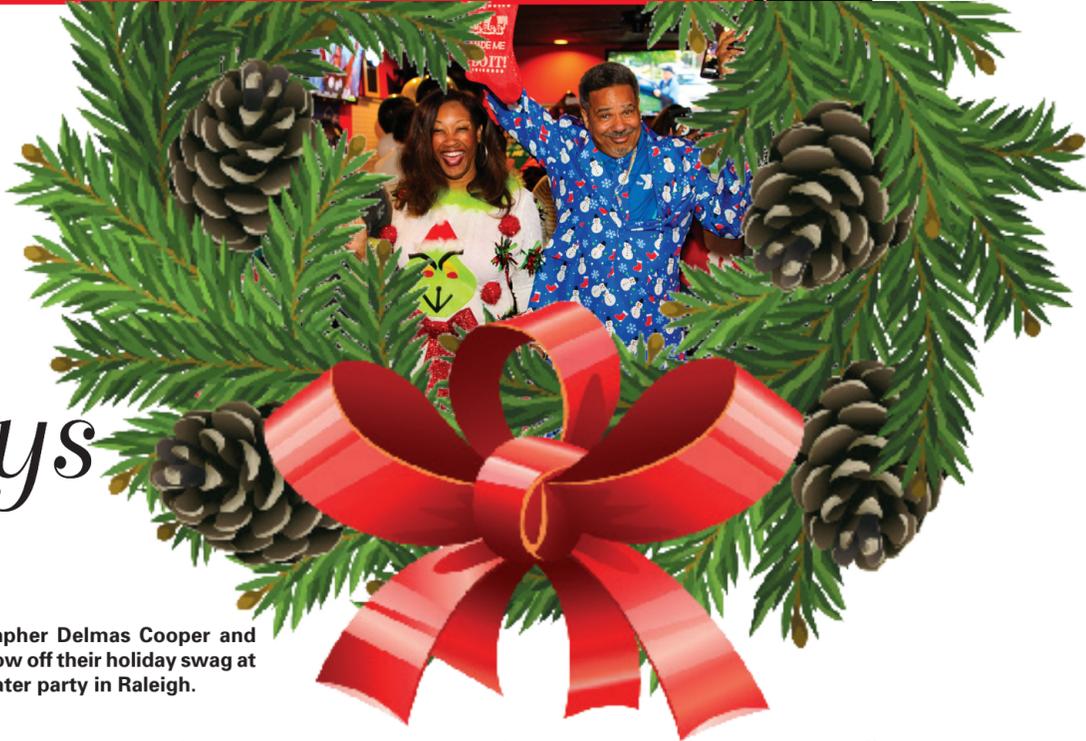




## We Wish You A Merry Christmas & Happy Holidays



Carolinian photographer Delmas Cooper and Melissa Edwards show off their holiday swag at an annual ugly sweater party in Raleigh.



### REPORT: LOW-INCOME NC WORKERS WOULD BENEFIT FROM EITC

One in eight North Carolina workers earns poverty-level wages, and a new report says a state Earned Income Tax Credit could help these families pay for food, childcare and housing.

Eligible North Carolinians already receive an average of \$2,500 a year in federal Earned Income Tax Credits. Heba Atwa, policy advocate at the Budget & Tax Center at the North Carolina Justice Center, points out that a state credit—set at 20 percent of the federal credit—would mean an extra \$500 annually for working families.

“That’s especially important in a state like North Carolina, where we have a high rate of working poverty,” says Atwa. “So, it’s important to note that the EITC, again, is for workers.”

Twenty-nine states along with Puerto Rico and Washington, D.C., all have implemented Earned Income Tax Credits. The report also notes nationwide, 60 percent of all EITC dollars are claimed by single mothers.

Atwa points out that North Carolina used to have a state EITC—but it was eliminated when lawmakers made significant changes to the tax system five years ago.

“North Carolina actually is the only state to have ever done away with the EITC,” says Atwa. “We had a state-level EITC from 2008 until 2014.”

Twenty-four percent of the state’s households with children are considered low-income and working. Atwa says research shows even a slight income boost from a tax credit has been linked to measures like improved newborn birth weight and maternal health—in families where a little more economic security is a big plus.

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



## Booze It & Lose It

DURHAM—While the end of the year brings about the merriment of the holiday season, it also brings out impaired drivers.

In an effort to remove drunk drivers from North Carolina roadways, the Governor’s Highway Safety Program teams up with law enforcement around the state to kick off the annual Holiday “Booze It & Lose It” Campaign.

During the campaign, which lasts from December 16 until January 5, law enforcement will hold enhanced patrols across all 100 counties to catch and educate impaired drivers.

This year’s statewide kickoff event was held at Diamond View Park in Durham with the support of Mayor Steve Schewel, Durham County District Attorney Satana Deberry, Durham County Sheriff Clarence F. Birkhead, officials from the Durham Police Department and Mothers Against Drunk Driving.

Among the dignitaries was one of the most powerful voices in the campaign against drunk driving, Ms. Nichole Hutchinson, a nationally recognized voice in the fight.

“On September 13, 1996, my little sister Darcie was killed by a three-time drunk driving offender,” Hutchinson said.

“It’s all about choices. You make the right choices and what they should be. Is it a choice to have a sober designated driver, is it a choice to call a ride share? I’m asking everyone to make the safe choice,” Hutchinson said.

“When you have a plan in place your odds of getting home safer are that much greater,” Hutchinson concluded.

“The holiday season is one of the deadliest on North Carolina roadways with impaired driving being one of the main causes,” said Mark Ezzell, Director of the NC Governor’s Highway Safety Program.

## He’s More Than Just The Mayor Of Apex

If you have an opportunity to meet with the new mayor of Apex, you will probably feel his energy before you see his face.

Jacques Gilbert is not your typical politician. As a matter of fact, before he ran for mayor he wasn’t a politician at all, he was a captain in the Apex Police Department.

When he granted *The Carolinian* an interview he could hardly make it to his office to speak with us because everyone in the Town Hall wanted to say good morning and shake his hand. He seemed more like a celebrity than a newly elected mayor.

Affectionately known to many as “Cap,” Gilbert has been impacting lives in his hometown for 30 years. Perhaps that is the reason he is such a popular person.

It could also be the reason he won the top seat in the town with no prior political experience.

Mayor Gilbert sat down with

*The Carolinian*, just nine days into his new role, to share his excitement and vision for Apex.

“I am a man of faith. I believe

God has called me to do this and I’m going to carry out the mission,” Gilbert says.

Gilbert has watched the Town of Apex grow from a population of 3,000 to just short of 62,000 currently.

“This town is attractive to a lot of folks. They moved to the Town of Apex because we got that ranking in 2015 as ‘The No. 1 Best Place To Live In America.’ With that we have a lot of people trying to get in the door, and rooftops are going up everyday. I think we have 23 people per day moving to Apex.”

Apex is not immune to the growing pains of other cities in the Triangle. There are infrastructure challenges that come

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



## NCCU Jazz Ensemble To Perform At Lincoln Ctr.

DURHAM—The North Carolina Central University (NCCU) Jazz Ensemble will perform at Lincoln Center in New York City during the debut of the Jack Rudin Jazz Championship, a two-day invitational band competition.

The event, which takes place on Jan. 18-19, 2020, will feature sets from 10 ensembles chosen from among prominent university jazz programs in the country. NCCU is the only historically black college and university (HBCU) represented. The Jack Rudin competition is expected to become an annual event.

“This as a great honor and opportunity to participate in Inaugural Rudin Jazz Collegiate Jazz Competition,” said Ira Wiggins, Ph.D., director of NCCU Jazz Studies Program. “As educators and musicians, we strive to provide our students with quality education and hands-on experiences while maintaining the integrity of jazz.”

Honoring the legacy of Jack Rudin, a longtime supporter of Jazz at Lincoln Center, the competition will provide participants with quality musical literature and a forum for celebrating their achievements, while instilling higher education methodology and philosophy to the Jazz at Lincoln Center programs.

“This will be the greatest collection of young jazz talent in recent history,” said Todd Stoll, Jazz at Lincoln Center’s vice president of education. “These 10 bands represent the highest level of achievement in our music by young people.”

The two-day invitational competition will include a combo showcase and a final concert featuring the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra in Rose Theater.

“It’s not just about winning, but the significance of being recognized among nationally acclaimed Jazz Programs,” Wiggins adds.

The ensembles will also participate in rehearsals, workshops and competition at Lincoln Center’s Rose Theater. The final competition will feature performances by the top three bands, followed by an awards ceremony and announcement of the winner of top honors.

NCCU was the first university in the state to offer the Bachelor of Music degree in jazz studies.

The program now includes a comprehensive vocal jazz component and offers a Master of Music in both jazz composition and jazz performance.

Alumni from the Jazz Studies Program include professors at the college and university levels, teachers of primary and secondary music education, as well as production and performance artists.



Children across North Carolina on Saturday had an opportunity to go out and Shop With A Cop. The program was started in 2011 by the Roseville, CA police department. Since then law enforcement offices across the country have adopted the program. The Shop With A Cop program is operated by a group of volunteers who solicit donations from the community and local businesses, identify and select children to reward. Beyond the ability to buy necessities, and some cool things as well, the children get an opportunity to spend time with law enforcement. To build strong communities we must first build strong bonds, and this program is an example of how its done.

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## STATE BRIEFS

Continued from page 1

"That can really be a win and a lifesaver for working families with children," says Atwa.

According to the report, these types of tax credits also have been correlated with a decrease in deaths by suicide.

## NCDOT LAUNCHES 2020 NORTH CAROLINA AVIATION ART CONTEST

The N.C. Department of Transportation is again bringing together art and aviation, as the agency hosts the 2019 North Carolina Aviation Art Contest.

This year's theme is "Flying Yesterday and Tomorrow."

All students who live in and/or attend school in North Carolina and were born between Jan. 1, 2002 and Dec. 31, 2013 are encouraged to participate by submitting their own artwork.

Prizes for the top three works will be awarded to the artist and the artist's school in three age groups: junior (ages 6-9), intermediate (10-13), and senior (13-17). The top three entries in each age group will also be forwarded to Washington, D.C., to be judged in the National Aviation Art Contest. National winners' artwork will go on to the Fédération Aéronautique Internationale's headquarters in Switzerland for international judging.

As added incentive, the North Carolina Museum of Art will be exhibiting works from the winning students for the first time.

Last year, 2,793 North Carolina students submitted artwork, more than any other state. Two of last year's state winners also claimed top prizes at the national competition.

Submissions must be postmarked no later than Jan. 17. Artwork and a certificate of authenticity should be mailed to:

NCDOT Aviation Art Contest  
NC Division of Aviation  
1560 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, NC 27699-1560

More information about the 2020 North Carolina Aviation Art Contest can be found on the Division of Aviation's website.

## OPPONENTS OF PROPOSED QUARRY IN WAKE COUNTY APPEAL COURT RULING

A local group opposed to the construction of a rock quarry adjacent to Umstead State Park in Wake County is appealing a Superior Court's decision.

The judge ruled that the Raleigh-Durham Airport Authority was within its bounds to grant Wake Stone Corp. rights to mine on airport land.

Jan Spooner, who chairs The Umstead Coalition, says the quarry is a threat to public land.

"There's a proposed rock mine to be 400 feet deep, next to William B. Umstead State Park, one of our most visited state parks, on public lands that are owned by four local governments and deeded to the four local governments, and managed by the RD Airport Authority," she points out.

In addition to the Umstead Coalition, the plaintiffs appealing the court's ruling include the mountain biking organization Triangle Off-Road Cyclists, as well as private landowners.

Spooner says destroying the heavily forested area situated near the park would irreversibly affect Umstead's delicate ecosystem. She adds that conservationists will keep fighting.

"To protect the sensitive watershed of Crabtree Creek, which is in the Neuse River Basin, and also to add mountain bike trails for William B. Umstead State Park," she stresses.

Spooner says the outcome of the legal battle could have statewide ripple effects.

"Think of the precedent of the private destruction of our public lands, with a private rock mine and for a use that could never be reclaimed for public purposes," she states.

Umstead State Park includes a 50-acre tract of old growth beech trees and is home to a multitude of wildlife species and plants native to North Carolina.

## JUDGE REVOKES COAL-ASH FILL PERMITS FOR CHATHAM, LEE COUNTIES

A judge in Raleigh has revoked permits that would have allowed coal ash to be dumped at mine sites in Chatham and Lee counties, saying the permits were improperly issued.

