



SPORTS

N.C. Central releases its 2026 football schedule.



COMMUNITY FOCUS

Durham artist brings Afro-Brazilian history to life with workshops.

The Triangle Tribune

THE TRIANGLE'S CHOICE FOR THE BLACK VOICE SINCE 1998

"Serving Raleigh, Durham and Chapel Hill"

VOLUME 28 NO. 07

Week of February 15-21, 2026

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« 52 WEEKS OF BLACK BRILLIANCE »

Black history pioneers in UNC's law and medical schools



Harvey Beech, James Lassiter, J. Kenneth Lee, Floyd McKissick and James Robert Walker enrolled in the UNC School of Law in 1951, following a court order that said the law school must admit Black students. They became the first African American students at the University of North Carolina. After they enrolled, other graduate and professional schools at Carolina began admitting African American students.



The same legal ruling that opened the door for Carolina's first Black law students also made way for Oscar Diggs, in 1951, to become the first African American to attend Carolina's medical school. Diggs graduated in 1955, becoming the first African American Doctor of Medicine from the university. By the mid-1950s, Black students were admitted to the College of Arts and Sciences.

COURTESY OF UNC



WEBSITE

A photo on the front of the National Heritage Academies' website.

Parents call for investigation of Raleigh charter school after suspected child abuse

By Kylie Marsh
kylie.marsh@triangletribune.com

Nine-year-old Harlem Barrett is homeschooled. He also is non-verbal and autistic. His mother, Atoya Barrett, told The Tribune that finding the right school for him has been tough. For the past two and a half years, Harlem attended PreEminent Charter School in Raleigh, one of several schools run by a national for-profit education company called National Heritage Academies. Before attending PreEminent, Barrett said her son wasn't being academically challenged in his special education classes at Wake County Public Schools. "They weren't challenging him enough. I felt like he was doing a lot of coloring and whatnot, and I know my son can do much more than that," she said. Harlem bounced around schools trying to find the right

fit. At the recommendation of one of her neighbors, Harlem was accepted at PreEminent Charter, but Barrett said it's "been a rollercoaster" since then. Harlem was doing wonderfully until May 2024, she said, when his special education teacher, Kaitlyn Jacobson, was arrested for misdemeanor child abuse. Soon after, his second teacher was let go. After that, his third teacher left. "She was an excellent teacher, and she quit overnight," Barrett said. "She said she doesn't want to talk about it, but her exact words were, 'the school was doing things that morally she couldn't get with,' and said they were doing things 'against her conscience.' And that's very telling for a teacher to say that." PreEminent Charter School Principal Stephanie Solomon did not respond to repeated phone calls and email requests for

comment. On Dec. 19, while visiting Durham's Central Park, Barrett said a PreEminent parent's daughter approached her and said that Harlem and other special education students had been abused for months. Barrett filed a police report the same day. The girl also told her the special education class had no teacher, just an instructional assistant. Barrett said the instructional assistant, Tariq White, was previously placed on disciplinary action when the abuse occurred, a copy emailed to The Tribune. On Dec. 31, Barrett requested via email to Solomon that all video footage of her son be released but has received no response. With nowhere else to turn, she contacted the North Carolina Department of Public Instruc-

Please see **PARENTS/2A**



COURTESY

Stop co-opting #SayHerName. It was made for Black women

By Rann Miller
WORD IN BLACK

The hashtag, #SayHerName, isn't simply a one-off catchphrase. It is a social justice visibility movement that Kimberlé Crenshaw, a professor at UCLA Law School and Columbia University Law School, created to highlight law enforcement violence against Black women and girls within an anti-Black society. It shone a spotlight on the killing of Sandra Bland, the 28-year-old Black woman who died in Texas after allegedly assaulting a police officer during a traffic stop. Since its creation in 2017, it has evolved into a rallying cry — one that has been used way too often for far too many Black women killed by law enforcement or found dead in official custody. Now, white activists in Minnesota, angry at the federal Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents who killed Renee Nicole Good, are using #SayHerName in social media posts and shouting it in protests on the snow-covered streets of Minneapolis. And it's not a good look. Let me be clear: it's outrageous that an ICE agent shot and killed Good, 37, without justification, at point-blank range, and illegally. The Trump administration made things worse when it branded her a terrorist, sent more immigration agents to the city and declared it would not investigate her death. People in Minneapolis and across the country are right to demand accountability for her murder, and they are right to demand that ICE leave their city. But protesters shouldn't co-opt #SayHerName to do it. People have been saying Good's name from the moment she was killed Jan. 7 inside her SUV while attempting to steer away from ICE agents confronting her on an icy residential street. The presence of ICE paramilitary troops is also responsible for the murders of Alex Pretti and Keith Porter Jr., in Los Angeles. The tone-deaf use of #SayHerName to protest Good's killing illustrates society's collective failure to act on behalf of Black humanity, particularly after Black women spoke up. Within hours of Good's slaying, the news made national headlines, just like the murders of Heather Heyer, who was run down by a white supremacist during the 2017 "Unite the Right" rally in Charlottesville, Virginia; and Justine Damond, shot to death by a Black Minneapolis cop that same year. Good, Heyer and Damond were all white women. But Bland's death was just as outrageous. She was found hanging in a Walker County, Texas, jail cell three days after a heated confrontation with an officer during a routine traffic stop. A coroner ruled her death a suicide, but her family rejected that. Despite repeated de-

Please see **STOP/2A**

Black men share stories of success after prison reform

By Freda Freeman
CORRESPONDENT

Formerly incarcerated men want people to know they should not be defined by their past. They want a genuine second chance. Henry Edwards II is trying to help them get it. Edwards, who has never been incarcerated, is producing "I Am Successful... Unfolding" — a cinematic fashion event centered on the identity, resilience and transformation of formerly in-

carcerated Black men. The event, held Feb. 22 from 1 to 5 p.m. at The Cookery in Durham, includes a short film, fashion show and panel discussion. Hoping to debunk the stereotype of what formerly imprisoned men look like, the fashion show features clothes depicting struggle, shift, arrival and legacy. "I Am Successful" came to me from the personal experience of being judged before being known. People will make as-

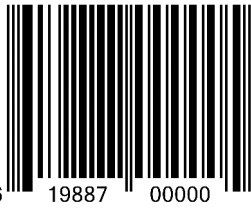
sumptions about me based on my appearance without even knowing my story. That made me realize how many people, especially Black men, carry stories that aren't fully seen. So, I created 'I Am Successful' to shift narratives and highlight dignity, growth and purpose," Edwards said. Edwards, a Snow Hill native, held similar events while living in the Washington, D.C., area. This will be his premiere event

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Parents want investigation of Raleigh charter school

