



SPORTS

Hillside High School holds signing day ceremony.



COMMUNITY FOCUS

Greater Durham Black Chamber's Business Gala.

The Triangle Tribune

THE TRIANGLE'S CHOICE FOR THE BLACK VOICE SINCE 1998

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VOLUME 28 NO. 09

Week of March 1-7, 2026

\$1.00

« 52 WEEKS OF BLACK BRILLIANCE »

We remember the marches. We forget the women who made them happen

By Levi Perrin
WORD IN BLACK
When we tell the story of the Civil Rights Movement, we tend to remember it through moments: the march, the microphone, the photograph frozen in time. But movements, not sustained by moments alone, are powered by people, daily labor, quiet decisions and acts of care that rarely make headlines. Much of that work was done by women, and much of the toil and outcomes were dismissed as ordinary. To tell the truth about how the movement endured, we have to listen

for the voices history often lowered. Even among the women we do remember, their leadership is often misframed. Coretta Scott King is frequently introduced as a wife or widow, rather than as an organizer, strategist and global thinker. Long before she became a national figure following her husband's leadership and later assassination, she was already engaged in political work — connecting civil rights to peace, labor rights, women's equality, and international struggles against apartheid and war. After 1968, she refused

the expectation of quiet grief. Instead, she expanded the movement's vision, ensuring that nonviolence and justice were not memorialized ideas but living commitments. Her work reminds us that movements don't end when charismatic leaders are gone. They require people willing to carry them forward. But visibility has always been selective. Nine months before Rosa Parks' arrest, a 15-year-old girl named Claudette Colvin refused to give up her seat on a Montgomery bus. She did so not because she was trained or prepared, but be-

cause she knew the law was wrong and knew she was right. Young Colvin's arrest came with trauma, fear and lasting consequences. And yet, movement leaders decided she was not the face they wanted: too young, too poor, later deemed too complicated. Still, her courage mattered. Colvin became one of the plaintiffs in the federal case that ultimately dismantled bus segregation. Her story forces us to reckon with a hard truth: bravery has never guaranteed recognition, especially for Black girls. Please see WOMEN/2A



Coretta Scott King, presiding at a conference of Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, one of the world's oldest peace organizations. The league presented a proposal for a Vietnam peace settlement and called for a "ceasefire now."



KYLIE MARSH

Raleigh politicians and community leaders honor the latest Black History Month class from Southeast Raleigh at a Black History celebration at Tarboro Road Park.

SE Raleigh celebrates trailblazers at Black History Month celebration

By Kylie Marsh
Kylie.marsh@triangletribune.com
RALEIGH - Raleigh's historical Black communities of Idlewild, Tarboro Road and College Park are significant to North Carolina's history. These communities in Southeast Raleigh are home to trailblazers. This year's 36th annual Black History Month Celebration honored many such notables. Wilbur Brown, Carrie Mae Rogers, Pastor Nathaniel Cox,

Alan J. Wiggs, Archie Willie Lacy Pipkins, Leotha and Mary J. Chavis, Everett B. Ward and St. Augustine's president emeritus Prezell R. Robinson were the trailblazers honored at the Tarboro Road Community Center. "For generations, African Americans in this community have shaped the fabric, culture and success for all of Raleigh," Congresswoman Deborah Ross. "It is so important that we learn and that we tell history for the future generation."

"For us, Tarboro Road symbolizes a lot and means a lot," said Raleigh Council member Corey Branch, who specifically lauded dedicated community member Octavia Rainey for her hard work and civic engagement. The Reverend John Alexander Leaston delivered the keynote address, describing the significance of the communities and their history. "There are places where you Please see TRAILBLAZERS/2A



COURTESY

A rendering of the redeveloped Heritage Park in downtown Raleigh.

Heritage Park's groundbreaking for redevelopment

Staff Reports

The Raleigh Housing Authority hosted a groundbreaking ceremony Wednesday for the redevelopment of Heritage Park. The community will be expanded into a mix-used center from three stories to up to 12 stories. Heritage Park was built in the 1970s as a 122 apartment community on 12 acres in southwest downtown Raleigh at 405/416 Dorothea Drive. The buildings are outdated and costly to maintain, which provided the RHA an opportunity to rebuild and expand the community to over 1,000-plus residential units to better serve low- to moderate-income families, community spaces for walkability, and built-in amenities and retail services. Current residents will be temporarily relocated, with those in good standing having first priority in returning. All residents will maintain housing assistance and RHA will pay for relocation costs. Construction is slated to start this fall with residents moving in by the end of 2027. Upon completion, the property will transfer to another entity, however the Raleigh Housing Authority will still control the site.



The old and outdated Heritage Park.

Durham Black Chamber wants stronger partnership with city and county

By Kylie Marsh
Kylie.marsh@triangletribune.com
DURHAM - The conditions facing Durham's small and Black businesses are "nightmarish," according to the Greater Durham Black Chamber of Commerce. In a presentation to Durham County Commissioners last month, GDBCC President and CEO CJ Broderick Jr. told commissioners in a work session that a stronger partnership between the city, county and the Black Chamber could change

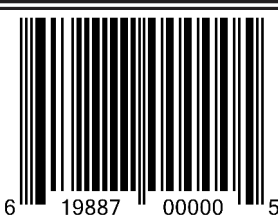
that nightmare into dreams. The Greater Durham Black Chamber of Commerce is a non-profit established in 2008 with the mission of supporting Black economic freedom, justice and prosperity. In 2022, the Chamber secured a \$50,000 contract with Durham County to assist businesses with technical support, training, grant and loan opportunities, and more. Since then, the organization has hosted webinars, workshops and events, serving over 131 businesses in fiscal year 2026 so

far. The organization has identified key traits of the business climate specifically for Durham's Black businesses. In January, Broderick told The Tribune the county commissioners has a "choice" to provide incentive packages in the millions to recruit enterprises to the area. "The people that make that decision aren't always thinking about what's great for Black businesses," he said. "One of the things we've been saying is that Please see CHAMBER/2A

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5007 Southpark Drive, Suite 200-G
Durham, NC 27713
(919) 688-9408
© 2026 The Triangle Tribune

Publisher: Gerald O. Johnson
Managing Editor/Sports Editor: Bonitta Best
Advertising: Linda Johnson
info@triangletribune.com
www.triangletribune.com



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We remember marches. The women, not so much

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whose lives do not conform to respectability.

What sustained people through those exclusions, arrests and long nights was not resolve alone. It was also joy, faith and collective grounding. Mahalia Jackson's voice provided that sustenance.

In churches and mass meetings, her gospel singing did more than inspire, it steadied people's nerves and reminded them why the struggle mattered. Music was not incidental to the movement; it was strategy. When fear crept in, song pulled people back into themselves and into each other. Jackson gave sound to a hope that words alone could not always carry.

That same sustaining work showed up in kitchens across the South, where "women's work"

quietly became movement infrastructure. Georgia Gilmore, a cook and midwife in Montgomery, understood that resistance required resources.

Through a collective known as the "Club from Nowhere," she and other Black women sold fried chicken, pork chops and peach cobbler to raise money for the Montgomery Bus Boycott. Their cooking funded carpools, fed families, and helped sustain a 382-day campaign that challenged segregation at its core. What might have been dismissed as domestic labor was, in reality, logistics — freedom financed one plate at a time.

