



GABRIEL MIHALCEA | UNSPLASH

With the national cyclospora outbreak moving into Mecklenburg County, medical professionals advise thorough washing of fruits and vegetables to prevent spread of the parasite, which causes intestinal illness.

Cyclospora reaches North Carolina: Here’s what to do

By Cameron Williams
cameron.williams@thecharlottepost.com

The cyclospora outbreak has expanded to nine states, including North Carolina.

Cyclospora Cayetanensis is the main parasite contaminating fresh produce, commonly lettuce, berries and fresh herbs. The parasite causes an intestinal illness called cyclosporiasis, which includes stomach cramps, fatigue, nausea and watery diarrhea.

People usually feel sick about one week after exposure to the parasite.

See a doctor if you think you may have cyclosporiasis. The disease can be treated with antibiotics. It is also important to prevent dehydration by drinking lots of water or drinks with additional electrolytes.

According to Mecklenburg County Health, there were 29 cyclosporiasis cases and four hospitalizations in Mecklenburg as of July 21. Around 75% of cases were linked to domestic or international travel outside of the county.

“Cyclosporiasis is not new, and we typically see cases every summer when more people travel,” interim health director Dr. Kimberly Scott said in a statement. “With the current multi-state outbreak, it’s important to take steps to protect your health by washing your hands and practicing safe food han-

Please see **CYCLOSPORA** | 2B

Airlines want to hide the real price of your plane ticket

By Christopher Elliott
FOR THE CHARLOTTE POST

Remember what booking an airline ticket used to be like?

You’d find a \$99 fare online — a real bargain! — and then select it.

But wait, that fare didn’t include a “carrier-imposed surcharge.” And what’s this mandatory fuel surcharge? You also had to wait until the end of the booking process to see the taxes.

By the time you clicked through to the checkout screen, your \$99 flight cost \$180. It was infuriating.

In 2011, the Department of Transportation adopted the full-fare rule, which says the price an airline shows you must be the price you pay—taxes and fees included. The airlines sued to kill it and lost. Travelers have shopped for flights with confidence ever since.

Now the government wants to jettison that standard. The DOT just proposed changing the full-fare requirement. Two options are on the table. One is bad, the other is worse. And the traveling public has already figured that out, judging by the comments piling up in the government’s inbox.

The bad proposal: weaken the full-fare advertising rule

Under current regulations, the total price must be the most prominent number in any airfare ad. Air-

Please see **AIRLINES** | 3B

« RIDES »

Mazda’s Miata is larger, but the spark of driving excitement still burns bright

By Winfred Cross
FOR THE CHARLOTTE POST

In 1989 Mazda introduced the Miata MX-5 as a 1990 model.

The original car brought back the feel of the British sports car, but much more reliable. It was an instant hit with some buyers paying thousands above the \$13,800 base price. Dealers couldn’t keep them on the lot, and it seemed Mazda couldn’t make enough.

Thirty-six years later, the Miata is still here. It’s the only car Mazda makes among a lineup of small-to-large SUVs. It’s still fun to drive but some of us may have aged out of the fun.

I was 30 years old when I

drove my first Miata. It was everything I hoped. The 116-horsepower four-cylinder engine had just enough power, but it was stellar handling that made it fun. The five-speed manual was nearly perfect. Great brakes, pitch-perfect steering and the magic of top-down driving made the car an absolute winner.

The 2026 Miata looks nothing like the original. It’s a larger car with a bigger engine but not so much so that it takes away from the driving dynamics. The interior has grown a bit, but so have I. At 66, this low-to-the-ground two-seater isn’t the easiest thing to get in. My RF Club model came with heated

Recaro seats which are designed to hold the driver and passenger in place during aggressive driving. I was never comfortable in the seat so taking this on an extended trip was out of the question. I’m 5-foot, five-inches tall and had problems getting in the car with the top up. Once in, there was enough head room, but I wished for a bit more leg room.

