



SPORTS

The search for missing high school records for NC's Black schools.



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BLACK EXCELLENCE

Thomas Elkins: Inventor, abolitionist and medical professional

Staff Reports

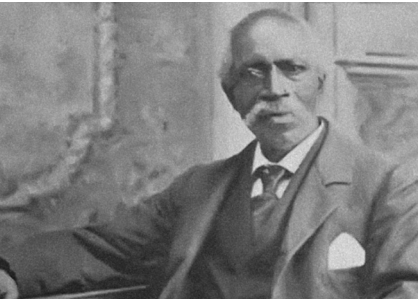
Thomas Elkins (1818-1900) was a genius inventor.

On Nov. 4, 1879, he patented a refrigeration technique, a first in the 19th century, that helped prevent the decay of food and dead bodies.

His other patented inventions: a table that could be used for dining, ironing and as a quilting frame (U.S. Patent number 100020); a better "chamber-commode" (U.S.

Patent number 122,518).

It combined multiple pieces of furniture into one item and featured a bureau, mirror, bookshelf, washstand, table, easy chair and earth closet or chamber stool. He also played a significant role in the Underground Railroad in Albany, New York, during the 1840s and '50s. Elkins helped transport slaves to Canada. He was a member of the Albany Vigilance Committee, which organized to help fugitive slaves and solicited donations



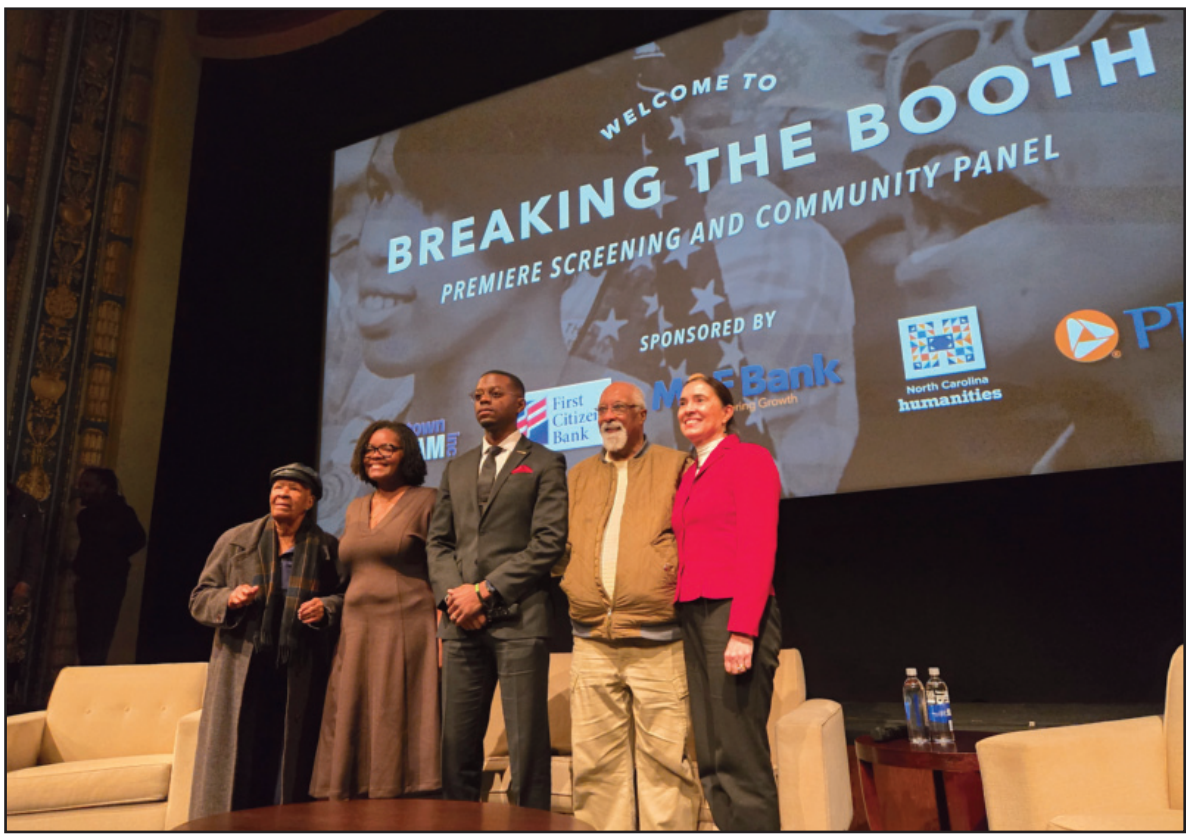
from citizens.

He worked with Stephen Myers, a former slave who, along with his wife, operated one of the "best-run" Underground Railroad stations in New York.

During the Civil War, Elkins was a medical examiner for the 54th and 55th Massachusetts regiments, joining a group of Black volunteers led by Governor John A. Andrew. His commitment to social justice extended beyond the war.



Thomas Elkins and one of his inventions, a refrigerated cabinet to keep food fresh longer.



KYLIE MARSH

Left to right: Vivian McCoy, Cori Greer-Banks, Alec Virgil, Irving Joyner and Justice Anita Earls.

Remembering the battle to integrate the Carolina Theater by Durham youth

By Kylie Marsh

Kylie.marsh@triangletribune.com

DURHAM - The Carolina Theater was packed on Martin Luther King Jr. Day, its seats filled with people of all races.

But it took a battle, sometimes violent and life-threatening, led by Durham's determined and revolutionary youth to get to this point. Although the theater was owned by the city of Dur-

ham in 1926, it was not fully integrated until 1963.

Monday evening's event was the premiere of filmmaker JD James' documentary "Breaking the Booth," which told the story of nonviolent protests, guided by Attorney Floyd McKissick Sr., to integrate the city-owned theater.

Audience members were not just onlookers. They included

local notables, including some of the original protesters. The significance of the King Holiday and the current political climate was not lost on audience members or the Carolina Theater team.

Right before the documentary, Chapel Hill Poet Laureate Donovan Livingston recited a poem highlighting King's staunch sup-

Please see **CAROLINA/3A**

How does the DCABP adapt to Durham's changing dynamics

By Kylie Marsh

Kylie.marsh@triangletribune.com

Housing, education, employment and public safety are at the top of Durhamites' minds for this year's election.