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tion's Office of Charter Schools.
"For issues related to individual students such as discipline, specific parent concerns, etc., we do not have any authority or oversight," read an email sent to Barrett from the assistant director of the Office of Charter Schools Nicky Niewinski on Jan. 7. "If you feel there is a risk to student safety, local law enforcement is the appropriate source for support."
Barrett said she is now the face of a group of at least eight parents, because the others are scared about retaliation.
On Jan. 7, Barrett received an email from Solomon stating that Harlem had over 10 unexcused absences and his attendance must improve or the

school "may refer the issue to the District Attorney and/or the District Court."
Barrett believes this was an act of retaliation against her for speaking out. "Retaliation is real, and that's exactly why, on Jan. 13, I pulled my son out, because I know once I started telling the story, things were going to get bad," she said.
Barrett said she would like a full, independent investigation into the school. According to North Carolina School Report Cards, PreEminent Charter has a D rating.
The Rev. Charlean Mapson sits on the North Carolina Council of Developmental Disabilities, as her son, Jadon, has autism. She told The Tribune that she's "not surprised" at the alleged PreEminent Charter incidents, sharing her own struggles with public and

charter schools treating her son poorly.
"They don't think they can get caught because if they do it with a child who's nonverbal, the child cannot express what's happening," she said.
Mapson said there should be some sort of investigation into whether North Carolina's schools are actually meeting the requirements of The Individuals with Disabilities in Education Act, federal legislation that tailors public education to fit every student's individual needs, regardless of ability.
"We need more compassionate people in the field," she said. "You can't just go into teaching and just say, 'oh, I'm gonna do special needs just because I need a job.' You have to be prepared to understand that that job comes with a lot."



Henry Edwards II, seated, with Edward Scott, left, Tommy Green and Dennis Gaddy.

Black men share stories of success after prison reform

Continued from page 1A
since moving to Durham in 2020.
Edwards' mission is to elevate the stories of Black men rebuilding their lives with purpose, dignity and community support. His 2019 production featured a man arrested for drug possession the day after his college graduation, who served a lengthy sentence and is now a tenured professor at Howard University.
"These are the type of stories I want to share," Edwards said. "Yes, I understand you have those stumbling blocks, but you still have a chance to make it and become other things as opposed to what society and your community is still telling you."
Sharif Brown, of Knightdale, a mental health advocate and director of reentry with the Alliance of Disability Advocates, will discuss resources available to help those reentering society. Over the past nine years, Brown has transitioned more than 700 people from state and federal prison back into society, particularly those with disabilities. He helps with housing, employment, medical benefits, therapy, and sometimes family and location services.
"There is life and opportunity for individuals who have a justice-involved background. That particular felony does not dictate their future, that's their past. The conference he's putting on highlights individuals who have a justice-involved background who

are now really productive," Brown said.
One of the panelists, Edward Scott, of Wendell, was in prison for almost 30 years. He is now a community help worker and forensic support specialist who helps reacclimate those coming out of prison.
"He's (Edwards) highlighting that even though an individual goes to prison, prison doesn't define that individual. He also shows that even though people made terrible decisions, they can come out and be successful and give back to the community," Scott said.
Panelist and Durham resident Tommy Green, who served 12 years, said everyone deserves a second chance. Green runs two reentry programs in which he helps formerly incarcerated men gain marketable life skills and those with chronic illnesses find health care.
"I want people to see that you can give a person with a horrible background or substance use or recovery a second chance or fair chance, and they can do something great. I want them to see guys like me who came from that life and made a change, and most of it is because someone gave us a chance," he said.
"I want my legacy to be just that, a person that has turned his life around, gives back to the community and is an upstanding citizen. I don't want to leave this world always being known as Tommy

from the streets."
Tickets for the event are available on www.eventbrite.com, and Edward's Facebook and Instagram pages.

Stop co-opting #SayHer-Name. For Black women

Continued from page 1A
mands, no one — not the aggressive cop who arrested her nor the jail guards responsible for her safety — has answered for her death. If it weren't for the #SayHer-Name campaign, few people would know about Bland or the circumstances of her senseless death. That's not an accident.
Studies show that the murders and disappearances of white women receive disproportionate attention in the news and public discourse, especially when compared to those of Black women. It's problematic, which is why Crenshaw created #SayHer-Name in the first place. Before then, Bland was anonymous, and her death was a mystery. The campaign helped her be seen.
More broadly, using the hashtag to protest Good's killing is yet another example of white people co-opting Black language. The Trump administration has weaponized "woke," is using the language of the civil rights movement to dismantle actual civil rights, and the far right used "say her name" to publicize the death of a Jan. 6 rioter. Usually, whites talk like Black folks to make a profit, become relevant, become the center of attention or mock Black people.
To interpolate the famous poem, first they came for Black people, but no one spoke out because they weren't Black women. Then, when they came for those who were silent, the silent found no one was left to speak for them.
Maybe, had they spoken up when Black folks sounded the alarm, laws would have been in place to prevent the murder of Renee Nicole Good.

Rann Miller is an educator, opinion columnist and author of "Resistance Stories from Black History for Kids."



COURTESY

Stein wants legislature to fund summer program

By Adam Wagner
WUNC
Gov. Josh Stein wants the General Assembly to put \$5 million in recurring funds to ensure North Carolina can access a summer food program for kids.
The SUN Bucks program started in 2024, helping to feed almost 1.1 million kids in North Carolina in its first year. Last summer, it provided more than \$121 million to help more than a million kids.
Families of children who are eligible for the program receive a debit-like card with \$120 loaded onto it to buy food for their child in the summer months. "Hunger does not go on vacation when school lets out. In fact, a lot of kids don't get the breakfast and lunch that they can receive at school when they're home during the summertime," Stein said.
But to receive a \$125 million grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, North Carolina needs to provide \$5 million in matching funds.
The state used philanthropic dollars to do that in 2024. This year, it had hoped to receive an appropriation from the General Assembly, but lack of progress on the state budget stymied that.
"We were worried that there would be more children who experienced hunger this summer than needed," Stein said.
The state worked with philanthropic partners like the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Foundation of North Carolina, the Duke Endowment and Coca-Cola Consolidated, among others, to raise the money.
Colleen Briggs, the president of the BCBS Foundation, said the organization is concerned about the impact more than 1 in 5 North Carolina children living with food insecurity could have on lifelong health.
"We know that when a child lacks nutritious food, it not only harms their health and their development, but it also contributes to the prevalence of diet-related chronic conditions like type 2 diabetes that increase health care costs for everyone," Briggs said.
Stein is now pushing for the certainty of a recurring appropriation from the General Assembly for the matching SUN Bucks funds to ensure that some of that food insecurity is eased when kids are out of school.
"The state shouldn't have to scramble each year to make sure that our children are not hungry in the summertime. I urge the General Assembly to include SUN Bucks."

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Mastering Money, Time & Health in 2026



Marlon Smith



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Chapel Hill North Carolina



FIRST SUNDAYS Men Building Up Men to Build Up Our Families

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Chapel Hill searches to make housing affordable

By Greg Childress
NC NEWSLINE

CHAPEL HILL - UNC Chapel Hill continues to face challenges housing the people who attend and serve the university, Chancellor Lee Roberts said.