The car’s interior is cramped but well finished. A standard gauge cluster harkens back to older sports cars but there is a touch screen with modern conveniences like Apple CarPlay and Android Auto. Actually, the screen is activated by a large ro-



MAZDA

The Mazda Miata is as much fun to drive as it was upon its U.S. debut in 1989, although larger.

tary knob. Climate buttons are present. It takes a bit of time for the AC to cool the cabin in 95-degree heat but once it kicks in it had no

trouble keeping the cabin cool.

The RF Club gets enough tech like blind-side detection, Brembo brakes with

ABS and a Bose audio system that featured speakers in the seat headrests.

The heart of the car is the

Please see **MAZDA** | 2B



Keeya McAlister, owner of Field to Peak, an online outdoor essentials store, is carving space in an industry where Black people are all but invisible.

An intentional space for great outdoor adventures

Keeya McAlister advocates through online store and initiatives

By Nikya Hightower
FOR THE CHARLOTTE POST

Keeya McAlister found community and healing in the great outdoors.

It also led McAlister to launch Field to Peak, an online outdoor essentials store with gear for camping, hunting, recreational vehicle experiences and hiking. McAlister is carving out a unique space in an industry and culture where Black people are virtually unseen.

“The outdoors belongs to all of us,” she said. “Field to Peak proves it.”

McAlister, a full-time mobile public notary who moved to Charlotte in 2016 from Detroit, had her

first brush with outdoor culture two years later when she joined friends on a hiking trip. Quality gear was expensive, which led her to explore alternatives of similar caliber at more reasonable prices.

McAlister widened the connection as Black Girls Camp’s North Carolina chapter. That exposure inspired McAlister to launch Melanated Outdoor Mavens in 2023 to empower and advocate for Black women in outdoor spaces. MOM, which has grown to more than 400 members, hosts camping trips across the state.

“Nature itself is healing,” McAlister said. “A lot of the ladies usually after, or throughout the

Please see **AN INTENTIONAL** | 2B



KEEYA MCALISTER

McAlister is an entrepreneur in her full-time job as a public notary.

Enjoy flavor of homegrown herbs all year

By Melinda Myers
FOR THE CHARLOTTE POST

Add homegrown flavor to any meal with garden fresh herbs that will elevate any dish.

Continue enjoying them well past the end of the season by preserving favorites to use in winter meals.

Snip a few leaves or leaf-covered stems as needed for cooking or garnishing a favorite dish throughout the growing season. Adjust the quantity of herbs used to allow for variations in flavor intensity and preference. In general, two to three times more fresh herbs are needed than dried, except for Rosemary which has an equally strong flavor, fresh or dried. For example, if the recipe calls for one teaspoon of dried thyme use one tablespoon (3 teaspoons) of fresh thyme leaves.

Harvest before plants

begin flowering to encourage more tender growth. The concentration of flavor will be greatest when the plant has formed buds, but before they open. Don’t discard the flowers if you wait too long. Enjoy the beauty and added flavor of basil, lavender, lovage, monarda, oregano, Rosemary, sage, sweet marjoram and thyme blossoms.

Use a pair of garden scissors, snips or bypass pruners for harvesting. Make the cuts above a set of healthy leaves. The wound will close faster, and the remaining plant will look better. Rinse off the clippings and remove tough stems and bad leaves.

Store extra unwashed leafy herbs in a vase of water and loosely cover with a plastic bag. Keep basil on the kitchen counter and cold-tolerant herbs, like parsley and cilantro, in the refrigerator.



MELINDA MYERS

Sage is among the herbs that elevate any dish long past growing season with preservation.

Wrap thicker-leaved herbs, like sage and thyme, in a paper towel set inside a plastic bag and place in a warmer section of the fridge.

Keep harvesting throughout the growing season to encourage new growth for future harvests. Just leave enough foliage to maintain

plant growth. Harvest as much as 50 to 75% from established annual herbs and one third of perennial herbs at a time.

Freeze sprigs, whole leaves or chopped clean herbs on a cookie sheet. Or pack clean diced herbs in ice cube trays and fill the

Please see **SAVOR** | 3B

Airlines want to hide the real price of your ticket

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lines can break out the taxes and fees, but they can't display those components as prominently as the total, or in bigger type.

