



SPORTS

Holt Brothers host fundraiser for families with cancer diagnosis.



COMMUNITY FOCUS

2 affordable rental homes are available in Hayti community.

The Triangle Tribune

THE TRIANGLE'S CHOICE FOR THE BLACK VOICE SINCE 1998

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VOLUME 28 NO. 14

Week of April 5-11, 2026

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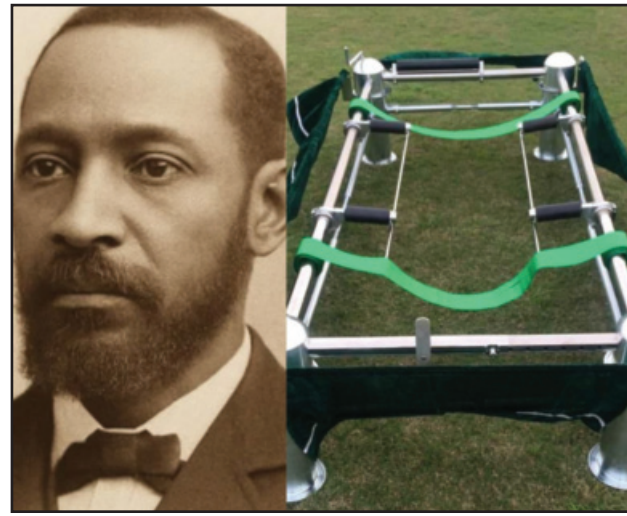
« 52 WEEKS OF BLACK BRILLIANCE »

From churning butter to giving the dead dignity

STAFF REPORTS
In 1894, Albert C. Richardson saw a problem with the way the bodies of dead people were buried. It was common at that time to simply bury bodies in small, shallow graves or to try to lower their caskets with ropes into a deeper hole. This required several people to work in unison to ensure that the casket was lowered evenly. Failure to do so could cause the casket to slip out of one of the ropes and to be damaged

from hitting the ground. On Nov. 13, 1894, Richardson patented the casket lowering device which consisted of a series of pulleys and ropes or cloths that ensured uniformity in the lowering process. This invention (Patent No. 529311) is used in all cemeteries today. In his patent letter request, Richardson wrote: "My invention relates to improvements in casket-lowering devices; and the object of my invention is the provision of a simple,

durable and inexpensive device adapted to be fitted in the trench or ditch which receives the casket to prevent the dirt from falling from the edges of the ditch and which will lower the casket without danger of the same falling as is frequently the case with the present manner of lowering Gaskets and which causes such horror to those who respect the dead." Not only did Richardson invent the casket lowering device, but history records say he also invented the butter churn.



Albert C. Richardson invented a casket lowering device that is still being used today.



KYLIE MARSH

Participants at Holton Career and Resource Center.

Free and safe activities for Durham teens can reduce killings

By Kylie Marsh
Kylie.marsh@triangletribune.com
DURHAM - Community members are fed up with workshops and listening sessions over gun violence in Durham. Following a particularly violent week in February, where six shootings in six days took place, emotions are high. The city has launched a multi-tiered approach to reducing gun violence, including learning sessions and public input workshops which will culminate in a final summit in the next few months.

Community members gathered March 20 to discuss the youth gun violence issue at the Holton Career and Resource Center. Many said a lack of supervision, mentorship and opportunity are at the root of the youth violence in Durham. "Idle hands are the devil's workshop," said Michelle Laws, professor of sociology at North Carolina Central University's School of Social Work. Laws' family has been directly impacted by gun violence. One of her nephews was murdered at a gas station in South Durham in

2022, and another nephew was involved in a shooting where an 8-year-old was killed by a stray bullet. "There used to be midnight basketball, there used to be the Police Athletic League, that really also doubled in a lot of ways as a mentoring program for kids," Laws told The Tribune. "People would do what we would call today 'pop-ups,' where they would engage kids out there in those communities unengaged and uninvolved. We know that there were things that

Please see **DURHAM/2A**



COURTESY OF CASA

An artist's rendition of Homestead Gardens.

Chapel Hill breaks ground on affordable housing

By Kylie Marsh

Kylie.marsh@triangletribune.com

CHAPEL HILL - After nearly nine years of planning, community partners finally broke ground for affordable housing in Chapel Hill. Homestead Gardens is a 100% affordable community that will house 300 residents. Housing advocates, public officials and community members celebrated the groundbreaking, adjacent to the Episcopal Church of the Advocate, on March 27. "It's been a long, long road," said Dan Levine, Self-Help Ventures Fund vice president, who helped raise funding for the project. "There have been people who have been working at this for many years." Several partners joined over the years to get the project across the finish line, including the North Carolina Housing Finance Agency, CASA, Orange County, Community Home Trust and Habitat for Humanity of Orange County. Patients of UNC Horizons will be able to call Homestead Gardens home. UNC Horizons is a program of the UNC Health Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology which provides treatment for pregnant women, mothers and children with substance abuse disorder. "One of the many blessings is just seeing our women succeed in our program," said Ashley Ambrose, Horizons director of residential services. Chapel Hill Mayor Jessica Anderson said Homestead Gardens is a project that "fulfills a promise." "Today's groundbreaking isn't just the start of construction. It's the continuation of a promise that we made to this community that Chapel Hill will be a place where people of all incomes can live, work and put down roots. And we have not always been fulfilling that promise."

Seven million dollars in local funding were supplemented with an additional \$2 million in federal funds. "That level of commitment matters," Anderson said. Former North Carolina Democratic Congressman David Price was instrumental in securing that federal funding. "This is public, private, educational and nonprofit institutions working together, and it's an all-star cast," Price said. Republicans presented an obstacle in getting funding for community projects. "There had been a good deal of political gamesmanship around that process," Price continued. "We wanted to make sure that the justification was there, and that we didn't do things that could be later held up to criticism. Homestead Gardens certainly passed that test." Price said the organizations behind the residential community have proven that they are effective. "I think we can take lessons from it," he said. "It needs to happen a lot more. We don't want this to be the last time we're having a celebration of this sort. We need to use this as a model, as a lesson that can be replicated."

More middle class families seeking assistance for food and housing

By Kylie Marsh
Kylie.marsh@triangletribune.com
RALEIGH - Middle-class earners are increasingly seeking assistance, Passage Home CEO Crystal Gwendo says. Passage Home is a Wake County-based nonprofit that interrupts the cycle of poverty by establishing self-sufficiency. "Whatever barriers you may have, we work to mitigate those," said Gwendo at a March

20 open house. Passage Home provides programs for housing stabilization, workforce development and stable employment. These programs work in tandem to stabilize families. "Whenever there is a need, people always come together," Gwendo told The Tribune. Passage Home is in the building of the Raleigh Safety Club, where employees of the Buckeye Oil Mills established a mutual aid

organization to help each other through illness or other crises. "People came here to be safe," she said. Gwendo says more middle-class earners are seeking rental and utility assistance. They are ineligible for public social services because, on paper, they earn too much. "Individuals are being underpaid," she said. "We used to see

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Safe activities for Durham teens can reduce killings

Continued from page 1A

were working." Laws said the nets were taken down due to gang activity. "They didn't replace them with anything, so you had kids that had nothing in these neighborhoods."

"Thank God for the Mayor's summer work program, we know that that's successful," referring to Durham YouthWorks, which connects Durham teens with opportunities to explore careers while earning an income.

Other workshop participants said the children impacted by gun violence are often unsupervised and forced to be the caregivers for other family members. Laws said when she looks at the programs offered by Durham Parks & Recreation, the costs and schedules do not work for the families impacted by violence.