The state Department of Environmental Quality gave permits in 2015 to waste-management companies Green Meadow and Charah LLC. Environmental groups first filed the lawsuit after the companies were given the green light to use coal ash from Duke Energy to fill in sites that had never been mined.

Theresa Vick, a community organizer for the Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League, called the court ruling a win for public health.

"I think it's very significant," she said, "not only for folks in Chatham and Lee counties, but for the rest of the state."

Vick said local residents had expressed concern that coal ash— with pollutants that include arsenic, lead and radium—would contaminate groundwater. She said contaminants have been detected above Environmental Protection Agency limits in ground and surface water in Chatham County. The companies have 30 days to appeal the court's decision.

## Mayor Of Apex—CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

with rapid growth. Gilbert says that by increasing communication between the town's government and the citizens the growing pains can be handled gracefully and without great complication. Gilbert is committed to the

ideal that, "the Town of Apex is a name. Behind that name are people."

One of his priorities is affordable housing. Gilbert understands that there have been many people pushed out of Apex because of a

lack of affordable housing. That knowledge doesn't sit well with him.

Gilbert is born and raised in Apex. That is a great rarity in many Triangle towns these days. His stake in the community may

be higher than some others simply because of his roots.

The goal for Mayor Gilbert's tenure is to make sure that Apex is welcoming to everyone, and that their young people have a place to which they can return.

## Killer Mike, Sen. Turner Stump For Bernie

EXCLUSIVE

By Rodney Ross

Staff Writer

This past Saturday *The Carolinian* Newspaper had the opportunity to interview Nina Turner, former Ohio Senator and president of "Our Revolution," which is an organization created by Bernie Sanders to "revitalize American democracy, empower progressive leaders, and elevate political consciousness."

Preceding Sen. Turner was activist, entrepreneur and Grammy-winning rapper Michael Render who's more widely known by the moniker "Killer Mike." Killer Mike has been a guest on Bill Maher's political TV show, and had a success with his controversial show "Trigger Warning" on Netflix.

Our guests met with us at Parkwood CME Church on Tom Hunter Boulevard in Charlotte. This neighborhood is one of the oldest and last remaining black neighborhoods in Charlotte, known as "Hidden Valley."

Just on its outskirts, Charlotte's Light Rail zips by, and the squeeze of gentrification is in its first phases of reducing this black neighborhood to ashes like a "Thanos" finger snap, removing it from a future history that will never know its voice and struggle.

The topic addressed was Bernie Sanders's "Housing for All" initiative that boasts to spend "\$2.5

trillion to build nearly 10 million permanent "affordable housing units".

Given the rising populace in Charlotte, and North Carolina in general, as the state stretches as far east as Asheville, to Raleigh, down to Charlotte, imported homeless and affording housing is on the bubble to become a full-blown crisis.

Senator Turner expressed concern over the current administration's failure to corral the cost of affordable housing, given the cuts to many subsidies that were once available, but have evaporated into the air.

The country has superficially pulled itself out of a horrible post 9/11 recession. But after nearly 16 years of stimulus packages from both President Bush and President Obama, how much money has been put back into the pot, and the question remains, who pays for it?

Senator Turner expressed a deep desire for Senator Sanders' commitment to fight for fair employment and jobs. Employed people pay taxes, whether it's through their earned income, or through the purchase of goods and merchandise.

We asked where was Senator Sanders on this mission prior to putting his hat in the ring to run for the 2020 election. Far too often we hear about great ideas and aspirations, only during campaign season.

How could Senator Sanders ensure that the funds provided for affordable housing, actually go to the those who truly need

it, the poor class, as opposed to those who fall below the Average Income Median, which is still more than the poor class actually makes in this state.

Killer Mike chimed in to remind us of the responsibility we have to know the names of our local government leaders, from district, to mayor, to governor. That responsibility falls solely on the individuals within their community and not whoever is in office as president. They are the key to things that happen on the local level, he said.

We asked "Why Sanders?" given the amount of time he's held his seat, what has he actually achieved to help African-Americans?

Killer Mike explained that out

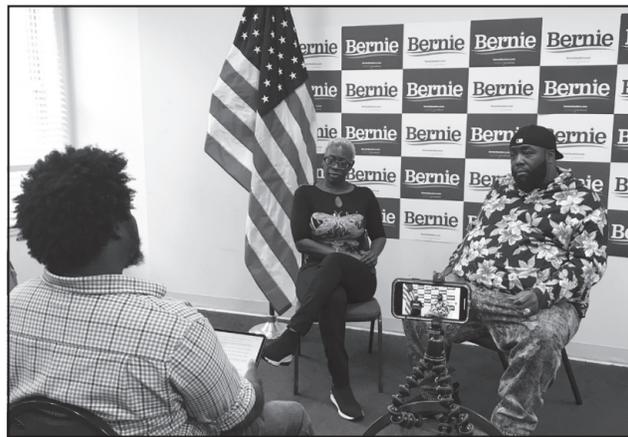
of the many people who have been in Senator Sanders' position, he has remained consistent in being a voice, representing those have no one else advocate for them.

The past two presidents have shown what it is like to hold the power of commander in chief, and have no support from the other side of the partisan aisle.

Given Senator Sanders' stances that have fallen on deaf ears from both parties, the question still remains what can really be done.

This, as the bulldozers knock down homes, as you enter Hidden Valley. A bleached existences seems inevitable.

The entire interview will be available to view at *The Carolinian's* website at [www.carolinian.com](http://www.carolinian.com).



RODNEY ROSS, SEN. NINA TURNER &amp; KILLER MIKE

## Minority Candidates Claim Lack Of Support

By Dr. Joy Martinez

Staff Writer

The Democratic Party put forth their most diverse field of presidential candidates ever this year. But two months before the start of voting, four white candidates—former Vice President Joe Biden, Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren, Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders and South Bend, Ind., Mayor Pete Buttigieg—are leading in national and early state polls. No candidates of color are currently set to appear in this week's primary debate and people are wondering what happened to Kamala Harris.

Former Housing and Urban Development Secretary, presidential candidate Julian Castro, has made a vocal point regarding the perceived hypocrisy of the Democratic Party, whose base is largely black, choosing to begin the primary process in Iowa and New Hampshire, states that are 90 percent white.

Castro said, "We do need to change the order of the states, because I don't believe that we're the same country we were in 1972." In a recent tweet he reiterated his stance, "...we've changed in the 50 years since order was established and I believe it's time our primaries reflect our nation's diversity."

Candidates often determine whether they'll continue to pursue the White House based on their Iowa performance. Current candidate and frontrunner Joe Biden ended his 2008 presidential bid after a poor Iowa performance. Kamala Harris an-

nounced she was planning to focus heavily on Iowa, then slipped further in the polls there. She spent Thanksgiving Day in Iowa only days before dropping out of the race.

The black base of the Democratic Party is locked out until the third primary contest in South Carolina, months after many candidates may have already dropped out of the race. States with larger, more diverse populations come so late in the primary order, black votes are essentially repeats of a "front-runner," or worse, their votes get lost in the shuffle of half a dozen Super Tuesday states that see more commercials than candidates on the ground.

A small population of white people basically lead black voters to their supposed candidate, and voters in Illinois, Maryland, Michigan and Alabama are being told they should rally behind a candidate they've hardly seen.

Some candidates charge the Democratic Party with hypocrisy and a blocking strategy beyond the Presidential level. Many are calling for a systemic change—saying blacks are being disenfranchised at every level.

Texas Senator Royce West's campaign for United States Senate on Monday called the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee's (DSCC) endorsement "a very sad day for the Democratic Party," and berated the DSCC for locking black candidates out of their process. On Monday the Texas Tribune reported the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee awarded their en-

dorsement to MJ Hegar to unseat U.S. Sen. John Cornyn, R-Texas.

"The DSCC is trying to lock African-American candidates out of the process without sitting down and visiting with them to make a determination of whether or not they are the best candidate," said Vince Leibowitz, Communications Director for West's campaign for U.S. Senate.

"They did not even offer Senator West an opportunity to interview for their endorsement," Leibowitz continued.

"That is a slap in the face to 11.6 percent of our state's population that identifies as African-American," said state Sen. West (D-Dallas). "However, we will not be locked out of this process. African-Americans will turn out in large numbers and they will vote their conscience, and not the DSCC's choice. Of that, I am confident," he continued.

West's campaign is seeking an

explanation regarding why he was not even granted an interview.

Another candidate seeking to replace Cornyn, Cristina Tzintzun Ramirez's campaign swiftly lashed out about the DSCC's decision.

"It is disappointing that the national Democratic establishment is so afraid of progressive ideas that it will not even give Texas voters a chance to hear them," said Ramirez's campaign manager, David Sanchez. "They have decided to ignore several more qualified and experienced candidates of color, who have done the work to transform the politics of our state, in favor of a former Republican," according to Sanchez.

"The DSCC can not give the impression they are trying to rig our elections and diminish minority voices," Leibowitz said. "Remember what happened in 2016."

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# Business & Finance

## Microsoft Adding 500 Jobs In Triangle

(AP)—Microsoft Corp. plans to further expand its North Carolina workforce with 500 new jobs in the Raleigh-Durham area announced on Tuesday, less than two months after the software and cloud-computing giant unveiled additional positions for Charlotte.

Gov. Roy Cooper and Microsoft executives held a news conference in Raleigh to unveil a \$47.5 million investment at company operations in Morrisville, which

is home to Raleigh-Durham International Airport.

These new jobs, which would be created through 2023, predominantly will go to software engineers and developers, according to details from the state Commerce Department. A Cooper news release said average pay could exceed \$125,000, or more than double the average wage in Wake County, where the jobs will be located.

Redmond, Washington-based

Microsoft said in late October that it would create 430 jobs in Charlotte as it builds out its engineering and quantum computing businesses. Seventy percent of Microsoft's current 1,950 employees in North Carolina work in Mecklenburg County, which includes Charlotte.

Microsoft can receive state cash incentives of \$12 million over 12 years for the Raleigh-Durham expansion if the company meets job-creation and

investment goals. It's contingent on Microsoft also meeting the Charlotte-area expansion goals, according to a document laying out the potential incentives awarded by a special state committee. Microsoft could get another \$8.5 million from the state if the Charlotte investments occur as predicted.

Houston also was in the running for the jobs heading to Morrisville, the committee's document said.

## FUNdraising Good Times

By Mel & Pearl Shaw  
Saad & Shaw



### DON'T BE A SPECIAL EVENT COPYCAT

Special events are an integral part of nonprofit life and fundraising. They can be a fun way to build relationships, raise money, and increase awareness. They can also drain resources and divert an organization from its primary purpose. There's a lot to consider before planning an event: just because another organization is hosting a gala, walk-a-thon, bike ride, silent auction, golf tournament, or concert doesn't mean you should do the same. Here are six things to consider.

**1. Do your homework and research.** Sit down and talk with the leadership of organizations whose events you admire. Ask about bumps in the road you should be aware of, things that went well, the near disasters, and things they learned in hindsight. The best people to learn from are your peers and partners, locally or in another community.

**2. Assess your nonprofit's infrastructure and capacity as it relates to producing an event.** This includes volunteers who can dedicate time to developing and managing the event; staff who can provide guidance and support during event development and production; and underwriters and sponsors who can cover expenses. Do you have enough in-kind resources and services to help offset costs such as advertising and publicity; printing; direct mail; premiums and gifts; facilities; decorations; entertainment; and day-of-event volunteers?

**3. Do you have enough lead time to plan and produce?** Are you planning 12 to 18 months out or three months in advance? Have you secured the buy-in needed from your internal and external stakeholders? Have you determined what will set your event apart from those offered by others? What will be your uniqueness? Have you designed and scheduled pre- and post-event activities and marketing to take advantage of the event and help meet short and long term goals?

**4. Have you defined the objective of the event and determined anticipated costs and revenue?** Will it be a friendraiser, fundraiser, cultivation activity, or an opportunity to enhance your organization's profile? If it is a fundraiser, do you know your financial goal net of expenses? Can you justify the net results in terms of cost, time, and use of personnel (both paid and volunteer)? Will the event appeal to your target audience? Will you be able to fill the room? Is there a different way you can achieve your organization's goals without hosting a special event?

**5. If you decide to outsource the development and management of a special event, be sure to check references and have an attorney review the contractual obligations you will be taking on.** What are the event planners obligations to you if the event is not successful?