The Durham Committee on the Affairs of Black People was established by Durham's Black male elite almost a century ago to address similar concerns. "We must acknowledge that significant progress has occurred, and significant change has occurred," said committee chair

Floyd McKissick with regard to Durham's Black representation in civic leadership. "But with that, there are still challenges."

One notable instance of the DCABP's political influence in the Bull City was the organization's incremental approach to integration, which, at times, opposed more revolutionary youth movements in Durham, particularly among North Carolina Central University students.

McKissick has an extensive career as a public official in Dur-

ham and North Carolina government. "I've been involved in politics literally all my life," he told The Tribune. McKissick also is vice chair for the North Carolina Utilities Commission. "You have to learn to work with people who don't always agree with you but establish good relationships and be able to get things done effectively," he said.

The DCABP also has a political action committee. Last year, the PAC faced public scrutiny sur-

Please see **DCABP/2A**

12 ways the Trump administration dismantled civil rights laws in its first year

By Spencer Overton

THE CONVERSATION

One year after Donald Trump's second inauguration, a pattern emerges. Across dozens of executive orders, agency memos, funding decisions and enforcement changes, the administration has weakened federal civil rights law and the foundations of the country's racially inclusive democracy.

From the start, the United States was not built to include everyone equally. The Constitution protected and promoted slavery. Most states limited voting to white men. Congress restricted naturalized citizenship to "free white persons." These choices were not accidents. They shaped who could belong and who could exercise political power, and they entrenched a racial political majority that lasted for generations.

That began to change in the 1960s. After decades of protest and pressure, Congress enacted laws that prohibited discrimination in employment, education, voting, immigration and housing. Federal agencies were charged with enforcing those laws, collecting data to identify discrimination and conditioning public funds on compliance. These choices reshaped U.S. demographics and institutions, with the current Congress "the most racially and ethnically diverse in history," according to the Pew Research Center. The laws did not eliminate racial inequality, but they made exclusion easier to see and harder to defend.

Over the past year, the president and his administration have taken a series of connected actions:

- * On its first day in office, announced the end of all federal diversity, equity and inclusion programs, including diversity officers, equity plans and related grants and contracts.

- * Shut down or sharply cut funding for federal programs aimed at reducing inequality, including offices focused on minority health, minority-owned businesses, fair federal contracting, environmental justice and closing the digital divide in broadband.

- * Warned schools that diversity programs could jeopardize their federal funding, opened investigations into colleges offering scholarships to students protected under DACA, the Obama-era policy providing deportation protection for undocumented immigrants who came to the U.S. as children, and signaled that colleges risk losing federal student aid if their accrediting agencies consider diversity.

- * Revoked security clearances and access to federal buildings for employees at law firms with diversity policies. The FCC investigated media companies for promoting diversity and threatened to block mergers by companies with similar programs, leading several companies to drop their initiatives.

- * Issued a government-wide memo labeling common best practices in hiring, admissions and other selection and evaluation processes - such as compiling diverse applicant pools, valuing cultural competence, considering first-generation or low-income status and seeking geographic and demographic representation - as potentially legally suspect. The memo warned that federal funding could be cut to schools, employers and state and local governments using such practices. Federal prosecutors reportedly investigated federal contractors that consider diversity, characterizing such initiatives as fraud.

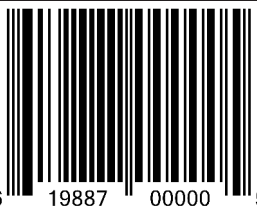
- * Weakened enforcement against discrimination by ordering agencies to stop using disparate impact analysis. That kind of analysis identifies disparities in out-

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How does the DCABP adapt to Durham politics

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rounding the misuse of funds. McKissick clarified that the PAC and the DCABP are two separate entities.

"The PAC that exists is only for receiving money. It is a financial entity that receives contributions that are used to help get out the vote and to educate voters," he said. The account connected to the alleged fraud was closed and all records turned over to the State Bureau of Investigations, McKissick said. The criminal fraud investigation is still active.

McKissick said the DCABP has been involved in working toward affordable housing, as gentrification presents a significant challenge. "There's a need to make certain when we come up with revised de-

velopment ordinances that were sensitive to economic integration," he said, adding that mixed-use developments that include low- and moderate-income allowances are imperative.

Connected to housing is the performance of students in Durham Public Schools to ensure they secure stable employment. McKissick said the past conversations about integration of public schools have not yet ended; in recent years, North Carolina public schools are oftentimes more segregated than in decades previous, according to the Public School Forum of North Carolina. To add, private school vouchers and the presence of charter schools have funneled more affluent students away from public schools.

"They're not required to provide free and reduced lunches. They're not required to provide bussing for people to be able to get their students there. So those are real realities that exist today," McKissick said.

McKissick said the DCABP seeks partnerships with like-minded community members, not just Black people.

"We endorse Black as well as white candidates or candidates of other races, and I think it's important for us to do so," he said. "To evaluate these candidates based upon their capacity to contribute in a way that identifies with the interest that the Durham committee articulates in terms of what's good for our community and what's good for our state."



Far fewer people buy Obamacare coverage as insurance premiums spike

By Nada Hassanein
NC NEWSLINE

North Carolina's 2026 ACA enrollment dropped by more than 22%, from 975,110 enrollees last year to 755,919 this year. Nationwide, the number of people buying health plans on Obamacare insurance marketplaces is down by about 833,000 compared with a year ago, according to federal data released last week.

Many states are reporting fewer new enrollees, more people dropping their coverage, and more people choosing cheaper and less generous health insurance plans with higher deductibles. But nine states and Washington, D.C., have deadlines later this month, so the numbers could change.

There are 21 states with state-run health insurance marketplaces, and the rest use the federal website. The vast majority of states have seen declines in enrollment so far, compared with around this time last year.

Premiums have surged as a result of the expiration of enhanced federal subsidies first made available by the American Rescue Plan Act in 2021 and later extended through the end of 2025 by the Inflation Reduction Act. The availability of the subsidies spurred a sharp increase in the number of people buying health plans on the marketplaces. In

2020, 11.4 million people were enrolled in marketplaces through Obamacare, formally known as the Affordable Care Act. More than double that amount enrolled last year.

