

OPINION

THE CHRONICLE

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Our Mission

The Chronicle is dedicated to serving the residents of Winston-Salem and Forsyth County by giving voice to the voiceless, speaking truth to power, standing for integrity and encouraging open communication and lively debate throughout the community.

Urban League still working amid these times

The Winston-Salem Urban League will hold its annual meeting this evening, June 28. That might sound unimpressive until you see what the organization has been doing.

Last summer, CEO James Perry released a collection of data called, "The State of Black Winston-Salem." The 25-page report measures how black residents are doing compared with white residents in areas of health and wellness, social justice and civil rights, education equity and economic and asset equality. More work needs to be done to achieve parity. Perry has been sharing the report throughout the community.

The local Urban League has partnered with other local organizations, such as the Winston-Salem Branch of the NAACP, to help build black businesses in the area. The Chronicle has joined in the effort to promote a Business of the Month feature.

And the leader of the local Urban League's Young Professionals group, April Johnson, delivered a speech on Jan. 20 in Winston-Salem during the Triad Women's March, which was held to encourage women and other minorities to exercise their right to vote.

She began her speech: "How do you feel? I am energized, awakened, emboldened, and empowered. My hope for you is that you are awakened, emboldened and empowered to be the change you want to see in our cities, in our states, and in our nation. Feel this energy today. Maintain this energy when you leave the March and then use it to make transformation happen."

The local Urban League sponsors a Senior Community Service Employment Program and a Summer Youth Employment Program, also. The teenagers in the summer program are gearing up for the internships this year, which will start next week. This program, which also will teach them basic life skills in special weekly sessions, will allow the teens, who are from under-privileged homes, to learn about the work world before they have to officially get into it.

This internship program takes on greater significance this year amid the turbulent times black people face under President Donald Trump's administration and the Republican-led N.C. General Assembly. They need to have skills that will propel them above the bigotry and racism that have risen to the surface all over.

This evening, the meeting will be 6 p.m. at 510 Trade St. Perry will update members with successes from the current year and share his vision for the new fiscal year.

The organization is striving to make a difference in the Winston-Salem community. We should continue to support it.

We Welcome Your Feedback

Submit letters and guest columns to letters@wschronicle.com before 5 p.m. Friday for the next week's publication date.

Letters intended for publication should be addressed "Letters to the Editor" and include your name, address, phone number and email address. Please keep letters to 350 words or less.

If you are writing a guest column, please include a photo of yourself, your name, address, phone number and email address. Please keep guest columns to 550 words

or less. Letters and columns can also be mailed or dropped off at W-S Chronicle, 1300 E. Fifth St., W-S, NC, 27101; or sent via our website: www.wschronicle.com.

We reserve the right to edit any item submitted for clarity or brevity and determine when and whether material will be used.

We welcome your comments at our website.

Also, go to our Facebook page to comment. We are at [facebook.com/WSChronicle](https://www.facebook.com/WSChronicle).



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letter addresses legislative delegation regarding veto of NC Farm Act

Honorable Colleagues:

I am writing to you as members of the legislative delegation representing Forsyth County, to urge that you vote to sustain Gov. [Roy] Cooper's veto of SB 711, NC Farm Act of 2018.

At the heart of this bill is an extraordinary curtailment of the property rights of North Carolinians, particularly those property owners who suffer from the antiquated waste disposal practices of neighboring factory-style hog production processes. The plain motivation for this action is to insulate one of the world's largest global agricultural corporations from liability for its polluting methods.

The courts have historically been the place for injured property owners to obtain redress for the injuries they have suffered. In this case, these are injuries to (often poor and disproportionately minority) families and other neighbors from the polluting prac-

tices, which have been allowed to continue under weak regulations and inadequate enforcement resources. When regulation is weak and injured neighbors cannot even seek effective help from the courts, what possible incentive is there for a polluter to modernize its old and damaging business practices?

I believe that it would be difficult to convincingly explain to the rural residents of Forsyth County why our legislature chose to protect the profit margin of a \$16 billion global corporation over the health and property rights of neighboring North Carolina families.

Please vote to sustain the veto of SB 711.

Thank you.

