DAVI7 12/01/14 **CHILL
UNC-CH SERIALS DEPARTMENT
DAVIS LIBRARY CB# 3938
208 RALEIGH STREET
CHAPEL HILL NC 27599-0001

NCC COT C2911

The Carolina Times

"THE TRUTH UNBRIDGED"

VOLUME 93 - NUMBER 37 | DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA - SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2014 | TELEPHONE (919) 682-2913

Justice Cheri Beasley

Durham Committee Annual Founders Banquet `Carrying The Torch of Our Founders'

The Durham Committee on the Affairs of Black People will hold its 79th Founders Anniversary Banquet at 7:00pm on Saturday, September 20th at Durham Hilton, 3800 Hillsborough Road, Durham, NC. A VIP reception will be at 6pm. This year's theme is "Carrying the Torch of Our Founders" and the keynote speaker is the Honorable Justice Cheri Beasley North Carolina Supreme Court.

The honorees this year is Attorney James D. "Butch" Williams and MaryAnn Black, Vice President of Community Relations at Duke University Health System. Tisha Powell from WTVD11 will host the event.

Entertainment includes Musician Reggie Jefferys, Hillside High School Dancers and Spoken Word Artist Sean E. The event promises to be uplifting and inspiring.

Banquet ads and sponsorships are still available contact LaManda Chestnut-Pryor by emailing lamandapryor@gmail.com. Tickets are $65. Contact Mignon Schooler (919) 616-2896 to purchase. Tickets can also be purchased at Hayti Heritage Center 804 Old Fayetteville St, JC Kitchen 706 E. Main St, The Palace International 1104 Broad St and A Cultured Alliance, llc 1910 Sedwick Rd Suite 300B.

The Durham Committee on the Affairs of Black People is under the leadership of former Senator Ralph Hunt Sr.

Police detain 'Django Unchained' actress in LA

LOS ANGELES (AP) _ Actress Daniele Watts, who appeared in "Django Unchained," is complaining that she was handcuffed and briefly put in the back of a squad car after a public display of affection with her white companion.

Brian Lucas told KCBS-TV in a joint interview with Watts that he suspects police mistook the black actress for a prostitute "because he was asking me questions like, `Who is she? How do you know her? Are you together?"

The Los Angeles Police Department said Sept. 14 that officers detained the pair after a complaint that two people were "involved in indecent exposure" in a silver Mercedes. Watts was detained until police determined no crime was committed.

Watts told the station that she and Lucas were embracing in the car Thursday when police showed up. The station said the two have been dating for the past year.

"I knew that the clearest thing for me to do was to own my right as a free person and say, `I haven't done anything wrong and I know I'm not required to give you my ID,'" she said.

Watts said she walked away and another officer put her in handcuffs and into the back of a patrol car. She was let go after police identified her.

"I don't have to feel ashamed for being who I am and that's really where the tears were coming from," Watts said, referring to a cellphone video of her in the incident.

Police said an internal investigation has been launched.

Representatives for Watts did not return calls and emails seeking comment.

Bill Cosby to loan art collection to Smithsonian

By Brett Zongker

WASHINGTON (AP) - Bill Cosby and his wife Camille plan to showcase their extensive collection of African-American art for the first time in an exhibition at the Smithsonian Institution.

The Smithsonian's National Museum of African Art says Sept. 15 that the entire Cosby collection will go on view in November in an exhibit juxtaposing African-American art with African art.

Group: NC restrictions deny hundreds of votes

By Gary D. Robertson

RALEIGH (AP) - An election reform group says two specific portions of North Carolina's new voting law prevented hundreds of people from having their ballots counted during the May primary.

Democracy North Carolina held a news conference Sept. 10 to remind people about the voting restrictions and to urge people to register to vote before the Oct. 10 deadline for the November election.

Group executive director Bob Hall says more than 400 people who would have qualified to vote in 2012 had their ballots rejected in the primary because they couldn't register during early voting or they voted in the wrong precinct. He says a disproportionate number of the voters were black or Democratic.

Three lawsuits want these restrictions blocked for the November election. A court hearing is slated for later this month.

Biden continues to take center stage on violence against women.

By Jazelle Hunt
NNPA Washington Correspondent

WASHINGTON (NNPA) - In July, bystander footage of an unidentified California highway patrol officer pummeling a Black woman on the side of the road hit the media. Last week, federal judge Mark Fuller was arrested for beating his wife, and subsequently accepted a plea deal for professional leave, six months of counseling, no charges, and an expunged record. And controversy continues after video surfaced of NFL Baltimore Ravens running back, Ray Rice, knocking his wife unconscious in an elevator last Valentine's Day. The 2014 Miss America pageant stirred that pot over the weekend, when a judge asked a contestant about Janay Rice's decision to remain in her marriage.

On the 20th anniversary of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), it seems there is still work to be done.

For this reason, Vice President Joe Biden, who co-sponsored the law in 1990 as a senator from Delaware, will convene legal scholars and professionals, and Department of Justice officials for a Summit on Civil Rights and Equal Protections for Women. No date has been set.