The DOT calls that "unnecessarily prescriptive." Its proposal would let airlines display each component as prominently as the total. So under that scenario, you'd see a fare display for \$99 and \$180 online, which could be confusing.

It would also erase nine guidance documents that explain how the rule works in practice, including one that stops carriers from labeling their own surcharges as taxes.

That may sound like a typography debate, but it's not. Once every number can have the same prominence as the true price, airlines will have a license to make the low base fare the star of the ad.

The total still technically appears, but they'll find a way of burying the real cost.

The worse proposal: eliminate the rule entirely

Buried deeper in the proposal, the DOT says it's also considering repealing the full-fare rule "in whole." That would mean airlines could once again advertise a fare that excludes taxes and fees altogether.

Want to know what that world looks like? Jason Rabinowitz, an aviation data journalist, showed the DOT in his comment.

He priced a JetBlue flight from New York to London and found a \$314 fare. The base fare was just \$31. The rest was \$33 in government taxes and a \$250 "carrier-imposed fee" — the airline's own invention. Without the full-fare rule, JetBlue could dangle something close to \$31 in front of you.

Rabinowitz warned that airlines could set base fares as low as a penny and shift the real cost into fees.

A one-cent flight to London? Now that's a deal—until you try to buy it.

You can't fool the public

The comment period runs through July 31, and the early returns are about what you'd expect. Virtually every person opposes the change.

"Showing a price that you cannot purchase is deceptive," wrote Eric Berman of Woodinville, Wash., who called the proposal "profoundly anti-consumer."

Cheryl Voigt of Des Moines, Iowa, asked one of the most important questions: Who benefits?

"It certainly would not be airline customers," she wrote.

Kelly Harris of Trinity, Fla., called the proposal "a disgusting and incom-

petent use of government power." Andrew Lambert of Phoenix needed just four words: "What a dumb change."

And Andrea Gadomski-Riker of Ohio explained the real stakes: "For those of us who do not travel regularly, and have limited funds, knowing a flight's total cost up front is vital."

She's right. Frequent fliers can avoid the checkout trickery. But a family that flies once a year will get ambushed by fees.

The rest of the world is watching

The DOT proposal comes at an interesting time. On July 13, the European Union gave final approval to stronger air passenger rights, including a requirement that airlines display fares with a carry-on allowance included before booking even starts.

Europe is forcing airlines to show more of the true cost upfront. The United States wants to let them show less.

The DOT argues the prominence rule may clash with the First Amendment, and that a 1970 tax law already covers how taxes get displayed. Maybe there's a lawyer's argument in there somewhere, but a regulation that lets you know what a flight costs before you buy it isn't government overreach.

It's a thoughtful, consumer-friendly rule that prevents airlines from misrepresenting their ticket prices.

"The proposed rule presents a false choice," said Bonnie Patten, executive director for Truth In Advertising, a nonprofit organization that advocates for clear pricing. "This is not about whether airlines may market and discuss every cost of an airline ticket. They plainly may. It's about whether airlines may emphasize portions of the purchase price in ways that increase the likelihood consumers will be deceived regarding the total cost of transportation."

Add your voice by July 31

There's some good news. This isn't a done deal yet. The DOT must consider your feedback, and there's still time to put an end to this foolish idea. Anyone can file a comment at the Regulations.gov site (the docket number is DOT-OST-2025-0831).

The airlines are counting on you to stay quiet to click "book" the next time you have to buy a ticket and obediently accept its fees. Prove them wrong. The comment box is open for one more week.

Christopher Elliott is an author, consumer advocate, and journalist. He is founder Elliott Advocacy, a nonprofit that solves consumer problems. Email: chris@elliott.org.

Savor, share the flavor of homegrown herbs all year

Continued from page 1B

empty spaces with water. These are great for use in soups and stews. Store the frozen herbs and ice cubes in an airtight container or baggie in the freezer.

Or dry herbs by bundling several stems together, secure them with a rubber band and use a spring-type clothespin to hang them in a warm, dry place to dry out. A drying rack can be made from an old embroidery hoop, string, and S hooks.

Get creative and use some herbs to make a fragrant edible wreath. Use fresh herbs that are flexible and easier to shape into a wreath. They will dry in place and can be harvested as needed.