In Selma, that same logic turned homes into headquarters. Amelia Boynton Robinson opened her house as a space for organizing, planning and refuge, while Marie Foster worked

tirelessly to support voter registration efforts and sustain marchers through citizenship classes, meals and care.

Shoobox lunches, spare bedrooms and open doors became as essential as protest signs. These women understood that people could not keep showing up unless someone was making sure they were fed, rested and held together.

Taken together, these stories remind us that the Civil Rights Movement was not only built on speeches and laws. It was built on labor deemed ordinary, care dismissed as secondary, and courage that didn't always fit the narrative.

To honor them is not to add footnotes to history, it is to finally tell it honestly.

Joshua Levi Perrin is a writer for Unerased | Black Women Speak.



FILE PHOTO

Small businesses are the backbone of community development.

Durham Black Chamber wants better relationship

Continued from page 1A

we want to be a part of that decision-making process."

Broderick told commissioners at the work session that businesses are running into barriers of workforce development, a lack of access to recruitment and retention tools, and bringing potential partners to Durham, partially because they're disconnected from Durham's existing workforce development and economic development systems.

"Small businesses, especially Black businesses, have been relegated to being passengers and not drivers in Durham's economic workforce development systems," he said. There's a lack of access to information and contracts. "They feel like they're the last to know and first to go."

This disconnect makes Black business owners feel relegated to certain "lower-tier, low-pay, low-power and low-access" industries like cleanup rather than architecture and design, feasibility studies, etc.

Lastly, this dynamic has created a lack of trust in systems and policymakers among Black business owners and entrepreneurs, which has led to unfavorable or at least inadequate community benefits agreements in dealings from lawmakers.

"These are all connected," Broderick said.

Broderick also reminded the commissioners that Durham's most popular Black business community has been dismantled and not reestablished. Instead, the Black business community has observed a continued flow of capital to "punitive efforts like prisons and policing," coupled with the increase in median income, which has subsequently led to the displacement of longtime, largely Black, residents.

"We've done a lot of research on this over the years," Broderick said. "Disparity studies in 2013, 2022 and prior years confirmed that the efforts from city and the county to remediate remnants of discrimination have not been sufficient."

Broderick said contracted expenditures fail to reach as little as 5% investment into Black-owned businesses.

Commissioner Nida Allam responded that, typically, there aren't any other parties in confidential meetings between the county, the city attorney and potential enterprises, due to their "sensitive" nature.

Broderick countered that the Durham County Board of Commissioners has specifically chosen the Durham Chamber of Commerce to negotiate

and be a part of some deals in the past.

"...and we don't have any problem with that. They're one of our partners, we love working with them," Broderick said, "but that doesn't get at the root of the problem around the allocation of power and really engaging different segments of our community in this work."

Commissioner Wendy Jacobs asked for more data from the Black Chamber that tracks "improvement in outcomes of these businesses and growing economic development." Jacobs also said the commissioners allocates funds to the city's Office of Economic and Workforce Development specifically for small business development.

"It'd be helpful to understand what are existing programs that the city is operating on behalf of minority and small business development," she said. North Carolina is the only state in the country that still lacks a budget, which affects everything else. Despite budgeting issues, Jacobs said she was interested in making sure Durham's Black-owned businesses are made aware of opportunities for contracting.

"We want to have an ecosystem in Durham where everyone is at the table," she said.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

TOUR

The next Durham Business Listening Tour is March 4, 6 p.m., Main Library, 300 N. Roxboro St. Register at www.eventbrite.com.

JOB FAIR

Durham Public Schools' annual job fair is March 7, 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., North

ern High School, 4622 N. Roxboro Road.

DINNER

Bull City Burger and Brewery is hosting a "Lager & Mexican Dinner" March 8, 5:30 p.m., 107 E. Parrish St. Registration: www.bullcityburgerandbrewery.com.

MARKETS:

* The Black Flea Market is back March 8, 1-7 p.m., The Shrine Club on Leadmine Road.

* Raleigh Women's Market is March 8, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., Moore's Square.

Send business briefs to info@triangletribune.com.

SE Raleigh trailblazers honored at celebration

Continued from page 1A

live, and then there are some places that live in you," he said. "They are not just places on a map; but they are memories, they are sacrifices, they are proof that people can build stability even when society tries to build limits."

Leaston said businesses opened, churches and communities organized "for a better tomorrow," mentioning St. Aug's, Shaw University and St. Agnes Hospital as landmarks that have created generations of Black scholars.

"Because educating our community was never limited to a campus," he said.

The honorees were celebrated for opening their

homes to the community, treating each other like family and making safe spaces for Black people in Raleigh.

Several people, including former Raleigh Mayor Nancy McFarlane and Wake County Commissioner Tara Waters, spoke in honor of Robinson.

Robinson was born in South Carolina in 1922. He earned his bachelor's degree in economics and sociology from St. Aug's before continuing to earn a master's degree and doctorate of rural education and sociology-economics at Cornell University. After becoming dean and professor of sociology at St. Aug's, he was named pres-

ident in 1967 and presided until 1995.

He still lives across the street from the university and is being cared for by his family at the age of 105.

"Dr. Robinson did not only serve as president; he served as a steward of possibility," Waters said.

"He led with vision, courage and an unwavering belief that education is a powerful instrument of justice."

Robinson's daughter, Jessanne Robinson Johnson, received the certificate of recognition in his honor.

She recalled a story about her father's dedication to education and belief that it could change anyone's life.



Wake County District Judge Christine Walczyk, left, is facing off against Raleigh Attorney James Whalen in one of the closest statewide primaries in North Carolina this year.

Democrats compete to reverse 6-year losing streak in Appeals Court

By Brandon Kingdollar
NC NEWSLINE

The Democratic primary race in North Carolina's 4th Congressional District has attracted a lot of attention this election cycle. But it's not the only race that highlights the conflicting priorities of Democratic voters seeking to recover from key state and federal losses in recent years.

The party's closest primary race may be the one for Seat 3 on the North Carolina Court of Appeals, a contest between longtime Wake County District Court Judge Christine Walczyk and Raleigh attorney and political newcomer James Whalen. The incumbent, Democrat Allegra Collins, is not running for reelection.

The winner will face Republican Superior Court Judge Craig Collins, who does not have a primary challenger, in November. The Seat 3 primary has drawn more than 100 endorsements, with Democrats from the courts to the halls of the General Assembly to local offices weighing in on behalf of both contenders.

For Democrats, the stakes are enormous. The party has lost every Court of Appeals race in the state since 2020 — two years prior, the party won all three seats up for grabs. Those three judges are now the only Democrats on the Court of Appeals, and all three are up for election this year, meaning Republicans could hold all 15 seats on the court after November's elections. The

two incumbent Democrats seeking reelection in November are Judges John Arrowood and Toby Hampson. Neither has a primary challenger.

* Christine Walczyk: Walczyk did not respond to requests for an interview.

