

Business P. 3
 AgGrowCulture . P. 6
 Community P. 7
 Church..... P. 8
 Editorials..... P. 9
 Classifieds....P. 10,11

The Carolinian



N.C.'s Twice-Weekly African-American Newspaper

\$1.00



Dedicated to the Spirit
and Service of God

RALEIGH, N.C.

THURSDAY APRIL 6-APRIL 12, 2023

VOL. 83, NO. 23

Backing Into WWII: Russia And China



Think of two significant trend lines in the world today. One is the increasing ambition and activism of the two great revisionist powers, Russia and China. The other is the declining confidence, capacity, and will of the democratic world, and especially of the United States, to maintain the dominant position it has held in the international system since 1945. As those two lines move closer, as the declining will and capacity of the United States and its allies to maintain the present world order meet the increasing desire and capacity of the revisionist powers to change it, we will reach the moment at which the existing order collapses and the world descends into a phase of brutal anarchy, as it has three times in the past two centuries. The cost of that descent, in lives and treasure, in lost freedoms and lost hope, will be staggering. Americans tend to take the fundamental stability of the international order for granted, even while complaining about the burden the United States carries in preserving that stability. History shows that world orders do collapse, however, and when they do it is often unexpected, rapid, and violent. The late 18th century was the high point of the Enlightenment in Europe, before the continent fell suddenly into the abyss of the Napoleonic Wars. In the first decade of the

20th century, the world's smartest minds predicted an end to great-power conflict as revolutions in communication and transportation knit economies and people closer together. The most devastating war in history came four years later. The apparent calm of the postwar 1920s became the crisis-ridden 1930s and then another world war. Where exactly we are in this classic scenario today, how close the trend lines are to that intersection point is, as always, impossible to know. Are we three years away from a global crisis, or 15? That we are somewhere on that path, however, is unmistakable. China and Russia are classic revisionist powers. Although both have never enjoyed greater security from foreign powers than they do today—Russia from its traditional enemies to the west, China from its traditional enemy in the east—they are dissatisfied with the current global configuration of power. Both seek to restore the hegemonic dominance they once enjoyed in their respective regions. For China, that means dominance of East Asia, with countries like Japan, South Korea, and the nations of Southeast Asia both acquiescing to Beijing's will and acting in conformity with China's strategic, economic, and political preferences. That

includes American influence withdrawn to the eastern Pacific, behind the Hawaiian Islands. For Russia, it means hegemonic influence in Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia, which Moscow has traditionally regarded as either part of its empire or part of its sphere of influence. Both Beijing and Moscow seek to redress what they regard as an unfair distribution of power, influence, and honor in the U.S.-led postwar global order. As autocracies, both feel threatened by the dominant democratic powers in the international system and by the democracies on their borders. Both regard the United States as the principal obstacle to their ambitions, and therefore both seek to weaken the American-led international security order that stands in the way of their achieving what they regard as their rightful destinies. Until fairly recently, Russia and China have faced considerable, almost insuperable, obstacles in achieving their objectives. The chief obstacle has been the power and coherence of the international order itself and its principal promoter and defender. The American-led system of political and military alliances, especially in the two critical regions of Europe and East Asia, has presented China and Russia with what Dean Acheson

once referred to as "situations of strength" that have required them to pursue their ambitions cautiously and, since the end of the Cold War, to defer serious efforts to disrupt the international system. The system has checked their ambitions in both positive and negative ways. During the era of American primacy, China and Russia have participated in and for the most part been beneficiaries of the open international economic system the United States created and helps sustain; so long as that system functions, they have had more to gain by playing in it than by challenging and overturning it. The political and strategic aspects of the order, however, have worked to their detriment. The growth and vibrancy of democratic government in the two decades following the collapse of Soviet communism posed a continual threat to the ability of rulers in Beijing and Moscow to maintain control, and since the end of the Cold War they have regarded every advance of democratic institutions—especially the geographical advance of liberal democracies close to their borders—as an existential threat. That's for good reason: Autocratic powers since the days of Klemens von Metternich have always feared the contagion of liberalism. The mere existence of democracies

on their borders, the global free flow of information they cannot control, the dangerous connection between free market capitalism and political freedom—all pose a threat to rulers who depend on keeping restive forces in their own countries in check. The continual challenge to the legitimacy of their rule posed by the U.S.-supported democratic order has therefore naturally made them hostile both to that order and to the United States. But, until recently, a preponderance of domestic and international forces has dissuaded them from confronting the order directly. Chinese rulers have had to worry about what an unsuccessful confrontation with the United

States might do to their legitimacy at home. Even Putin has pushed only against open doors, as in Syria, where the United States responded passively to his probes. He has been more cautious when confronted by even marginal U.S. and European opposition, as in Ukraine. The greatest check on Chinese and Russian ambitions has been the military and economic power of the United States and its allies in Europe and Asia. China, although increasingly powerful, has had to contemplate facing the combined military and economic strength of the world's superpower and some very for-

(See WWII P. 2)



NORTH CAROLINA LAWMAKER SIGNALS PARTY SWITCH WITH BIG IMPACT

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP) — Speculation is rising in the North Carolina legislature that a Democrat is about to switch parties and give Republicans a complete veto-proof majority in the General Assembly, a move that could affect legislation on immigration, abortion and voting. The GOP scheduled a Wednesday news conference at party headquarters with Rep. Tricia Cotham of Mecklenburg County. House Speaker Tim Moore said Tuesday that Cotham and chamber leaders will "make a major announcement." If the Democrat does switch parties, it would be a major political setback for Democratic Gov. Roy Cooper and allies in their attempts to block conservative initiatives during the governor's final two years in office. It could make it easier for Republicans to enact bills that would force sheriffs to cooperate with federal immigration agents and prevent counting absentee ballots received after Election Day. The GOP is also debating if and how to place further restrictions on abortion. While Republicans already hold the 30 Senate seats needed to override vetoes, they have been one seat shy of a similar advantage in the House since the November elections. Cooper made preventing supermajorities his top campaign priority last fall. Cotham, a former teacher and assistant principal, served in the House for nearly 10 years through 2016 before returning in January. She sat at a new desk surrounded by Republicans on the House floor for the late Tuesday afternoon session. Staff members earlier took her belongings from her previous desk, which had adjoined those of other veteran House Democrats. Cotham left after the floor session ended without taking reporters' questions and didn't respond to a text message. Her Twitter account "liked" a post that welcomed her to the House GOP caucus. Moore declined comment Tuesday when asked whether Cotham was switching parties. Cotham's voter registration information on the State Board of Elections website late Tuesday listed her as a Democrat. Republicans have been advancing legislation this year that in previous years Cooper successfully vetoed. Until now, the governor has had enough Democratic votes to uphold vetoes if the party members showed up and voted together. Last week, the Legislature successfully overrode one of Cooper's vetoes for the first time since 2018 and approved a bill that in part eliminated the state's pistol permit purchase system. Cooper has stopped short of vetoing three other bills this year on topics that he vetoed in 2021. He didn't sign this year's measures, but rather allowed them to become law without his signature.

Wells Fargo Expanding Footprint In CLT

CHARLOTTE—On Wednesday, Wells Fargo formally kicked off plans to upgrade workspaces and create a better employee experience by breaking ground on a new parking deck and other renovations at the Customer Information Center (CIC) in northeast Charlotte. Wells Fargo is planning to spend upwards of \$500 million on improvements in the greater Charlotte region over the next five years. Senior leaders from Wells Fargo and elected officials, including Charlotte Mayor Vi Lyles and City Council Member Malcolm Graham, attended the special event. "The significant investment by Wells Fargo will not only have a direct, positive impact on their employees and facilities, but it will certainly have a ripple effect on our city and community," said Mayor Lyles. "This commitment is a win-win for Wells Fargo and Charlotte." Major investments and improvements will also be made to the workspaces and amenities in two buildings located in Uptown Charlotte. Wells Fargo is taking over space vacated by Duke En-



ergy at 550 South Tryon, which was formerly known as the Duke Energy Center, and by the end of this year expects to occupy 95% of the building. Plans include remodeling 21 floors, adding more space to meet and collaborate and upgrading food

options. Wells Fargo employees will also see the remodeling of 14 floors in Three Wells Fargo Center. The project will include refreshing the workspaces in most of the building over the next two-to-three years, which will create a more modern work environment. "Our employees told us they want a work environment that inspires them to come into the office," said Mary Mack, CEO of Consumer and Small Business Banking for Wells Fargo. "Bringing teams together and investing in a variety of modernized workspaces can help build a culture focused on customers, collaboration, strong risk management, innovation, and career progression. CIC, which is one of Wells Fargo's largest employee campuses with 2.1 million square feet and more than 10,000 employees, first opened in 1996. Upgrades will include more workspaces, new contact center space, a revamped food court, and the new parking deck. When complete, the modernized CIC campus will have 10 different food station options with food being made onsite from scratch and featuring healthy and plant-based options. In addition, employees will have access to more event space, a new picnic pavilion with sound system, pickleball court and a new volleyball court.