"You've got kids that are very susceptible and at risk for being recruited into the underworld," she said.

Following calls from Durham Mayor Leonardo Williams for an "all-hands-on-deck" approach between city leadership and community

members, nonprofit organizations took the initiative to bring resources to different areas in the city.

Weekly crime statistics from the Durham Police Department show that 10 shootings took place between Feb. 8-15, 2025, making the year-to-date total 77. This year, between Feb. 7-14, were also 10 shootings, but the year-to-date total was lowered at 53.

Ryan Smith, director of the Community Safety Department, said national trends in cities similar to Durham show reductions in gun violence, but the Bull City is an "outlier."

Willis Hart Jr. is a chef from Durham and hoping to launch a new nonprofit to educate Durham's youth about its vibrant Black history. "If you want these kids to change, you're gonna have to put in that time, dedication, boots on the ground, and show them you care," Hart Jr. said. "Just talking is never going to change anything."

Hart Jr. brought personal expertise to the workshop, having been incarcerated. After an altercation in 2008, Hart Jr. shot his cousin's partner. He turned

himself in three days later. At the time, his firstborn daughter was only 2 months old.

"This took me away from a freshly born child until she was 3 years old," Hart Jr. told The Tribune. "That right there was a realization. Gun violence has taken so much away from me, but it's taken more time from me. It's taken everything. I had to start over."

Hart Jr. said all children need is somewhere safe and fun to go. In 2024, Durham voters approved an \$85 million bond referendum for parks and recreation. Hart Jr. said that money can be used to build a state-of-the-art facility. A \$43 million water park project at Merrick Moore Park, on the edge of East Durham, is currently underway.

His ideal is that the city leadership make more of a push to pressure investment back toward the "inner-city kids."

"They got Google, but I don't know nobody that's gonna work at Google," he said. "What they gonna be, the custodians? Let's be realistic."



COURTESY OF NCCU

Tonya Daniel, a DONA-certified birth doula and trainer, teaches the first cohort of the Community-Based Doula Program about pregnancy anatomy.

Doula program supports moms across Eastern North Carolina

By Quiana Shepard
N.C. CENTRAL NEWS COMMUNICATIONS

In parts of rural North Carolina, an expectant mother may drive more than an hour to reach a hospital that delivers babies.

For families living in small towns in the eastern region of the state, access to maternity care often means navigating long distances, limited services and a shrinking number of hospitals.

But pregnancy does not pause for geography. That reality is driving a new initiative from North Carolina Central University's Rural Health Hub, where leaders are training a new generation of community-based birth doulas to support mothers before, during and after childbirth.

For Undi Hoffer, Ph.D., director of the Community-Based Doula Program, the mission of the program begins with a simple truth. "Birth is sacred," she said. "It's beautiful. It's a miracle. Families deserve to experience that moment with dignity, support and confidence."

Across the United States, maternal mortality rates remain among the highest in developed nations. Although rates have declined since the pandemic, significant disparities persist. Black women experience mortality rates three to four times higher than white and Hispanic women, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The numbers are also concerning in rural communities. Approximately 21% of rural counties are classified as maternity care deserts, according to the National Center for Health Statistics. In addition, 13.4% of women in rural areas have no birthing hospital within 30 minutes, compared with 9.7% nationwide. "It's an access issue in eastern North Car-

olina," Hoffer said. "People are traveling hours just to receive care."

Hospitals in Halifax and Nash counties frequently serve patients from surrounding counties like Northampton, Edgecombe, Bertie, Warren, Franklin and Martin, communities where maternity services may be limited. But even when medical care is available, families often lack consistent support throughout pregnancy and postpartum recovery, which typically lasts from six to eight weeks.

That gap is where doulas make a difference. Launched in December 2025, the Community-Based Birth Doula Training Program is part of the university's broader Rural Health Hub initiative, a nonprofit organization focused on improving health outcomes in underserved communities.

Based in Enfield, North Carolina, the hub serves as a center for community engagement and workforce development. Rather than recruiting professionals from outside the region, the hub focuses on training individuals who already live in the communities they will serve.

"It's important that our doulas come from these communities," Hoffer said. "They're building relationships with families they know. That's how you build trust."

For Rose Lewis, a member of the first cohort, the program builds upon years of community-based work. A Nash County resident, nonprofit founder and community health worker, Lewis has long helped families access essential services, from transportation to health care.

"Access to information and education, that's what inspired me," Lewis said. "Especially for our Black and brown communities. Many expectant mothers don't know what a doula is;

they're confusing it with a midwife. So just bringing awareness can make a difference in their outcomes."

Through her nonprofit, Equipping the Community Organization Inc., Lewis has supported families across the lifespan, from navigating Medicare and Medicaid services, medical appointments and other supportive services. In that work, she noticed a gap in support during pregnancy.

"I kept seeing resources for after the baby gets here," she said. "But what about the support leading up to birth?"

Her motivation became personal after a woman connected to her extended family died during childbirth and her own daughter experienced a high-risk pregnancy. Now, Lewis focuses on helping mothers understand their options and advocate for themselves.

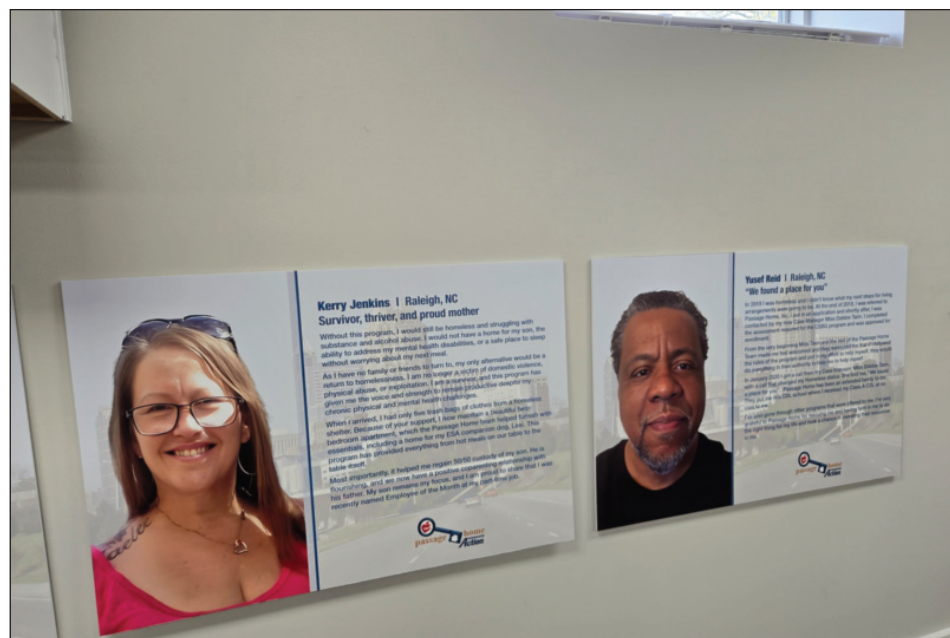
A doula provides emotional, physical and informational support during pregnancy, labor and the weeks following birth. Unlike doctors or midwives, doulas do not provide medical care, but they help families understand their options and navigate the childbirth experience.

Research shows that doula support can significantly improve maternal outcomes.

According to a 2025 study in the American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology, births attended by doulas are associated with lower cesarean rates, fewer medical interventions and improved newborn health indicators. Mothers also report higher satisfaction and confidence in their birth experiences.