Speed up the drying process in the microwave. Place herbs on a paper plate and cover it with a paper towel. Start with one

to two minutes on high. Repeat for 30 seconds as needed until the herbs are brittle. Store dried herbs in an airtight plastic or glass jar.

Share extra fresh and dried herbs with family and friends. They make great hostess and holiday gifts.

Melinda Myers has written more than 20 gardening books, including the "Midwest Gardener's Handbook, 2nd Edition" and "Small Space Gardening." She hosts The Great Courses "How to Grow Anything" streaming courses and the nationally syndicated Melinda's Garden Moment TV & radio program.

Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for Birds & Blooms magazine. Her website is www.MelindaMyers.com.

Medical students lean on their experiences in the real world

SPECIAL TO THE POST

Medical students at Wake Forest University School of Medicine are receiving white coats at ceremonies in Winston-Salem and Charlotte.

As the Class of 2030 begin their medical education, they arrive with different life experiences, motivations and visions. Yet, for the 48 students at the Charlotte campus and 145 in Winston-Salem, a common thread runs through their decisions to pursue medicine: make a difference in the lives of patients.

For Nneayo Okabuonye, who is studying in Charlotte, that calling began at home in South Holland, Illinois.

"From a young age, I remember always playing doctor, looking up surgeries on YouTube and annoying my mom by asking her how the medicine she gave me knew where to work," she said.

In her early teens, that curiosity developed into a desire to pursue a medical career when she witnessed a family member battle illness.

"The physicians who cared for them brought clarity during a difficult time by showing me what dedication to finding answers and compassion for patients truly looked like," Okabuonye said. "From that experience, I knew I wanted to become a physician who balances curiosity with genuine compassion and an unwavering dedication to helping patients find

answers."

Garikoitz Gainza, a Winston-Salem campus MD student, was inspired to pursue a medical career when his own health challenge changed the direction and tune of his life. After moving from Madrid, Spain, to Orlando, Florida, as a child, Gainza's mother noticed he had poor hearing. She would often speak to him, and he would not respond or give a delayed response. In school, the condition led to poor academic performance, his grades suffered, and as a concert violinist, he sometimes missed cues or notes because he couldn't hear them.

Under the care of an ear, nose and throat specialist, Gainza received a diagnosis and surgery — ear tubes that allow fluid to drain, and restored his hearing. He was able to interact better with the world around him, his grades improved and his violin playing peaked.

"I believe that because of this surgeon, the outlook of my life was changed forever," he said. "My goal is to change the lives of my patients the way this surgeon changed my life. I hope to become the kind of physician who listens with empathy, sees the person beyond the diagnosis, and leaves every patient with the same sense of hope and possibility that my physician gave me."

Before enrolling in medical school, both students gained formative experiences that shaped the physicians they hope to become.



Okabuonye

Walk more to stress less: Get moving to improve well-being

FEATURE IMPACT

More than 10 years ago, a mere five words frightened desk jockeys everywhere: "sitting is the new smoking."

Still, many people across the U.S. are walking less than they used to. Long days spent sitting can take a toll over time, negatively impacting bodies and minds.

Research from the American Heart Association shows 1 in 4 adults in the United States sits for longer than eight hours each day, leading to an increased risk of cardiovascular disease, obesity, Type 2 diabetes, certain cancers and premature death.

Feeling stretched by the demands of everyday life is common. However, simply adding just 20 minutes of daily physical activity may reduce the risk of disease and improve mental health, according to research published in JAMA Internal Medicine.

Additionally, being physically active reaps many benefits down the road. It keeps your mind sharp as you age; studies show higher levels of fitness are linked to better attention, learning, working memory and problem solving. It also slashes risk of depression and boosts an all-around sense of joy.

Research continues to show physical activity, like walking, reduces stress, boosts mood and promotes overall well-being.

This year, in honor of National Walking Day — created by the American Heart Association more than 10 years ago to encourage more movement throughout the day and help people live longer, healthier lives, one step at a time — consider these ideas to get your body moving to help lower stress, improve sleep, lift your mood and support both mental and physical health.