Endorsed by former Chief Justice Cheri Beasley and former Justice Robin Hudson, two Democrats who served on the state Supreme Court, Walczyk has premised her candidacy on experience and preserving judicial independence. She has served for 19 years on the Wake County District Court. Walczyk cites former U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, a Reagan appointee and the first woman to serve on the court, as a key inspiration for her judicial philosophy. On her website, she cites a quote from O'Connor stressing the importance of "maintaining the independent judiciary that the Framers sought to establish."

Walczyk has the endorsement of the North Carolina Association of Educators, the Durham People's Alliance PAC, and the Black Political Caucus of Charlotte-Mecklenburg. The top Democrat in the North Carolina Senate, Democratic Leader Sydney Batch of Wake County, also backs her candidacy.

* James Whalen: Whalen, a Raleigh attorney who represented Justice Allison Riggs in the effort by Republicans to overturn her election victory, said he jumped into the race be-

cause Democrats need a candidate who can "protect our rights."

Whalen is a fresh face, with only five years practicing as an attorney — first under then-Attorney General Josh Stein on appellate cases for the North Carolina Department of Justice, and now in private practice focusing on constitutional and business issues. During that time, he has litigated on public education funding, elections and gerrymandering, issues that he said are central to his judicial campaign.

He said his relative inexperience makes it more impressive that he has the backing of five former N.C. Supreme Court Justices, including former Chief Justices Henry Frye and Burley Mitchell.

The two justices who endorsed his opponent, he noted, did so before he entered the race. He is also endorsed by the Durham Committee on the Affairs of Black People, the N.C. National Organization for Women, and the Progressive Caucus of the N.C. Democratic Party.

Whalen said while he has not served as a judge, he is the only candidate in the race to have litigated before the North Carolina Court of Appeals, experience that he said makes him better suited for the role and more familiar with the issues the court faces. Both Riggs and Justice Anita Earls also came from advocacy rather than judicial backgrounds, Whalen said.

WE SUPPORT JAMES WHALEN!

<p><small>Chief Justice</small> Henry & Shirley Frye</p>	<p><small>Chief Justice</small> Burley B. Mitchell, Jr.</p>	<p><small>Associate Justice</small> Patricia Timmons-Goodson</p>
<p><small>Associate Justice</small> G.K. Butterfield</p>	<p><small>Associate Justice</small> Bob Orr</p>	<p><small>Congresswoman</small> Eva Clayton</p>

Attorney James Whalen has the endorsements of the following organizations:

Durham Committee on the Affairs of Black People	Bladen Improvement PAC
RWCA - Raleigh-Wake Citizens Association	Henderson-Vance Black Leadership PAC
The George C. Simkins, Jr. Memorial PAC	Pam's Picks
	Gulfford County Community PAC

JAMES WHALEN

FOR NORTH CAROLINA COURT OF APPEALS



Why we won't talk about wills and what it costs us

By ReShonda Tate

THE HOUSTON DEFENDER

In many Black families, conversations about death are quietly avoided, wrapped in superstition, faith, and a deep mistrust of legal systems that have historically failed to protect Black lives or property.

But attorneys and advocates say that silence has real consequences, including lost homes, fractured families, and generational wealth that never has a chance to take root.

"Everyone assumes that when someone passes, everything will be OK," said Shandrea Sellers, an estate planning attorney who focuses on probate, guardianship and legacy planning. "But titles are usually not clear. Land ownership is sometimes uncertain. And that's how families lose property."

Sellers said the most common mistake she sees in families is not having a plan at all. The second is believing estate planning is only for the wealthy.

Estate planning, experts say, is a critical but often overlooked tool for Black families seeking to secure their loved ones' wishes and build generational wealth.

Through wills or revocable living trusts, families can proactively address historical wealth disparities and systemic injustices that have long hindered wealth accumulation in Black communities. "A lot of people think

they need to be rich in order to do a will," estate planner Sherwood Brown said. "But a will can protect everything from who will get your house to who can go get your \$12 out of the bank. It also removes the lack of clarity around your wishes and drama among family members. Everyone over the age of 18 should have a last will and testament."

Homeownership, one of the most effective paths to wealth-building, is especially vulnerable. When a homeowner dies without a will, the property often becomes "heirs' property," an unstable form of ownership that requires probate, which is a costly, time-consuming legal process.

Probate expenses can range from 3% to 10% of an estate's value. When a home cannot be divided, heirs receive fractional ownership, limiting access to loans, repairs, tax exemptions and protection from forced sales.

Research from the Urban Institute shows that nearly 70% of senior Black homeowners and 76% of senior Hispanic homeowners do not have a will or trust, compared with 35% of older white homeowners with children.

More than 60% of older Black and Hispanic homeowners without wills have less than \$500 in liquid assets, making even basic estate planning difficult. By contrast, just 27% of white homeowners without wills

fall into that category.

These gaps compound a racial wealth divide shaped by redlining, discriminatory lending, inequitable property tax systems and exclusion from legal protections.

Today, the typical Black family holds about 15% of the wealth of the typical white family.

The roots of this crisis stretch back generations. In the early 1900s, Black farmers owned an estimated 16 to 19 million acres of land.

Today, fewer than 3 million acres remain under Black ownership. Much of that loss, historians note, stemmed from the absence of formal documentation - wills, deeds and titles - that would have secured inheritance rights and decision-making power.

Cultural beliefs also play a role in many families' reluctance to discuss wills. Many churches emphasize spiritual readiness while avoiding conversations about legal preparation. Talking about death can feel morbid, unfaithful or like "speaking it into existence."

"I understand that hesitation," Sellers said. "But when families don't have to ask questions about what you wanted, it allows them to grieve instead of scrambling during the most painful moments of their lives."

(Read the entire article on our website.)

Raleigh police tracker tech raises constitutional questions on privacy

By Eric Tegethoff

PUBLIC NEWS SERVICE

The Raleigh Police Department has purchased tracking technology that critics say could violate people's rights.

The department has acquired technology from the private company StarChase, which RPD has said will make high-speed chases safer. The technology uses a GPS tracker that is fired from the front of a police vehicle and attaches to the back of the moving vehicle they're pursuing.

Attorney Dawn Blagrove, and Emancipate NC executive director, said attaching a device to someone's car is a form of search and therefore could infringe on protections against unreasonable searches under the Fourth Amendment.

"The Raleigh Police Department requires much more extensive training and oversight before it be given the broad breadth of violating someone's constitutional rights by unilaterally deciding that they are going to deploy a tracking device that will track someone who is a suspect in a crime," she said.

A \$170,000 donation from the Raleigh Police Department Foundation is being used to purchase the technology. The Forsyth



ADOBE STOCK

The Raleigh Police Department will install 20 vehicles with StarChase GPS tracker launchers.

County Sheriff's Office has also implemented this system.

However, the program has not been successful everywhere. The Oakland Police Department adopted the technology in 2019 but decided not to renew a contract with the company because of its lack of use and effectiveness.

Blagrove said high-speed chases in and of themselves are often optional, noting that it's possible to get rid of these chases without seeing a spike in crime, as is the case in some jurisdictions.

"Whether or not an officer is allowed to use their discretion to determine whether or not they're

going to put the safety of the community at risk to go after a fleeing suspect, is a discretion that I don't believe law enforcement officers should have at all, carte blanche," she said.

Blagrove said police officers have many resources at their disposal, such as computers in their vehicles for looking up license plates and outstanding warrants.