**6. Do you know the risks?** Can your organization afford to risk investing money, people, and relationships in a special event? Have you identified the risks and made plans to mitigate these? Can you afford to invest three to four years of time hosting an event before it begins making a meaningful impact on the life of your organization?

Be a copycat only if you can make it work: that takes planning and research.

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## House Autry Acquires Captain Foods

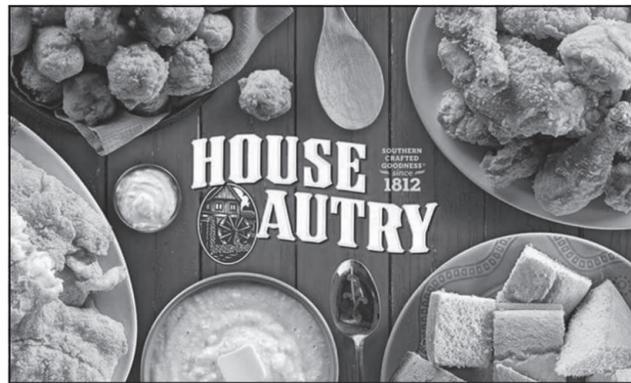
FOUR OAKS—House Autry Mills, maker of America's #1 Chicken Fry, is acquiring the brands and assets of Captain Foods Inc, the seasoning and sauce company based in Edgewater, Fla.

With the acquisition, House-Autry will strengthen their position in the growing seasonings and hot sauce categories behind the high-quality Captain Foods and SharkBite brands.

In addition, Captain Foods is a private label supplier to many restaurants, providing a solid addition to House-Autry's Food Service business.

"We're very excited to add the quality products of Captain Foods to House-Autry's stable of seasonings and breaders." Said Craig Hagood, CEO of House-Autry Mills.

"With this acquisition, we will widen the range of delicious mealtime offerings we provide to



meet today's consumer needs."

With this purchase, House-Autry adds to its award-winning line of breaders, baking mixes, sauces and seasonings to both retail and restaurants, providing customers with a full range of products for both families and

guests.

Captain Foods, Inc. (CFI) has been based in Central Florida for over 26 years, producing quality products under the Captain Foods Seasoning Blends and Sauces and also their Sharkbite Survival Kit Hot Sauces.

Captain Foods is also a main private label supplier to many restaurants, food service companies, retail grocery, specialty markets and more, offering over 50 quality products at a cost-effective price.

With a history dating back to 1812, House-Autry Mills is known for producing breaders and mixes, using time-honored milling techniques, while also bringing new innovation to the category, such as new chicken and pork Air Fry coating mixes, formulated specifically for today's air fryers.

House-Autry has nearly three dozen unique products for consumers to use at home, available in more than 30,000 food retailers nationwide. Its products are also served through foodservice distributors, restaurants and restaurant chains throughout the U.S.

For more information, visit [house-autry.com](http://house-autry.com).

## GREAT Grants Application Period Is Open

Internet service providers and electric membership cooperatives can now apply for \$15 million in state funding aimed at helping bring high-speed internet access to rural parts of North Carolina.

Authorized by the N.C. General Assembly and administered by the N.C. Department of Information Technology's Broadband Infrastructure Office, the Growing Rural Economies with Access to Technology (GREAT) grant program supports efforts by private internet service providers to deploy broadband infrastructure to the state's 40 most economically

distressed counties.

Applications for the 2019-2020 award period are being accepted until March 16, 2020. Information on how to apply can be found at <https://www.ncbroadband.gov/greatgrant/>.

"Broadband is integral to so many aspects of society—from education to healthcare to public safety to economic development—but too many areas across the state, particularly rural, still lack internet access," said Eric Boyette, NCDIT secretary and state chief information officer.

"The GREAT Grant program is

one way to tackle this digital divide. I'm looking forward to seeing what providers come up with to ensure every North Carolinian has the broadband access necessary for the 21st century."

In May 2019, the GREAT Grant Program awarded providers in 19 counties nearly \$10 million to bring high-speed internet to more than 10,000 households, businesses, agricultural operations and community institutions, such as libraries, schools and hospitals.

Areas eligible for GREAT Grant funding are census blocks

or portions of census blocks in Tier 1 counties—as designated by the N.C. Department of Commerce—that lack access to an internet service providing a minimum download speed of 10 megabits per second and a minimum upload speed of 1 megabit per second.

For more information about the N.C. Department of Information Technology, visit their website or follow them on Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn, YouTube and Flickr.

## NC Theft Bureau Gets Accredited

Following a 15-month process, the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, (CALEA) granted the North Carolina Division of Motor Vehicles License and Theft Bureau accreditation status.

As part of the process, DMV's License and Theft Bureau participated in an on-site assessment that examined all aspects of the bureau's policy and procedures, management, operations and support services to verify it met the 181

CALEA standards.

The last step was a final interview in Covington, Ky. by members of the bureau's leadership team with a panel of CALEA Commissioners.

The purpose of the Commission is to develop standards based on international best practices in public safety, and to establish and administer the accreditation process. The accreditation process is how a public safety agency demonstrates how it meets professionally recognized criteria for

excellence in management and service delivery.

"The DMV License and Theft Bureau is a professional agency, staffed with highly-skilled personnel with the goal of organizational excellence," said Col. Eric Copeland, director of the License and Theft Bureau.

"Becoming CALEA accredited ensures our agency is following a professionally-recognized set of law enforcement standards that demonstrate to our citizens that they will receive the best service possible."

## Stein Defends Rights Of Workers

Attorney General Josh Stein this week opposed the Department of Labor's proposed cut-back of protections for tipped workers. The DOL's proposal would eliminate the 80/20 Rule, which protects tipped workers from being paid lower wages.

"Tipped employees work hard for their wages and deserve to be paid fairly," said Attorney General Josh Stein. "The Department of Labor's proposal would make it harder

for restaurant servers, bartenders, and other workers to be paid what they have earned."

Under the Fair Labor Standards Act, employers are required to pay their employees the federal minimum wage and can do so in one of two ways. First, employers can pay employees the full federal minimum wage, currently \$7.25 per hour. Or, they can pay employees a lower cash wage and

make up the remaining difference through with the tips that the employees earn, known as a tip credit.

For decades, tipped workers have been protected by the 80/20 Rule. The rule ensures that any worker being paid using the tip credit method must spend at least 80 percent of their work time doing tipped work, and no more than 20 percent of their work time doing non-tipped work.

## Butterfield Applauds VRA Advancement

WASHINGTON, D.C.—U.S. Rep. G.K. Butterfield (NC-01) issued the following statement after the U.S. House of Representatives passed H.R. 4, the Voting Rights Advancement Act:

"In 2013, the Supreme Court struck a devastating blow to protections for minority voters across America when it invalidated a key provision of the Voting Rights Act (VRA) of 1965 in its *Shelby County v Holder* decision. The Court struck down the 'preclearance' formula that gave power to Section 5 of the VRA and prohibited certain jurisdictions with histories of racial discrimination in voting from implementing election or redistricting changes that would negatively impact minority voters.

"Since that decision, the right to vote has been under coordinated attack in North Carolina and across the country, with at least

23 states enacting voter suppression laws, including voter purges, strict ID requirements, poll closures and curtailing of early voting hours.

"Over the past year, as a member of the House Committee on Administration's Subcommittee on Elections, I traveled across the country to participate in Con-

gressional field hearings, including one in Weldon, North Carolina, to hear from witnesses about election administration and fair access to the ballot box. In a recently released report on these hearings, the Subcommittee confirmed the persistence of voter suppression and discrimination in voting across the country."



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# Editorials

## Editorial Policy

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

## The Joy of Children

Little monsters, crumb snatchers and ankle biters are common labels we give to children. If these are the things that you call your children, please remember that they are simply a mini version of you. So, if they are little monsters, what does that make you?

I know that these names are often used as terms of endearment, but there is power in words. For instance, there is a movement that has been trending for a few years now, in which black people are calling themselves gods. It was bad enough when the trend was calling oneself a king and not knowing the first thing about being responsible for the lives and livelihood of others.

It is understandable to have self-confidence, but to elevate yourself to the level of royalty is a bit much. However, it is possible to amass wealth and be appointed ruler of a kingdom. If you go through the sacrifices to get to that level, then you deserve the title. Unfortunately, that is not the situation most of the time.

I am not sure how saying, "we come from kings" translated into "we are kings." Being a king is a very difficult, life-consuming job. However, the young men that I often hear touting, "I'm a king" can barely pay their own bills, and often don't have a job to speak of.

Kings are educated. Kings are diplomatic. Kings are groomed to govern in most instances. Kings are concerned with their appearance. If your pants sag for no reason other than because you want them to, you are not a king. If you don't have a kingdom, you are not a king!

This practice of adopting labels that have not been earned is an epidemic in today's society. We are watching generations growing up believing they shouldn't have to work hard, but still deserve everything under the sun. Again, words have power.

Being a self-proclaimed king is bad enough, but to call yourself a god is just downright disrespectful. The real God has been systematically removed from our lives over the past few decades. Capitalism and greed have replaced God. Sure, some people still go to church, but look at all of the empty pews. The church used to be filled like Easter Sunday every Sunday, but not anymore.

Cell phones and video games have replaced Bible study. If you ask a kid to recite a Bible verse they will ask Google before they can give you an answer. Technology has infiltrated every aspect of our lives and I'm sad to say that we are not the better for it.

Technology has replaced parenting in many cases. From the time a baby can hold a bottle they are holding a cell phone. They are not being taught reverence and respect, they are being taught consumerism and solitude.

Children deserve better. They didn't make themselves, and they didn't ask to be here. Since they are here, it is our responsibility as parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, neighbors and community leaders to give them the best of us. We must give them something to aspire to.

What if we greeted each child respectfully? What if we find out what their talent is and nurture it? What if we introduce new fields of study, new ideas and possibilities to our young people and see where they take them?

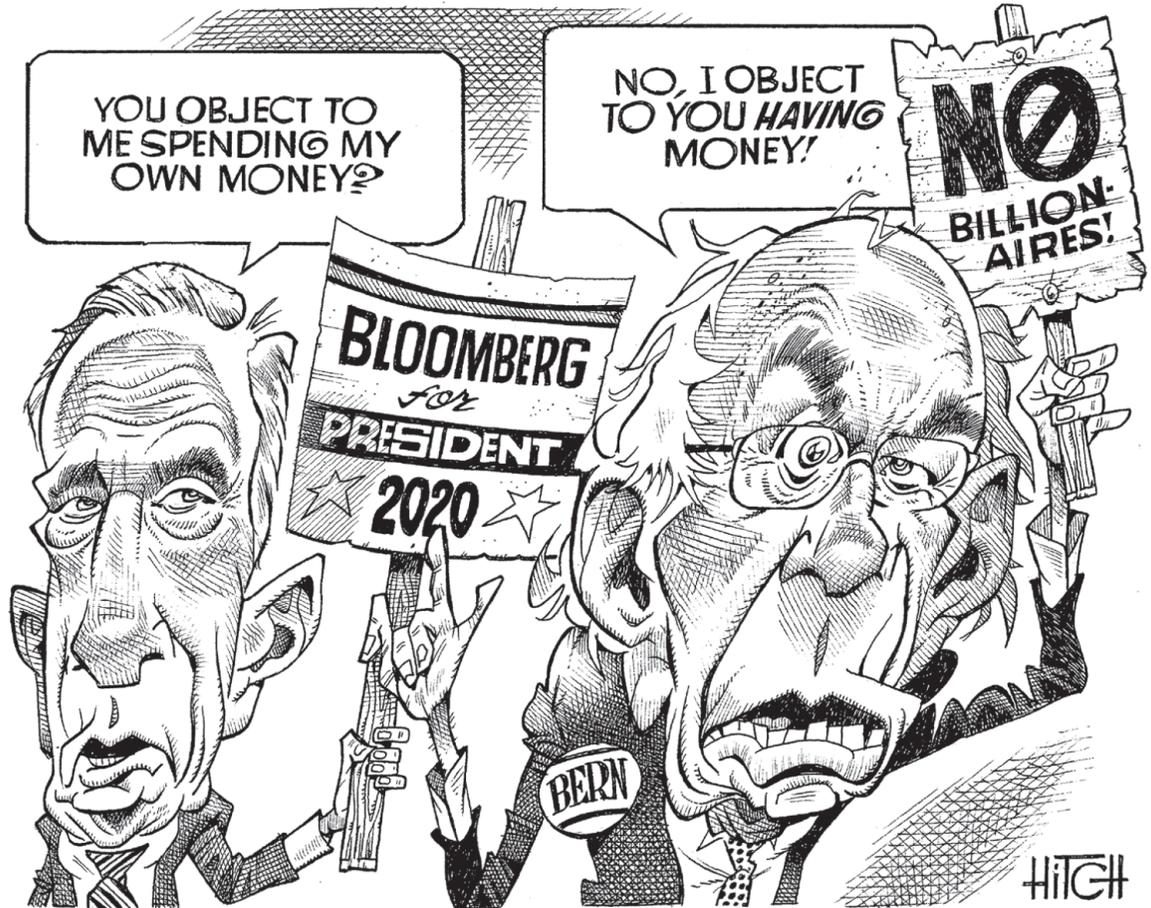
And what if we stopped making excuses about obstacles and found ways around them. For instance, money is typically a huge obstacle for many. If there is a child that has a keen interest in technology beyond just playing a video game, then take them to the free classes at the Apple store in the mall. There they can learn around other children that are likeminded. They can make friends that share their interests and probably learn of other free programs to participate in.

