For Black girls, the possibility of Jackson being the first Black woman on the Supreme Court is a moment of promise, hope and the breaking of yet another barrier. But while the symbolism resonates deeply, many are hungry for deeper change that goes beyond just representation.

Rachel McBride, an 18-year-old high school senior in Atlanta, liked the moment more to a glass elevator than a glass ceiling — moving one level up, while keeping in mind the many more levels left to go.

"It's great to be the first, but you never want to be the last," McBride said. "One singular person can't be the one to make change. It has to be followed up by more and more people that are willing to make change."

Bride said. "One singular person can't be the one to make change. It has to be followed up by more and more people that are willing to make change."

When barriers are broken, McBride said, it is often followed by backlash or a feeling that marginalized communities should be satisfied with the symbolism. While Jackson would bring an invaluable perspective to the court, McBride said, it is not lost on her that the balance of the court would remain unchanged if Jackson were confirmed.

Already, some have tried to diminish Jackson's nomination as affirmative action or discrimination against white people. Whether that strategy continues as her Senate

hearing gets underway Monday is something that will be widely watched.

But those who say that are failing to see how unimpeachable Jackson's accomplishments are, McBride said, from the judge's Ivy League degree to her experience on the bench.

McBride said it reminded her of attending a summer camp for media studies at the University of Georgia a few years ago. She said she did twice the work of her classmates but was still accused of slacking off by the instructor.

"The really, really stressful thing about being Black, specifically being a Black woman, is that you have to be the best in order to get anywhere," McBride said.

For Black girls, seeing someone like Jackson — the way she wears her hair, her darker complexion, having a name with African origins — fully embrace her Blackness and ascend to the top of the American judicial system is a reminder that they should not have to shrink themselves in order to succeed.

Breana Fowler, a 17-year-old high school senior in Charlotte who wants to become a lawyer, said her mother used to joke that she would become the first Black woman to be a Supreme Court justice. To see the moment at hand much sooner than either of them thought possible, with someone like Jackson in the role, remains surreal.



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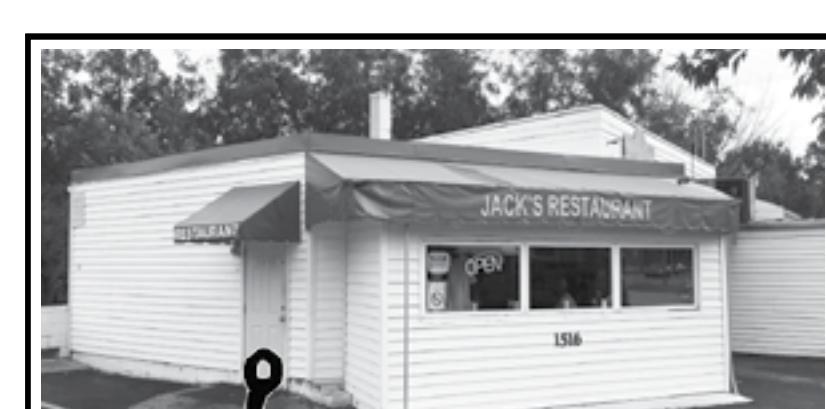
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Church



News From Macedonia New Life

Senior Pastor: Rev. Dr. Joe L. Stevenson

HAPPENINGS AT THE MAC... Macedonia New Life Church (Macedonia NLC) is resuming weekly in-person worship services on Sundays starting at 9:30 a.m. Temperature checks, hands properly sanitized, and face masks continue to be a requirement for everyone prior to entering the sanctuary.

The Family Life Center will now be available for overflow with proper social distancing in order to provide safety during worship.

JOIN SUNDAY SCHOOL ON ZOOM.com

Macedonia NLC invites you to join us Sunday morning on Zoom at 8:00 a.m. for Sunday School Meeting ID: 918 5873 2456 Passcode: 461350

To Call in Dial: 1-646-558-8656

Rev. Marilyn Fonnville, M.Div., Macedonia NLC---Sunday School Superintendent/VBS Co-ordinator

Youth Sunday School

Macedonia NLC is excited to announce that Youth Sunday School has reconvened. Please join and learn with us on Sundays at 12:30 p.m. on Zoom for

Youth Sunday Study.

Meeting ID: 826 5913 7448 Passcode: 558122

To Call in Dial: 1-312-626-6799

Youth Bible Study

Macedonia NCL invites all youth to learn with us on Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m. on Zoom for Youth Bible Study.

Meeting ID: 875 629 8755

Passcode: youth

To Call in Dial: 1-646-558-8656

Worship Wednesday Lenten Services

Join us on Wednesday nights at 7 p.m. to help us on our mission to help people see, seek and serve Jesus Christ. You may view the service on YouTube, Facebook, or the MNLC website at www.macedonianewlife.org.

Virtual Reignite Leadership Conference

Macedonia invites Ministers, Church Officers, Ministry Leaders and Disciples to join us on March 26, at 12 p.m. for the Virtual Reignite Leadership Conference, facilitated by Dr. Darrell Ezell and Dr. Annie Tinsley. The Evangelism PIVOT

is "Reaching People and Building Relationships." Register today using the link https://forms.gle/2AobJDJ7QM4HkSo47. More

information will be emailed closer to the date of the Leadership Conference.

Church Community Food Ministry Weekly Food Distribution

Join the Church Community Food Ministry in distributing food to those in need in the community. Volunteers are needed to help set up, sort, assist guests, and break down. Join us every third and fifth Sunday in the Macedonia NLC parking lot, and one of them got tired, stopped and knelt to say a prayer; "Please turn this lion into a Christian Lord." Then he looked back to see if the lion was still chasing him and, surprise, he saw the lion on its knees. Happy to see that his prayer had been answered, he turned around and started walking towards the lion. As he came closer and closer, he heard the lion saying a prayer: "Thank you Lord, for the food I'm about to receive."

Yes, there's a humorous side to what I just shared with you that's laughable; but had this been an actual story, on the human side of reality, there could have been suffering and a gruesome fatality!

Sometimes when we pray, we really don't know what we are asking. Jesus had to tell Peter and the disciples on an occasion in Matthew 20:22, "You do not realize what you are asking. Are you able to drink of the cup of suffering that I'm about to drink?" And the Disciples said, "Yes we are able."

Often, we may think that we are able, but when reality hits home, we, like the men being chased in the story, will stop and pray when times are bad and good.

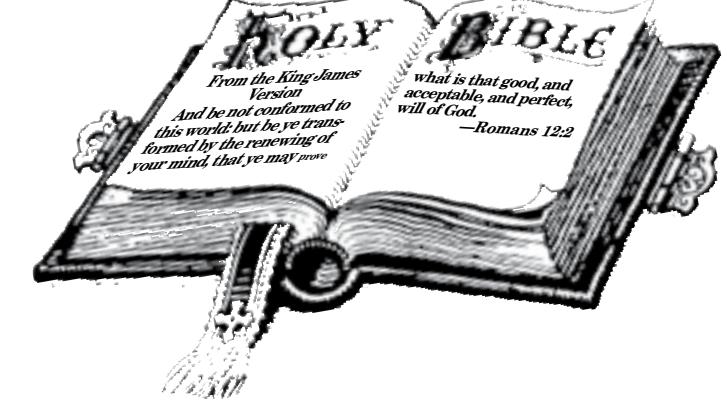
Charles Spurgeon in one of his powerful sermons commented on the seriousness of the nobleman's seeking Jesus in John 4:49, the nobleman was not about to let Jesus get away in that his pleading with Jesus appeared to be shaking loose the front gates of heaven down to its foundation in order to gain entrance. Like the parable of the widow woman constantly begging the judge to give her relief. The judge finally gave in and gave in to the widow's pleading and gave her relief from her husband's will.

Jesus teaches us to ask, seek and knock and ye shall find... (Matthew 7:8). Paul encourages us to come to the altar boldly and ask for what we want. The child of God is to always ask for what he or she wants from God. No good thing will He withhold from His children.

That nobleman refused to get sick or to get the disease of the "lack of faith." The love of his only son caused him to seek Jesus and his faith grew out of his seeking which pulled in grace and mercy and Jesus finally said to the father, "Go your way, your son lives" (John 4:50). The nobleman's seeking/reliance held in spite of the initial rebuff he received from Jesus. Do not make sick what little faith you may have by not "seeking," "relying" and being "assured" that God's Words of Promise are sure!

J. L. Caldwell, Pastor
New Jerusalem Baptist
Cathedral
Durham, NC

SERMON of the WEEK



A TIME TO PRAY

I'm sure many of you have heard the story of the Christian Lion. The first time I heard it, my late uncle, Dr. Owens Nichols, told it to me and his sisters. It goes like this:

There were two men walking through a Game Park and they came across a lion that jumped over a retaining wall that had not eaten for several days and started chasing the men [Naturally the two men did what you and I would do]. They ran and ran and one of them got tired, stopped and knelt to say a prayer; "Please turn this lion into a Christian Lord."

Then he looked back to see if the lion was still chasing him and, surprise, he saw the lion on its knees. Happy to see that his prayer had been answered, he turned around and started walking towards the lion. As he came closer and closer, he heard the lion saying a prayer: "Thank you Lord, for the food I'm about to receive."

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Often, we may think that we are able, but when reality hits home, we, like the men being chased in the story, will stop and pray when times are bad and good.

Jesus said, "Man needs to always pray and not faint." Always doesn't mean endless repetitions of long prayer sessions. I believe we should consistently and keep our requests before God daily, believing that He will answer.

When we are persistent in prayer, it will cause us to grow in character, Faith and Hope. All relationships require communication and prayer is one central way we can communicate with God, not just to get our needs met but, also to develop and deepen relations with Him.

I can remember when my son was unemployed and struggling to get back on track. I prayed for him to get a job. I was happy when he got a part-time job at UPS. He started work at 3:45 a.m. With a suspended driver's license, I had to be his chauffeur. Every morning as we crossed Capital Blvd to New Hope Church Road, I would grab his hand and pray until we passed a shopping center on the left side. This went on for about three or four months until he got his license back.