Dan Besse
Forsyth County resident and voter

Note: Dan Besse represents the Southwest Ward on the Winston-Salem City Council.

Supreme Court fails to protect fundamental right to an equal vote

To the Editor:

Five years ago today [Monday,

June 25], the Supreme Court gutted the Voting Rights Act in *Shelby County v. Holder*. On the anniversary of this decision, the Court once again failed to protect our fundamental right to an equal vote by refusing to strike down extreme partisan gerrymandering. Partisan gerrymandering gives state legislators the power to stack districts for their political gain. This effectively gives them, not the people, the power to choose their representatives. This is a threat to our democracy and I am appalled by the



Besse

Court's continuous failure to address it.

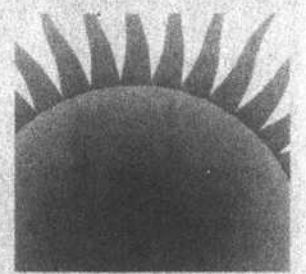
This session, the Court has made deeply troubling decisions regarding voting rights. Faced with this fact,

Congress must step up to restore and strengthen the Voting Rights Act. It is past time for us to come together to ensure full voting rights for every American.

U.S. Rep. Alma Adams (NC-12)
Washington, D.C.

Note: The above statement was made regarding the U.S. Supreme Court's decision not to hear North Carolina's partisan gerrymandering case this session.

Five ways to save for your summer vacation



Algenon Cash
Guest Columnist

Many families are preparing for vacations and summer road trips, but you don't have to go into debt while enjoying the season.

Here are some insightful tips to help you save for your upcoming summer vacation:

1. Plan ahead - You may not be much of a planner, but when it comes to your summer vacation, planning ahead is the key to success. If you look at the data, many Americans don't have even \$1,000 saved up. So it's easy to see why so many people end up in debt.

2. Get specific about the details - Estimate about how much you'll need for upcoming vacations and divide it by the number of months until you plan to travel. For example, if you think

you'll need about \$600 for an August trip, plan on saving about \$150 a month until then. That may seem like a lot, but it's about \$35 a week, or \$5 a day. And there are lots of small steps you can take to trim spending enough to get there, like automatic transfers.

3. Get specific about the details - Alongside planning ahead for your trip, also try to estimate little expenses you'll have along the way. Determine where you want to go and the costs for air and ground transportation, accommodations, meals, activities, souvenirs, etc. For better prices, travel during the off-season. Factor the cost of all these items to determine exactly how much more or less you may need to save. A good rule of thumb is to add 10 to 15 percent above what you think you need for those "hidden" costs. Once you've got a good idea of how much the vacation will cost, review your budget, divide costs by said number of months needed to save, and then have money automatically transferred to your bank's

savings account.

4. Invite friends - While you are budgeting for your summer vacation, determine if you will be covering all your costs alone, or with others. After all, a \$50 per night Airbnb may only cost \$25 a night if you and a friend are sharing it. Think about whether you'll be vacationing solo, with a partner, with friends, etc., because that will influence the overall amount you need to save.

5. Stop focusing on little things - Cut out your morning coffee run and save that money for the Bahamas instead, you can also eliminate other ongoing expenses. You can start packing your lunch for work and consider pausing any monthly subscription services, such as Netflix or Amazon Prime, or even club memberships if they're not critical. Plus, encourage free or low-cost activities with friends and family. Going out to brunch every weekend or getting takeout all the time really adds up, but we don't think about the total

cost when it's just \$10-15 here and there.

6. Use travel rewards - While you don't want to charge your whole vacation onto your credit cards, using credit cards with travel rewards is another story. NerdWallet's 2018 Travel Study found that Americans who sign up for a travel credit card get, on average, \$901 in free flights and hotels in just the first year of having the card. That's a ton of money that many Americans might struggle to set aside specifically for a vacation, and it could make the difference between staying home this summer or taking that dream vacation.

Enjoy your vacation and share pictures with us here at The Chronicle :-)

Algenon Cash is a nationally recognized speaker and the managing director of Wharton Gladden & Company, an investment banking firm. Reach him at acash@algenoncash.com