Roberts said many of the university's 10,000 or more employees must make long commutes from neighboring counties due to high rents and home prices in Chapel Hill.

"That obviously makes their lives more difficult and makes Carolina a less attractive place to work," he said. "We have a wide range of challenges housing all of the people Carolina is bringing to this area."

Roberts' comments came during Habitat for Humanity of Orange County's first "Opening Doors Housing Summit" to discuss housing affordability in the region. The event was attended by dozens of elected officials, university officials, members of the housing industry and nonprofit leaders.

The talk about housing affordability in Chapel Hill comes as the chancellor

pushes to build Carolina North, a 230-acre satellite campus along Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard on the site of the old Horace Williams Airport. The mixed-used project will include academic and research facilities,

search facilities, mixed-use housing for students and local workforce families, and retail, dining and performing arts spaces.

"It's in our own interest to make sure that folks who work at the university have a place to live somewhere nearby," Roberts told NC Newsline.

In recent months, Roberts has linked the need to build Carolina North to the state's population growth. He noted that North Carolina added 145,000 people in 2025 and is the third fastest-growing state in the country behind Texas and Florida.

The university has announced plans to increase its undergraduate enrollment by 5,000 students over the next 10 years. That's necessary to keep up with the state's growth, Roberts said. The university used to enroll 5% of the state's high school seniors, but the percent-

age is now 3.5%.

Roberts was one of three panelists to discuss housing issues during the summit. State Rep. Allen Buansi, D-Orange, and Jonathan Reckford, CEO of Habitat for Humanity International, also served on the panel moderated by Leoneda Inge, co-host of WUNC's "Due South."

Reckford said the gap between what it costs to create a unit of housing and what a family can afford is the widest in modern history. The Chapel Hill native and UNC graduate said the gap is a supply problem with no easy solutions.

"There have been a lot of really important and valuable demand-side initiatives to help low- and moderate-income families on affordability," Rockford said, "but if we keep helping on the demand side and don't solve the supply side ... you keep driving prices further up."

Buansi said the state should do more to support Habitat For Humanity and other nonprofits that work to create affordable housing, using the N.C. Housing Trust Fund to support development partnerships.



COURTESY

When the heat turns on, bills shouldn't break families' budgets

By Claire Williamson
SPECIAL TO THE TRIBUNE

As winter drags on, families across North Carolina are feeling the cold. For many of the low-income households the North Carolina Justice Center serves, this season doesn't just mean turning up the heat; it means agonizing choices between paying the power bill or putting food on the table, filling prescriptions or covering rent.

Duke Energy's latest proposal to raise rates by 15% over two years threatens to make those choices even harder. Fortunately for struggling customers, Gov. Josh Stein and Attorney General Jeff Jackson have intervened in the case, noting that a bill increase of between \$23 to nearly \$30 more per month would be a significant hardship on many customers. And these requested rate hikes don't even factor in the price Duke charges customers for fuel, which is layered on top in separate rate proceedings.

These numbers may not seem large to some, but for

families already living paycheck to paycheck, they can be devastating. Every extra dollar spent on electricity is a dollar taken from groceries, medicine or child care. And when the temperatures drop, electricity usage rises — meaning the burden is even heavier in the months when families can least afford it.

History shows a significant driver of the cost of electricity is the high cost of gas, a burden Duke Energy lays entirely on its customers. Gas prices are unpredictable and expensive, and subject to global market situations beyond our control. Customers are on the hook to pay for every cent of the cost of the fuel to run Duke's plants. Duke pays nothing. The imbalance of that dynamic is direly unfair to customers.

There are better, more affordable ways Duke could be meeting energy needs in North Carolina. Solar, for example, is the cheapest way to generate electricity. Costs continue to come down year over year. And

when you pair solar with batteries, it becomes an even more reliable energy resource. Unlike gas, renewables don't expose families to global market shocks. They provide stable, predictable costs — exactly what North Carolina families need.

Duke Energy should be taking every possible step to lower cost burdens for its customers, not raising rates while planning to invest customer money in expensive gas plants. Families deserve an energy future, and an energy present, that protects them from high bills, not one that locks them into decades of unaffordable costs.

This winter, as families across our state struggle to stay warm, we urge Duke Energy and regulators to remember who pays the price for every decision. It's not shareholders; it's the households already stretched to the breaking point.

Claire Williamson is senior energy policy advocate at the N.C. Justice Center.



The Lottery Is Constructing Success.

The North Carolina Education Lottery has raised over \$12 billion to support our schools, staff, and students across the state. A portion of these funds are dedicated to building and repairing schools, creating modern spaces for our students to dream and learn.



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HEALTHY LIVING

4 Smart Tips to Save Money and Stay Well This Season

(StatePoint) The beginning of the year is a natural time for a reset, especially when it comes to budgets and better-for-you habits. With cold and flu season still in full swing, it,Â& also a time when many people start thinking about how to stay healthy without spending more than they planned.

With a few tips and tricks, staying healthy doesn,Â&t have to be expensive. Here,Â&s what you can do:

Shop ahead. Most people don,Â&t think about cold and flu products until they actually need them. Stocking up ahead of time can help ensure quick access to relief while making it easier to take advantage of savings. Using coupons, price-saving apps and shopping for store promotions can help bring down the cost of everyday health essentials.

Choose generic and save. Store brand over-the-counter (OTC) products offer a more affordable option for common needs, including pain relief and cough and cold care.

Perrigo, a leading provider of store brand OTC products, makes trusted alternatives to name brands across key self-care categories, including ibuprofen, acetaminophen, cough suppressants, decongestants and multi-symptom relief. These store brand OTC products contain the same active ingredients and meet the same FDA standards as national name brands, but at a lower cost.

As health care costs continue to rise, consumers can opt for these store brand OTC products to save money without compromising on quality.

Stay active. Staying active doesn,Â&t have to mean joining a luxury gym membership or having a complicated routine. Research published in the National Library of Medicine suggests that moderate amounts of exercise can help reduce stress and support immune function. Walking, running, free online workout classes or bodyweight exercises at home are all accessible ways to stay active throughout the season.

Adopt healthy habits. Small, everyday habits can also make a difference during cold and flu season. Washing your hands, staying hydrated and getting plenty of sleep are simple steps that support overall wellness and help reduce the risk of getting sick.

As consumers settle into their routines, combining smart shopping choices with healthy habits can help them feel prepared and more in control throughout cold and flu season.

To stock up on affordable store brand self-care and OTC products, stop by your local retailer.

