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TELEPHONE 919-682-2913

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## Marker describing 1898 violence as 'coup' dedicated

By Martha Waggoner

RALEIGH (AP) - The state of North Carolina is moving away from using the phrase race riot to describe the violent overthrow of the Wilmington government in 1898 and is instead using the word coup on the highway historical marker that will commemorate the dark event.

The heading on the marker reads Wilmington Coup, but the originally approved text referred to a race riot, which eventually was deleted.

You don't call it that anymore because the African Americans weren't rioting, said Ansley Herring Wegner, administrator of the North Carolina Highway Historical Marker Program, said Nov. 7. They were being massacred.

In 1898, white Democrats violently overthrew the fusion government of legitimately elected blacks and white Republicans in Wilmington. The Democrats burned and killed their way to power in what's viewed as a flashpoint for the Jim Crow era of segregation and the only successful coup d'etat in American history.

The marker, which was dedicated Nov. 8, stands outside the Wilmington Light Infantry building, where the mob of white supremacists gathered before they marched to The Daily Record, the African American newspaper, and burned it to the ground. Alfred Moore Waddell, who led the march, took over as mayor.

The ceremony included a moment of silence for those killed in the coup, the StarNews of Wilmington reported. The names of the 10 people to have been killed were read aloud, each accompanied by the chiming of bells.

The highway marker for the editor of the paper, Alex Manly, includes the phrase race riot, but it was dedicated 25 years ago.

Meanwhile in Chapel Hill, a temporary logo has been placed over one of the plaques at the University of North Carolina football stadium that's dedicated to a man who was a coup leader. A newspaper report at the time said Kenan Sr. was in charge of the machine gun used during the coup.

News outlets report that photos this week show the logo covering Kenan's name.

The original text for the 1898 marker, approved in December 2017, included Waddell's name and made other references that the public found offensive, Wegner said. The committee of historians that approves the language for markers went back to work and approved new text in the spring of 2018, Wegner said.

One of the people unhappy with the original text was Deborah Dicks Maxwell, president of the New Hanover County branch of the NAACP. She was especially upset that the original language said the violence left up to 60 blacks dead because it's unclear how many black people died.

We'll never know how many people died, she said. Black lives didn't matter at that time in terms of reporting or documentation.

The highway markers, known as history on a stick, have strict space limits - typically five to six lines of 25 characters each for 3-inch letters. The coup marker has 1.5-inch letters to allow more text.

The revised marker deletes the names of Waddell and Manly, since he has own marker. When you have so few words, you've got to choose the best ones, Wegner said.

Maxwell hopes the marker will help the world to understand that it wasn't a riot, she said.

We need to educate our children that this did happen - and the general public, Maxwell said: A lot of things that happen to African Americans are hidden swept under a rug. We need to reveal all parts of our history as a country.



Scenes from the Hillside High School Homecoming Parade. More pictures on pages 8 and 9.

## Still unknown? Many have yet to form opinions on Warren

By Will Weissert

RALEIGH (AP) - Ron Wen knew Elizabeth Warren was running for president, but not much else.

"We hear one or two things about 'Medicare for All,'" the 52-year-old technical marketing professional said about Warren's universal health care plan as he waited for a town hall with the Massachusetts senator to begin inside a packed high school gym in North Carolina's capital. "You always get the sound bites. You need to just go deeper."

Warren has risen in the polls for months, among the front-runners now in the 2020 Democratic primary and finding herself portrayed by comedian Kate McKinnon on "Saturday Night Live."

For many people, however, Warren is still a relative unknown, even among those who have begun paying closer attention with voting beginning in under three months.

Nearly one-quarter of Americans say they don't know enough about Warren to have an opinion, according to a recent poll from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research. The same poll shows that just about 1 in 10 Americans say they don't know enough about rivals Joe Biden or Bernie Sanders.