A Miscarriage of Justice, A Life In Prison—CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Bobby was always clowning around looking for a laugh from his siblings, cutting up a rag into a hat and wearing it on his head.

That's how David remembers Bobby: a class clown, someone who loved to laugh and sing and dance. His personality was magnetic. Their friends always wanted Bobby around, no matter what they were doing.

"If there weren't no Bobby, the fun wasn't there," David said.

The two brothers lived together at a house on Wilson Street in Plymouth when they were in their early 20s. Eventually, David got tired of smoking weed and getting high. He started trying to get his life together, going to

church and living with his pastor before moving to Virginia.

"But Bobby was still doing his thing, dancing around, smoking his weed, partying a little bit," David said. "He wasn't no trouble or nothing like that."

Bobby did get in trouble soon thereafter. David said Bobby and a woman in the neighborhood had been getting high together. The pair lived down the street from each other. In May of 1979, the two got into a fight. David said the woman bit a piece of Bobby's face off. Bobby then lit her back porch on fire while she and seven other people were in the house.

Authorities issued a warrant for his arrest that same day. A

judge appointed Busby to the case two days later.

Sentencing reforms come too late for Bobby

Seven days after Bobby lit the blaze, state legislators passed the Fair Sentencing Act, an attempt by then-Gov. James B. Hunt Jr. to make sentencing practices more equitable and predictable.

Before the bill, judges had broad discretion in sentencing in North Carolina, often meting out wildly different sentences for similar offenses. But with the Fair Sentencing Act, judges would be given a standard punishment term that they must impose, barring certain exceptions.

That new law only applied to

future crimes, and wouldn't go into effect for two more years, but it dramatically changed sentencing laws in North Carolina.

The reform abolished life sentences for first-degree arson. Instead, it split the crime into degrees; a person like Bobby, who didn't have any prior felony convictions, could spend up to 20 years in prison if they were convicted of Class C felony arson. But they also would get credit for good behavior, effectively cutting their sentence in half.

About a year into his sentence Bobby petitioned the court, challenging his imprisonment. He claimed that the "B.H.N." he signed on the line beside the min-

imum sentence stood for "Bible Heaven Nation." He wrote that Busby had told him that after he had served one year of his life sentence, he would be sent to the Bible Heaven Nation rehabilitative program for a year and then get paroled.

Superior Court Judge Frank R. Brown denied the petition without holding a hearing.

Busby told NC Newsline the allegations from the 1980 petition were false.

"I'll go with Bobby as long as I can go with him and help him, but I believe one of the reasons Judge Brown denied his motion was because he pushed the envelope too far," Busby said. "If I did

something wrong, I hope that I can admit it, but when they start making up stuff, that's where I have to draw the line."

In Central Prison, a family reunion

The years passed, and Bobby grew older as others came and left prison, serving decades' less time for the same conviction.

One of the people who came and went was Bobby's younger brother Carnell. Bobby and Carnell laid eyes on each other sometime in the early 1980s, when Carnell spent three years at Central Prison, the same place as Bobby.

Bobby left prison on Dec. 19, 2022.

SUPPORT SMALL & LOCAL BUSINESSES

Small and local businesses are what make communities strong. When you spend your money with these companies, those dollars stay here. Your dollar circulates in the community so much longer when you buy local. These business owners are your neighbors, your friends and a big part of the financial backbone of our communities.

We Only Build Garages and Out-Buildings

Carolina Custom Builders

Stu Daugherty
Owner

Visit us at the:
HOME IMPROVEMENT CENTER

4905 Departure Dr.
Raleigh, N.C. 27616
(919) 790-1234
FAX (919) 790-1010
www.carolinacustombuilders.com
carolinacustom@hotmail.com

Steven L. Lyons Funeral Home

"Trust ~ Service ~ Compassion"

1515 New Bern Avenue
Raleigh, NC 27610
stevenlyonsfuneralhome.com
(919)831-2596 Phone



Abe Jones
Attorney at Law

3401 Wendell Boulevard
Wendell, N.C. 27591

919-817-2714 (office) 919-817-2711 (cell)
legalaffairs@abejoneslaw.com
Fax: 919-366-6770

LAW OFFICES OF ABE JONES




Accident & Injury Law

BECTION

THE BECTON LAW GROUP, PLLC

Automobile Accidents • Truck & Motorcycle Accidents
Wrongful Death • Slip and Falls
Real Estate Loan Closings




Elwood Becton Marcus Becton Debbasta Becton Rozier Taurus Becton

919.856.0414 www.bectonlaw.com

Get Your Free Market Report

What is your home really worth?



JAMESBROWNJR.COM
real estate, your best investment

Contact me today for a free market report: 919-832-1814 ext. 305


Royall's Classic BARBERSHOP

"Where you get Treated like Royalty"

142 N. Center St.
Goldsboro, North Carolina 27530

MR. PERCY ROYALL, III • OWNER

SUNDAY & MONDAY - CLOSED
TUES - FRI: 8 AM - 5 PM - Saturday: 8 PM - 3 PM
Closed for Lunch: 12:00PM - 2:00 PM



Love Unique
Greeting Cards & Gifts?
You'll Love Our
Mystery Story Book Greeting Card

You could **WIN**
A SET of E&C Greeting Cards
(Made of Fabric & Paper)

VISIT
www.dees-designs.com

On-line Shopping
Charlottesville, VA

Thank you for supporting us

Lea Funeral Home

2500 Poole Road
Raleigh, NC 27610
(919) 231-1000

"Professional Service With Personal Care"

Call or Visit Us. We also offer Cremation Services & Pre-need Arrangements.
You can reserve Our State-of-the-Art Banquet Facilities for your next event



Jack's Seafood & Soul Food

LOCALLY OWNED SINCE 1976

Two Locations

1516 New Bern Ave Raleigh, NC 27610 919-755-1551

5416 Rock Quarry Rd Raleigh, NC 27610 919-329-8125



LORI'S FUNERAL HOME

Excellent Service, Affordable, Dynamic Presentation, Personalization!
(Over 4,000 sq. feet, 2 chapels, 5 Viewing Parlors and so much more.)

1014 Garner Road • Raleigh, NC 27601
(919) 832-0636

"Raleigh's Only Female Owned Funeral Home"



RBR | Physical Therapy, LLC

revive. boost. rebuild.

"Call us today, start your journey to recovery!"

RBR PT Specializes in:

- *Functional assessments
- *Strength training
- *Modalities for pain
- *Balance/Stability training
- *Flexibility/Mobility training
- *Home exercise programs

(No physician's referral to get started)
1300 Corporation Pkwy, ste. B
Raleigh, NC 27610
919-917-7729 (office)
919-400-4178
www.rbrpt.com



\$1.00 OFF

any take-out or dine-in combo order. Must present coupon at time of purchase.

offer exp 4/06/2023

Health & Wellness

Saying That A Drug Is Natural, Doesn't Mean That It Is Safe

By Dr. Joy Martinez

Staff Writer

Individuals often self-medicate or condone the use of a tree, plant, or its derivative because it's "natural." However, natural does not equal harmless. Indeed, nearly half of all human pharmaceuticals and addictive, abused recreational drugs now in use were originally derived from natural sources. This is why we punish and imprison people who use meth for years, yet medicate our children with the similar drug Ritalin.

Amphetamines, and more potent methamphetamines, are derived from a shrubby evergreen plant called Ma Huang or ephedra sinica. Ma Huang was the first herbal stimulant banned by the FDA. It certainly is not the last. Over the last decade the FDA has identified over 750 herbal remedies, natural supplements, and "organic" brands that had hidden pharmaceuticals in them. Some laced with the bark of the beautiful willow tree.

This is perhaps the most famous example of a tree being used in medicine. Aspirin evolved from a compound found in the bark and leaves of the willow tree. Hippocrates, considered the father of medicine, used to recommend chewing the bark to reduce fevers and inflammation in his patients, around 300 B.C. The compound was later marketed by Bayer in 1899. One hundred years later, there were at least 120 distinct chemical substances derived from plants and trees considered important drugs in use in one or more countries in the world.

But these drugs, these pharmaceuticals are regulated in part because they are dangerous if misused or abused. Again, natural does not mean harmless. Consider



the original formula for globally loved Coca-Cola. Touted as a natural healing and nerve tonic, the once alcoholic drink was mixed with a bit of cocaine, kola nut, and damiana (a flowering shrub that has anti-anxiety and aphrodisiac qualities). When science found cocaine could be harmful, Coca-Cola scientists did all they could to remove it from the drink, and by 1903 the fluid extract of the cocoa leaf was completely removed.