Congress failed to reach an agreement on extending the subsidies before the end of last year and still hasn't reached one. As a result, premiums were expected to increase this year by 114% on average — from \$888 last year to about \$1,904, according to estimates made in September by health policy research organization KFF.

"It's important to consider that this is preliminary data, so this represents people who have signed up and selected the plan, but they probably haven't received their first premium bill," said Elizabeth Lukanen, executive director of the health policy research organization State Health Access Data Assistance Center at the University of Minnesota. "Once that happens, I think there's concern, and it seems very possible, that people may decide to drop coverage. So, the decline could get bigger."

If the downward trend continues, the nation could see the first decline in enrollment since 2020, Lukanen said, adding that a full picture of income levels and demographics of people who have dropped coverage won't be clear

until the summer.

Meanwhile, some states are seeing roughly the same number of enrollees or more. Texas, for example, is reporting about 4.1 million people enrolling this year compared with 4 million last year.

In addition to the expiration of the subsidies, the cost of coverage has risen because of other factors, according to insurers. They say they've had to raise premiums because of rising prescription drug costs, inflation and workforce challenges like provider shortages.

But the enhanced premium tax credits were aimed at buffering those year-to-year changes for Americans with lower incomes, said Trolley, adding that the tax credit structure "helps make sure that [enrollees] don't see those really larger drops that happen from time to time, sort of from those market forces."

"When there are broader rate increases of ... the total cost of the coverage, the tax credits are structured so that people who get a tax credit don't feel a lot of that increase. They're sort of sheltered from it on a year-to-year basis," Trolley said. "The tax credit is tied to someone's income and limits what they pay as part of their income, not necessarily tied to the cost of the coverage."



12 ways Trump admin. dismantled civil rights

Continued from page 1A

comes, assesses whether they are justified by legitimate objectives and intervenes when they are not. The Department of Justice, the EEOC, the National Credit Union Administration and other agencies complied and dropped disparate impact analysis. Because algorithmic systems typically operate without explicit intent, eliminating disparate impact analysis reduces federal agencies' ability to detect and address discriminatory outcomes produced by increasingly automated government and private-sector decision-making.

- * Rescinded an executive order that barred discrimination by federal contractors, required steps to ensure nondiscriminatory hiring and employment, and subjected contractors to federal compliance reviews and record-keeping. This weakened a key mechanism used since 1965 to detect and remedy workplace discrimination.
- * Eliminated data used to track inequality, including rolling back guidance encouraging schools to collect data on racial disparities in discipline and special education. The administration also removed data used to identify racial disparities in environmental harms.
- * Dismantled or sharply reduced civil rights offices across federal agencies, including the Department of Homeland Security, the Social Security Administration and the Department of Education. About three-quarters of lawyers in the Justice Department's Civil Rights Division left.
- * Pressured the Smithsonian to remove exhibits about racial injustice, restored Confederate monuments and military base names, and barred schools and teacher training programs from including material the administration labeled divisive, such as unconscious bias.
- * Declared English the nation's only official language, repealed a requirement that federal agencies provide meaningful access to government programs and services for people with limited English proficiency, and prompted the General Services Administration and the departments of Justice, Education and other agencies to scale back language-assistance requirements and services.
- * Attempted to limit birthright citizenship guaranteed by the 14th Amendment, and adopted practices that treat ethnicity and non-English accents as legitimate reasons for immigration stops.

Taken together, these shifts have practical consequences. When agencies stop collecting data on racial disparities, discrimination becomes harder to detect. When disparate impact analysis is abandoned, unfair practices with no legitimate purpose go unchallenged. When diversity programs are chilled through investigations and funding threats, institutions respond by narrowing opportunity. When history and language are recast as threats to unity, truth and freedom of speech and thought are suppressed and undermined.



Report: North Carolina Black unemployment high, but some gains

By Brett Peveto
PUBLIC NEWS SERVICE

A new report on racial equality shows signs of a recession among Black Americans and changes to workforce policy threatening economic gains.

The Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies' annual "State of the Dream 2026" report finds Black unemployment at over 7%, with large swings in youth unemployment month to month.

Study co-author Kayla Elliott, Ph.D., director of workforce policy for the

center, says Biden-era legislation was responsible for new job training programs in North Carolina.

"We saw great collaboration in North Carolina around these new opportunities in clean climate jobs and clean energy, and around semiconductor production, and around increasing these new short-term programs to get folks into jobs with good wages," Elliott said.

The report found workforce policy changes in 2025 brought increasing support for apprentice-

ships, but programs that advance Black workforce participation were cut.

In June, administration of Perkins Career and Technical Education funding was transferred from the Department of Education to the Department of Labor. Researchers have expressed concern that this reorganization would bypass civil rights protections overseen by the education department's Office of Civil Rights.

Pell Grants have also seen reforms with the creation

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triangletribunenewspaper.com

NC Black unemployment high, but some gains

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of a Workforce Pell Grant program. Historically, Pell Grants were limited to education that was part of a degree pathway, but beginning in July, the grants can be used for short-term training and credential programs. Elliott said researchers will be looking at the value of using Pell dollars in new ways.

"There's lots of questions and concerns around accountability, around making sure that if Pell dollars were being used for degrees that led to a certain job or level of income, what should the return on investment in these types of programs be?" she added.

Workforce Pell was established by the 2025 budget reconciliation bill, and the legislation requires 70% completion rates and 70% job placement within 180 days. Median earnings will be reported one year post-completion

The battle to integrate the Carolina Theater

Continued from page 1A

port of adequate living conditions; a sustainable, livable income; and a sound, quality education; things which are still fiercely fought for today.

Audience members were sitting in the very seats that were shown in the film's title screen. The documentary showed that the building was specifically designed, with separate ticket windows and entrances, to be segregated. Before integration, Black patrons had to climb a narrow, un-air-conditioned staircase of 97 steps to reach the upper balcony with lower visibility. The balcony was negatively dubbed "the buzzard's nest."