If you have a budding scientist then you're in luck. There are a multitude of science camps and programs across the state that give free instruction on all things STEM. Science Technology Engineering and Math have become a focal point of education in North Carolina, so gaining access to programs that offer instruction in these areas are quite abundant now.

If you have an artist on your hands, please let them dream. Artists tend to see the world differently, beautifully. Their creativity is a blessing, not a waste of time. A pack of crayons is \$0.99 and scrap paper is everywhere. Let their minds wonder. Let them visit imaginary worlds and create castles out of cardboard. Their creativity could lead them to become the next George Lucas or Walt Disney.

Children are not an expense, they are an investment. If money is really the only thing holding you back from giving a child a good chance in this world then please spend \$2 on a library card. Take them to the library every day you can. Let them read about everything under the sun. Let their minds expand farther than you can even imagine.

You can find part of the village at the library, and their resources will help you raise an amazing child.



## NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

By Octavia Rainey

### MY HOLIDAY KEEP HOT AND READY TO SERVE PANCAKE AND SYRUP FOR CHRISTMAS MORNING (No Counting Calories On Christmas Day)

#### Sweet Potato Pancakes:

- 1 ¼ cup All-purpose flour
- 2 Tbsp. Sugar
- ¾ tsp. Salt
- 1 ¼ tsp. baking powder
- 2 Eggs, slightly beaten
- 1 ¼ Cup Milk
- ½ Cup Mashed cooked sweet potatoes, cooled
- 3 Tbsp. Margarine or Butter, melted

In your mixing bowl, combine flour, sugar, baking powder and salt. In your second bowl, combine eggs, milk, sweet potatoes, margarine or butter. Add to flour. Add all ingredients to your first bowl. Mix until slightly lumpy.

Heat your frying pan on medium heat and add pancake mix for one pancake at a time. Don't forget to flip your pancakes. Cook about 1 to 2 minutes per side. Will make 15 pancakes.

#### Oven Pancake:

- Nonstick spray coating
- 2 cups Buttermilk Pancake Mix
- 1 cup Water
- 1 Egg, slightly beaten
- 1 Tbsp. Cooking oil
- ¼ Cup diced fully cooked ham

Lightly spray a 15½X10½X2-inch baking pan with nonstick coating; set aside. In large mixing bowl, combine Buttermilk Pancake Mix, water, egg, oil. Now the key: Stir pancake mix until smooth and then add ham. Pour into baking pan and spread evenly. Bake in 450° oven for 10 to 12 minutes until top is golden brown. Insert a toothpick in center to make sure pancake is done.

Will serve 8 people.

#### Make Your Own Buttermilk Pancake Mix and Keep Up To 6 Weeks:

A quick note to follow: Please make sure you measure all ingredients accurately, store mix in an airtight container, label and date container. Do not pack down your mix. Just level off with a spatula.

- 8 Cups All-purpose flour.
- 2 Cups Buttermilk powder
- ½ Cup Sugar
- 2 Tbsp. + 2 tsp. Baking powder
- 4 tsp. Baking soda
- 2 tsp. Salt

(See NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH, P. 10)



## To Be EQUAL

By Marc H. Morial  
President, National Urban League

### BLACK COMMUNITIES ARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN THE FIGHT AGAINST AIDS

"The fact that there's a conversation that occurs on an annual basis on World AIDS Day is significant. The fact that the President of the United States, on an annual basis, now, comments and discusses AIDS, keeps it on the agenda. I think a very, very concrete outcome of that discussion is that President Bush put forward billions of dollars toward the AIDS prevention and education effort for the United Nations. I don't think that would've happened had it not been for World AIDS Day..."

—Jim Block, Co-Founder of World AIDS Day

The theme of World AIDS Day 2019, which took place recently, is "Communities make the difference."

As part of the Centers for Disease Control's Partnering and Communicating Together to Act Against AIDS (PACT), the Urban League community is making the difference for nearly 300,000 people annually through outreach awareness, testing and education.

Worldwide, there are 37.9 million people living with HIV, 1.1 million of whom are in the United States. A shocking 42 percent of those—468,800—are Black.

Sadly, Black Americans remain the racial group most affected by HIV in the United States, accounting for 42 percent of new diagnoses last year. The rate of new diagnoses for African-Americans was eight times the rate for whites and twice the rate of Latinos.

According to the CDC, one in seven African-Americans living with HIV don't even know they have it, and therefore can't take advantage of HIV care and treatments and are more likely to pass HIV to others unknowingly.

Even after diagnosis, only about two-thirds of Black gay and bisexual men with newly diagnosed HIV, and 58 percent with previously diagnosed HIV, were linked to HIV medical care within 90 days of the diagnosis, when the virus is easier to suppress.

Further compounding the problem is the higher poverty rate among Black Americans.

(See TO BE EQUAL, P. 10)



## FROM THE INSIDE OUT

By Greg Fray

### 30 DAYS IS JUST THE BEGINNING

Ames Alexander, a brilliant, well-respected writer and columnist with the *Charlotte Observer*, wrote an article in July 2017 titled, "Amid outcry, NC to limit use of solitary confinement." Throughout the article, he explains an amendment in chapter B, section 200, titled Offender Disciplinary Procedures, noting the changes our legislators made to curb disciplinary procedures that cause or even enhance mental health issues. Studies have shown how spending long periods of time in solitary confinement damage the human brain. The amendments are supposed to remedy a lot of those problems. Uncharacteristically, Mr. Alexander wrongly intimates that NC Department of Public Safety (NCDPS) inmates "... Generally cannot be held in solitary confinement longer than 30 days" because of the modifications. Being reasonable, that is indeed good news if it were true. However, 30 days is just the beginning of the disciplinary process because the infraction itself will require an inmate to automatically appear in front of the (FCC) board, "Facility Classification Committee."

To explain, inmate classification levels differ because of the risk authorities place on them when they initially arrive. Their custody levels may decrease with what is considered positive behavior through unquestioned compliance, or their levels will increase because of infractions.

More to the point, an FCC board has the authority to subject inmates to various degrees of control statuses, which represents the degree of containment and manage control necessary to keep everyone in line for continued operations of the big corporate business our prisons have been transformed into. When it comes to corporate functions, inmates' mental capacities take a backseat.

(See FROM THE INSIDE OUT, P. 10)

## Child Watch

By Marian Wright Edelman



### GREAT CIVIL RIGHTS LAWYER AND FRIEND JOHN W. WALKER

"We must all learn to live together as brothers in this world or we will all die together as fools. We must work passionately and unremittently for first-class citizenship. But we must not use second-class methods to get it... Go home determined to revolt against segregation and discrimination everywhere." Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. said this in a commencement speech in 1958 at Arkansas AM&N College (now the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff). One of the graduating seniors in his audience that day was Arkansas native John W. Walker.

A season of change was germinating in the South including Arkansas, where the Little Rock Nine had fought to enroll at segregated Little Rock Central High School in the fall of 1957. Dr. King was not yet 30 but had gained national prominence in the Montgomery Alabama bus boycott and was inspiring countless other young people like John and me who chafed at the idea of racial discrimination and determined to be at the forefront of the movement for racial change.

John became one of the most influential civil rights attorneys in the entire south and a five-term member of the Arkansas House of Representatives where he served until his death this past October. He was also my friend, law school classmate, and fellow NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund (LDF) intern and board member. He spent his whole life relentlessly using the legal system to follow Dr. King's mandate to fight for equal citizenship for African-Americans and others left behind, revolting against segregation and discrimination everywhere, including his home state.

By the time he graduated from Arkansas AM&N John already had been involved in a dramatic case challenging racial discrimination. He was the first black undergraduate admitted to the University of Texas in 1954 after Brown v. Board of Education, but the university decided to revoke the offers of admission to black students before the school year began. He chose to attend the historically black Arkansas AM&N, where he excelled, earned a master's degree from New York University and his law degree from Yale University in 1964. The civil

(See CHILD WATCH, P. 10)

## Talk To Us

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

Are we right? Or is it okay to call ourselves kings and gods?

# Health & Fitness

## Woman Picked For Christmas Wish Due To Her Kindness

A woman near Fort Worth, Texas was surprised with a new car—nominated to receive a Christmas Wish because she always manages to stay friendly and kind, despite her valiant struggles as a single mom.

in Benbrook, Texas, and anyone who visits the restaurant knows her by her infectious optimism. She brings smiles to local residents every day; knows their names and faces, as well as their orders. She's never shy to give out hugs, hold babies for

tired mothers, and everything in between.

So when her car was totaled, it's no surprise that her friends wanted to do everything they could for her.

One of those friends was Amy. She wrote a letter to 94.9 KLTU in Dallas/Fort Worth, explaining Bridgett's situation and the dire circumstances she was under—on top of her car being totaled, Bridgett's son had been admitted to the hospital. A new car seemed completely out of reach.

"With my kids, it's not 'can we go to Chick-fil-A', it's 'can we go see Bridget,' so I just felt led, like, someone needs to know about this," said Amy. "She's so deserving."

She nominated Bridget for KLTU's Christmas Wish program and station reporter Bonnie Curry called Dane Minor of Freeman Toyota, who coincidentally had been praying to find the perfect person to give a new car.

Together, Dane and Bonnie



pulled up to the Chick-fil-A drive-through window to receive their order from a smiling, gracious Bridgett. As she handed them their drinks and food, Dane explained that they had a surprise for her.

Bridgett broke down in tears as her coworkers led her outside and Dane handed over the keys—and 94.9 KLTU shared another surprise: \$2,000 to get Bridgett caught up on bills and groceries.

Bridgett has been overwhelmed by the outpouring of love. "This is so deserved! Ms. Bridgett is the sweetest!" Nancy Lemons commented. "She's always giving joy to each person she interacts with."



### Fact & Fitness

By Jeneea Jervay-Bush, M.S.

#### 2020 FITNESS TRENDS VERSUS YOUR TRENDS

The American College of Sports Medicine's Worldwide Survey of Fitness Trends for 2020 are 1) wearable technology, 2) High-intensity interval training (HIIT), 3) Group Training, 4) Training with free weights, 5) Personal Training, 6) Exercise is Medicine, 7) Body weight training, 8) Fitness programs for older adults, 9) Health/wellness coaching, 10) Employing certified fitness professionals, 11) Exercise for weight loss, 12) Functional fitness training, 13) Outdoor activities, 14) Yoga, 15) Licensure for fitness professionals, 16) Lifestyle medicine, 17) Circuit training, 18) Worksite health promotion and workplace well-being programs, 19) Outcome measurements, and 20) Children and exercise (ACSM's *Health & Fitness Journal*: November/December 2019—Volume 23—Issue 6—p 10-18; doi: 10.1249/FIT.0000000000000526).

Why do you care? This survey gives you the landscape viewed across the major segments of the fitness industry. Those segments include commercial fitness (e.g. gym open to the public for a fee), corporate fitness (e.g. gym only open to employees of a specific company), and community based (e.g. municipal parks and recreation).

What's available to you, the customer or employee, may be influenced by this research. If you're an older adult looking for a fitness program tailored to your demographic or packaged outdoor excursions, the trend spotlight increases the possibility that one or more of the fitness industry segments will offer that type of program. However, you'll likely have to work a bit harder to scratch your fitness itch if you're into things like triathlon training or badminton.