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LEGAL NOTICES



LEGAL NOTICE

HVAC Upgrades – Admin I, 2nd Floor and 5th Floor

RFP No. 26-021

This is a Re-bid. The County of Durham will receive sealed proposals for qualified Contractor(s) to establish a contract to provide work on the Second Floor by removing old ductwork and installing new outside insulated ductwork, that connects between the Air handling Units and the supply registers, while repairing ceilings and walls with sheetrock and painting repairs. While also upgrading of the current control system, replacing two existing air handling units with new Air handling Units, assessing duct work, and replacing existing VAV boxes located on the Fifth Floor at the Admin I facility located at 200 east Main Street Durham NC 27701 on **March 24, 2026 , at 2:00 P.M Eastern Time**, in the Durham County Purchasing Division of Finance, 201 East Main Street, 7th Floor, Room 703, Durham, North Carolina 27701. No proposals will be accepted after the official time and date.

A SITE VISIT will be held at 10:00 A.M. Eastern Time, on **March 3, 2026**, located at 200 East Main Street Durham NC 27701, the Administration I facility, in the main lobby area. The site visit will begin promptly at 10:00am, contractors are advised to arrive early to go through security. Once the site visit begins late arrivals may not be able to join the tour. There will be one site visit, once the 10:00am visit concludes, no other site visits will be scheduled.

An electronic copy of this Request for Proposal (RFP) can be obtained from Durham County's eBid System located under Bid Opportunities <https://dconc.gov/Finance/Purchasing/Bid-Opportunities>. Proposers can download a copy of the solicitation and all addenda without registering in the system. However, in order to **automatically** receive email notifications of solicitations and addenda issued by the Purchasing Division, Proposers **MUST** register in the eBid system.

The County reserves the right to accept or reject, in whole or in part, such proposals as appears in its judgment to be in the best interest of the County.

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LEGAL NOTICES

IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE
SUPERIOR COURT DIVISION
BEFORE THE CLERK
18SP000845-310

NOTICE OF LIEN HOLDER'S SALE OF REAL PROPERTY

In the Matter of Foreclosure of a certain Claim of Lien claimed against Shardae D. Brown and Shaheid Hasan dated 1/9/2018, and Recorded in the Office of the Clerk of Superior Court of Durham County, North Carolina as 18M000024-310,

Hope Derby Carmichael, Trustee,

Under and by virtue of the power and authority contained in that certain Declaration of Covenants, Conditions and Restrictions for Sherron Farms Homeowners Association, Inc. recorded in the Office of Register Deeds of Durham County, North Carolina at Book 7820, Page 742, and as supplemented and amended, and because of default in the failure of Shardae D. Brown and Shaheid Hasan to carry out or perform the stipulations and agreements therein contained, with particular reference to the covenant to pay assessments for the real property located at 623 Hiddenbrook Drive, Durham, North Carolina 27703 and pursuant to the Order of Clerk of Superior Court of Durham County, North Carolina entered in the above-captioned foreclosure proceeding, the Trustee will expose for sale at public auction on **February 24, 2026 at 10:00 a.m.** at the usual place of sale at the Durham County Courthouse, that certain real property (including any improvements thereon) located at 623 Hiddenbrook Drive, Durham, North Carolina 27703, Durham County, North Carolina, and more particularly described as all **of Lot 6 Sherron Road Tract, Phase 3, a/k/a Sherron Farms Subdivision.**

The sale shall be made subject to all prior liens, restrictions and easements of record, as well as unpaid taxes and assessments, if any. The record owner of the above-described real property as reflected on the records of the Durham County Register of Deeds not more than ten (10) days prior to the posting of this Notice is Shardae D. Brown and Shaheid Hasan. Pursuant to N.C.G.S. §45-21.10(b), any successful bidder may be required to deposit with the Trustee for the Association, immediately upon conclusion of the sale, a cash deposit of five (5%) percent of the bid or \$750.00, whichever is greater. If the successful bidder fails to make the required deposit, the property will be immediately reoffered for sale. Any successful bidder shall be required to tender the full balance of the purchase price so bid in cash or by certified check at the time the Trustee tenders to him a deed for the property or attempts to tender such deed, and should said successful bidder fail to pay the full balance of the purchase price so bid at that time, he shall remain liable on his bid as provided by N.C.G.S. §45-21.30. This sale shall be held open ten (10) days for upset bids as required by law.

If you are a tenant residing in the property, be advised that an Order for Possession of the property may be issued in favor of the purchaser. Also, if your lease began or was renewed on or after October 1, 2007, be advised that you may terminate the rental agreement providing written notice of termination to the landlord, to be effective on a date stated in the notice that is at least 10 days, but no more than 90 days, after the sale date contained in this Notice of Lien Holder's Sale of Real Property, as may be amended, provided that the Respondents(s) herein has/have not cured the default at the time the tenant provides the notice of termination.

DATE: January 30, 2025

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» OPINION »



FILE PHOTO

There are some things Christians shouldn't be silent on. Racism is one of them.

When Christian silence on racism is deafening

By Kelvin J. Washington

BAPTIST PRESS

On Feb. 5, President Donald Trump retweeted a video, originally from Trump's Truth Social account, which discussed conspiracy theories about the 2020 election.

However, near the end of the video, a clip portrayed former President Barack Obama and his wife Michelle as apes. After receiving pushback from various constituents, President Trump removed the video from his account, and later the White House attributed the reception to be "fake outrage." Later, the administration attributed the remarks to be a mistake, one where "a White House staffer erroneously made the post" and it has been taken down.

The president's retweet has caused disbelief, frustration and outrage among different people across the political spectrum. However, in Christian circles, the remarks of the president have either been a source of public discussion or ignored in totality. For some, there is a general unawareness to his morally incomprehensible retweet. For others, their algorithms prohibited them from witnessing the grotesque video.

Nevertheless, once a Christian has become aware of the video and its

denigrating depiction of Black life, then they must consider their moral response.

Do Christians have a responsibility to advocate for the common good of civilization by sharing remarks on the inexcusable actions of the president of the United States? I believe so. Especially when this video utilizes historic racist depictions of Black people as a means of political gain.

For Christians, this moment provides an opportunity to clarify our commitment of affirming the human dignity of all people in this nation, but especially Black people. For those who might find sympathy with the White House on significant policy issues, there's an opportunity to speak directly to the degradation of Black people, especially because the Christian faith compels one to value the innate worth given to our neighbors regardless of their melanin.

Genesis 1:26-28 sets a foundation for the Christian understanding of what it means to be human, and it certainly does not include a beast-like comparison, one which infers an aggressive, violent and unintelligent animal.

As Christians, we have an opportunity to be a prophetic witness that can expose darkness and called

people into the marvelous light. We have an opportunity to show through word and deed that racism is unacceptable in our understanding of the Christian faith. Insomuch, Christians should advocate for an apology, and for there to be accountability for irreprehensible actions, whether it was the president or a White House staff.

It is problematic if Christians remain silent after such a fiasco. Genuinely, the silence is deafening, and communicates more than what some may realize to Black people, many of whom are fellow Christians.

In short, the actions of Trump are indefensible. We must be clear and straightforward when addressing racism, regardless of whether racism comes from the president or if it comes from our neighbor next door.

It is truly tragic that racism exists in our world. America has felt racism's untenable influence. Yet, the Gospel confronts any vestige of influence.