Root beer and sarsaparilla drinks in the U.S. used to have actual sassafras oil in them for flavor. This ended when the chemical in the oil, safrole, was identified as a carcinogenic and banned as a flavoring agent by the U.S. FDA.

Naturally-occurring sassafras oil contains approximately 80 percent safrole. Though safrole is prohibited from inclusion in food products, it is used in the production of insecticides and fragrance and is a key ingredient in the manufacture of ecstasy.

Should ecstasy be considered safe simply because it has a naturally occurring ingredient?

Opiates are all naturally occurring. Morphine is just one of the

many opiates that come from the colorful opium poppy. The poppy is sliced while still in bud form, and the milky fluid that bleeds out is dried, becoming raw opium. Heroin, the powerful and quickly absorbed form of morphine was created by English researcher C.R. Wright in 1874 when he boiled morphine and acetic anhydride together on his stove.

The chemist was experimenting

with morphine, combining it with various acids, hoping to discover a nonaddictive alternative to the medicine and soon discovered a more potent version of morphine. Following Wright's discovery, the drug was marketed as an analgesic and a cough sedative in 1888. It wasn't until 1913 that its addictive qualities were officially discovered and heroin was taken off the market.

The benefits of morphine when used correctly and safely are invaluable. However, there are other natural beauties that can be fatal and are used in every day treatment plans. Scientists identified anticancer compounds in the rosy periwinkle, from which pharmaceutical heavyweight Eli Lilly subsequently produced the chemotherapy drug Oncovin. In Italy the rosy periwinkle was traditionally referred to as the "Flower of Death" due to its extreme toxicity. It is extremely poisonous, and though it is used in Ayurvedic and "folk" medicine - consumption can be fatal.

Recently the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) sent out warnings about the emerging threat from new psychoactive substances (NPS), which are mostly derived or modified from the constituents of natural origin.

Five common NPS of natural origin are, khat, kratom, salvia, magic mushrooms and mandrake. In the market, NPS go by terms such as "designer drugs," "re-

search chemicals," "legal highs," "herbal highs" and "bath salts." The CDC reported kratom—a plant grown in Southeast Asia and sold in powder capsules—was a cause of death in 91 overdoses in the U.S. from July 2016 to December 2017. In 2019 there were 91 deaths again that were attributed to kratom. Often marketed as a herbal or dietary supplement, kratom interacts with opioid receptors in the brain to ease pain and produce sedation and pleasure (sound familiar?).

There is a general feeling that natural substances are "safe." Nature has been benevolent to humanity; medicine and healthcare are inextricably linked to it. But one must wonder how many lives must be sacrificed? How many deaths have to occur before we allow patience and wisdom, science and knowledge, their opportunity before we put nature in a capsule and market it as the new cure-all?

Don't forget that in 2021 America set a record of over 106,000 deaths by overdose. Natural or not, drugs kill.

Pandemic Pounds Push 10k Soldiers Into Obesity



After gaining 30 pounds during the COVID-19 pandemic, U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Daniel Murillo is finally getting back into fighting shape.

Early pandemic lockdowns, endless hours on his laptop and heightened stress led Murillo, 27, to reach for cookies and chips in the barracks at Fort Bragg in North Carolina. Gyms were closed, organized exercise was out and Murillo's motivation to work out on his own was low.

"I could notice it," said Murillo, who is 5 feet, 5 inches tall and weighed as much as 192 pounds. "The uniform was tighter."

Murillo wasn't the only service member dealing with extra weight. New research found that obesity in the U.S. military surged during the pandemic. In the Army alone, nearly 10,000 active duty soldiers developed obesity between February 2019 and June 2021, pushing the rate to nearly a quarter of the troops studied. Increases were seen in the U.S. Navy and the Marines, too.

"The Army and the other services need to focus on how to bring the forces back to fitness," said Tracey Perez Koehlmoos, director of the Center for Health Services Research at the Uniformed Services University in Bethesda, Maryland, who led the research.

Overweight and obese troops are more likely to be injured and less likely to endure the physical demands of their profession. The military loses more than 650,000 workdays each year because of extra weight and obesity-related health costs exceed \$1.5 billion annually for current and former service members and their families, federal research shows.

More recent data won't be available until later this year, said Koehlmoos. But there's no sign that the trend is ending, underscoring longstanding concerns about the readiness of America's fighting forces.

Military leaders have been warning about the impact of obesity on the U.S. military for more than a decade, but the lingering pandemic effects highlight the need for urgent action, said retired Marine Corps Brigadier General Stephen Cheney, who co-authored a recent report on the problem.

"The numbers have not gotten better," Cheney said in a November webinar held by the American Security Project, a nonprofit think tank. "They are just getting worse and worse and worse."

In fiscal year 2022, the Army failed to make its recruiting goal for the first time, falling short by 15,000 recruits, or a quarter of the requirement. That's largely because three-quarters of Americans aged 17 to 24 are not eligible for military service for several reasons, including extra weight. Being overweight is the biggest individual disqualifier, affecting more than 1 in 10 potential recruits, according to the report.

"It is devastating. We have a dramatic national security problem," Cheney said.

Extra weight can make it difficult for service members to meet core fitness requirements, which differ depending on the military branch. In the Army, for instance, if soldiers can't pass the Army Combat Fitness Test, a recently updated measure of ability, it could result in probation or end their military careers.

Koehlmoos and her team analyzed medical records for all active duty Army soldiers in the Military Health System Data Repository, a comprehensive archive. They looked at two periods: before the pandemic, from February 2019 to January 2020, and during the crisis, from September 2020 to June 2021. They excluded soldiers without complete records in both periods and those who were pregnant in the year before or during the study.

Of the cohort of nearly 200,000 soldiers who remained, the researchers found that nearly 27% who were healthy before the pandemic became overweight. And nearly 16% of those who were previously overweight became obese. Before the pandemic, about 18% of the soldiers were obese; by 2021, it grew to 23%.

FOOD LION MVP customer

Committed to saving you more

Learn more at [foodlion.com/save](https://www.foodlion.com/save)

HOT SALE!

PRICED LOW EVERY DAY

COUPONS

SHOP & EARN MONTHLY REWARDS

Our BRANDS

Ag-Grow-Culture

The Most Profitable Chronicle For Farmers In Farm History

By Jason Lindsay

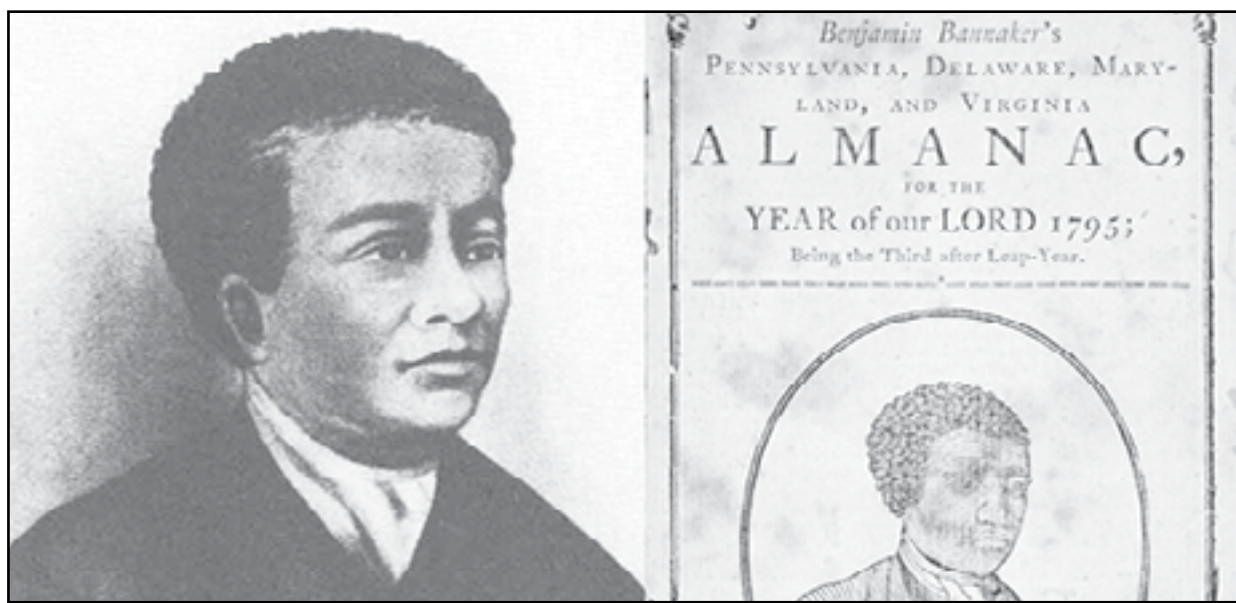
Staff Writer

The Farmer's Almanac served as a staple within farm disciplines on American farms long before the "American Great Depression" or the "Great Migration" of black folks from the south to the north. This is due to one reason and one reason only; it worked with an 80 - 85 percent accuracy rate even in the weather.