Step into the great outdoors

Slipping on a pair of comfortable walking shoes and heading outside is a simple way to get more movement in your life. Walking outside has the added benefits of

helping reduce stress, improving mood and boosting cardiovascular health.

Sunshine also provides a boost of vitamin D and immune support.

Make it fun

Think of movement as something you give yourself, by moving more your way. When you choose activities you enjoy, it becomes easier to make them part of your day.

If you can't find 20 minutes for a walk outside, even short bursts of movement can help. Walking in place at a brisk pace, walking up and down the stairs in your home, finding a quick dance workout online or even seated exercises and stretch breaks throughout the day can help you feel more refreshed and ready to take on everyday tasks, like cooking and running errands.

Walk with a furry friend

Pets can be a great motivator to get moving. Plus, taking your furry friend for a stroll can support heart health, lower stress and boost overall happiness.

In fact, a study published in the Journal of Physical Activity and Health shows dog owners are 34% more likely to reach their fitness goals and get the recommended amount of physical activity than those who don't have a dog.

Walking with your pet can also lead to more social connection, such as meeting neighbors or other pet owners.

Pound the pavement with a pal

Walking solo can be good for introspection, but bringing a friend, family member or coworker can make the time pass more quickly and add connection to your routine.

Explore a greenway, waterfront or indoor mall for a fresh way to get some steps. If a loved one isn't available to join you, make a phone call while you walk or take a meeting or conference call outdoors if your work allows it.

Visit heart.org/movemore for more tips to get moving.



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MIXED METAPHORS PRODUCTIONS

Mixed Metaphors Productions presents “Dauntless: An Ode to 2916” Aug. 20-30 at QC Family Tree’s Marian Wright Edelman House, 2916 Parkway Ave.

Joy as a force for celebration

By Herbert L. White
herb.l.white@thecharlottepost.com

There’s joy in community. Mixed Metaphors Productions’ “Dauntless: An Ode to 2916” explores joy as a force for good through a mix of theater, immersive art installations, and music. Tickets to the show, which will take place Aug. 20-30 at QC Family Tree’s Marian Wright Edelman House, 2916 Parkway Ave. are on a sliding scale starting at \$28 each at Humanitix.

“For our fifth season, we wanted to create a show that felt like a celebration,” Mixed Metaphors Productions founder Kat Martin said in a statement. “This show imagines a new, just future for Martha’s Daughter. We wanted to know what she could have grown into if she had been allowed to stay.”

Martha’s Daughter debuted in Mixed Metaphors’ 2024 show “Kudzu,” when the character was preparing for eviction from her home. The 55-minute show will take a walk through an Enderly Park home with nine audience members.

“Dauntless” taps into rituals of joy that float through the history of 2916 Parkway Ave. from 1933-2026. The production follows the life of Martha’s Daughter and unexpected moments of joy that turned her house into a home and neighbors into family. The moments are small but powerful: birthday parties, dancing in the kitchen at midnight; blowing dandelion seeds in the spring.

The cast includes actors Sunnee Goodwin, Cecilia McNeill, Teresa Long, Andy Bentley, Courtney Rohan, and Zulynette. Music director Ryan Persaud created original music and supervises

Please see **JOY** | 6B

NC’s home to international showcase of Black theater

By Lindsey Bahr
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The International Black Theatre Festival returns to North Carolina this week.

The biennial showcase, which runs until Aug. 1 in Winston-Salem, is a celebration of Black theatre and performance, is bringing together established artists, emerging voices, and audiences from around the globe. The festival presented by the North Carolina Black Repertory Company opens with a gala at the Benton Convention Center that includes a procession of African drummers and dancers and culminates in the Parade of Stars from theatre, television and film. The event is celebration of artistic excellence and people whose work has made an impact on Black theatre and the performing arts.

Among the honorees is actress, director and educator Phylicia Rashad, who will receive the Sidney Poitier Lifetime Achievement Award in recognizing her career and contributions to theatre, television and film. Rashad will also star as the lead narrator in Wynton Marsalis’ “A Fiddler’s Tale,” an updated, jazz-infused reimaging of Igor Stravinsky’s 1918 piece about a violinist who makes a Faustian bargain with the devil. The production will be performed by the Gateways Chamber Players and conducted by Damien Sneed.