The other reason you might care about the 2020 trends is that they supply a source of ideas to refresh your workout if it's getting a bit stale. Everything isn't right for everyone, but this trends list can definitely be sourced for new fitness activities to spice things up. It can also re-frame the way you think about exercise.

You may not have thought of your kids or grandkids in terms of their exercise regimen, but it's an important concept. Exercise as a healthy habit starts way before voting age so plant those seeds now if you have the opportunity. No, you won't have you're 6-year-old doing dumbbell curls, but maybe you teach them golf and walk the course together.

Finally, the trends list isn't a judgement on your workout choices. The best fitness trend for you is the one you will do consistently for a lifetime. From archery to bodyweight training to pickleball and anything else that excites you. Do what moves you and keeps that body moving!



### Transformation STATION

By Dr. Acquilla Faye

#### ENJOYING THE MOMENT—PART 1

We have been discussing how to "Paint Your Vision"™ for 5 weeks leading up to the official start of Winter on December 21st, which is also known as Winter Solstice. On this day, sunlight will last the shortest period of time and have the longest night of the year, in comparison to other days of the year. It is a day where will experience a long period of darkness because the sun is at its lowest point. You are probably wondering why the first day of winter is the focus right now. Why is it important? How this information relates to "enjoying the moment"? What is the significance of exploring this day? And how will you apply this Winter Solstice you your life?

Well let's remember that each week we are discussing practice ways to gain more peace and calmness with mental wellness. Our mental wellness is reflected in our physical appearance, emotional stability, and communication abilities. The Winter Solstice is a time of darkness that can impact the way we feel. With more darkness on that day, we may feel less energized and want to rest more. We may also find ourselves wanting to be alone. All of these activities are actually healthy.

It is healthy to use more time resting and reflecting. Allow yourself a break from your regular routine. Sit back and look at the darkening of the sky while observing crisp feel of the air upon your skin. Then get your journal and begin to go deep into yourself. Write about your thoughts and feelings as you admire the shift in the balance of daylight and darkness. Let yourself appreciate the value and lessons of being alone to reflect. As you go into your darkness, your mental space begins to get light. It is getting lighter because you are being present to the moment. You are releasing your internal thoughts onto paper. This should be easy because we have been completing various activities each week that help with vision building and self actualization.

Now you can be present in the moment. I challenge each of you to make time each day to go into the dark depths of yourself. Pay attention to what nature is showing and how you feel in response. Your mental health will improve as you slow down and make connections between yourself and what you see in your surroundings (nature). You are going to have a great winter as we move into a new decade.

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# Community

## Affordable Housing Coming?

By Greg Fray  
Staff Writer

The Presbytery of New Hope, The Presbyterian Homes Inc., and DHIC, once known as Downtown Housing Improvement Inc, hosted a media event Thursday, Dec. 12, to announce a project that will bring 150 affordable units for low-income seniors to East Raleigh.

In attendance were several media outlets, Greg Warren, Beth Volts, and Yvette Holmes of DHIC, Mayor Maryann Baldwin and other community advisors.

"DHIC is very pleased to have been approached by the Presbytery to work on this project, which will help fill the growing gap in the housing market for low income seniors," said Greg Warren, DHIC's President and CEO.

"With the land costs as prohibitive as they now are in Raleigh, the Presbytery's commitment of the property for this affordable housing project is a gift to the community that will endure for decades to come."

The City of Raleigh defines affordable housing as the total

housing cost (rent, mortgage, and utilities) that is no more than 30 percent of a household's income. Raleigh uses HUD rules for income restricted housing.

HUD, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, calculates income limits by household sizes.

Area Median Income for a family of one is \$42,950; family of two income: \$49,050; family of three income: \$55,200; family of four \$61,300; Family of five: \$66,250; Family of six income: \$71,150.

This new project will only accept applicants with 60 percent or less of area median income. However, when questioned Mr. Warren and other promoters of this project couldn't explain exactly how many of the 150 units will be relegated to 50 percent, 40 percent, and 30 percent area median families.

Since most area median income families currently living in the area are actually in the 30 percent range, it would be well to know who exactly benefits from this project.

As explained to the *Carolinian*, the number one quali-

fier for senior residence in this project is income. The numbers approved by HUD are in fact following federal regulations. However, the numbers for family income are within federal guidelines, yet they don't represent an area imbedded in 30 percent median income quicksand. So how is this touted as a community sustaining project?

While the project is on the bus rapid transit bus line, which is a major selling point for the project, how many seniors from that area can we go to right now and ask to take their current salaries/income and move in to a single bedroom, supposedly affordable apartment in this new project, without government subsidies paying over 60 percent of the rent/lease?

We at the Carolinian applaud the efforts of the Presbytery Homes Inc. to build affordable housing for seniors. However, we are cautious with the praise of projects that may be hiding behind the wording of affordable without clarifying if it is actually affordable to the area median standards for seniors today.



DEREJE DESSALEGNE

PERNELL EDWARDS, JR.

IAN FINLEY

## 3 Get Whittenburg Scholarship

The Dereck Whittenburg Foundation (DWF) has named three exceptional Shaw University students as recipients of the 2019/2020 DWF Scholarship: Seniors Dereje Dessalegne and Pernell Edwards, Jr. and junior Ian Finley. DWF scholarships support exemplary students who may need financial assistance to complete their college degrees.

Dereje Dessalegne will earn his degree in computer science in May 2020. Dereje saw his first computer while an 8th grader in his native Ethiopia. "That's when I became fascinated with these amazing tools, and when my dream of becoming a software engineer and innovator in the field was born."

Pernell Edwards Jr. '20 is a recreation management major, a Shaw University Presidential Scholar, and a member of the Alpha Chi National College Honor Society, a prestigious academic honor society that only accepts gifted students who place in the top 10 percent of their class from all academic disciplines.

He also is an avid athlete and c Junior Ian James Finley has set his sights on earning his degree in political science in May 2021. Hailing from the Bahamas, Ian has devoted time and effort to support the Bahamian community in Raleigh and at home, even before Hurricane Dorian

wreaked havoc on that island nation.

He also is extremely active on campus and in the community. Ian currently serves as SGA Internal Vice President, is a member of the International Students Association (which he reinstated in his freshman year), is a resident advisor at TOS men's residence hall, and is a percussion section leader for Shaw's Platinum Sound Marching Band.

Ian also has participated in numerous civic events and organizations, often focused on encouraging students to exercise their right to vote. Ian enthusiastically promotes multicultural awareness and expression on Shaw's campus and in neighboring communities. In addition to being part of the 2019/2020 DWF Scholars cohort, Ian also is a Shaw University Presidential Scholar and has received Shaw's Gold Honors Award.



The Triangle Cultural Art Gallery reception for Dr. Dudley Flood was held on Sunday evening in Raleigh. The NC Public School Forum recently established the Dr. Dudley Flood Ctr. for Educational Equity & Opportunity, a hub to identify/connect those who address equity, access, & opportunity in education in NC. [Mathias Bishop Photo]

## A&T's Future Styling Superstar

By Phyllis Boykin  
Contributing Writer

Have you ever observed someone's hair designed so beautifully that you wondered silently to yourself, "who styled it?" and specifically, "how was it done?" If you answered, "Yes" to one or to both questions, then you certainly are not alone.

Recently, while attending an Historical Black College and University's season final championship football game, I became pleasantly distracted by what seemed like an afrocentric hairstyle parade right there in the stadium in which some of the most beautiful women and men in the State of North Carolina were willing participants.

They displayed some of the most extravagantly designed hairdos I had seen in quite some time, which made me wonder who in the world were their extremely talented hair stylists?

Having a fondness for natural hair styles to include Boho locs, braids, coils, cornrows, Faux locs, Goddess locs, and the likes, I mustered up the nerve to ask Rachel Ann Hawkins about her braided hair design.

It was through our dialogue exchange that I met this phenomenally talented woman and learned that the awesome style she wore was one that she had self-braided and styled for her own hair. Learning this, I realized that her talents were too profound to keep to myself, so herein, I write to introduce you to her as well.

Rachel is a native of Bowie, Md., where she was raised by her loving parents and family. She finds the encouragement of her family to be priceless and she credits them with helping her this far throughout her life. Her strength comes from them and she feels indebted to them for all their limitless love, encouragement and support.

Rachel expressed having become "fascinated with her hair" at a young age and made it her busi-

ness to "keep her hair styled" so that it "looked nice" at all times.

After completing high school, Rachel relocated to North Carolina, where she pursued and acquired her Bachelor of Science Degree in Fashion Merchandising and Design in December of 2016, from North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University in Greensboro.

Her chosen major allowed her to align her fondness of fashion with her affection for hair design as a way to ensure the compatibil-

ity of both, whether for males or females.

It was at A&T that Rachel first began to attract the attention of her college classmates to her flair for hair design. Rachel considers hair as our "crown" and she especially enjoys seeing the reactions of those for whom she creates hair designs. She particularly enjoys it when she hears comments about the reactions of their family and friends, who see and admire Rachel's authentic natural hair designs. Their feedback, verbally and through Social Media, encourages her to follow her dreams of

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We wish you a Merry Christmas  
May Christmas bring joy to your heart and happiness to your home.



Gerald Baker  
Wake County Sheriff

Paid for by Gerald Baker  
Wake County Sheriff

happy holidays

The Downtown Raleigh Alliance wishes you health and happiness! We hope you have the opportunity to shop in Downtown Raleigh this holiday season and enjoy the Downtown holiday experience!

DowntownRaleigh Alliance

FROM OUR FAMILY TO YOURS

Merry Christmas & HAPPY NEW YEAR

Congressman David Price & Mrs. Lisa Price

DAVID PRICE  
★ CONGRESS

# Sports

## Charlotte Lands Major League Soccer

By Steve Reed

AP Sports Writer

CHARLOTTE (AP)—David Tepper's vision of bringing a Major League Soccer team to Charlotte has been realized.

Charlotte was awarded an MLS expansion team on Tuesday by MLS Commissioner Don Garber at a news conference in downtown Charlotte. The team will begin play in 2021 and can begin signing players immediately.

Tepper owns the NFL's Carolina Panthers, and the team will play its games at Bank of America Stadium, where the Panthers play.

The city also has the NBA's Charlotte Hornets, but doesn't have an NHL or MLB team. Tepper hopes that Major League Soccer will fill that void in the summer for sports fans in Charlotte.

"The city is just right for the sport," Tepper said. "We have had (soccer) games here and there was pretty good support for the

sport. We think we can build a really good fan base. The city needs a sport during that (summer) period."

Tepper promised that "we are going to make Charlotte rock on Saturday nights."

Tepper will hope to build on the city's strong Hispanic population. When Mexico has played here in the CONCACAF Gold Cup in the past, it has drawn more than 50,000 fans to Bank of America Stadium, many who come with the Mexican flag draped around them.

"They are traditionally very big soccer fans and you see them when you have the Mexico games here," Tepper said. "They will fill the stadium or half-fill the stadium. So I think that is very much an untapped market... We have a great location to bring out those fans."

The team name has not been established yet, but should be announced in the spring. Some of the names under consideration are

Charlotte FC, Charlotte Crown FC, Charlotte Fortune FC and Charlotte Monarchs.

Garber said the league positions itself as a league for a "new America" made up of young millennials, and he said Charlotte fits that mold.

"That's really what our brand stands for and that new America lives right here in Charlotte," Garber said.

Thirty percent of MLS' fan base is made up of Hispanic fans.

"This is going to have a high index of diverse communities as a percentage of the fan base," Garber said. "It's one of the things that attracted us to Charlotte."

Tepper said he hopes to match some of the success—and perhaps exceed—what Atlanta's MLS franchise has enjoyed over the past few years. Tepper also did his best to start a new rival with its Interstate-85 opponent four hours down the road.

"Charlotte is hot!" Tepper said at

the news conference.

When Tepper bought the Panthers from Jerry Richardson in 2018, he said during his introductory press conference that he wanted to bring an MLS team to Charlotte in the near future. He quickly hired Tom Glick, who has a background with MLS, as the team's president as part of that vision.

Eighteen months later, he has succeeded in landing a team.

The 62-year-old Tepper says soccer is "in my blood." He grew up playing soccer in Pittsburgh, watched as a fan and has coached youth soccer teams. He also joked that he tore an ACL in his knee playing soccer at 45.

"I've said it before, Charlotte loves a party, and this will be a two-hour party," Tepper said. "And there's nothing like it in sports. It's a totally different experience."