But Hoffer emphasizes that the impact extends beyond delivery day.

"A lot of maternal mortality happens after birth," she said. "We want moms to understand when something isn't right and feel empowered to seek help."



KYLIE MARSH

Passage Home's walls are lined with testimonials from people helped over the years.

More middle class families seeking food assistance

Continued from page 1A

only low-income people, and now we're seeing more middle class." A 2025 article by Carolina Demography, an organ of the Carolina Population Center at UNC Chapel Hill, determines the burden of housing costs on earners making less than \$75,000 a year.

"Housing cost burden rates in NC counties range from 14.8% in Alexander County to 33.9% in Cumberland County," the article read. 2024 data shows 23.3% of households earning less than \$75,000 are cost-burdened. That

means less income for essentials like utilities, health care, transportation and groceries.

"We have emaciated people come through our doors every day," Gwendolyn said.

The pressures are increasing, too. While the organization uses a variety of income streams to provide services like permanent supportive housing, federal funding for these programs will be cut by 70% next year.

Homelessness is a non-partisan issue, Gwendolyn says.

"It affects everyone.

There is an increasing need, and yet, we're seeing criminalization and decreases in funding for prevention," she said. That creates a competition among agencies to help those in need, but Gwendolyn believes that "we are stronger together."

"One agency can't do it alone," she said, adding that they refer other local organizations like The Women's Center in Raleigh, another nonprofit for housing insecure women.

"We're seen as a beacon of light for people. We want people to know we are here."

Durham's 'No Kings' rally fails to draw youth, people of color

By Kylie Marsh

Kylie.marsh@triangletribune.com

DURHAM - Streets in downtown Durham were closed off last weekend for the second annual "No Kings" protest.

"No Kings" is a coalition of organizations demanding fair elections, a living wage, affordable housing, no illegal wars, and an end to immigration and customs enforcement. March 28's rally was one of over 3,300 simultaneous protests nationwide.

Jac Michel is an artist, an

anti-war organizer, and part of Mothers for Ceasefire, a Durham-based grassroots organization that demonstrates to provide aid for survivors of the war in Gaza.

"I'm here to collect funds from the Americans who are against the regime for our siblings in Gaza," she told The Tribune. "And also, to be a part of the BIPOC (Black, Indigenous and People of Color) representation, because ultimately, it's us who are getting the suffering." Michel is a first-genera-

tion immigrant. Her father is Haitian, and her mother is Guyanese. "I don't think white Americans understand how much liberation they have already, and how they can contribute to the liberation of their Black and Brown siblings. It is so much easier than they think."

Zeï Dubos, 16, was among a small group under 25 years of age.

"I believe that in order to keep us Americans, our people, our children, our families safe, we need to

Please see **KINGS/3A**

52 Weeks of Black Brilliance
Our history is at risk of being erased — but The Tribune ensures our voices endure.

Every week in 2026, we're shining a light on the creators, thinkers, builders, and visionaries who move our culture forward. Fifty-two stories. Fifty-two sparks. A yearlong celebration of black brilliance.



KYLE MARSH

Durham's 'No Kings' rally fails to draw youth, POC

Continued from page 2A get rid of the dictator," she said, referring to President Donald Trump. But Dubos said the crowd didn't look like her because her peers don't really know what's going on politically. "Honestly, when I talk to my peers, I tell them about all the stuff that's going on, they're like, 'oh wow, that's awful,' and they have no clue that it's happening," she said. News isn't being pushed to teens, she told The Tribune. A 2023 article from the World Press Institute says that Generation Z (born between 1997 and 2012) usually get their news and updates about current events from social media

platforms like YouTube, Instagram and X. Gen Z is also more likely than younger millennials and older millennials to rely on TikTok for news (40% vs. 27% and 21%) and on Snapchat (32% vs. 22% and 17%). But the younger generation is a political powerhouse, Dubos said. "I wouldn't say we're the most fearless, but we push boundaries," she said. "We will keep trying, and we don't stop because our voices deserve to be heard, and our voices will be heard." John Morris is white and retired. He's a Durham native. He was also wondering why the protest

looked so white and old in a city as diverse as Durham. "There are a lot of people working multiple jobs, they have kids," he said. "It's unfortunate. To some degree, this demographic right here are people who screwed it up and allowed this stuff to happen. Maybe we feel guilty about it." Morris said that the mass demonstration sends a powerful message, and he's trying to manage his own anger by being with like-minded individuals. "I don't walk up to people on the street and talk about these kinds of things because it would be awkward," he said.



COURTESY

Gov. Josh Stein outlines education priorities to crowd of educators

By Liz Bell
EDUCATIONNC

Gov. Josh Stein last week outlined his education priorities ahead of this year's short legislative session, including raising teacher compensation and adding additional school support personnel to meet students' nonacademic needs. "If we truly believe that kids are the future of this state, then we have to make the job of educating them more attractive," he said to a room of education leaders at nonprofit BEST NC's annual Education Innovation Lab meeting. Stein highlighted education items in his \$1.4 billion "critical needs budget" proposal, released earlier in March, including 5.8% average raises for teachers, funds to restore master's pay for more than 1,000 teachers and a 2.5% raise for principals.

Beginning teachers would receive a 13% pay raise in the plan. The state legislature starts its short session in April. It has not passed a new comprehensive budget since 2023. Stein's proposal says it includes "critical funding needs that cannot wait until next fiscal year." He said teacher pay raises are needed to raise student outcomes, pointing out that the state's average teacher salary ranks 48th in the nation, with its per-pupil spending ranked at 47th in the nation. Those rankings come from an analysis from the Reason Foundation using data from 2023. "Teachers drive student success," Stein said. "They are the No. 1 in-school factor of student achievement. We know this, but we have not passed a meaningful raise for our

teachers in years." Schools also need more support personnel, he said, like social workers, nurses, psychologists and nurses to meet students' nonacademic needs. Stein celebrated recent wins, including the state's highest four-year graduation rate, highest participation in Advanced Placement courses and highest scores on AP exams, and highest participation in Career and Technical Education courses. He praised the state's move to train teachers in "the science of reading," or a body of research on how students learn to read. All pre-K to fifth grade teachers completed LETRS training, a professional development program funded by the state's 2021 legislation revamping its longtime efforts to improve reading proficiency.



NC's electoral future may hinge on rural Black voters

By Bill Barrow and
Maya Sweedler
ASSOCIATED PRESS

NASHVILLE — Ricky Brinkley has lived in rural North Carolina nearly all of his 65 years, and he likes it "out in the county," past the street lights and bustle of the small towns that carpet the landscape. But the former truck driver can feel left out when elections roll around in this battleground state. "People don't come out like they should and ask you how you feel about things," Brinkley said while he manned the counter at his daughter's beauty supply store down the street from the Nashville courthouse. "You want somebody to vote, but you don't want to do nothing to get the vote. No, it don't work that way." Brinkley is among the rural Black residents who Democrats have often failed to mobilize as they try to dent Republican advantages here. It's an urgent demographic puzzle for the party, which is normally strong with Black voters but tends to fall short in rural areas. Success could help former Gov. Roy Cooper win a hotly contested U.S. Senate race this year and tilt the balance of power in Washington. It could also reshape presidential elections, providing Democrats with a wider path to the White House. "People want to look at the word 'rural' in North Carolina and equate it to the word 'white,'" said state party chair Anderson Clayton, a 28-year-old who

won her job three years ago promising to expand the party beyond cities. "In my vision of a Democratic Party, when you talk about reaching out to rural voters, you are talking about rural Black voters." The Rev. James Gaillard, a former state lawmaker who leads a large Black congregation in Rocky Mount, put it even more bluntly. "You don't win this state in Durham," Gaillard said. "You win it in the east." North Carolina is known for the university-heavy Research Triangle that includes Durham, Raleigh and Chapel Hill, along with Charlotte's banking hub. But it also includes large swaths of small towns and rural areas where Democrats have lost ground in recent decades. That's not just because of white voters realigning with Republicans. It's also because Black voters who lean Democratic don't vote as often as their urban counterparts. Those rural Black voters are concentrated east of the Triangle, extending along winding state highways through small towns, flatlands and farmland toward the Atlantic coastline. Cooper, 68, won two terms as governor and four terms as state attorney general. However, Republicans control the state courts and the legislature, and they've redrawn the congressional map to expand their advantage in the U.S. House. Donald Trump carried the state for Republicans all three times he ran for the White House. A native of rural Nash