Amazingly, about three years later, we both sat inside Miller-Motte College as he applied to train to get his CDL certification and drive tractor trailers with reimbursement from UPS upon completion. Although this college was not there when we first started praying every morning as we passed by that shopping center, it was there when we needed to go there! He went on and got 5 jobs after job and each time a better job until where he now works and is happily married with two beautiful daughters and buying his own home. Hallelujah, I know what prayer can do!

UPS had benefits, but God has the greatest benefits. When we

pray, we profit from those benefits by gaining an understanding of God's loving nature. We get strength to avoid temptations and are more apt to align our will with God's Will!

It's just not a time to pray, but a time to always pray! The Bible says not to faint, but it didn't say we wouldn't faint. The Bible says even the youth shall faint and young men shall fall from exhaustion. But they that wait on the Lord shall renew their strength and they shall mount up with wings like eagles. They shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint!

I say to you it's time for prayers of confession, thanksgiving, petition and also intercession for those in war-torn countries, for those in need of deliverance from all kinds of addictions and struggling to make ends meet.

Thank God for our health, our homes, our children and whether working, retired or receiving financial help, let's thank God for our income because every good and perfect gift comes from above.

I recommend that when you pray, go into your secret room or closet, but first turn off the television, turn off the computer, turn off your phone, close the door and then turn to God. My Grandmother, Mother Ophelia, would start out like this: "Father, I stretch my hand to thee, no other help I know. If thou withdraw Thyself from me, where shall I go?" If there has ever been a time to pray, we sure need to do it now.

To view complete sermons by Pastor William Eli Ratcliff, please subscribe to our channel by searching on YouTube for: Lincoln Park Holiness.

Weekly Practical Biblical Principles

THE THREE DISEASES OF FAITH

Read: James 2:6; John 4:46-54

God did not mean for Faith to be hid from anybody. Faith, like the air, exists so that all can enjoy it. We don't discover the air we breathe, we just experience it. The same is true with faith, we experience it. Faith is not hidden and is always available to anybody who so chooses to use it. This is the way God willed it to be.

The question to be asked of faith is what and how are we to use it when we desire to use it? We start believing in something early on in our lives, which means we trust and believe in something whether it be our parents or the Bible.

St. Paul tells us that everyone is given a measure of faith at the birth of his/her salvation journey (Romans 12:3).

As the nobleman discovered in his conversation with Jesus, who spoke a Word of healing, and his son was instantly healed in his home located some 15 miles away. Not knowing whether his son was healed when Jesus spoke healing over his son, the nobleman believed the healing words of Jesus as he walked all the way home.

This man discovered the three stages of faith. First, he discovered the value of "seeking" the source of someone who would heal his seriously sick son. The man heard that Jesus was in a nearby town 15 miles away. The nobleman's desire to seek Jesus started him walking those 15 miles away to find Jesus. Second, the man discovered the need to "rely" or have faith in the only available source of healing around. Third, the nobleman discovered that his new-found faith is now "assured" given the fact he arrives home and holds his healed son in his arms.

Just as there are three stages of Faith, there are three diseases of faith which exist as well. The three stages of faith are the positive aspect of this spiritual gift; the three diseases are the negative aspect of Faith when not rightly sought after.

Like any health disease which soaks your strength and robs one of any healing, a disease of faith robs one of getting anything positive and hopeful in one's life. Depression sets in, dark emotional clouds follow you all the time resulting in one's devaluing his/her own life. Without Faith it is impossible to please God (Hebrews 11:6).

If there is something in one's life which will keep one from seeking God in times of need, if there is something in one's life which will keep him/her from relying on the only living source of a Promised help and will never lie about His promise to bring or send help to you in time of need, If there is anything that will keep one from feeling assured of a promised spoken word, such are the disease of Faith which will not serve you well.

When we expect God to show us miracles before we believe in Him, we have somehow acquired the disease of "non-reliance" faith. Belief cannot grow being smothered with non-belief in the middle of this sickness.

When we cannot accept and trust in God's "spoken word of promise" to us, we have no assurance, no trust in God's word. We have acquired the disease of "non-assurance" and the train of hope and blessed assurance will never show up in our lives. God says my words will go out and will not return unto Me void and shall accomplish what I have set it out to do (Isaiah 55:11).

When we remain self-reliant, and independent, and desire not to seek help from the Lord or ask

Him for any guidance or help in time of trouble, not even for the family in need, wayward child, or a friend in need, you are suffering from the "non-seeking" disease which will bring you to a wall in life that you cannot get over, go around or crawl under. In short, your life will not be fruitful.

Charles Spurgeon in one of his powerful sermons commented on the seriousness of the nobleman's seeking Jesus in John 4:49, the nobleman was not about to let Jesus get away in that his pleading with Jesus appeared to be shaking loose the front gates of heaven down to its foundation in order to gain entrance. Like the parable of the widow woman constantly begging the judge to give her relief. The judge finally gave in and gave in to the widow's pleading and gave her relief from her husband's will.

Jesus teaches us to ask, seek and knock and ye shall find... (Matthew 7:8). Paul encourages us to come to the altar boldly and ask for what we want. The child of God is to always ask for what he or she wants from God. No good thing will He withhold from His children.

That nobleman refused to get sick or to get the disease of the "lack of faith." The love of his only son caused him to seek Jesus and his faith grew out of his seeking which pulled in grace and mercy and Jesus finally said to the father, "Go your way, your son lives" (John 4:50). The nobleman's seeking/reliance held in spite of the initial rebuff he received from Jesus. Do not make sick what little faith you may have by not "seeking," "relying" and being "assured" that God's Words of Promise are sure!

J. L. Caldwell, Pastor
New Jerusalem Baptist
Cathedral
Durham, NC

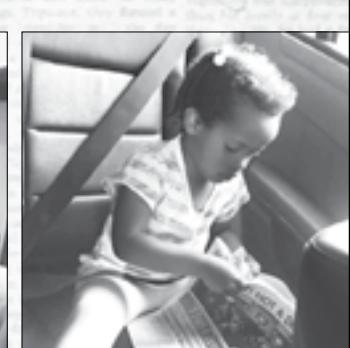
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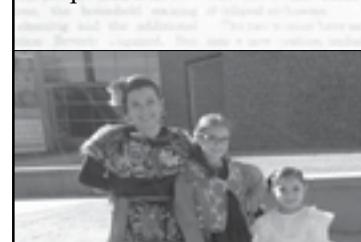
Inspirational Direction



Generational Knowledge



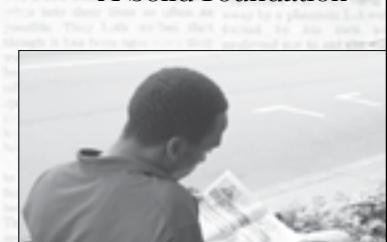
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Community Events



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Community

Lumberton Has A New Sensory Playground

On Saturday, March 26th, the community of Lumberton will partner with Talking Rain Beverage Company®, the maker of Sparkling Ice® beverages, to officially unveil a brand-new accessible sensory playground as part of the second annual Sparkling Ice Cheers to You Town Beautification Program.

Over the past few years, the town of Lumberton has experienced damage from natural

disasters including hurricanes and flooding that has affected the community. The Sparkling Ice team will be unveiling a new type of playground that gives kids the opportunity to engage in a variety of sensory activities. The playground will be a positive step towards rebuilding a local Lumberton neighborhood, creating an uplifting and engaging area for families and children of all ages to enjoy.

"We are extremely grateful that Sparkling Ice has chosen the city of Lumberton to be a part of their Cheers to You Town Beautification program this year," said Tim Taylor, Director of Recreation & Parks of Lumberton. "This project is appreciated by the entire community, and we look forward to seeing our local town come together through this great addition to our play lot."

"Our Cheers to You program al-

lows Sparkling Ice to provide that sense of community to deserving towns across the country, and we're thrilled to be able to give that to a town like Lumberton," said Nina Morrison, Senior Vice President of Community Experience at Talking Rain. "We hope that installing a new sensory playground area will help bring people together, while providing a fun and interactive space for kids and families to enjoy."



Epsilon Phi Omega Charter Members: Velma Daye, Marilyn Cogdell, Dois L. Brown, Muriel L. Water, Grace Murphy, Mattie L. Solice, Josie M. Boney, Clarice Sampson, Dorothy Cogdell, Dorothy Whitted Hardy, Gloria Payne, Mae Newsome

Durham's March For Meals Anniversary



adults."

In Durham, the elected officials interacted with veteran volunteers, learned about Meals on Wheels Durham's operations serving over 600 older adults each week, and Council Member Caballero delivered meals to 14 clients.

In addition, Meals on Wheels Durham received a pair of proclamations from The City of Durham and Durham County declaring

March 2022 as a month to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Older Americans Act Nutrition Program and honor MOWD for its contributions to the community.

The annual March for Meals celebration commemorates the historic day in March of 1972 when President Nixon signed into law a measure that amended the Older Americans Act of 1965 to include a national nutrition program for

seniors 60 years and older.

This year, Meals on Wheels programs from across the country are joining forces for the awareness campaign to celebrate 50 years of success and garner the support needed to ensure these critical programs can continue to address food insecurity and malnutrition, combat social isolation, enable independence, and improve health for years to come.

"We commend all of our 2022 Community Champions for stepping up in support of Meals on Wheels amid such an unprecedented time in our nation's history," said Ellie Hollander, President and CEO of Meals on Wheels America. "Despite decades of proven success and bipartisan support, funding for this program has failed to keep pace with the rapidly growing need for its services. With the nation's senior population increasing dramatically, now is the time to support local Meals on Wheels programs – through volunteering, donating and speaking out – to ensure we are able to deliver for another 50 years."

For more information on how you can get involved in Durham, visit www.mowdurham.org.