"There are so many other options that should be put into place and so many other safe stopgaps," she said, "prior to getting to a place where you need to deploy a surveillance device to a car without any judicial oversight."

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**NCDOT TO HOLD VIRTUAL PUBLIC MEETING
FOR MULTIMODAL CONNECTED VEHICLE PILOT
PROJECT IN WAKE COUNTY**

STIP PROJECT NO. HO-0001AA



RALEIGH - The public is invited to a meeting with the N.C. Department of Transportation to discuss the pilot project that is exploring the safety benefits of multimodal connected vehicle technology near N.C. State University.

For the project, crews updated road infrastructure, introduced a new mobile app for cyclists, pedestrians, and drivers, and used smart transportation systems to evaluate these technologies. The pilot aims to improve safety, mobility and environmental sustainability by boosting bus use and cutting down on car idling with better traffic light timing.

A virtual meeting will be held **6 -7:30 p.m. on Monday, March 9, 2026**. Interested residents can attend the meeting online or by phone to learn more about the pilot, ask questions and talk with NCDOT representatives. There will be a formal presentation beginning promptly at **6 p.m.**

Meeting registration and project details, including a map of the pilot area, can be found on the NCDOT project webpage at <https://publicinput.com/mmcvp-raleigh>.

People may also submit comments by phone, email or mail by **April 10, 2026** by contacting **NCDOT State Signal Equipment Engineer Keith Mims, PE** at **919-814-4931**; kmmims@ncdot.gov; or **1561 Mail Service Center in Raleigh**.

NCDOT will provide auxiliary aids and services under the Americans with Disabilities Act for disabled people who wish to participate in the virtual meeting. Anyone requiring special services should contact Aleksandra Djurkovic, Environmental Analysis Unit, at 1598 Mail Service Center in Raleigh; 919-707-6024; or andjurkovic@ncdot.gov as early as possible so arrangements can be made.

Persons who do not speak English, or have a limited ability to read, speak or understand English, may receive interpretive services upon request prior to the meeting by calling 1-800-481-6494.

Aquellas personas que no hablan inglés, o tienen limitaciones para leer, hablar o entender inglés, podrían recibir servicios de interpretación si los solicitan antes de la reunión llamando al 1-800-481-6494.

The Triangle Tribune
The Voice of the Black Community
triangletribune.com



Make sure Jesus is in the church

By Lee Weeks
BAPTIST PRESS

(This story was first published on Jan. 22, 1997.)

WAKE FOREST - As pastor of a "mega-church" in north Dallas, Jack Graham knows what it takes to grow a church.

"It's the same message of the gospel, and the gospel works," Graham said Jan. 21 during his spring convocation address on the campus of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary.

"It's not true because it works," Graham asserted. "It works because it's true. It's the power of God unto salvation."

Graham has served as pastor of Prestonwood Baptist Church in Dallas since 1989. During his pastorate, church membership has grown by more than 6,400 members to its present membership of more than 14,000.

In June 1995, Prestonwood voted to relocate to Plano, Texas, a northern suburb of Dallas, with plans to build on a 138-acre site. Church members have pledged more than

\$36 million toward the relocation project which is expected to be completed in 1998. The pledge total has been described as the largest single fundraising campaign by a church.

"Our intent is not to build buildings," Graham reflected, "but build the kingdom of God and stay on mission for him. When we minister and we serve, that is our motivation. We are doing it for him every day and that keeps us strong."

Graham, who refuses to take credit for the flourishing ministry at Prestonwood, warned preachers and students training for the ministry to be leery of church growth schemes aimed at simply pleasing people. "God does not exist for our pleasure, but we exist for the glory and pleasure of God," Graham said.

Statistics show that 53,000 people are leaving church every week and not coming back, he said.

"The reason they are not coming back is because of a weak, emaciated message that has no strength, that has no steel. It has no Spirit," Graham said.

"They're disillusioned by church institutions and structures, and so they are looking for meaning outside organized religion in New Age philosophy and all manner of lifestyle apart from God."

Graham said the focus of his ministry at Prestonwood is the same as that of his first pastorate in 1970 at Eastside Baptist Church in Cross Plains, Texas, where the average Sunday school attendance was 13 and the high was 30.

"It's not my responsibility to get people in the church," Graham said. "It's my responsibility to make sure that Jesus is in the church. ... If Jesus is in the church by our prayers and by our focus, he will draw all men unto himself."

A growing church, Graham said, is a church with members whose lives have been changed.

"What the world is looking for today is not more gadgets and gimmicks, bells and whistles, but lives transformed by the power of Jesus. ... Never lose the wonder of what Christ has done for you."

AROUND THE TRIANGLE

RALEIGH GRANTS

AARP North Carolina invites nonprofits to apply for the 2026 AARP Community Challenge grant program. Visit www.AARP.org. Deadline: March 4 at 5 p.m.

FUNDRAISER

The Woman's Club of Raleigh's Winter Games Benefit is March 6, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Contact: Carol Scenna at 914-715-4687.

MARCH

N.C. Right to Life march and rally is March 7, 12:15 to 3:30 p.m., Halifax Mall.

CONFERENCE

Sisters Inspiring Sisters' annual Small Pearls Lead Conference is March 7, 9 a.m. to noon, Wake Chapel Church LEC Building, 3805 Tarheel Club Road. Free for girls ages 7 to high school. Visit www.thesisi.org.

MARKET

The Market at N.C. Museum of Art is March 7, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., 2110 Blue Ridge Road.

CARY GALA

Dress For Success' Celebrate Success Gala is March 6, 6-9 p.m., The Umstead Hotel & Spa. Visit dfstrian-glenc.org.

DURHAM SCHOLARSHIP

Application deadline for the Durham Promise Scholarship and other awards ends March 2 at 11:59 p.m. <https://www.bullcityschools.org/scholarships>.

CULTURE

Cirque Kalabante will showcase African culture March 3, Carolina Theatre of Durham, 309 W. Morgan St. Visit www.carolinatheatre.org.

FESTIVAL

2026 Hayti Heritage Festival is March 4-7. Visit Hayti.org.

CELEBRATION

Emily K Center's 20th anniversary is March 7, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., 904 W. Chapel Hill St. RSVP at www.emilyk.org.

AUTHOR TALK

Author and reporter Abigail Leonard will discuss her book "Four Mothers" March 7, 1:30 p.m., Durham Co. Main Library, 300 N. Roxboro St. Register: DurhamCountyLibrary.org/events.

CONCERT

Blues artist Buffalo Nichols will perform March 10, 7 p.m., The Carolina Theatre, 309 W. Morgan St. Tickets: carolinatheatre.org.

CHAPEL HILL SCREENING

A film screening of "The Disappearance of Miss Scott" is March 5, 5:30 p.m., Stone Center Auditorium. Register: shsbcc.unc.edu.

FUNDRAISER

The Monet Richardson Community Foundation's "Rose & Roses Soiree: The Power of Five" is March 8 at Graduate by Hilton Chapel Hill. Contact: Pat Richardson at 919-357-8149.



Flavor Hills owners and staff celebrate the opening of their new Durham location. COURTESY

Black veteran-owned restaurant has the recipe for growth and expansion

STAFF REPORTS

DURHAM - As restaurants nationwide cautiously navigate the first quarter of 2026, operators face a challenging business climate marked by lingering inflation, mercurial customer traffic, and rising operating costs impacting profitability.