County, Cooper already in recent months held roundtable sessions with Black farmers, business owners and civic leaders in eastern North Carolina, along with students from North Carolina A&T University, a historically Black school that draws students from across the state. His campaign promises a statewide organizing effort before November. But Gaillard wants more. The founding pastor at Word Tabernacle Church, Gaillard was among the Black state lawmakers who lost seats after Republican-led redistricting. He said regaining ground will require neighborhood-level organizing and investment from national Democrats, something he struggled to get from Kamala Harris' 2024 presidential campaign. "I couldn't get any traction," Gaillard recalled. "I begged them to bring her to Rocky Mount. I said, 'Listen, Rocky Mount is the gateway to the East. If we crack Rocky Mount, we've cracked the East.' Could not convince them to come. Two weeks later, guess who's in Rocky Mount? Donald Trump." The Harris campaign sent former President Bill Clinton to the area instead. Gaillard said Cooper needs people like him to get elected. "Roy is a great friend, and I'm gonna run my butt off to help him in every way, but I'm not banking on his coattails," Gaillard said. "I'm going to do the opposite. I'm going to grow coattails for him."

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LEGAL NOTICES

NORTH CAROLINA FORSYTH COUNTY **IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE**

OUMNIYA EL MIRAOU, Plaintiff **DISTRICT COURT DIVISION**
vs. **File # 25CVD003967-330**

RASHAD NAIM SCARBOROUGH, Defendant

NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION

TO: RASHAD NAIM SCARBOROUGH, Defendant.

TAKE NOTICE that a Civil Complaint was filed against you in the above-entitled action by Oumniya El Miraoui on June 26, 2025. The nature of the relief being sought is Absolute Divorce, pursuant to N.C.G.S. Chapter 50-6.

YOU ARE REQUIRED to file an Answer with the Clerk of Court of Forsyth County, North Carolina on or before May 1, 2026. If you fail to file an Answer within forty (40) days of the first publication of this notice, the Plaintiff will request that the Court grant an Absolute Divorce in her favor.

The Hearing for Absolute Divorce will occur virtually via WebEx on May 4, 2026 at 9:30 a.m., or as soon thereafter as the Court can hear the case. Contact the Office of the Forsyth County Clerk of Court at 336-779-6303 to request information regarding participating in the hearing via WebEx.

SHOULD YOU FAIL TO ANSWER OR APPEAR as directed herein, the Court may enter an order which grants the Plaintiff, Oumniya El Miraoui, an Absolute Divorce.

This the 18th day of March, 2026.

By: Lorraine M. Mortis
Attorney for the Plaintiff
102 W. Third Street, Suite 522
Winston-Salem, NC 27101

To be published in The Triangle Tribune on March 22, 2026, March 29, 2026, and April 5, 2026.



LEGAL NOTICE

Yearly HVAC Maintenance at Various Durham County Facilities

RFP No. 26-033

The County of Durham will receive sealed proposals for qualified Contractor(s) to establish contract(s) to provide preventive maintenance, inspection, and repair services For Water and Air Cooled Chillers, Cooling Towers, Condensing and Non-Condensing Boilers/Water Heaters, and a Geothermal Heat Pump system at Durham County facilities on May 7, 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.

SITE VISIT:

A SITE VISIT TOUR of the buildings and equipment will begin promptly at 8:00 A.M. Eastern Time, on April 16, 2026, starting at the location of The Durham General Services Building located at 310 South Dillard Street Durham, NC 27701.

An electronic copy of this Request for Proposal (RFP) can be obtained from Durham County's eBid System located under Bid Opportunities <https://www.dconcc.gov/county-departments/departments-f-z/finance/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.

The Voice of the Black Community

LEGAL NOTICES



LEGAL NOTICE

PAINTING & COATING FOR DURHAM COUNTY UTILITIES DIVISION

RFP No. 26-037

The County of Durham will receive sealed proposals for qualified Contractor(s) to establish a contract to provide painting and coating services for Durham County Utilities Division on April 28, 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.

An electronic copy of this Request for Proposal (RFP) can be obtained from Durham County's eBid System located under Bid Opportunities at <https://dconcc.gov/Finance/Purchasing/Bid-Opportunities>.

Proposers can download a copy of the solicitation and all addenda without registering in the system. There is no charge to register. In order to automatically receive email notifications of solicitations and addenda issued by the Purchasing Division, Proposers MUST register in the eBid system.

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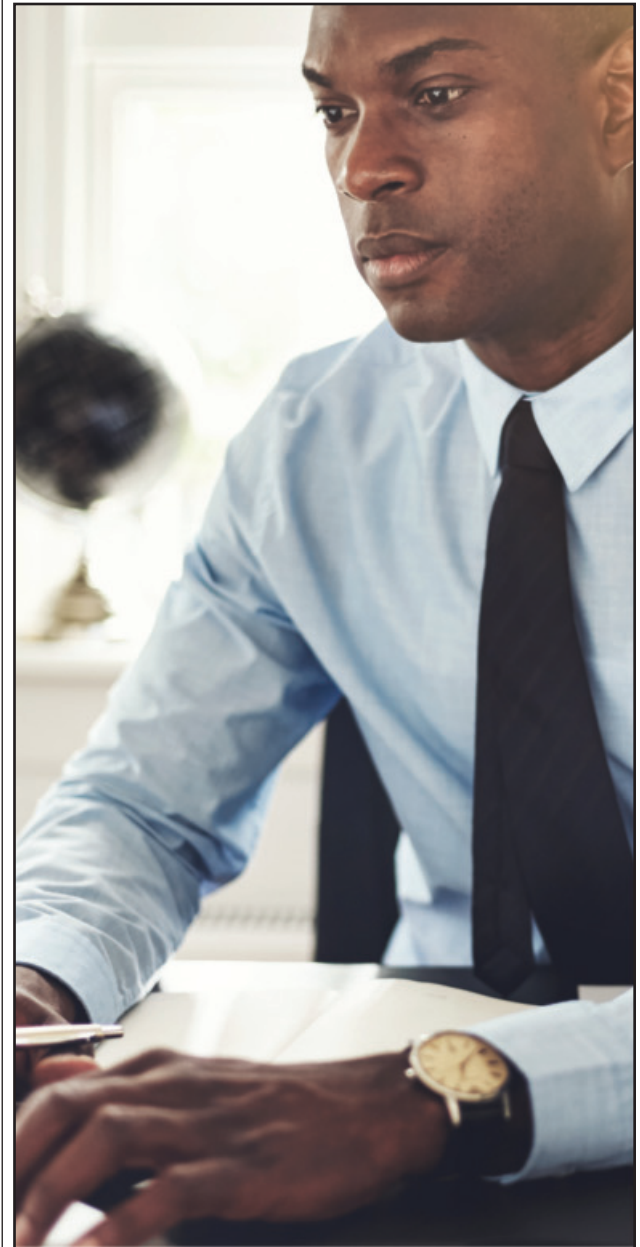
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St. Joseph AME Church gives major gift at #NCCUSunday

In February, St. Joseph AME Senior Pastor Abdue Knox issued a challenge to his congregation. When North Carolina Central Chancellor Karrie Dixon visits the church in March, he wanted to present her with a check for \$10,000. Knox is a strong advocate for HBCUs, having graduated from Shaw University. Also, St. Joseph's has had a long and close relationship with NCCU, as the two institutions are neighbors.