My grandfather planted his livelihood from the instructions of this manual, along with so many other farmers across the nation, yet the influence didn't stop there. It also enlightened the farmers of the sea (fishermen), as the almanac lays out predictions of high and low tides of the ocean on a day-to-day base.

It was the late 1700s when one of the first almanacs was published in the United States. One of the earliest almanacs was by a black man named Benjamin Banneker. You may remember him regarding the clock which he was the first in America to construct a functional clock made almost completely out of wood. And yes, this is the same Benjamin Banneker that critically aided the design of the nation's capital as an architect, which made Banneker the first black presidential appointee in the United States.

Born and raised on his family's 100-acre farm, which he later



inherited just outside of Baltimore city, Banneker was a mathematician, astronomer, architect, and almanac author. In 1791 Banneker published: "Benjamin Banneker's Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, and Virginia's Almanac and Ephemeris," giving America its first almanacs in almost half a century.

At the end of 1791, Banneker sent a copy of his 1792 almanac addition attached with a letter to Thomas Jefferson, who was serving as Secretary of State. In this letter, Banneker publicly condemned slavery as an "endemic prejudice," calling it a "cruel oppression." In 1793, self-taught Banneker would accurately predict several eclipses. Benjamin

Banneker published his almanac for 11 years (1791-1802) with around 60 publications of his six annual farmers' almanac.

Almanacs use exclusive mathematical and astronomical recipes that consider sunspot activity, planetary positioning, and tidal actions. It encompasses solar science by observing sunspots and other solar activities, meteorology by studying the atmosphere, and climatology, through understanding weather patterns.

The almanac doesn't stop there. It uses the zodiac calendar to predict the rise and set of the sun and moon, understand the positioning of the planet, schedule high and low tides, and dissecting the phases of the moon.

And moon phases have been a farmers' planting indicator for centuries.

The "Old Farmers' Almanac" is America's most extended continuous periodical publication. Starting just a year after Benjamin Banneker's Almanac, the Old Farmers' Almanac breaks down the phases of the moon month by month (astronomy) and corresponds to the best time for planting, pruning, harvesting, plowing, and many other necessary farm or gardening practices (astrology).

While working with elder black farmers (early '70s to mid '80s) in southern Georgia near the Florida-Georgia line, I learned that for generations, farmers

have grown with the moon using the farmers' almanac as their guide.

One farmer explained that in the waxing moon (new moon to full moon), they would plant crops like tomatoes, squash, corn, and even annual flowers like sunflowers. The almanac would categorize these as "above-ground" crops. He continued to explain that during the waning moon (full moon to a new moon), they planted "below ground" crops like peanuts, potatoes, carrots, and onions.

The Old Farmers' Almanac would go on to explain that the moon directly affects the growth of plants. Just as the moon pulls on the waters of the oceans, it also pulls on the water in the ground. During a new moon, when the moon isn't visible in the night sky, moisture levels are found to be lower, yet when the moon is full, it pulls the groundwater to the surface.

This natural phenomenon makes the full moon more than the ideal time for planting seeds. With the increased moisture level brought on by the full moon, seeds quickly expand and are early to set their roots and establish the plant. This planting process also averages much higher germination rates.

The almanac's corresponding relationship with the moon continues with associated zodiac signs. While the solar calendar passes through all twelve signs in a calendar year, the moon can

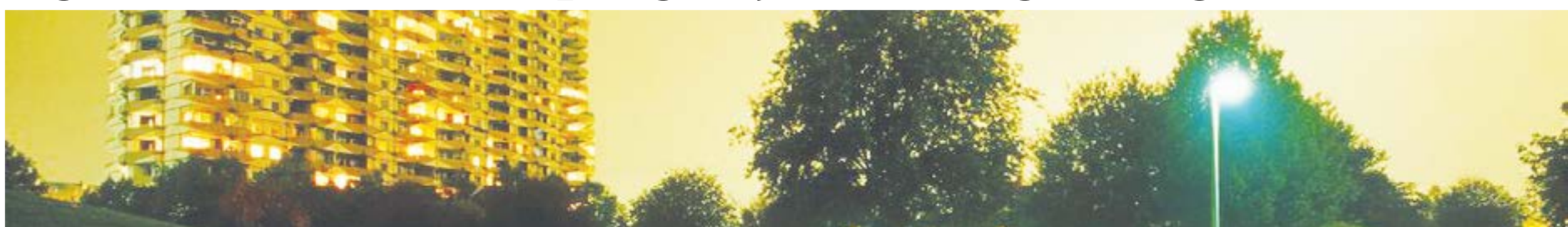
pass through all twelve signs in a calendar month. The almanac corresponds these days to a specific task, "Old Farmer's Almanac" call them "best days."

It is on these days that the almanac specifies what farm or garden task would serve you best. For example, when the moon is in the sign of Aries, Leo, or Sagittarius, it is the best time for pruning trees. Whether you are trimming new cuttings from a fig tree or simply cutting down low-hanging branches, the farmers' almanac predicts that your plants will respond best to pruning during these astrological durations.

When the moon is in the sign of Cancer, Scorpio, Pisces, or Taurus, the almanac shows this to be the best time for planting, transplanting, and grafting. For plowing, cultivating, or spraying pests, the moon in Aries, Sagittarius, Leo, Aquarius, and Gemini would be the best time.

It is only one type of thing that earns the right to stay on the farm, and that's the things that serve a purpose. The purpose which the farmer's almanac has fulfilled on the American farm has been a purpose that has earned its stay. By laying out the pattern of our environment, farmers, fishermen, hunters, and many others have been able to rely on the almanac for peak efficiency. And the almanac simply chronicles the order of our agrarian affairs by mapping the natural world around us.

Light Pollution Is Disrupting Rhythms, Lengthening Pollen Season



THECONVERSATION—City lights that blaze all night are profoundly disrupting urban plants' phenology - shifting when their buds open in the spring and when their leaves change colors and drop in the fall. New research I coauthored shows how nighttime lights are lengthening the growing season in cities, which can affect everything from allergies to local economies.

In our study, my colleagues and I analyzed trees and shrubs at about 3,000 sites in U.S. cities to see how they responded under different lighting conditions over a five-year period. Plants use the natural day-night cycle as a signal of seasonal change along with temperature.

We found that artificial light alone advanced the date that leaf buds broke in the spring by an average of about nine days compared to sites without nighttime lights. The timing of the fall color change in leaves was more complex, but the leaf change was still delayed on average by nearly six days across the lower 48 states. In general, we found that the more intense the light

was, the greater the difference.

We also projected the future influence of nighttime lights for five U.S. cities - Minneapolis, Chicago, Washington, Atlanta and Houston - based on different scenarios for future global warming and up to a 1% annual increase in nighttime light intensity. We found that increasing nighttime light would likely continue to shift the start of the season earlier, though its influence on the fall color change timing was more complex.

Why it matters This kind of shift in plants' biological clocks has important implications for the economic, climate, health and ecological services that urban plants provide.

On the positive side, longer growing seasons could allow urban farms to be active over longer periods of time. Plants could also provide shade to cool neighborhoods earlier in spring and later in fall as global temperatures rise.

But changes to the growing season could also increase plants' vulnerability to spring frost damage. And it can create

a mismatch with the timing of other organisms, such as pollinators, that some urban plants rely on.

A longer active season for urban plants also suggests an earlier and longer pollen season, which can exacerbate asthma and other breathing problems. A study in Maryland found a 17% increase in hospitalizations for asthma in years when plants bloomed very early.

What still isn't known How the fall color timing will change going forward as night lighting increases and temperatures rise is less clear. Temperature and artificial light together influence the fall color in a complex way, and our projections suggested that the delay of coloring date due to climate warming might stop midcentury and possibly reverse because of artificial light. This will require more research.

How urban artificial light will change in the future also remains to be seen.

One study found that urban light at night had increased by about 1.8% per year worldwide from 2012-2016. However, many

cities and states are trying to reduce light pollution, including requiring shields to control where the light goes and shifting to LED street lights, which use less energy and have less of an effect on plants than traditional streetlights with longer wavelengths.

Urban plants' phenology may also be influenced by other factors, such as carbon dioxide and soil moisture. Additionally, the faster increase of temperature at night compared to the daytime could lead to different day-night temperature patterns, which might affect plant phenology in complex ways.

Understanding these interactions between plants and artificial light and temperature will help scientists predict changes in plant processes under a changing climate. Cities are already serving as natural laboratories.

\$1 Billion To Help Farmers Invest In Renewable Energy

WASHINGTON - U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Secretary Tom Vilsack today announced that USDA is accepting applications starting on April 1 for \$1 billion in grants to help agricultural producers and rural small businesses invest in renewable energy systems and make energy-efficiency improvements. USDA is making the \$1 billion in grants available under the Rural Energy for America Program (REAP), with funding from President Biden's landmark Inflation Reduction Act, the nation's largest-ever investment in combatting the climate crisis.

