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## Rev. Ben Chavis Urges African Americans to 'Get out and Vote'

Special to the Carolina Times

We must declare that our voting rights are sacred and mobilize our community to get out and vote. That was a key part of the message that the Rev. Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr., former national executive director and CEO of the NAACP delivered to The Durham Committee on the Affairs of Black People on Sunday, April 27.

Dr. Chavis, a native of Oxford who achieved fame as one of "the Wilmington Ten", came to Durham to address the DCABP's "Get Out the Vote" mass rally which was held at Covenant Presbyterian Church on Weaver Street, Rev. Jimmy Hawkins, pastor.

"We were absolutely delighted to have Dr. Chavis come and address our mass rally," said Walter Jackson, political committee chair of the DCABP. "Dr. Chavis has been described as a crusader for justice," Jackson continued, "and the message he brought to us was motivating, inspiring and filled with specific recommendations for what needs to be done to restore the African-American community in Durham to the position of prominence it has held historically in North Carolina politics."

The plan that Dr. Chavis put forth to the DCABP included the use of modern tools including social media such as Facebook, Instagram and Twitter to get the message out and to reach younger voters.

The Durham Committee should create a youth development institute to train young people on the art of politics, Chavis declared. Young people need to attend meetings of government bodies such as the city council, county commission and state legislature to help develop their understanding of how politics works, he said.

We need to dust off our history, he said, and have a living legacy curriculum in schools that would teach young people about things such as the history of The Durham Committee, he added.

The Durham Committee on the Affairs of Black People, which is led by former state senator, Durham City Council member and North Carolina Utilities Commission member Ralph Hunt, has interviewed and endorsed candidates for the elections and primaries to be held on May 6th, which includes races for seats on the Durham School board and contests for sheriff, district attorney, district court judge seats, the North Carolina Supreme Court and U.S. Senate.

Sen. Hunt said it is important for every voter to go to the polls and vote in this election. He noted that although it is too late to register for the May 6th, election, people who are not already registered should register now so that they can vote in other elections that will be held this year, including the very important election for one of

North Carolina's U. S. senators which will be held in November.

Early voting began at three locations in Durham on April 24th and continues through 1 p.m. on May 3, and voting will be held at polling places throughout the county and state on May 6th. More information can be obtained by calling the Durham County Board of Elections at 919 560-0700.



REV. DR. BENJAMIN CHAVIS



Ms. Anthonia Ballard and Jeremy Ingram

## Ballard And Ingram Top NCCU Athletes

North Carolina Central University senior hurdler Anthonia Ballard and senior guard Jeremy Ingram were announced as the LeRoy Walker NCCU female and male student-athletes of the year on April 28 during The Eddies awards program inside B.N. Duke Auditorium on the campus of NCCU.

Ballard, a native of Philadelphia, Pa., has won four sprint hurdles events (two indoor, two outdoor) to date, and has placed in the top-5 of all 10 sprint hurdles events during indoor and outdoor seasons. She earned a silver medal and All-MEAC honors at 2014 MEAC Indoor Track & Field Championships in the 60-meter hurdles. So far during her career, she is a three-time MEAC silver medalist and All-MEAC honoree, placing second in the 2014 indoor 60m hurdles, the 2013 outdoor 100m hurdles and the 2012 indoor 60m hurdles.

Ingram, a native of Charlotte, was voted as the 2013-14 MEAC Men's Basketball Player of the Year and MEAC Tournament Most Outstanding Player. He ended the season 17th in the country in scoring, averaging 20.6 points per game. Ingram wrapped up his Eagle career with 1,525 points, which ranks sixth all-time at NCCU. Ingram also broke the NCCU single-season record of free throws made with 216, and is No. 1 all-time at NCCU in free-throws made in a career with 437.

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## St. Augustine's ousts president, reinstates 2 executives

RALEIGH (AP) - There has been a shake-up in the leadership of St. Augustine's University.

Chairman Rodney Gaddy said at a news conference April 7 the Board of Trustees had removed university president Dianne Boardley Suber at a board meeting April 4.