Knox began the challenge by contributing \$1,000. For three weeks, he reminded the congregation of the fundraising challenge. Fast forward to March 29: after Dixon gave her remarks and introduced the executive team with her, Knox did not give her a check for \$10,000 - but \$20,000!

"In spite of cuts in financial support, we all need to do what we can to ensure that our HBCUs know that we support them," Knox said.



Left to right: Pastor Abdue Knox and Chancellor Karrie Dixon.

Healthy habits can stack up one step at a time

FEATURES IMPACT

Despite the best of intentions, it's common for plans to build healthier habits to fall flat. Often, the culprit isn't a lack of motivation or discipline; rather, it's unrealistic expectations.

Overhauling your lifestyle requires a level of commitment that isn't always practical. Understanding your personal health needs and the challenges you need to overcome can help give you a more realistic roadmap toward better health.

Every plan needs a starting point and there are many reputable sources that can help guide you toward a plan that addresses your personal health needs. For example, the American Heart Association introduced My Life Check, a simple, free tool to help individuals understand their heart health and what's driving it. Users answer simple questions about their daily habits and health factors to get a personalized Heart Health Score in minutes.

The results are private

and downloadable, giving you full control of your information. The tool turns big goals into small, specific actions you can start right away. Knowing your numbers relative to your heart health (and where you are in comparison to target ranges for optimal health) can help you decide how to build a better map to get you where you want to be.

While the report is customized to each individual, no personal data is stored and answers are only used to calculate health scores and provide personalized recommendations and practical steps to improve your health, so you can use your results to focus on what matters most to you. Every small step you take, such as moving more, eating smarter, sleeping better or managing stress, can add up over time.

Once you're armed with data and know where you stand on your heart health numbers, small steps become clearer and more manageable. That knowledge makes it easier to choose one area to focus on, such as getting more

sleep, taking daily walks or adding more color to your meals.

Healthy changes don't need to be expensive or complicated. The best habits are ones that fit real life when every action you take moves you closer to your goals.

Staying motivated and on track is also easier when you can check back in, see your progress and realize the steps you're taking are making an impact. Checking in every few months to see how you can grow gives you the chance to celebrate your progress, learn from challenges and keep building lasting habits that feel good.

To get started with personalized tips to set your own health goals, visit heart.org/mylifecheck.



AROUND THE TRIANGLE

RALEIGH REOPENING

Pullen Park Amusement rides, attractions, playgrounds and amenities reopened on April 1.

TEENS

Teen Spring Kickback for current high school students is April 6, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Urban Air Raleigh, 7810 Poyner Pond Circle. Register: wake.gov/teen-summit.

DIVINE9

Divine9 NC Legislative Day is April 8 with keynote speaker Jesse Jackson Jr. Register: Divine9Votes.org.

CEREMONY

Miller-Motte College ribbon cutting ceremony is April 10, noon, 3901 Capital Boulevard, Suite 151. RSVP: www.miller-motte.edu.

FESTIVAL

Beyond The Book Children's Book & Art Festival is April 11, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Fred Fletcher Park, 820 Clay St.

POETRY

A Walk with Poetry at

Shelley Lake Park is April 11, noon to 5 p.m., Millbrook Road.

FAIR

Community Health Fair is April 11, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., SE Raleigh YMCA, 1436 Rock Quarry Road.

TRUNKSHOW

Trunkshow's 2026 Spring Vintage Spectacular is April 12, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., 1526 Wake Forest Road.

BBQ POP-UP

Vegan BBQ Pop-Up is April 13, 5-8 p.m., Trophy Brewing Co. & Taproom, 656 Maywood Avenue.

JOBS

Salvation Army is hosting a job fair April 13, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., 1863 Capital Boulevard.

RESTORATION

Help with driver's license restoration is April 13, 10 a.m. to noon, NC Works/CSI, 1830-B Tillery Place. Visit www.communitysuccess.org.

DURHAM FESTIVAL

Running Bull Film Festival showcasing student filmmakers is April 7, 7 p.m., Carolina Theatre of Durham, 309 W. Morgan St. Tickets: <https://carolina-theatre.org>.

GARDENS

The Garden Gateway project at Sarah P. Gardens at Duke University will reopen to the public April 8 after a year of renovations.

NCCU EAGLES

Eagles in the Park meet-up is April 9, 4-8 p.m., Boxyard RTP, 900 Park Offices Drive. RSVP: host.nxt.blackbaud.com.

SALE

Durham Arts Council's "yART Sale" is a treasure-hunt style yard sale, April 11, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Durham Art Guild, 120 Morris St.

CHAPEL HILL

Orange County will host its first End of Life Options Expo April 11, noon to 3 p.m., Seymour Center, 2551 Homestead Road. Register: 919-968-2070.

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Women & Wealth: Tips for navigating your lifelong financial journey

SPONSORED BY J.P. MORGAN WEALTH MANAGEMENT

We are in the midst of a seismic shift in wealth. This phenomenon, often referred to as the "Great Wealth Transfer," describes the unprecedented movement of assets from the Baby Boomer generation to their heirs - an estimated \$105 trillion by 2048. And women are poised to inherit most of this.

J.P. Morgan Wealth Management's 2025 Investor Study found that women are not only set to receive significant wealth - they're actively working to build it on their own. Ninety-three percent of women surveyed who are expecting an inheritance aren't relying on it to reach their goals.

Here are a few tips for women to consider in their wealth-building journey.

Create a financial roadmap

A detailed, well thought out plan is important. J.P. Morgan's study found that 90% of those surveyed with a plan feel confident about reaching their financial goals, compared to 49% without one.

Your plan should reflect your unique goals, priorities and circumstances. Consider your investment horizon and risk tolerance, and remember to revisit your plan regularly as life evolves.

Are you saving up for goals like buying a house, sending your kids off to college or retiring early? Where do you want to be in the next five, ten or twenty years? Everyone's financial situation is unique, so it's important to think about these questions and build a plan that is unique to your life.

Women tend to live longer than men on average. Many take career breaks or care for family members, which can influence long-term planning. It's important to adjust your strategy with these factors in mind.

Where to start with investing

Don't let misconceptions hold you back. Starting to invest doesn't require a large sum, and beginning early can be beneficial. The earlier you start, the more time your money has to potentially grow over the years. Understand your overall financial situation, set clear goals and develop a long-term plan.

It's important to also make sure you're covered for unexpected expenses that come up before you start to invest. Build up a cash emergency fund, typically enough to cover three to six months of expenses, and pay down any high-interest debt.

Taking charge of your finances

The good news is that women are taking charge of their finances. J.P. Morgan's research found that 75% of women respondents make financial decisions with their partner or take the lead themselves. For those who have a spouse or partner, it's important for each person in the relationship to play an active role in the process.