Tepper said he'll aim to get a general manager and coach in place within the next month or so.



CARY—(above) Georgetown's Dante Polvara (17) makes the header over Virginia's Robin Afamefuna (30) during the first half. Georgetown and Virginia met in the NCAA Division One National Championship game in Cary on December 15. Georgetown defeated Virginia in penalty kicks 7-6 after 3-3 in regulation. [Steve Worthy Photo]

## Woods & Team USA Win Presidents Cup

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)—High emotions, fierce hugs from Tiger Woods, this time as a winner both ways in the Presidents Cup.

Woods capped off a big year that began with his 15th major

at the Masters by playing and leading his U.S. team to another victory in the Presidents Cup on Sunday at Royal Melbourne.

The first playing captain in 25 years, he opened the 12 singles matches by beating Abraham

Ancer to set the Presidents Cup record with his 27th match victory, and set the tone for the rest of his team.

The scoreboard was filled with American red scores all day as they rallied from a two-point deficit to win the Presidents Cup for the eighth straight time against an International team that faltered at the worst time.

Matt Kuchar delivered the clinching putt, a 5-footer for birdie that assured him a halve against Louis Oosthuizen and gave the Americans the 15 1/2 points they needed to win.

"For us to be in a hole, to come back and win this thing... to win it as a team, but to do it with Tiger Woods as our captain was just a huge thrill," Kuchar said.

The result was 16-14, and at least this one was a contest. The U.S. victory two years ago at Liberty National was so resounding that it nearly ended on Saturday.

International captain Ernie Els was determined to turn it around. He created a new logo for the International team. He relied heavily on analytics. It still wasn't enough.

"I followed a plan, and it didn't quite work out, but we came damn close," Els said. "If you

compare our team on paper with other teams in other sport, you would have laughed us out of the building. But we gave it a hell of a go and we came mightily close to winning and upsetting one of the greatest golf teams of all time."

Woods hugged everyone hard, players and vice captains alike, wearing a smile not seen since he walked off the 18th green at Augusta National after becoming a Masters champion again after injuries that nearly ended his career.

"We relied on one another as a team, and we did it—together," Woods said, his voice choked slightly with emotion. "This cup wasn't going to be given to us. We had to go earn it. And we did."

The next Presidents Cup is in 2021 at Quail Hollow Club in North Carolina. In the meantime, the Americans will try to get on another team and win back the Ryder Cup, which gives them far more trouble.



DRIVE—Elizabeth City State's Justin Faison (2) drives to the basket against Shaw's Imani Miller (11) during the second half. Shaw and ECSU met in a CIAA basketball game in Raleigh on December 12. Shaw won, 84-78. [Steve Worthy Photo]



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It's a Most Wonderful Time of the Year!

Kids: color stuff in!



## Merry Christmas!

Read the clues to fill in the puzzle with things you may see in Santa's workshop:

- soft, white blanket of this, frosting the top of buildings
- elves making upgrades to this in the garage
- a huge scroll of paper listing these of every girl and boy
- station overflowing with ice cream and every topping
- elves hang up their own on the special night
- wrapped toys tossed into a magic \_\_\_ for delivery
- elves travel by this and magic
- elf checking each \_\_\_ to make sure its jingle is ready to jangle
- elves using \_\_\_ to make hand-crafted wooden toys
- haywire \_\_\_ - making machine, covering shop with silvery strands
- dispensers mounted on the walls, complete with marshmallows
- a massive stone \_\_\_, but Santa enters through the front door
- Mrs. Claus' special kitchen always has a batch of \_\_\_ in the oven
- the \_\_\_ is a chilly place, but the workshop is always toasty
- each room has a working \_\_\_ that never runs out of firewood
- each of the \_\_\_ cared for by at least 3 animal-loving elves
- a special closet just for Santa's \_\_\_ - with a tailor elf on hand...just in case
- \_\_\_ eating big meals to have energy to power his nose through that special night
- giant rolls of \_\_\_ paper hanging from walls - every color and design!
- every refrigerator has at least 2 gallons of \_\_\_ - Santa's favorite drink

Clues for the crossword puzzle:

- 1. soft, white blanket of this, frosting the top of buildings
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- 19. giant rolls of \_\_\_ paper hanging from walls - every color and design!
- 20. every refrigerator has at least 2 gallons of \_\_\_ - Santa's favorite drink

### Holiday Wishes!

Here is our greeting card for you. Connect the ornaments to spell out our secret message.

Tree Maze - Help Mama bird find her way to the nest to feed the babies.

Start with ornament number 1 and draw a line to ornament number 2 and so on to make the first letter. Then, follow the nearby alphabet to make the next letter. There are 16 letters in all!

Word search grid:

2 P 3 B A P 2 B B A 2 P 1  
 1 4 C D 1 3 C D 3 4  
 2 B D 1 2 A P C  
 1 3 5 P 4 C B 4 3 B  
 A B 1 2 A P D  
 C 4 3 D B C

### Where Do Our Customs Come From?

American Christmas customs and traditions come from all over the world. The very beginnings of most are hard to trace, but many were made popular in a known place. Can you draw a line from each illustration of a custom to match it to the place that we probably borrowed it from? (We put a few hints in the puzzle too.)

1. Turkey (Ho! Ho! Ho!)

2. United States (Oh! Oh! Oh! I see Santa!)

3. Scandinavia (carols like "Joy to the World" come from here)

4. Mexico (where there are freezing, long nights)

5. England (Poinsettia)

6. Holland (Gingerbread house)

7. England (first electric tree lights)

# Other Viewpoints

## GASLIGHTING GRIFTER GOVERNANCE

By Tom H. Hastings

PeaceVoice

Yeah, Donald Trump lies constantly—several proven each day. However, he is the gatekeeper to grifting, as may be seen by not only his behavior to personally enrich himself at the direct expense of the honest working taxpaying Americans, but by his squalid cast of appointees. Some are in prison now.

Some face sentencing, having been convicted of crimes of corruption.

Some are under criminal investigation.

The entire eight years of the Obama administration was scandal-free. That seemed like what normal should be.

Now, a fresh hell opens wide daily from the Trump White House. Who can keep up?

•Hush money to sex workers during Trump's campaign put Trump's lawyer in prison.

•Trump doubles down on his Sharpie lies and gets billionaire Secretary of Labor Wilber Ross to threaten to fire NOAA officials unless they betrayed science and backed Trump's lies.

•Judges are finding against Trump daily, one of the latest is that his family foundation is a fraud, and it's not only shut down by judicial ruling, but is ordered to pay a \$2 million fine for lawlessly misappropriating funds for personal use.

•Attempting to bribe a foreign leader into helping portray a Trump political opponent—Joe Biden—as somehow corrupt. Hence Article One of his impeachment.

•Refusing to allow anyone with first-hand knowledge of Trump's practices to testify to Congress under oath, even when subpoenaed. Unprecedented in U.S. history.

•Trump University—the scheme to appeal to the worst in our get-rich-quick nature—was termed such a scam that a federal court approved a \$25 million settlement with students who said that they were bilked out of many \$thousands for worthless courses.

•Russia worked on Trump's behalf during the 2016 election, as thoroughly documented in the Mueller Report. Trump has worked on Russia's behalf ever since with his enormous numbers of Putin panders ever since, from advocating lifting sanctions imposed correctly by Obama after Russia invaded and seized Crimea from Ukraine in 2014 to professing he believed Putin and not U.S. intelligence services about all this to advocating that Russia be invited to join the G-7 to yanking U.S. troops away from the region in Syria that allowed the Turkish troops to slaughter Kurds (thus helping Putin woo Turkey away from NATO) to threatening to jerk the U.S. out of NATO, and on and on. That bromance is patently anti-U.S., anti-human rights, and pro-autocracy.

This is the tip of the Trumpberg that has crashed into and is sinking the U.S. ship of state. There are so many more ready-for-slime-time scandals churning out on a constant basis that it's spirit-numbing to face them, bringing to mind the old Lily Tomlin wit, "I try to be cynical, but I can't keep up."

Congratulations, Trump, our most fraudulent, corrupt occupant of the White House ever. In the race to the bottom, you win. We are one mucked-up nation, thanks to you and anyone who supports your crime wave.

Dr. Tom H. Hastings is PeaceVoice Director and on occasion an expert witness for the defense in court.

## NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

Continued from page 4

In a large mixing bowl combine flour, buttermilk powder, sugar, baking powder, baking soda and salt. Stir until very well combined.

Store in an airtight container for up to six weeks. When ready to use, spoon lightly into a measuring cup, and you are set for great homemade pancakes.

I love the following homemade syrups.

**Brown Sugar Syrup:**

2 Cups Packed dark brown sugar  
1 Cup Water  
1 tsp Vanilla

In a medium pan combine brown sugar and water. Cook and stir over medium heat until sugar dissolves. Bring to boil. Reduce heat and simmer, uncovered, for 5 minutes. Remove from heat, stir in vanilla. Serve warm or cool.

Refrigerate for one week and make sure you cover. Makes 1 2/3 cups.

**Strawberry Butter:**

1/2 Cup Butter or margarine, softened  
1/2 Cup Thinly sliced strawberries  
2 Tbsp. Powdered sugar

In a mixing bowl combine butter or margarine, strawberries and powdered sugar. Mix with an electric mixer on low speed until combined. Beat on medium speed until light and fluffy. Cover and refrigerate for up to 3 days. Serve at room temperature.

Makes 3/4 Cup.

Recipes come from my grandmother, Sarah Rainey; Bea Perry; Ada Foster; different cookbooks; tasting all kinds of pancakes, mixing a little of this and a little of that to make the perfect pancake.

Pancakes are one of my Christmas traditions. My niece and nephew when they were small loved my pancake breakfast. They would wake up and run to the kitchen first. They loved the smell of pancakes and hot syrup.

My grandmother just loved homemade syrups. She would use syrup to add to her homemade bread and sometimes add to her coffee for a different flavor.

Mrs. Bea Perry makes great pancakes. Her pancakes just melt in your mouth.

Please, this Christmas, take time out and give to someone in need. Tell your family, friends and neighbors how much you love them. God will always bless you. Merry Christmas.

## TO BE EQUAL

Continued from page 4

Limited access to high-quality health care, housing, and HIV prevention education increase the risk for infection and make worse outcomes more likely.

Through PACT, the Urban League Movement—along with groups like the National Black Justice Coalition, and the Black Men's Xchange—is raising awareness about testing, prevention, and retention in care among African-Americans.

UNAIDS and the World Health Organization, the international agencies charged with confronting with the AIDS epidemic, have set a target for 2020 known as 90-90-90. By the end of next year, 90 percent of all those infected will know they are infected; 90 percent of those infected will be receiving antiretroviral therapy, and 90 percent of those receiving therapy will have had the virus effectively suppressed.

In the United States, the Department of Health and Human Services has set a goal of reducing the number of new HIV infections by 75 percent within five years, and then by at least 90 percent within 10 years, for an estimated 250,000 total HIV infections averted. This initiative is known as Ending the HIV Epidemic: A Plan for America.

By raising awareness, and connecting high-risk populations to testing and health care, the Urban League Movement is helping to move African-Americans toward both the 90-90-90 goal and the HHS Plan for America.

## FROM THE INSIDE OUT

Continued from page 4

So when the FCC comes in to add an additional two, three, six months, or years to 30-day segregation sentences, it's appalling to have professional reporters write stories about lockup that allows facility boards to hide in the shadows of anonymity with the exclusion of information pertinent to detailing the actual length of

seg. sentences tacked on by the board for every infraction

Currently we have inmates locked in cells for minor infractions longer than the legislatively approved 30 days. Reasons for that differ for the reason like, "there isn't any bed space in general population to release you from lockup, you're retained under administrative investigation, or we are waiting to transfer you to another facility which may take months." In any event, a well-respected columnist was indeed laughed at because of his ignorance of FCC shenanigans.

In sum, prison corporations won't complain about the indoctrination tactics provided by facilities to maintain the business model even if those tactics conflict with legislative intent to improve ramifications caused by extreme isolation. Whether it was by design or not, Mr. Alexander would be well advised to research the length of time people actually spend in cells no bigger than a parking space before he too, continues to misinform the general public. Thirty days is just the beginning.