Suber, who had led the historically black school for 14 years, announced April 4 that she planned to retire at the end of May, an announcement that came as trustees were in a conference call discussing her future. The board voted to fire her during the call but were unable to reach her until April 5, Gaddy said.

The university also has reinstated two employees recently ousted by Suber. Last week, Suber fired the school's vice president of business and finance. Last month, she placed the provost on leave.

Two other vice presidents left last year. Acting Executive Director Ronald Brown is helping facilitate decisions until an interim president steps in.

The shift comes amid a review by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools because of the school's financial condition. Full-time equivalent enrollment fell from 1,387 in fall 2012 to 1,267 last fall, when an audit showed a \$3 million drop in tuition revenue.

## Court-ordered tobacco ads will include black media

By Michael Felberbaum

WASHINGTON (AP) - The nation's tobacco companies and the Justice Department are including media outlets that target more of the black community in court-ordered advertisements that say the cigarette makers lied about the dangers of smoking, according to a brief filed in U.S. District Court in Washington on April 23.

The advertisements are part of a case the government brought in 1999 under the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations. U.S. District Judge Gladys Kessler ruled in 2006 that the nation's largest cigarette makers concealed the dangers of smoking for decades and ordered them to pay for corrective statements in various advertisements in newspapers, as well as on TV, websites and cigarette pack inserts.

The companies involved in the case include Richmond, Va.-based Altria Group Inc., owner of the biggest U.S. tobacco company, Philip Morris USA; No. 2 cigarette maker, R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Co., owned by Winston-Salem, N.C.-based Reynolds American Inc.; and No. 3 cigarette maker Lorillard Inc., based in Greensboro, N.C.

Wednesday's briefing revises a January agreement outlining the details of those ads to address concerns raised by the judge and black media groups, which argued the ads should be disseminated through their outlets because the black community has been disproportionately targeted by tobacco companies. The court must still approve the agreement, which was signed off on by several public health groups that intervened in the case.

The new agreement proposes revising the list of where the ads will run to include newspapers in the 10 cities with the highest black populations in the U.S., as well as an additional 14 black newspapers. Companies also will have the option of airing one-third of the anti-tobacco ads on TV stations other than ABC, CBS and NBC as long as they reach the same overall number of people and an increased number of black viewers. Those could include Fox Broadcasting, which is owned by Rupert Murdoch's Twenty-First Century Fox Inc.; Viacom Inc., the company behind MTV, Comedy Central, VH1 and BET; and other networks.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, about 18 percent of U.S. adults smoked in 2012, the same percentage as blacks. But 21.5 percent of black adults were smokers in 2005, compared with 20.9 percent of adults. The federal agency also says the annual incidence of lung cancer was highest among blacks between 1998 and 2006 with a rate of 76.1 per 100,000 people, compared with 69.7 per 100,000 among whites.

Each corrective ad is to be prefaced by a statement that a federal court has concluded that the defendant tobacco companies "deliberately deceived the American public." Among the required statements are that smoking kills more people than murder, AIDS, suicide, drugs, car crashes and alcohol combined, and that "secondhand smoke kills over 38,000 Americans a year."

Tobacco companies have called the corrective statements "forced public confessions" designed to "shame and humiliate" them. A federal appeals court rejected efforts by the tobacco companies to overrule Kessler's ruling requiring the corrective statements but they are appealing the actual content of the advertisements. Companies also may be required to display the statements at stores that sell their products.

## Democrat Aiken goes for GOP-heavy House district

By Emery P. Dalesio

RALEIGH (AP) - "American Idol" star Clay Aiken has plenty of name recognition. But that doesn't mean voters in North Carolina's 2nd Congressional District will send the singer-songwriter and Democratic hopeful to Washington to represent them in Congress.

Republican Rep. Renee Ellmers has represented the district for two terms and wants to make it three. The tea party favorite has a good shot at doing so.

North Carolina offers clues as to why Democrats have little chance to retake control of the House in 2014.

An unpopular president in his sixth year in office combined with a divisive health care law are a drag on Democrats and energize core Republican voters in what are traditionally low-turnout midterm elections. Congressional districts redrawn in 2011 by the GOP-controlled state legislature also help.