Biden was a two-term vice president and Vermont Sen. Sanders sought the White House four years ago, when he climbed from a virtual national unknown to credible challenger to Hillary Clinton for the Democratic nomination. Still, even among Democrats, more say they don't know enough about Warren, 16% versus 9% for Biden and 8% for Sanders, according to the poll.

An October Quinnipiac University poll showed 23% of Americans saying they hadn't heard enough about Warren, including 18% of Democrats. That was down from 31% of all Americans and 28% of Democrats in Quinnipiac's December 2018 poll, but still shows she has work to do to boost her name recognition.

It's both a challenge and an opportunity for Warren. She must still introduce herself to voters, but, perhaps unlike some of her competitors, there's also room to increase her support.

It's a counterintuitive situation for someone who has become known lately for attracting giant crowds in places like Seattle, St. Paul, Minnesota and Manhattan. Warren's campaign acknowledges that she trails Biden and Sanders in name recognition. But Warren says that's why North Carolina is the 28th state she's visited as she tries to build a grassroots movement nationwide. That often means staying behind at events for hours and taking 75,000 "selfies" with attendees.

Warren drew around 3,500 people in Raleigh, a raucous crowd that thunderously stomped its feet on the wooden bleachers. Still, she was in the Research Triangle, where many people are

college-educated, relatively affluent and more likely to be Democratic leaning - a key center of support for progressive Democrats such as Warren.

"She has amazing policies, but I think what happens with a lot of people is they aren't looking at the specifics of policy and they vote based on emotion," said Premi Singh, a 40-year-old high school English teacher from Morrisville, outside Raleigh. Singh said that, like Clinton in 2016, Warren may face a tougher climb to make a personal connection with voters because she's a woman who might be easily dismissed as overly professorial.

"We've gotten so used to reality television, not just with Donald Trump but with everything," Singh said. "Everything has to be exciting and everything has to be so filled with drama that our capacity to handle substantive discussions is more difficult."

On "SNL," McKinnon plays up Warren's wonkish tendencies but also uses physical comedy to spoof the candidate's high-energy approach to town halls, where she runs on stage and implores the audience to stay positive.

"I am in my natural habitat, a public school on the weekend," McKinnon's Elizabeth Warren crowed with kicks and air punches to open a recent episode.

The real-life Warren used parts of a McKinnon sketch spliced with actual footage of the candidate calling to thank small donors in an online ad she tweeted to her 3.5 million followers.

## Logo covers UNC stadium plaque honoring man with racist ties

CHAPEL HILL (AP) - A temporary logo has been placed over one of the plaques at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill stadium that's dedicated to a man who was a leader of a violent coup d'etat in 1898.

News outlets report that photos this week showing the logo covering the name of William Rand Kenan Sr.

Last year, then-Chancellor Carol Folt said the university would remove references to Kenan and focus on his son, William Rand Kenan Jr., who paid to have the stadium dedicated to his parents' memory.

A historical highway marker was being dedicated Nov. 8 to commemorate the 1898 coup in which white Democrats overthrew the government of African Americans and Republicans in Wilmington.

A newspaper report at the time said Kenan Sr. was in charge of the machine gun used during the coup.

## Maryland lawmaker: Bills considered to resolve HBCU case

By Brian Witte

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (AP) - A Maryland lawmaker says legislation is being considered to resolve a long-running lawsuit in federal court over program disparities between four historically black colleges and traditionally white colleges.

Del. Charles Sydnor, a Baltimore County Democrat, said Nov. 8 he is working with other lawmakers on proposals for a settlement of at least \$577 million.

That's the amount that an attorney representing the HBCUs has recommended.

Sydnor spoke at a news conference to discuss a rally next week calling for a fair resolution.

Republican Gov. Larry Hogan has offered to settle the lawsuit for \$200 million over 10 years.

House Speaker Adrienne Jones has urged Hogan to settle the case for \$577 million. Hogan responded that lawmakers could find ways to reach the higher amount in the upcoming budget process.



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