## CHILD WATCH

Continued from page 4

rights movement was bringing a wide range of legal challenges and LDF had established an internship program for new lawyers who wanted to practice in the South after a year of training with LDF's extraordinary New York lawyers who included Jack Greenberg, Constance Baker Motley, Derrick Bell, and James Nabrit III. Julius Chambers and I were lucky enough to serve as the first two LDF interns, and John Walker was the third.

He quickly established his practice in Little Rock, opening one of the first racially integrated law firms in the South, and became an LDF cooperating attorney working on education, death penalty, and voting rights cases among others. From 1965 John was personally involved in most of the important reported cases involving racial discrimination in Arkansas. The Little Rock school desegregation case began during his senior year in college and became one of his major battles over more than three decades going back and forth in the courts. The segregationists never gave up their attempts to obstruct and deny our black children's rights to equal education.

Ted Shaw, former Legal Defense Fund President and Director-Counsel, who worked with John on that case called John, "a superb trial lawyer who dominated courtrooms with lawyerly charisma and crackling cross-examination... More than anything else, I remember how people would come up to John in backwoods catfish and po' boy joints to shake his hand and thank him for what he had done or was doing as he represented them. No matter where we went, people knew John Walker and he knew them. He represented them in employment discrimination, voting rights, education, housing, and other civil rights cases. And he knew them. He was a thorn in the side of the powerful and a warrior on behalf of the disadvantaged. In Arkansas, Oklahoma, and Texas, John Walker was the civil rights lawyer."

John decided to seek public office and in 2010 became an Arkansas state legislator to continue fighting for equal justice and opportunity as he had in the courtroom. Although he was often at odds with the most powerful forces in Arkansas his body laid in state at the Arkansas State Capitol with flags at half-staff. Tributes poured in from across the state and nation—powerful symbols of the transforming change he fought so hard to achieve for those left behind.

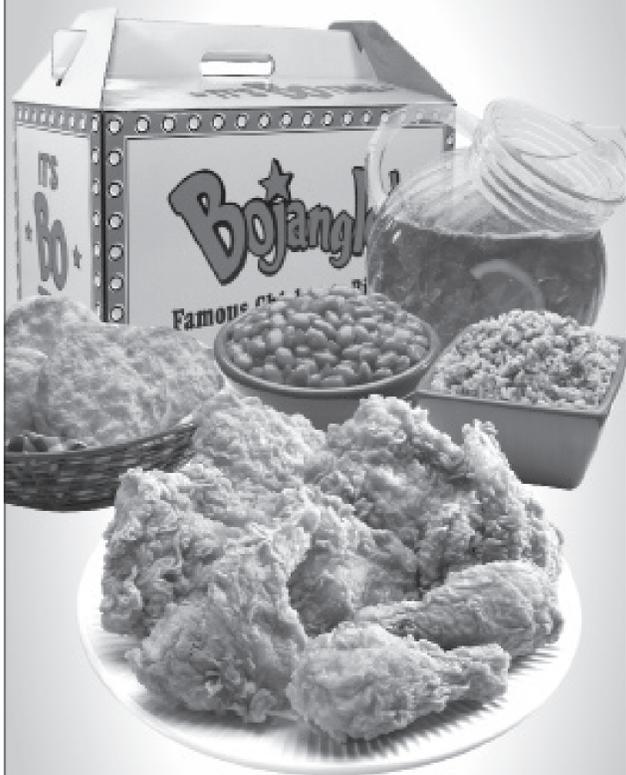
How many young people today find such a passionate calling? It was an extraordinary privilege to be a young lawyer at the height of the civil rights movement alongside colleagues like John when there was so much work to be done.

There is still so much work to be done to break down the barriers—many more subtle but equally real that keep every child from having equal access to opportunity in America. Today, when our nation is at risk of moving dangerously backwards, the work continues and is as urgent as it ever was with nearly 12 million children still living in poverty and many more trapped in inequity funded and racially segregated schools.

The Legal Defense Fund remembered that John "once noted that he made a promise to himself early on in life that, in retrospect, now aptly captures the essence of his career: 'I would not engage in prejudice, or sit idly by while someone else did.'" I am so grateful for his example and tireless work for justice, for our young and all of us. Let's praise his life but emulate his example.

# Merry Christmas

## The Tailgate Special



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**Greg Ford**  
Wake County Board Of  
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# Merry Christmas

## Christmas Is

Christmas is remembering  
 The best about the ones  
 We love...and those we wish to love.  
 Christmas is the summoning up of  
 All the little good feelings associated  
 With happy times...  
 And then enjoying them.  
 Christmas is the strength to do  
 All the good things we promise to do all year  
 And to promise once again to do them  
 All year long.  
 Christmas is being as thankful  
 For what you have been spared  
 As for what you have been given.  
 Christmas is to express gratitude publicly  
 But also in the heart.  
 Where it cannot be abused  
 Christmas is to shed heavenly tears of concern  
 Being therein perfect  
 Even as your Father in Heaven is perfect  
 Christmas is to view those less fortunate  
 With understanding eyes and hurting hearts  
 Christmas is private acts of kindness  
 Shared on with your God.  
 Christmas is to sense the power of blood.  
 Blood given and blood shed  
 Christmas is the live Birth of Hope  
 The evidence of things scarcely seen.  
 Christmas is Jesus  
 And Jesus is the Christ  
 Christmas is to come  
 To know him  
 Know Jesus Christ

Stu Daugherty 2015



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 A Joy-Filled Christmas...*  
*A silent night, a star above, a blessed gift of hope and love.*  
 Raleigh-Wake Citizens Association  
**RWCA**  
 Michael A. Leach, President  
 Mary Perry, Vice-President  
 Marionna Poke-Stewart, Treasurer  
 Sonia M. Barnes, M-PAC Chair

**Merry Christmas**  
 Wishing You & Yours All The Joys of  
 Christmas...  
**SIG HUTCHINSON**

**Merry Christmas**  
 from  
**Jessica Holmes**  
 Wake County  
 Board Of  
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*Merry Christmas  
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 Happy New Year*  
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# Ways To Access Gifted Programs For Low Income Families

By Jonathan Wai

University of Arkansas

(THE CONVERSATION) Many of the public school gifted and talented programs that serve high-ability students don't reflect the diversity of their communities. New York City, with roughly 1.1 million students, is an extreme example.

While roughly 4 in 6 of its kindergartners are black or Latino, those children account for only about 1 in 6 of all public school students identified as gifted and talented.

Concerns about this underrepresentation recently led a School Diversity Advisory Group appointed by Mayor Bill de Blasio to recommend that the city's school system end all gifted and talented programs in its elementary and middle schools.

We are scholars of gifted education and education policy. Between us, we have lived in eight states and worked with 11 different school districts.

Based on what we've learned and seen along the way, we believe that de Blasio shouldn't follow the panel's recommendations. In our view, they are inconsistent with the large body of evidence supporting the need for increasing access

to gifted and talented services and instruction for students from low-income and underrepresented backgrounds who are ready for more advanced coursework.

Ultimately, removing gifted programs would end up hurting students of color who are ready to be challenged and deserve that opportunity.

To be sure, the mayor is right to be concerned. Most gifted low-income kids are much less likely than affluent children with similar academic abilities and potential to get access to the kinds of programs that will help them flourish.

It's also become clear that many talented low-income and underrepresented students of color are not challenged enough. For example, a recent study one of us worked on showed what happened when 482,418 gifted 7th-graders took the ACT college entry exam and then took it again in high school.

The researchers found that gains for students from low-income and disadvantaged backgrounds between 2005 and 2017 were smaller than for other groups.

We see those results as clear evidence that kids who are both gifted and facing economic hardship need more opportunities to

develop their talents. At the same time, it also indicates a need to ensure that all schools have the ability to challenge the brightest students, including low-income children of color.

We fear that if New York City were to dismantle its gifted programs, low-income gifted students—who can and do come from all backgrounds—would suffer the most.

Unlike the children of wealthy parents who can afford the tuition at private schools or to move to affluent suburbs with high-performing school systems, there are virtually no alternatives for them. This includes talented students of color, who could be better served by increased access to gifted programs broadly.

That's why reforming—rather than eliminating—New York's program makes more sense. How to respond to the diversity panel's recommendations is up to de Blasio, who has said he is not in a hurry to take action. Fortunately, there are some models across the country that he could follow.

New York chooses students for its gifted programs by administering a single test when the kids are as young as 4 years old.

Another common way for schools to select which kids will

take part in programs that serve gifted and talented students is through referrals from their teachers and parents. This is the approach taken in West Virginia, Oregon and countless school systems.

But research indicates that this conventional approach more often leads to parents and teachers selecting students based on their personal, often idiosyncratic, ideas about what giftedness looks like.

It turns out that testing all students most effectively identifies students from all backgrounds who are ready for a more challenging curriculum. For example, universal screening has greatly improved the identification of gifted and talented racial and ethnic minorities in Broward County, Fla.

Additionally, research shows that standardized testing for spatial reasoning abilities, such as mentally rotating three-dimensional objects, can help identify a large pool of currently neglected gifted low-income and underrepresented students. That's because these abilities are less correlated with socioeconomic status than math and verbal skills are.

Another problem in New York City is that testing children who are as young as 4 years old is often unreliable and may even exac-

erbate demographic imbalances.

Recent research shows that school systems that identify gifted and talented students based on test scores and also comparing students to each other within the school building works. For example, the top fraction of scorers within each school would be identified as gifted and talented. This strategy has increased Latino and African-American representation in gifted programs in 10 states across the country by 170 percent and 300 percent respectively.

Taking this step can help disadvantaged kids who are highly talented enroll in programs that can boost their talent. When this happens early on, it can make it more likely for those underrepresented gifted students to later attend prestigious high schools.

That's not happening in New York. Indeed, de Blasio created the advisory panel as a response to New York City's most coveted high schools enrolling just a handful of African-American and Latino students. Only seven of the 895 students accepted at high-performing Stuyvesant High School for the 2019 to 2020 school year, for example, were black.

However troubling it may seem, the disproportional representation of students of color in New

York City's gifted and talented programs and prestigious high schools is also evident on all other achievement outcomes in New York City schools.

We should note that for selective high school admissions de Blasio has tried—unsuccessfully—to abolish the city's high-stakes admissions test. He supports a new system that admits instead the top 7 percent of students from each public middle school based on student rankings as a function of grades, state test scores and performance among peers.

This approach might work to some extent, but we don't think throwing out admissions tests is a good solution at any stage of the education process because relative to other ways of selecting students, testing has the most evidence behind it.

All students should be tested and compared to one another within their own school buildings. Students could be screened for giftedness early—but not too early—perhaps in third grade, on math, verbal and spatial reasoning measures. This would improve the talent development of disadvantaged students in the long run.

Perhaps most importantly, these solutions can work all across the country, not just in New York City.

# Classifieds

**LEGALS**

**NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION**  
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
WAKE COUNTY  
In the General Court of Justice  
DISTRICT COURT DIVISION  
Title of Action: Cary Ventures, LLC vs. Kawanna Honeycutt;  
File 19 CVD 10746 Wake County  
To: Kawanna Honeycutt: TAKE NOTICE that a pleading seeking relief against you has been filed in the above-entitled action. The nature of the relief being sought

is as follows: Claims for: Breach of Lease. Plaintiff seeks damages in excess of \$15,083.00. You are required to make defense to such pleading no later than January 7, 2020 and upon your failure to do so, the party seeking service against you will apply to the court for the relief sought.  
This the 28th day of November, 2019.  
Austin Law Firm, PLLC.  
By: /s/ John S. Austin, Esq.  
Attorney for Petitioner  
P.O. Box 30  
Raleigh, NC 27602  
(919) 278.7634.  
December 5, 12, 19, 2019.  
**NOTICE OF SERVICE OF**

**PROCESS BY PUBLICATION**  
NORTH CAROLINA  
WAKE COUNTY  
In the General Court of Justice  
District Court Division  
File No. 19-CVD-59  
Jayro Javier Cedeno Verdezoto, Plaintiff vs. Marabeliz Comas Padilla, Defendant. This notice is to: Marabeliz Comas Padilla: Take notice that a pleading seeking relief against you has been filed in the District Court of Wake County, North Carolina. The nature of the relief being sought is as follows: Absolute Divorce. You are required to make defense to such pleading not later than 40 days from the date of first publication of this notice. If you fail to do so, the party seeking service against you will apply to the court for the relief

sought. This, the 3rd day of December, 2019. J. Carlos Rojas, Esq., Counsel for Jayro Javier Cedeno Verdezoto, Rojas Legal Services, 5530 Munford Road, Suite 111, Raleigh, NC 27612.  
**AVISO DEL SERVICIO DE PROCESO POR PUBLICACION**  
Numero 19-CVD-59  
CAROLINA DEL NORTE  
CONDADO DE WAKE  
en el Corte General de Justicia  
División de la Corte de Distrito  
Jayro Javier Cedeno Verdezoto, el Demandante v. Marabeliz Comas Padilla, la Demandada. Para: Marabeliz Comas Padilla: Tome en cuenta que se ha presentado una demanda de reparación en su contra en el Corte de Distrito del Condado de Wake, Carolina del Norte. La naturaleza del alivio que se busca es la siguiente: Divorcio absoluto. Usted esta en su derecho por ley de hacer contestación a esa demanda dentro de los cuarenta (40) días a partir de la fecha de la primera publicación de este aviso. Si no lo hace, la parte que solicita el servicio contra Usted, recurrirá a los tribunales por el reclamo que se ha solicitado. Este el día 03 de Diciembre, 2019. J. Carlos Rojas, Esq., Abogado para el demandante, Jayro Javier Cedeno Verdezoto, Rojas Legal Services, 5530 Munford Road, Suite 111, Raleigh, NC 27612.  
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The North Carolina Department of Public Safety has the following contract in Sampson County out for bid: C-11287 Tarheel Challenge—Pre-Engineered Metal Building. The bid opening is scheduled for: Thursday, 01/16/2020. To obtain the Notice to Bidders, any Pre-Bid Requirements, and any Addenda visit: <https://www.ips.state.nc.us/ips/CatBids.aspx>.