Building wealth can be empowering for many women. The same survey found that 73% of women respondents said money gives them "security," while 64% of Gen Z and Millennial women associated it with "freedom."

The power of having a team

Some people find it helpful to work with a financial advisor, so you don't have to tackle things alone. An advisor can help you craft a plan tailored to your needs and keep you on track throughout your lifelong financial journey. If you expect to receive an inheritance, you should also consult with estate planning and tax professionals.

No matter where you are on your wealth-building path, education is key. It's so important to be an informed investor,

and there are plenty of resources out there to help. You can find a library of free educational resources at chase.com/theknow.

As the landscape of wealth continues to evolve, women have a unique opportunity to shape their financial futures and those of generations to come. By staying informed and planning ahead, women have the tools to help them confidently navigate the Great Wealth Transfer and set themselves up for financial freedom.

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Roulette wheel turns for HBCU coaches

After last year's 12 HBCU basketball coaching vacancies, I thought it couldn't be topped. But it has.

As of April 1, athletic directors were looking for 14 new head coaches.

Now, a couple immediately assigned interim head coaches, but the job is still technically open until the tag is removed.

But what's even bigger news than the 14 is the recruitment of two - possibly three - SWAC coaches by top-tier schools.

Alabama State coach Tony Madlock was recruited away by Memphis coach Penny Hardaway.

Not only are the two friends and former teammates, Madlock raised his stock tremendously after leading the Hornets to a SWAC Tournament championship and a First Four win - a first in program history.

"Coach Madlock did a commendable job leading our men's basketball program," director of athletics Jason Cable said. "In just three seasons, he transformed the program into a 20-win team, a SWAC champion and a history-making NCAA Tournament team."

Kentucky came calling for Jackson State coach Mo Williams to join head coach Mark Pope's staff. Williams compiled a 47-25 conference record in four seasons. Again, he and Pope are well acquainted. JSU associate head coach Trey Johnson was named interim.

Several HBCU media reports had Texas Southern coach Johnny Jones headed to LSU under new coach Will Wade. Jones denied the rumor a day later but admitted on ClutchPoints that he was in "discussions" with LSU.

Madlock's and Williams' recruitment raised many eyebrows, but coaching is a small world. Relationships are developed as early as Pee wee ball sometimes and definitely during AAU ball. People go different routes for various reasons, but the relationships are still there.

And just like coaches will follow a recruit's collegiate career, in case things don't work out, coaches follow the success of their peers. They know a good coach when they see one, no matter what level they're coaching on.

Last one hired turn out the lights

Mississippi Valley State coach George Ivory was fired by his alma mater on Tuesday. That had to hurt. MVSU didn't win more than five total games in Ivory's four seasons.

Every time the Delta Devils hire a football or basketball coach, I want to send him or her a sympathy card. You can't win without scholarship money. The marching band performed at Trump's inauguration. What, no school donations from the MAGA folks?

Bethune-Cookman fired women's coach Janell Crayton-Del Rosario after five seasons and a 48-101 record. George Mason associate head coach Demetria Frank was hired on Wednesday.

It's a full circle for Frank who coached under former B-CU head coach Vanessa Blair-Lewis and then followed her to George Mason. Now, she's back in charge of the Wildcats program.

The CIAA and SIAA both have four openings in their respective conferences.

Bowie State made associate head coach Bryan Wilson interim coach, and Wykevin Bazmore is acting head coach at Shaw. That leaves the women's jobs at Shaw and Lincoln (Pa.), and Winston-Salem State men. Whoever is hired by the Rams have a tough act to follow

Please see **WHEEL/7A**

The Triangle Tribune Sports

April 5-11, 2026 | 6A

Firebirds Swim Team

The Firebirds Swim Team recently competed at a swim meet in Chapel Hill. Several swimmers set personal records.



New Team Record
Asa Bloomfield
13-14 Mens 50 Y Freestyle: 27.33

Asa Bloomfield
13-14 Men's 50 Y Freestyle
13-14 Men's 100 Y Breaststroke
13-14 Men's 100 Y Backstroke



New Team Record
Lydia Bloomfield
11-12 Girls 50 Y Butterfly: 34.95

Lydia Bloomfield
11-12 Girls 50 Y Butterfly
11-12 Girls 50 Y Freestyle



New Team Record
Christian Carless
15-16 Mens 200 Y Freestyle: 2:22.16

Christian Carless
15-16 Men's 200 Y Freestyle
15-16 Men's 100 Y Backstroke

FACEBOOK



New Team Record
Taylor McFarlane
9-10 Girls 50 Y Freestyle: 38.65

Taylor McFarlane
9-10 Girls 50 Y Freestyle
9-10 Girls 100 Y Breaststroke
9-10 Girls 100 Y Individual Medley



New Team Record
Amaya Durandis
9-10 Girls 100 Y Backstroke: 2:02.75

Amaya Durandis
9-10 Girls 100 Y Backstroke



New Team Record
Zoe Ampy
13-14 Womens 50 Y Butterfly: 58.76

Zoe Ampy
13-14 Women's 50 Y Butterfly

COLLEGE CORNER

Shaw men's tennis back on track

Baseball is back in the CIAA. The conference is hosting a CIAA Baseball Series Championship on Virginia State's campus May 5-8.

Four teams will compete: the Trojans, Bluefield State, Lincoln (Pa.) and Claflin. B-U-T any team that wins its conference tournament will not compete in the event.

Since the CIAA doesn't officially sponsor baseball again, the four participate in other conferences for baseball only. Claflin competes in the Peach Belt, Lincoln in the Central Atlantic Collegiate Conference, Bluefield State is an independent and Virginia State competes in the U.S. Collegiate Athletic Association.

WOMEN
N.C. Central
Cailynn Winford and Mya

Smith were named NEC Women's Golf Prime Performers for leading the Eagles to a respectable fourth-place finish at the Kingsmill Intercollegiate Invitational. Fifteen teams competed. Both players finished in the top 20 out of 92 golfers.

In softball, the Eagles continue their homestand with a doubleheader against Howard this weekend and Delaware State next weekend. All games will be played at Thomas Brooks Park in Cary.

In tennis, the ladies are on a three-match win streak as they prepare to meet defending champion South Carolina State Monday at Cary Tennis Park. Then it's a trip to Norfolk State April 9 before Senior Day April 11 against Shaw.



COURTESY

Shaw men's tennis team

Shaw Softball won two games at last weekend's CIAA Round-Up at Walnut Creek, defeating Elizabeth City State and Bluefield State.

The team returns to the field

April 11 at Knightdale Community Park for a doubleheader against Livingstone.

Please see **SHAW/7A**

Holt Brothers Foundation wraps up annual cancer fundraiser

Ultimate Gameday raises funds for families facing a parent's cancer diagnosis

STAFF REPORTS

RALEIGH — The Holt Brothers Foundation held its Ninth Annual Ultimate Gameday at North Carolina State University's football practice facilities. The event brought together 2,500 participants and attendees across three competitive formats: 19 corporate and community teams in flag football, 14 teams in the newly launched Gameday Challenge Tailgate Games and 16 tailgate teams competing in a decades theme competition.

All proceeds benefit families navigating a parent's cancer dia-

gnosis, which has been the Foundation's focus since its founding by former NFL brothers Torry and Terrence Holt.

"At the heart of Ultimate Gameday is community," executive director Liz McLean said. "This weekend proved that when we come together, we create moments of joy, connection and real support for families facing cancer."