In the documentary, protester Vivian McCoy said the theater "belonged to the people of the city," which is why it was only right that it be fully integrated.

Students held constant picket lines outside of the theater and were under pressure to maintain strict stoicism in the face of jeers and violence from white onlookers. "We didn't just turn the other cheek," said Walter Riley, who was president of the North Carolina's NAACP Youth Chapter. "We were nonviolent because we knew that was the method that would father the masses of people."

The theater was owned by the city but leased to private owner Charles Abercrombie, who feared that white patrons would stop attending if fully integrated. Durham Mayor Wense Grabarek met with Black constituents at the former building of Saint Joseph's African Methodist Episcopal Church. He faced criticism by assembling an 11-person committee with the promise of moving forward negotiations, though nine of the 11 members were white.

When all Durham businesses voted to integrate, except the Carolina Theater, Black schoolteacher Bessie McLaurin dared to sit in the main theater among white patrons, proving that there was no uproar. Abercrombie's fears were unfounded, and Black patrons were finally allowed to sit wherever they pleased.

Following the film screening, a panel discussion connected the significance of the past struggles for integration, civil rights and social justice on today's climate, as well as hope for the future. Panelists included Vivian McCoy, N.C. Central law professor Irving Joyner, Carolina K-12 Director Cori Greer-Banks, N.C. Supreme Court Justice Anita Earls and Durham Public Schools 2025 Teacher of the Year, Alec Virgil.

Panelists discussed the role of the youth, the role of educators and the ambiguity of the law in moving the struggle for integration forward.

McCoy said, as a child, she and her peers who were out protesting were not fully aware of the risk to their lives. She reminded audience members that the Bull City was "heavily infiltrated" by the Ku Klux Klan, but also connected those times to today.

"What we're suffering from is basically racism. (But) Don't think that other Black people liked what we were doing," McCoy added, saying that people, at times, believed McKissick Sr. to be "too militant."

Virgil said young people today need to be listened to most of all, rather than "preached to."

"We need to encourage young people to have their own ideas," he said. "Many older folks don't give an opportunity for young people to say what they think."

Virgil said the students want to see "that they count and that they matter." He mentioned how some of his students organized the major student walkout in early November in response to Immigration and Customs Enforcement's presence in Durham.

Joyner also reminded audience members that Durham was considered progressive at the time, himself coming from La Grange, a small town in Eastern N.C. However, the city council and the mayor did not move on the issue of segregation, and it was the youth that had to stand up and fight for what was right.



Black workers displaced by AI as technology grows

By Eric Tegethoff
PUBLIC NEWS SERVICE

As artificial intelligence grows, concerns about the impact on communities of color is also increasing.

Experts say AI will disproportionately impact Black and brown workers through displacement and the environmental burden of data centers, which are more likely to be located in marginalized communities. North Carolina has at least 90 data centers, according to Data Center Map.

Keisha Bross, director of the NAACP's Center for Opportunity, Race and Justice, said Black workers are overrepresented in entry-level jobs, as well as manufacturing and logistics work.

"In the artificial intelligence space, a lot of these jobs that are usually taken within the South and these big manufacturing sites an e-commerce logistic sites," she said. "They're going to be replaced in the future."

Bross underscored that it's still unclear exactly where and how AI will displace workers. Data centers have also been linked to health impacts for communities that live near them.

Bross says Black communities already face higher unemployment rates. Black unemployment was at 7.5% in December, compared with 4.4% for the overall population. To ensure Black workers have a place in the new AI economy, she said workers need affordable access to education.

"The best thing that these companies can do is really provide educational tools and resources, because we don't want people displaced from the workforce," she said. "We want people to be back in the workforce but also earning a wage that's livable."

Bross said the Trump administration's fight against diversity, equity and inclusion has hurt people of color. She believes it's still important for companies to commit to diverse hiring practices because representation matters, and a diverse workforce will make their companies more successful in the long run.

"We have to embrace technology, and we have embrace artificial intelligence, but we also have to have oversight," she said, "and we have to have governance in order to make sure that it's not discriminatory, and that we're not implementing technologies that are going to hurt populations of people."



NC Lottery revenue up, but less money for schools

By Ben Humphries
EDUCATION NC

In December, a third-party audit was released by the Office of the State Auditor that highlights the most up-to-date numbers on North Carolina Education Lottery sales, revenue, and contributions to education in fiscal year 2025.

The audit showed that, despite increased lottery revenue, there was a decrease in net revenue transferred for education purposes from FY 2024 to FY 2025.

In FY 2024, the NCEL reported \$5.4 billion in total revenue, with \$1.07 billion of that going into the North Carolina Education Lottery Fund, which was then allocated to various education programs. The remainder goes to the costs of operating the lottery. The largest expense category is prize payouts, which took up about about 70% of the lottery's total revenue in FY 2024.

In FY 2025, total revenue increased to \$6.6 billion, but the NCEL's contribution to education slightly lowered to \$1.05 billion.

According to a press release, the overall percentage of revenue contributed by the NCEL to public schools has decreased from 23% in FY 2023, to 20% FY 2024, to 16% in FY 2025.

The legislation that governs the lottery has a guideline that says 38% of the total annual revenues of the lottery should go to education, "to the extent practicable." But the share of NCEL revenue going to education has been declining for years.

State Auditor Dave Boliek spoke to NCEL leadership before the publication of the audit, according to the press release. OSA has also launched a subsequent performance audit of the Education Lottery, which is the first such audit since 2008.

"North Carolinians have a reasonable expectation that if the Education Lottery's ticket sales go up, money going toward our public schools would increase as well. At first glance, these numbers raise a lot of questions. Over the last three years, total revenues have increased by a total of over \$3 billion, while contributions to public education have been flat," Boliek said.

NCEL leadership were given an opportunity to provide commentary on the audit by OSA, and a document with that commentary provides two "interdependent factors" that led to the results.

One, leadership said, was a downturn in national, multistate draw games such as Powerball and Mega Millions. Last year, jackpots were abnormally low, leading to lower participation and lower sales, the document said.

The document called the jackpot levels "unusual, almost unprecedented."