The festival will feature more than 100 performances and events presented in venues throughout Winston-Salem. Award-winning actors Angela

Please see **NC’S HOME** | 6B

« ON THE MARQUEE »



LAURA CARBONE

Blues guitarist Selwyn Birch will perform a free concert at U.S. National Whitewater Center as part of the River Jam series.

Pride, protest and history Aug. 4 at Levine Museum

Remembering pivotal LGBTQ+ moments from Charlotte and the South

By Herbert L. White
herb.l.white@thecharlottepost.com

The latest events, productions and exhibits in Charlotte and beyond:

Aug. 4
“Pride Is a Protest: Then and Now,” 6-7:30 p.m., Levine Museum of the New South, 1800 South Blvd.

An interactive dialogue and presentation on pivotal moments in LGBTQ+ history that explores stories from Charlotte and the broader South, like North Carolina’s

first annual statewide Pride march, “Out Today, Out to Stay,” and consider how remembrance, celebration, and community-building can serve as forms of civic engagement.

Registration is free, but donations are encouraged (suggested donation \$10) that go to museum operations. Information: museumofthenewsouth.org.

Aug. 5
Shameless improv comedy benefit for *Three Bone Theater*, Arts Factory,

1545 W. Trade St.

The show is improvised from your most unhinged gossip with all proceeds going to Three Bone Theater, a Charlotte-based nonprofit dedicated to creating socially engaged, professionally-produced community theater. Admission \$15 and tickets available at eventbrite.com.

Aug. 6
“Kill Bill,” Carolina Theatre, 7 p.m. Part of the Lost Years Series. Tickets

Please see **CONVERSATIONS** | 6B

David Jonsson to debut as new Black Panther

By Leslie Ambriz
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SAN DIEGO — Marvel Studios used its Comic-Con International presentation Saturday to announce David Jonsson as the new Black Panther — the son of Chadwick Boseman’s T’Challa — and reveal that Ryan Gosling will be playing Ghost Rider, both in films set for release in 2028.

Jonsson joined Oscar-winning “Black Panther” franchise director Ryan Coogler on stage alongside Letitia Wright and Winston Duke, holding his hand to his chest and smiling broadly. “Black Panther III” is set for release Dec. 15, 2028.

“Thank you to this family that I have the honor and the blessing to join. I don’t want to say too much, because I want to let the screen do the talking,” said the 32-year-old actor, known for roles in “Industry,” “The Long Walk” and “Alien: Romulus.”

Boseman died in 2020, and ever since 2022’s “Black Panther: Wakanda Forever” revealed that T’Challa had a son, fans have been playing a guessing game of who might take over the mantle, with Damson Idris and Wright in the mix. The original 2018 “Black Panther” became the first superhero film to earn a best picture Oscar nomination and made more than \$1.3 billion worldwide, while the sequel earned \$850 million.

Ryan Gosling rides into the MCU

Gosling will re-team with his “Star Wars: Starfighter” director Shawn Levy on “Ghost Rider.”

“I’m having the greatest flashback vibes being here,” said Levy in reference to his appearance at Hall H two years ago to promote “Deadpool & Wolverine,” which became a massive hit. “I’ll never forget that night because it



RICHARD SHOTWELL | INVISION

Letitia Wright, from left, Winston Duke, Ryan Coogler, David Jonsson and Kevin Feige attend a panel for Marvel Studios during Comic-Con International on July 25 in San Diego.

was also my real introduction to the greatest fans anywhere.”

Gosling greeted Marvel Studios chief Kevin Feige and told the crowd that he’d wanted to play the character for a long time.

Gosling’s longtime partner, Eva Mendes, starred alongside Nicolas Cage in Cage’s original standalone “Ghost Rider” film, released in 2007 — a year before “Iron Man” kicked off Marvel’s cinematic universe. A sequel was released by Sony in 2012, and film rights have since reverted to Marvel, but the character hasn’t appeared yet in the MCU.