"Supporting renewable energy and energy-saving systems helps the people of rural America create thriving, livable communities," Vilsack said. "When we invest in rural communities, we are supporting hard work that sends a ripple effect across our country. Clean energy is critical to the future of our economy, and the Inflation Reduction Act provides the Biden-Harris Administration with the resources to build a more prosperous rural America

while tackling the climate crisis and lowering energy costs."

Recipients may use REAP funds to install renewable energy systems or to make energy-efficiency improvements. Eligible applicants include rural small businesses and agricultural producers. USDA will hold competitions quarterly through Sept. 30, 2024. The funding will also include the creation of the first underutilized technology fund in the REAP program, with \$144.5 million available in dedicated funding.

USDA is particularly interested in REAP projects that will help rural communities recover economically through more and better market opportunities and improved infrastructure, reduce climate pollution and increase resilience to the impacts of climate change, conserve and protect farmland, and invest in underserved communities. The program is part of the Biden-Harris Administration's Justice40 Initiative, which aims to ensure that 40% of the overall benefits of certain Federal investments flow to disadvantaged communities that are marginal-

ized, underserved and overburdened by pollution.

To ensure that small projects have a fair opportunity to compete for the funding, USDA will set aside at least 20% of the available funds until June 30 of each year for grant requests of \$20,000 or less, including the grant portion of a combined grant and guaranteed loan request.

The maximum federal share which may be requested is up to 50% of the total project cost for all energy-efficiency projects and zero-emissions renewable energy systems. An award of up to 50% of the total project cost is also available for any project in a designated energy community and/or submitted by an eligible tribal entity. All other projects are eligible to apply for grants of up to 25% of the total project cost. The maximum grant is \$1 million for renewable energy systems and \$500,000 for energy-efficiency projects.

For additional information on application deadlines and submission details, see page 19239 of the March 31 Federal Register.

I Read The Carolinian For...



Inspirational Direction



Generational Knowledge



A Solid Foundation



Cultural Awareness



Community Events



Job Opportunities



SUBSCRIBE TODAY

- Yes, I Want A 1 Year Subscription For \$45.00
- Yes, I Want A 2 Year Subscription For \$75.00

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____

EMAIL _____



Make checks payable to The Carolinian Newspaper
Mail your subscription form and payment to PO Box 25308 Raleigh, NC 27611

Community

This Is The 1st Moon Crew In 50 Years

NASA on Monday named the four astronauts who will fly around the moon late next year, including the first woman and the first African American assigned to a lunar mission.

The first moon crew in 50 years — three Americans and one Canadian — was introduced during a ceremony in Houston, home to the nation's astronauts as well as Mission Control.

"This is humanity's crew," said NASA Administrator Bill Nelson.

The four astronauts will be the first to fly NASA's Orion capsule, launching atop a Space Launch System rocket from Kennedy Space Center no earlier than late 2024. They will not land or even go into lunar orbit, but rather fly around the moon and head straight back to Earth, a prelude to a lunar landing by two others a year later.

The mission's commander, Reid Wiseman, will be joined by Victor Glover, an African American naval aviator; Christina Koch, who holds the world record for the longest spaceflight by a woman; and Canada's Jeremy Hansen, a former fighter pilot and the crew's lone space rookie. Wiseman, Glover and Koch have all lived on the International Space Station. All four are in their 40s.

"This is a big day. We have a lot to celebrate and it's so much more than the four names that have been announced," Glover



said. This is the first moon crew to include someone from outside the U.S. — and the first crew in NASA's new moon program named Artemis after the twin sister of mythology's Apollo. Late last year, an empty Orion capsule flew to the moon and back in a long-awaited dress rehearsal.

"Am I excited? Absolutely," Koch said to cheers from the crowd of schoolchildren, politicians and others. "But my real question is: 'Are you excited?'" she said to more cheers.

The Canadian Space Agency snagged a seat because of its contributions of big robotic arms on NASA's space shuttles and the space station. One is also

planned for the moon project.

Hansen said he's grateful that Canada is included in the flight.

"We are going to the moon together. Let's go!" he said.

During Apollo, NASA sent 24 astronauts to the moon from 1968 through 1972. Twelve of them landed. All were military-trained male test pilots except for Apollo 17's Harrison Schmitt, a geologist who closed out that moonlanding era alongside the late Gene Cernan.

Provided this next 10-day moonshot goes well, NASA aims to land two astronauts on the moon by 2025 or so.

NASA picked from 41 active astronauts for its first Artemis crew. Canada had four candidates. Almost all of them took part in Monday's ceremony at Johnson Space Center's Ellington Field, a pep rally of sorts that ended with Wiseman leading the crowd in a chant.

Congratulations streamed in from retired astronauts, including Apollo 11's Buzz Aldrin and Scott Kelly, the first American to spend close to a year in space. "Huge risks, huge commitment, eternal benefits for all. What a crew!" tweeted Chris Hadfield, the first Canadian commander of the space station a decade ago who performed David Bowie's "Space Oddity" from orbit.



Raleigh Chapter Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc. supports the Urban Ministries of Wake County Helen Wright Center for Women, a safe and supportive environment for women experiencing homelessness. Approximately 250 items of clothing, linen, toiletries, and supplies were donated to the Center on March 29, 2023

Costume Designer Ruth E. Carter Exhibitions At NCMA

Beginning April 1 through August 6, 2023, the North Carolina Museum of Art (NCMA) will host an exhibition celebrating the accomplishments of an African American artist, Ruth E. Carter: Afrofuturism in Costume Design. This exhibition of 60 garments presents intricately designed costumes from popular movies, including Amistad, Do the Right Thing, Malcolm X, Selma, and Black Panther. Hence, the exhibition dives into the Academy Award winner's research, process, and incredible craft. For almost 40 years, her art continuously adds dimensionality, flair,

and culture to the characters she envisions, all while giving power to the incredible actors who wear her designs.

Valerie Hillings, museum director, shared her sentiments on having Carter's designs displayed.

"We are excited to present these two exhibitions highlighting the work of these trailblazing artists. Ruth E. Carter's influence cannot be understated, and it is fortuitous that we can share with our visitors her iconic work near the release of her latest project, the costumes for Black Panther: Wakanda Forever; seeing her artistry go from the big screen to

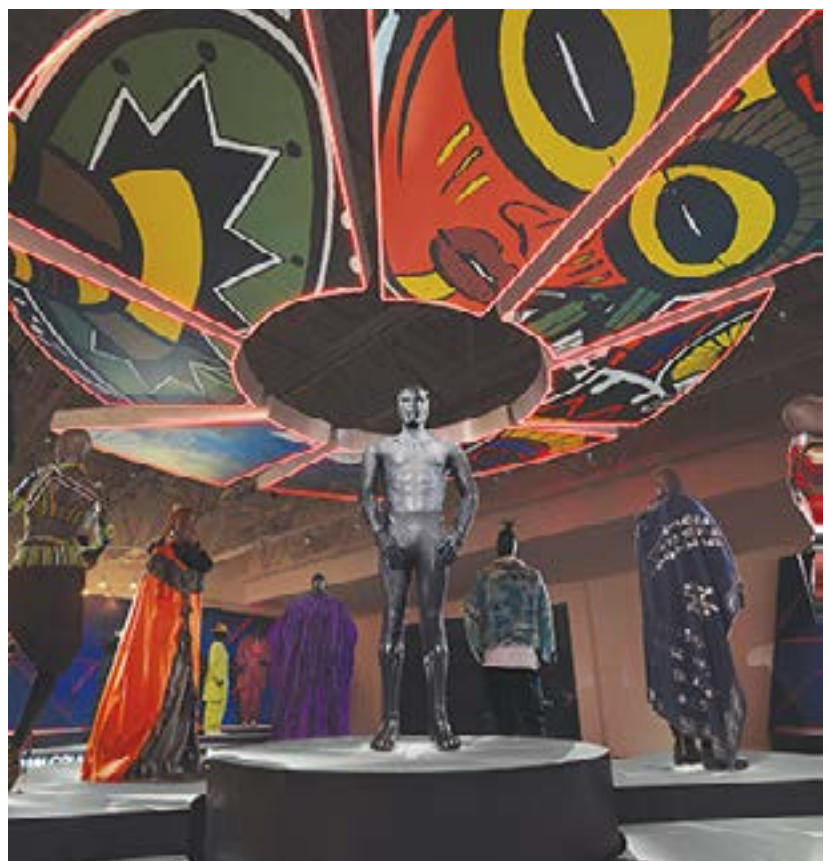
the museum galleries."

As an Academy Award-winning costume designer, Ruth E. Carter has dressed film and TV actors in ways that have defined generations. Throughout her art, Carter adamantly focuses on the Afrofuturism movement which is a cultural aesthetic, philosophy of science, and history that explores the intersection of the African diaspora culture with science and technology.