President Bill Clinton signed the bill into law on September 13, 1994.

Summit participants will brainstorm solutions to end the gender bias in the justice system that affects the way cases are handled. They will also examine ways to allow survivors to sue their assailants in federal court - a VAWA provision the Supreme Court struck down in 2000.

In addition to the summit, the Vice President's Office released a state-of-affairs report on the issue of violence against women.

"When VAWA was first passed, almost every state crime involving interstate elements (from gun crimes to cattle rustling) was covered by the federal criminal code - but not sexual assault and domestic violence," the report reads. "Although there is still much to do, this anniversary gives us a moment to reflect on the vital, often life-saving work the Violence Against Women Act has inspired and supports. Since its passage 20 years ago, help has come on all fronts."

According to the report there has been significant traction, both culturally and legally, on the issue.

The national rate of intimate partner violence against women has fallen 64 percent between 1993 and 2012, or 61 percent for Black Americans alone, according to the Bureau of Justice Statistics. VAWA-funded organizations have made gains in prosecution, and more services have become available for more survivors.

Today, VAWA has been expanded to serve LGBT survivors, those living in Indian country, undocumented immigrants, and college students.

(Continued On Page 2)

Guitarist, singer, harmonica player and songwriter Grady Champion performed at the Bull Durham Blues Festival. See page 7 for more pictures from the event.

Groups aiming to help NC legislative Democrats

By Gary D. Robertson

RALEIGH (AP) - Groups in the shadow of traditional campaigns are poised to once again attempt to influence North Carolina General Assembly races through ads and mailers bought with millions of dollars largely from companies and politically-minded organizations.

It's a strategy that helped Republicans take over the legislature in 2010 and expand their seat advantage in 2012. This year, donors and consultants aligned with Democrats are seeking to flex financial muscle to take back GOP gains.

Independent expenditure groups opposed to the Republican agenda at the legislature are sending signals they plan to spend large amounts this fall to help Democratic legislative candidates. The immediate goal is to eliminate veto-proof majorities Republicans currently hold. That means picking up four seats in the Senate and six in the House.

One group already has reserved more than $600,000 of television ad time in Raleigh, Durham and Fayetteville alone for the campaign's last month, according to TV station filings with the Federal Communications Commission. North Carolina Families First already sent out at least one mailer critical of a GOP House member.

Another group began running a television ad in the mountains last week blaming GOP Reps. Nathan Ramsey, Tim Moffitt and Michele Presnell for voting for tax cuts that benefited the wealthy while "our schools are starved for money and kids and teachers are left behind."

"Tell (them) to stop putting millionaires before our schools," says the ad from Aim Higher Now NC, part of North Carolina Citizens for Protecting Our Schools, which was active in the 2012 election.

Independent expenditure groups can receive unlimited donations from individuals, corporations and other political entities. In many cases, donor and expense information doesn't get released until the final two months of the fall campaign.

Candidates and political parties are barred from coordinating their activity with these groups. Sometimes described as super PACs, the groups are one of the many ingredients needed for success today in state or federal elections.

"The role of the independent expenditure groups is evolving, and every six months it looks slightly different," said Rep. Ruth Samuleson, R-Mecklenburg, the North Carolina House Republican Caucus campaign chairwoman. The groups, she added, "are a lot bigger player than they have been in the past."

Republicans benefited in 2010 from the conservative-leaning Real Jobs NC, which spent more than $1.5 million supporting Republican candidates and opposing Democrats with commercials and mailers. Its top donors included Republican State Leadership Committee and Variety Stores Inc., a company led by conservative activist Art Pope.

Two years later, Real Jobs spent roughly half of that amount, focusing on legislative candidates and the governor's race, supporting Pat McCrory. The group intends to get involved in legislative races again this fall if anticipated donations materialize, group spokesman Roger Knight said.

Liberal-leaning groups aligned with Democrats created similar independent groups in 2010 and 2012, but it hasn't equated to ballot box success.

"The Democrats are playing catch-up with the state Republicans when it comes to independent expenditure" campaigns, said Brad Crone, a longtime Democratic consultant.

N.C. Citizens for Progress, which spent $2.6 million in 2012 on ads criticizing McCrory, was renamed North Carolina Families First last month, according to state records. Jay Reiff, a longtime Democratic consultant for Gov. Mike Easley, is listed as the group's president.

Michael Weisel, general counsel and treasurer for Families First and N.C. Citizens for Protecting Our Schools, declined to discuss the groups' plans this fall but said they will comply with federal and state disclosure requirements.

Environmental groups this past spring already ran TV ads criticizing several GOP lawmakers for votes on fracking and landfills. With U.S. Sen. Kay Hagan framing her re-election bid as a referendum on the legislature and Republican challenger House Speaker Thom Tillis, people who support Democrats have more reasons for optimism.

"There are an increasing number of North Carolina citizens that are very concerned about the future and the direction of this state and the legsialtive priorities and policies that the current North Carolina General Assembly has," Weisel said.