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Back-To-School With 11,000 Staff Vacancies



By Chanté Russell

Staff Writer

Students across North Carolina have returned to their schools in recent weeks, but for some there was a noticeable element lacking: teachers.

According to a survey conducted by The North Carolina School Superintendents Association in August, there were 11,297 staff vacancies across the state's public schools going into the 2022-23 school year. That number comes from the 98 out of 115 school districts that participated in the survey and includes unfilled positions for 3,619 K-12 teachers; 1,342 bus drivers; 850 special

education teachers; 354 counselors, social workers and psychologists; 70 assistant principals; 698 central office employees, and more than 4,362 other support staff.

According to NCSA Executive Director Jack Hoke, eight districts have 0-1 vacancy; 29 districts have 2-10 vacancies; 23 districts have 11-20 vacancies; and 21 districts have 21-50 vacancies.

Additionally, districts reported that another 3,618 certified teaching positions will be filled this fall by individuals who are not yet fully licensed to teach in North Carolina.

"The number of vacancies is

certainly trending up based on the vacancy data that we saw in 2021 and 2022," Hoke said. "I think the teacher pipeline is shrinking yearly. As a state, we need to figure out how to increase the number of students entering the teacher education programs at our colleges and universities."

Enrollment data from the UNC School System starting in 2010 shows that the number of students studying to become teachers has been consistently dropping for more than a decade. COVID-19 only added to this issue with teachers reporting that like in many other professions, the pandemic increased work-

related stress.

Another source of stress for many teachers has been the amount of politicized criticism schools have received lately. During a recent press conference, Sen. Dan Blue (D-Wake) listed efforts to ban books in schools and Republican efforts to limit curricula including Lt. Gov. Mark Robinson's suggestion in his new book that elementary schools not teach science and social studies as sources of polarization for teachers.

"Should we make [teachers] the enemy of the public and sic angered parents at them based on misinformation?" Sen. Blue asked.

Pandemic and partisan issues aside, one of the biggest factors for many teachers and young people considering the teaching profession is compensation. Data from the National Education Association show that North Carolina teachers on average are paid far less than the national average.

The average starting salary for a teacher in North Carolina is \$37,127 while the national average starting salary for a teacher in the U.S. is \$41,770. Bordering states have taken this as an opportunity to recruit educators from North Carolina.

Last month a billboard advertisement for Richmond Public Schools in Virginia offering up to \$10,000 in incentives was placed near New Bern Avenue on I-440 in Raleigh. Local radio stations have also recently featured advertisements for out-of-state teaching positions.

"Legislatively, we haven't seen a lot of effort from our elected officials to retain and recruit educators," said North Carolina Association of Educators' President Tamika Walker Kelly.

"We have seen that burden shift to local school districts who have been offering signing bonuses, who have been offering

retention bonuses to our returning educators, but that is not a sustainable model. And many of our colleagues have left to even teach in South Carolina."

In order for districts to increase teacher pay, they'll likely need more funding in general. According to research from the Education Law Center about fair funding, North Carolina is among one of the worst U.S. states when it comes to public school funding. Only Arizona and Washington, D.C., ranked below North Carolina in fair distribution of public school funding.

"Many of the low-effort, low-capacity states could significantly increase funding by increasing effort. North Carolina, Arizona, Nevada, Florida and Tennessee could all increase funding by more than \$3,000 per pupil, though most would still fall far short of national average funding levels," the research paper says.

In 1994, five counties began a fight to push North Carolina to improve school funding with a lawsuit that has come to be known as the Leandro case, after one of the student plaintiffs. Over the past 28 years Leandro has seen multiple judges, four

(See **BACK TO SCHOOL**, P. 2)

At \$249/Day, Prison Leaves Ex-Inmates In Debt

HARTFORD, Conn. (AP) — Two decades after her release from prison, Teresa Beatty feels she is still being punished.

When her mother died two years ago, the state of Connecticut put a lien on the Stamford home she and her siblings inherited. It said she owed \$83,762 to cover the cost of her 2 1/2 year imprisonment for drug crimes.

Now, she's afraid she'll have to sell her home of 51 years, where she lives with two adult children, a grandchild and her disabled brother.

"I'm about to be homeless," said Beatty, 58, who in March became the lead plaintiff in a lawsuit challenging the state law that charges prisoners \$249 a day for the cost of their incarceration. "I just don't think it's right, because I feel I already paid my debt to society. I just don't think it's fair for me to be paying twice."

All but two states have so-called "pay-to-stay" laws that make prisoners pay for their time behind bars, though not every state actually pursues people for the money. Supporters say the collections are a legitimate way for states to recoup millions of taxpayer dollars spent on prisons and jails.

Critics say it's an unfair second penalty that hinders rehabilitation by putting former inmates in debt for life. Efforts have been underway in some places to scale back or eliminate such policies.

Two states — Illinois and New



Fred Hodges, left, and Da'ee McKnight at their workplace, Family ReEntry, a reentry support group aiming to break cycles of violence, crime and incarceration in Bridgeport, Conn. Hodges and McKnight are former Connecticut inmates who have been paying for cost of their incarceration. (Jessica Hill / Associated Press)

Hampshire — have repealed their laws since 2019.

Connecticut also overhauled its statute this year, keeping it in place only for the most serious crimes, such as murder, and exempting prisoners from having to pay the first \$50,000 of their incarceration costs.

Under the revised law, about 98% of Connecticut inmates no longer have to pay any of the costs of their incarceration after they get out, said state Rep. Steve Stafstrom, a Bridgeport Democrat and a sponsor of the repeal legislation.

The state retained its ability, though, to collect some prison

debts already on the books before the law changed. It's unclear whether the change in the law, made after Beatty sued, will be enough to keep her in her home. That will be decided in court.

Her lawyers have asked a federal judge to block the state from enforcing the law against anyone, saying it remains unfair even after the amendments.

Beatty acknowledges she was guilty of selling and possessing drugs, but said nobody told her when she went to jail that every day behind bars would cost her more than a night at a fine hotel.

"It just drags you back to despair," said Beatty, who has had

other brushes with the law over drug possession since her release from jail, but has also become a certified nursing assistant. "That's where I feel like I'm at. I feel like no hope. Where do I go? All of this work and it feels like I've done it in vain."

Pay-to-stay laws were put into place in many areas during the tough-on-crime era of the 1980s and '90s, said Brittany Friedman, an assistant professor of sociology at University of Southern California who is leading a study of the practice.

As prison populations ballooned, Friedman said, policymakers questioned how to pay for incarceration costs. "So, instead of raising taxes, the solution was to shift the cost burden from the state and the taxpayers onto the incarcerated."

Laws vary from state to state. Many, like Connecticut, only go after inmates for the cost of incarceration if they come into money after leaving prison. A few, such as North Carolina, have laws on the books but almost never use them, Friedman said.

Connecticut's partial repeal went into effect July 1. The state is projected to collect about \$5.5 million less per year from ex-prisoners because of the change.

State Sen. John Kissel, the top Republican on the legislature's Judiciary Committee, said he opposed the repeal passed by the

(See **PRISON**, P. 2)



CATAWBA NATION OPENS SPORTS BOOK INSIDE NEW NC CASINO

KINGS MOUNTAIN (AP)—Another sports-gambling venue opened on Tuesday in North Carolina, this time at the temporary casino opened by the Catawba Nation last year along Interstate 85 near the South Carolina border.

The sports book inside the Catawba Two Kings Casino in Kings Mountain will be open 24 hours a day—just like the rest of the gambling facility. Thirty betting kiosks and betting voucher redemption services also will be available.

The state's other two sports books opened in March 2021 at casinos operated by the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians in Cherokee and Murphy.

The Catawba sports book opened two days before the National Football League began its regular season. Betting also will be of-

(See **STATE BRIEFS**, P. 2)



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trips to the state supreme court and a 300-page report on how to improve school conditions.

As things currently stand, it has been determined that North Carolina has failed to fulfill the state constitutional responsibility to provide a "sound basic education" to all public school students.

However, the case remains open due to the legal question of whether the court can order

the state to rearrange its budget.

In June 2021 Judge David Lee signed an order that the state must implement the Comprehensive Remedial Plan, an 8-year plan to fix North Carolina's schools.

In December, legislative leaders filed a motion to appeal Judge Lee's order. Following this motion, the North Carolina Supreme Court agreed to hear the current arguments in the

Leandro case in August 2022.

On August 31 the Leandro case went to the North Carolina Supreme Court for the fourth time with two questions on the floor: Whether any judge in this

case has found a statewide violation of students' constitutional right to access a sound, basic education; and whether the courts can compel the transfer of \$785 million to state agen-

cies as remedy for any violation.

Last week's hearing, which was less than 2 hours, consisted solely of plaintiff and defense lawyers making their argu-

ments and answering questions from the court's seven justices, four of which are Democrats and the other three are Republicans. The court has not yet set a date for its decision.

Prison Leaves Ex-Inmates —CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Democratic majority, but might support reforms like allowing inmates to pay off debt in installments.

Kissel said that while Beatty's situation tugs at one's heartstrings, "Everybody has issues."

"The policy is to make one appreciate that your incarceration costs money," he said. "The taxpayers footed the bill. They didn't do anything wrong. And knowing that one has to pay the state back a reasonable sum on a regular basis is not a bad policy."

Connecticut used to collect prison debt by attaching an automatic lien to every inmate, claim-

ing half of any financial windfall they might receive for up to 20 years after they are released from prison, said Dan Barrett, legal director for the American Civil Liberties Union of Connecticut. That included things like insurance settlements, inheritances and lottery winnings.

The state even collected money awarded to inmates in lawsuits over alleged abuse by prison guards.

Former Connecticut inmate Fred Hodges, who served more than 17 years in prison for killing a man while trying to retrieve his son's stolen bicycle, came into

\$21,000 after his car was totaled in a 2009 traffic accident. The state claimed half of that, he said. After paying his lawyer, he was left with about \$3,000.

"I have seven grandchildren and the money could have helped them. It could have helped me," said Hodges, who works for a nonprofit that helps other inmates reenter society. "You'd be surprised at the effect it can have on you psychologically when they tell you you owe them \$249 a day. I was locked up for 17 1/2 years. At \$249 a day, how are you going to come up out of that?"

Beatty's lawsuit, which is seeking class-action status, argues that the pay-to-stay seizures violate the excessive fines clause of the Constitution.

Da'ee McKnight, who works with Hodges as a coordinator for an organization called Family ReEntry, said the state took an insurance settlement from him, even though he served most of his sentence before the law was on the books.

"Here, I'm being penalized for something that I was not even made aware of at the time I was sentenced, because it did not even exist," he said.

STATE BRIEFS

Continued from page 1

ferred for auto racing, baseball, basketball, boxing and soccer among other spots.

Catawba Two Kings hopes "that a new audience in the Charlotte region and beyond will discover the casino as they come to wager on their favorite teams," Trent Troxel, vice president of the Catawba Nation Gaming Authority, said in a news release.

The Catawba Nation is based in Rock Hill, S.C. The U.S. Interior Department agreed in 2020 to put 17 acres in Cleveland County, North Carolina, into trust on which to build the casino, which opened in July 2021. The casino now has 1,000 gambling machines, including electronic table games.

The General Assembly passed a law in 2019 that gave federally recognized American Indian tribes the ability to offer sports wagering in North Carolina.

Legislation to authorize sports betting across all of North Carolina—using phone, computers and in-person venues—fell apart in the state House in June.

APPEALS COURT SAYS NC FISHERIES CHALLENGE CAN CONTINUE

(AP)—Coastal recreational anglers can keep suing the state of North Carolina over accusations that government regulators have devastated near-shore fishing stocks in violation of the state constitution, the state Court of Appeals ruled Tuesday.

The Coastal Conservation Association of North Carolina and more than 80 individuals sued the state in 2020, alleging it had failed its fiduciary duty to protect the state's fisheries from overfishing. Their complaint cited constitutional provisions giving people the right to hunt and fish and making it the state's policy "to conserve and protect its lands and waters for the benefit of all its citizenry."

The constitutional right to hunt, fish and harvest wildlife was approved by voters in November 2018. The "conserve and protect" language cited in the lawsuit was added to the constitution in 1972.

In particular, the anglers blamed the state Division of Marine Fisheries and state Marine Fisheries Commission for allowing excessive for-profit commercial fishing and certain fishing methods that they say have led to dramatic declines in certain fish stocks since 1997.

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Business & Finance

EPA Admin Faces Lawsuit For Exempting Coal Ash Dumps

By Sue Sturgis

Facing South



Environmental, civil rights, and community groups are suing the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Administrator Michael Regan for exempting hundreds of toxic coal ash dumps nationwide from a rule designed to protect the environment and public health.

The nonprofit legal group Earthjustice filed the federal lawsuit on Aug. 25 in U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia. The plaintiffs in the case are Statewide Organizing for Community eMpowerment in Tennessee, the Indiana State Conference and LaPorte County Branch of the NAACP, Hoosier Environmental Council in Indiana, Clean Power Lake County in Illinois, the Sierra Club, and the Environmental Integrity Project.

“Power plant records reveal that about half of the toxic coal ash waste in the U.S. is entirely exempt from any federal health protections,” said plaintiffs’ attorney Mychal Ozeta with Earthjustice. “This is outrageous. The coal power industry is poisoning drinking water sources and the air we breathe while causing global warming.”

Coal ash is the waste left after burning coal for power and contains toxic substances including arsenic, lead, mercury, and radium. The EPA has acknowledged that the risks to humans associated with coal ash exposure include cancers, neurological and psychiatric problems, cardiovascular damage, and anemia.

The EPA regulated coal ash in 2015 following public outcry over the massive 2008 coal ash spill from a Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) power plant near Kingston, Tennessee. But when Earthjustice studied databases it found in EPA archives, it discovered that the agency exempted from regulation 292 coal ash landfills at 161 plants in 38 states, including 12 of the 13 Southern states. The group says its count of inactive landfills is

likely an underestimation, but it’s also possible that its interpretation of industry data may have resulted in an overcount at particular facilities.

EPA excluded from its oversight those coal ash dumps that stopped receiving new waste before the regulation when into effect, as well as those at power plants that had already stopped producing electricity. Earthjustice says the exempted landfills are located disproportionately in low-income communities and communities of color.

But just because a coal ash landfill isn’t taking new waste doesn’t mean what’s in it isn’t contaminating the environment. Earthjustice and the Environmental Integrity Project studied industry data and found groundwater contamination exceeding federal health-based standards at 76% of regulated coal ash landfills, which tend to be newer and are more likely to have protective liners than the older, inactive landfills that EPA exempted from its rule. That means the inactive coal ash dumps are even more likely to be releasing toxic contaminants to groundwater.

“EPA’s blanket exemption of inactive [coal combustion residual] landfills allows hundreds of dangerous and leaking toxic dumps to escape critical safeguards, including monitoring, inspection, closure, cleanup, and reporting requirements,” the lawsuit states.

“Data reveal that the toxic heavy metals leaking from inactive CCR landfills located throughout the U.S. pose an unabated and significant threat to human health and the environment.

“Please protect us”

A third of the nation’s unregulated coal ash dumps are in the South. Earthjustice tallied a total of 97 unregulated coal ash dumps at 57 power plant sites across the region. Texas has the most, with 27 unregulated dumps at 11 sites, followed by West Virginia, with 13 dumps at seven sites. Click here for a map and complete list.

These are among the coal ash dumps that the EPA has exempted from regulation:

TVA’s Kingston plant in Tennessee, where a 2008 impoundment failure sent over 1 billion gallons of coal ash into the Clinch and Emory rivers, has one unregulated landfill. In addition, cleanup workers are now in court fighting contractor Jacobs Engineering for damages, saying they have been sickened — and some of their colleagues killed — by their exposure to the spilled ash.

The TVA’s Bull Run Fossil Plant in Clinton, Tennessee, has two unregulated, unlined, and leaking landfills that are contaminating groundwater with dangerous levels of arsenic, boron, cobalt, manganese, and molybdenum. The plant sits about 35 miles from the Kingston plant, also along the

Clinch River.

The Stanton Energy Center in Orlando, Florida, has a 90-acre coal ash landfill known to be contaminating groundwater. The landfill evades federal regulation because the plant’s owner, the Orlando Utilities Commission, stopped dumping in it 52 days before the EPA’s 2015 rule took effect.

Duke Energy’s Belews Creek Steam Station in Stokes County, North Carolina, has one inactive coal ash landfill exempted from federal regulation, according to Earthjustice. Residents of the nearby community of Belews Creek have long reported what seem to be unusual patterns of cancer around the plant that they suspect are connected to the facility’s pollution.

On Aug. 1, 121 national, regional, and grassroots public interest groups and tribal communities from 30 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico wrote a letter to EPA Administrator Regan asking him to immediately take action to close the loopholes in the coal ash rule. Regan formerly served as the top environmental regulator in North Carolina, where a 2014 spill from a coal ash landfill at a Duke Energy plant near the city of Eden contaminated the Dan River. Regan was not a state regulator at the time but worked for the Environmental Defense Fund, focusing on clean energy. Duke Energy later pleaded guilty to criminal negligence for its handling of coal ash at the plant and paid a \$6 million fine.