Stars take stage for ‘Avengers: Domsday’

Feige told the crowd that Joe and Anthony Russo’s 2019 film “Avengers: Endgame” will be re-released in the-

aters on Sept. 25 with new footage linking it to the Russos’ “Avengers: Domsday,” due out Dec. 18.

A “Domsday” trailer played during the panel showed that Robert Downey Jr.’s Victor Von Doom will have some past tie to Reed Richards (Pedro Pascal) and Sue Storm (Vanessa Kirby). Storm is seen saying that Doom is a broken person who used to be different: “Everything he loved was taken from him.” Later, Richards asks Doom if he’s the one responsible for the horrors around them.

Downey Jr. joked on stage that Reed and Doom were “besties.” Fans have been curious about the connection between the two after “The Fantastic Four: First Steps” post-credit scene in-

Please see **COMIC-CON** | 6B

Joy worth celebrating in ‘Dauntless’ show

Continued from page 5B

sound design. The production, Martin said, offers joy as a taste of what “life could feel like without the systems that control us. That’s why we are using the dandelion as a jumping off point. This sunshiny flower flourishes through cracks and crevices. Our joy, like the dandelion, keeps coming back. It cannot be erased.”

Show dates and times:
Aug. 20, 7:30 p.m. and 8:30 p.m.
Aug. 21, 7:30 p.m. and 8:30 p.m.
Aug. 22, 2 p.m., 7:30 p.m. and 8:30 p.m.
Aug. 23, 2 p.m. and 3 p.m.
Aug. 27, 7:30 p.m. and 8:30 p.m.
Aug. 28, 7:30 p.m. and 8:30 p.m.
Aug. 29, 2 p.m., 7:30 p.m. and 8:30 p.m.
Sept. 30 2 p.m. and 3 p.m.



FILE PHOTO

Grammy-winning recording artist and Charlotte native Anthony Hamilton is one of the headliners at the Lowcountry Jazz Festival Sept. 4-6 in Charleston, South Carolina.

Conversations and music abound across Carolinas

Continued from page 5B

at thecarolina.com.

Aug. 12

P.J. Morton, Carolina Theatre, 7:30 p.m.

New Orleans-based Morton is a soul singer, songwriter, performer and producer who has earned six Grammy awards and 22 nominations while selling out venues around the world.

Tickets are \$82-\$135 and available at thecarolina.com.

Aug. 13

Selwyn Birch, U.S. National Whitewater Center, 5000 Whitewater Center Pkwy. Showtime is 7 p.m. Free admission as part of River Jam.

The blues guitarist, vocalist and cinematic songwriter Selwyn Birchwood will give a free performance as part of the River Jam concert series. Birch is performing in support of the release of his fifth Alligator Records album, Electric Swamp Funkin' Blues. www.whitewater.org/events-races/river-jam.

Aug. 15-16

Pride at the Carolina, Carolina Theater. Tickets: thecarolina.com

• Aug. 15 - A Conversation with author and actress Gina Gershon, moderated by Davita Galloway, 7 p.m. A screening of the 1996 film "Bound" follows.

• Aug. 16 - Pride Parade Watch Party, 12 p.m. Features sounds by DJ Fannie Mae. Includes vendor market by Mimosa Way featuring Black- and LGBTQ-owned business.

• Aug. 16 - Screening of the 1995 film "Showgirls." Aug. 21

"Ruha Benjamin: Technology, Savior or Slayer," 7 p.m., The Pearl, 915 Pearl Park Way.

Harvey B. Gantt Center presents the MacArthur Fellow and scholar leading a conversation on artificial intelligence, creativity, race, and the future of society. Cost: \$10 (plus fees); free for Harper-Roddey Society members; free for students with valid ID (registration required).

Aug. 29

"Trouble so Hard - Song & Stories of Slavery, Freedom & Civil Rights," 7 p.m., Galilee Ministries, 3601 Central Ave.

Live performance is free but registration is necessary at https://troublesohard.com/reserve.

Sept. 4-6

Lowcountry Jazz Festival, Gaillard Center, Charleston, S.C.