Local AKA Chapter Celebrates Its 70th

Goldsboro, NC—Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Epsilon Phi Omega Chapter, Goldsboro, NC celebrated the 70th anniversary of its chartering on Tuesday, March 15, 2022. The theme for the celebration was "Supreme in Service: Seven Days of Celebration in Honor of Seven Decades of Service."

Over two hundred fifty women have been initiated into the local chapter over the past seventy years. To highlight this achievement, there were several activities throughout the week of March 15th to celebrate the long and distinguished history of service that has been provided in Goldsboro and Wayne County.

Over the entire month, chapter members will continue to engage in a variety of activities to celebrate. There will be a billboard displayed on Wayne Memorial Drive, a donation made to Wayne County Public Library, and several service projects. As part of our Target 2 - Women's Health and Wellness program target, members will participate in self-care activities for seven days of self-love. As part of our Target 5 - Global Impact program initiative, members will collect eyeglasses. Dr. Carol Artis, Chairman of the Chapter Anniversary Committee will make a guest appearance on WFMC 730 AM/105.7 FM radio station on March 15, 2022 at 7:45 AM.

On March 17 - March 23, 2022, Epsilon Phi Omega will have a featured spot on the WGBR morning show with Jeff Farrow on your radio dial - FM 98.3 WGBR, between 7:15 AM and 7:20 AM.

As an organization that has provided more than \$50,000 annually in scholarships and contributions to the community, the public is invited to donate to the Empowered Pearls of Service Foundation, Inc. in increments of \$7, \$70, \$700 in an effort to support the organization as they continue to be of "service to all mankind." Donations may be mailed to PO Box 10733, Goldsboro, NC 27533. Checks can be made payable to Empowered Pearls of Service Foundation. All donations are tax deductible.

Chapter President, Dr. Damesha Smith shared, "Epsilon Phi Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated has a rich legacy of service and sisterhood. We are proud to be Supreme in Service, as we celebrate 70 years."

Our charter members shared a vision for the ladies of Alpha Kappa Alpha, Sorority, Inc. in Goldsboro and Wayne County. This vision is the impetus and charge as we continue to be of "Service to All Mankind." Over the past 70 years, Epsilon Phi Omega has provided service by hosting an annual Debutante Pageant, serving as a Partner in Education to several schools throughout the county, developing youth leaders through programs such as the Emerging Leaders Program, helping students apply and pay for college, adopting families, and supporting worthwhile causes through organizations such as the Arts Council of Wayne County, Relay for Life, Cure for the Colors, Communities Supporting Schools, and the Downtown Goldsboro Development Corporation (DGDC).

When asked what Epsilon Phi Omega meant to her and how the chapter has shaped her life and community, Chapter Anniversary Committee Chairman Dr. Carol Hayes Artis stated that, "Epsilon Phi Omega has been a driving force in my life since I was a child. The members of this great chapter were my role models, my She-roes, and icons in this community and state. Of course, the greatest of these in my eyes was my mother. She, and the members of this chapter have touched thousands of students, blessed countless lives, and positively impacted Wayne County and its citizens for seventy years." She went on to add that she is, "proud to be a member and honored to Co-Chair this celebration with Mrs. Melba Uzel."

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Incorporated is America's first Greek-letter organization founded in 1908 by, and for, African American college women. Headquartered in Chicago, Illinois, it is one of the world's leading service organizations. The Sorority's members have made a commitment "to serve all mankind" through a nucleus of more than 320,000 women across 1,046 chapters in the United States, the Caribbean, Canada, Germany, Korea, Japan and in the continent of Africa.

During the fall of October 1951, twelve Alpha Kappa Alpha graduate members, of which seven were from Goldsboro, four from Kinston, and one from Clinton, met in Goldsboro. The purpose of the meeting was to ascertain if it were possible to establish a graduate chapter in Goldsboro. After several meetings, Mrs. Doris L. Brown, who was asked to serve as acting Secretary, corresponded with Regional Director Zatella R. Turner of Virginia State College, and informed her of the group's purpose and desires.

During the period from November 1951 to March 1952, in only 3 1/2 months, extensive preparations were made. Much correspondence and hard work transpired between the local group, the regional director, and the national office. All twelve members were transferred from the chapters in which they were affiliated. Finally, after all materials were in the national office in Chicago, and properly certified by Ms. Carey B. Maddox, Administrative Secretary, Ms. Turner informed the group that the chapter would be chartered in Goldsboro, NC.

And so it was that on March 15, 1952, at the home of Ms. Mattie L. Solice, that wonderful chartering event took place for the twelve members. Epsilon Phi Omega became the 20th South Atlantic Regional Graduate Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, founded at Howard University, Washington, D.C. in January 1908. Several members from Gamma Beta Omega Chapter, Wilson, North Carolina, participated in the chartering ceremony as four of the Goldsboro members were transferred from that chapter.

The chapter membership has grown from 12 members in 1952 to 138 active members in 2022.

NC Prof. Lands Inaugural Rosa Parks Award

Tiece Ruffin, director of Africana studies and professor of Africana studies and education at UNC Asheville, has been awarded a 2022 Rosa Parks Award by the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Association of Asheville and Buncombe County.

The award honors women in the community who have fostered a culture of inclusion in the Asheville community, worked to achieve a just society for the disadvantaged, exemplified a nonviolent philosophy in pursuit of a better life for non-majority people and inspired direct action

in the cause of social justice.

"It is important to remind ourselves and others of the inspirational and foundational importance women have in our communities. Their voices and actions are real-life examples of how to speak up and act for the greater good of all," says Jonathan McCoy, chair of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Association of Asheville & Buncombe County Community Outreach Providing Empowerment (COPE) programs. "Dr. Ruffin is tireless in speaking up and fighting for the needs of our community's diverse stu-

dents."

Ruffin accepted her award through a speech posted to YouTube on March 22. She was introduced by Cristina Viera, director of the Center of Diversity Education at UNC Asheville.

Ruffin is a passionate advocate for North Carolina school-age children. Just a few of her accomplishments include serving as an elected Board Member for the Public School Forum of NC, co-directing an afterschool community-based learning program in the Pisgah View community with UNC Asheville Professor of Mathematics Sam Kaplan and three community-based leaders, and co-curating the delivery of hundreds of STEM fun-packs with funding from the Dogwood Health Trust Racial Equity Community Grant, an initiative to tackle the ever-widening opportunity and achievement gap between Black and white Asheville and Buncombe County Public Schools' students.

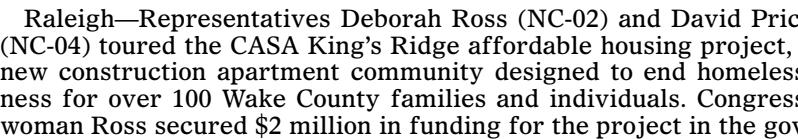
Ruffin's research interests in-

clude learners with special needs, diverse learners, pedagogical approaches for the diverse and inclusive classroom, service learning, and the internationalization of teacher education. She has authored and co-authored several publications and presented at both National and International Conferences. Her book, Somalis and disability: Cultural context and implications for practice, is considered one of the best descriptions of the cultural context that structures our understanding of ability and disability for Somali African refugees, and how culturally responsive education systems can bridge or break assumptions we hold about our students and create new opportunities for educational growth.

Over February (Black History Month) and March (Women's History Month), the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Association released recorded spotlights of each of the four honorees. Alongside Ruffin, Kathey Avery, Sophie Dixon, and Antanette Mosley each received recognition for their leadership and community efforts.



TIECE RUFFIN



CONGRESSWOMAN DEBORAH ROSS
REPRESENTING NORTH CAROLINA'S 2ND DISTRICT

Raleigh—Representatives Deborah Ross (NC-02) and David Price (NC-04) toured the CASA King's Ridge affordable housing project, a new construction apartment community designed to end homelessness for over 100 Wake County families and individuals. Congresswoman Ross secured \$2 million in funding for the project in the government funding package that President Biden signed into law this week.

In Wake County, there are about 56,000 households making less than \$39,000 a year that are unable to find affordable housing. The property will include community space, offices, and access to support including case management, integrated primary and mental health care, employment, and child care support. The site is located minutes from downtown Raleigh with a public bus stop across the street. This is just the latest step in Congresswoman Ross' efforts to protect our most vulnerable populations. Last September, she co-sponsored the Expediting Assistance to Renters and Landlords Act, which would expedite the distribution of rental assistance. Additionally, she has been an outspoken advocate of extending the eviction moratorium during the COVID-19 pandemic to ensure that those already struggling to make ends meet would not lose access to their housing.

Congresswoman Ross secured \$10.7 million in funding for community projects across Wake County in the government funding package, ranging from investments in local universities to improvements in our community's transportation and infrastructure.

Congrats Wendell Top Ladies Of Distinction

Wendell Top Ladies & Top Teens received honors at the recent 40th TLOD Leadership Conference March 17-20, hosted virtually by the Tipton County Chapter in Memphis, Tennessee.

"Moving Forward, Making a Difference, Honoring our Legacy & Shaping the Future in TLOD & TTA" was The Theme of the Conference. Area IV covers all 7 Southern States & Jamaica. The Wendell Chapter won Area IV's First(1st)place Award for their Program of Work scrapbook.

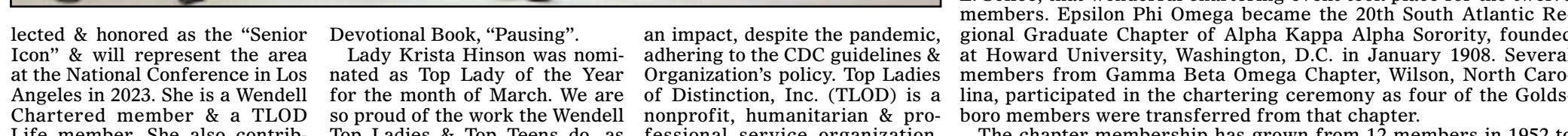
Teen Miranda McCullough submitted a literary piece for the Literacy Club & Teen Neville & Teen David Lampkin.