The opportunity is now. Will Christians speak to the silence or allow silence to be deafening to those around us?

Kelvin J. Washington is lead pastor of New Valley Church in Waynesboro, Virginia.



Black History, Brotherhood and Breaking New Ground

By Marlon Smith

SPECIAL TO THE TRIBUNE

Black history is not only written in movements and milestones. It is written in living rooms, barbershops, church pews, and at kitchen tables where Black men have long carried the weight of family, faith and future.

Despite persistent stereotypes, research consistently shows that Black fathers are among the most involved fathers in America - more likely to bathe, dress, read to and engage their children daily than fathers of other racial groups. That is not accidental. That is legacy.

In fact, national health data reveals that Black fathers, whether living with their children or not, are often more engaged in daily caregiving activities than fathers of other racial groups. This truth deserves to be amplified, celebrated and strengthened.

Yet even strong men need strong spaces.

Throughout history, Black men have grown through brotherhood, whether in fraternal organizations, faith communities, civil rights circles or mentorship networks. When men come together with intention, something powerful happens: clarity replaces isolation, wisdom replaces guesswork, and purpose replaces pressure.

Today's world places unprecedented demands on men as fathers, uncles, sons, nephews, grandfathers and leaders. We are expected to provide, protect and persevere, often without a safe space to learn, reflect and recharge. That is why gathering matters. Not to boast but to build. Not to compete but to connect.

This is why "From Stress to Success: Mastering Money, Time, and Health in 2026," on Feb. 21 in Chapel Hill, is so important. This isn't just another event. It's

a movement for men who are ready to grow, connect and live with purpose.

The theme reflects the journey many men are already on. At this summit, men will leave equipped with practical tools to strengthen their finances, protect their health, manage their time, and lead their families with greater confidence and clarity.

Black history reminds us of who we have been. Brotherhood reminds us of who we can become. And Black history teaches us that when brothers unite, change happens.

The legacy we build today becomes the foundation for generations to come.

If you are committed to growing as a man - for yourself, your family and your community - join us for this day of empowerment. Register at www.firstsundays12.com.

Our history didn't stop. Neither shall our progress.

AROUND THE TRIANGLE

KNIGHTDALE FESTIVAL

Heritage Fest at Haven is Feb. 22, 1-5 p.m., 8521 Bufaloe Road.

RALEIGH VOTING

Souls to the Polls is Feb. 15, 2-4 p.m., at MLK Jr. Memorial Gardens, 1215 MLK Jr. Boulevard.

QUILTS

QuiltCon Raleigh is Feb. 19-22, Raleigh Convention Center, 500 S. Salisbury St. Visit QuiltCon.com.

COMICS

Learn the history of African American comic book superheroes Feb. 20, 5-7 p.m., Raleigh Museum, 220 Fayetteville St. Call 919-996-2220.

LIQUIDATION SALE

Consignment & Children's Boutique Overstock Liquidation Sale is Feb. 21-24 at Wake County Shrine Club, 6015 Lead Mine Road.

TROLLEY

Raleigh Trolley Black History Tour is Feb. 21 and 22, 1 and 2:30 p.m., Mordecai Historic Park, 1 Mimosa St. Call 919-996-4364.

EXPO

Body Mind Spirit Expo is Feb. 21-22, NC State Fairgrounds' Exposition

Center, 4285 Trinity Road. Tickets: www.bmse.net.

CARY SUMMIT

Town of Cary's annual Youth Advocacy Summit is Feb. 28, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Cary Arts Center, 101 Dry Avenue. Register: go.ncsu.edu/YAS.

DURHAM CEREMONY

N.C. Central School of Business will host a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Peggy Ward Financial Education Center Feb. 17, 10:30 a.m., 829 E. Lawson St.

AARP

Durham AARP Chapter #189's next meeting is Feb. 18, 2-3:30 p.m., Durham Center for Senior Life, 406 Rigsbee Ave.

RECYCLING

The rescheduled electronics recycling drop-off is Feb. 21, 8 a.m. to noon, North Durham Convenience Site, 11894 N. Roxboro Road. Must have 2025-26 solid waste decal.

PAGEANT

Durham Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority's annual Jabberwock Scholarship Pageant is Feb. 21, 6 p.m., Hillside High School.

TOWN HALL

Haitians of the Triangle is hosting a town hall Feb. 22, 2:30-5:30 p.m., Vintage Church Durham, 1305 W. Club Boulevard. Tickets: 919-410-8440.

DPS

Durham Public Schools students will showcase their talents at An Evening to Shine Feb. 24, 7 p.m., Durham Performing Arts Center. Tickets: shinedps.com.

CHAPEL HILL HOUSING

Applications for HOPE North Carolina's Weavers Grove inclusive community opens Feb. 16. Email: applications@hope-northcarolina.org.

LECTURE

Duke Professor Thavolia Glymph is the keynote speaker at UNC's African American History Month Lecture Feb. 17, 6:30 p.m., Sonja Haynes Stone Center, 150 South Road. Register: unc.edu/events.

HILLSBOROUGH SUMMIT

Ag Summit is Feb. 16, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., Whitted Human Services Center, 300 W. Tryon St. Register: orangecountync.gov/Ag-Summit.

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From Queens track to Team USA

By Asha Evans
ncaa.org



The buzzer sounds, and Team USA's Mystique Ro launches into the start of a skeleton run. In seconds, she dives headfirst onto her sled and barrels down an icy track at more than 80 mph — her face inches from the ground.

It's a sharp contrast to her track and field days at Queens (N.C.). Ro, competing in skeleton at the Milan Cortina Olympics, laughs about it now.

"I hate roller coasters. I'm terrified," she said. "But I've learned in this sport, speed is your friend."

The speed and the environment may have changed with her new sport, but the precision, body control and competitive spirit that are required remain the same.

Under Jim Vahrenkamp, then the Queens director of cross country and track and field, and the rest of the Royals coaching staff, Ro became a reliable multievent student-athlete whose results improved each year.

Her consistency was shown particularly at conference championships, where she never finished outside of the top 10 in any event in which she competed.

Her senior season, she was on the winning 4x100-meter and 4x400 relays at the 2016 South Atlantic Conference Outdoor Track and Field Championships, while placing top seven in all seven events she entered.

Ro is listed in the record books at Queens with an outdoor school record in the 4x100 relay and top 10 all-time marks in the indoor 60 and 200 sprints and outdoor 100 and 400 hurdles.

She graduated with a communication degree and minors in theater performance and stage combat. In addition to honing her athletic talents, Ro left Charlotte's track program with skills she wouldn't fully understand the value of until later: resilience and the ability to pivot.

"Queens took me in when I needed support," she said. "They helped me develop my skills as a track and field student-athlete, and then from there, I was able to build the skills I would later need that I didn't know at the time for skeleton — which are bouncing back through different things and just being pivotal."

After college, Ro felt she had reached a ceiling in track and field. If she wanted to keep her long-time Olympic dreams alive, she needed a new direction.