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Hundreds attended the state employees' Martin Luther King observance at First Baptist Church in downtown Raleigh, including Governor Josh Stein and Attorney General Jeff Jackson.



All ages attended the event at First Baptist.



Attorney General Jeff Jackson presented the John R. Larkins Award to Tamika Henderson.

Daughter of legendary ‘Mama Dip’ releases debut cookbook

CHAPEL HILL — Spring Council, youngest daughter of the late Mildred "Mama Dip" Council and recipient of the Southern Foodways Alliance's Lifetime Achievement Award, will publish her debut cookbook, "Southern Roots: Recipes and Stories from Mama Dip's Daughter," next month.

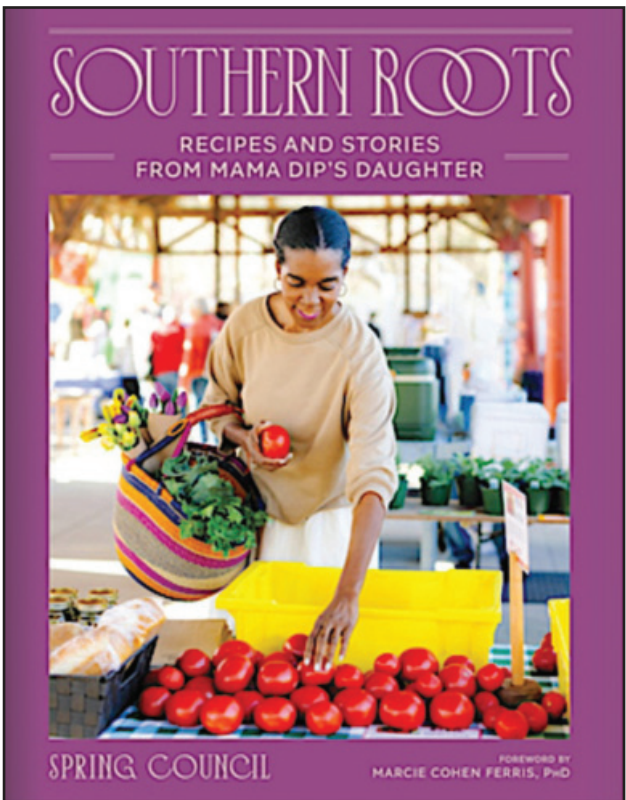
Spring Council's restaurant legacy began at her grandfather's Bill's Bar-B-Q, where she assembled take-out boxes as a child, and continued through decades of working alongside her mother and siblings at Mama Dip's Kitchen, which Mildred Council opened in Chapel Hill in 1976 with \$64.

What started as a small restaurant became a cultural landmark, and Mama Dip became a published cookbook author whose titles became bestsellers.

"Southern Roots" features 100 recipes that showcase both traditional Southern cooking and Spring's own creative contributions like her Smothered Fried Chicken with Andouille Sausage and Goat Cheese Pound Cake, alongside classic dishes like Pimento Cheese Biscuits.

Each recipe is tied to memories of family, community and the work Spring built in her mother's kitchen.

"My deepest inspiration for 'Southern Roots' comes from wanting to share my stories and recipes while



honoring my mother's legacy," she said. "As I sat down to write about each dish, memories of the people and places that influenced my mind just flooded my mind. Mama taught me about authenticity in cooking - to use the best ingredients, use all of my senses during food preparation, and never serve someone food that you would not eat yourself."

The multigenerational legacy continues with Spring Council's daughter, owner of Tonya's Cookies, which caught Oprah's attention, and niece Erika Council's Bomb Biscuit

Company in Atlanta.

"Black women have always been the heart and soul, the 'keepers of the Southern kitchen,' laying the foundation for what Southern food is today," Spring Council said. "For our family, this legacy is also deeply tied to entrepreneurship."

More than a tribute to Mama Dip's impact, "Southern Roots" is Spring Council's story of learning to make a living through food and building her life's work alongside her mother's legacy.

"Southern Roots" will be released Feb. 17.

AROUND THE TRIANGLE

- RALEIGH ANNIVERSARY**
Buffalo Soldiers Greater NC Chapter's 30th year anniversary celebration is Jan. 23-25, Raleigh Marriott Crabtree Valley Hotel, 4543 Marriott Drive.

CONSIGNMENT
Kids Exchange Consignment Sale is Jan. 23-25, NC State Fairgrounds, 1025 Blue Ridge Road

ASTRONOMY
Astronomy Days is Jan. 24-25, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., N.C. Museum of Natural Sciences, 11 W. Jones St.

CARS! CARS! CARS!
Cars and Coffee Raleigh's "The Off Road Car SHOW!" is Jan. 25, 9 a.m. to noon, Food Bank of NC, 1920 Capital Boulevard.

GROUNDBREAKING
Healing Transitions will break ground on its recovery housing for women Jan. 27, 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., 3304 Glen Royal Road.

SPOKEN WORD
United Arts of Wake County has selected 12 finalists for its High School Spoken Word Contest. A reception is Jan. 28, 6 p.m., NC Museum of Art, where the winners will be announced. The public is invited. Visit unitedarts.org.

BILTMORE
An update on Raleigh Parks' plans for Biltmore Hills Park is Jan. 29, 4-6 p.m., Biltmore Hills Community Center,
- HIP-HOP SKATE**
Late Night Hip-Hop Skate for adults only is Jan. 30, 9-11:30 p.m., United Skates of America Raleigh, 2901 Trawick Road. Tickets: www.unitedskates.com.

MOBILE DROP-OFF
Free mobile drop-off Jan. 31, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Crabtree Valley Mall, 4401 Glenwood Avenue.

GRANT
City of Raleigh's Building Up-fit Grant is seeking new small business owners. Learn more by emailing Carl.BrooksII@raleighnc.gov. Deadline: Feb. 1.

DURHAM RESTAURANT WEEK
Triangle Restaurant Week runs Jan. 25 to Feb. 1. Visit www.triangle-restaurant-week.com.

CELEBRATION
The Carolina Theatre celebrates 100 years Jan. 31 with all-day activities. Visit www.carolinatheatre.org.

HBCU SHOWCASE
Emily K Center's Bull City in Black HBCU Showcase is Feb. 7, noon to 3 p.m., 904 W. Chapel Hill St. Register: www.emilyk.org/hbcu.