Lady Elaine Shelton was se-

lected & honored as the "Senior Icon" & will represent the area at the National Conference in Los Angeles in 2023. She is a Wendell Chartered member & a TLOD Life member. She also contributed to the Area IV published

Devotional Book, "Pausing". Lady Krista Hinson was nominated as Top Lady of the Year for the month of March. We are so proud of the work the Wendell Top Ladies & Top Teens do, as they continue to serve & make an impact, despite the pandemic, adhering to the CDC guidelines & Organization's policy. Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc. (TLOD) is a nonprofit, humanitarian & professional service organization, servicing Youth & Adults."

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Health & Fitness

We May Be Done, But SARS-COV-2 Is Not Quite Done With Us

By Dr. Joy Martinez

Staff Writer

Approximately one-in-three COVID-19 cases in the United States are now caused by the BA.2 Omicron subvariant of the coronavirus, according to government data on Tuesday.

The subvariant was identified in North and South Carolina in February. In the Northeast, including New Jersey, New York and Massachusetts, Omicron BA.2 now makes up more than half the cases, according to data from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). It has been classified as a "variant of concern," according to the CDC and the World Health Organization (WHO).

This variant is also called "stealth" omicron because its genetic mutations could make it difficult to distinguish from the delta variant using PCR tests as compared to the original version of omicron, according to the American Medical Association.

Currently detected in at least 40 countries including the U.S., U.K., India and Denmark, this version of the virus is spreading at a time when the nation is going unmasked, in a country with low levels of vaccination by rich-world standards, and with even the small share of the population that's boosted starting to have waning immunity.

Five out of the last five times there have been surges in Europe, surges have quickly followed in the U.S. There's no reason to think the sixth time will be any different. Already, cases have gone up over the past two weeks by more than a third in New York City, which has often been a harbinger for broader American surges. This while New York Mayor Eric Adams has been actively pleading with companies to bring workers back into offices, to help rebuild the Manhattan economy.

"Every time the cases come down, I feel relief. It feels great, and to be able to do things you were not comfortable doing before," said Dr. Jesse Couk, an infectious disease doctor at Piedmont Atlanta Hospital. "But we have to look ahead, and this is why we are so focused on Europe. We see this wave in the distance and we don't know what will happen here."

This uncertainty is especially significant considering incidents of the more transmissible subvariant are rising rapidly as a share of cases in the U.S. "Every time we've seen upticks around the world, we've seen upticks here," says Chrissie Juliano, executive director of the Big Cities Health Coalition, a forum for the largest municipal health departments.

The BA.2 subvariant is a new mutation, or sublineage, of the omicron variant, of which two have already been identified globally, BA.1 and BA.1.1. It should not be regarded as a new variant altogether. The rate of infections appears to be

FACT & FITNESS

By Jeneea Jervay-Bush, M.S.

THIS IS TAKING TOO LONG

How long does it take to lose weight? How long does it take to build strength? How long does it take to get better at a specific sport? How long does it take to consistently eat healthy? These are the questions that we ask just before we start working our plan to reach one of these goals. The answers received from a doctor or trainer or sports coach or registered dietitian or verifiable research seems logical and reasonable before day 1.

Consistency mercifully sets in after some starts and stops. We find a rhythm and start to make progress. We keep going and make a bit more progress. Then, and most of the time, subsequent progress takes longer and happens in smaller increments. This is frustrating but par for the course. The question we start to ask ourselves is how long it should it take to reach our goal. We already have this answer, remember we received a projection before day 1. That answer however is unsatisfying and does not feed our impatience monster so we start saying, out loud or internally, "this is taking too long."

One of the differences between achieving your goal and failing again is your ability to manage this frustration and impatience. Notice that I didn't say overcome those emotions or conquer those emotions. Yes, your mind is your own and positive thoughts are extremely helpful. Even so, there will be weeks-days-hours where this phenomenon will be yelling louder internally than your desire to reach your goal. Most people, in my experience, give in to those emotions because they incorrectly believe that their consistency and those emotions are mutually exclusive. They are not my friends.

Different people manage in different ways. Those without a plan to manage or those who are completely blindsided fail. The successful coping mechanisms I've seen or used include continuing to work your plan even when you don't feel like it, introducing something new into the plan to freshen it up, and adding a partner/group to give you an extra "hang in there" boost. The adding something new may seem out of place, but things aren't always what they seem. Sometimes the root cause is boredom.

...continued next week.

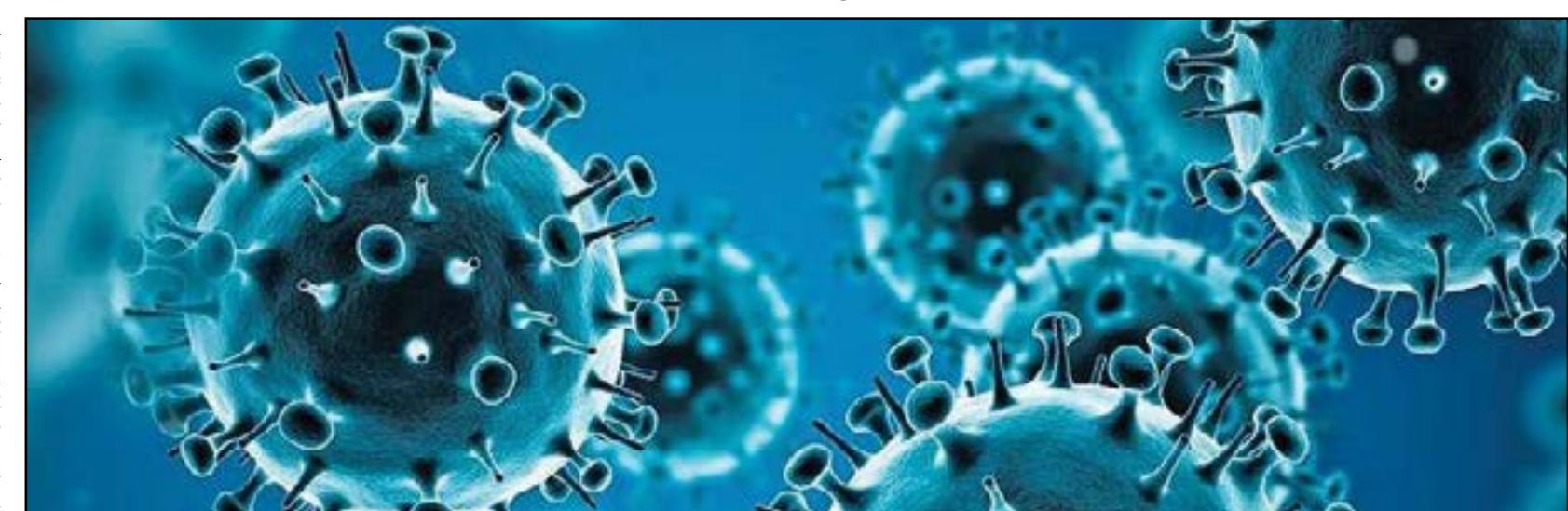
doubling quickly. It's believed to be more infectious and more resistant to immunity than the original omicron variant, according to research cited by the WHO and the CDC and a recent laboratory study. Ongoing studies show this subvariant has a "growth advantage" over other detected subvariants of omicron, the WHO said in a statement Tuesday. WHO added that "initial data suggest that BA.2 appears inherently more transmissible than BA.1, which currently remains the most common omicron sublineage reported."

Vaccines continue to be effective in protecting people from severe disease, especially for those who have been boosted. The antiviral drugs Paxlovid and molnupiravir also appear to be effective against both omicron variants, as long as they are taken soon after a positive test and within five days of first symptoms. Paxlovid consists of nirmatrelvir, which inhibits a SARS-CoV-2 protein to stop the virus from replicating, and ritonavir, which slows down nirmatrelvir's breakdown to help it remain in the body for a longer period at higher concentrations.

Molnupiravir is a medication that works by introducing errors into the SARS-CoV-2 virus' genetic code, which prevents the virus from further replicating. In lab experiments, antibody treatments from Regeneron and GlaxoSmithKline were more effective against BA.2 than they are against the BA.1 variant, but were not as strong against BA.2 as they were against earlier versions of the virus. The BA.2 variant also remains susceptible to Evusheld by AstraZeneca in the lab setting. However, the antibodies etesevimab and bamlanivimab, which are used together as a single treatment, were not able to neutralize the BA.2 virus at common dosages in those lab tests. Other antibody treatments were less effective against BA.2 than they are against earlier strains of SARS-CoV-2.

Drugmaker Moderna asked the FDA last week to authorize a fourth shot of its COVID-19 vaccine as a booster dose for all adults. The request is broader than rival pharmaceutical company Pfizer's request earlier for approval of a booster shot for all seniors. In a press release, Moderna said its request for approval for all adults was made "to provide flexibility" to the CDC and medical providers to determine the "appropriate use" of a second booster dose of the mRNA vaccine, "including for those at higher risk of COVID-19 due to age or comorbidities."

Early data suggests people who caught the original omicron variant will have some degree of immunity against this sub-variant. According to the CDC, "Studies are evaluating the risk of reinfection with BA.2 compared to BA.1. Reinfection with BA.2 following



infection with BA.1 has been documented, however, initial data from population-level reinfection studies suggest that infection with BA.1 provides strong protection against reinfection with BA.2, at least for the limited period for which data are available.

U.S. Surgeon General Vivek

Murthy and Dr. Scott Gottlieb, a Pfizer board member and a former head of the Food and Drug Administration, expressed similar views on Sunday regarding BA.2.