That's when she heard about a recruiting email from Olympic bobsled icon Elana Meyers Taylor, encouraging former track and field student-athletes to attend a sliding sports combine. Ro zeroed in on bobsledding as her way to the Olympics.

Ro, who stands at 5-feet-4, described herself as lean from track. She was transitioned to skeleton, an event she had heard of but never tried.

This pivot would be the beginning of something extraordinary — an unlikely Olympic path built on everything she learned long before she ever touched the ice.

"I said to myself, 'Don't say no yet. Just try,'" Ro said. "I was screaming on the way down, going 40 miles an hour, but I tried it."

That's when she received career-changing advice from Meyers Taylor, who simply told Ro, "Do it your way."

And it clicked.

From there, her progress accelerated. She finished fourth on the NAC tour in 2018, earned her first podium in 2019 and got the opportunity to race on the Europe Cup Circuit.

The Triangle Tribune Sports

February 15-21, 2026 16A

A'ja Wilson gets statue on campus where grandmother was barred



HBCU FOOTBALL

NCCU releases football schedule

By Bonitta Best
editor@triangletribune.com

N.C. Central

After all the dusk was cleared, the Eagles signed 30 recruits to their fall class, including five from December's early signing period.

Notable transfers include South Carolina defensive end Taeshawn Alston, Sacramento State linebacker Sheldon Blackwell, Elizabeth City State wide receiver Ka'Trez Bracey, Kentucky State offensive lineman Demarcus Elliott, Indiana State running back Plez Lawrence, North Carolina A&T quarterback Nelson Layne, Appalachian State defensive tackle and Southern High alum Harold "KJ" Liles, Georgia Southern defensive lineman Branden Palmer, The Citadel QB Cobey Thompkins and Kent State DB Tevin Tucker.

Visit NCCU's website for a complete list.

Shaw

The Bears have not officially released their recruiting class.

N.C. A&T

Coming off a 2-10 inaugural season, coach Shawn Gibbs and staff added 38 recruits, including 17 transfers.

"We wanted to focus recruiting

efforts within the state and bordering states," said Gibbs, a NCCU alumnus. "We feel good about the homegrown talent we've been able to find.

Notable transfers include Coastal Carolina OL Desmond Jackson, Elon OL Ahmarion McCleod, Monmouth OL Andre Oben, Florida Atlantic OL Qae'Shon Sapp, South Carolina State OL Christopher "Eli" Williams, and Charleston Southern tight end Ne'Bayne Moore.

Visit ncataggies.com for a complete list.

Hampton

The Pirates and the University of Virginia have agreed to meet on Sept. 15, 2029, in Charlottesville.

"This is a tremendous opportunity for Hampton football and our entire campus community," director of athletics Anthony D. Henderson Sr. said. "Any time you can line up against an in-state FBS program on a stage like Scott Stadium, it elevates your student-athlete experience, showcases your brand, and energizes your alumni and supporters."

Among Hampton's six recruits is Jordan High defensive back Caden Rice.

Please see **NCCU/7A**



Jordan High School defensive back Caden Rice is headed to Hampton University.



COURTESY

N.C. Central will face five new coaches in the new schedule.

COLLEGE CORNER

Countdown on for CIAA Tournament

The CIAA Tournament is less than two weeks away. Hard to believe, isn't it?

As part of our annual pre-tournament tradition, CC will grade all 24 teams next week on their chances for hoisting the championship trophy.

WOMEN

N.C. Central

The Eagles were hoping to extend their winning streak to three games, but Norfolk State had other ideas.

NCCU got back on the winning track against Delaware State behind Aniya Finger's 16 points. Coach Terrence Baxter said Finger performs better coming off the bench. "We bring Aniya off the bench so she can't get in early foul trouble," he

said.

The team closes out its three-game homestand against Morgan State and Coppin State this week before heading to South Carolina State Feb. 18.

In softball, catcher Mia De La Fuente earned the season's first MEAC softball rookie of the week after totaling 13 putouts and one assist with no errors in three games. However, the Eagles went 0-5 in the NFCA Leadoff Classic. They should get a win or two this weekend at the HBCU Collegiate Invitational in Covington, Georgia. Opponents are Alcorn State, Texas Southern, Fort Valley State, Florida A&M and Hampton.

Please see **TOURNAMENT/7A**

Washington Wizards honor John Wall

By Jonathan Fomey
SPECIAL TO THE AFRO

The Washington Wizards honored the career and community impact of former star John Wall last month at Capital One Arena as they took on the Milwaukee Bucks. Fans were shown highlights of Wall's achievements on and off the court for the city.

Attendees were given special bobble heads commemorating Wall's game-winning 3-pointer in the 2017 NBA playoffs, where he stood atop the scorer's table and hyped up the crowd. A special "John Wall of Fame" was set up to allow fans to check out awards, game-worn shoes and photos from his career in Washington.

"I love y'all," Wall said to the team and his fans. "This is still my city. This is still my house."

Fans were able to submit their

favorite memories of the All-Star's career as a Wizard through a QR code. There was plenty of dancing in the crowd as footage looped of Wall hitting his signature "Dougie" dance. The speakers also blasted Troop 41's "John Wall" song to hype up the fans.

Wall retired in August after 11 seasons in the NBA. During halftime, a special tribute to the Raleigh native was projected onto the court. Wall was also honored for his impact in the D.C. community. He was surprised to learn that the next renovation to the Randall Recreation Center basketball court in Ward 6 will bear the name the "John Wall Court."

Wall was actively involved in community outreach during his career and continues to be in re-

Please see **WASHINGTON/7A**



COURTESY

Shaw men have a chance to end the regular season on a 4-0 run.

Countdown on for tourney

Continued from page 6A
Then it's a trip down 15-501 to participate in the Tar Heel Invitational Feb. 19-21.

Shaw
The Bears have hit a three-game skid. The team lost to Claflin twice and let's not even talk about its 36-point loss at Fayetteville State Monday. Shaw made just 13 of 63 shots and 3 of 19 free throws.
Johnson C. Smith visited earlier this week before the Bears travel to Winston-Salem State this weekend and Livingstone next Wednesday. Shaw closes out the regular season Feb. 21 in a rematch against the Broncos.
In softball, new coach Theresa Stephens' debut

was delayed by a week. Shaw's season starts this weekend at William Peace University in a two-day tournament against the host school and Lees-McRae College. At least the weather will be warmer than last week's.

MEN
N.C. Central
The Eagles are a half-game out of first place behind Morgan State after Monday's win over the Hornets.
Senior Day & Faith and Family Day is Feb. 14 against Coppin State before Morgan comes to town for a showdown Monday. Then it's a trip to South Carolina State on Wednesday.
The tennis team got its first win, a 4-3 thriller

against UNC Greensboro. Senior Kareem Abdul Hakim broke the tie with a win in No. 3 singles.
NCCU opened the season with losses at nationally ranked Duke and N.C. State, although the squad won a set against the Wolfpack in a 6-1 loss.