The lawsuit notes that the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, the federal law that governs the disposal of hazardous waste, commands the EPA to review each regulation set forth under the statute — which includes the coal ash regulation — at least once every three years. The EPA has not yet carried out that process for the coal ash rule, so the plaintiffs are asking the court to compel the agency to do so “with an expeditious deadline.”

“I’ve seen friends poisoned by

cleaning up the Kingston coal ash spill suffer and die, and felt the grief of their friends and families,” said Todd Waterman of Tennessee’s Statewide Organizing for Community eMpowerment. “The Bull Run coal plant’s fly ash

contaminates the lovely reservoir that supplies the drinking water to my house and much of Knoxville. Once in our bodies, these chemicals can cause permanent damage. Please protect us and our children now, not when it’s too late.”

FUNdraising Good Times

By Mel & Pearl Shaw
Saad & Shaw

WHERE DOES A NONPROFIT TURN FOR HELP? Part Two Of A Two-Part Series

Those who help others need help themselves. That’s true for us as individuals, and it’s also true for nonprofit organizations. Nonprofits need support from accountants, attorneys, artists, and yes—nonprofit professional associations. The latter is a resource that is not well known. Here’s one description of a nonprofit association: an organization that supports nonprofits in a geographic area, providing training and technical assistance, sector research, public policy support, and networking opportunities. That is exactly what Momentum Nonprofit Partners in Memphis, Tenn. does. In this column Dr. Kevin Dean, MNP’s executive director, shares what a nonprofit association can do, and how you can find one that serves your community.

The COVID pandemic reinforced MNP’s unique role in serving nonprofits and those that nonprofits serve. Dean summed up MNP’s recent impact. “COVID changed everything for us. Though we were primarily built to be a training and technical assistance organization, our work broadened during the pandemic. Nonprofit leaders were looking for support and answers, and they looked to us for those answers. It became very obvious to the board and staff that we needed to lean into public policy, advocacy, and resource provision. For example, nonprofits were desperate for masks early in the pandemic. We had the connections with the Shelby County government to get millions of masks directly into the hands of nonprofits for both their employees and their clients. We have been able to use our collective partner power to get big things done, whereas it would be far more difficult for nonprofits to find masks or fight a major bill alone. Because of COVID, our work is now bigger and more important than ever.”

Another example of their unique role and impact is the newly announced partnership with Christian Brothers University (CBU). Their shared goal is to help nonprofit professionals reach their maximum potential through access to graduate-level educational programs. To do this CBU is offering a 20 percent discount on graduate courses, programs, and certificates individuals who are employed by organizations that are members of MNP.

MNP also brings nonprofits together with local and regional philanthropists, foundations, and consultants. This is not as easy as it may sound. “These are three very different groups with very different needs, yet at the same time our goal is to make sure they are aligned and on the same page regarding what’s needed, what the research says, and where we go from here.” That’s how Dean explains the balance. “We have programs for each of these groups so that they can be a part of our work and learn from one another. I still find it difficult to manage a room full of nonprofits, philanthropists, and consultants all together but it’s getting easier as we find new ways to put our shared interests and values front and center.”

This is not just about Memphis. There are regional and state nonprofit associations across the country providing similar supports. Dean recommends visiting the National Council of Nonprofits’ website and using the locator tool to find the nearest association. The website address is <https://www.councilofnonprofits.org/find-your-state-association>

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‘For Keeps’ Showcases Rare & Classic Books

FOR KEEPS IS NOT YOUR typical bookstore. It’s not even your typical independent bookstore. The shop’s offerings—rare, hard-to-find, and classic books by Black authors from around the world as well as other

niche Black artifacts—are an extension of owner Rosa Duffy’s obsessive personal collection, constituting what some have called “an interactive art museum of black thought.”

The bookstore is—by no coin-

cidence—located by a downtown strip that Fortune magazine in 1956 described as “the richest Negro street in the world.” Exposed red brick, checkerboard rugs, and well-worn loveseats welcome visitors from the urban bustle outside. Black artists’ work fills the spaces on the walls with welcome splashes of color (evidence of Duffy’s artistic roots), while iconic Black magazines like Jet and Dawn add an element of nostalgia. It’s the books piled high on the store’s tables and shelves, however, that make up the heart of For Keeps.

On any given day, visitors may find first edition copies of Alice Walker, out-of-print copies of Ralph Ellison, a signed Sonia Sanchez cover, or niche titles from Octavia Butler. There’s political theory, philosophy, non-fiction, and sci-fi; books on Afro-futurism, Black history, autobiogra-

phies of revolutionaries, and collections of poetry.

A section called “On the Table” (literally a table in the center of the shop) retains For Keeps’ permanent collection which—while not for sale—contains some of the shops’ more specialized works and can only be read in-store, from Space Age Dream and Astrology Book to Swahili Names for Your Baby. More than simply a Black-owned business specializing in Black literature, it’s a meticulously curated retrospective on the global Black experience.

Know Before You Go
Open Thursday to Sunday, 12–5 p.m. If you don’t live in Atlanta but want to join the store’s Patreon, you can do so for \$5 a month. You’ll receive excerpts from some of the shop’s favorite pieces, while supporting the bookstore.



MD Couple Says That Their House Appraised For Higher Price After It Was ‘Whitewashed.’

PRINCE GEORGE’S COUNTY, Md. — Dr. Nathan Connolly and Dr. Shani Mott are speaking out after the couple filed a lawsuit against 20/20 Valuations, its owner, and loanDepot for alleged violation of their rights.

In their lawsuit filed last week, the couple said the owner of 20/20 Valuations devalued their 4-bedroom, renovated home because they’re a Black family in a mostly white neighborhood.

“The idea that the life we built in this house would somehow devalue our property was just too hard for us to accept,” said Dr. Connolly, a professor at Johns Hopkins University who teaches the history of redlining in the United States. “This is really common and people are developing a language to talk about it.”

Like many Americans, the couple was looking to take advantage of historically low-interest rates last year. After spending \$35,000 dollars on renovations, the couple decided to refinance their home.

“Plaintiffs also spent significant amount of money on other repairs and improvements, including \$5,000 on window well repair and waterproofing; \$8,000 on recessed lighting; and \$5,000 in landscaping,” the lawsuit stated.

The couple filed an application with loanDepot, a California Based Mortgage Company. The couple claimed in their lawsuit that everything went well and the loan officer

expected the house to appraise at \$550,000.

“[The lending officer] believed \$550,000 was a conservative estimate of the value...and that an appraisal would likely reflect an even higher value,” the lawsuit stated.

When the appraiser from 20/20 Valuations arrived at the house, the couple said the problems began.

“When he came to our home, he felt cold,” said Dr. Mott, also a professor at Johns Hopkins University, describing her interaction with the appraiser from 20/20 Valuations whom she met for the first time in her home.

After the appraisal, the couple packed up for a family road trip down to Florida for vacation. That’s when they got the call.

“The guy from loanDepot called us,” explained Mott. “He let us know the value of the house was \$472,000.”

The couple says they purchased the home for \$450,000 in 2017. Given the renovations, money invested and the market, Dr. Connolly and Dr. Mott said the appraised value from 20/20 Valuation does not accurately reflect the value of their home.

“Plaintiffs explained that there is a long and well document history of devaluing Black homes and that the valuation was impossibly low given the characteristics of their neighborhood and their home,” the lawsuit stated.

The lawsuit claimed the ap-

praiser used a sales comparison approach to access the home. That’s when an appraiser uses recent sales of a similar home in the area to justify the value of the accessed home.

The lawsuit stated the appraiser, “blatantly violated professional appraisal standards by improperly limiting the geographic areas from which he considered properties to compare.” The lawsuit added, the “...decision to geographically limit the area from which he selected comparable sales reflected his belief that, because of their race, Dr. Connolly and Dr. Mott did not belong in Homeland, an attractive and predominately white neighborhood.”

The lower-than-expected appraisal caused their application to refinance with loanDepot to be denied. “I got angry,” said Mott. “loanDepot didn’t back us up. They doubled down on the undervaluation of our home.”

The news also came during a part of their family vacation where Dr. Mott learned she was diagnosed with cancer.

Months went by and the couple decided to go through the application process again. This time with another lender and a different appraisal company. And before the house was appraised, the couple removed any signs a Black family occupied the house.

“You start to get to the point where you’re looking for small

fragments; a toy here, a Christmas card there. And then you have to start thinking about curating the house,” said Connolly.

Instead of prominently displaying the artwork of their children or important markers from Black history, they hoisted a large painting of ‘White Jesus’ on the wall.

“We call him ‘Appraising Jesus,’” said Connolly as he held the painting.

Dr. Connolly took his experiment a step further by asking one of his white colleagues to stand in during the appraisal. The lawsuit stated the second appraisal returned at \$750,000 nearly \$300,000 more than the first appraisal from 20/20 Valuations.

“Why did we have to go through all of this,” Mott questioned.

Dr. Connolly wondered, “Why did we have to strip ourselves of our house to get someone to see it?”

WUSA9 went to the location listed for 20/20 Valuations. No one answered the door and phone calls have gone unanswered. And while loanDepot did not address the lawsuit directly, the company said in a statement, “We strongly oppose bias in the home finance process.” They added, “While appraisals are performed independently by outside expert appraisal firms, all participants in the home finance process must work to find ways to contribute to eradicating bias.”

FTC Questions Amazon’s Purchase Of One Medical



NEW YORK (AP) — The Federal Trade Commission is investigating Amazon’s \$3.9 billion acquisition of the primary health organization One Medical, a move that could delay the completion of the deal. Both One Medical and Amazon received a request for additional information Friday in connection with an FTC review of the merger, according to a filing made with securities regulators by One Medical’s parent, San Francisco-based 1Life Healthcare Inc.

Amazon announced plans in late July to buy One Medical, a concierge-type medical service with roughly 190 medical offices in 25 markets. Last week, the e-commerce giant said it would shutter its own hybrid virtual in-home care service called Amazon Care, a One Medical competitor, because it wasn’t meeting customers’ needs.

The One Medical deal, the first to be announced under CEO Andy Jassy, was another push into healthcare for Amazon following its acquisition of the online pharmacy PillPack for \$750 million in 2018. Groups calling for stricter antitrust regulations quickly urged the FTC to block the merger, arguing it would further expand the company’s massive market power.

An Amazon spokesperson declined to comment. The FTC has already been investigating the sign-up and cancellation practices of Amazon Prime and has issued civil subpoenas in that case.

Last year, the company asked unsuccessfully that FTC Chair Lina Khan step aside from separate antitrust investigations into its business, arguing she would be biased. Khan was notable critic of Seattle-based Amazon and other Big Tech companies prior to assuming the chairmanship. As a Yale law student in 2017, she wrote an influential study titled “Amazon’s Antitrust Paradox.”

VP Kamala Harris Returns To Durham To Talk About Inflation

By Tyria McCray

Staff Writer

Vice President Kamala Harris took another trip back to Durham, this time to discuss inflation this past Thursday.

Once Air Force 2 landed at Raleigh Durham International Airport, she was greeted by North Carolina Gov. Roy Cooper, Durham Mayor Elaine O'Neal, and U.S. Rep. David Price.

Her visit to Durham was to make certain highlighted efforts to reduce healthcare costs for seniors. While speaking at the Durham Center for Senior Life, she primarily focused on provisions in the Inflation Reduction Act and meeting with seniors to hear about challenges they're having in paying for medicine.

"Governor, I thank you. I was saying to Roy Cooper, who I've known for years, he and I were attorneys general together when I was Attorney General of California and he, of course, in North Carolina. And he's been so important as a partner to the President and me with everything that we've been doing from the initial work that we did around what we needed to do to bring relief for small businesses, to the work that we've done with the infrastructure law, and now, of course, this. So, Governor, thank you always for your leadership. It was so good to be back with you," said Harris.

"And, Mayor O'Neal, where are you? I want to thank you for all of your leadership. It's good to be back with you again, as well. (Applause.) Yes. Yes.

"Congressman David Price, I see you there. Thank you. You have been representing this district for over 30 years, and, again, a real champion for North Carolina. And I've seen him in the halls of Congress doing the work of making sure that we are always thinking about this com-

munity."

While speaking, she stated, "We're changing the game," as the November election quickly approaches. "They should not have to be out there advocating for themselves, especially when they are at a moment of need in terms of being in pain or being sick and just simply being able to have access and be able to afford it," Vice President Harris said.

The Inflation Reduction Act includes climate and tax provisions and has a variety of impacts on seniors on Medicare, which allows Medicare to negotiate prescription drug prices and capping out-of-pocket costs to \$2,000 per year.

"You no longer have to worry that one terrible diagnosis will bankrupt you," Harris said. "You will never have to choose between your physical well-being and your financial well-being."

Just a month ago, Republicans voted against the bill last month, arguing that it does not have a meaningful impact on reducing inflation, and also criticized the tax provisions as well as the

funding for the IRS to hire additional agents.

While the inflation rate has come down from its peak of 9.1 percent earlier this summer, it remained high at 8.5 percent. However, various provisions of the law don't take effect right away, instead being phased in over the next few years.

While some people were elated to have Madam VP visit Durham, others expressed their disdain. A poll this week by Public Policy Polling found that 41 percent of North Carolina voters approve of President Biden's job performance, compared to 54 percent who disapprove.

"Kamala Harris is not welcomed by North Carolinians as evidenced by the Biden administration's approval rating in the Tar Heel State," Taylor Mazock said, a spokesperson for the Republican National Committee.

Jannie Cozart, who attended the speech, said it's a struggle she has faced. "One time I didn't even think I could afford to even buy the drugs. And, I know we've got to have medicine to take care of ourselves," she said.



New Ride-Sharing Service Means To Help Protect Women

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — A new women-only rideshare company here in Charlotte is looking to target more women riders and drivers.

It's called Just Her Ride Share.

Kimberly Evans, the founder of Just Her Rideshare, said she started Just Her Ride Share to provide a safe and stress-free alternative for women.

The company based in Charlotte started in 2020.

To really make the best experience for riders, Evans participated in a customer discovery program at UNC Charlotte. She

determined most women felt uncomfortable with male drivers and ultimately preferred female drivers.

A 2018 Alarms.org survey proved the same. The data showed that 45% of the women surveyed prefer female drivers. It also showed that 23% of women who ride Uber say they've had to report an uncomfortable encounter with an Uber driver.

Lyft had smaller percentages with 15% of women feeling uncomfortable overall. Evans said she is passionate about protecting women in the industry which is why Just Her Ride

Share was born.

She told Ruby Durham of Charlotte's WCNC, that both passengers and drivers should be able to choose who they want to transport them as well as ride with them for a safe experience.

Her mission is to empower and give women a choice.

Evans website's very first statement reads, "Great service begins with great people and real experience which is why we put so much into choosing the best people to join our team so that we can offer a great customer experience."



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Health & Fitness

What Are Muscle Knots And How To Get Rid Of Them

By Zachary Gillen
Mississippi State Univ.

Imagine you've just completed a tough upper-body workout. Your muscles feel a bit tired, but all in all you're able to go about the rest of your day just fine.

The next morning, you wake up and realize the back of your shoulder blade feels stiff. When you rub your shoulder muscles, it feels like you're prodding a little gumball under your skin. Every time you try to move it around, the area feels tight, with slight pangs of pain.

Over the course of the next few days, your back slowly loosens up and eventually your shoulder returns to feeling normal. It's probably something you'd like to avoid or minimize in the future if possible, though. So what was going on with that muscle knot?

I'm an exercise physiologist. The goal of much of my research is to understand how different movements and forms of exercise place stress on the muscles. Figuring out programs to maximize performance, regardless of training goal, goes beyond what to do during the workout – it's also about how best to prepare for and recover from the stress exercise places on the body.

Some of the most common questions I've heard during my years as a personal trainer and researcher in this field involve muscle knots. What are they and how can you get rid of them when they happen?

What are muscle knots?

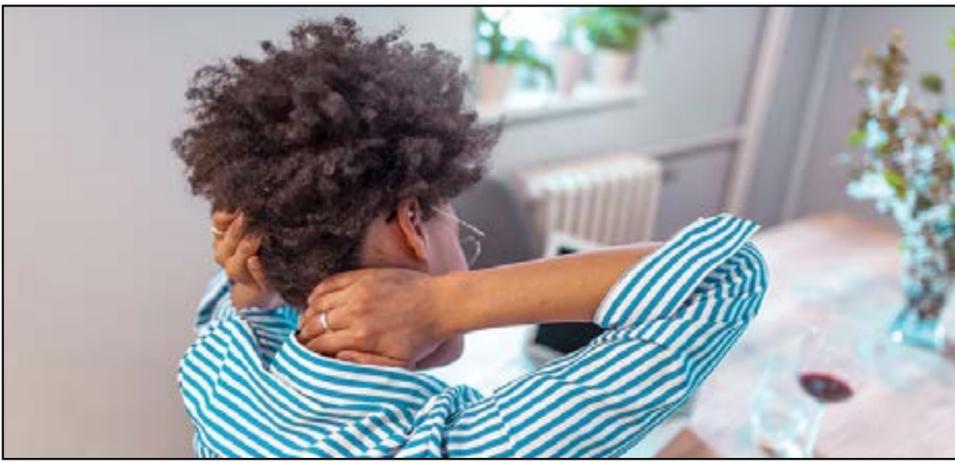
The knots you detect in your muscle, which may feel as small

as a marble or even as large as a golf ball, are called myofascial trigger points. The fascia is the thin layer of connective tissue that surrounds the muscle.