Murthy said that while the variant would likely cause a new spike in cases, the country is in a better position now than it

was in the previous two years, when COVID-19 "defined our lives." "I think we're going to continue to see low levels of infection through the summer. But before we get there, we're probably going to see some tick-up of infection like the Europeans are seeing right now, maybe not as pronounced," Gottlieb said

during a Sunday interview. "We should be prepared, COVID hasn't gone away," Murthy said during a recent interview. "Our focus should be on preparation, not on panic."

In short, just because we feel like we're done with the coronavirus, doesn't mean the virus is done with us.



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Editorials

Editorial Policy

Unsigned editorials in this space are the opinion of the newspaper. All other opinion pieces, including those from regular columnists, are the opinion of the writers themselves. The Carolinian strives to provide provocative commentary that is likely to spur thoughtful debate, regardless of whether we agree with it.

Black Americans and the Worldwide Principles of Democracy

By Ben Jealous

People for the American Way

Anti-democratic authoritarianism is on the rise—both around the world and here at home. Sometimes it is easier to recognize overseas. That's especially true at moments like this when Vladimir Putin's military is killing civilians in Ukraine to feed his ambitions for greater power and is crushing any effort at dissent or truth-telling in his native Russia.

Americans don't often recognize authoritarianism at home because they don't want to. They believe the U.S. is so exceptional that the checks and balances built into our system will protect our democratic values. That smug assurance was shaken by the Capitol Insurrection and the all-out effort by former President Trump to stay in power after the voters sent him packing.

Black Americans have never had a problem seeing the threat. After all, we were formally denied our place in democratic government for most of the country's first century. And in some parts of the country, we were violently locked out of real access to democracy—and to opportunity—for most of its second century.

And now, almost halfway through the U.S.'s third century, we see access to voting being rolled back. We see mechanisms being put in place for the party in power to steal elections if they don't like the outcome. And we see corrupt census figures and abusive gerrymandering being used to deny Black people the level of access to political power that we deserve.

We've seen this all before. Specifically, Black newspapers have seen it all before.

In 1942, the federal government was rallying Americans to support the cause of democracy in World War II, which the U.S. formally entered at the end of 1941.

One Black man called out the glaring contrast between our country's stated ideals and the reality of life for Black people who faced prejudice and discrimination even in the military. James Thompson wrote a letter to the Pittsburgh Courier, which was the largest-circulation Black newspaper at the time. The paper titled the letter, "Should I Sacrifice

to Live Half American?"

"Would it be demanding too much to demand full citizenship rights in exchange for the sacrificing of my life?" he wrote. "Is the kind of America I know worth defending?"

The *Courier* turned Thompson's letter into a public campaign that other Black papers embraced. They adopted the allies' "V for Victory" slogan with a call for a double victory over the enemies of democracy at home and abroad.

The Double V Campaign urged Black Americans to fight "not merely for the salvation of America, not merely to secure the same degree of democracy for Black Americans that White Americans have long enjoyed, but to establish precedent for a world-wide principle of free association among men of all races, creeds and colors. That's the Black man's stake."

That is still our stake. It is still our fight.

It's no surprise to us that the same far-right media figures excusing Vladimir Putin's brutality have also excused or actively promoted Donald Trump's Big Lie about the election—and used that Big Lie to justify new assaults on Black Americans' access to democracy.

Back in 1942, James Thompson wrote that he was "willing to die for the America I know will someday become a reality."

That is the kind of remarkable faith that motivated and sustained the civil rights movement after the war. It is the same kind of faith and determination we must find to defend American democracy and our place in it.

Ben Jealous serves as president of People For the American Way and Professor of the Practice in the Africana Studies Department at the University of Pennsylvania where he teaches leadership. Jealous has decades of experience as a leader, coalition builder, campaigner for social justice and seasoned nonprofit executive. In 2008, he was chosen as the youngest-ever president and CEO of the NAACP. He is a graduate of Columbia University and Oxford, where he was a Rhodes Scholar, and he has taught at Princeton and the University of Pennsylvania.

Talk To Us

Stimulating a lively discussion of issues that concern the community is one of our main tasks at The Carolinian. We want to know what you think. This issue's topic:

How do Black people—especially young Black people—compare with the generation that was ready to die for their country and their race?

NOW THAT
MASK
MANDATES
ARE BEING
LIFTED...

I'M LOOKING
FORWARD
TO GETTING
BACK TO
NORMAL.

IF I CAN
AFFORD
IT.



A Different Voice

By Dorothy Shaw Thompson



THE CROWN ACT

I have been planning on writing an article on hair for a while; however, other things keep popping up. Today, however, Congress gave me my writing directive by passing the Crown Act. So simple a law that though I'm glad they passed it, it's also a ludicrous bill. I like Paul, of the New Testament, am persuaded that "nothing can or will separate me from the love of God." Unlike Paul, I'm also talking about hair.

When I was a little girl a rite of passage was getting your hair "pressed." That's when your mother or a beautician sat you in front of a hot plate or stove with a metal comb, called a straightening comb and burned your hair into submission to become straight. Often, your ears, neck or scalp became burned as well, as the comb or grease, in my case, Royal Crown, got hot enough to heat your skin to a burn. When babies were born, not only did foolish eyes look at the ears and skin below the nails to see what color the child would become but the texture of the hair was considered. Would the child have good hair (straight) or the other kind (nappy or kinky). I am also persuaded that one day in heaven we will look back on these things and get a good laugh at how ridiculous this is. I was young, an adolescent when I first began to question this belief system, so much so that one night I washed and dried my hair and went to school. I doubt that many will remember this with the exception of one friend, now dead, who I told I was going to do it after an extensive late-night conversation about the hair subject. He thought I was crazy and didn't believe I'd do it. I did it and all day long I was offered money by my male classmates to go get my hair "done." I waved the money away, but I wish now that I had kept it so I could tell you how "financially" important it was to them that I have "straightened" hair.

By the time I was in college there was a product called "Curl Free" that was used by many to straighten our hair. Unwitting friends would get me to "fix" their hair with a kit or a "hot comb." I laugh about that now because I had no clue, but nobody's hair fell out. Now we can dye our hair blue, purple, yellow, red or green; actually, any color of the rainbow, even white, which is not a color. The matronly have a decision to make as to whether we should allow our hair to grey or turn white naturally and too often in that pursuit the hair is darker than it could ever be naturally and one can tell.

I decided in 1969 that there would no more heat on my hair and I have morphed from large and small Afros or naturals

(See *A DIFFERENT VOICE*, P. 9)



To Be Equal

By Marc H. Morial
President, National Urban League

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH SEES HISTORIC PROGRESS FOR BLACK WOMEN IN AMERICA, BUT WORK REMAINS TO ACHIEVE FULL EQUALITY

"From the first settlers who came to our shores, from the first American Indian families who befriended them, men and women have worked together to build this nation. Too often the women were unsung and sometimes their contributions went unnoticed. But the achievements, leadership, courage, strength, and love of the women who built America was as vital as that of the men whose names we know so well... Understanding the true history of our country will help us to comprehend the need for full equality under the law for all our people."

—President Jimmy Carter, proclaiming the first National Women's History Week

This goal can be achieved by ratifying the 27th Amendment to the United States Constitution, which states that "Equality of Rights under the Law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex."

When labor activist Theresa Malkiel established the first official Women's Day in 1909, only four states and four U.S. territories granted women the right to vote. The 14th Amendment, which guarantees equal protection under the law, did not apply to women.

Two years later, some European countries joined the United States in the observance of International Women's Day. The United Nations began celebrating International Women's Day in 1975, and in 1987 Congress designated March as Women's History Month for the first time.

Throughout much of America's history, the advancements of women's rights applied only to White women. The National Women's History Alliance, which was instrumental in establishing Women's History Month, declared: "despite our best intentions, we have not done enough to challenge racism within the sphere of women's history. In the past we have failed to effectively speak out against racism in our collaborative spaces."

So, it is especially significant that the first Black women nominated to serve on the U.S. Supreme Court, Ketanji Brown Jackson appears before the Senate Judiciary Committee on Monday as the first step in the confirmation process. This Women's History Month also has seen the confirmation of the first Black

woman to head Office of Management and Budget, Shalanda Young, and the confirmation of Lisa Cook, the first Black woman to serve on the Federal Reserve Board of Governors, is imminent. Beginning with his historic selection of Kamala Harris to serve as Vice President, President Biden has appointed a record number of women—and women of color—to key roles in his administration and nominated more Black women to the federal courts than any president in history.

National Urban League and the Urban League have long shared this commitment to gender equality. From Harriet Tubman and Sojourner Truth to Rosa Parks and Fannie Lou Hamer, women have been the driving force in the fight for equal rights. The National Urban League was co-founded by philanthropist and social activist Ruth Standish Baldwin in 1910. More than half of our 91 affiliates are led by dynamic women

(See *TO BE EQUAL*, P. 9)

Child Watch

By Marian Wright Edelman



JUDGE KETANJI BROWN JACKSON: BREAKING ANOTHER BARRIER

At the White House event where President Biden introduced her as the nominee for the United States Supreme Court, Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson gave a moving speech describing her journey from her early childhood as the daughter of public school teachers to her nomination to the highest court in the nation. She ended by sharing a coincidence she said "meant a great deal to me over the years": "As it happens, I share a birthday with the first Black woman ever to be appointed as a federal judge: the Honorable Constance Baker Motley. We were born exactly 49 years to the day apart. Today, I proudly stand on Judge Motley's shoulders, sharing not only her birthday but also her steadfast and courageous commitment to equal justice under law. Judge Motley's life and career has been a true inspiration to me as I have pursued this professional path. And if I am fortunate enough to be confirmed as the next Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States, I can only hope that my life and career, my love of this country and the Constitution, and my commitment to upholding the rule of law and the sacred principles upon which this great nation was founded will inspire future generations of Americans."

It was a lovely tribute to the brilliant and trailblazing Judge Motley and the principles that have served as a guiding light for both of them. It was also a clear reminder that as the first Black woman to be nominated to the U.S. Supreme Court, Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson is breaking a new barrier and adding to the long, painfully slow, but unstoppable legacy of African-American women securing justice in the courtroom for ourselves and others.