Many longstanding restaurants and chains have closed their doors, unable to adapt; but Flavor Hills, a Black-owned franchise in North Carolina, is thriving and scaling.

With three locations - Raleigh; Myrtle Beach, South Carolina; and a newly opened restaurant in Durham - Flavor Hills has achieved high marks for its food, customer service and community impact. It is a hub for the 25- to 45-year-old professional demographic seeking an environment where intellectualism meets aesthetics, cuisine, artistic expression, curated events and social responsibility.

Led by a core of United States Marine Corps veterans - Andre Truss (CEO), Tellers Pollard III (COO), Eric Johnson (CMO) and chef extraordinaire Morgan Teianne' (culinary director) - Flavor Hills is poised for even greater expansion.

"We're all veterans," Pollard said. "We spent years in the toughest organization there is, the Marine Corps. It prepared us to transition and cover every single aspect when it comes to our business structure, how we lead our teams, professional development, and how we pour into people to make sure they're not just good professionals but good people."

Truss, elevated from a life of poverty in his native Jamaica, echoes those sentiments. Modeling a military framework, proper personnel selection, consolidating leadership, and developing customizable and executable strategies has been instrumental in their growth and scalability. It has also enabled them to become a major employer, hiring more than 200 employees across three cities.

"In order to truly succeed in business, you have to understand the purpose of business. Most people only understand the byproduct of business," he said. "We fundamentally understand that business is about controlling our time, decision-making and exposure to risk. Those are the key drivers in business. Not money, not revenue. When you do that, it allows you to build a company differently from those who don't know how to build a real

infrastructural business."

Each restaurant occupies prime real estate. The Myrtle Beach location sits on the main strip overlooking the Atlantic Ocean, and the Raleigh and Durham restaurants are both situated in the heart of downtown.

Modern construction and artwork at each location feature historical references and prominent Black cultural icons from Spike Lee to Sade Adu and Nipsey Hussle. The smell of signature southern dishes like their Cajun Shrimp and Grits, Sweet Heat Plate, Catfish and Grits, Salmon Orleans and others, keep customers rolling in.

"The feedback we've gotten has been amazing," Johnson said. "For a long time, most of our customers were only Black. But once we ramped up our marketing, we started to attract other people as well. They come in and see how we run things, the professionalism of the staff, the presentation of the plates. We had an older white gentleman tell us he's been looking for a place like ours for so long. Things like that show that we've transcended beyond a 'Black-owned business'; we are an operation now."

Visit www.flavorhills.com.

Workplaces can better support employees facing domestic violence

STATEPOINT

Employers can provide meaningful support to their workers when they face domestic or sexual violence, but a new survey finds most are unprepared to do so.

The majority of domestic violence survivors report that they were in the workforce when the violence occurred, and 4 in 5 say it made it more difficult for them to stay in their jobs. Yet doing so, and maintaining their income, is essential for trying to create a safe and stable future.

The Intersection of Work and Abuse highlights the results of a 2025 online survey of more than 2,000 survivors of domestic and dating violence, sexual assault and/or stalking, conducted by the National Domestic Violence Hotline and Futures Without Violence.

It finds that over half of domestic violence survivors did not tell their employers about the violence because they feared they would face discrimination or retaliation or lose their job.

When survivors did go to their employer for help, often the outcome wasn't good:

* Less than half (43%) report their employer protected their confidentiality.

* Three in 10 (30%) say their employer shared ways they could get help.

* Two in 10 (19%) say their employer let them



use paid vacation time to address the problem.

* Even fewer (17%) report their employer offered paid sick time they could use while seeking safety and help.

"That's a lost opportunity, both for the people experiencing violence who need support and for the businesses that want to keep workers they need and value," Futures Without Violence Vice President Ana López Van Balen said. "This study should be a call to action for workplace leaders."

Everyone can advocate for better programs and policies at their workplace. Futures Without Violence runs the Workplaces Respond to Domestic & Sexual Violence National Resource Center, which offers a wealth of resources for employers, survivors of violence co-workers and advocates.

"The fact that we now know so many victims are actively in the workforce

while experiencing abuse represents a significant opportunity for intervention and support," National Domestic Violence Hotline Policy Director Dorian Karp said.

And the new study offers a series of recommendations for employers:

* Invest in training and education to help ensure managers and human resources leaders are prepared to support workers facing violence.

* Adopt survivor-centered policies such as paid leave, flexible accommodation, and reasonable adjustments to schedules and assignments for those facing violence.

* Partner with domestic violence and sexual assault programs, which can help with these initiatives.

To learn more, and to access workplace resources for both survivors and employers, visit www.futures-withoutviolence.org and www.thehotline.org.

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Shaw's sports programs need new blood

The last HBCU team to bring a tournament championship trophy back to the Triangle was North Carolina Central men in 2019. That year NCCU earned its third straight MEAC title.

The CIAA Tournament ends Saturday with its women's and men's championship games, and Raleigh's two teams were out on Tuesday.

Shaw women last won a championship in 2014 under former coach Jacques Curtis. It was the Bears' fourth straight (2011-14), something they accomplished earlier

from 2003-06. The tourney was comically dubbed "The Shaw Invitational." Their 2012 NCAA Division II National Championship even had hardcore ACC fans



BONITTA BEST

cheering.

It's been downhill since 2014. The program is a combined 98-176 from 2015-26 with and without Curtis.

Interim coach Lou Hamilton certainly won't get the permanent job. Shaw looked so bad at times that you wondered why the players even bothered to suit up.

They lost seven of their last eight games, and the final four were by an average of 25 points. They committed 24.2 turnovers per game, including having more turnovers (42) than rebounds (34) in their tourney loss to Bluefield State.

You have to wonder if the university's woes had an effect: no hot water or heat in some dorms and a dorm fire, as reported by several news outlets. Student-athletes today are a different breed. They can't just turn everything else off and play ball like in the old days. Everything affects them.

You almost can't blame them if that's the case. Why bust your butt for a university that doesn't care about you?

But, on the other hand, you're the one wearing the uniform, and it's your face people see, not the president's.

Different Year, Same Results

Bobby Collins' hire was touted as the missing ingredient to getting the men's program back into championship form.

Here was a championship coach on both the Division II and Division I levels at Winston-Salem State and Hampton.

Instead, his five-year tenure has been filled with nothing but disappointment.

The program is 66-66 and has never won a division title or made it past the quarterfinal rounds. The script is the same: start fast, end slow. Remember the 7-0 start in the first semester? Seems like a lifetime ago, doesn't it? And while the women had a turnover problem, the men had a free throw disease. Shaw shot 64.8% for the season. No lead was big enough if they had to hit free throws to win the game.

The men's program has two championships: 2002 under Joel Hopkins and 2011 under Cleo Hill Jr. Don't see much changing anytime soon.

The athletics department has no full-time athletics director. Randy McClure is the interim AD and the women's and men's head soccer coach. And, unless the website is wrong, there is no associate AD of compliance. Shaw has successful programs in women's soccer, tennis and volleyball, but those are "nonrevenue-producing" sports no matter how many championships they win. Like it or not, football and men's basketball still drive the dollars, with women's basketball a distant third. Shaw is striking out on all three.