When your muscle gets damaged – even just a little – it can cause inflammation in the bands of muscle and the fascial layer above. And that clump of inflamed tissue is a myofascial trigger point. The little lumps are typically tender to the touch and can limit your range of motion or lead to pain during various movements. Muscle knots don't show up on medical imaging scans, and researchers are still trying to figure out the exact physiological mechanisms within the muscle that cause this reaction.

Myofascial trigger points tend to develop when a muscle is irritated by a new or more-strenuous-than-usual repetitive motion. For example, you may develop knots in the muscles you stressed the most during a particularly intense day of exercise. They can also crop up if you introduce a new movement pattern to your daily workout. Imagine adding a couple of days of running to your typical weekly routine of just lifting weights. Since running is a new movement, you may notice some knots in your calves, which you asked to do a lot of new work.

You don't need to be a gym rat, though, to be familiar with muscle knots. For instance, if you are consistently hunched over a computer all day, you may notice knots developing in your upper back and shoulders. Most people wouldn't consider sitting at a desk strenu-



ous, but holding one position for hours at a time places stress on your muscles. Enter muscle knots.

How do you get rid of muscle knots?

One of the simplest solutions to the problem of muscle knots is to just wait. It takes time for the

muscles to adapt to a new motion or recover from stress. Usually within a week or two a muscle knot will resolve on its own.

You can also help speed the process of recovery. Some options include massages; dry needling, which involves injecting a very

thin needle into the trigger point to attempt to break up some of the tissue and increase blood flow to the area; and even electrical stimulation. The goal of each technique is to decrease the tautness of the fascia and muscle in the area and increase blood flow. More

blood passing through provides nutrients and oxygen to the damaged tissue, enhancing recovery.

While these techniques are worth considering, there are other more cost-effective things you can do yourself at home. A fairly simple way to help alleviate muscle knots is stretching. Stretching may be particularly valuable if you typically sit in an awkward position all day long. Muscles held that way under consistent stress for several hours benefit from being put through different ranges of motion. For example, after sitting for a while, some simple shoulder rolls and neck rotations can alleviate some of the tension in those muscles, helping to avoid or reduce the accumulation of muscle knots.

Another method you can try at home is called self-myofascial release. The idea behind it is the same as massaging, except this method can be done in the comfort of your own home using a foam roller, rolling device, a hard ball, like a lacrosse ball or softball, or even a small piece of PVC pipe.



Your Internal Clock Could Dictate When You Might Have A Heart Attack

THE CONVERSATION—Anyone who has suffered from jet lag or struggled after turning the clock forward or back an hour for daylight saving time knows all about what researchers call your biological clock, or circadian rhythm – the “master pacemaker” that synchronizes how your body responds to the passing of one day to the next.

This “clock” is made up of about 20,000 neurons in the hypothalamus, the area near the center of the brain that coordinates your body's unconscious functions, like breathing and blood pressure. Humans aren't the only beings that have an internal clock system: All vertebrates – or mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians and fish – have biological clocks, as do plants, fungi and bacteria. Biological clocks are why cats are most active at dawn and dusk, and why flowers bloom at certain times of day.

Circadian rhythms are also essential to health and well-being. They govern your body's physical, mental and behavioral changes over each 24-hour cycle in response to environmental cues like light and food. They're why more heart attacks and strokes occur early in the morning. They're also why mice that are missing their biological clocks age faster and have shorter lifespans, and people with a mutation in their circadian clock genes have abnormal sleep patterns. Chronic misalignment of your circadian rhythm with external cues, as seen in night-shift workers, can lead to a wide range of physical and mental disorders, including obesity, Type 2 diabetes, cancer and cardiovascular diseases.

In short, there is ample evidence that your biological clock is critical to your health. And chronobiologists like me are studying how the day-night cycle affects your body to better understand how you can modify your behaviors to use your internal clock to your advantage.

How biological rhythms affect your health

Your biological clock affects your health by regulating your sleep-wake cycles and fluctuations in blood pressure and body temperature. It does this primarily by syncing your endocrine system to environmental light-dark cycles so that certain hormones are released in certain amounts at certain times of day.

The pineal gland in your brain, for example, produces melatonin, a hormone that helps regulate sleep in response to darkness. Doctors advise reducing exposure to artificial blue light from electronic devices before bedtime because it can disrupt melatonin secretion and sleep quality.

Your circadian rhythm also affects your metabolism. Among other things, sleep helps you regulate leptin, a hormone that controls appetite. Your leptin levels fluctuate throughout the day according to a rhythm set by your circadian clock. Insufficient or irregular sleep can disrupt leptin production, which can make us hungrier and lead to weight gain.

In recent years, researchers have discovered even more ways your circadian clock can affect your health. For example, there is now research suggesting that eating at set times of day, or time-restricted feeding, can prevent obesity and metabolic diseases. Depression and other mood disorders may also be linked to dysfunctional circadian control that lead to changes in how your genes are expressed.

The time of day when you take your medicine can also affect how well it works and how severe any side effects might be. Likewise, your biological clock is a potential target for cancer chemotherapies and anti-obesity treatments.

And finally, even your personality might be shaped by whether your internal clock make you a “morning person” or a “night person.”

Getting the most out of exercise

Circadian clocks also provide a potential answer to when is the best time of day to maximize the benefits of physical exercise.

To study this, my colleagues and I collected blood and tissue samples from the brains, hearts, muscles, livers and fat of mice that exercised either before breakfast in the early morning or after dinner in the late evening. We used a tool called a mass spectrometer to detect approximately 600 to 900 molecules each organ produced. These metabolites served as real-time snapshots of how the mice responded to exercise at specific times of day.

We stitched these snapshots together to create a map of how exercise in the morning versus evening affected each of the mice's different organ systems – what we called an atlas of exercise metabolism.

Using this atlas, we saw that time of day affects how each organ uses energy during exercise. For instance, we found that early morning exercise reduced blood glucose levels more than late evening exercise. Exercise in the late evening, however, allowed the mice to benefit from energy they stored from their meals and increased their endurance.

Of course, mice and humans have many differences along with their similarities. For one, mice are more active at night than during the day. Still, we believe that our findings could help researchers better understand how exercise affects your health and, if timed appropriately, can be optimized based on time of day to meet your personal health goals.

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84th Annual Debutante Ball

Sponsored by ATO, Inc. in collaboration with Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated® Alpha Theta Omega Chapter, Raleigh, North Carolina



ATO, Inc.



RALEIGH— On Saturday, April 30, 2022, the 84th Annual Debutante Ball was hosted under the auspices of ATO, Incorporated in collaboration with Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated®, Alpha Theta Omega Chapter at the Hilton Raleigh North Hills Hotel. The Ball was an in-person ticketed event with only the Debutante families and relatives in attendance due to the organizations' directed COVID-19 guidelines. Although the audience was limited, the Ball still held fast to

its outstanding reputation. It was an evening of elegance and excitement!

Mr. Eric Curry, Senior Public Information Officer, Wake County Sheriff's Office, served as the Master of Ceremonies. He has served as the Master of Ceremonies for the Annual Debutante Ball since 1996. After Mr. Curry officially opened the Ball, greetings were presented by Mrs. Gayla Smith, ATO, Inc. Chairman, and Mrs. Gladys Walker, Alpha Theta Omega Chapter President.

Following the greetings, remarks were made by the 2021 Debutante Program Co-Chairmen, Mrs. Sarah Harris and Mrs. Garlinda Taylor. The remarks were followed by Mr. Curry's presentations of the 2021 Debutante Parents and Assistant Marshals.

The presentation of the 2021 Debutantes began with the crowning and message of the Debutante Queen. Miss MacKenzie Simone

Continued on page 7...



Queen of the 2020 Debutante Ball, Miss Arielle Elizabeth Curtis crowns the 2021 Debutante Queen Miss MacKenzie Simone Telfaire



QUEEN—Miss MacKenzie Simone Telfaire
Chief Marshal: Mr. Darius Telfaire; Mother: Mrs. Courtney Mack Telfaire



MAID-OF-HONOR—Miss Morgan Colleen Wiley
Chief Marshal: Mr. Gary Wiley Mother: Mrs. Alicia Wiley



QUEEN'S COURT—Miss Jada Simone Brewington
Chief Marshal: Mr. Jeffrey Brewington Mother: Mrs. Bonita Brewington



HONOR COURT I—Miss Gabrielle Elizabeth Howard
Chief Marshal: Mr. Marcellus Howard
Mother: Mrs. Tracy Reese



HONOR COURT II—Miss Kayla Alise Buie
Chief Marshal: Mr. Reginald Buie
Mother: Mrs. Karen Buie



HONOR COURT III—Miss Ryanne Monique Foster
Chief Marshal: Mr. Douglas James
Mother: Ms. Monica Galloway



HONOR COURT IV—Miss Myla Michelle Spencer
Chief Marshal: Mr. Michael Chapman, Sr.
Mother: Mrs. Tonika Chapman



2021 DEBUTANTE—Miss Citiana Belayneh
Chief Marshal: Mr. Belayneh Zewdie
Mother: Mrs. Teruberhan Fentike



2021 DEBUTANTE—Miss Arielle Enace Brown
Chief Marshal: Mr. Anthony Brown
Mother: Mrs. Teresa Brown



2021 DEBUTANTE—Ms Cryslyn McKenzie King
Chief Marshal: Mr. Nigel Lyn King
Mother: Ms. Michele Green King



2021 DEBUTANTE—Miss Nesochi Solange Mere
Chief Marshal: Mr. Henry Mere
Mother: Dr. Chinelo Mere



2021 DEBUTANTE—Miss Sobichi Solene Mere
Chief Marshal: Mr. Henry Mere
Mother: Dr. Chinelo Mere



2021 DEBUTANTE—Miss Keely Grace Ogden
Chief Marshal: Mr. Darryl Tuppins
Mother: Ms. Jacqueline Ogden



2021 DEBUTANTE—Miss Hannah Rachel Pierce
Chief Marshal: Attorney Justin Pierce
Mother: Mrs. Yamona Pierce



2021 DEBUTANTE—Miss Tommi Hayley Wilder
Chief Marshal: Mr. Thomas Wilder, Jr.
Mother: Mrs. Jennifer D. Wilder



2021 DEBUTANTE—Miss Ricketta Nadine Woodberry
Chief Marshal: Mr. Randolph Peay
Mother: Ms. Charlene Woodberry

...Continued from page 6

Telfaire was crowned Queen of the 84th Annual Debutante Ball by the 83rd Debutante Ball Queen, Miss Arielle Elizabeth Curtis. Her message was attuned to the positive attributes of the Debutante Program including confidence building and the enhancement of social and educational skills. She shared that the "Debutante Experience" will be memorable for each of them.

For the Debutante presentations, Mr. Eric Curry acknowledged the school and community activities, special interests, and career goals of each young lady. Each young lady was assisted in her presentation by her Chief and Assistant Marshals. The following young ladies were presented at the 84th Annual Debutante Ball:

Queen – Miss MacKenzie Simone Telfaire, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Darius Karlyle and Courtney Mack Telfaire, Garner, North Carolina; Chief Marshal: Mr. Darius Karlyle Telfaire; Assistant Marshal: Mr. Jeremiah Jaden Baity-Sanders

Maid-of-Honor – Miss Morgan Colleen Wiley, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Gary and Alicia Wiley of Raleigh, North Carolina; Chief Marshal: Mr. Gary Wiley; Assistant Marshal: Mr. Christopher Allan Guerrero

Queen's Court – Miss Jada Simone Brewington, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jeffrey Maurice and Bonita Brewington of Knightdale, North Carolina; Chief Marshal: Mr. Jeffrey Maurice Brewington; Assistant Marshal: Mr. Jovan Dionte Hubbard

Honor Court I – Miss Gabrielle Elizabeth Howard, daughter of Mrs. Tracy Reese and Mr. Marcellus Howard of Apex, North Carolina; Chief Marshal: Mr. Marcellus Howard; Assistant Marshal: Mr. Wesley Nigel Spence

Honor Court II – Miss Kayla Alise Buie, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Reginald and Karen Buie of Knightdale, North Carolina; Chief Marshal: Mr. Reginald Buie; Assistant Marshal: Mr. Greyson Makari Dobbins

Honor Court III – Miss Ryanne Monique Foster, daughter of Ms. Monica Galloway of Sugar Hill, Georgia; Chief Marshal: Mr. Douglas James; Assistant Marshal: Mr. Ronald Edison Foster, Jr.

Honor Court IV – Miss Myla Michelle Spencer, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Michael Antonio and Tonika Chapman, Sr. of Knightdale, North Carolina; Chief Marshal: Mr. Michael Antonio Chapman, Sr.; Assistant Marshal: Mr. Michael Antonio Chapman, Jr.

2021 Debutante – Miss Citiana Belayneh, daughter of Mr. Belayneh Zewdie and Mrs. Teruberhan Fentike of Bowie, Maryland; Chief Marshal: Mr. Zewdie Belayneh; Assistant Marshal: Mr. Christopher Jaidyn Ivery

2021 Debutante – Miss Sobichi Solene Mere, daughter of Mr. Henry and Dr. Chinelo Mere of Potomac, Maryland; Chief Marshal: Mr. Henry Mere; Assistant Marshal: Mr. Chandler Karlyle Telfaire

2021 Debutante – Miss Arielle Enace Brown, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Edwin and Teresa Brown of Raleigh, North Carolina;

Chief Marshal: Mr. Anthony Edwin Brown; Assistant Marshal: Mr. Anthony Edwin Brown

2021 Debutante – Miss Hannah Rachel Pierce, daughter of Attorney and Mrs. Justin and Yamona Pierce of Washington, DC; Chief Marshal: Attorney Justin Pierce; Assistant Marshal: Mr. John Chiti Kangwa-Gaskins

2021 Debutante – Miss Nesochi Solange Mere, daughter of Mr. Henry and Dr. Chinelo Mere of Potomac, Maryland; Chief Marshal: Mr. Henry Mere; Assistant Marshal: Mr. Anthony Carlile Holden

2021 Debutante – Miss Ricketta Nadine Woodberry, daughter of Ms. Charlene Woodberry of Raleigh, North Carolina; Chief Marshal: Mr. Randolph Kareem Peay; Assistant Marshal: Mr. Randolph Kareem Peay

2021 Debutante – Miss Tommi Hayley Wilder, daughter of Mrs. Jennifer D. Wilder and Mr. Thomas Haywood Wilder, Jr. of Raleigh, North Carolina; Chief Marshal: Mr. Thomas Haywood Wilder, Jr.; Assistant Marshal: Mr. Ayinde Khalid Taylor II

2021 Debutante – Miss Cryslyn McKenzie King, daughter of Ms. Michele Green King of Raleigh, North Carolina; Chief Marshal: Mr. Nigel Lyn King; Assistant Marshal: Mr. Canell Jalill Woods

2021 Debutante – Miss Keely Grace Ogden, daughter of Ms. Jacqueline Ogden and Mr. Darryl Tuppins of Durham, North Carolina; Chief Marshal: Mr. Darryl Tuppins; Assistant Marshal: Mr. Eli Nicholas Griffith

Once all presentations were made, the young ladies and the Assistant Marshals took position to receive the Official Welcome to Society message. Mr. Eric Curry served as the 2021 Welcome to Society Speaker. His biographical introduction was presented by Mrs. Gayla Smith. In addition to his current work as Senior Public Information Officer for Wake County's Sheriff's Office, Mr. Curry has an extensive background in communications and broadcast at public and collegiate levels. He is also a member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity. Mr. Curry's message was based on Jay Cole's "Dreamville." His message was titled "How to Build Your 'Dreamville.'" He encouraged the Debutantes and Assistant Marshals to create a "Dreamville" where there is continuous learning, respect, support, non-toxic influences, and minimal stressors. Mr. Curry ended by urging them to build a "Dreamville" that will lead to a successful and meaningful life. He then announced that the sixteen 2021 Debutantes were officially welcomed to society.

After the Welcome to Society message, the debutants, aided by their assistant marshals, raised their bouquets of red roses and ribbons in the Debutante Ball's "Ribbon Ceremony". The Debutantes performed the waltz with the Chief Marshals and the Assistant Marshals. Mothers of the Debutantes also joined in and danced the waltz with the



Mr. Jeremiah Baity-Sanders Debutante
 Miss MacKenzie Telfaire



Mr. Christopher Guerrero Debutante
 Miss Morgan Wiley



Mr. Jovan Hubbard Debutante
 Miss Jada Brewington



Mr. Wesley Spence Debutante
 Miss Gabrielle Howard



Mr. Greyson Dobbins Debutante
 Miss Kayla Buie



Mr. Ronald Foster, Jr. Debutante
 Miss RYanne Foster



Mr. Michael Chapman, Jr. Debutante
 Miss Myla Spencer



Mr. Christopher Ivery Debutante
 Miss Citiana Belayneh



Mr. Canell Woods Debutante
 Miss Cryslyn King



Mr. Anthony Holden Debutante
 Miss Nesochi Mere



Mr. Chandler Telfaire Debutante
 Miss Sobichi Mere



Mr. Eli Griffith Debutante
 Miss Keely Ogden

Chief Marshals. The Ball officially ended with the Grand March and line dancing of the 2021 Debutantes and Assistant Marshals. The evening ended with a dinner, award presentations, and dancing.

