



SPORTS

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COMMUNITY FOCUS

Durham pilot program allows homeowners to build ADUs.

The Triangle Tribune

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« 52 WEEKS OF BLACK BRILLIANCE »

First Black Harvard professor invents the wooden golf tee

By Brett Hoover
NYLEAGUESO

Dr. George Franklin Grant was an avid golfer, but his skill was at question.

In the 19th century, teeing it up didn't mean sticking a peg in the ground to hold the ball. At least not until Grant invented the tee itself.

Grant, born in Oswego, New York, in 1847, worked for his hometown dentist as a youngster, initially as an errand boy and eventually as an assistant in the lab.

At the age of 19, determined to make his own way in the world, Grant left Oswego for Boston, but his funds were certainly no match for his determina-

tion.

He found work as a dental assistant and, two years later, earned a spot in the new Harvard Dental School. In 1870 Grant graduated with honors, becoming just the second African-American graduate of the dental school.

The dental school hired Grant upon graduation, and he stayed for four years, specializing in his work with patients with defects on the roofs of their mouths.

Grant formed individual inserts for those with cleft palates, which greatly helped those suffering in both speaking and eating. His patented oblate palate made him a forerunner in

the field, well-known in the dental community both nationally and internationally as he left Harvard to begin his own practice.

His hobby and passion became golf in that time. He and his playing partners were among the first African-American golfers in post-Civil War America.

Grant was unhappy with the mess that came with the tee shot.

The process of teeing the ball up involved pinching moist sand to fashion a tee. Doing that 18 times a round was enough to annoy him, so he devised an invention that would forever have an impact.

On Dec. 12, 1899, he received U.S. patent No.

638,920, the world's first patent for a golf tee.

But Grant was an inventor, not a businessman, and he never marketed his golfing innovation.

He had them manufactured locally and simply gave them, by the handful, to friends and playing partners. He died of liver cancer in 1910.

Yet, because his invention reached a small audience, he was not recognized for it for several decades.

In 1991, nearly a century after his patent, the United States Golf Association finally gave Grant recognition for his contribution to the game of golf.



Miss North Carolina 2024 Carrie Everett performs during the talent competition.

Miss North Carolina 2024 dies from stomach cancer

By Bonitta Best
editor@triangletribune.com

Miss North Carolina 2024 Carrie Everett died Monday morning from stomach cancer.

Everett, 22, a North Carolina Central graduate, was the first HBCU student to win Miss North Carolina. The Seattle, Washington, native was just a sophomore when she won the crown.

Everett was diagnosed with a rare and aggressive gastric cancer called metastatic signet ring cell carcinoma last July while visiting family in Seattle.

"This is happening for a reason, and God has allowed me to use my voice to give a voice to others," Everett said about the diagnosis.

Everett also was crowned Miss

Johnston County before the Miss North Carolina pageant. She represented the state in the Miss America pageant.

Everett was the fourth Black woman to win the title since the pageant began in 1937, following Deneen Graham (1983); Alexandra Badgett (2019-2020); and Karolyn Martin (2022).

Please see **MISS/2A**

Legal suit pending against Raleigh bar

By Kylie Marsh

Kylie.marsh@triangletribune.com

RALEIGH - A Raleigh bar has fallen under heavy scrutiny following multiple accusations of assault and discrimination by security staff.

About 30 individuals have pursued a lawsuit against the Dogwood Bar & Eatery, owned

by Raleigh businessman Matthew Kenner. Due to Kenner and his business associates' ownership of several bars along the Glenwood strip, community members quoted in this article preferred to remain anonymous to protect their identity.

In a message to The Tribune, a Black U.S. Army veteran wrote that he experienced "excessive

force, threats of lethal violence, and discriminatory treatment by Matt Gordon and Dogwood Bar & Eatery, which has a history of targeting African Americans."

The veteran and his friends entered the bar in the early morning hours of Feb. 8 to celebrate his wife's birthday. The

Please see **LAWSUIT/2A**



COURTESY OF DCLT

New homeowner Jakyra is all smiles.

DCLT partners with developer on Durham townhomes

STAFF REPORTS

DURHAM - Durham Community Land Trustees has partnered with its first developer, Pulte Group, to bring affordable housing in East Durham.

Located just three miles from the Brier Creek Shopping Center, Everton Townhomes expands access to new construction homeownership in close proximity to major employment centers in Durham, Research Triangle Park and Raleigh.

