

March

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The Rev. William Barber II, the head of the North Carolina Branch of the NAACP and co-founder of the Moral Mondays Movement, said that the deliberate, race-based voter suppression law passed by the North Carolina state legislature

election in North Carolina. As the nation mourns the mass murder of the nine members of Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston S.C., Barber said that Americans are in "the middle of a serious season about race" and that it's not just about symbols like the Confederate flag, it's also about the sub-

stance of public policy and the racially disparate impact of the public policy. "The fact that the extreme agenda around voter suppression has been so racialized and framed by the suppressors as somehow saving the country and saving the democracy is the reason that, not only must flags come down, but the opposition to voting rights and these suppressive laws must come down," said Barber. "Racialized rhetoric and policy rooted in untruth creates a climate in which we can say, 'the perpetrator of race-based terror has been arrested, but the killer, racism and race-driven policies and rhetoric, is still at large.'"

"The outcome of this trial will have national implications for voting rights."

and signed by North Carolina's Gov. Pat McCrory is a sin.

"[House Bill 589] violates our deepest constitutional values and our deepest moral and religious values, which demand equal protection under the law and the establishment of justice," Barber said.

The Advancement Project, a multiracial civil rights group, called H.B. 589 a "monster" bill that shortens the early voting period by a full week, eliminates same-day registration, requires strict forms of voter ID, resources that disproportionately affect minority and low-income voters.

The bill also blocks out out-of-precinct voting and expands the ability to challenge voters at the polls, and ends a pre-registration program for 16- and 17-year olds, according to the advocacy group.

"The number of voters silenced because of the new law likely exceeds 30,000 and could reach 50,000 or more," according to analysis by Democracy North Carolina, a watchdog group that monitors elections.

The report said that the repeal of same-day registration, out-of-precinct voting, and straight party voting "which created backlogs inside the voting enclosure and longer lines outside as voters took longer to mark each contest on their ballot," created the most problems for voters during the 2014 general

election in North Carolina. As the nation mourns the mass murder of the nine members of Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston S.C., Barber said that Americans are in "the middle of a serious season about race" and that it's not just about symbols like the Confederate flag, it's also about the sub-

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Barber noted that the last ditch effort by state lawmakers to soften the blow of the photo ID statute, only addressed one part of the 2013 law, leaving the cuts to early voting days, same day registration and pre-registration for some teenagers intact.

The same day that the trial is set to begin, the Moral Mondays movement will also host a march and rally for voting rights in Winston-Salem, N.C., Barber said, to show the world that North Carolina residents plan to fight for their right to vote.

"This is our Selma, and we implore all who care about voting rights to join us," said Barber. "Selma is not just something that happened 50 years ago. Selma is not just a movie that you can go see to be nostalgic about the fight that was. Our Selma is the fight that is. The fight against voter suppression right now, right here, today."

Chronicle Managing Editor Donna Rogers contributed to this report.

that dozens of states have passed similar legislation after Shelby v. Holder decision. "The solvency of the Voting Rights Act to stop these discriminatory voting practices hangs in the balance and that battle will be waged in Winston-Salem starting July 13."

In June, less than a month before the trial, North Carolina legislators

eased restrictions on the photo ID requirements in the state's contentious voting law. The changes, if approved by Gov. McCrory, would allow voters to sign an affidavit acknowledging hardships that they encountered in obtaining a photo ID. Voters could then present other forms of identification.

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Tracy Glantz/The State via AP

Thomas Wiggins, of Columbia, waves an American Flag while showing support to take the Confederate flag off the South Carolina Statehouse grounds in Columbia, S.C., Tuesday, July 7, 2015. The push to remove the Confederate flag from the grounds of the South Carolina Statehouse cleared another hurdle as the view of a long-held symbol shifts across the South in the wake of last month's shooting.

UNC's 'Silent Sam' Confederate statue vandalized

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHAPEL HILL, N.C. — Someone has spray painted "murderer" and "black lives matter" on the statue honoring Confederate veterans nicknamed "Silent Sam" at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill.

Authorities say they are investigating the vandal-

ism, which was discovered Sunday morning, July 5. No suspects have been identified or arrests made.

University spokesman Rick White says the school will continue to discuss whether statues and the names of buildings on campus respect people of all races, but damaging statues is not the way to have that discussion.

"Silent Sam" was placed on campus in 1913 to honor 321 UNC students who died fighting for the South in the Civil War. He is called "silent" because he carries a gun but no bullets.

The statue has been the focal point for several campus demonstrations over race relations.

Dr. King and others spent their lives fighting for the right to vote. We have a responsibility to those who came before us to continue fighting attempts to deny our right to vote in the courts and in the streets.

WALK & RALLY FOR VOTING RIGHTS & JUSTICE

on the first day of the 2015 general election

251 N Main St, Winston-Salem, NC 27101

This is our Selma. This July, we march Forward Together.

NAACP

Visit www.naacpc.org for details

Upcoming Events

linked to Moral Monday, July 13

***Ferguson Video Showing**

Thursday, July 9, 6 p.m.
WSSU Student Activity Center, 601 S. MLK Jr. Drive

***Southwest Ward**

Thursday, July 9, 6 p.m.
Miller Park Recreation Center, 400 Leisure Lane

***Winston-Salem NAACP Welcoming Reception**

Saturday, July 11, 6 p.m.
NAACP Enrichment Center, 4130 Oak Ridge Dr.

***Forward Together Ecumenical Service**

Sunday, July 12, 6 p.m.
Union Baptist Church, 1200 Trade St.

***Teach-ins**

Monday, July 13, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Goler Memorial A.M.E. Zion Church, 630 N. Patterson Ave.

***March and rally**

Monday, July 13 at 5 p.m.
beginning at Corpensing Plaza, 231 W. 1st St.

Testing

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information prior to that he is unaware of.

"The landfill we have records of was a permitted facility," said Smith. "What was considered waste back then [1950s] has changed. Back then, we would just take waste and household waste and just dump it. I think that is what happened in the '50s and '60s."

The testing last month was part of an exchange between the city and Winston-Salem State University, owner of the Bowman Gray property. WSSU spent \$100,000 in matching funds to pay for initial testing of the site.

Jillian Allen, of

Winston-Salem and president of Action Now, believes if it weren't for WSSU, the people in the neighborhoods surrounding the stadium would've never known about the gas that could be seeping through their homes every day.

"If it weren't for the selling of the stadium, the people of this community would've never known of the dangers they could be facing," Allen said.

"I would like the city to fully explain what is going on. Things change all the time, so I think the individuals need to really understand what is going on and how they will fix this issue in the future, because it could be getting worse."

In the 14 homes tested

during the initial testing, no methane gas was found.

Assistant City Manager Greg Turner said testing will continue until the city has a full understanding of the area and how to manage it.

"The last thing we want is methane in someone's home," Turner said. "We will continue to test the soil in the neighborhoods, but we need permission to test inside your homes."

Results from the second round of testing will be back in late August.

Keith Huff, director of stormwater and erosion control for Winston-Salem, can be reached at keithh1@cityofws.org. The city's website is www.cityofws.org.



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