Purpose of the Debutante Program

The purpose of the Annual Debutante Program is to promote the achievements of young ladies, to inspire educational and cultural growth, to encourage personal and leadership development, to promote community service, and to offer scholarship opportunities for the participants. The Debutante Ball is the culminating event for the Debutante Program. Beginning last fall, the young ladies and Assistant Marshals participated in various virtual workshops and activities. Workshops included leadership, college preparation, social health, etiquette, fine dining, proper dress attire and life skills. Activities included creating greeting cards, scrapbooking, implementing program formats for the program's Fun Days and hosting a Mother and Daughter Tea. The young ladies were also required to participate in a talent showcase.

About ATO, Incorporated
 ATO, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit designated entity. Established in 1997, it is organized exclusively for charitable and educational purposes to provide services and programs for the community worldwide that focus on health, education and enrichment, and socioeconomic disparities while maintaining a nonprofit status under state and federal laws. Mrs. Gayla Smith is the current Chairman of ATO, Inc. and Mrs. Sarah Harris and Mrs. Garlinda Taylor are currently the Debutante

Program Co-Chairmen.

About Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated®

Founded in 1908, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated® is the oldest Greek-letter organization established by African American women. Sorority members are committed to cultivating and encouraging high scholastic and ethical standards, promoting unity and friendship, alleviating social issues that affect girls and women, maintaining a progressive interest in college life, and serving all humankind. The Alpha Theta Omega Chapter of Raleigh, North Carolina was chartered on June 15, 1928, where Mrs. Gladys Walker currently presides as chapter president.

You may view the 2021 Debutante Presentations and the 84th Debutante Ball Souvenir Book on YOUTUBE at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vjxm9Jaw1o>. Also, you may google 84th Annual Debutante Ball to get to the site. To view the souvenir book, click "Show More" and the link for the flipbook will appear.

To learn more about the Debutante Program or to apply for participation in the 2022 program inquire at Debprogram@gmail.com. Interested young ladies must be on track for high school graduation in 2023.

2021 Debutante Program Awards Winners

Education Excellence Awards: Miss Arielle Brown and Miss MacKenzie Telfaire

Community Service Awards: Miss Arielle Brown, Miss Jada Brewington, Miss Keely Ogden, Miss Hannah Pierce, and Miss Tommi Wilder

Attendance Awards: Miss Jada



Mr. John Kangwa-Gaskins Debutante
 Miss Hannah Pierce



Mr. Ayinde Taylor II Debutante
 Miss Tommi Wilder

Brewington, Miss Morgan Wiley, Miss Ricketta Woodberry, and Mr. Eli Griffith

2021 Debutante Program Scholarship Winners

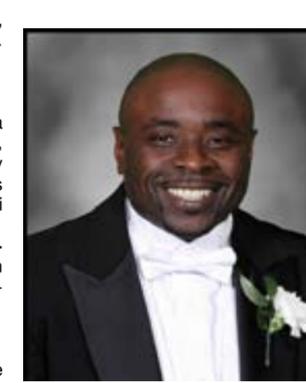
Book Scholarships: Miss Jada Brewington, Miss Arielle Brown, Miss Gabrielle Howard, Miss Keely Ogden, Miss Hannah Pierce, Miss MacKenzie Telfaire, Miss Tommi Wilder, Miss Morgan Wiley

Debutante Marshal Book Scholarships: Mr. Eli Griffith, Mr. John Kangwa-Gaskins, Mr. Wesley Spence, and Mr. Canell Woods

Education Excellence Scholarships:

Miss Jada Brewington, Miss Arielle Brown, Miss MacKenzie Telfaire, and Miss Tommi Wilder

Phillis Strong Taylor Memorial Scholarship: Miss MacKenzie Telfaire



Mr. Randolph Peay Debutante
 Miss Ricketta Woodberry

Assistant Marshals

Ag-Grow-Culture

The Importance Of Rejuvenating Your Soil Seasonally

By Jason Lindsay

Staff Writer

You ever heard: “you have to give to get.” This sentiment is particularly true in Agriculture.

Agriculture is known as an up front game because the cost of farming, prices of seeds, fertilizers/amendments, and long tractor hours comes months before the harvest and/or marketing of a crop. Farming and gardening is a process that comes in spurts and the tillage, cultivating, and growing takes a toll on the soil and its ability to sustain itself in good health. This is what the soil gives.

Every time we plant a seed or plant, we are placing demands on the soil. The cordial thing to do would be to give some back to the soil. Well, come to find out it is also the necessary thing.

In almost every column I have mentioned my ancestors and elders, and how resilience is and was built into the agrarian lenses through which they viewed life.

Between every crop, whether it be the spring or summer planting or the fall planting of winter greens, fertilizer/amendments were added back to the soil. Farmers would pull out their manure spreaders and empty out their manure stock piles broadcasting it from one end to the next.

Growers also knew how much manure to add to the soil depending on the animal that produced it. Take chicken manure which is extremely high in nitrogen (N), a mineral nutrient essential to the greening and growth of plant life. With this being the case, growers knew that a little could go a long way and too much could be detrimental.

It's a different case with cow manure. Being the largest domesticated mammal in the United States makes cow dung more than ideal. The ancestors raised cattle in rotation with crops to ensure the nutrient content was there.

Chemical based synthetic fertilizer didn't hit the fields until the turn of the 19th century and even then the average Black farmer couldn't afford it, and to be honest chemical fertilizers were not that effective at first.

This would change after the world wars and would even sustain a different plateau after the war in Vietnam. Still the average small farmer could not afford it, therefore was forced to continue to nurture through native pathways.

Growers would later spread isolated mineral particles like lime (oxycalcium or calcium oxide). Commonly applied in a powder form, lime is used to balance the pH (potential hydrogen) of the soil. Lime is considered to be a soil conditioner that improves the structure of the soil and can even increase the activity of earth worms within the soil. Soda (sodium bicarbonate) was also used. Soda is a powder base compound consisting of carbon, sodium, hydrogen, and oxygen molecules. This alkaline mixture promotes plant growth while restricting unwanted fungal growth.

Today these products are still being used, yet on a larger scale. Carbon-based materials, such as compost and mulch, are eliminated from the process. This creates a growing demand for more conditioner year after year because of depleting and/or depleted soil.

Carbon based materials are the food source of the soil itself. But, due to the convenience of synthetic inputs (chemical fertilizers, pesticide, insecticide) and isolated mineral conditioners (lime, soda) and their ability to be easily commoditized, inputs like manures, rock dust, and more are excluded from our production fields and deemed time consuming and problematic.

This form of farming causes the soils of American's agricultural acreage across the country to be damaged and diminishing. Considering the economic state of the country, I do not believe that solely buying organic products to redeem our soil's fertility is a wise course of action because we (the average small farmer) simply cannot afford it. This soil redemption must be regenerated, not necessarily purchased.

Creating your own fertilizer is not new, but is a method that existed long before capital greed. Biochar, for instance, where sticks and/or logs are burned to a



coal and rapidly cooled before it becomes ash, is the process that was the main source for soil fertility through ancient Amazonian culture. Deposits created by the ancients are still being mined today. Biochar is not charcoal. Biochar is crafted at a much higher temperature, sometimes 200 degrees higher than charcoal, and the materials used in biochar (stick, stumps, and logs usually from hardwood trees like oaks or maples) are much purer than that of charcoal (made with wood, peat, bone, and cellulose).

Application rates for biochar can vary between 1-5 percent. Sprinkle biochar throughout your field, or on your beds, and work into the top 5-8 inches. These applications spikes soil fertility, while increasing crop yields.

Biochar increases the capacity for the soil to retain water and its' alkalinity reduces acidity. The absorption of soil pollutants makes biochar special considering the large amount of agricultural land strewn with heavy metals and salts.

Biochar changes the very consistency and structure of the soil by evolving the physical and chemical make-up. This process reclaims degraded soils through reducing soil density and hardness. Biochar has stood the test of time and at one point even fertilized the soils that feed an en-

tire civilization. The kicker is you can make it from sticks laying in your yard. Take that for sustainability.

While biochar is a dry soil conditioner, this next plant can be made into a liquid fertilizer. The plant is “Comfrey.” The comfrey plant is a medicinal herb that grow upwards of three feet and out with a diameter of about the same. Its' make-up consist of every essential nutrient necessary for plant health and growth and some non-essential minerals as well.

Comfrey is the host of Vitamin A, B1, B2, B3, B5, B9, B12, C, and E. It contains boron, calcium, chromium, cobalt, copper, iodine, iron, magnesium, manganese, phosphorus, potassium, selenium, sodium, and zinc. Comfrey is also a tremendous source of nitrogen. Its leaves are even used in compost piles as a booster that increases the temperature therefore speeding up the decomposition rate.

What makes comfrey special are her tap roots. The root system on comfrey goes much deeper than the average plant. Roots on the average comfrey plants can reach up to ten feet long. These roots aren't just deep, but they are miners. Comfrey mines minerals from the depths of the earth and deposits them into it's leaves. This makes the leaves

more than ideal for fertilizer. To make the fertilizer, harvest comfrey leaves from your garden and fill a five-gallon bucket with them (stuff the bucket). Then add water until the comfrey leaves are completely submerged and place a lid on it. Place a tiny hole in the lid on the bucket so that gases can escape. Place in a far corner before comfrey tea (fertilizer) is smelly. Allow the bucket to sit for 5-6 weeks then strain the water. These infused waters are comfrey tea, a nutrient rich fertilizer for any stage of growth.

This last homemade fertilizer has become more popular as of late; Vermicompost. Many people have heard of vermicompost in this new wave, but have no idea it is an ancient technique stemming out of east Africa. Queen Nefertiti ordered vermicompost be used to expand the fertility of the valley civilization, which is one of the oldest civilizations known to man.

The mineral concentration within vermicompost far exceeds that of other manures like cow dung. Vermicompost is the manure of earthworms. Organic matter such as food scraps are broken down by the worms. The broken down matter along with intestinal juices makes for this fertile manure that when utilized increases yield and the nutritional value of the food it grows.

What makes vermicompost special is the fact that worms poop more than they eat and this content is called “black gold.” Vermicompost bins can easily be a feature in every gardening or farm house because species like “red wigglers” eat your uncooked scraps. You can buy them or make one yourself. My family and I made our own and have been producing vermicompost for years. There are many ways to make your own, just search and find the manner that works best for you.

Ideas like this are not new, but are key notes from our agrarian history. In the United States, Black folk were historically granted or deeded poor land, land that was simply undesirable and in many cases regarded as exceptionally inadequate for agriculture. But, it all came down to the practices of the land stewards, and after generations of cultivation much of this land is now considered rich and some has been taken back, even by force.

This is not the first time in human history that soil is in need for revitalization. Yet, the scale of depleted soils is at a all-time high and increasing due to unhealthy, unsustainable farm practices. The power to make a change is where it always lives; with the people. We are responsible for the rejuvenation of the ground beneath our feet. Our children will look to us. Emperor Haile Selassie I, king of Ethiopia from the 1930's to the 1970's, stated: “agriculture is the backbone of civilization.” Without a good source of food, the people can not live, we cannot grow, or fight for what is rightfully ours.

Mama Fannie Lou Hamer, southern Black activist, said “I'm sick and tired of being sick and tired.” She stood as a voice of the people. And the land is saying the same thing. But, when Mama Earth is tired the river dries up, the land yields little if at all, and the people suffer. We must give to get. We must give back to the farmlands of America because we have taken so much for so long. And now, now it is her turn to receive. These are some tools to nurse the grounds around you into a state of abundance, again.

Sports

Aggie, Eagle Classic Celebrates 100 Years

By Tyria McCray

Staff Writer

Some 35,798 fans gathered at Bank of America Stadium in Charlotte to witness North Carolina A&T and North Carolina Central University face off in the 100th anniversary of the Aggie/Eagle Classic and reconnected as the 2022 Duke's Mayo Classic.

This Classic was more than just a game, it was HBCU culture coming together, a family reunion, and a celebration of carrying on a legacy from those before us.

It was such a celebratory night, and the history behind the classic goes beyond what one can imagine.

The first football game between the schools was in 1922, not 1924 like some records report. The Aggies won the first

game in 1922, holding the Eagles scoreless. They did not play again until 1924, and the second game could be where the seeds of the rivalry were planted. The game ended in a 13-13 tie which sparked the rivalry for the next 100 years.

For a century the two universities, separated by only 55 miles, whose alumni and fan bases know each other from high school, same neighborhood, or same family, have perpetuated this intense rivalry.

“The institutions are very close,” said Charles Johnson, the director of the public history program at NCCU. “When I listen to people who come to visit the rivalry from other places, one of the things that they know is the propinquity between Aggies and Eagles.”

“We tailgate together, we are

married to each other. There's a great affinity between the institutions, up until game day. And then everything really changes.”

The Classic's festivities began Friday morning, and first kicked off with the college and career fair at the Charlotte Convention Center.

Later that evening, Power 98 held the Aggie-Eagle Classic Step Show with a sold-out audience.

Saturday morning began with a Mad Miles Run Clun-HBCU pride run, which entailed a race that featured current students, alumni, the amazing NCCU cheerleaders, and numerous supporters.

In addition to promoting HBCUs and health & wellness, this event had the contagious energy of a homecoming pep rally. Before the game, NASCAR driv-

er Bubba Wallace represented NCAT Aggies and NCCU Eagles on his car which he displayed on his Twitter account. He met with both teams Thursday night. Both teams visited the 23XI Racing headquarters Thursday in Mooresville.

“Bringing them here for a shop tour has given them some insight on what it's like for us,” Wallace said. “And who knows, whenever they finish up with their football career, they could be in here working on cars putting cars on a race team with us.”

Saturday evening could not come fast enough as fans filled Bank of America stadium to witness history. Kicking off the game, Mr. NCCU, Josiah Russell, sang the national anthem. The North Carolina Central WPI Gospel Choir (conglomerate of NCCU students, Praise Mime & Dance Team) sang the national Black anthem which left fans on their feet applauding.

As the game went on, a check totaling \$25,000 from the 100 Black Men Foundation was awarded to A&T and Central, giving them \$12,500 each.

The Charlotte Sports Foundation, which organized the classic, also made a \$100,000 donation to the 100 Black Men of Charlotte organization that will benefit the greater Charlotte African-American community.

Charlotte Mayor Vi Lyles was in attendance, and in one of the highlights of this event, she strongly emboldened the charged-up group of participants to “have a damn good time.”

As a woman of color and the mayor of a major U.S. city, Lyles fondly embraced the commemoration of the Aggie-Eagle classic alongside HBCU culture at large.

North Carolina A&T State University fell 28-13 to North Carolina Central University. It was definitely a bitter rivalry in competition, but a friendly one outside of it. The arena proved to be the perfect venue for such a historical event.

Additionally, it was made known that the Aggie-Eagle Classic game will be returning to the city of Charlotte in 2027.



SHAW RETURNS TO DURHAM COUNTY STADIUM

After several seasons playing home games at St. Augustine's University, for 2022's football season, the Shaw Bears make their return to an updated Durham County Stadium as their home stadium.

Shaw took on the Wingate Bulldogs in their debut in Durham County on September 3, 2022. Despite a defensive battle for three quarters with a Shaw touchdown by Ah'Shaan Belcher in the first quarter, Wingate capitalized on turnovers and scored two touchdowns in the fourth quarter. Final drive by Shaw inside the Wingate ten-yard line was hit by miscues resulting in a 21-7 Wingate victory.

Five games will be played at Durham County with the next opponent, Bowie State, on September 17th for Youth day at 1PM.



Steve Worthy Photos



Adrianna Thacker Photos



Church

SERMON of the WEEK



SERMON BY PASTOR WILLIAM ELI RATCLIFF

As a child, I used to lie on the grass and gaze up in the air and look as far as my eyes could see into the heavens beyond the clouds when possible.

On summer nights, I would lie on the ground and stare at the moon and the twinkling stars. My Mom had taught me how to find the little and big dippers. Finding them was fascinating.

Now that I'm in my threescore and ten years, I'm still awestruck over celestial and terrestrial bodies that I truly believe, without a doubt, that the heavens, day or night, could only be created by God Himself.

Psalms 19:1-5 KJV, "The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork. Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night sheweth knowledge. There is no speech nor language, where their voice is not heard. Their line is gone out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. In them hath he set a tabernacle for the sun, which is as a bridegroom coming out of his chamber, and rejoiceth as a strong man to run a race."

As a believer, I'm eternally grateful that Christ endured the cross and raced to the finish line before death, hell and the grave could get there! Moreover, He won a victory for sinners that have unwavering faith in Him.