STEP TEAM
My Durham Teen Zone is launching a Teen Zone Step Team for ages 13-18. Contact: Cimarron.Reed@Durhamnc.gov.
- CHAPEL HILL LECTURE**
Harvard Divinity School professor Ahmad Greene-Hayes is the guest speaker at the 2026 African Diaspora Lecture Jan. 29, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Stone Center Hitchcock Room, 150 South St. Tickets: unc.edu.

FUNDRAISER
Annual St. Paul Village Community Walk is March 7, McDougale Middle School, 900 Fayetteville Road. Register: www.stpaulamechapelhill.org. Early bird deadline: Jan. 31.

MISC. SCHOLARSHIPS:
* Perry Scholarship Fund honors veterans living in Wake, Durham or Chatham counties. Submit a nomination at www.perryscholarshipfund.com. Deadline: Jan. 31.
* Marian Anderson Legacy Scholarship is accepting applications for undergraduate and graduate students studying music. Visit www.dar.org/. Deadline: Jan. 31.

REAL ID
Beginning Feb. 1, airline passengers without a REAL ID will pay a \$45 fee for ID verification for a 10-day travel period.

BLOOD
Red Cross has a severe blood shortage. Visit RedCrossBlood.org/Heart.

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Cleo Hill making believers at UMES

People thought Cleo Hill Jr. was crazy for leaving Winston-Salem State for Maryland Eastern Shore.

After all, Hill was the king of Ram Nation for six seasons, delivering two CIAA Tournament titles and a couple of postseason appearances. He is one of three CIAA coaches to win a championship with two different teams: WSSU and Shaw.

Lonnie Blow with St. Augustine's and Virginia State, and Lou D'Alessio with Bowie State and Fayetteville are the other two coaches.

Maryland Eastern Shore men's program was a dud when Hill took over the reins last season. Fans and alumni spent more time debating about re-instating the football program than they did talking about basketball.

The university even embarrassed itself by trying to change its brand from UMES to MD&ES. (Think new Coke.)

The Hawks had one winning season in eight years when Hill was recruited. Coached by Jason Crafton, that 2022-23 squad went 18-13 overall, 9-5 MEAC. But it was short-lived. The old Hawks returned the following season with a 9-20 finish. Crafton left to become chief program strategist at Columbia.

A cliché is coaches always need a challenge, the next big thing they can put their stamp on.

Hill, obviously, was at that stage. Why else would he leave a storied program where his father, Cleo Hill Sr., was a mega superstar from 1957-61, and played under one of the greatest coaching legends in any division, Clarence "Big House" Gaines. He could have retired at WSSU if he wanted.

But a shot at rebuilding a Division I program in a good basketball conference was just too tempting.

Hill and UMES took their lumps last season winning just six games, two in the conference. Their 8-13 record this year is from a brutal nonconference schedule. The MEAC portion couldn't come soon enough, as the Hawks were riding a seven-game losing streak to end nonconference play.

But those losses are long forgotten. What has folks talking is the 4-0 MEAC mark, the best conference start since 1974.

"The whole campus is excited. ...It's difficult not to take a look at it (record)," Hill said on Wednesday's MEAC teleconference. "I just want to make good on my promise."

Hill did what most coaches do today to try to turn around a program - hit the transfer portal. UMES's big three that have grabbed media attention are Zion Obanla (Clafin), Dorion Staples (Miles, Southern Illinois) and Joseph Locandro (Concordia, St. Leo).

Obanla played at Clafin when Hill was at WSSU. Who knew they would wind up on the same team? When Obanla decided to enter the transfer portal, Hill was waiting.

Although the trio leads the team in scoring, their stats show a more equal squad than any one dominating player. Hill has a "problem" many coaches wish they had.

"Our strength is our depth," he said. "I am comfortable playing our 11 through 14 guys in any situation. It's challenging trying to find minutes for guys on the bench. But I rather have the problem than not."

UMES has wins over Morgan State, Howard, Norfolk State and Coppin State. The road win at the Spartans, the two-time defending champs, really raised eyebrows.

The team was scheduled to visit Durham Jan. 26 in a doubleheader - UMES women also are undefeated at 4-0 - but the games were postponed due to the threat of weather.

There's still plenty of basketball left to play, but for now, Hill is not looking so crazy after all.



BONITTA BEST

The Triangle Tribune Sports

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BLACK HISTORY



FILE

Hillside High School boys basketball teams were nicknamed the "Pony Express."

Stories of the N.C. High School Athletic Conference lead to pursuit of lost records

By Richard Walker
CAROLINA SPORTS HUB

The North Carolina High School Athletic Conference began in 1928 when segregated all-Black high schools chose to form an association that initially was called the North Carolina Negro High School Athletic Association.

Led from 1946 to 1970 by Rocky Mount's Dr. W.T. Armstrong, many efforts have occurred over the years to uncover the rich history of the athletic teams, coaches and athletes that played in the association.

A medical doctor in Rocky Mount, Armstrong had no

office staff.

According to several newspaper reports, Armstrong maintained that all he knew was that nobody liked losing, but he wanted to run a fair-minded organization.

When his services were no longer needed due to the complete integration of N.C. high school athletics into the N.C. High School Athletic Association after the 1969-70 season, Armstrong discussed his tenure with longtime Greensboro News & Record prep sportswriter Tom Northington.

"I've enjoyed all these years and being involved in athletics," he said. "And I'm sure to miss the associa-

tion.

"At the beginning, we operated with only 30 or 35 schools and grew to 215. We never had a full-time secretary or an office as such. There wasn't sufficient money, so I conducted the operation out of my medical office."

When he left the NCHSAC, Armstrong was hired as the 75th president of the Atlanta-based National Medical Association in August 1970. Perhaps because of his departure and lack of an office staff, many of the records of the old NCHSAC no longer exist and efforts to research championship winners remain incomplete.

A member of the Shaw

University and NCHSAA Hall of Fame, Armstrong died on Jan. 4, 1981 at 76.