The Triangle Tribune Sports

March 1-7, 2026 | 6A

GNRC Conference Champs! GNRC Coach of the Year!



South Garner girls' basketball team went undefeated in the Greater Neuse River 7A Conference.



Which earned South Garner coach Ashleigh Fuller conference coach of the year.

COLLEGE CORNER

NCCU women take 3rd in MEAC track

While the CIAA Tournament gets underway this week, the MEAC is prepping for its spotlight next week with a Women in Athletics Professional Workshop.

The March 9 workshop at Waterside Marriott in Norfolk is open to professionals from college students to executive leaders. The theme is "Inside the Locker Room: Women Leading the Game." Contact Patricia Porter-Mayfield at mayfieldp@thameac.com.

WOMEN

N.C. Central

The MEAC regular season ends on March 5. The Eagles have three final games: at Maryland Eastern Shore and Delaware State before hosting South Carolina State March 5 at 2 p.m.

In track and field, the ladies finished third at the MEAC Indoor Track & Field Championships with 97 points, their highest total since being in Division I.

Laila Jackson, Gianna Marquez, Kayla Johnson and Victoria Swepson won gold in the 3,800-meter distance medley relay, setting a new meet and conference record. Jackson and Johnson also took silver and bronze in the 800 meters, respectively.

Melanne Sutton took first in the 60m dash, T'Sheylah Moore a bronze in the 400 meters, Kaydance Daniels a silver in the 200 meters, and Tia Lucas earned first place in the high jump.

Shaw

The Bears earned the Freddie Vaughn Academic Award for highest team GPA. It was about the only bright spot in Shaw's season.

The Bears dropped their fourth straight game and seven of last eight in an 82-56 loss to Bluefield State at the CIAA Tournament. Shaw lost its final four games by an average of 25



Book ends are Melanne Sutton and Tia Lucas. The distance relay team members are Laila Jackson, Gianna Marquez, Kayla Johnson and Victoria Swepson.

points.

In softball, Shaw (0-4) will try to get its first win this weekend at Walnut Creek Softball Complex in the TCSC Tournament. The Bears play College of Staten Island, Ferrum College, Mansfield University, Lincoln (Pa.), Felician University and Chowan

during the Friday-Sunday event. Guess Shaw and Lincoln don't care there's a basketball tournament going on, eh?

Howard

The Bison won their fifth

Please see **NCCU/7A**

HBCU FOOTBALL

Virginia Union's Allen player of the year

By Bonitta Best

editor@triangletribune.com

In no surprise to anyone, Virginia Union star running back Curtis Allen was named the 2025 Black College Football player of the year.

Allen is the first HBCU player to earn the Harlon Hill Trophy, Division II's version of the Heisman.

N.C. Central

Spring has yet to officially arrive, but spring football practice started this week for the Eagles. The team will conduct 15 practices total, culminating in the annual spring game on April 11 at O'Kelly-Riddick Stadium.

Former Eagle running back J'Mari Taylor, who went from walk-on to scholarship to thousand-yard rusher to Virginia transfer will participate in the prestigious Senior Bowl and NFL

Combine.

Johnson C. Smith

If you can't beat 'em, join 'em.

Former Winston-Salem State head coach Robert Massey is now a Golden Bull. JCSU coach Maurice Flowers hired Massey last week as assistant cornerbacks coach. Massey played cornerback at NCCU before embarking on an NFL career.

"A lot of times as a head coach, you get away from what you were really good at, what you cut your teeth with," Flowers told The Charlotte Post. "For Robert Massey, he was coaching corners, and he's just hungry to get back home."

N.C. A&T

After criticism for not inviting any HBCU players to the NFL Combine, Aggies

Please see **ALLEN/7A**

Former NCCU basketball coach heads new Charlotte pro team

By Annika Duneja

UNC MEDIA HUB

Twenty-five years ago, the Charlotte Sting, one of eight original WNBA teams, played for a league championship. Six years later, the team folded.

The city of Charlotte has since been waiting almost 20 years for a women's basketball team to cheer for. On May 21, when the Charlotte Crown take the court

against the Savannah Steel at Bojangles Coliseum for their first home game, the wait will be over.

Alexis Lee, a Charlotte native, said she's already planning to go with her mom to opening night. She, too, has been looking for a women's team to support. "I think as far as teams go, that's the one thing that we're missing," she said. "If you were a women's sports fan, you kind of just don't have that opportunity unless you go to a UNC Charlotte

women's game."

That's where the Crown comes in, who along with three other inaugural teams, including the Greensboro Groove, Jacksonville Waves and Savannah Steel, make up the new Upshot League.

At a time when the Unrivaled League, a 3-on-3 women's league, just set a regular-season record for attendance at a women's professional basketball game, and the WNBA announced plans last year to expand to 18 teams by 2030, it's clear the sport's only direction is up.

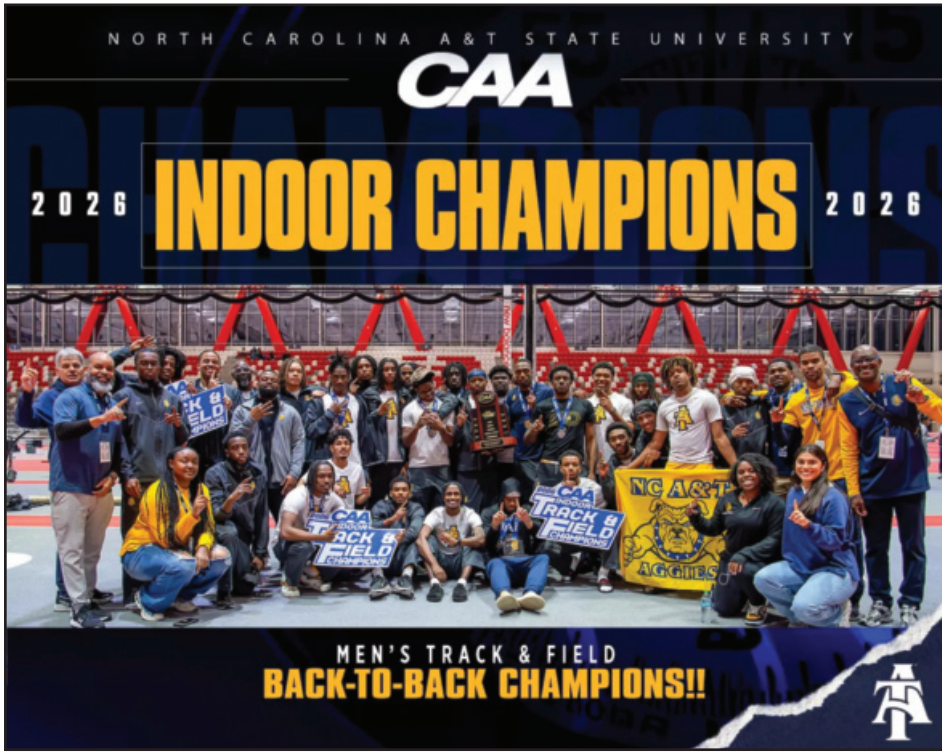
But even with the growth, there are only so many opportunities for players in the United States, Charlotte Crown President Shawn Lynch said. "There's about 180 women that go on a draft board. Maybe 30 of them get drafted, and maybe 15 to 20 of them actually make the WNBA and everyone else's career, and the dream of playing professional basketball ends at that point," he said.

