

The Carolina Times

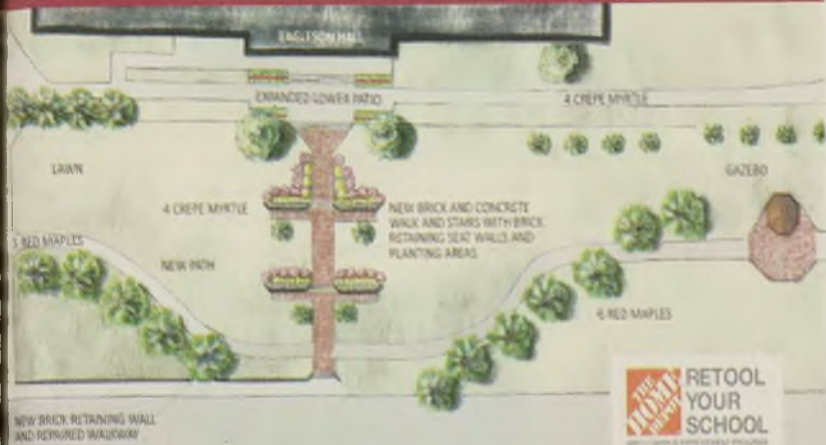
THE TRUTH UNBRIDLED

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NORTH CAROLINA CENTRAL UNIVERSITY



North Carolina Central University Awarded \$50,000 Grant From The Home Depot

North Carolina Central University (NCCU) has been selected as a top winner in The Home Depot's Retool Your School Campus Improvement Grant Program, receiving a \$50,000 award.

NCCU's improvement project is designed to enhance the approach to Eagleson Residence Hall (image attached), creating a formal entryway and landscaped green space for a more functional and aesthetically appealing addition to this section of campus.

The grant program, established in 2010, provides support for campus improvement projects at Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) across the country and has awarded \$1.2 million in grant money to date. NCCU won a \$10,000 grant in the 2014 contest that was used for improvements to the A.E. Student Union. The Retool Your School Campus Improvement Grant Program promotes sustainability by providing special consideration to eco-friendly project proposals. Winning Retool Your School projects will break ground in the summer of 2015.

"North Carolina Central University is excited about winning the \$50,000 Retool Your School grant, which will allow us to create an additional green space for students, faculty and alumni to enjoy on our campus," said NCCU Chancellor Debra Saunders-White. "We are grateful to The Home Depot for offering NCCU and other HBCUs the opportunity to improve and highlight the beauty of our institutions." This year, The Home Depot awarded a total of \$255,000 to nine accredited HBCUs in \$50,000, \$10,000 and \$10,000 grant denominations. The Retool Your School winners were chosen by a combination of online voting, social media activity and proposal reviews by a distinguished panel of judges. "This has been one of the most exciting years for The Home Depot's Retool Your School program as far as," says Melissa Brown, senior manager-marketing for The Home Depot. "The HBCU community and beyond showed their unrelenting support for our HBCU's and this program. We began with HBCU's submitting their proposals and now we have determined the winners. The Home Depot proudly congratulates all of the 2015 grant recipients."

North Carolina Central University prepares students to succeed in the global marketplace. Flagship programs include science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) disciplines, nursing, education, law, business and the arts. Founded in 1910 as a liberal arts college for African-Americans, NCCU remains committed to diversity in higher education. Our alumni are among the nation's most successful scientists, researchers, educators, attorneys, artists and entrepreneurs. Visit www.nccu.edu.



B.B. King breaks out in laughter as he's presented with the Presidential Medal of Freedom Friday, Dec. 15, 2006, by President George W. Bush in the East Room of the White House. Introducing the musician, President Bush told the audience, when speaking of the blues, "two names are paramount... B.B. King, and his guitar, Lucille. America loves the music of B.B. King, and America loves the man, himself." (White House Photo)

B.B. King memorial to mourn blues legend in Las Vegas

By Ken Ritter

LAS VEGAS (AP) - B.B. King played tens of thousands of gigs around the world and often said he was blessed to play for presidents and the common folk.

On Saturday, the music legend will be mourned and praised as the King of the Blues and father to 15 children during a family-and-friends memorial in Las Vegas, where he died May 14 at age 89.

"He was the best," said 83-year-old alto sax blues player Earl "Good Rockin'" Brown, one of the first of more than 1,000 people who viewed King's open casket during a public viewing on Friday. Brown remembered being inducted into the Blues Hall of Fame in 1990, the same time as King, who won 15 Grammys, sold more than 40 million records worldwide and was also inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

"Everyone else copied after him," Brown said. Some of King's 11 surviving adult children are feuding with LaVerne Toney, his longtime business agent and power-of-attorney, who is now executor of his estate.

Attorney Larissa Drohobycz, representing a group of heirs, said Saturday that she met with five adult King daughters - Patty King, Michelle King, Karen Williams, Barbara King Winfree and Claudette King Robinson - before issuing a statement saying they'll contest the blues legend's will and the actions of Toney.

The statement alleges Toney has misappropriated millions of dollars, has been untruthful and is unqualified to serve as executor of the B.B. King estate.

Toney told The Associated Press that she would not immediately respond.