"The first time I did this exhibition I was in tears. Each one of these films represents a lot of heart, soul and dedication to the craft, said Ruth Carter. I think it speaks to all of us who become the matriarch of our families. We endure systemic racism, sexism and being in the workplace and only one of color. It's important for families to know when their sons and daughters want to pursue a career in arts, it's actually a profession."

Furthermore, last Thursday, March 30, Saint Augustine's University's students from Visual Arts, Theater, and Film programs visited the NC Museum of Art to preview the exhibition. Ms. Carter toured SAU creatives through the exhibition. For half an hour, Carter shared highlights from her career with students, as well as insights into her design process. When asked how it felt to be the only African American woman to win two Academy Awards, she responded, "winning the awards assures that my designs, especially my designs for Black Panther and Black Panther: Wakanda Forever, will have longevity and inspire future generations."

The Museum is located at 2110 Blue Ridge Road and Carter's exhibition tickets range from \$17 to \$23 and can be purchased online at ncartmuseum.org. Discounts are available for college students, seniors and military.



Ruth E. Carter, Costumes for Black Panther (2018); Photo: Courtesy of Colin Gray and SCAD FASH Museum

Symposium On The Harms Of Confederate Monuments

Confederate monuments are not relics of the past. They inflict continuing harm today. On Thursday, April 13, 2023, 10:00am-4:00pm NC CRED will be hosting Undue Harm: Undoing the Legacy of Confederate Monuments, a symposium focused on helping people understand the harm confederate monuments cause and why they need to be removed. Undue Harm will center these harms as the key reason for monument removal. Participants will leave with the inspiration and skills needed to take action.

This event will be hosted at Shaw University, the founding location of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC).

"Confederate monuments are not simply relics to the past, slightly embarrassing for those of us who understand their inten-

tion. Their presence continues to cause mental anguish, create fear, and perpetuate racial injustice. All of us must own this truth and work for restitution by removing these monuments," said Rev. Dr. Jennifer Copeland, Executive Director North Carolina Council of Churches, representative of the Symposium Planning Committee.

The ongoing national conversation about Confederate monuments often focuses on history, on the intent of those who erected the monuments and their disputed meaning today. Too rarely do we discuss the harm these symbols inflict on Black Americans every day. Undue Harm will highlight these harms from multiple perspectives in order to underscore not only the urgency of eradicating these symbols of white supremacy but also the

need to address the immense harm they have inflicted.

"The confederate monuments across our state are more than symbols of white supremacy and racist ideology, they are powerful statements about the perceived values of a community. When the confederate monument erected more than a century ago to honor one of my white ancestors was finally removed, it was a significant step toward healing. Now, perhaps more than ever before, we need the guidance and hope this symposium will offer as we continue to do this vital work of repair," said Noel Nickle, North Carolina Coalition for Alternatives to the Death Penalty, representative of the Symposium Planning Committee.

To register, and for more information, please visit www.nccred.org

Liberation Station Bookstore

RALEIGH — Children's book author and pop-up bookstore owner Victoria Scott-Miller is opening a brick-and-mortar location of the nationally-known Liberation Station Bookstore in downtown Raleigh this summer.

This Black-owned, family-led independent bookstore was inspired by her family's struggle to find children's books by Black authors or Black illustrators that featured characters of color. That experience led Scott-Miller, her husband, Duane Miller, and her sons, Langston and Emerson, to start Liberation Station Bookstore in 2019 as a pop-up shop specializing in children's literature that centers on Black children and families. Their efforts garnered national attention from "Good Morning America," CNN, The Washington Post, Oprah Magazine and other news outlets.

Scott-Miller, an award-winning Raleigh-based entrepreneur, documentary filmmaker, author and creator of "The Museum Lives in Me" book series, is now opening a permanent location for the bookstore on the second floor of 208 Fayetteville St. (The Original



Victoria Scott-Miller and her husband, Duane Miller, and sons, Emerson and Langston. Credit: Mick Schulte

Selfie Museum is in the basement of the same building.) The bookstore will join a cluster of black-owned businesses near Raleigh's historic Black Main Street. A grand opening celebration is set for June 17, 2023 during the city's Juneteenth festivities.

"This is our love letter to the city of Raleigh," Scott-Miller said. "It's time to plant ourselves.

When I think about our work, I think about a tree. We've done all this work. We've had all this reach but it's been from the top down. We haven't been able to physically plant ourselves. Now we get to create a unique cultural hub that is a community-centered, community-driven space for self-discovery and the activation of our work."

Science/Sustainability • Technology/Transportation
Engineering/Environment • Arts/Accountability • Math/Mental Health!

WITH OUR POWERS COMBINED, WE BRING YOU

STEAM DAY²

APRIL 22 2023

Come participate in interactive sessions from robotics to coding, free food, live music and so much more!

10:00 AM to 1:30 PM

Robert's Park Community Center

Logos: Raleigh, Empower All, Triangle Transportation Choices, STEMEDIA, The Daniel Center, etc.

Editorials

Editorial Policy

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

A FEW FACTS ABOUT THE AFRICANS WHO FOUGHT IN THE CIVIL WAR
By H. E. Wesley

Special To The Carolinian

"In his novel 1984, George Orwell coined the word "unperson" for individuals whom the regime wanted to be forgotten. His parable about the Ministry of Truth and its—memory hole—for the disposal of unwanted fact, has been simplistically supposed to apply only to a totalitarian society. Unfortunately, it can also apply to a democracy. (Americans have found that) (the) presentation of an altered view of the past made the injustice of the present seem more acceptable."

General after general admitted that if it were not for African-American troops the war would have certainly been prolonged or not won at all by the Union. Secretary of War Stanton wrote that "the hardest fighting of all was done by the Black troops." Yet with all the evidence that the Civil War was won by the Black troops, why were they consigned to America's Memory Hole?

I think that the real answer is that both the South and the North were intolerably embarrassed. There would have had to be an agreement made between the South and North to keep the heroics of a half a million participants in the war out of America's school textbooks for four generations, out of 60,000 books on the Civil War, out of 125 films by Hollywood and television—not a mention made, not a battle of Black participation out of 449 battles fought by our fathers.

The embarrassment? The North was embarrassed because IT WAS FORCED BY ITS IMMINENT LOSING OF THE WAR IN 1862 TO HAVE TO CALL BLACK TROOPS FOR HELP. THEN LINCOLN HAD TO APOLOGIZE PUBLICLY WHEN THE HEROICS AND VALOR OF BLACK TROOPS MADE HIM EAT HIS WORDS THAT THE REBELS WOULD HAVE THE BLACK SOLDIERS' GUNS IN A FORTNIGHT. THEY WERE EMBARRASSED BY THE FACT THAT OUR FOREFATHERS FOUGHT SO VALIANTLY, WINNING 21 CONGRESSIONAL MEDALS OF HONOR. 36,847 DIED ACCORDING TO THE WAR DEPT.

The number dying and according to Dr. McPherson, 31,000 men, was a big sacrifice of blood. Perhaps these are reasons why the North refused to allow little Black kids and little white kids learn the true story of the Civil War. I can understand the embarrassment of the South. To really understand that feeling, you must understand that for 200 years the South had used every method known to man to turn our fathers into frightened, servile zombies, and had actually believed that they had, Perfected Uncle Toms. When lo and behold, the Rebels found themselves being whipped even when in superior numbers by their now non-pretending former captives. Then, of all things, the proud and Rebel-revered and worshipped General Lee being chased for miles by Black troops, it much too humiliating to allow future generations of white children to this horror. It was equally unpolitic to allow future generation of African-Americans to know this. To know this they would feel proud of their race and that is not good for control. So both the South and the North had to much embarrassment to allow the TRUTH to interfere with power.

The myth that President Lincoln freed Black people stands now stripped and naked, revealed in all its baseness and lies. As we have witnessed here our fathers, the African-American servicemen paid with a river of their blood for their physical freedom, but not only that, saved the Union."

For the full story see The Journey of Songhai People: Pan African Federation Organization—by Calvin R. Robinson

Now the Rest of the Story

Think of the severe psychological damage done to four generations who grew up without the pride of knowing that their fathers saved the U. S. from disintegrating. (21 years of northern schooling, and I never heard of it). So not only were we denied the birthright of that knowledge to push us to our full potential, but the larger society grew up despising us not only from a programmed belief of our biological inferiority but despising us because they believed we contributed nothing to the World nor to America.

While Black Americans won their own freedom by rescuing the beaten and demoralized white troops of the North, we are pragmatic enough to realize that this little episode of ours cannot change the commonly held belief that Lincoln freed us. But in the harbor of New York, on Ellis Island there stands a monument today, which we hope will constantly remind all Americans of what was buried in America's Memory Hole. And that fact is that the Statue of Liberty is in the harbor of New York because Black servicemen won the Civil War and freed us African-Americans from the long night of physical bondage.