This is a legacy that stretches back to women like Elizabeth Freeman, an enslaved Massachusetts midwife and nurse who successfully sued for her own freedom in 1781 after she heard Massachusetts's newly ratified state constitution read aloud, and realized its declared rights to freedom and equality for all should apply to her too. In the decades that followed other Black women occasionally received justice in the courts as plaintiffs, including Sojourner Truth, who in 1828 sued to have her five-year-old son returned to her after he was illegally sold and taken from New York to Alabama. In 1872 Charlotte Ray graduated from Howard University School of Law, and she became the first Black woman lawyer in the U.S., the first woman admitted to the District of Columbia Bar, and the first woman admitted to practice before the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia.

Judge Motley became the role model for future Black female judges like Ketanji Brown Jackson. Now Judge Jackson deserves to be swiftly confirmed as U.S. Supreme Court Associate Justice Jackson, where she is poised to serve as a role model for the next generation.

In a nation that has never made it easy for Black women to break any barriers, it is little surprise that some of the same racism and sexism Judge Jackson's predecessors all faced is still very present today. She was a national speech and debate star and student body president in high school, but was still told by a school counselor that applying to Harvard would be setting her sights "too high." She applied anyway, and graduated magna cum laude from Harvard College. She then received her law degree cum laude from Harvard Law School, where she was an editor of the prestigious *Harvard Law Review*, and has served as a Supreme Court law clerk, a federal public defender, in private practice, as a trial court judge, as vice chair of the U.S. Sentencing Commission, and is currently serving on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia, considered the second most powerful court in the nation. Despite all this she is still facing predictable complaints from some of the same familiar quarters that she is somehow "not qualified." But President Biden knew better; the Senators from both par-

(See *CHILD WATCH*, P. 9)

Other Viewpoints



JOURNALISM AND TRUTH TELLING IN WARTIME

By Rob Okun

VoiceMale Magazine

Brent Renaud, Marina Ovsyannikova. One a U.S. filmmaker killed by Russian troops on March 13 while working on a documentary about refugees. The other, an editor-producer on Russian state TV's Channel One who dramatically interrupted a news broadcast to hold aloft a sign denouncing Putin's war. She was immediately arrested.

Renaud's senseless killing one day and Ovsyannikova's brave action the next, unintentionally have forged a link between journalism and wartime truth telling that cannot be overstated.

An award-winning social issue documentarian, Renaud was noted for blending "compassion and reportorial legwork." He and his brother Craig made emotionally layered films about people's big struggles and small triumphs. Until March 13, Ovsyannikova was a pawn in Russia's propaganda war against reality.

Renaud was in Ukraine filming a segment for a multipart series about refugees around the world called "Tipping Point." Ovsyannikova's tipping point came the next day, 19 days into Putin's war. Using Channel One's platform, she broadcast truth to power nationwide. Rushing behind the newscaster, she brandished a sign in English and Russian: "NO WAR. Stop the war. Don't believe propaganda. They are lying to you here."

Renaud made films focusing on migration during perilous times, a recurring theme for him, the *New York Times* reported. He and his brother's extensive catalogue of work illuminates social inequities. Ovsyannikova has only one, seconds long "film" credit.

Describing her act of conscience, Ovsyannikova admitted she felt ashamed to have spread Kremlin disinformation for so long. She urged Russians to demonstrate against the war, declaring:

"What is happening now in Ukraine is a crime, and Russia is the aggressor country. The responsibility for that aggression lies on the conscience of only one man, and that man is Vladimir Putin.... [T]he next 10 generations of our descendants will not wash away the shame of this fratricidal war."

Ovsyannikova has neither Renaud's vast experience as a documentarian nor his extensive film credits. And, unlike Darnella Frazier, the then-17-year-old who was a witness when she recorded George Floyd being murdered, Ovsyannikova was both producer and actor in her seconds-long antiwar video. But if we only see her as a guerrilla theater actor, we're missing the point. What she did was courageous frontline wartime reporting—in Russia on live television!

War produces all kinds of reporters. (An inexact U. comparison? In the disproportionate targeting of African-Americans by law enforcement, we need citizen videographers to press record when police stop Black motorists.)

The president of Ukraine knows something about filmmaking. During his address to Congress March 16, Zelensky also was a journalist, executive producer of a powerful two-minute film depicting Ukrainian cities before and after Putin's invasion. A montage of children playing in Kyiv, Kharkiv, Odesa, and elsewhere, followed by missiles destroying apartment buildings.

Congressmembers sat rapt as the scene switched between before-and-after images of Putin's unconscionable assault. Then it cut to first responders aiding victims; children sobbing; bodies lying in the street; others lowered into a trench. No graves. A documentary about the war in real time; Brent Renaud probably would have approved. I hope the Academy Awards acknowledges it.

But how many Russians saw it—brainwashed to believe the war is a "special military operation," and Ukraine's Jewish president part of a Nazi cabal.

"Recovering" Channel One propagandist Marina Ovsyannikova was interrogated for 14 hours, found guilty of flouting protest laws, and fined 30,000 rubles (about \$280). A law that took effect March 4 bans actions like hers and she faces a possible prison sentence of up to 15 years. She fears for her safety.

Ovsyannikova didn't produce a heart-wrenching video like the one President Zelensky screened. She only had seconds to report to her Russian sisters and brothers. Zelensky noticed. "I am grateful to those Russians who do not stop trying to convey the truth," especially appreciating "the woman who entered the studio of Channel One with a poster against the war."

If he had been Ukrainian, murdered U.S. journalist Brent Renaud might have made the video Congress saw. If he had been Russian, perhaps he would have produced an antiwar short like Marina Ovsyannikova's. Either way, we need more citizens to expand the meaning of journalism in a time of war.

Rob Okun ([rob@voicemalemagazine.org](http://voicemalemagazine.org)) has worked as a daily newspaper reporter, and editor of several magazines, including the antisexist publication *Voice Male*. He writes about politics and culture.



AN ENGAGEMENT MOMENT FOR THE US AND CHINA

By Mel Gurtov

Portland State University

One of the more interesting developments in Putin's war on Ukraine is the retreat of China from full-fledged support of Russia. When the Russian invasion began, many experts were alarmed by the Putin-Xi final statement as the Winter Olympics closed, specifically its reference to "no limits" in Sino-Russian relations. As I've noted, that conclusion was mistaken. Since then, Chinese support of Russia has gradually eroded. There may be an opportunity here for U.S. diplomacy with China.

Two days before Russia's invasion, China's foreign minister Wang Yi said the "sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of any country should be respected and safeguarded," adding, "Ukraine is no exception." Nor did China recognize the two "people's republics" proclaimed by Putin in eastern Ukraine. Right after the invasion, according to China's ambassador to the United States, Xi called Putin to urge peace talks. The ambassador claimed Xi "received a positive response." If so, that was obviously a lie. China then abstained from voting on two UN resolutions that condemned Russia's invasion, one in the UN Security Council and another in the General Assembly.

Beijing continues to support Russia's "legitimate security concerns," but it has not done much so far to alleviate Russia's economic pain from the U.S. and European sanctions. Even though China began purchasing Russian wheat and increased imports of Russian gas, two of its main banks abided by U.S. sanctions in refusing to

King Crossword

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Classifieds

LEGALS

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

State of NC File: 2022 E 000384

ALL PERSONS, firms and corporations having claims against Jackie Anthony Holmes, deceased, of Durham County, N.C., are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before June 24, 2022 or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery.

Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment.

This 24th day of March, 2022.

Leslie Holmes Gydos
Administrator
P.O. Box 3022
Burlington, NC 27215

3/24,31, 4/7,14/2022
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION

In The General Court Of Justice
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk

File Number 2022-E-000159

The Undersigned, having qualified as Executor of the Estate of Nathaniel Dickerson, late of Durham County, North Carolina, hereby wishes to notify all persons having claims against the Estate of said deceased to exhibit them to the undersigned at the below listed address on or before the 24th day of June 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery.

All persons indebted to the Estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned at the below listed address.

This the 24th day of March 2022.

Katherine Dauchert
Executor
27 Clearwater Drive
Durham, NC 27707

3/24,31, 4/7,14/2022
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
WAKE COUNTY

NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION

In The General Court Of Justice
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk

File Number 2022-E-366

The Undersigned, having qualified as Co-Executors of the Estate of Helen Oldham Dennis, late of Durham County, North Carolina, hereby wish to notify all persons having claims against the Estate of said deceased to exhibit them to the undersigned at the below listed address on or before the 24th day of June 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery.

All persons indebted to the Estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned at the below listed address.

This the 24th day of March 2022.

Cristy McGranahan
Co-Executor
3701 Hermine Street
Durham, NC 27705

Co-Executor
Robert McGranahan
Durham, NC 27705

3/24,31, 4/7,14/2022
NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Estates Division

22 E 339

The undersigned, Judy Whisnant, attorney for the estate of WILLIAM WALTER DICKERSON, deceased, late of 703 Lindley Drive, Durham, North Carolina notifies all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the estate of said deceased to exhibit them to the undersigned at 123 West Main Street, Suite 612, Durham, NC 27701 on or before the 24th day of June, 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms and corporations indebted to said estate will please make immediate payment.

This 24th day of March, 2022.

Attorney for the Estate of William Walter Dickerson, deceased.
3/24,31, 4/7,14/2022
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION

In The General Court Of Justice
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk

File Number 22-E-185

The Undersigned, having qualified as Successor Executor of the Estate of Willie Lee Winston, late of Durham County, North Carolina, hereby wishes to notify all persons having claims against the Estate of said deceased to exhibit them to the undersigned at the below listed address on or before the 24th day of June 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery.

All persons indebted to the Estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned at the below listed address.

This the 24th day of March 2022.