Shaw
The men split their back-to-back matchups against Claflin: losing a one-point thriller at home in overtime before winning a two-point thriller on the road.
The Bears led Fayetteville State by double digits before the Broncos rallied for a six-point win.
The team follows the women against JCSU, WSSU and Livingstone before the FSU rematch with a chance to go 4-0.

Washington Wizards honor Raleigh native John Wall

Continued from page 6A

tiement. He helped pay residents' rent, donated to various organizations and volunteered in the community.

"The most important thing for me was not just basketball but what you do off the court," he said.

When he was awarded the NBA's season-long Community Assist Award for the 2015-16 season, he called the outreach that he did "the most rewarding part of being an NBA player."

Zach Leonsis, Monumental Sports president of media and new enterprises, presented a \$25,000 check to the John Wall Foundation in recognition of its continuing work in the region. Wall was joined in accepting the check by his sons, Ace and Amir Wall.

The foundation provides mentorship, education and opportunities to exercise to disadvantaged families and at-risk youth.

The Wizards defeated the Bucks, led by sopho-



COURTESY OF X

Zach Leonsis, left, Monumental Sports president of media and new enterprises, presents a \$25,000 check to John Wall in efforts to help his organization, the John Wall Foundation. Wall was joined by his sons Ace and Amir Wall.

more guard Kyshawn George's 23 points. George is a part of the Wizards' young roster that didn't play alongside Wall, but his impact on the team is still being felt.

"I know he was a big leader in D.C. Not only for the team but for the community," George said, adding that it's important to

see an example of a great basketball player that can also impact the community. "You try to model yourself after [them]."

Wizards' big man, Alex Sarr, echoed the sentiment.

"He's done so much here," Sarr said. "I was just happy to see the love that the city gave him."

NCCU releases football schedule; 30 new recruits

Continued from page 6A

Legacy Bowl
The Allstate HBCU Legacy Bowl is less than a week away. Our last list of players invited to participate.
* Grambling State OL Darius Meeks
* Texas Southern WR Trenton Leary
* Grambling P Johnny Schifano
* Grambling TE Covadis Knighten
* Edward Waters QB Noah Bodden

Transfer Portal
* Delaware State LB Brian Bates
* N.C. A&T OL Kaleb Culbertson
* N.C. A&T DE Marquis Hood
* Virginia Union FS Jayden Earley
* S.C. State TE Cyrus Ellison
* S.C. State OL Kiande Marsh
* S.C. State K Nicolas Cavanillas
* Howard TE KD Mosley

Goodbye. Hello.
* Delaware State RB

James Jones to New Mexico State
* Benedict RB Triston Morgan, Kennesaw State
* S.C. State WR Nigel Johnson, Western Kentucky
* Louisiana Monroe DL Amaron Ware, Jackson State
* Florida A&M WR Goldie Lawrence, Coastal Carolina
* Southern QB Jalen Woods, Hampton
* FAMU QB Tyler Jefferson, Bethune-Cookman
* Southern DB Treylan James, LSU



The Best in **HBCU Sports**
triangletribune.com

BLACK CHILDREN GENIUSES ACTIVITY SHEET

Hi Everybody! Let me introduce you to a group of amazing Black children. Mensa defines these children as gifted, scoring within the top 2% of the population on a recognized intelligence test. Let's take a closer look at this special group of children.

BLACK CHILD GENIUSES

There are many Black Children geniuses who have not been identified yet. Mensa does not track its members according to ethnicity. It is, however, estimated that Blacks make up 12% of its membership. We do not have reliable estimates of other ethnic groups such as Hispanics or Asians because here in the US, Mensa is skewed to testing white people more than other ethnic and racial groups.

POP UP FACT

MENSA INTERNATIONAL

MENSA was founded in Oxford, England by Roland Berrill and Lancelot Lionel Ware.

CARSON HUEY-YOU

Carson was born in August, 2002 and has a younger brother, Cannan, who is just as exceptional. By the age of three Carson was reading chapter books and working on calculus problems. The young genius graduated from high school as co-valedictorian, with a 4.0 GPA at the age of ten. Carson was accepted into Texas Christian University. He remained on TCU's campus for over ten years. He is the youngest student to graduate from college in Texas. While there, Carson received his BS in physics and a minor in Mandarin Chinese; a master's degree in physics, and a PhD in Physics at age 21.

POP UP FACT

There are 57,000 members of MENSA in the U.S. with 362 being African American.

ALENA ANALEIGH WICKER

Alena was born November 19, 2008, in Fontana, CA and 13 years later she became the youngest person ever admitted into medical school in the United States. Alena began reading chapter books around age three. Alena's school principal did not accept her A's because of his mistaken belief that Alena "couldn't get all A's because of [her] skin color." Nonetheless, Alena graduated from high school at age 12 and was admitted into Arizona State University. In 2022, the University of Alabama at Birmingham's Heersink School of Medicine offered her admission, making her the youngest person ever to be admitted into medical school in the United States.

In addition to her brilliance, Alena is also known for her entrepreneurial skills and philanthropic endeavors. She is the founder of Brown STEM Girl. Young ladies, check it out!

POP UP FACTS

Women represent 28% of the STEM workforce, and of that, 5% are women of color.

MABOU LOISEAU

Mabou was born October 30, 2005, in Queens, NY. Mabou started homeschooling at the early age of two at the DoReMi Arts & Language School in Queens, NY headed up by her mother Esther Loiseau. DoReMi School helps each child identify their interest and foster the development of their individual interests. Most students at this school begin to read at age two and there have been many to enter college at the age of twelve. Mabou, for example, began reading by age two and by age five she knew how to speak seven languages (French, English, Creole, Spanish, Mandarin, Arabic and Russian) and play six instruments (drums, harp, clarinet, violin, guitar and piano). Mabou loves to dance, especially tap and ballet, as well as engages in several sports. There are many things she would like to do in life, such as, a doctor, fire fighter, actor, musician, singer, veterinarian, a mother and a princess. Her father, Mario Loiseau, works hard, sometimes 16 hours a day, as a parking attendant to help make Mabou's dreams come true.

TELL THE TRUTH!

Print the letter **T** on the line if the statement is True or **F** if the statement is False.

_____ Black Americans represent approximately 22% of Mensa's membership.

_____ The acronym STEM means Science, Technology, Engineering and Math.

_____ Reading chapter books at an early age maybe an indicator of a child's exceptional abilities.

_____ The youngest person admitted into medical school was age 15.

_____ Arizona State University is one school that admits young geniuses to their institution.

ONE MINUTE MADNESS!

In one minute or less, unscramble the words. The first letter of the word is in **bold**.

teinlglceen _____

aroVledictian _____

suineG _____

ldcMeia lcSooH _____

eMsna _____

MATCH ME!!

Identify the events with the correct person.