We too have a race and Ecclesiastes 9:11 KJV informs believers that the race is not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong. Hebrews 12:1 KJV lets us know that we should run with patience the race that is set before us.

However, as we run this race

that began from our cradle to our grave, something that we need to be constantly reminded of is: "There is a God!"

For those that don't know that, I recommend that you find out; and for those of us that do know, then we need to be reminded daily. Why? Because not all of our days are exempted from pain and suffering; but through it all, there is a God!

When David looked up, he saw God and we should too! When we look around and see plants and various bodies of water, hills, deserts, mountains and springs, etc., we should see the Glory of God.

Even when we look down, we see God whether we realize it or not because David says in Psalms 24:1 that: "The earth is the LORD'S, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein." Yes, no matter where we look, there is a God.

I heard a story about an old woman that went out on her front porch every morning and the first thing she did was look up towards heaven and thank God for a brand new glorious day. Secondly, she would sit in a chair next to her front door and read her Bible and sometimes sing or hum a hymn or two. Eventually her next-door neighbors moved out, and an atheist moved in. After observing the old lady's daily habits, he decided to challenge her each day and say to her, "There ain't no God." But she would say, "There is a God!" Over time the old lady got sick and had to spend more of her fixed income on prescriptions, causing her to have a food shortage.

On his way to work one morning, the atheist overheard her

through her kitchen window asking God to sustain her with what little food she had left to last until the first of the month. Mischievously, the atheist decided to play a trick on her. During his lunch hour, he bought two large bags of groceries and dropped them off on the old lady's front porch. When she came out that afternoon, she saw the bags. She immediately dragged them into her kitchen one by one and put them up and started cooking a nice nutritious meal.

When the atheist came home from work that evening and saw the old lady reading her Bible, he walked up to the side of the porch and asked her, "Did you get any food today?" She said, "Yes I did!" And laughingly he said, "Those groceries were not a blessing from God. I put those two bags on your porch and here's the receipt to prove it." Then he said, "I told you there ain't no God." The old lady responded, "There is a God, there is a God," and then went back inside to fix her plate and prayed this prayer.

"Lord, I thank you for another day that you have kept me. I thank you for my life, health and strength; and most of all Lord, I thank you for this wonderful dinner. Not only did you bless me with this fabulous meal, but you also made the devil pay for it!"

Remember: The same holds true with our spiritual view as well as what we see in the natural. No matter what way we look at it, THERE IS A GOD!!!

To view complete sermons by Pastor William Eli Ratcliff, please visit our website at lincolnparkchurch.com or our YouTube Channel.



Christian Nationalism Being Written Out Of Jan. 6 Story

By Joyce Dalsheim

University of North Carolina-Charlotte

The Conversation is an independent and nonprofit source of news, analysis and commentary from academic experts.

(THE CONVERSATION) When they entered the Senate chamber on Jan. 6, 2021, a group of insurgents stopped and bowed their heads in prayer to consecrate the building and their cause to Jesus. When the Senate reconvened later, its chaplain, retired Navy Adm. Barry Black, also prayed, but called the insurgents' actions a "desecration of the United States Capitol building."

Both sides appealed to the Christian God as the authority for their actions and values.

Outside, at the rally that preceded the attack on the Capitol, there was a similar focus on God, in the form of Christian nationalism, which frames the U.S. as a Christian country whose politics and institutions should be guided by Christian principles.

As cultural anthropologists who study politics and religion, we attended the Jan. 6 rally, which some called "Save America" and others called "Stop the Steal," because we were interested in observing the symbols on display and in talking with the people there. Having studied political demonstrations before, we wanted to document this event and what it meant for its participants.

Most of the people we encountered were peacefully expressing their own political views and were not part of the insurrection. But they nevertheless expressed longstanding ideas that were ultimately echoed and amplified

in their most extreme form by those who did engage in violence at the Capitol.

Maintaining social order and a functioning democracy requires holding people responsible for their actions. That's why much of the public focus on the insurrection has—rightly—been on the violence and the political conspiracy behind it, through which then-President Donald Trump and his allies sought to overturn the 2020 presidential election.

But as the congressional hearings on the insurrection resume, they will most likely focus on the violent minority and the conspiracy of which they may have been a part. The committee's goal is not to understand the tens of thousands of people who attended the rally to express their collective identity and their solidarity with what they saw as a just cause: maintaining America's political and religious heritage. The focus will be on Trump as Jesus fades into background.

Research on the events of that day reveals that most of the attendees at the rally—even those who were later arrested for their actions—were ordinary Americans, people committed to what they believed were the true results of the election. Most of them were not members of organized groups such as the Proud Boys, the Oath Keepers or the Three Percenters.

What we observed at the rally was an optimistic occasion where the people gathered expressed pride in their collective identity. The atmosphere was celebratory, even carnivalesque, perhaps like a tailgate party preceding an American football game. When we arrived we were greeted by a

woman who called out, "Welcome to the party!"

The people we saw there were expressing their concern for American democracy and the ideals of law and order. We saw them answering the call of a president and seeking to protect the integrity of the American political system. Most strikingly, we saw proud Americans standing up for Christian values.

Anthropologists have long known that public displays are a common way of crafting identities. In the U.S. this is evident in ethnic and holiday parades, museum exhibits, popular demonstrations and highly orchestrated conferences.

On Jan. 6, the images and slogans deployed by the crowd included a wide variety of American flags and recycled Trump 2020 campaign gear, as well as pointed insults toward his opponents. Gun rights were a major theme; flags with images of assault rifles read "Come and Take Them!" Other signs focused on individual freedom by refusing COVID-19 restrictions. American flags with a central blue stripe indicated support for law enforcement.

Christian symbols were pervasive throughout the rally. People took pride in Christian identity and often conflated Jesus and President Trump as figures of national salvation, "Chosen Ones."

There were flags and T-shirts proclaiming, "Jesus is my Savior and Trump is my President"; posters showing a White, blond, blue-eyed Jesus wearing the Trumpian MAGA hat; and a wide variety of other flags and banners bearing Christian themes.

Practical Biblical Principles

GOD'S LOVE—FROM COVENANT TO COMMUNION—PART 2

Read: Genesis 15

No one knows exactly why God picked Abram to execute His entire plan of salvation of man through him. This included sending His Son, the Messiah, through the loins of this man. What we are looking for here is the basis on which God chooses His servants and human vessels to carry out His most important and precious work to aid Him (God) in carrying out His deepest love for man.

Abram was not perfect in his department in the way Job was, when God presented Job to the devil. Job had a record of worshipping and depending upon God before the Lord called upon him to affirm Him and prove to the devil that he is wrong believing Job would curse God if the Lord no longer protected Job from earthly disasters.

Yet Abram was declared righteous by God and wanted him to be the father of a new nation. Noah was also declared righteous by God, yet Noah toward the end of his work got drunk and allowed his two daughters to get him drunk and they became pregnant by such shameful acts. Jacob was a great deceiver in his dealing with family, yet from his loins would come the Messiah.

The Bible gives us no clue as to God's standards for how He chooses His servants. When one thinks about it, and when that time comes, heaven will be filled with a lot of former, imperfect people.

Shortly afterward, God called Abram and his wife to travel

away from Babylon and into a foreign land, to which He (God) would lead him.

Abram obeyed and brought his nephew, Lot, along. God soon promised Abram the land when Abram entered northern Canaan. There was a severe famine in the land, and he continued traveling south toward Egypt.

Shortly, we begin to see imperfections in Abram's armor. Given that his wife, Saria, was 65 years of age and had a beautiful countenance for her age, Abram feared she would be taken from him by the Egyptians once they entered Egypt. We see Abram's selfishness and fear of his life coming out in that he told Saria to lie and say that she was his sister and not his wife. Abram was thinking only of himself and well-being before the Pharaoh (Gen 12:12-13).

Pharaoh did take Saria from Abram given the lie she told. It was because of her beauty that Pharaoh put her into his palatial harem. Abram was helpless. Pharaoh treated Abram well because of Saria and gave him sheep, oxen, male and female donkeys, male and female servants, and camels.

But the Lord plagued Pharaoh and his house with great plagues because of Saria, Abram's wife. Pharaoh called Abram and said, "What is this you have done to me? Why did you not tell me she was your wife? (Genesis 12:18-20). Pharaoh released Saria and sent her and Abram away with all that he had.

God blessed Abram and Lot with much great herds so the land could not accommodate the herds, so Abram and Lot agreed to move apart. Lot moved near

Sodom and Gomorrah in the southern Jordan plains. Abram moved north into the area which is Hebron and Salem (Jerusalem). God will soon introduce Abram to the work of the Priesthood.

Lot and his family were captured by some renegade kings and were taken away. Abram heard about the capture and soon gathered several hundred men and pursued the captors, destroyed them, and saved Lot's family and all that was taken. On his return from destroying the captors, Abram met the high Priest Melchizedek who brought him bread and wine and blessed him (Genesis 14:18-20).

Somehow and in some way, Melchizedek knew about Abram and gave him logistical support when he returned from chasing his enemies.

God again affirmed His covenant with Abram in a vision, saying, "Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your exceedingly great reward." Abram was thinking about his future in this strange land having no roots. Abram said, "Lord God, what will You give me, seeing I go childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus? Then Abram said, "Look, You have given me no off-spring; indeed, one born in my house is my heir!" Abram had chosen one of his servants to be his heir, thus having shown a shallow faith.

God is now ready to "cut" a covenant with Abram.

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Declaring a "State of Emergency" Black Civic Organization Calls on Voters to Fight

By Hazel Trice Edney
TriceEdneyWire.com

As the summer vacation season winds down and the fall political season is about to heat up, the nation's premier national Black voter organization is calling on Black America to start fighting now to elect the candidates that positively impact the Black community during midterm elections Nov. 8.

"This summer, our nation has witnessed a series of disturbing milestones. From the rollback of gun safety measures amidst back-to-back massacres, to the historic repeal of Roe v. Wade, to the stripping of EPA powers to protect our planet despite the existential threat of climate change, one reality stands out: our freedoms are under attack," states Melanie L. Campbell, president/CEO, National Coalition on Black Civic Participation (NCBCP) and convener of the Black Women's Roundtable (BWR).

"All the while, conservative lawmakers are preparing to further dismantle our democracy by elevating states' rights over federally protected individual rights and enshrine these disastrous decisions into law. Make no mistake: this represents only the beginning for this increasingly conservative court and the rightwing machine that installed it—and the clock keeps ticking to change the course set for our country. With under 90 Days until the November 8th midterm elections, the stakes could not be any higher."

Campbell concludes, "For all our movements, everything that we love is on the line. We are in a state of emergency that requires the civil rights, women's rights, labor, environmental and social justice communities to work together during a summer of activism. So, where there's life there's hope—but only if we fight for a future worth hoping for."

Campbell's declaration, distributed to media across the country, breaks down the significance of some of the nation's most important issues to the Black community.

"Nearly 40 percent of all abortions in America since Roe vs. Wade have been by Black women. Who pays the price when abortions are outlawed? Poor women, women of color, and the millions of women who already face limited access to high quality healthcare."

"From Charleston to El Paso to Buffalo, the past decade reveals that racially motivated shootings and domestic terrorism is on the rise—with Black and brown communities in the direct line of fire. Who pays the price when common sense gun legislation is held up and rolled back while White nationalists are emboldened to emerge from their hiding places? Black, Latino, Asian-Pacific Islander, Jewish and Muslim people."

"The climate emergency means hotter summers, more destructive tornadoes, stronger hurricanes. Who bears the brunt of this crisis? Black and brown communities living in neighborhoods devastated by

environmental racism. As our communities choke on toxic air and dirty water, drown in Southern floods, and are forced into displacement because of increasingly hostile and extreme weather patterns, our lawmakers are happy to fill their pockets with donations from the same harmful corporations who are facilitating this catastrophe."

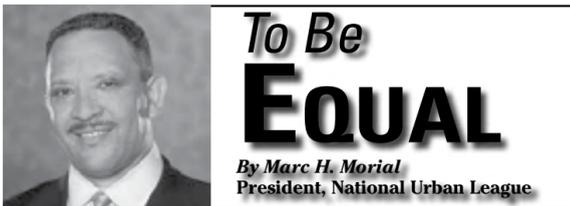
The NCBCP and the BWR, both non-partisan organizations, have traditionally led the national push for Black voter activism, including through its annual meetings during the Congressional Black Caucus Annual Legislative Conference. With the possibility of conservative politicians about to take over the U.S. House of Representatives, this could mean even more roll backs on voting rights and other significant issues in the Black community.

Despite the significance of mid-term elections, voters often stay home and wait to vote in presidential elections every four years. But this moment is too urgent to stay home, says Campbell, stressing the fact that conservative lawmakers, who already have control of the U. S. Senate, could place even more conservative judges on the U. S. Supreme Court if the opportunity arises.

"Enough is enough," she says. "We urgently need to elect leaders who will fight to cure what ails our damaged democracy and codify our sacred rights into law. That entails voting for lawmakers who will work for us, not conservative, reactionary, bought-and-paid-for forces that are weaponizing the courts in order to execute an unconstitutional power grab. Because let's be clear: when radical conservatives take power, marginalized and low-wealth communities suffer most."

With hundreds of thousands of Black voters still qualified, but unregistered to vote, Black organizations have their work cut out. The key will be to inspire prospective voters with issues that hit home and let them know the power is in their hands.

"From the 1964's Freedom Summer to the 2020 protests in the wake of the murder of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbury & Brianna Taylor, we have always demonstrated our perseverance in the face of injustice," Campbell says. "We stand at a perilous crossroads...Elections matter. If voting did not matter, too many conservatives and White nationalists in Congress, in courts, gubernatorial offices and state legislatures across the nation wouldn't be working so hard to take our rights and freedoms away to maintain white power and privilege for a few, at the expense of everyone else. Our freedom is in danger—but we will not go silently in the night. We have 90 days to organize, mobilize and vote like our lives depend on, because it does. Now is the time to live out the movement chant in your community that states, "When Our Lives Are Under Attack, what do we do? Stand Up, Fight Back! Let's fight back together."



Editor's Note: The following was written in April, before Elon Musk expressed reservations and started backing out of his plan to acquire Twitter.

ELON MUSK TAKEOVER OF TWITTER WOULD BE A DISASTER FOR CIVIL RIGHTS AND DEMOCRACY

"The prospect of Musk using his massive wealth to take control of one of the most influential social media platforms, and to impose his own personal vision of what is best for democracy and free speech, underscores our precarious state of affairs ... the health of our democracy depends on a commitment by the major social media companies to moderate content on their sites more vigilantly in order to reduce the amount of mis- and disinformation, hate speech, incitement and other harmful content."

—Michael Posner, New York University professor of ethics and finance

Twitter, one of the largest and arguably the most influential social media networks in the world, currently prohibits content that threatens or glorifies violence, promotes terrorism or violent extremism, or targets others for abuse or harassment based on race, religion or ethnicity. Users may not post false or misleading information about COVID-19 which may lead to harm, or use Twitter for the purpose of manipulating or interfering in elections or other civic processes.

Admittedly, enforcement of these standards has at times been lax, arbitrary, and error-ridden. The National Urban League staunchly advocated for the implementation of these policies, and we continue to push Twitter and other social media networks toward a stronger stance against hate speech and violence.

But if Elon Musk is successful in his effort to gain full private ownership of Twitter, it could become an instrument of hatred, violence, propaganda, and tyranny such as the world has never seen.

As the wealthiest individual on Earth, Musk already holds a staggering level of influence over our national discourse. To consolidate such enormous power into the hands of any one individual would be reckless and dangerous even if Musk had not already declared his intention to remove key protections and safeguards, opening Twitter's floodgates to hate speech and extremism.

Earlier this week I sent a letter to Bret Taylor, Chair of Twitter's Board of Directors, warning that transitioning ownership to Musk and shielding the company of any oversight would have grave implications for the civil rights protections that are so important to the National Urban League's constituencies.

(See **TO BE EQUAL**, P. 11)



WHAT WE OWE CHILDREN

When I was about six years old, my grandmother and my mother were talking about and describing my great-grandmother. I was listening but broke the cardinal rule for listening to grown folks talk and said, "No, that's not what she looked like," and I described her. They looked at each other and told me I couldn't possibly know what I was talking about. Some time later my mother explained the difference but they still didn't believe me, saying once again, "You couldn't know that. You were only six months old." My memories go back to soon after I was born. They told me no but I knew.

This week on Facebook I saw a father kiss his three-week-old daughter on the cheek and she raised her tiny head and kissed him back. This was not trick photography, this was fact and to me an important fact. There was a person in that tiny body and there are persons in each tiny body that comes here. I think if we believed that, we would get our roles clear about the little people in our lives. Not all children come hear with such a clear ability to respond. To me, that is a distinction without a difference. It doesn't matter; our roles are the same. We are older, we are bigger so our job is to help them adjust to this world that we have created. It is our job to teach them, encourage them, protect them so that they can fulfill their purpose. Unfortunately, we have it twisted too often and we spend too much time indoctrinating them with stuff that we know at some level didn't work for us.