A Call to Curb Expansion of Charter Schools in Black Communities

By Freddie Allen
Senior Washington Correspondent

WASHINGTON (NNPA) - Parents, students and advocates for strong neighborhood schools continue to pressure civic leaders to end the expansion of charter and contract schools in Black and Latino communities across the nation.

Jitu Brown, the national director of Journey for Justice Alliance, a coalition of community, youth and parent-led grassroots organizations in 21 cities, said that the fight for public education which suffers with the expansion of charter and contract schools "is a human and a civil rights issue."

As voices from the community were increasingly drowned out by philanthropic groups seeking wholesale educational reform, the state takeover of schools, corporate charters and appointed school boards have become the status quo, Brown said.

According to Education Week, a magazine published by Editorial Projects in Education, a nonprofit that produces K-12 educational content in print and online, more than 60 percent of philanthropic donations funneled into education young people in the United States went to charter and contract schools in 2010. Less than 25 percent of funding went to those programs about 15 years ago.

"What would actually be revolutionary, brand new, and fresh is if community wisdom was listened to and [corporations] worked with the people who are directly impacted by the institutions that they have to live with everyday," said Brown.

Choosing CHARTER SCHOOLS

The number of children attending public charter schools has more than quadrupled in the last decade.

Definition of a charter school:

A public school that is independently funded.

1999-2000

2009-2010

Brown described two separate and unequal sets of expectations, one for White and middle class children and another, lower set of expectations for Black and Latino children that often influence education policy. Those disparities will continue until society finds the courage to confront them.

"We want what our friends in other communities have, said Brown. "They don't have contract schools, they don't have charter schools in middle class White communities they have world-class neighborhood schools."

Daniel del Pielago of Empower DC agreed.

As the education organizer for Empower DC, a grassroots group that supports low- and moderate-income District residents living in the nation's capital, said that when communities work together, and when they're given the chance to put together solutions that work, they find success that doesn't require corporate intervention.

That success is embodied by the community school model championed by groups such as the Alliance.

According to the Coalition for Community Schools, a network of educational groups that provide support for youth development family and health services, community schools feature an "integrated focus on academics, health and social services, youth and community development and community engagement" that promotes "student learning, stronger families and healthier communities."

Helen Moore, the co-chairperson of the Keep the Vote/No Takeover Coalition in Detroit, Mich., said that the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), currently working its way through a Republican-led Congress still at odds with President Barack Obama, should give communities the power to control the destinies of their children.

Moore said that neither "No Child Left Behind" Act, George W. Bush's education initiative, nor President Obama's "Race to Top" fulfilled what was supposed to really happen: giving Black and Brown school systems the power and resources they needed to implement high-quality educational programs for their children.

"What's lost in the minutiae of school closures is the dismantling of good neighborhood schools," said Brown. "There were actually solid well-performing schools in our community that were receiving schools for students that lost their schools due to closures."

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Concealed Carry Permit Holders Kill Hundreds

By Freddie Allen

NNPA Senior Washington Correspondent

WASHINGTON (NNPA) George Zimmerman, the former neighborhood watchman who shot and killed Trayvon Martin, an unarmed Black teenager in Sanford, Fla., three years ago was involved in another shooting in the Sunshine State, again raises questions about concealed carry permits and the billion-dollar gun industry that advocates for legislation aimed at making it easier for Americans to carry firearms everywhere, all of the time.

Matthew Apperson of Winter Springs, Fla., who said that Zimmerman threatened him following a road rage incident last year, claimed that he was acting in self-defense when he fired a single shot through the passenger side window of the truck that Zimmerman was driving.

Last Friday, police charged Apperson with aggravated assault with a deadly weapon, aggravated battery with a deadly weapon and firing a deadly missile into an occupied vehicle, according to the Orlando Sentinel.

The dispute with Apperson follows a series of events where Zimmerman has been accused of threatening people with guns. In September 2013, just a few months after Zimmerman was acquitted of second-degree murder, his estranged wife and her father said that Zimmerman threatened them with a gun and in November 2013, Zimmerman's then-girlfriend accused him of threatening her with a shotgun.

The Orlando Sentinel reported that Don West, Zimmerman's lawyer, said that his client was armed and but didn't wave the gun or shoot at anyone during the altercation with Apperson. West added that Zimmerman has a concealed weapons permit and often travels with a gun for protection.

Despite the self-defense claims propped up by the supporters of concealed carry laws, the Violence Policy Center (VPC), a nonprofit group that seeks to address gun violence as a public health crisis, concealed carry permits holders are more likely to kill themselves or others during non-self defense events.

The center tracks fatalities associated with concealed carry gun permit holders at ConcealedCarryKillers.org and found that 743 people have been killed, including 17 law enforcement officers.

"In the vast majority of the 561 incidents documented (468, or 83 percent), the concealed carry permit holder either committed suicide (222), has already been convicted (184), perpetrated a murder-suicide (46), or was killed in the incident (16)," stated a press release about the website.

More than 70 people have been killed in Florida alone by concealed carry gun permit holders.

In a press release about ConcealedCarryKillers.org, Kristen Rand, the legislative director of VPC, said that research shows that concealed carry permit holders are involved in murders or suicides far more often than they act in self-defense. Rand added: "The NRA is relentlessly lobbying state and federal lawmakers to allow more concealed handguns in public despite the clear evidence that doing so puts more people in danger."