He had navigated the association from a name change. It was called the N.C. Negro High School Athletic Association until the spring of 1958. By the time of the name change, championships were being held in basketball (started in 1930), baseball (1950), tennis (1953) and track and field (1954).

Efforts continue to research those championship winners and individual accomplishments. If you have any information to add or update to records, email 22RichardWalker@gmail.com.

HBCU FOOTBALL

NCAA sanctions women's flag football

By Bonitta Best
editor@triangletribune.com

The NCAA Division I and II membership committees approved women's flag football as an official Emerging Sport for Women effective this spring. The decision paves the way for future varsity and championship status.

The CIAA hosted the conference's first Women's Flag Football Championship in Charlotte. Winston-Salem State won the title.

N.C. Central

Coach Trei Oliver will host his 2026 recruiting class in a couple of weeks. Some players on the list:

- * Gino Addison, running back, Middleburg High School in Florida
 - * River Fiore, tight end, Clayton High School
 - * Jaquez Crawford, quarterback, North Guilford High
 - * Cam Cartlidge, linebacker, Walkertown High in Indianapolis
- Running back Chris Mosley announced earlier this month that he was declaring for the NFL Draft.

And former Eagles quarterback Jordan Reid, who is making quite a name for himself in sports broadcasting, has launched the Reid Option Quarterback Academy. The academy will provide field access and instruction to youth, middle school and high school quarterbacks in North Carolina and South Carolina. Learn more on Reid's Facebook page.

Clark-Atlanta

Alabama State assistant coach Terry Sims is Clark Atlanta's new head coach. Sims made his mark as Bethune-Cookman's head coach from 2015-2022, earning one MEAC championship and coach of the year award before the university left for the SWAC in 2021.

BCFHOF

The Black College Hall of Fame announced its Class of 2026. The inductees will be officially enshrined on June 6 in Atlanta. They also will be recognized at halftime of the Allstate HBCU Legacy Bowl Feb. 21, 4 p.m., on NFL Network. Inductees:

- * Jimmy Smith, Jackson State
- Please see FOOTBALL/7A



For the first time in the state of South Carolina history, the South Carolina State Bulldogs' flag flew above the State House honoring their Celebration Bowl win on Martin Luther King Jr. Day.



NCAA sanctions flag football as emerging sport

Continued from page 6A

Smith, St. Louis Battlehawks

Legacy Bowl
More additions to the All-state HBCU Legacy Bowl.
* Evan Powell, Winston-Salem State
* Andrew Brown, N.C. A&T
* Reggie Davis, Alcorn State
* Markel Linzer, Grambling State
* Marko Jovisic, Mississippi Valley State
* Travaunta Abner, Alabama A&M

Transfer Portal
* Grambling OL Armond Owens
* Benedict RB Triston Morgan
* Morgan State OL Darius

UFL
Five HBCU players were taken in last week's United Football League Draft.
* Norfolk State CB Bobby Price, Dallas Renegades
* Jackson State CB Isaiah Bolden, Louisville Kings
* Tennessee State WR Chris Rowland, Orlando Storm
* N.C. A&T tight end Jason Ivey, Storm
* Norfolk State WR Justin

COLLEGE CORNER

Shaw women hire coach

Former Hampton and Norfolk State women's basketball coach James Sweat died last week.

Sweat coached the Pirates from 1981-88, compiling an astonishing 183-44 overall record. Hampton's 1987-88 season is one of the best in NCAA Division II history.

The Pirates finished 33-1, including a DII national championship with a blow-out win over West Texas State. The title was the first in CIAA history and raised exposure for HBCU women's basketball.

Sweat left for Norfolk State and coached the Trojans for 19 seasons, both as Division II and later transitioning to Division I competition, achieving over 340 wins, five CIAA Tournament championships and multiple post-season appearances.

Sweat was married to Norfolk State legendary track and field coach LaVerne Sweat.

The CIAA has another official ambassador for the tournament next month. Baltimore native Sonia Chase will represent the tourney in the Charm City. Chase was a standout player at Maryland and played in the WNBA and overseas. The tourney is barely a month away.



Women's flag football will be added to the CIAA lineup in the spring.

Cary Tennis Park.

In track and field, Melanne Sutton won first place in the 60-meter dash at last weekend's Dick Taylor Challenge on UNC's campus.

Also taking first-place honors were Tia Lucas in the high jump and Rachel Key-White in the long jump. Key-White also finished third in the high jump. T'Sheylah Moore placed third in the 500 meters, and Kaydence Daniels was third in the long jump.

The 4x400-meter relay team of McDowell, Swepson, Johnson and Jackson finished third.

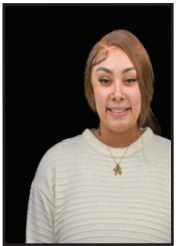
WOMEN
N.C. Central (0-4 MEAC, 3-14)

The Eagles are one of two winless teams in the conference. Delaware State is the other.

The two were scheduled to meet this weekend, but all games through Jan. 26 have been postponed due to the threat of a massive storm heading our way.

The basketball team is hosting a free clinic Jan. 31, 10-11:30 a.m., in honor of National Girls & Women in Sports Day. Each participant also will receive two tickets to the Eagles Feb. 12 home game.

Shaw (3-4 CIAA, 6-8)
Interim basketball coach Lou Hamilton has added Treasure Hunt to the coaching staff. In addition to having one of the best names EVER, Hunt was a standout player at Kentucky and Arizona State. She's no stranger to HBCUs, having assistant coached at Tennessee State.



"Treasure brings a championship mindset and an elite basketball background that will immediately elevate our program," Hamilton said. "Her experience competing and coaching at the highest level will be invaluable to our student-athletes, both on and off the court."

Shaw's doubleheader against Claflin this week-end has been moved up to a noon start for the women and 2 p.m. for the men.

UAPB
Former Arkansas-Pine Bluff star Zaay Green is playing for Kibirkstis Vilnius in Lithuania. Hey, a job is a job, and she's learning a new language.

MEN
N.C. Central (3-1, 7-12)
CC was looking forward to a collision course between UMES and the Eagles next Monday night, hoping both teams were undefeated in the conference.

But Howard had other ideas, knocking NCCU out of a tie for first place with a dominating second half. The men's games against DSU and UMES also postponed due to weather.