Two years ago, Pulte Group contacted DCLT to discuss a common interest — homeownership. Representatives from Pulte and DCLT met regularly to understand the needs of both teams.

Everton is a market-rate 306-unit townhome subdivision with units still under construction. Ten units were offered to DCLT for inclusion in the land trust model of homeownership. Ten more households will get the opportunity of home and the opportunity to be rooted in Durham. Each townhome is sold to eligible homebuyers at 80% Area Median Income or below.

DCLT closed on three new townhomes just before Christmas. Jakyra (last name withheld), a DCLT rental resident, signed a purchase contract to become the first buyer of a DCLT Everton townhome.

Jaykra's journey to homeownership reflects the very heart of DCLT's mission. "Before connecting with DCLT, I thought homeownership would happen much later in my life," she shared. "It didn't seem like something that was possible anytime soon."

That perspective changed with a single conversation. After learning about DCLT through an employee who shared how the program supports individuals in accessing affordable housing, Jakyra began to see a new path forward, one that felt achievable. Jakyra moved on that feeling and reached out to DCLT and learned more about the process.

Encouraged, she took the leap and applied. "At closing, when I signed the final paperwork, it became real; the house is officially mine!" she said. "Walking into my home for the first time as the owner felt exciting and emotional. It represents a new chapter and my future."

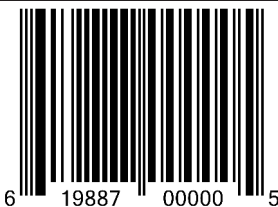
DCLT is actively working to expand its homeownership opportunities by purchasing land and developing new housing that will grow its portfolio from 63 homeowners to more than 200.

Please see **DCLT/2A**

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5007 Southpark Drive,
Suite 200-G
Durham, NC 27713
(919) 688-9408
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Publisher: Gerald O. Johnson
Managing Editor/Sports Editor: Bonitta Best
Advertising: Linda Johnson
info@triangletribune.com
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Miss North Carolina 2024 dies of stomach cancer

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"When I registered to compete this year, I only had \$40 in my pocket," Everett said. "That is the reality of many young women in this country. I believe in the Miss America Opportunity, what it has done and what it continues to do for young women like me. With this title, I am empowered and ready to facilitate a new culture of equity within this brand."

North Carolina Central issued a statement on Monday.

"A native of Seattle, Washington, Carrie will be remembered as a trailblazer who shared her inspirational talent and leadership with so many. ...Her platform, 'We Need Equity to Build Communities,' sought to make pageants more accessible to young people. Her work to recruit young women

who may not consider pageants due to the expensive entry fees and wardrobes was commendable. Carrie selected NCCU because of the university's music program, she enjoyed singing gospel music, and regularly graced NCCU occasions with her beautiful singing voice. Her ambition, grace, tenacity and talent will be deeply missed."



COURTESY OF DCLT

Everton Townhomes

DCLT partnership with developers on housing

Continued from page 1A

Partnerships with entities like Pulte Group play a critical role in advancing this vision, helping the organization increase housing inventory while ensuring that new homes remain accessible to working families. Whether through new construction or the rehabilitation of existing homes, every DCLT property is delivered with brand-new appliances backed by a warranty, giving homeowners added confidence and stability as they begin their journey.

Jakyrá's journey is a message to others in the Durham community: don't count yourself out.

"My advice would be not to assume it's impossible before exploring the resources available," she said. "There are programs out there that help first-time buyers with things like down payments and closing costs."



YELP

The inside of Dogwood Bar & Eatery on Glenwood Avenue

Legal suit pending against Raleigh bar for brutality

Continued from page 1A

group was deciding whether they wanted to stay or go to the establishment next door.

The party had a "Soulja Boi" theme, and some of their group was dressed in theme, while others were not, he told The Tribune. "They saw my wife made a Soulja Boi birthday sign, so they understood, and they kept the sign at the front with the other bouncers," he said.

After the group decided to leave for the bar next door, he noticed his wife was not with them. "I went back out to talk to my wife and see what was the holdup, because she was right behind me," he said. His wife told him one of the bouncers said they had to leave because someone in their group was wearing a durag.