Someone asked me, "Why do you believe you have memories that go so far back?" I answered it honestly: (1) I don't know and (2) I think God knew the work He had purposed me to do and equipped me for the job. I needed to know that children know things so I could be willing to let them teach me. I may have told you this before but if I did, bear with me so I can tell you again. I was called to a school here in Wake County to give the teachers assistance in aiding a little girl who had refused to go to sleep at nap time. She was sleepy but wouldn't go to sleep. I'll admit that when I went I was less than humble, thinking I knew what the problem was and how to fix it. Surprise, surprise, I got there at nap time and for the first time in two months she had taken a nap. I had blocked off time for this so I stayed until she woke up. As I sat by her pallet when she woke up, she took one look at me and said... "Now you know I know who you is... Don't you?" Less than humble me replied,

"No baby, we are just meeting." She said, "Humph, your name is Dorothy Shaw and I went to school with you at Ligon High School, but I can't remember what my name was. Do you remember what my name was?" I collected myself pretty quickly and said, "No baby, but I know what your name is now and I told her and she said, "Where do I go to school now?" and I told her. Sometimes when we face situations like this we diagnose the child as though that will solve the problem. Not this time, my job was the same, I had come there to help her get the rest she needed at nap time and that's what I did. Two weeks later when I went back, she ran to me. "Miss Dorothy, I know what my name is." I said, "What is it?" and she said her name. I asked her how she knew and she said (almost as though I was silly) "You told me when you were here the last time." Yes, I talked with her mother. Neither she nor any

(See **A DIFFERENT VOICE**, P. 11)



HE SAID WHAT?

I often forget what a privilege it is to live in a bubble. For me, my bubble allowed me to have control over who I surrounded myself with. My bubble protected my comfort. To live in a bubble is something I desperately needed during my younger years. For a young Black girl, growing up there were a million and one things that could knock away at my identity. While I certainly didn't need a bubble anymore, there was an unspoken comfort that I lived in knowing I had it.

This past week my bubble was popped. Before I realized the control I had over my life and had the confidence to acknowledge unacceptable behaviors, I felt like a flower struggling to grow in a field of weeds. To grow I had to fight, but with that growth I was always still surrounded. My response to living life in this metaphor was to create my own little ecosystem. In my world I found my own sun. My own rain and grass and dirt and everything I needed to grow into me, until eventually the weeds didn't matter anymore. Until this week they did.

My roommate threw a birthday party this past weekend and with this celebration came a surplus of people who are not in my normal circle. There was one guest that would later change the entire narrative of my night. With this one extra visitor my comfort in my social circle had dropped magnitudes. Whether this plus one knew it or not, I had been warned about his tendency to say the N word. And with that warning I also gave my own. The moment that word left his mouth he would be expected to leave. Very few things make me angry enough to rise out of my seat, but a sure thing on the list is hearing someone who isn't Black say the N word.

To me and many other Black people around the world, I see the N word as a word reclaimed. For over 100 years this word was used to isolate and tear down Black people. It was a constant demeaning reminder that we belonged on the bottom. Now the meaning of the word has changed, and to many Black people it's a word of understanding and brotherhood. With

(See **BECOMING SARAH**, P. 11)



LABOR DAY

Labor Day has been celebrated in American communities since the late 1800s, and since 1894 the first Monday in September has been set aside as a national holiday to honor American workers. From the beginning Labor Day was celebrated with picnics and grand parades. Today, as retail sales have become as much of a Labor Day tradition as long weekends and cookouts, for many workers this day is no longer a holiday at all. But it should be a day to honor the people who have made America all that it is and a reminder for all of us to keep working to make it what it should be.

In his brilliant 1936 poem "Let America Be America Again," Langston Hughes made clear that our nation has never actually been what it should be for many Americans; "America never was America to me." But he still urged that America "be the dream it used to be": a land "where Liberty/Is crowned with no false patriotic wreath/ But opportunity is real, and life is free,/Equality is in the air we breathe." Instead, for the many laborers, farmers, and factory workers on whose backs America was built, that American dream clashed again and again with American reality:

"I am the poor White, fooled and pushed apart, I am the Negro bearing slavery's scars. I am the red man driven from the land, I am the immigrant clutching the hope I seek—And finding only the same old stupid plan Of dog eat dog, of mighty crush the weak... Tangled in that ancient endless chain Of profit, power, gain, of grab the land! Of grab the gold! Of grab the ways of satisfying need! Of work the men! Of take the pay! Of owning everything for one's own greed!"

"I am the farmer, bondsman to the soil. I am the worker sold to the machine. I am the Negro, servant to you all. I am the people, humble, hungry, mean—Hungry yet today despite the dream..."

Years later, our nation's 20th century prophet Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. used similar language and foreshadowed his

(See **CHILD WATCH**, P. 11)

Other Viewpoints



YOUR VOTE AFFECTS THE QUALITY OF EVERYDAY LIVING

By Dr. Stephanie Myers and Dr. Georgia Dunston

Guest Commentary

During recent informal discussions with GenZs (ages 18-24), we have been distressed to learn that many of them and their friends, do not understand the purpose of voting and are not sure if they are going to vote in the 2022 Midterm elections.

While there are excellent GenZ leaders who are pro-voting, other GenZs say that they and their friends are frustrated with confusion about how the political system works, and they are reaching the conclusion that voting is a waste of time. We disagree! It is our belief that all eligible citizens in America must vote because voting is a fundamental responsibility that affects the quality of everyday living for citizens, in America.

We wonder whether the anti-voting attitudes among some GenZs are the result of the civics classes being eliminated from K-12 schools, or whether parents, churches and the workplace are failing to educate youth that democracy works, only if citizens vote. Some of the GenZs we talked to did not seem to understand that individual voting is at the core of democracy, and that the people who are elected to political offices make critical decisions about everyday life in America—and many of those decisions affect them personally.

In today's fractured world many people do not understand how the election of certain individuals to public office gives them power over important decisions. For example, elected officials decide daily whether or not violence is prevented or promoted by police, and law enforcement. They also decide if, how, and where affordable housing is provided, the quality of education, and access to affordable health services. Clearly much more is needed in civic education to help citizens understand the role of elected officials, and how to hold them accountable for their decisions.

Black Women for Positive Change is a multi-cultural, interfaith, intergenerational organization of predominately African American women and Good Brothers, and we believe individuals must understand their vote is important in the 2022 Midterm Elections, and in all elections.

We must find ways to help people understand that voting is personal—it is like paying taxes—you don't have a choice. All eligible voters need to understand that the candidates they vote for will affect their lives in various ways. Below are listed four examples of how elected officials use everyone's tax dollars to either help to stop violence, or to promote violence:

GOVERNORS: Control billion-dollar budgets from tax dollars, that fund prisons, police departments, court systems, and foster-care homes. Governors appoint Judges who will be fair, or who will employ systemic racism.

MAYORS: Using local tax dollars Mayors hire or fire Police Chiefs, and City Attorneys who handle the criminal justice system. Mayors also fund local non-profit programs that can be either helpful or detrimental to Black communities that suffer from violence. Racist Mayors elected to office can appoint racist Police Chiefs who allow police officers to kill Black men with no consequences.

DISTRICT ATTORNEYS: Voters elect District Attorneys who oversee court systems and Prosecutors who bring charges against individuals arrested by police and determine what crimes they will be charged with and how long they will spend in prison.

JUDGES: People elect Judges who make decisions in the courts regarding who is innocent or guilty, and the punishment they will receive or if they get sent to rehabilitation programs.

All of the people listed above are put into office by the vote, and that is why Black Women for Positive Change urges everyone to vote! We ask all readers to support the "John Lewis Good Trouble Voting Rights Pledge," and to vote in the 2022 Midterm Elections. Please help GenZs, Millennials and all Voters to become leaders in getting One Million+ individuals to sign the Pledge and promise to vote! Everyone can sign the Pledge to vote at www.blackwomenforpositivechange.org

Dr. Georgia Dunston is Chair of the Science Committee and Co-Chair of Voting Rights for Black Women for Positive Change. She is Professor Emerita, Howard University College of Medicine; and founding and former director of the National Human Genome Center, Howard University.

Dr. Stephanie Myers is National Co-Chair of Black Women for Positive Change, and Co-Chair of the Voting Rights Committee. Dr. Myers is Vice President of R.J. Myers Publishing Company and author of the book, Invisible Queen: Mixed Ancestry Revealed.



PUBLIC HEALTH'S BLACK EYES

By Dr. Ada M. Fisher

Former NC Republican National Committeewoman

Dr. Anthony Fauci's recent announcement of his plan to retire from leadership related to the national Corona virus Pandemic has emboldened his critics and those willing to attack public health efforts which have been allowed to dictate mandates on isolation, vaccinations and other perceived Draconian measures to semi quarantine the public in place restricting their free movement. Could his agency's funding of the Wuhan laboratory have led to a gain of function disaster here?

King Crossword

ACROSS	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50
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1. Manifesto
 6. Mops the deck
 11. First game of the season
 12. Fortune-telling decks
 14. Gift giver's words
 15. Not level
 16. It's a "three"
 17. Trombone part
 19. Coach Parseghian
 20. Coup d'
 22. Summer on the Seine
 23. Not kosher
 24. Horse material
 26. 1955 Patrons' oil
 28. -d-nat
 30. Pinnacle
 31. "Pretty please?"
 35. I got the idea
 39. Writer Kinky's
 40. High and net
 42. "Elephant Boy" actor
 43. UV ray block
 44. James - Garfield
 46. Stanley Cup org.
 47. Sp. the bears
 49. "Pest"
 51. Doaged
 52. Knight suits
 53. Basilica areas
 54. Incines
 5. As - (usually)
 6. Pupal
 7. Diminish
 8. "Right you -!"
 9. Error of the Ion
 10. Sound system
 11. Frequently
 13. Major "x-up"
 18. "Am. Name?"
 21. Bridge fees
 23. Printing errors
 25. Aye uncoer
 27. Tuxter's
 29. Sites of rapid growth
 31. Squander
 32. Chevy model
 33. Boust
 34. Fg. and Syr.
 36. Big gauge
 37. Loathes
 38. Homicides
 41. Ta
 44. O.d. of the storm
 45. Simple
 48. Pro Bowlers
 50. Singer Sumac

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Moving under the radar is the suppression of data on epidemic causality in calling things what is perceived as politically correct rather than go to the predominant source of etiology. The 1918 Flu Epidemic was thought to have a Chinese background but President Wilson reportedly sought to downplay this in the midst of a war to keep citizens working and joining the war effort. Unfortunately, the History Channel search ties this to his legacy and ill health in ending the war and dampened the push for his concept of a League of Nations.

Rather than do appropriate contact tracing in an effort to limit the spread of the disease, getting an earlier handle on the AIDS Epidemic staggered because of the fear of offending large segments of the male gay population with its attendant repercussions. From this came an understanding of the high numbers of men who operate on the down low, prison gay dens, bath houses and other venues which heretofore had operated under the radar for homosexuals, bisexuals and others who were and are a large factor in this disease's spread. This is compounded by our unwillingness to be open and honest about one of life's pleasures—sex which can be a major vector of spread for pandemic illnesses. Acknowledging the hazards associated with certain life style choices reflect the nation's unwillingness to see sex as it is; therefore, the disease continues to spread with expensive drugs developed allowing people to further promulgate the disease rather than change one's behavior. What happened here to Gay Pride?

Following on these heels is the corona virus pandemic which has hit across the board targeting those already immune compromised or possessing of life's risk factors of obesity, smoking, etc. and the elderly. Tagging this as the Wuhan virus is not racism but reflects a suspected source of its etiology. The resulting panic has led to a rush to vaccinate which now is thought to temper the serious illnesses that may have resulted but not kill the virus which constantly mutates. The millions of deaths being appreciated worldwide have been devastating. Not emphasizing lifestyle cultural risk such as consuming bats and other vectors has been limited.

In the midst of this pandemic is polio's resurrection and resurfacing after the public was led to believe this had been eradicated. Is it true that those who had the oral vaccines may be more susceptible? Will this eventually mean a new round of vaccines? Will sanitation efforts and clean water which are crucial to disease control become a lifestyle supported for all?

New to the scene is the "Monkeypox" virus fast gaining ground though just as contagious but so far not as life threatening. A different name is being sought for it to quell the backlash against the African continent and gay men both reflecting positions high on the list of those infected. Ads targeted at men who have sex with other men are clear. Hidden in this discussion for the Religious Right is support for biblical admonitions against sodomy which few want to discuss though both sexes are so engaged. In medical school "gay bowel disease" was discussed but became politically incorrect and now may be a reemerging concept.

Viruses seem to be the gifts which keep on giving while adversely altering life. Their ability to mutate has started exceeding our ability to suppress their virulence. How many vaccines are too many or are enough? Is there a cap on body burden for vaccines? How do we get people to appreciate how their life style choices affect all?

The full picture of this corona virus epidemic is still not clear. How will we get folks to believe public health officials? With inflation and our bailing out everyone for everything, a serious look at long term COVID, those with side effects from the vaccines, resulting disability unemployment and many unknowns are going to be a financial burden for the government since many vaccines were mandated for certain jobs as well as unfortunately being required for school attendance. Where will the financial burden ultimately lie for these mandates?

Dr. Ada M. Fisher is a physician who was a medical director in a Fortune 500 Company, previous member of a county board of education, licensed secondary education teacher, author, poet, gifted public speaker and was the NC Republican National Committeewoman (2012-2020). Her book Common Sense Conservative Prescriptions Solutions Good For What Ails Us, Book 1 is available.

TO BE EQUAL

Continued from page 10

I urged the board to consult with the civil rights community on this—or any other proposal that would place control of this important company in the hands of a sole owner—and deny Musk's request to assume ownership of Twitter.

The Board is well within its right as fiduciary to consider the broader social implications of a sale to Mr. Musk. He has expressed concerning views that are counter to the principles of creating an online community that is safe for marginalized communities and protects our democracy. He has publicly stated that Twitter's decisions to ban users who violate its content moderation standards against hate speech, violence, and disinformation are against "free speech" principles.

Let me be clear. The Constitution of the United States does not require any institution, public or private, to provide a breeding ground for hate, violence, or extremism. It does not sanction conspiracy to overthrow the duly-elected government.

We can glean from Musk's own Tweets what content he considers appropriate for the forum. He was fined by the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission and forced to step down as Tesla chairman after posting false information that affected the company's stock price. The National Labor Relations Board ordered Musk to delete a tweet that was deemed an interference with his employee's right to organize in a union. He lobbied a baseless accusation of pedophilia against a British cave explorer involved in the rescue of a trapped youth football team. He tweeted misinformation about COVID testing and the authority of health of-

ficials to enforce safety measures.

Meanwhile, a California state agency has sued Tesla, accusing its Bay Area plant "is a racially segregated workplace where Black workers are subjected to racial slurs and discriminated against in job assignments, discipline, pay, and promotion creating a hostile work environment." Musk's company previously faced a class action suit regarding widespread racism at the same factory, and last year a jury ruled in favor of a former employee who alleged racial discrimination.

For all his talk about "free speech," Musk has been known to threaten and retaliate against his critics and fire employees who disagree with him.

Twitter's Board of Directors is not only within its rights to deny Musk's bid to take over the company, it is morally and ethically bound to do everything within its power to do so.

A DIFFERENT VOICE

Continued from page 10

of the staff knew my maiden name and she had moved here recently from New York and had never heard of Ligon High School.

Why am I telling you this? I'm telling you this because I want you to know that children trust us and we should be worthy of their trust. I believe that we don't need to know everything to become the person we are to be to children but we do need to own what we know and use it to be in relationship with them. That baby at three weeks old was telling her parents something. One thing was, "I am in here and I will follow your lead." She can't talk yet, she can't walk yet so she needs her parents to help her until she can. She needs their protection, not their hands across her backside when she gets things wrong. She doesn't need to believe that she's wrong or there's something wrong with her. She needs to learn how to get it right. If I had a dollar for the number of times I've heard, "There's something wrong with that child," I'd be rich. Our job is to figure out what the misunderstanding is on their part and ours and help children get it right. It starts with the Golden Rule. It's in the message of Kahil Gibran. It's in believing that we all have purpose and discovering what that purpose is. The universe is waking us up and the last thing we need to fear is the fear of being "woke."

BECOMING SARAH

Continued from page 10

that word is a story tied to over 100 years of struggle. And with that story is a word I passionately believe only belongs to Black people.

If you've never been called the N-word or have a fear of being called an N-word, there's simply nothing to reclaim.

Within the first hour of meeting, I heard the word come from his mouth clear as day. The first emotion I felt was shocked, although why I felt surprised still astounds me. Then that shock was followed quickly by anger. I remember the first words that came out of my mouth were "You said what?" I went around asking for more clarification because I couldn't believe he had said what he just said even after meeting me. Immediately he had overstayed his welcome. Before I returned to the apartment, I had shared my expectations with everyone. When I get back, he leaves. That was the end of my story, or so I thought.