Some players who aren't drafted choose to play abroad,

Please see **CHARLOTTE/7A**



Odum



NCCU women place 3rd at MEAC championships

Continued from page 6A
straight MEAC Women's Indoor Track & Field Championships with a dominating 215-point total. Second-place Norfolk State collected 125 points.

CAA
Two first-place finishes by Brianna Charles in the 60 meters and 4x400-relay team helped Hampton finish second at the CAA Track Championships. N.C. A&T placed third after edging out Towson by one point.

MEN
N.C. Central
The Eagles will try to snap a two-game losing streak at Delaware State this weekend. NCCU lost big to Howard, 100-67, after suiting up just eight players. The team travels

to UMES Monday and then hosts SCSU with the women next Thursday. In golf, Mateo Zolezzi was second in the Arcis HBCU Division I Championship. The finish is his best this season.

And, in tennis, the men have won two straight matches after defeating North Carolina Wesleyan and Davidson. NCCU travels to UNC Asheville this weekend.

Shaw
Senior forward Avery Huggins was named to the 2026 All-CIAA Team. Huggins averaged 16 points and 6.6 rebounds per game.

Huggins also was the high scorer for the Bears in their game against Lincoln (Pa.), but it wasn't enough. Shaw again came up short in the tournament, going down in the quarterfinals

to a team that won just three conference games during the regular season.

Norfolk State
The Spartans claimed their fifth consecutive MEAC indoor championship with 124.5 points. Delaware State was second, followed by South Carolina State in third.

N.C. A&T
The Aggies won their second straight CAA indoor track championship with an impressive 175.5 points. It is their seventh indoor championship in program history.

Alabama A&M
Baseball student-athlete Trey Rutledge signed with the New York Mets. He reported to the Mets' training camp last week. If you're good, they will find you.



Jaylen Starks and Erick Bonner signed their letters of intent last week at a Hillside ceremony. Starks will play football at Elizabeth City State, and Bonner will take his talents to Davidson College.

Allen is player of the year

Continued from page 6A

kicker Andrew "Money" Brown received an invite last weekend while participating in the Allstate HBCU Legacy Bowl.

Brown, who will participate in the Specialist Showcase, barely had time to unpack at home before boarding a plane to Indianapolis this week.

"He's got ice water in his veins," NCAT coach Shawn Gibbs said. "No moment is too big for him, and I know that if he's given the opportunity, he'll do well for anything."

Morehouse
Morehouse College hired Texas Wesleyan coach Brad Sherrod as its new head coach. Sherrod coached at TWU for two seasons and guided the Rams to two NAIA playoff appearances. Ironically, TWU was just approved to reclassify to NCAA Division II membership.

Transfer Portal
* Southern DT Quinton Butler
* Texas Southern S Daylan Booker
* Delaware State OL Isaiah Cook
* Alcorn State LB Derrick Sinegal Jr.
* Florida A&M QB RJ Johnson III
* South Carolina State DL Rashawn Washington
* FAMU OL David Gardner
* FAMU QB Jett Peddy

Goodbye. Hello.
* Eastern Michigan QB Cameron Edge to Morgan State
* Bowie State WR Joseph Towler, Morgan State
* Tusculum OL Ramirez Young, Southern
* Chowan OL Otis Ingram, Albany State
* East Carolina Edge Jason Romero Jr., Johnson C. Smith

* Houston WR Sahfi Reed, Lincoln (Pa.)
* Virginia Union FS Jayden Earley, Long Island
* Wheeling QB Ade Olanegan, Morgan State

Turnin' Pro
* Jackson State's Quincy Ivory
* Clark-Atlanta WR Ronnie West
* Virginia-Lynchburg DB Kevon Gregory
* Prairie View A&M QB Cameron Peters
* Southern LB Josh Tate
* Norfolk State RB Kevon King
* N.C. A&T DB Aaron Harris
* Jackson State DL John Brown Jr.

Like father...
DJ Williams, son of Grambling State legend and Super Bowl-winning QB Doug Williams, is the Washington Commanders' new quarterbacks coach.

Former NCCU coach heads new Charlotte team

Continued from page 6A
and even Unrivaled has only signed established WNBA stars. Former WNBA president Donna Orender said she and Zawyer Sports CEO Andy Kauffman wanted to create a way for more players to continue their basketball careers at home. They specifically wanted to grow the sport to areas of the country that weren't expected to see expansion teams anytime soon.

"If you look at the trajectory of the growth, it's still going to take a longer time to build out," Orender said. "And even after it's built out, there's always room for more. And why shouldn't markets like Jacksonville or Savannah or Charlotte or Greensboro or Baltimore, why shouldn't they have women's basketball now?"

The result was what Orender, Upshot's first commissioner, called an

"opportunity league," a place where these players can grow their skills, get paid and just keep playing the sport they love. With four founding teams with 11-player rosters, and an expansion team in Baltimore already announced for next year, that's 55 more jobs for women's basketball players.

But even as the teams give players a chance to continue their careers, Charlotte Crown coach

Trisha Stafford-Odom said Upshot isn't just a developmental league or a minor league for the WNBA.

"It's not like this is the fallback league and everybody gets to come," she said. "No, no, no; there's going to be criteria. There's going to be standards. So, you have to compete on every level and then see what's afforded to you after you've done your best."

As someone who's coached women's basketball at UCLA, North Carolina Central, Duke and UNC, Stafford-Odom said she wants to help players and members of the organization make a name for themselves and put themselves in a position of having options for career growth.

Back in her playing days with the WNBA, Stafford-Odom said she recalls the enthusiasm of fans in

Charlotte and their support for the women's team.

"I remember being in training camp or coming to try out for the Charlotte Sting of the WNBA, and I remember the intensity of the fans," she said. "I got cut from the team, but I remember the success that the team had, and then the disappointment when it folded. Like people are thirsty and waiting, it's just the climate."

Hi Everyone!

Every year, the first Thursday in March is World Book Day! The theme for this year is "Go All In", which means jumping into reading with your whole heart and imagination! It's about exploring new books, stories, and discovering new worlds. When you go all in for reading, your imagination travels to faraway places, meets amazing characters, learns new things, and grows your mind every day. So grab a book, open it up, and GO ALL IN!

LEARNING TO LOVE READING

A child develops a genuine love for reading by:

- Being read to regularly
- Having access to books at home
- Allowing children to choose what they want to read
- Having trusted adults and peers sharing and recommending books
- The reading experience being enjoyable (not used as punishment)
- Having a designated time to read

World Book Day seeks to change children's lives by fostering a love of books and shared reading. The mission is to promote reading for pleasure and offer every child and young person the opportunity to have a book of their own.

POP-UP FACTS

The average American reads approximately 5 books a year.
The average millionaire reads about 52 books a year.
Highly successful people read about 50 books a year.