This year's celebrity coaches included Cliff Crosby, Madison Plummer, Jennifer King, Lori Lo-



COURTESY

Please see **HOLT/7A**

Participants in the Ultimate Gameday fundraiser



Left to right: Mya Smith and Cailynn Winford

Shaw men's tennis team is back to winning ways

Continued from page 6A

Benedict
The Tigers defeated Bowie State, 66-62, in the Black College Invitational Championship on Virginia State's campus. Benedict's Raven Johnson recorded a double-double of 21 points and 13 rebounds.

Albany State
Todd Triplett had the interim tag removed and is now the permanent head basketball coach for the Golden Rams. He led ASU to its first winning season since 2017-18.

MEN
N.C. Central
Guard Dionte Johnson will participate in the HBCU All-Star Game April 5 in Indianapolis. The game is part of the NCAA Final Four weekend.

Twenty-four Division I and II players will complete on two teams: Team Sam Jones and Team Bob Dandridge. And if CC has to tell you who they are, go to the nearest mirror and slap yourself. **HARD!**
In tennis, the men had

their five match win streak broken by Longwood but jumped right back on the winning horse with back-to-back wins over Morgan State and Coppin State. They also take on the MEAC defending champs S.C. State on Monday, N.C. A&T on Thursday and Norfolk State next Saturday at Cary Tennis Park. Those should be some fun matches.

Shaw
Tennis (4-2) is having a productive season so far. The Bears have won three straight matches against Frostburg State and Virginia State twice.

The CIAA doesn't sponsor men's tennis anymore, so Shaw plays as an independent. The team earned an at-large bid to the Atlantic Region Tournament last season.

Virginia State
The Trojans got revenge over their loss to Bluefield State in the CIAA Tournament semifinal. VSU rallied in the second half to defeat Big Blue, 69-66, in the BCIC last weekend. Jacob Cooper scored a

game-high 29 points. It's not a CIAA championship, but all coaches want to win, especially when the event is on their campus. The HBCU basketball season is officially over.

Albany State
On the men's side, Rodney Mayes was named head basketball coach this week. Mayes was head coach at Lyon College, a Division III institution.

Bowie State
Associate head coach Bryan Wilson was named interim head coach this week, replacing Darrell Brooks who retired after the season.

Coaching vacancies
Alabama State
Allen (W)
Bowie State
Edward Waters
Florida Memorial
Jackson State
Kentucky State
Lane College
Lincoln Pa. (W)
NCCU (W)
Shaw (W/M)
Winston-Salem State
Mississippi Valley State



COURTESY

Holt Brothers Foundation hosts annual fundraiser

Continued from page 6A

cust, Dante Hall, Corey Chavous and Delanie Walker. The Gameday Challenge Tailgate Games made its debut this year, featuring seven interactive stations that brought a new competitive layer to the event and drove increased team participation throughout the day. Funds raised support the Holt Brothers Foundation's programs, which provide connection, resources and meaningful experiences for families facing a parent's cancer diagnosis. The Foundation has supported more than 1,500 kids over the past 25 years. To learn more or donate, visit www.holtbrothersfoundation.org.

SPORTS SHORTS

RALEIGH
* Volunteers are needed for Wake County Senior Games, March 27 to May 19. Visit www.wcsenior-games.com/volunteer.

DURHAM
* Long Ball Durham Triple Play will celebrate its

17th season in May. Volunteers needed for coaching, announcing games, scoreboard operators and anthem singers. Contact: Pat James at 919-236-3101.

* BallHers Choice Sports, a women's flag football league, has several upcoming tournaments, including

its spring eight-women flag league, and a new girls high school league in Raleigh. Learn more at info@ballherschoicesports.com.

Send your sports announcements, photos to: info@triangletribune.com.

Roulette wheel for coaches

Continued from page 6A

after the season the women had. Folks say they don't compare programs within a department, but they do.

Surprisingly, Shaw didn't name an interim women's coach. Was it because the Bears played so bad late in the season that everybody

had to go? And 30 miles up the road, all eyes are on Fayetteville Street in Durham. Women's basketball hasn't had a decent coach since Joli Robinson during NCCU's CIAA days.

The Triangle is too great an area and NCCU is too good of a university not to

have a championship-caliber women's program.

Dang, Maryland Eastern Shore, which probably couldn't beat Southern High School a couple of years ago, was in the WNIT.

C'mon now. There's no excuse.

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North Carolina Central women celebrate winning the CIAA Tournament in 2007 under coach Joli Robinson. The Eagles were a Division II member.

KEMET BLACK POETS

Hi Everyone, Since April is the month that honors Poetry, let us consider the works of Black Poets. Black poets' work provides rich insights, brilliant writing, and essential stories. Their poems inspire us to reflect, resist, and understand Black history. Let's meet a few of the most notable as well as lesser known Black Poets.

WHAT IS POETRY?
Poetry is not fiction or nonfiction but it is its own genre that focuses on rhythm and a certain number of syllables, lines, or stanzas. Poetry is a type of literature that conveys a thought, describes a scene or tells a story. Poems can be structured or they can be freeform.

TYPES OF POETRY
Put a circle around all of the types you know. How many did you circle? _____ If you know at least 10, that is "Poetic". Research one type you would like to know more about.

Free Verse, Kenning, Calligram, Cinquain, Limerick, Ballad, Ode, Tanka, Diamante, Acrostic, Sonnet, Haiku, Epic, Villanelle, Elegy, Couplet, Epitaph, Pantoum, Epigram, Sestina

WHO ARE THE POETS?
Black Poets are known to speak to us from their hearts, their experiences, their communities, and the world around them. They often speak words that inspire us, that causes us to feel and reflect.

Some well-known poets are Langston Hughes, Gwendolyn Brooks, June Jordan, Maya Angelou, Phillis Wheatley, Amanda Gorman, Nikki Giovanni, Sonia Sanchez, Paul Lawrence Dunbar, Reginald Dwayne Betts, Countee Cullen, Aretha Rodney, Daniela Gonyoe, and Pe'leah Raighn-Kem Jackson. And in 2023, Sharmont Influence-Little was named New Haven, Connecticut's first-ever poet laureate at the Elm City LIT Festival.

NOTABLE BLACK POETS - LET'S SNAP IT UP!!

Phillis Wheatley
She was the first African American to write a book. The Wheatley family taught her to read and write English, and encouraged her to write poetry. Her book of poetry was published in 1773. It was called Poems on Various Subjects, Religious and Moral. This book made Phillis famous in England and the thirteen colonies. In 1775, Phillis wrote a poem for George Washington, who praised her work. It was titled, To His Excellency, General Washington.

Amanda S. C. Gorman
She is an American poet and activist. Her work focuses on issues of oppression, feminism, race, and marginalization, as well as the African diaspora. She was the first person to be named National Youth Poet Laureate. She read her poem "The Hill We Climb" at the inauguration of Joe Biden on January 20, 2021. She told book critic Ron Charles, "My hope is that my poem will represent a moment of unity for our country" and "with my words, I'll be able to speak to a new chapter and era for our nation."

Nikki Giovanni
She is a world-renowned poet, is known for being both outspoken and honest. Her work has been viewed as controversial, lyrical, empowering, and personal. Her work includes poetry anthologies, poetry recordings, and nonfiction essays. Her poetry has been praised for its ability to capture the experiences and struggles of Black Americans, and she has used her platform to advocate for social justice and equality. Her collections of poems about Black consciousness include: Black Feeling, Black Talk, Black Judgement, and Re: Creation. Giovanni's experiences as a single mother also influenced her poetry. Spin a Soft Black Song, Ego-Tripping, and Vacation Time were collections of poems for children.