A. Alena Analeigh Wicker **B. Mabou Loiseau** **C. Carson Huey-You**

_____ Received PhD from TCU at age 21.

_____ Speaks seven languages and plays 6 instruments at age 5.

_____ Accepted into Medical School at age 13.

KEMET

BLACK CHILDREN GENIUSES, 2/15/26, #242 WWW.JOEYOUNG.ORG **KEMET ACTIVITY SHEETS © 2026 BY JOE YOUNG**

SCHOOL NEWS



J.D. Clement Early College High student going to Disney

DURHAM COUNTY
Kenady Holloway, of J.D. Clement Early College High School, has been selected as one of just 100 students nationwide to join the Disney Dreamers Academy. Each year, thousands of ambitious students apply, and only a select few earn a spot in this highly competitive mentoring experi-

ence. Now in its 19th year, Disney Dreamers Academy brings together students with big goals and pairs them with leaders, creatives and professionals who help turn passion into purpose. Hosted at Walt Disney World Resort, the five-day

immersive program offers hands-on workshops, career exploration, leadership development and powerful networking opportunities. It's designed to inspire confidence, unlock potential, and show students what's possible when hard work meets opportunity.



NC joins push to increase work opportunities for formerly incarcerated

By Eric Tegethoff
PUBLIC NEWS SERVICE
The nonprofit Jobs for the Future has announced the first four states to join its Fair Chance to Advance initiative. The group's goal is to assist states in addressing barriers for people who have been in the justice system, such as limited higher education opportunities and discriminatory hiring practices. Rebecca Villarreal, senior director of the Center for Justice and Economic Advancement at Jobs for the Future, said there are many benefits to getting formerly incarcerated people into the workforce, including research showing those with education and employment are less likely to return to prison.

"From a public safety standpoint, from a building a strong community standpoint," Villarreal emphasized. "If we have labor market shortages in particular fields, we have a tremendous talent pool that we are missing out on." North Carolina is the largest of the four states, with 52 adult correctional facilities and a prison population of nearly 60,000. Villarreal said many jails and prisons have educational opportunities which do not always align with a person's goals or the job needs in the part of the state they'll return to. The other three states in the cohort are Kansas, Maine and Oregon. Villarreal acknowledged North Carolina is already making progress on in-

creasing chances for people who have been incarcerated. "Fair Chance to Advance is really an opportunity to deepen the work that's well underway in North Carolina as part of their Reentry 2030 initiative and the governor's workforce development priorities for this state," she said. Reentry 2030 is a national push to increase success for people released from correctional facilities. Jobs for the Future is partnering with the North Carolina Department of Adult Correction on its initiative, as well as other state agencies and organizations.

Support for this reporting was provided by Lumina Foundation.

HBCU NEWS



NCCU associate provost makes history at SRHC

Karen Keaton Jackson, Ph.D., interim associate provost for academic programs and undergraduate research, has been named president of the Southern Regional Honors Council, becoming the first African American woman and the first representative from an HBCU to hold the role. The historic appointment places NCCU at the forefront of shaping honors education across the southern region, where SRHC supports honors councils, faculty, staff and students at institutions in 11 states. "I have been intentional about expanding outreach across all institution types and working closely with the executive board to create meaningful, year-round opportunities for

member engagement," Jackson said. Appointed interim associate provost in July 2023, Jackson leads undergraduate academic programs and research initiatives while overseeing curriculum, instruction, academic assessment and degree programs. She also continues to serve as director of NCCU's University Honors Program, a role she has held since 2019, where she has expanded opportunities for high-achieving students and strengthened pathways to post-graduate success. As SRHC president, Jackson will build on its signature annual conference, nationally recognized for elevating student research across STEM, social

sciences, business, humanities and creative expression, while expanding year-round engagement and resources for members. Jackson is also helping lead a strategic redesign of the SRHC website to serve as a digital hub for honors education, professional development and collaboration. New committees focused on membership, student affairs, awards and scholarships and conference planning will open opportunities for both professional and student voices to help shape the organization's future. "This will be an engaging year for SRHC," Jackson said. "I am committed to being accessible and intentional as we strengthen this community together."



COURTESY

Durham artist brings Afro-Brazilian history to life

STAFF REPORTS
DURHAM - Afro-Brazilian artist, educator and Durham resident Alessandra Frias, known as Mestra Tigresa, is leading a series of interactive performances and workshops across Durham that illuminate the African diaspora and the history of the transatlantic slave trade through the Afro-Brazilian art form of capoeira. Mestra Tigresa and students from her Durham-based capoeira group will perform at multiple Durham elementary schools throughout February, offering students an engaging approach to Black history that blends martial

arts, dance, live music, and call-and-response storytelling. These school performances are offered alongside a community workshop hosted by Duke University and will culminate in a free, public Black History Month celebration on Feb. 28, 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., at Field of Dreams' Triangle Athletic Complex. Originally from Brazil, Mestra Tigresa is the founder and artistic director of Artes do Brasil/Sina de Capoeira, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that uses capoeira as a tool for cultural education, empowerment and community connection. Her work centers Afro-descendant history, celebrates Black

creativity, and creates inclusive and safe spaces where people of all ages can learn about resistance, resilience and joy rooted in African traditions.
Black History Month Workshops and Performances
* Feb. 18, 8-9 a.m. and 10-11 a.m., workshop at Duke University, Rubenstein Arts Center (free to the public)
* Feb. 19, 9-9:45 and 10-11 a.m., performance at Duke School
* Feb. 26, 10-11 a.m., performance at Bethesda Elementary
* Feb. 28, 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., performance at Eastway Elementary

Durham mayor to utilize grant to fight hunger

STAFF REPORTS
DURHAM - Share Our Strength's No Kid Hungry Campaign and Dollar Tree have selected Durham as an inaugural recipient of the Mayors Alliance Action Fund to End Childhood Hunger. Durham Mayor Leonardo Williams is a member of the Mayors Alliance. The city of Durham will receive \$25,000 in grant funds to help fight hunger. "I couldn't be prouder to be the recipient of this gen-

erous grant from the Mayors Alliance," Williams said. "Working through the Durham Benefits Access Coalition, we are bringing together people and organizations across the community to increase our residents' access to SNAP and WIC. Durham residents are leaving millions of dollars of SNAP and WIC benefits on the table each year, and we want to help our food-insecure residents get access to the food benefits to feed their families."

Nearly 1 in 5 kids in Durham County live in families that struggle with food insecurity. Williams is supporting the Durham Benefits Access Coalition's work to convene city and county officials, health partners, school partners, community organizations, and community members with lived expertise - all focused on providing concrete economic support to Durham residents. "At Dollar Tree, we be-

lieve every child deserves the opportunity to thrive, and that begins with reliable access to nutritious food," said Jennifer Silberman, chief sustainability and corporate affairs officer. "We're proud to support the Mayors Alliance to End Childhood Hunger and to help launch the inaugural Mayors Action Fund, which empowers mayors across the country to take bold, local action against hunger. Through our partnership, we are working to



build more resilient, equitable communities — one meal, one city, and one child at a time."