I sat across from his friend on the couch and listened as he desperately tried to plead his buddy's case. In his defense, there was no malice in his words, and he wasn't saying it to me. What was the harm in two friends saying it? I thought about it. The harm was in his comfort when he spoke the word. The harm was in the lack of advocacy of his friends that he surrounded himself with. The harm was that no one saw the harm.

To me an apology would be empty. It was clear that saying the N word was a habit, him sitting in front of me at a party trying to plead was nothing.

I remember asking him what he thought gave him the right to mouth those words. His response of course avoided my question entirely and he immediately went into defense mode. Since he didn't say the words to me no harm was done right? Wrong. Again, there was nothing for him to reclaim. The word didn't belong to him.

I've only spoken briefly about my quest into adulthood, finding comfort in my Blackness but being an advocate for myself and my color isn't something I would have added into my persona until I began college. In college, specifically at a PWI I found myself constantly outnumbered. When I chose my school, I was sold on joining organizations such as the BSU or AASA but when I walked the streets of campus and entered my classes finding someone in my cohort who looked like me was like asking someone to find a needle in a haystack.

My university had its fair share of scandals in the overcoming years. The most memorable would be a fraternity specifying that their party was exclusive. They marked this exclusion of course with a post saying, "no Blacks allowed." I can say the naiver part of myself thought we were past this, but nonetheless I found myself in a situation I thought my company had outgrown. Thankfully now, I know why advocacy is important, why education was important and realize a good call out is the only thing that can get either of these done. It had been years since I had heard someone say this and then nonetheless expect not be checked. This word was a regular piece of his vocabulary. I felt angry. Angry that he could use the word. Angry that he said it in school. At work. Around his friends and no one had said anything.

I looked at this boy who sat in front of me and again was filled with frustration.

Growing up, my response to situations would always root from a place of hurt. After years of developing a backbone and confidence in myself that hurt would turn to anger. There we were in that room and for the first time I found myself not only educating but being an advocate for myself. On that night I used my anger to educate. He left embarrassed. He left shocked and I stayed feeling like I had done enough for me in that moment.

From this experience I learned three things about myself and the world we live in. There is still a huge disposition in our young advocates. This word that I used to cringe hearing on the streets means way more to me than I could ever imagine. And lastly, I am strong enough and loud enough to defend my truth in any way I see fit.

CHILD WATCH

Continued from page 10

own famous American dream when he spoke to the AFL-CIO labor union convention in December 1961:

"I look forward confidently to the day when all who work for a living will be one with no thought to their separateness as Negroes, Jews, Italians or any other distinctions. This will be the day when we bring into full realization the American dream—a dream yet unfulfilled. A dream of equality of opportunity, of privilege and property widely distributed; a dream of a land where men will not take necessities from the many to give luxuries to the few; a dream of a land where men will not argue that the color of a man's skin determines the content of his character; a dream of a nation where all our gifts and resources are held not for ourselves alone, but as instruments of service for the rest of humanity; the dream of a country where every man will respect the dignity and worth of the human personality. That is the dream."

Too many workers are still hungering for that American dream today—and it is time to make it reality for all. This Labor Day weekend is another opportunity to say along with Hughes:

"I say it plain, America never was America to me, And yet I swear this oath—America will be!"

On this Labor Day, we thank You for all the people who make our country great. Who grow food to eat and build houses where people sleep and make clothes that help us stay warm. Who clean the schools we learn in and the parks we play in and the streets we walk on. Who drive the buses and trains and fly the planes that take us where we have to go. Who protect us from danger of all kinds. Who heal us when we are sick and teach us what we need to know. Who provide jobs with decent wages and benefits. Who pray for us and preach to us Your word in an errant world. Thank You, God, for all who hold our communities together.

Classifieds

DURHAM COUNTY

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 11th day of August, 2022, as Executrix of the ESTATE OF ELIZABETH ANN MCCONNELL, Deceased, of Durham County, North Carolina, does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said Estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 19th day of November, 2022 or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said Estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This, the 18th day of August, 2022.

MARY MARGARET ARMSTRONG
EXECUTRIX
ESTATE OF ELIZABETH ANN
MCCONNELL

c/o Jennifer Dalman, Attorney
Walker Lambe, PLLC
Post Office Box 51549
Durham, North Carolina 27717
8/18, 8/25, 9/1 and 9/8 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 1052

The Undersigned, having qualified as Executrix of the Estate of Rose Briggs McCloud, 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 18th day of November 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 18th day of August, 2022.

Chandra Rebecca McCloud Glover
Executrix

9608 Bayview Parkway
Charlotte, NC 28216
8/18, 8/25, 9/1 and 9/8/2022

NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION In The General Court Of Justice Superior Court Division Before the Clerk

File Number 2022 E 000996

The Undersigned, having qualified as Executor of the Estate of Melton Douglas Lynam, 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 18th day of November 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 18th day of August, 2022.

Cathi Higgins Turner
Executrix

4804 Mistletoe Lane
Durham, NC 27703
8/18, 8/25, 9/1 and 9/8/2022

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 979

The Undersigned, having qualified as Executor of the Estate of Lisa Marian Humbert, 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 18th day of November 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 18th day of August, 2022.

Jessica Anne Presto
Executrix

10594 Evergreen Spring Place
Raleigh, NC 27614
8/18, 8/25, 9/1 and 9/8/2022

NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION In The General Court Of Justice Superior Court Division

Before the Clerk File Number 2021 E 000954

The Undersigned, having qualified as Executor of the Estate of Socratis Gerondelis, a/k/a Socratis E Gerondelis, a/k/a Socratis E Gerondellis, a/k/a Socratis Eftatios Gerondelis, 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 18th day of November 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 18th day of August, 2022.

Aliki Gerondelis
Executrix

712 Continental Drive
Durham, NC 27712
8/18, 8/25, 9/1 and 9/8/2022

NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION In The General Court Of Justice Superior Court Division Before the Clerk

File Number 22 E 1039

The Undersigned, having qualified as Executrix of the Estate of Isaac A Shaw, 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 18th day of November 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 18th day of August, 2022.

Tevis Shaw Ector
Executrix

809 Springdale Drive
Durham, NC 27707
8/18, 8/25, 9/1 and 9/8/2022

NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION In The General Court Of Justice Superior Court Division Before the Clerk

File Number 2022 E 001051

The Undersigned, having qualified as Executor of the Estate of Curtis Lee Farrar, 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 18th day of November 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 18th day of August, 2022.

Dana Farrar
Executrix

1800 Williamsburg Rd
Apt 12C
Durham, NC 27707
8/18, 8/25, 9/1 and 9/8/2022

NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND DEBTORS OF

EGBERT L. HAYWOOD, JR.

All persons, firms and corporations having claims against Egbert L. Haywood, Jr., late of Durham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit them to Gregory Herman-Giddens as Administrator CTA of the decedent's estate on or before November 19, 2022, c/o Galbraith, PLLC, 1340 Environ Way, Chapel Hill, NC 27517, or be barred from their recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment to the above-named Administrator CTA.

This the 18th day of August, 2022.

Gregory Herman-Giddens
Administrator CTA

Galbraith, PLLC
1340 Environ Way
Chapel Hill, NC 27517
8/18, 8/25, 9/1 and 9/8/2022

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 1041

The Undersigned, having qualified as Executrix of the Estate of Grace A Amrein a/k/a Grace Alena Amrein, 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 19th day of November 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 18th day of August, 2022.

Linda M Suggs a/k/a Linda Amrein
Suggs
Executrix

4628 Jimmy Rogers Road
Durham, NC 27704-8763
8/18, 8/25, 9/1 and 9/8/2022

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 1032

The Undersigned, having qualified as Executor of the Estate of Robert Earle Pate, 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 19th day of November 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 18th day of August, 2022.

Lori Pate Gaddy
Co-Executrix

135 Causby Hoyle Road
Casar, NC 28020

David Wayne Pate
Co-Executrix

1076 Grove Circle NW
Ocean Isle Beach, NC 28469

8/18, 8/25, 9/1 and 9/8/2022
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 1088

The Undersigned, having qualified as Executor of the Estate of Iris June Vinegar, 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 November 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 25th day of August, 2022.

Richard J. Vinegar
Co-Executrix

8415 Iverness Way
Chapel Hill, NC 27516

Jonathan Rein Vinegar
Co-Executrix

17 Willow Road
Lawrenceville, NJ 08648
8/25, 9/1, 9/8 and 9/15/2022

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 1049

The Undersigned, having qualified as Administrator of the Estate of Gwendolyn Olympia Barnes, 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 2nd day of December 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 1st day of September, 2022.

Joseph Barnes
Administrator

6199 Castled Dr
Durham, NC 27713
9/1, 9/8, 9/15 and 9/22/2022

NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND DEBTORS OF

BETTY ROUSE MCNAIR

All persons, firms and corporations having claims against Betty Rouse McNair, late of Durham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit them to George David McNair as Executor of the decedent's estate on or before December 2, 2022, c/o Gregory Herman-

Giddens, Attorney at Law, 1340 Environ Way, Chapel Hill, NC 27517, or be barred from their recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment to the above-named Executor.

This the 1st day of September, 2022.

George David McNair, Executrix
c/o Gregory Herman-Giddens, Atty.
Galbraith, PLLC

1340 Environ Way
Chapel Hill, NC 27517
9/1, 9/8, 9/15 and 9/22/2022

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

The undersigned, Randy Thomas Chambers, having duly qualified as Administrator of the Estate of Marion Thomas Chambers, deceased, late of Durham County, North Carolina, hereby notifies all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the Estate to present them to the undersigned in care of Ronald G. Coulter, Attorney for the Estate, 3400 Croasdaile Drive, Suite 205, Durham, North Carolina 27705, on or before December 1, 2022 or it will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms and corporations indebted to the Estate will please make immediate payment.

This the 1st day of September, 2022.

Randy Thomas Chambers
Administrator

C/O Ronald G. Coulter
Attorney at Law

3400 Croasdaile Drive
Suite 205
Durham, NC 27705
1-919-246-5775

9/1, 9/8, 9/15 and 9/22/2022
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

File Number 22 E 1113

SANDRA NORWOOD KRAFT
ESTATE

The undersigned, having qualified as Executrix of the Estate of Sandra Norwood Kraft late of DURHAM County, NC does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said estate to present them to the undersigned at the address below on or before the 2nd day of December, 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This, the 1st day of September 2022.

Stephanie Kraft
Executrix of the Estate of Sandra
Norwood Kraft

c/o The Law Office of Anne Page
Watson, PLLC

3400 Croasdaile Drive, Suite 205
Durham, NC 27705
9/1, 9/8, 9/15 and 9/22/22

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 2022 E 001077

The Undersigned, having qualified as Administrator of the Estate of Linnette Pettiford, 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 November 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 25th day of August, 2022.

Kelisa Pettiford
Administrator

1217 Golden Eagle Drive
Durham, NC 27704
8/25, 9/1, 9/8 and 9/15/2022

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Having qualified as Administrator of the Estate of Herbert Michael Mackey, late of Durham County, State of North Carolina, this is to notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the decedent to present them to the undersigned on or before the 25th day of November, 2022, or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. All persons, firms and corporations indebted to said estate please make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This the 25th day of August, 2022.

James M. Ellis, Administrator
Stone & Christy, P.A.
110 N. Dougherty Street
Black Mountain, NC 28711
8/25, 9/1, 9/8, and 9/15/2022

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

THE UNDERSIGNED, having

qualified on the 21st day of February, 2022, as Co-Executors of the ESTATE OF JOHN KING WOODY, JR., Deceased, of Durham County, North Carolina, do hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said Estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 26th day of November, 2022 or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said Estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This, the 25th day of August, 2022.

JOHN KING WOODY, III
JAMES WATTERSON WOODY
CO-EXECUTORS
ESTATE OF JOHN KING WOODY, JR.

c/o Jennifer Dalman, Attorney
Walker Lambe, PLLC
Post Office Box 51549

Durham, North Carolina 27717
8/25, 9/1, 9/8 and 9/15/2022

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 905

The Undersigned, having qualified as Administrator of the Estate of Sylvia Jean Smith, 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 9th day of December 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 8th day of September, 2022.

Wallace Smith
Administrator

3015 Wheat Grain St
Durham, NC 27704
9/8, 9/15, 9/22 and 9/29/2022

WAKE COUNTY

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
WAKE COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

File Number 2022 E 003210

The Undersigned, having qualified as Administration of the Estate of Susie L Wilson, 2212 Evers Dr, Raleigh, Wake County, NC 27610. This is to notify all persons, firms, and corporations having claims against said decedent to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before November 19, 2022. This notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery.

All persons, firms, and corporations indebted to said estate are notified to make immediate payment.

This the 18th day of August, 2022.

Regina S Wilson
Administrator

3756 Whitney Park Ln
Greenacres, FL 33463
8/18, 8/25, 9/1 and 9/8/2022

NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF WAKE

DISTRICT COURT DIVISION

FILE NO. 19 SP 2837

IN THE MATTER OF THE

ADOPTION OF L.W.J.H., a minor

male child.

TO: KYLE TODD HOLT
TAKE NOTICE that an Amended Petition for Adoption was filed on 8/25/2022 with the Clerk of Superior or Court for Wake County, Raleigh, NC, in the above-entitled special proceeding.

The Petition relates to a male child born on December 22, 2009 in Johnston County, North Carolina.

The birth mother's name was Amanda Leigh Johnson, now deceased.

TAKE NOTICE that you are required to file a response to the petition within forty (40) days after the date of the first publication of this notice, on or before 10/12/2022 in order to participate in and receive further notice of this proceeding.

IN THE EVENT YOU FAIL TO RESPOND, THE CLERK OF SUPERIOR COURT WILL ENTER AN ORDER ALLOWING THE ADOPTION TO PROCEED WITHOUT YOUR CONSENT. Any parental rights that you may have will be terminated upon the entry of the decree of adoption.

This, the 1st day of September,

2022.
Katherine S. Moyer
JusticeMatters, Inc.
Attorney for Plaintiff
P.O. Box 58058
Raleigh, NC, 27658
919/794-7511, Ext. 9.
9/1, 9/8 and 9/15/2022

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

The Decedent, Carol Morgan Brewington, who lived at 725 Fitzgerald Drive, Raleigh, North Carolina 27610, passed away on August 21, 2021. Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Anthony L. Blalock, Esquire at 7800 Falls of the Neuse Road, Unit # 99753, Raleigh, North Carolina, 27615, or to both the probate court and the named legal representative before September 22, 2022.

Anthony L. Blalock
Esquire

Legal Representative for estate of
Carol Morgan Brewington.
8/25, 9/1, 9/8, and 9/15/2022
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 003173

The Undersigned, having qualified as Executor of the Estate of William Stacy Miller, 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 2nd day of December 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 1st day of September, 2022.

William Stacy Miller II
Executrix

906 Lake Boone Trail
Raleigh, NC 27607
9/1, 9/8, 9/15 and 9/22/2022

NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION

NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF WAKE

In the General Court of Justice

Civil Court Division

File No: 22 CV 000972

JEWEL E BAXLEY,<

Classifieds

LEGALS

WAKE COUNTY

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS
ESTATE OF ULRICH GEORG
WEISS**

FILE NO.: 2022-E001349

All persons, firms and corporations having claims against Ulrich Georg Weiss, deceased, of Wake County, N.C., are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or

before Dec. 07 2022 or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment.

This the 8th day of September, 2022.

Janet Weiss
Administrator
C/O The Law Office of Jeffrey L. Austin and The Law Office of Erin Baker Edgar
Attorneys at Law
411 W. Chapel Hill Street,
Suite C 2, Durham, NC 27701.
The Carolinian September 8, 15, 22, 29, 2022

HALIFAX COUNTY

**NOTICE OF SERVICE OF
PROCESS BY PUBLICATION**

NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF HALIFAX
In the General Court of Justice
District Court Division
File No: 22 CVD 423

TARAQ K. KEARNS,
Plaintiff

v.

PAMELA LAVETTE BROWN,
Defendant.

Please take notice that a pleading seeking relief against you has been filed in the above-referenced action. The nature of the relief being sought is as follows:

Plaintiff is seeking a judgment of absolute divorce from the bonds of matrimony based upon one (1) year

separation pursuant to the provisions of North Carolina General Statutes Section 50-6.

You are required to make defense to such pleading no later than October 11th, 2022 which is at least 45 days from the first publication of this notice. Upon your failure to file a pleading by the above date, the party seeking service against you will apply to the Court for the relief sought.

This, the 25th day of August, 2022.
Ronnie C. Reaves
Attorney for Plaintiff
State Bar No. 10489
1001 Julian R. Allsbrook Highway
Post Office Box 587
Weldon, North Carolina 27890
Tel: (252) 536-2503
Fax: (252) 536-5130
8/25, 9/1 and 9/8/2022.

D/M/WBE

SUBCONTRACTORS/SUPPLIERS WANTED

T.A. Loving Company (NC General Contractor License No. 325) is seeking certified DBE, MBE, and WBE subcontractors and suppliers for the **Twin 24 Inch Raw Water Transmission Mains Replacement project for Cape Fear Public Utility Authority** which bids **September 15, 2022, at 1:00 PM**. Plans and specifications for this project are available at the following locations: TA Loving Company, 400 Patetown Road, Goldsboro, NC 27530 * CFPUA Procurement Manager, 235 Government Center Drive, Wilmington, NC 28403 * Carolinas AGC and Hispanic Contractors Association of the Carolinas website * Dodge Data and Analytics website * ConstructConnect website * Construction Journal website * North American Procurement Council website * Blue Book Building and Construction Network website.