Maya Angelou
She was an American author, poet, and professor. She also worked as a journalist, actress, and civil rights activist, using her voice and platform to speak out against injustice and inequality. She was best known for her poetry and several books based on her life, especially I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings. Throughout her life, she published many other autobiographies and collections of poetry, as well as children's books. In 1993, Maya Angelou recited her poem "On the Pulse of Morning" at President Bill Clinton's inauguration. In 2011 President Barack Obama gave Angelou the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

Langston Hughes
He was an important figure of the Harlem Renaissance. This was a period of great creativity among African American artists. Hughes wrote about the joys and sorrows of ordinary Blacks. He is known especially for his poetry, which includes: The Dream Keeper and Other Poems and The Weary Blues. In addition to poetry, Hughes also wrote novels, plays, essays, short stories, and children's books. Through his poetry, plays, and stories, Hughes helped other Black Americans to see themselves as part of a much bigger group of people.

ONE MINUTE MADNESS!
In one minute or less, match the Black Poets to their Poems.

Nikki Giovanni	"To His Excellency, General Washington"
Maya Angelou	"The Hill We Climb"
Phillis Wheatley	"Mother to Son"
Amanda Gorman	"Still I Rise"
Langston Hughes	"Ego-Tripping"

A NEW POET LAUREATE... THAT'S YOU!
Many poets write from their own experiences or social injustices. What life experience would inspire your poem? Think about it and write your first stanza here.

THAT'S A FACT!
Fill in the blanks with the correct facts on the lines.

"poetry, The Pulse of Morning", "National Youth Poet Laureate"
The Hill We Climb "book, To His Excellency, General Washington"
Spin a Soft Black Song, Ego-Tripping, Vacation Time
The joys and sorrows of ordinary Blacks

Phillis Wheatley was the first African American to write a _____, titled _____

Amanda Gorman was the first person to be named _____

The poem that Amanda Gorman read at President Biden's inauguration was _____

Name 3 of Nikki Giovanni's collection of poems for children: _____

Maya Angelou is best known for her _____ She recited _____ at President Bill Clinton's inauguration in 1993.

Langston Hughes wrote _____ during the Harlem Renaissance period.

ANSWER KEY
ONE MINUTE MADNESS!
Nikki Giovanni: "Mother to Son"
Maya Angelou: "The Hill We Climb"
Phillis Wheatley: "Still I Rise"
Amanda Gorman: "The Hill We Climb"
Langston Hughes: "Ego-Tripping"

THAT'S A FACT!
Phillis Wheatley: Poem, To His Excellency, General Washington
Amanda Gorman: National Youth Poet Laureate
Nikki Giovanni: Spin a Soft Black Song, Ego-Tripping, Vacation Time
Maya Angelou: The Pulse of Morning
Langston Hughes: The joys and sorrows of ordinary Blacks



KYLIE MARSH

One of the rental homes on Grant Street in Hayti.

DCLT opens 2 affordable rental homes in Hayti

By Kylie Marsh

kylie.marsh@triangletribune.com

DURHAM - Thanks to groundwork and advocacy by longtime residents, Historic Hayti now has two affordable rentals.

Durham Community Land Trustees unveiled the homes on Grant Street at a March 20 open house.

"Really, all of the kudos goes to the Grant Street Ladies," DCLT Executive Director Sherry Taylor told The Tribune.

The Grant Street Ladies - Brenda Bradsher, Vivian Gunn, Pam Blake, Dianne Merritt and Joanne Brown - have lived on Grant Street for generations. The five worked together to craft a 15-year plan for the neighborhood they love in partnership with BLK South and Monument of Faith

Church.

Grant Street sits at the frontier of the Durham Freeway, where Urban Renewal razed other Hayti neighborhoods.

"They remember this neighborhood as whole," Taylor said. "They advocated to the city of Durham, they found out who owned the land, they took the city manager on neighborhood walks. They wanted it to be something that the neighborhood could be proud of."

The project broke ground last summer. Now, two rental homes, a detached duplex, sit at 704 Grant Street. Both units have two bedrooms and one-bath and are available to households at 60% of the Area Median Income or below.

The Grant Street Strategic Plan is formed with several

goals: affordable and sustainable homeownership for Black Durhamites; community governance over the neighborhood; safe, accessible gathering spaces for public use; community gardens; and more.

The story of the Grant Street Ladies will soon come to screen with a documentary produced by local filmmaker Jay Reid.

Durham Community Land Trustees is one of the oldest Community Land Trusts in the country. It provides affordable housing by leasing the homes on top of land that it owns at accessible rates to low-income buyers, using what's known as a "ground lease."

Lease terms are typically 99 years, which means rates stay affordable in perpetuity.

Durham Beta Phi Chapter Mardi Gras Scholarship

The Durham Beta Phi Chapter of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity hosted its annual 49th Mardi Gras Scholarship Gala last month. The event was held at the Embassy Suites in Cary. This year's event featured a captivating Harlem Nights theme that drew an elegant, dressed crowd. Guests enjoyed a night of premier entertainment with live music by Envision. The funds raised directly support the John H. Scott Scholarship Fund as well as youth academic and enrichment programs operated in partnership with Uplift Project Inc.



COURTESY

Mardi Gras Committee

MOVERS AND SHAKERS

PUBLIC SCHOOL FORUM



Jackson

Anthony D. Jackson has been named president and chief executive officer of the Public School Forum. He assumes his

role on July 1.

Jackson has over 30 years of public education experience across rural, urban and suburban communities. He was superintendent of Chatham County Schools, and in Vance County and Nash-Rocky Mount.

Are you or someone you know a Mover and a Shaker? Drop us a line at [Movers and Shakers, c/o The Triangle Tribune, 5007 Southpark Drive, Suite 200-G, Durham, NC 27713, or email us at info@triangletribune.com](mailto:info@triangletribune.com). Photos welcome.

HBCU NEWS



COURTESY

Shaw program validated by NSA

SHAW UNIVERSITY
 Shaw University's Bachelor of Science in cyber operations program has been validated by the National Security Agency and a committee of academic peers through the 2031 academic year, affirming the program's alignment with national standards for cybersecurity education as part of the National Centers of Academic Excellence in Cyber Operations.

The validation recognizes Shaw's commitment to preparing students with advanced technical knowledge and practical skills to address growing cybersecurity challenges and help safeguard the nation's digital infrastructure.

Cybersecurity remains a critical national priority as demand for skilled professionals continues to rise across government, industry and public institutions. The program's validation confirms that Shaw's curriculum meets rigorous academic requirements to prepare graduates to protect information systems and networks.

"As cyber threats continue to evolve, the need for highly trained cybersecurity professionals has never been greater," said Syed Raza, associate professor of computer science and program coordinator for cyber operations in the Department of Computer Science. "This validation reflects the strength of our curriculum and our commitment to preparing students with the skills needed to protect critical systems and infrastructure while contributing to the nation's cybersecurity workforce."

According to the federal government's National

Cyber Strategy, strengthening the cybersecurity workforce is essential to national security. The strategy highlights the role of higher education in building a strong domestic talent pipeline.

Through programs like cyber operations, Shaw University continues to expand opportunities for students to pursue careers in technology, national security and cybersecurity. These fields are vital to protecting the nation's information infrastructure.

Learn how you can apply today by visiting www.shawu.edu/admissions.

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