William H. Alston, Jr.
Executor
2005 Waters Drive
Raleigh, NC 27610

3/24,31, 4/7,14/2022
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION

In The General Court Of Justice
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk

File Number 22-E-185

The Undersigned, having qualified as Successor Executor of the Estate of Willie Lee Winston, late of Durham County, North Carolina, hereby wishes to notify all persons having claims against the Estate of said deceased to exhibit them to the undersigned at the below listed address on or before the 24th day of June 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery.

All persons indebted to the Estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned at the below listed address.

This the 24th day of March 2022.

Attorney for the Estate of William Walter Dickerson, deceased.
3/24,31, 4/7,14/2022
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION

In The General Court Of Justice
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk

File Number 21-E-1822

The Undersigned, having qualified as Administrator

below listed address.

This the 24th day of March 2022.

Roderick E. Roberts

Successor Executor

412 Caprano Drive

Holly Springs, NC 27540

3/24,31, 4/7,14/2022

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION

In The General Court Of Justice

Superior Court Division

Before the Clerk

File Number 22-E-347

The Undersigned, having qualified as Executor of the Estate of Charles Edward Workman, late of Durham County, North Carolina, hereby wishes to notify all persons having claims against the Estate of said deceased to exhibit them to the undersigned at the below listed address on or before the 24th day of June 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery.

All persons indebted to the Estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned at the below listed address.

This the 24th day of March 2022.

Elizabeth Barbo

Executor

13470 Zarthan Avenue South

Savage , MN 55378

3/24,31, 4/7,14/2022

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION

In The General Court Of Justice

Superior Court Division

Before the Clerk

File Number 22-E-216

The Undersigned, having qualified as Administrator of the Estate of Cynthia Darlene Weaver, late of Durham County, North Carolina, hereby wishes to notify all persons having claims against the Estate of said deceased to exhibit them to the undersigned at the below listed address on or before the 26th day of May 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery.

All persons indebted to the Estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned at the below listed address.

This the 24th day of February 2022.

Georgina Nicole Moreno

Administrator

404 Idlewood Drive

Durham, NC 27703

3/24, 3/31,4/7,14/2022

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

WAKE COUNTY

NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION

In The General Court Of Justice

Superior Court Division

Before the Clerk

File Number 22-E-366

The Undersigned, having qualified as Co-Executors of the Estate of Helen Oldham Dennis, late of Durham County, North Carolina, hereby wish to notify all persons having claims against the Estate of said deceased to exhibit them to the undersigned at the below listed address on or before the 26th day of May 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms and corporations indebted to said estate will please make immediate payment.

This the 24th day of March 2022.

Robert McGranahan

Durham, NC 27705

3/24,31, 4/7,14/2022

NORTH CAROLINA

DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Estates Division

22 E 339

The undersigned, Judy Whisnant, attorney for the estate of WILLIAM WALTER DICKERSON, deceased, late of 703 Lindley Drive, Durham, North Carolina notifies all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the estate of said deceased to exhibit them to the undersigned at 123 West Main Street, Suite 612, Durham, NC 27701 on or before the 24th day of June, 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms and corporations indebted to said estate will please make immediate payment.

This 24th day of March, 2022.

Attorney for the Estate of William Walter Dickerson, deceased.
3/24,31, 4/7,14/2022

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION

In The General Court Of Justice

Superior Court Division

Before the Clerk

File Number 21-E-1822

The Undersigned, having qualified as Administrator

CTA of the Estate of Thressa Poe Robinson, late of Durham County, North Carolina, hereby wishes to notify all persons having claims against the Estate of said deceased to exhibit them to the undersigned at the below listed address on or before the 24th day of June 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery.

All persons indebted to the Estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned at the below listed address.

This the 24th day of March 2022.

Cynthia McCrimmon

Administrator CTA

103 Warwick Hills Court

Cary, NC 27518

3/24,31,4/7,14/2022

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION

In The General Court Of Justice

Superior Court Division

Before the Clerk

File Number 22-E-347

The Undersigned, having qualified as Executor of the Estate of Charles Edward Workman, late of Durham County, North Carolina, hereby wishes to notify all persons having claims against the Estate of said deceased to exhibit them to the undersigned at the below listed address on or before the 24th day of June 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery.

All persons indebted to the Estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned at the below listed address.

This the 24th day of March 2022.

Elizabeth Barbo

Executor

13470 Zarthan Avenue South

Savage , MN 55378

3/24,31, 4/7,14/2022

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION

In The General Court Of Justice

Superior Court Division

Before the Clerk

File Number 22-E-216

The Undersigned, having qualified as Administrator of the Estate of Cynthia Darlene Weaver, late of Durham County, North Carolina, hereby wishes to notify all persons having claims against the Estate of said deceased to exhibit them to the undersigned at the below listed address on or before the 26th day of May 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms and corporations indebted to said estate will please make immediate payment.

This the

classifieds

LEGALS

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

File No. 22 E 120

Having qualified as the personal representative of the estate of Robert Lamont Jackson, late of Durham County, NC, Jeffrey Lamont Jackson and Tina Marie Lewis, the undersigned, do hereby notify all persons, firms, and corporations having claims against the estate of decedent to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before June 10, 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms and corporations indebted to the estate will please make prompt payment to the undersigned.

This, the 10th day of March, 2022.

Jeffrey Lamont Jackson

Co-Executor

Tina Marie Lewis

Co-Executor

c/o Kratt Dedmond and Associates, PLLC

Attorney for the Estate

5623 Duraleigh Road, Suite 111

Raleigh, NC 27612

3/10,17,24,31/22

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE OF SERVICE

OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION

In The General Court Of Justice

Superior Court Division

Before the Clerk

File Number 22-E-257

The Undersigned, having qualified as Administrator of the Estate of Burmadeane George, late of Durham County, North Carolina, hereby wishes to notify all persons having claims against the Estate of said deceased to exhibit them to the undersigned at the below listed address on or before the 3rd day of June 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery.

All persons indebted to the Estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned at the below listed address.

This the 3rd day of March 2022.

Alex George

Administrator

41 Rutledge Road

Wethersfield, CT 06109

3/3,10,17,24/22

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

WAKE COUNTY

NOTICE OF SERVICE

OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION

In The General Court Of Justice

Superior Court Division

Before the Clerk

File Number 2022-E-000192

The Undersigned, having qualified as Executor of the Estate of Miriam C. Spain, late of Durham County, North Carolina, hereby wishes to notify all persons having claims against the Estate of said deceased to exhibit them to the undersigned at the below listed address on or before the 26th day of May 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery.

All persons indebted to the Estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned at the below listed address.

This the 24th day of February, 2022.

Kevin L. Spain

Executor

111 Pointe Place

Hillsborough, NC 27278

2/24, 3/3,10,17/22

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

WAKE COUNTY

NOTICE OF SERVICE

OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION

In The General Court Of Justice

Superior Court Division

Before the Clerk

File Number 2022 E 000443

The Undersigned, having qualified as Administrator of the Estate of Hattie Lucille Rudd aka Hattie Seaward Rudd, late of Wake County, North Carolina, hereby wishes to notify all persons having claims against the Estate of said deceased to exhibit them to the undersigned at the below listed address on or before the 3rd day of June 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery.

All persons indebted to the Estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned at the below listed address.

This the 3rd day of March 2022.

Shrounda Douglas-Riddick

Administrator

1422 Southgate Drive

Raleigh, NC 27610

3/3,10,17,24/22

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

File No. 22-E-214

The Undersigned, having qualified as Executor of the Estate of Lillian J. Pellom, late of Durham County, North Carolina, hereby wishes to notify all persons having claims against the Estate of said deceased to exhibit them to the undersigned at the below listed address on or before the 3rd day of June 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery.

All persons indebted to the Estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned at the below listed address.

This the 3rd day of March 2022.

Gary Lee Pellom

Executor

15 Cassington Lane

Durham, NC 27705

3/3,10,17,24/22

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE OF SERVICE

OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION

In The General Court Of Justice

Superior Court Division

Before the Clerk

File Number 22-E-252

The Undersigned, having

Superior Court Division

Before the Clerk

File Number 22-E-220

The Undersigned, having qualified as Executor of the Estate of Michael Roy, aka Michael Joseph Roy aka Michael Joseph Berardin Roy, late of Durham County, North Carolina, hereby wishes to notify all persons having claims against the Estate of said deceased to exhibit them to the undersigned at the below listed address on or before the 3rd day of June 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery.

All persons indebted to the Estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned at the below listed address.

This the 3rd day of March 2022.

Adam Roy

Executor

507 Jackson Street

Falls Church VA 22046

3/3,10,17,24/2022

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE OF SERVICE

OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION

In The General Court Of Justice

Superior Court Division

Before the Clerk

File Number 22-E-222

The Undersigned, having qualified as Executrix of the Estate of Barbara Gilchrist Matthews, late of Durham County, North Carolina, hereby wishes to notify all persons having claims against the Estate of said deceased to exhibit them to the undersigned at the below listed address on or before the 3rd day of June 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery.

All persons indebted to the Estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned at the below listed address.

This the 3rd day of March 2022.

Donna Marie Matthews

Executrix

c/o Richard F. Prentis, Jr.

Stubbs, Cole, Breedlove, Prentis & Biggs

4 Consultant Place

Durham, NC 27707

3/3,10,17,24/2022

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE OF SERVICE

OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION

In The General Court Of Justice

Superior Court Division

Before the Clerk

File Number 2022-E-000192

The Undersigned, having qualified as Executor of the Estate of Miriam C. Spain, late of Durham County, North Carolina, hereby wishes to notify all persons having claims against the Estate of said deceased to exhibit them to the undersigned at the below listed address on or before the 26th day of May 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery.

All persons indebted to the Estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned at the below listed address.

This the 24th day of February, 2022.