Potential subcontracting opportunities include but are not limited to surveying, erosion control, seeding, linework, and directional drilling. Please contact **Jeff Price** (jprice@taloving.com) if you are interested in submitting a proposal on any portion(s) of this project. Contact via phone 919-734-8400; fax 919-736-2148; or email. All quotations will be accepted up to bid closing time on bid date. TA Loving Company is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer.

Please advise if assistance is needed with obtaining necessary equipment, supplies, materials, or insurance/bonding to satisfy the work requirements. We are willing to accept quotations on all or partial quantities and items of work. We can offer 2-party check payments and quick payment agreements, but the agreements need to be negotiated prior to bid date.

CITY OF RALEIGH

DRAFT ANNUAL REPORT TO HUD AVAILABLE FOR COMMENT

The City of Raleigh's Draft Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER, for the period from July 1, 2021-June 30, 2022) is available for comment from September 9-23, 2022. This report summarizes how the City used federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), HOME, Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG), CARES Act and local funding in carrying out its housing and community development programs from 7/1/21-6/30/22. The draft CAPER is available by e-mail, on the City website and from the Community Development Division, 421 Fayetteville St. Suite 1200. The public has until September 23, 2022 to review and submit written comments. Comments can be sent to cd.info@raleighnc.gov, or to Community Development, P.O. Box 590, Raleigh, NC 27602. To request a copy, call (919) 996-4330.

D/M/WBE

SUBCONTRACTORS/SUPPLIERS WANTED

T.A. Loving Company (NC General Contractor License No. 325) is seeking certified DBE, MBE, and WBE subcontractors and suppliers for the **Moccasin Creek Lateral 10B Crossing Replacement project for Johnston County** which bids **September 12, 2022, at 4:30 PM**. Plans and specifications for this project are available at the following locations: TA Loving Company, 400 Patetown Road, Goldsboro, NC 27530.

Potential subcontracting opportunities include but are not limited to surveying, erosion control, seeding, and linework. Please contact **Jeff Price** (jprice@taloving.com) if you are interested in submitting a proposal on any portion(s) of this project. Contact via phone 919-734-8400; fax 919-736-2148; or email. All quotations will be accepted up to bid closing time on bid date. TA Loving Company is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer.

Please advise if assistance is needed with obtaining necessary equipment, supplies, materials, or insurance/bonding to satisfy the work requirements. We are willing to accept quotations on all or partial quantities and items of work. We can offer 2-party check payments and quick payment agreements, but the agreements need to be negotiated prior to bid date.

D/M/WBE

SUBCONTRACTORS/SUPPLIERS WANTED

T.A. Loving Company (NC General Contractor License No. 325) is seeking certified DBE, MBE, and WBE subcontractors and suppliers for the **Wildwood Park Bridges and Boardwalks project for the City of Greenville Recreation and Parks Department (GRPD)** which bids **September 8, 2022, at 2:00 PM**. Plans and specifications for this project are available at the following locations: TA Loving Company, 400 Patetown Road, Goldsboro, NC 27530 * City of Greenville Current Bid Opportunities webpage.

Potential subcontracting opportunities include but are not limited to surveying, demolition, clearing and grubbing, hauling, earthwork, erosion control, seeding, sodding, and flatwork. Please contact **Justin E. Hill** (jehill@taloving.com) if you are interested in submitting a proposal on any portion(s) of this project. Contact via phone 919-734-8400; fax 919-736-2148; or email. All quotations will be accepted up to bid closing time on bid date. TA Loving Company is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer.

Please advise if assistance is needed with obtaining necessary equipment, supplies, materials, or insurance/bonding to satisfy the work requirements. We are willing to accept quotations on all or partial quantities and items of work. We can offer 2-party check payments and quick payment agreements, but the agreements need to be negotiated prior to bid date.

D/M/WBE

SUBCONTRACTORS/SUPPLIERS WANTED

T. A. Loving Company (NC General Contractor License No. 325) is seeking certified DBE, MBE, and WBE subcontractors and suppliers for the **Old Mill Road Sewer Pump Station Replacement and Force Main project for the City of Rocky Mount** which bids **September 15, 2022, at 2:00 PM**. Plans and specifications for this project are available at the following locations: TA Loving Company, 400 Patetown Road, Goldsboro, NC 27530 * City of Rocky Mount, Purchasing Office; 331 South Franklin Street; Rocky Mount, NC 27804 * Green Engineering, P.L.L.C.; 303 Goldsboro Street, East; Wilson, NC 27893 * ConstructConnect website.

Potential subcontracting opportunities include but are not limited to surveying, demolition, clearing and grubbing, hauling, asphalt paving, striping, earthwork, erosion control, seeding, electrical, SCADA, linework, jack & bore, bypass pumping, dewatering, roofing, flatwork, CIPC, concrete forms, concrete rebar, and plumbing. Please contact **Jeff Price** (jprice@taloving.com) if you are interested in submitting a proposal on any portion(s) of this project. Contact via phone 919-734-8400; fax 919-736-2148; or email. All quotations will be accepted up to bid closing time on bid date. TA Loving Company is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer.

Please advise if assistance is needed with obtaining necessary equipment, supplies, materials, or insurance/bonding to satisfy the work requirements. We are willing to accept quotations on all or partial quantities and items of work. We can offer 2-party check payments and quick payment agreements, but the agreements need to be negotiated prior to bid date.

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY

**WAKE COUNTY'S
2021 CONSOLIDATED ANNUAL
PERFORMANCE AND EVALUATION REPORT
(CAPER) AND
2021 HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES FOR
PERSONS WITH AIDS (HOPWA) CAPER**

Notice is hereby given that Wake County is preparing the 2021 Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER) and Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) CAPER. These documents report on the progress of the second year of the 5-year Consolidated Plan mandated by the National Housing Act of 1990 and are required in order for Wake County to receive federal entitlement funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The 2021 CAPER describes the housing and community development activities that were carried out during program year 2021 (July 1, 2021-June 30, 2022) within Wake County. The HOPWA CAPER describes activities carried out with HOPWA funds to assist households living with HIV/AIDS in Wake, Johnston, and Franklin Counties.

Drafts of the 2021 CAPER and HOPWA CAPER are available for a 15-day comment period from September 5, 2022-September 19, 2022. They can be found online at <https://www.wakegov.com/departments-government/housing-affordability-community-revitalization/plans-and-public-notice> and copies are accessible at the following locations: Wake County Housing (336 Fayetteville Street, Suite 440, Raleigh, NC 27602), Municipal Town Halls, Wake County Regional Centers, Homeless Service Centers, and other Wake County Housing or Human Services locations.

At the end of the comment period Wake County will compile and address all public comments received. For more information or to submit a comment, please contact Housing Staff at (919) 856-5689 or via email housing.info@wakegov.com by September 15, 2021. Speech or hearing-impaired persons may contact 1-800-735-2962 (TT) or 1-800-735-8262 (voice).

WANTED WBE, MBE & DBE BIDS

for the following job:

**TOWN OF MORRISVILLE
FY23 Street Resurfacing Project**

Wake Co. Bid Date: Sept. 14th

These projects may involve some or all of the following aspects of construction: construction survey, clear and grub, trucking, drainage, milling, paving, incidental concrete, fence and guardrail, signs, structures, traffic control, utilities, signals, pavement marking, erosion control and seeding. Bids can be emailed to stw.quotes@stwcorp.com

Please contact S. T. Wooten at 252-291-5165, Fax 252-243-0900 no later than 5:00 p.m. the day before the bid date.

The North Carolina Department of Transportation, in accordance with the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (78 Stat. 252, 42, U.S.C. 2000d to 2000d-4) and the Regulations, hereby notifies all bidders that it will affirmatively ensure that any contract entered into pursuant to the advertisement, disadvantaged business enterprises will be afforded full and fair opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, or national origin in consideration for an award. In accordance with other related nondiscrimination authorities, bidders and contractors will also not be discriminated against on the grounds of sex, age, disability, low-income level, creed/religion, or limited English proficiency in consideration for an award.

Solution time: 21 mins.



Just Like Cats & Dogs by Dave T. Phipps



GRIN THE BEAR IT by Wagner



"Nice job of stealing third base, Otis. ... Now put it back."

Community

African American Cultural Festival

The African American Cultural Festival of Raleigh and Wake County is an annual celebration of African American culture as expressed through art, music, food and community. The festival has become Raleigh's premiere destination for teaching, sharing, and celebrating the distinctive folk and cultural traditions of African Americans here in North Carolina and from around the world.

The festival program plan was developed under the guidance of the African American Cultural Festival Governing Board, whose members were appointed by the

Wake County Board of Commissioners and Raleigh City Council in August 2008. Both elected bodies charged the Governing Board with creating a major festival that would become an outstanding tourist destination event. Artsposure, the organization responsible for many Triangle arts events including

the annual Spring Arts Festival, and First Night Raleigh on New Year's Eve was contracted to provide planning, organizational, and financial expertise, among other essential services in 2009. The inaugural festival was held on September 4th and 5th, 2010 and exceeded expectations, with more than 15,000 in attendance.



Two Fraternities Welcome Students Back To School

On Monday, August 29, the brothers of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.—Phi Lambda Chapter were joined by the Capital City Alumni Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi to energetically welcome young scholars back to Bugg Magnet Elementary Center for Design & Computer Science on the first day of school.

"Because education is a foundational key for success, we are excited to encourage and support our youth as they return to school," said Brother Eddie Lambert, president of the Phi Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.

Lambert, a graduate of North Carolina State University, also stated that his chapter's presence at the school embodies the aims of its national "Go-to-High School, Go-to-College" program, established in 1922.

Bugg Elementary is a 2022 Magnet School of Distinction where students are engaged in learning that develops higher-order thinking skills and provides a foundational skillset designed to meet the ever-changing technological challenges in our society.

The school is led by principal Dr. Annice Williams. This was the sixth year that the Phi Lambda Chapter welcomed students back to the school.

About Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.—Phi Lambda Chapter The Phi Lambda Chapter was established in Raleigh on Dec. 19, 1926. The charter members were Brothers Max W. Aiken, Edward A. Cox, Brooks Dickens, Everett W. Johnson, Reginald L. Lynch, W.A. Robinson, C.G. Segar, Ben L. Taylor and Harold L. Trigg.

With its membership from a wide array of professions, the Chapter has made outstanding contributions to the vitality of the African-American citizens in Raleigh, Wake County, Johnston County and the State of North Carolina for nearly 96 years.

COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

COMEDY SHOW RAISING MONEY TO END HOMELESSNESS IN TRIANGLE

Newt Work Comedy, a Raleigh-based improv and sketch team, has partnered with Oak City Cares, a nonprofit organization supporting those facing homelessness in the Triangle, to raise money for those in the community.

On Wednesday, Sept. 14 at 8 p.m., Newt Work Comedy will host three comedy troupes at the Night Rider on 416 W South St. in Downtown Raleigh.

Tickets are priced at 'pay-what-you-can' with 100% of the proceeds supporting Oak City Cares. All attending must be 21 or older.

"We are extremely excited to put on a great show and hopefully raise a lot of money for such a great cause," says Mitchell Mulkey, a member of Newt Work Comedy. "It is not only amazing to make people laugh – but to know we are also helping our neighbors in need while doing so; it is just an indescribable feeling."

This event is the second charity show the comedy troupe has put on. Earlier this year, the group raised over \$175 for the LGBT Center of Raleigh.

"Our last charity show was a big hit, and we are excited to partner with another nonprofit and do it again," says Sean "Ickye" Delgado-Cruz, a member of Newt Work Comedy.

Oak City Cares, formerly known as the Oak City Outreach Center, is a hub for connecting individuals and families at risk of - or experiencing homelessness to coordinated services that have created a path to stable housing and renewed hope since 2014.

WAKEMED PROPOSES NEW PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITAL IN WAKE COUNTY

RALEIGH — WakeMed and WakeMed Behavioral Health Services LLC filed a certificate of need application with the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services to develop a new 150-bed psychiatric hospital — WakeMed Behavioral Health Center — in Knightdale.

The project is expected to cost \$137 million and would be completed in October 2026.

A public hearing for this project will be held Oct. 20 at 10 a.m. on the Dorothea Dix Campus, Brown Building-Room 104, 801 Biggs Drive in Raleigh.

Anyone may file written comments concerning this proposal. Comments must be received by the Healthcare Planning and Certificate of Need Section no later than 5 p.m. on Oct. 3.

Comments may be submitted as an attachment to an email if they are sent to DHSR.CON.Comments@dhhs.nc.gov. Comments may also be mailed to the following address:

Healthcare Planning and Certificate of Need Section
Division of Health Service Regulation
2704 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-2704

ROCKY MOUNT EVENT CENTER TO HOST SEASON'S LAST DOWNTOWN LIVE!

Rocky Mount, N.C. — This summer's final free Downtown Live! concert will be held in the Rocky Mount Event Center at 6 p.m. Thursday. The featured band is Jim Quick and Coastline.

The popular Downtown Live! concerts are typically held on the Imperial Centre lawn. City officials are moving the last show of the season across the street to the Rocky Mount Event Center so residents can get a first-hand look inside the region's premier entertainment and sports venue. As a bonus, the concert will take place in an air-conditioned setting with no concerns about a weather-related cancellation.

There will be free parking at the Event Center, which is located at 285 NE Main St. in downtown Rocky Mount. Concessions and a spacious area for dancing will be available during the show.

More than 2,000 people have enjoyed this season's Downtown Live! concerts, which resumed in May after a two-year hiatus caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Pulling from the threads of soul, blues, R&B, and Americana, Jim Quick and Coastline weave together their own genre of music known as Swamp Soul. They capture the true, honest spirit of traditions born and bred in small Southern towns.

Donate Blood During Sickle Cell Awareness Month

RALEIGH — During Sickle Cell Awareness Month in September, the American Red Cross emphasizes the importance of a diverse blood supply to help meet the needs of those with sickle cell disease — the most common inherited blood disorder in the U.S.

Sickle cell disease impacts more than 100,000 people across the country, most of whom are of African descent. Regular blood transfusions are critical to managing extreme pain and

life-threatening complications faced by many. Unfortunately, they may develop an immune response against blood from donors that is not closely matched to their own. However, because most individuals who are Black have unique structures on their red blood cells that are not often found in other donor populations, 1 in 3 African American blood donors is a match for people with sickle cell disease.

Seasonal changes can trigger pain crises for those battling

sickle cell — possibly increasing the need for lifesaving blood transfusions. As summer ends, book a time to give blood by using the Red Cross Blood Donor App, visiting RedCrossBlood.org or by calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767). As a thank-you, all who come to give through Sept. 18 will get an exclusive Red Cross T-shirt, while supplies last.

Sickle cell disease distorts soft, round red blood cells and turns them hard and crescent-

shaped, which can cause severe pain. "When cells harden, they can get caught in blood vessels, which may lead to pain crises, stroke and even organ failure," says Dr. Yvette Marie Miller, American Red Cross Executive Medical Officer, Donor and Client Support Center. "Transfusions provide healthy blood cells, unblocking blood vessels and delivering oxygen, minimizing crises and complications patients with sickle cell may face."



STEM Day Event At Raleigh's Roberts Park

On Saturday, July 23, the brothers of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.—Phi Lambda Chapter organized and implemented the chapter's first STEM DAY for children in grades 4-9 at Roberts Park in Southeast Raleigh.

The purpose of this event was to help youth and students with an interest in science, technology, engineering and mathematics ("STEM") enhance their knowledge. There were fun hands-on activities, products, informative displays, and presentations.

More than 160 students attended, surpassing Phi Lambda's initial attendance goal of 60.

During the event, kids and their parents engaged in various STEM activities which involved: learning about and constructing robots, watching demonstrations and receiving information about drone usage, and listening to insightful presentations about careers in STEM.

There were speakers from local law enforcement officials, Raleigh local educators, local universities, and private industry. Dr. Jessica Sutton, biopharmaceutical scientist with Cambrex Corporation, spoke about her personal academic journey and how it led her to a career in

STEM.

Elliot Smith, a special agent with the N.C. State Bureau of Investigation, spoke about how STEM is used in crime scene investigation. Mike Lewis, an education coordinator with the NC Museum of Natural Science, discussed the enjoyable components of natural science.

Local companies such as Credit Suisse and Red Hat highlighted STEM products and services that they offer and provided free giveaways.

After three hours of fun and learning, the day ended with door prizes that included items

such as science kits and calculators to ensure students continued to learn on their own time.

In explaining why STEM is important, Brother Calvin Mitchell, Robert's Park Community Center Director, said "Our goal is to ignite curiosity and stimulate the interests of young minority students in STEM as they prepare for middle and high school coursework and to foster their STEM-related academic and professional futures. We believe this event will support academic excellence and provide a service for the community."