In track, Orlando McClean won the 60 meters and Malcolm Forbes the triple jump at the Dick Taylor Challenge. Zion Amadi placed second in the 500 meters, Jonathan Raijon-Koger second in the high jump and Esaia Caves second in the triple jump.

The Best in HBCU Sports

triangletribune.com

ONE NATION, MANY JOURNEYS IMMIGRATION ACTIVITY SHEET

Hi Everyone!

My "Kemet: One Nation, Many Journeys Immigration" PSA is currently airing on television stations across the country. In this PSA, I travel through time to meet people of many races, cultures, and backgrounds whose journeys helped shape America. Check out this activity sheet and see the people, places, and ideas that connect our past, present, and future. Happy New Year - Welcome to our shared story!

WHAT IS A JOURNEY?

A journey is a trip or path from one place to another, it also means changes you go through while learning, growing, or reaching a goal.

Write the word on the line that fits the sentence best.

A journey can mean:

opportunity country freedom home skill

Moving to a new _____.

Being forced to leave _____.

Fight for _____.

Searching for _____.

Learning a new _____.

WHO AM I?

Fill in the blank with the correct name.

Harriet Tubman Ilhan Omar

Albert Einstein Frederick Douglass

I used my words and writing to fight for justice.

I was a leader of the Underground Railroad.

Born in Germany, I became a famous scientists.

I was a refugee who later became a US Congresswoman.

MATCH ME!

Match the journey to the description. Put the correct letter on the line.

A. Refugee B. Immigrant

C. Asylum Seeker D. First-Generation American

Born in another country and moved permanently to the U.S. _____

Born in the U.S. to parents who immigrated here. _____

Forced to leave home because of war or danger. _____

Asking for protection after arriving in the U.S. _____

KEMET

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

1. A chance for improvement, work, or a better life.

2. A person who moves to a new country to live.

3. A key reason many people migrate, meaning personal liberty.

4. A document that allows entry into another country.

5. An official ID booklet needed for international travel.

6. Traditions, language, and customs shared by a group.

7. Protection granted by a country to someone fleeing harm.

8. Someone who flees their home due to war or danger.

9. Family history or cultural background passed down.

10. Heritage

ANSWER KEY

WHAT IS A JOURNEY?

1. OPPORTUNITY

2. COUNTRY

3. FREEDOM

4. HOME

5. SKILL

WHAT AM I?

1. HARRIET TUBMAN

2. ALBERT EINSTEIN

3. ILHAN OMAR

4. FREDERICK DOUGLASS

MATCH ME!

1. B

2. A

3. C

4. D

ONE NATION, MANY JOURNEYS IMMIGRATION, 01/25/26, #239 WWW.JOEYOUNG.ORG KEMET ACTIVITY SHEETS © 2024 BY JOE YOUNG

All good things must come to an end

We would like to sincerely thank all of our loyal and faithful customers who have supported Jamaica Jerk Masters since 2008. It has truly been an amazing run, and we are beyond grateful for the love and support you have shown us over the years. Please continue to follow our Facebook page for any future updates or possible new ventures. From the bottom of our hearts, thank you. We love and appreciate each and every one of you and will truly miss you all.



The Carless family celebrate on the last day of service.



Healing Transitions alumni and supporters take a break from their 5-mile walk in Raleigh.

Healing Transitions celebrates 25 years of transforming lives

STAFF REPORTS
RALEIGH — Healing Transitions, a Raleigh-based nonprofit dedicated to long-term recovery from alcohol and other drug addictions, commemorated its 25th anniversary with the Men's Campus Trudge, a five-mile walk through downtown Raleigh honoring the community partners who have helped transform thousands of lives over the past quarter century. The walk retraced the original route taken by early participants in the program as they relied on the support of local churches, soup kitchens, libraries and other community organizations. Staff, donors, alumni and supporters stopped along the route to present plaques and express their appreciation to longtime partners whose sustained commitment has been in-

strumental in Healing Transitions' success. "Reaching 25 years is not just a milestone for Healing Transitions, it's a celebration of community," Healing Transitions Executive Director Chris Budnick said. "Our recovery model is built on peer support and dignity, but it is strengthened every day by organizations that opened their doors, offered meals and believed in the possibility of transformation. This walk is our way of saying thank you and honoring the lives changed because of that belief." One of the featured moments along the route was at Shepherd's Table Soup Kitchen, where longtime Healing Transitions peer leader and U.S. Air Force veteran Darryl West presented a gift of appreciation. West was among the first participants to benefit from Healing Transitions'

recovery program and later became an alumni success story, working in the organization's detox and overnight shelters. Now, with more than 17 years of experience as a certified drug and alcohol counselor, West works at the North Carolina Department of Public Safety, providing substance use disorder services to incarcerated individuals. He is just one of the many success stories and testimonials to the profound impact that Healing Transitions has made within the community and on countless lives. * More than 30,000 people receiving recovery support and shelter * 1,536 participants completing the program and becoming alumni * Nearly 2.3 million beds provided * Nearly 5 million meals served

AACC celebrates 25 years



COURTESY

The 25th annual African American Cultural Celebration is Jan. 31, 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., at the North Carolina Museum of Art. For 25 years, the AACC has been North Carolina's premier kickoff to Black History Month. Performers, artists, educators and community members come together for a day filled with music, dance, storytelling, art and educational activities. Guests of all ages can experience the rich heritage and living culture of African Americans in North Carolina through engaging presentations, craft demonstrations, and cultural conversations.

Cary MLK Dreamfest Children's Program



MATHIAS BISHOP

Dozens of children attended Page-Walker Arts & History Center to honor the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. and create artwork posterboards with the help of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority members.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2026, 6 - 10PM



The Black Business Gala

2026 HONOREES:

TERI CANADA
WOMAN OF THE YEAR

DORIAN BOLDEN
MAN OF THE YEAR

2026 BUSINESS AWARDEES:

Emerging Business: Bright Black Candles
Longstanding Business: Perkins Orchard
Community Organization: Empowered Parents in Community - EPIC

DIAMOND PARTNER



GOLD PARTNERS



SILVER AND BRONZE PARTNERS



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