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The North Carolina Department of Public Safety has the following contract in Sampson County out for bid: C-11280 Tarheel Challenge Fire Alarm System. The bid opening is scheduled for: Wednesday, 01/22/2020. To obtain the Notice to Bidders, any Pre-Bid Requirements, and any Addenda visit: <https://www.ips.state.nc.us/ips/CatBids.aspx>.

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The North Carolina Department of Public Safety has the following contract in Buncombe County out for bid: C-11263 INSTALL NEW ROOF DRAIN. The bid opening is scheduled for: Thursday, 01/23/2020. To obtain the Notice to Bidders, any Pre-Bid Requirements, and any Addenda visit: <https://www.ips.state.nc.us/ips/AGENCY/PDF/13447400.pdf>.

**BID REQUEST**

**BARNHILL CONTRACTING COMPANY** Attention MBEs & WBEs—Barnhill Contracting Company is requesting bids from any interested firms for the following projects: **NCDOT Contract: #DA00477 Currituck County—Milling, Resurfacing, OGAF & Full Depth Patching, US Hwy 158 & SR1222.** Pre-Bid Meeting is on Thursday, January 2nd, 2020 at 10:00 AM in our Elizabeth City Office at 841 Sun Gro Drive, Elizabeth City, NC. This project bids on January 15, 2020 and includes opportunities on, but not limited to hauling, milling, rumble strips, traffic control, pavement marking/markers, erosion control and signals. Bids are due to James Spivey no later than 12:00 P.M. on Tuesday January 14th, 2020. Plans can be viewed in our office at the address listed above or on the NCDOT website: <http://www.ncdot.gov/doh/operations/division1/BidRequests.html>.  
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The CONTRACT DOCUMENTS may be examined at the following locations:  
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McDavid Associates, Inc., 3714 North Main Street, Farmville, NC 27828-0049  
Dodge Data and Analytics, 4300 Beltway Place, Suite 150, Arlington, TX 76018-5253  
(View online at [www.construction.com](http://www.construction.com))  
ConstructConnect, Attn: DPC, 30 Technology Parkway South, Suite 100, Norcross, GA 30092  
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Builders & Contractors Exchange, Inc., 1118 Azalea Garden Road, Norfolk, VA 235025612  
(View online at [www.bceva.com](http://www.bceva.com))

Copies of the CONTRACT DOCUMENTS may be obtained at the office of McDavid Associates, Inc. located at 3714 North Main Street, Farmville, NC 27828-0049 upon a nonrefundable payment of \$204.00 for each set.

The OWNER reserves the right to reject any and all BIDS. BIDDER shall be properly licensed under Chapter 87, General Statutes of North Carolina.

Small, minority, women's, and disadvantaged businesses and labor surplus area firms are encouraged to submit BIDS.

This PROJECT is subject to the good faith efforts and goals for participation by minority businesses required by G.S. 143128.2. The OWNER has adopted a verifiable ten percent (10%) goal for participation by minority businesses in the total value of the WORK.

BIDDERS shall, within the time frames specified in the BID documents, submit all required affidavits and documentation demonstrating that the BIDDER made the required good faith effort in compliance with G.S. 143128.2. Failure to file all required affidavits and documentation within the required time frames is grounds for rejection of the BID.

Prospective BIDDERS who have been found guilty of discrimination within the last two (2) years are debarred from bidding.

A preBid conference will be held at 10:00 AM on January 9, 2020 in Ayden Operation Center, 4061 East Avenue, Ayden, NC 28513. Prospective BIDDERS are encouraged to attend this prebid conference as part of their good faith efforts.

December 18, 2019  
Steven L. Harrell  
Town Manager  
Town of Ayden

**NOTICE OF AMENDMENT**

**WAKE COUNTY 2016 AND 2019 ACTION PLANS**

Notice is hereby given that Wake County is amending the 2016 and 2018 Action Plans. The Action Plan is part of the Five-year Consolidated Plan mandated by the National Housing Act of 1990 and is required for Wake County to receive Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and other federal funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

On January 21, 2020, the Wake County Department of Housing Affordability & Community Revitalization will ask the Wake County Board of Commissioners to approve the amendments below:

1. Reprogramming \$19,073.93 of 2016 CDBG funds from Public Facilities to Public Services for the Garner Recreation Center.
2. Reprogramming \$41,026.06 of 2019 CDBG funds from Public Facilities to Public Services for the Garner Recreation Center.
3. Reprogramming \$429,373.94 of 2019 CDBG funds from Public Facilities to Rehabilitation.

Wake County will make the amendment available for review for 30 days at Wake County Housing Affordability & Community Revitalization offices at Rm. 440, Wake County Office Building, 336 S. Fayetteville St, P.O. Box 550, Raleigh, NC 27602, and on the Wake County website at <http://www.wakegov.com/housing/Pages/plansdocs.aspx> starting December 20, 2019. At the end of the 30-day comment period, Wake County will compile and address all comments received. Send all comments to Emily Fischbein at the above address or Emily.fischbein@wakegov.com by 5:00 p.m. on January 20, 2020. For more information, contact (919) 508-0781. Speech or hearing-impaired persons may call 1-800-735-2962 (TT) or 1-800-735-8262 (voice).

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December 18, 2019  
Steven L. Harrell  
Town Manager  
Town of Ayden

# Automotive

## Review: Introducing The Fourth Generation Ford Escape

By Matt Keegan  
Staff Writer

The Ford Escape is one of the earliest examples of a compact crossover utility vehicle, rolling out in 2001 along with variants from Mazda and Mercury. Ford no longer works with Mazda and the Mercury brand is gone, but the Escape soldiers on with an all-new model debuting in 2020.

This vehicle keeps Ford near the top of the segment, delivering smart styling, leading-edge technologies, and one of the few hybrids available in the segment. Ford offers the 2020 Escape in S, SE, SE Sport Hybrid, SEL, and Titanium trims. Prices range from \$24,885 to \$33,400, plus a \$1,195 freight charge. This model seats five and comes with standard front-wheel drive and available all-wheel drive.

### Ford Escape Highlights

The new-look Escape boasts a gaping grille, sweeping curves, and handsome lighting front and back. Inside, the cabin seems more sedate with woodgrain trim and some plastics apparent, especially below eye level. The standard screen is tiny, but beginning with the SE, an 8-inch display occupies the center stack.

Taller drivers may find the seats narrow and short with less support than desired. The midsize Ford Edge is the better choice here. We like the audio package offerings, ranging from the standard six-speaker system to the top-end B&O audio extravaganza.

All models come with automatic headlamps, active lane control, blind-spot monitors, and automatic emergency braking. You can also opt for adaptive cruise control and lane-centering technology. An available head-up display features a clear screen, which automatically rises and falls on ignition.

### Powertrain Choices

Ford offers more powertrain choices than most competitors, including a hybrid. A turbo-charged 1.5-liter three-cylinder engine is standard; a turbo-charged 2.0-liter four-cylinder engine is optional. Both engines



work with an 8-speed automatic transmission.

A 2.5-liter four-cylinder gas engine with an electric motor powers the hybrid model. This one works with a continuously variable transmission. It was also the model Ford sent us for a week of driving through the central North Carolina countryside. We averaged 35 mpg for the week or 5 mpg below the posted average.

Yet, that was 5 mpg better than the average for the base engine.

Our test hybrid model was surprisingly powerful and efficient. It delivers a combined 200 horsepower and 209 pound-feet of torque, just ahead of the 180 horsepower for the base engine. If you put a premium on performance, the optional turbocharged gas model supplies 250 horsepower, which matches



some small V6 engines.

**On the Road**  
The 2020 Escape supplies ample step-off acceleration and passing power. The hybrid is geared toward efficiency and the instrument panel “coaches” you on how to improve efficiency by careful acceleration and braking. Operating the transmission in L mode when traveling at low speeds aids that cause.

We give this model high marks in steering feel and handling, especially with the available all-wheel drive option which sends up to 50 percent of the torque to the rear wheels for improved stability. The Escape also rides comfortably and quietly.

If you have towing in mind, any Escape equipped with a towing package gets the job done. The base model has a 2,000-pound tow-



ing capacity, while the turbo four-cylinder models pull up to 3,500 pounds. Even the hybrid offers a 1,500-pound towing capacity. The storage space is average for the segment, although the hybrid loses a few cubic feet on account of the intrusion of its lithium-ion battery pack, which stores electricity for powering the vehicle.

### Making Your Escape

This spring, Ford adds a plug-

in hybrid variant, which will allow this crossover to travel 30 miles on electric power only. But the sweet spot for this model line is the SE trim as it delivers a long list of amenities, including smartphone compatibility, satellite radio, a power driver's seat, and heated front seats. Your out-the-door price here is about \$29,000, including the available driver-assist tech package.

## Ford To Add 3,000 Jobs And Invest \$1.45 Billion in Detroit

By Tom Krisher

Auto Writer

DETROIT, Mich. (AP)—Ford Motor Co. is adding 3,000 jobs at two factories in the Detroit area and investing \$1.45 billion to build new pickup trucks, SUVs, and electric and autonomous vehicles.

The company said Tuesday that about \$750 million will go to the Michigan Assembly Plant in the Detroit suburb of Wayne, where 2,700 jobs will be added during the next three years.

Another \$700 million will be invested in the truck plant in Dearborn, Mich., where 300 new jobs will be added.

Hiring will begin next year.

The large investment comes as the U.S. new vehicle sales cycle

has peaked and appears to be leveling off around 17 million vehicles per year. But Ford needs to make the investment in new products in an effort to increase market share and prepare for a shift to new propulsion and autonomous vehicle technologies.

The Wayne plant investment will be used to build the new Ford Bronco SUV, as well as an all-new Ranger small pickup truck. Investment at the plant will also result in a new center to modify and support autonomous and other vehicles.

Ford says the Dearborn plant will get the next generation of the F-150, as well as hybrid and electric versions of the truck. The investment includes battery assembly for the electric trucks.

The F-150 is the top-selling vehicle in the U.S. and is Ford's franchise, generating most of the company's profits.

Workers at the Wayne plant will modify and finish Ford's first autonomous vehicles starting in 2021, including the installation of self-driving technology and interiors built for autonomous travel, Ford said in a statement.

The truck plant in Dearborn will build the new trucks as well as assemble battery cells into full packs for the hybrid and electric F-150s.

Michigan's economic-development arm, the Michigan Strategic Fund, on Tuesday approved tax incentives for Ford that are worth up to approximately \$35 million.

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Doc: 910-799-8100  
cherylgray@StateFarm.com

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## WHY DO WE PAY THE HIGHEST DRUG PRICES IN THE WORLD?

~~While too many Americans struggle to make ends meet, the big drug companies continue to rake in billions.~~

~~People shouldn't have to choose between buying medication and buying food for our families. Congress, it's time to act. Stop the greed. Cut drug prices now.~~

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