Dr. Jim Haskins, a member of the National Education Advisory Committee of the Liberty-Ellis Island Committee, professor of English at the University of Florida, and prolific Black author, points documentarily to what stimulated the original idea for that 151-foot statue in the harbor. He says that what stimulated the idea for the creation of the statue in the first place was the part of that Black soldiers played in the ending of African slavery in the United States. It WAS created in the mind of the French historian Edourd de Laboulaye, chairman of the French Antislavery Society who, together with sculptor Frederic Auguste Bartholdi proposed to the French government that the people of France present to the people of the United States through the American Abolitionist Society the gift of a Statue of Liberty in recognition of the end of slavery in the United States. It was widely known then that it was the Black soldier who played the pivotal role in winning the war, and this gift would be a tribute to their prowess. Suzanne Nakasian, director of the Statue of Liberty. Ellis Island Foundation's National Ethnic Campaign, said that the Black American's direct connection to Lady Liberty is unknown to the majority of Americans, Black or white.

During the summer of 1956, a nationwide celebration of the Statue of Liberty took place in the United States, and was widely televised over ABC Network as the world watched the ABC production. The ABC production coincided with the big-business financing of the renovation of the century-old Statue. The whole celebration had to do with the landing of European immigrants in America, their feelings, their emotional ties to the Lady in the Harbor, how they felt, and what it meant to them. No mention was made to our knowledge about the real reason for the Statue of Liberty, the celebration of the winning of the war by Black soldiers. News reporters had the audacity to ask Black Americans how they felt about the celebration. I was called and asked. I told the reporter (MY NAME IS LISTED) the history of the statue. Not one word that I saw, or any of my colleagues saw recorded what I had told the reporter. It seems incongruous, that ABC with all of its international connections, with all of its resources could have overlooked this history that is recorded in all of the reference books.

The World Book Encyclopedia mentions that the statue was presented to the U.S. government because of the end of slavery in the United States but it states, "At the feet, but seldom seen, is a broken shackle. It symbolizes a people winning their liberty..." When I quoted that, I asked my questioner, what people in the United States had just won their liberty? Certainly it was a bit late for such a monument to be presented for congratulations for the United States for their winning their liberty from Britain a whole century before. "It symbolizes a people winning their liberty." Who is the "their" people? It was the Black American.

When the statute was presented to the U.S. Minister to France in 1884, it is said that he remonstrated that the dominant view of the broken shackles would be offensive to a United States South, because since the statue was a reminder of Blacks winning their freedom it was a reminder to a beaten South of the ones who caused their defeat: their despised former captives.

This Black connection is never mentioned in the history books. That story, too, is buried in America's Memory Hole. Oddly however, the American Committee's White Statue of Liberty has been gradually turning Black: a chemical transformation that baffles everyone."

PROOF OR DOCUMENTS

1. You may go and see the original model of the Statue of Liberty, with the broken chains at her feet and in her left hand. (W to The Museum of the City of New York, Fifth Avenue and 103rd Street (212-534-1672).

2. Check with the N.Y. Times magazine, Part II, May 18, 1986. Read the article by Laboulaye.

3. The dark original face of the Statue of Liberty can be seen in The New York Post, June 17, 1956, also the Post stated the reason for the broken chains at her feet.

4. Finally you may check with the French Mission at the U.N. and ask for some original French material on the Statue of Liberty, including the Bartholdi original model.

America's cover-up of our fathers' role in winning the Civil War makes the Watergate cover-up pale into historical insignificance. But until that and other important truths about Black Americans are widely and dramatically revealed, America can never live out its golden creed of Liberty and Justice for all. It cannot climb to either world human rights leadership or world industrial leadership with hatred and scorn of so large a population as our race with its corrupted history festering in its loins. But corrupted history, like a festering sore can be healed in the bright sunlight of Truth.



CELEBRATION TIME .. COME ON

By the time you read this article for this week, those of us who are Christians, will have celebrated the fifth day of Holy Week, and Muslims will have celebrated the fifteenth day of Ramadan. During Holy Week approaching Easter, or as some call it "Resurrection Sunday", Jesus would have entered Jerusalem, freed the sacrificial animals, and cleansed the temple with a whip; taught at the temple, named his betrayer, had The Last Supper, and washed the disciples feet. This year, Maundy Thursday falls on the sixth of April. The word Maundy is derived from the Latin word mandatum, which means commandment. It is suggested that it refers to Jesus's commandment to the disciples to "love one another as I have loved you."

Ramadan is the ninth month in the Islamic year. It is a month of strict daytime fasting and prayer. It commemorates the month in which Allah (the Arabic word for God) revealed the Qur'an to the Prophet Muhammed by way of the angel Gabriel. This is one of the most Holy and important months around the Muslim world. It is meaningful to me that these holidays come together at the same time this year. Wonder if it also is synonymous with the aligning of the planets that can be seen in the night sky?

Just sharing... celebrants...enjoy.

What I really want to share is the experience I had on Friday night. I was the recipient of joy, unspeakable joy, when The Winston-Salem Rams Chorale presented me a concert at First Baptist Church. It was a joint effort by First Baptist and State Street Community Church. The pastor at State Street is Bishop Daryl Clark and Rev. David Dolby is the interim pastor at First Baptist. Paul Lawrence Dunbar has a phrase in his poem "The Party" that is applicable here: 'I can't tell you nothing about it, you ought to see it for yourself'. Dunbar then commences to describe, just as I will. Actually I was remiss I wish I called everybody to spread the word. Of course it was so well attended, if you would have come I suspect it would have been standing room only. You know, sometimes we do not know what we have missed until we experience it again. Such was my experience Friday night.

As a child of a segregated education, one of the gifts of that time was the Chorus Concert, Chorale or Glee Club presentations at least twice a year. A full course meal of the music the spawned John Massenburg, Robert Fryson and The Voices Supreme, Randy Baymore, the entire Ed Hall family, the Edwards sisters and Jimmy and the Ray Sisters, and more. What talent we witnessed in those days. As a matter of fact, a part of the J.H. Ligon graduation celebration was the talent shows each class presented for the community. This experience Friday night for me was a trip back into those days. This chorale is on its way to Carnegie Hall and stopping along the way to bless local churches with the gift of their voices. I am amazed at their talent. There was a young man who sang with a falsetto voice that was magnificently anointed and harmony from the choir that sounded as I imagine the heavenly choirs will sound. I hope this will become an annual affair that more churches will sponsor. I also pray that people like John Massenburg and his sister Cheryl will use their skills to develop a community choir. I just want more experiences like this. I know we have our gospel choir reunions and I love them as well. The chorales, however, tell stories and are not just the experience of one particular song at the time.

This particular chorale presentation focused on Jeremiah "the weeping prophet" and inspired me to go back and read again the book of Jeremiah with a new and different flashlight on the interpretation of some of its passages. I cannot say enough. It was great.

How do I connect the two themes of Easter and Ramadan and The Rams Chorale? For me it is all about celebrations in whatever way we choose we ought to be able to find something in some way to celebrate life; the past, the present and getting ready for celebrations in the future. So let's change the world into a more hopeful place than we are now experiencing. Let's do it not by complaining, judging and attempting to control others. Let us all find something to celebrate and start bringing light to the world today.



FROM \$25 TO MILLIONS OF DOLLARS

Part two of an interview with philanthropist Tiffany Futch. Tiffany Futch has grown from a community volunteer to a woman with a history of raising millions of dollars. She wasn't born a philanthropist and fearless fundraiser: she became one. She shares her story to inspire you.

"Today, I'll ask anyone for money without second guessing. Now I know that it's less about the ask and more about sharing the difference a nonprofit is making. Fundraising is not always sitting across the table from someone and asking for money. I've fundraised by inviting friends and family to events, for my own mission trips through online campaigns, and even by

selling southern-style sausage and cheeseballs for a work challenge. I've helped raised as little as \$25 up to millions and I consider each a success."

Of course some successes are bigger than others. "I was the board chair of CHOICES: Memphis Center for Reproductive Health when we closed out our multi-million dollar capital campaign for a new birthing center. I had to push through a lot personally during that time and I was overjoyed to see the building completed. I knew it was a part of so many people's legacies and it was going to improve the birthing experience of families in Memphis for generations to come. I purposely drive by the building on my way home from work and I want to cry every time I think about what we accomplished."

Tiffany is part of a long legacy of Black women philanthropists and fundraisers. "Every year, there's an article with the headline that Black women are leading in philanthropic efforts and I want to say 'Duh!' I remember all the examples of Black women who I saw volunteering in my school, donating to sports team fundraisers, and establishing endowments through my sorority. My mom was always involved in fundraisers at my school. I've always been surrounded by Black women giving back. I just wish that we were more visible in the media so that younger generations can see."