Kevin L. Spain

Executor

111 Pointe Place

Hillsborough, NC 27278

2/24, 3/3,10,17/22

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

WAKE COUNTY

NOTICE OF SERVICE

OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION

In The General Court Of Justice

Superior Court Division

Before the Clerk

File Number 2022 E 000443

The Undersigned, having qualified as Administrator of the Estate of Hattie Lucille Rudd aka Hattie Seaward Rudd, late of Wake County, North Carolina, hereby wishes to notify all persons having claims against the Estate of said deceased to exhibit them to the undersigned at the below listed address on or before the 3rd day of June 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery.

All persons indebted to the Estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned at the below listed address.

This the 3rd day of March 2022.

Shrounda Douglas-Riddick

Administrator

1422 Southgate Drive

Raleigh, NC 27610

3/3,10,17,24/22

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

File No. 22-E-214

The Undersigned, having qualified as Executor of the Estate of Lillian J. Pellom, late of Durham County, North Carolina, hereby wishes to notify all persons having claims against the Estate of said deceased to exhibit them to the undersigned at the below listed address on or before the 3rd day of June 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery.

All persons indebted to the Estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned at the below listed address.

This the 3rd day of March 2022.

Gary Lee Pellom

Executor

15 Cassington Lane

Durham, NC 27705

3/3,10,17,24/2022

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE OF SERVICE

OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION

In The General Court Of Justice

Superior Court Division

Before the Clerk

File Number 22-E-252

The Undersigned, having

Superior Court Division

Before the Clerk

File Number 21-E-590

The Undersigned, having qualified as Executor of the Estate of Michael Roy, aka Michael Joseph Roy aka Michael Joseph Berardin Roy, late of Durham County, North Carolina, hereby wishes to notify all persons having claims against the Estate of said deceased to exhibit them to the undersigned at the below listed address on or before the 3rd day of June 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery.

All persons indebted to the Estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned at the below listed address.

This the 3rd day of March 2022.

Adam Roy

Executor

507 Jackson Street

Falls Church VA 22046

<p

Community

Judge's Order In 'Leandro' Fast-Tracked

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP) — North Carolina's justices have agreed to accelerate the process to determine whether a trial judge had authority to order \$1.75 billion in taxpayer money be spent to address inequities in the public schools.

The state Supreme Court granted a request backed by attorneys for the state, local school boards and guardians of current students to hear the matter in the coming months, rather than wait first for a ruling from the intermediate-level Court of Appeals.

The order is the latest in school funding litigation that began nearly 30 years ago — known as "Leandro," an original plaintiff's name — and is now heading to a constitutional showdown between the three government branches.

The Supreme Court, in an

order released Monday, did not give deadlines on when they would accept briefs or hear oral arguments. It told Superior Court Judge David Lee to first examine the two-year state budget approved by the legislature the week after his Nov. 10 order directing state officials to move the funds from state coffers to two education agencies and the health department.

Within 30 days, the justices wrote, Lee can change his previous order in light of education budget spending. The Supreme Court will then decide procedures for briefs and an oral arguments date, according to its decision, which mentioned no opposition by individual justices.

With Monday's order, it's highly likely the current version of the Supreme Court — with four Democrats and three Republicans —

cans — will rule on Lee's decisions. Two of the seven seats currently held by Democrats are on this fall's ballot.

The \$1.75 billion, which was supposed to fund a remedial spending plan through mid-2023 that Lee approved and Democratic Gov. Roy Cooper's administration supported, never got moved.

A Court of Appeals panel on Nov. 30 blocked Lee's directive, stating the job of appropriating money is expressly left in the state constitution to the General Assembly. That's the viewpoint of Republican legislative leaders who were not involved in the litigation until recently.

The lawsuit plaintiffs — the school boards and students among them — had urged the justices in legal briefs to take the matter as soon as possible.

They said the constitutionally-protected right to obtain the "opportunity for a sound basic education" — which the Supreme Court affirmed in 1997 and 2004 — was being frittered away while another generation of at-risk kids lacked resources to succeed. The remedial plan was based on an outside consultant's report.

"There are few, if any, cases that so directly affect the foundations of our civic life, liberty and welfare, and it is difficult to imagine a more apt case for bypass review," Melanie Dubis, one of the plaintiffs' lawyers, wrote to the justices last month. "Without immediate review by this court, substantial harm to children will continue unabated."

Although the state is a lawsuit defendant, the state Department of Justice also requested the fast-track review.

Lawyers for House Speaker Tim Moore and Senate leader Phil Berger had asked the Supreme Court not to accelerate the case, saying in part that the state budget law's passage rendered Lee's order moot.

For example, their brief read, the budget law spent all but \$128 million of the state's expected through mid-2023, when Lee had cited several billion dollars in unspent money as a justification for ordering spending. And local school board also are sitting on unspent state and federal COVID-19 relief funds.

"School districts thus have sufficient resources ... to deal with children's immediate educational needs while this appeal proceeds," wrote Matthew Tilley, the legislators' attorney.

Cooper and fellow Democrats have said the budget falls short in complying with the remedial plan, which addresses, in part, teacher recruitment and salaries, pre-kindergarten expansion and more spending in low-wealth counties.

In his November order, Lee defended his ability to order the spending by citing portions of the constitution addressing the right to education as amounting to "an ongoing constitutional appropriation of funds."

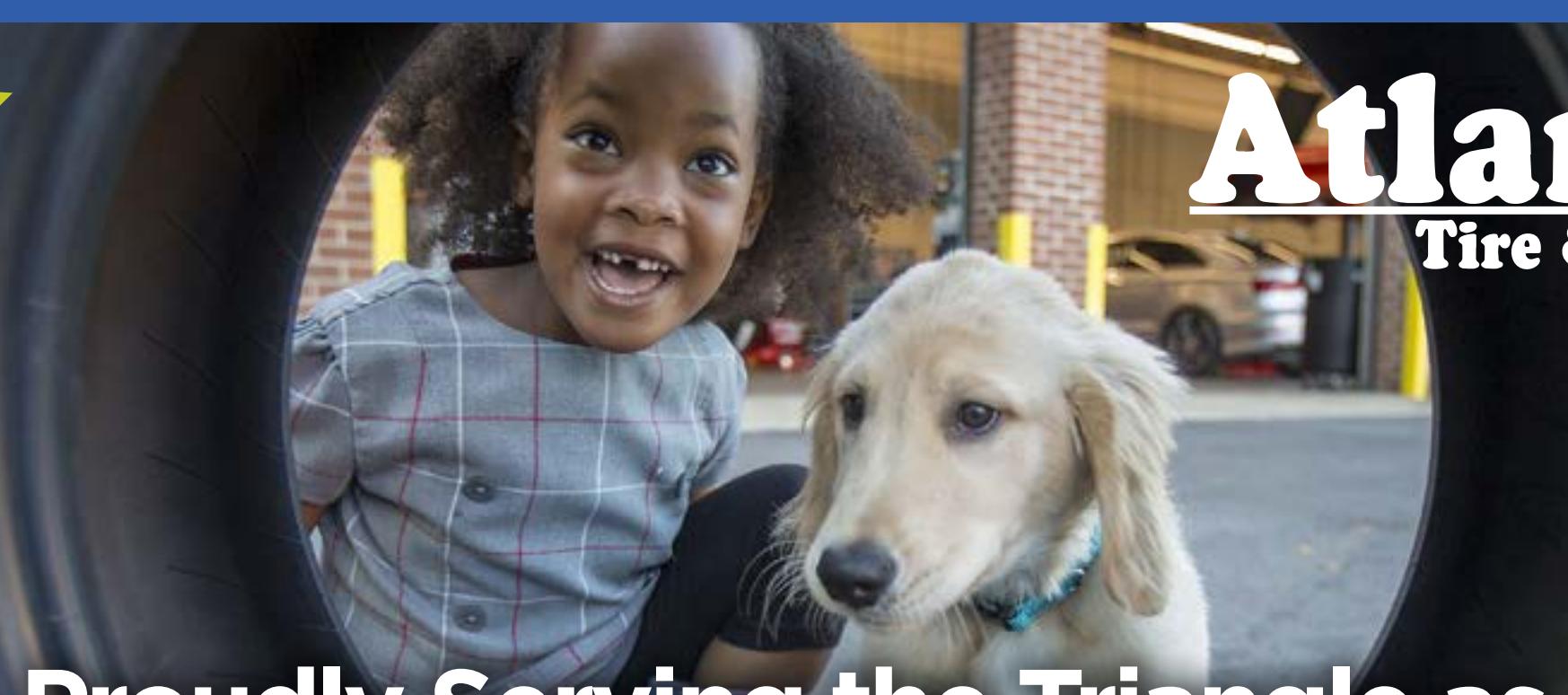


Alpha Theta Omega Programs Of Service

Alpha Theta Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Incorporated recently observed Martin Luther King Jr. (MLK Jr.) Day of Service, a Community Impact Day under the program theme of "Exemplifying Excellence Through Sustainable Service". Originally planned for January 17, 2022, on the national MLK Day Observance, it was rescheduled because of inclement weather to March 5, 2022, at the Alpha Theta Omega Assembly House. In collaboration with No Woman No Girl Initiative founded by an alumna of Shaw University and member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Shirnetta Harrell, the Chapter provided toiletries based on the mission of the non-profit that no women and girls will go without access to everyday essential to survive crisis or transition in Wake County, NC. Chapter members and community supporters donated more than 3,000 everyday essentials to support of the organization's mission.

Also aligned with the programmatic thrust of the Sorority, Target 2- Women's Healthcare and Wellness - held a mask and healthy food giveaway to the community on the same day. Committee members gathered to distribute prepared bags that included N95 and cloth masks, hand sanitizers, and healthy snacks. Both events show Alpha Theta Omega's commitment to providing impactful service to the community. Gladys Walker is President of the Alpha Theta Omega Chapter, Linda B. Gill, Chairman of the MLK Day of Service, and Edrisa Horton, Chairman of Target 2.





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