KEMET: THE TIME TRAVELER

By Joe Young
A Collection of Kemet Inaugural Comic Books & Comic Strips

Kemet, The Time Traveler, takes kids on journeys through time that he uses to help inspire them to learn from the accomplishments of Black trailblazers they meet along the way. Also included are funny and thought provoking comic strips of Kemet interacting with his friends.

The author, Joe Young, is an award-winning cartoonist, filmmaker, producer, writer, and teaching author. His past work has earned him a Guinness World Record Holder for creating the biggest comic strip with 5,000 youth participating. KEMET, who has millions of views and likes on social media, can be found on Tic Toc, Instagram, Facebook and YouTube. Young's love for comic books started when he was a young boy. He states, "comic books help me learn to read when traditional methods of teaching failed me."

THE WEAVERBIRDS: FINDING HIS WAY HOME

By Robenia McKinley

The Weaverbirds is an imaginative, whimsical and adventurous fantasy of love, loss, toxic relationships and natural disasters. The animated adventure journeys to the home of our protagonist, Tahir, a south african weaverbird who loses his storm wrecked home, but yet learns to triumph over tragedy as he navigates his way through challenges along his path. The thread that runs throughout the book is that "to succeed you must believe in yourself and persevere against all odds."

DO YOU KNOW THEM?

By Shana Keller

Do You Know Them? is a story that takes place at the end of the American Civil War. With the selling of family members throughout the south, this is a moving story of how newly freed slaves search for their long-lost loved ones. Lettie, the main character, saved every penny she earned to place ads in newspapers in search of family members. Keller's story was inspired by actual "lost ads" that were printed in newspapers after the end of the Civil War.

TRUE FALSE TELL THE TRUTH!

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

_____ The Theme for 2026 World Book Day is "Go All In."
_____ Millionaires read about 50 books a year.
_____ The first Friday in the month of March is World Book Day.
_____ 10 minutes reading to a child makes a difference in their academic success.

ONE MINUTE MADNESS!

In one minute or less, unscramble all the words connected to World Book Day.
The first letter of the word is in bold.

if's ur d'fayn' n' c' m' h
n' h' d' k' l' l' b' l' l' y
d' e' a' g' h' h' c' o' o' e'
n' g' (a' n' i'
a' d' v' e' l' u' p' h' e' d' i' l' e'

THE OLD TRUCK

By Jarrett Pumphrey

The Old Truck, published in 2020, is a picture book by an award winning author-illustrator. After many years of service, the old beat-up rusted truck is restored to new life by an imaginative and creative young lady.

MATCH GAME!

Write the name of the author next to the book each one wrote.

Robenia McKinley Joe Young Jarrett Pumphrey Shana Keller

Do You Know Them? _____
The Old Truck _____
The Weaverbirds _____
Kemet: The Time Traveler _____

READY, SET, READ!!!

The average American reads five books a year. What's your five?
Write the names of the books you will read this year.
Book number 1 should be for the month of March (World Book Day).

KEMET World Book Day 2024

MASTER CARTOONIST WALTER CARR CREATED THIS ICONIC CARTOON IN 1992. IT'S STILL TIMELY TODAY!

WRITE A 100 PAGE ESSAY (TYPED) ON WHAT THIS CARTOON MEANS TO YOU. ONCE I GET IT, I WILL SEND YOU ONE OF MY COMIC STRIPS *FREE OF CHARGE!*

SEND YOUR SUBMISSIONS TO ME AT:
KEMET COMICS, P.O. BOX 777, HARTFORD, CT 06142-777

*INCLUDE YOUR FULL NAME AND ADDRESS. YOUR SUBMISSION MUST BE POSTMARKED BY 5/5/26.

WORLD BOOK DAY, 3/1/26, #244 WWW.JOEYOUNG.ORG

KEMET ACTIVITY SHEETS © 2026 BY JOE YOUNG

GREATER DURHAM BLACK CHAMBER

The Greater Durham Black Chamber's Black Business Gala was a sold-out success on Valentine's Day.



COURTESY



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triangletribunenewspaper.com



COURTESY

Students listen at a May march graduation ceremony.

Emily K Center celebrates 20 years of Durham impact

STAFF REPORTS

DURHAM - The Emily K Center is celebrating 20 years of growth and impact. Since opening its doors on Feb. 18, 2006, the center has grown from a single program serving 38 students to a vibrant community hub supporting more than 2,000 Durham students each year.

Founded by former Duke men's basketball coach Mike Krzyzewski and named in honor of his mother, Emily, the center carries forward the values that helped him succeed as a first-generation college student. More than 12,500 students have received support through Emily K Center programming, going on to pursue higher education, meaningful careers and leadership roles in their own communities.

While the center has grown significantly, its core mission remains the same - making education accessible for all students, breaking down systemic barriers, and ensuring young people have a clear path to long-term career

and economic mobility. Today, it offers four distinct programs serving students from elementary school through college and beyond, providing academic support, leadership development, and postsecondary and career guidance.

"My greatest hope for our students at the Emily K Center is that they are able to dream without limits," chief executive director Valerie Anderson said. "Our students come to us with so much brilliance and potential. It is a great honor and joy to walk alongside them as they pursue and achieve their dreams."

Center alum Jackie spent five years participating in programs through high school and college. After graduating from UNC Chapel Hill, she returned as a staff member. "The Emily K Center helped me navigate the college application process, thrive once I got on campus, and build strong relationships. These experiences shaped who I am today and played an important role in my per-

sonal growth," she said. As the educational landscape continues to evolve, the center remains committed to educational equity, ensuring that all students have access to the resources and tools they need to pursue their aspirations. The successes of the past two decades have been made possible by dedicated supporters, community partners, and volunteers who have invested their time and resources in Durham's young people.

In honor of this milestone, the center has launched a 20th Anniversary Campaign to raise \$25,000 in support of its programs. Center-level sponsor, Nuna Baby, is matching all gifts up to \$25,000, doubling the impact of every donation.

The community is also invited to attend the anniversary open house on March 7 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

There will be food trucks, music, games and plenty of fun for all ages. To donate or RSVP, visit emilyk.org/20-years.



COURTESY

Community school demonstrates excellence at annual review

STAFF REPORTS

DURHAM - Founded in 1998, Community School of Digital and Visual Arts board members and staff celebrate after presenting their annual review to the Office of Charter Schools, Division of Academics, North Carolina Department of Instruction.

The presentation included four major areas: academic performance, financial status, governance and facilities. The CSDVA prepared a comprehensive review which encapsulated a forward-thinking strategy, above-average academic results, and fully compliant and certified board

members in a facility to teach over 220 students in grades K-8.

Principal Cheryal Issac presented the CSDVA's instructional approach that centers on protecting strong foundations, pushing instructional excellence, and preparing students for success. Through consistent collaboration, the school is building sustainable systems that support academic growth for all learners.

Ben Johnson, chief operating officer, showcased the CSDVA's financial status with a strong fund balance. The school further launched a robust enroll-

ment recovery program and eliminated nonessential consultants.

Board chairman Tommy T. McNeill provided an update that all board members completed training in areas of charter school law and regulations, open meetings and public record requirements, and financial oversight and accountability.

"CSDVA is fully compliant with all Office of Charter School Board requirements," he said.

The Community School of Digital and Visual Arts is at 1955 W Cornwallis, Road. Visit www.communitydva.org for more information.