Performers include An-

thony Hamilton, Lakecia Benjamin, Keiko Matsui, Rick Braun and Jonathan Butler.

Tickets online at gaillard-center.org.; information: lowcountryjazzfest.com.

Sept. 18

New Generation Tour at Bojangles Coliseum. Multi-platinum artist Young Thug makes his first headlining run since 2019. Special guest Nav. The tour will also showcase the label's newest signees, Tezzus, Diamond*, 1300saint, Ilyrus, Yume, Biggs, and Unky. Tickets available at newgenerationlive.com.

Sept. 19

Emmy award-winning journalist Don Lemon and comedian and radio host D.L. Hughley extend their DL + DL 'Anything Goes' tour to Owens Auditorium at 7 p.m. Tickets range from \$55 to \$197 and are available at Ticketmaster.

Oct. 1

Mariachi El Bronx, 8 p.m., Carolina Theatre.

After a 10-year break, the eight-piece band is headlin-

ing a tour. Special guests Bedouin Soundclash and Max Diaz.

Tickets \$37-\$65 at ticketmaster.com and thecarolina.com.

Oct. 10

Daley, Neighborhood Theatre at 8 p.m. The British singer, songwriter and creative artist has worked with Stevie Wonder, Damon Albarn, Marsha Ambrosius, Robert Glasper, Jill Scott, Pharrell Williams and Jessie J. He's worked his way to Billboard chart success in the U.S. and critical acclaim from the Grammys, BET and Soul Train Awards.

Tickets: neighborhood-theater.com.

Nov. 14

Boney James, Knight Theater, 7:30 p.m.

The contemporary jazz artist is live in Charlotte for one night only. The concert includes an intimate show of with classic favorites and live music magic. Tickets: blumen-thalarts.org.

The Charlotte Post



WINSTON-SALEM STATE UNIVERSITY

The biennial International Black Theatre Festival in Winston-Salem draws performers and audiences around the world for a week of programming and events.

NC’s home to international showcase of Black theater

Continued from page 5B

Robinson and Peter Parros, best known for their roles in Tyler Perry's OWN drama "The Haves and the Have Nots," are celebrity co-chairs.

Special programming includes the IBTF Film Festival, opening with the premiere of "Holy Ground," a documentary chronicling the vision of festival founder Larry Leon Hamlin and exploring the showcase's influence on Black theater and art-

ists worldwide.

The festival is the only one in the United States presenting a week of programming focused on professional Black theatre. Programming includes educational workshops, Readers' Theatre featuring new works, International Colloquium, Poetry Jam, International Vendors Market, the Youth Celebrity Project, and TEENTastic, engagement designed for young people.

Comic-Con dishing on a new Black Panther and ‘Doomsday’

Continued from page 5B

cluded a clip of Doom sitting in Reed and Storm's living room with their baby.

"Doomsday" stars taking the stage included Wright, Duke, Chris Evans, Hayley Atwell, Simu Liu, Danny Ramirez, Anthony Mackie, James Marsden, Kelsey Grammer, Paul Rudd, Rebecca Romijn, David Harbour, Lewis Pullman and Tenoch Huerta.

Ryan Reynolds appears as gray Deadpool

Clad in a new gray Deadpool costume, Ryan Reynolds crashed the panel from the audience.

"Longtime listener. First time caller," said Reynolds, asking Rudd why Thor was crying in the previous film. Rudd responded "He's a Wrexham fan," in reference to the soccer team that Reynolds co-owns.

"This seems like an awfully expensive way to announce a film. When do you start filming," asked Reynolds.

"It's in the can, bro! Did you bump your head?" said Downey Jr. from the stage.

Many fans waited more than a day to get inside Comic-Con's most-anticipated panel. Marvel Studios hopes it will act as a reset for its brand, which has been diluted by an overabundance of Disney+ series and critics' disappointment in films like last year's "Captain America: Brave New World." Though audience interest in superhero films has waned in recent years, "Spider-Man: Brand New Day" — released by Sony in coordination with Marvel — is set to dominate the summer box office when it's released July 31 and ticket pre-sales have been strong for "Doomsday."

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