Tiffany shares her suggestions for how to get started. "Start with what you can and don't worry about if it's not as much as others. All of those drops in a bucket eventually create overflow! Each year, review how much you gave the previous year and challenge yourself to adjust your lifestyle so you give at least 1% more. I currently give 10% of my annual income to non-profits through planned giving through small changes that make a big difference. Also, don't do it alone. Share your passion for giving with your friends, coworkers, church members, or anyone who will listen. Share how you're making adjustments in your lifestyle, using your resources, or creating more streams of income so that you can be more philanthropic. You never know who you will inspire to start or deepen their philanthropic journey. And don't forget to submit for your company match when can easily double your impact. Keep the cycle going because there's a younger you that benefited from a Black woman philanthropist."



BEYOND THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

It happened again.

This time, the mass school shooting was at the Covenant School in Nashville, Tennessee. The victims were custodian Michael Hill, principal Katherine Koonce, substitute teacher Cynthia Peak, and nine-year-old third graders Evelyn Dieckhaus, William Kinney, and Hallie Scruggs. Hallie was the daughter of the senior pastor at Covenant Presbyterian Church, the congregation where the private pre-K through sixth grade school was located. Once again, a place of worship and elementary school that should have been sanctuaries were instead reminders that there are no safe havens from guns in our nation. And once again, the shooter was armed with a handgun and two assault-style rifles. As Newsweek reported, "one of the weapons used appears to be a KelTec SUB2000 Carbine Rifle, a foldable semi-automatic weapon that the manufacturer describes as 'fun to shoot.'" The KelTec website went on: "Folded, it tucks away nicely in situations where space is limited, but it's quick to deploy in situations where time is of the essence."

Why does our nation continue to allow weapons of war that have no business in civilian hands to be manufactured, marketed, and mass distributed as fun to shoot, convenient ways of killing our children?

Soon after the shooting Rep. Andy Ogles, the Republican member of Congress who represents the Nashville community where the shooting happened, said in a statement that as a father of three he was "utterly heartbroken by this senseless act of violence." But others were quick to reshare the Christmas message Rep. Ogles posted to social media in 2021 that featured a photo of him, his wife, and two of their three children smiling and holding rifles as they posed in front of a Christmas tree. His caption read: "The very atmosphere of firearms anywhere and everywhere restrains evil influence—they deserve a place of honor with all that's good." And so in that family picture, guns were given their place of honor alongside the symbols of the good of Christmas.

Rep. Ogles is just one of a group of elected officials who have made a deliberate show of displaying themselves and their children in Christmas cards that glorify guns along with the birth of Christ. Meanwhile, as many of those same officials once again offered their thoughts and prayers, another Republican Tennessee Congressman, lifetime NRA member Tim Burchett, was singled out for candidly explaining what he thought they would do next in our nation that stands alone as the only industrialized nation where gun violence is the leading cause of death for children and teenagers: "It's a horrible, horrible situation. And we're not gonna fix it." When a reporter followed up to ask Rep. Burchett if he thought there was any role Congress could play, he answered, "I don't see any real role that we could do other than mess things up." When another reporter asked specifically what else could be done to protect other children like his own little girl and keep them safe at school, he replied that his child was homeschooled.

In his opening prayer in the Capitol the day after the shooting, Senate Chaplain Retired Rear Admiral Barry C. Black gave a rare, pointed, powerful plea on behalf of our nation's leaders that stands as a prayer from all of us:

Eternal God, we stand in awe of You.

Lord, when babies die at a church school, it is time for us to move beyond thoughts and prayers.

Sports

Woods And His Limp Back At Masters, But For How Long?

AUGUSTA, Ga. (AP) — Tiger Woods is back at the Masters, along with his slight limp. It is not every step, every minute. But it is there. And as much hardware as he has in his mended right leg, the limp figures to be with him for as long as he

plays the sport he once dominated.

As for how long he keeps playing Augusta National? That's a little harder to foresee.

Woods conceded that each trip to the Masters — at his age (47) and with surgeries on both legs

and his back over the last decade — makes him wonder if it's going to be the last one.

"I don't know how many more I have in me," Woods said Tuesday.

This will be his 25th time playing the Masters, and Woods still is surprised there was a 24th. He was still recovering last year from crashing his car off a suburban Los Angeles road at over 85 mph, crushing bones in his right leg so badly he said doctors contemplated amputation.

"I didn't know if I was going to play again at that time," Woods said. "For some reason, everything kind of came together and I pushed it a little bit and I was able to make the cut, which was nice."

Woods has an enormous presence at Augusta National because of his impact on the game, not to mention the five green jackets he has won, the last one in 2019. A year ago, the internet lit up with aviation tracking sites that followed his flight plan to the club for a pre-Masters scouting report.

And yet now he gives this Masters a sense of normalcy.

Golf has been consumed with the great divide between the establishment and Saudi-funded LIV Golf, which has 18 players at the Masters who are suspended from playing regular PGA Tour events. There is speculation how players on both sides will get along.

And then there is Woods at the Masters. Azaleas and dogwoods are in bloom. Thousands follow him in practice rounds. And Thursday will bring a familiar refrain from the first tee: "Fore please, Tiger Woods driving."

From there, no one is sure what to expect, Woods included.

"He looks good," said Rory McIlroy, who played Monday with Woods, 63-year-old Fred Couples and 20-year-old Tom Kim. "You know, if he didn't have to walk up these hills and have all of that, I'd say he'd be one of the favorites. He's got all of the shots. It's just that physical limitation of walking 72 holes, especially on a golf course as hilly as this."

Woods has matured, through time and too many surgeries,



from the relentless champion to a guardian willing to pass along some of the local knowledge he picked up as a younger man from Couples and Raymond Floyd, from Seve Ballesteros and Jose Maria Olazabal.

He still wants to compete. There would be no point in staying after the Masters Club dinner Tuesday night if that were not the case. And he still thinks he can find a little magic.

He has said everywhere he has played over the last year — a total of 11 rounds in four tournaments, one of them a 36-hole exhibition in a cart with his son — that hitting shots isn't the problem. It's getting to the next one.

"Yeah, mobility, it's not where I would like it," Woods said. "I've said to you guys before, I'm very lucky to have this leg — it's mine. Yes, it has been altered and there's some hardware in there, but it's still mine. It has been tough and will always be tough. The ability and endurance of what my leg will do going forward will never be the same. I

understand that.

"That's why I can't prepare and play as many tournaments as I like, but that's my future, and that's OK. I'm OK with that."

Woods found a small victory in just playing last year, and making the cut was a bonus. He has never missed the cut at the Masters as a pro, and that streak is on the line again. Then again, he showed up at Riviera in February for his first PGA Tour event in seven months and played all four rounds.

"I think my game is better than it was last year at this particular time," he said. "I think my endurance is better. But it aches a little bit more than it did last year just because at that particular time when I came back, I really had not pushed it that often. And I had a little window in which I did push it and was able to come back."

"I just have to be cognizant of how much I can push it," he said. "Like Rory was saying, I can hit a lot of shots but the difficulty for me is going to be the walking forward. I wish it could be

easier."

So why bother showing up?

Woods long has said there's no point in showing up if he didn't think he could win. He teased with a 67 in the third round at Riviera. The shots are still in there. And he knows Augusta National better than any championship course he plays.

He pointed to Couples, who swings freely and walks casually, and still can hold his own. Couples shares the record with Gary Player for most consecutive cuts made at the Masters with 23. Woods can tie them if he makes it to the weekend.

Woods was asked if he felt the younger players to whom he passes along some of his knowledge perceive him as any kind of a threat. In his 13 PGA Tour events since he won his record-breaking 82nd title on the PGA Tour, his best finish is a tie for ninth. That was before the car crash.

"Whether I'm a threat to them or not, who knows?" he said. "People probably didn't think I was a threat in 2019, either, but kind of turned out OK."



North Carolina FC's Garrett McLaughlin (19) attempts the shot on goal against Lexington's Franky Martinez (33) in the first half of their game in Cary, N.C. at WakeMed Soccer Park on Saturday. North Carolina FC went on to win 2-1. *Steve Worthy Photo*

Atlantic

Tire & Service

Proudly Serving the Triangle as your Local Auto Repair Shop

since 1998

Schedule an appointment online today! | www.atlantictireonline.com

Hours: M-F 7:30 a.m. - 6 p.m. Sat 7:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.

\$5 Off
OIL CHANGE

FREE
TIRE ROTATION AND ALIGNMENT CHECK

MICHELIN

We carry Michelin.
Premier® A/S



1380 NW Maynard Road
Cary 919.319.1614

5412 South Miami Boulevard
Durham 919.941.0712

3001 Wakefield Crossing Drive
Raleigh 919.234.0738

360 Ashville Avenue
Cary 919.803.6159