The group decided to leave anyway, so when the veteran, who was not dressed in "Soulja Boi" theme, proceeded to retrieve another friend from the bar, a bouncer told him he had to leave, too. "I said, 'why do I have to leave?' and he smirked," he told The Tribune.

That bouncer, whom the veteran identified as Matthew Bounds Gordon, is owner of the security company Staff Secure NC, LLC. Another security guard approached the two and asked Gordon if everything was OK.

"When the second security guard came out and asked Matt 'was he good?' Matt immediately puts me in a chokehold, and then whispered in my ear, 'if you resist, I'm going to make you pass out.' Those were his exact words."

Multiple security guards approached, whom the veteran noted were Black men, tried to talk Gordon down. "I had my hands up the entire time while he continued to apply pressure, really trying to pass me out," the veteran said. A police officer intervened and escorted the veteran off the premises. The veteran asked the officer what was going on.

"...And basically, his words was, 'yeah, this

place has a reputation for doing this. Stay away.'"

On March 3, a post encouraging anyone who has suffered wrongdoing to file complaints with the North Carolina Department of Public Safety's Private Protective Services Board appeared on the Raleigh Downtown Community Facebook page. The post has since gained 347 comments. The PPSB website states that the "the complaint process from start to finish typically takes three to six months."

The creator of the post, who also requested anonymity, said two of her Black male friends were jumped by security at Dogwood and sent to WakeMed with concussions. One of the men had three fingers broken and one dislocated. "I was really angry, and I was like, something has to be done about this, because this is not normal, and if it's happening to them, it's got to be happening to somebody else," she told The Tribune in an email.

After reading Google reviews for the bar, she saw the bevy of other negative allegations of similar conduct by security staff. The woman said filing police reports for the incident was "like pulling teeth."

"The police just, they were giving them a really hard time," she said. "They tried calling them, and the police were hanging up in their face about it." The woman, who is from Raleigh, told The Tribune that the Black-owned businesses that were once on Glenwood have all since disappeared. "I think it's just racism. I don't even know how else to explain it. It's the security company, the owner of the company. I think that he is racist, and he allows racism in all of his establishments," she said.

Staff Secure NC is registered to an address in the South Park neighborhood of Charlotte. Gordon, a registered agent of the company, has a record of simple assault charges in Wake County dating back to 2004, though they were disposed.

Yelp and Google Reviews

also allege sexual assaults, physical assaults and racial discrimination in addition to the comments on the Facebook page. Other community members began sending the veteran footage of assaults from security at Dogwood, which he provided to The Tribune. Others speculate that the security company is employed at many other establishments along the Glenwood strip, displaying the same conduct.

At press time, Dogwood Bar and Eatery had not responded to email, Instagram or Facebook messages from The Tribune.

Dogwood Raleigh, LLC's registered agent is identified as Matthew Kenner, whose address is listed in Charleston, South Carolina. He is the agent of many other companies with Glenwood Avenue addresses, as well as hospitality, Asian cuisine and a THC-infused energy drink enterprise, along with associate Daniel Lovenheim.

Lovenheim's companies include a gym, a plumbing contractor, a real estate holding company and multiple bars.

Others allege that the general manager of the bar, identified as Khalil Mahmoud Alnajjar, has been fired since the establishment has come under more scrutiny. Documents in Wake County list Alnajjar by an alias: Hazem Abuqalbain.

"The Raleigh Police Department, they have basically been extremely useless," the veteran said. A group of at least 30 individuals have come forward and are working with an attorney to sue Dogwood.

"What we have found out is a lot of those bouncers are previous police officers and firefighters, and they know each other, so that's why they're not helping with this situation," he said.

"They need to go to jail. That's justice. You're assaulting individuals, and it continuously gets swept under the rug. Dogwood needs to pay restitution for all of the individuals that have been assaulted."



AHMED JALLOW/NC NEWSLINE

Bryan Proffitt, a high school history teacher and vice president of the North Carolina Association of Educators, speaks at a Raleigh news conference.

Partisan lines divide NC leaders on Leandro decision

By Ahmed Jallow

NC NEWSLINE

Democratic leaders and education advocates blasted the North Carolina Supreme Court last week after it voided years of rulings in the long-running Leandro education case, but conservatives and Republicans applauded the reversal in the long-running case.

The 4-3 decision didn't void the initial Leandro ruling that the North Carolina Constitution grants all students the right to a sound basic education. But it did rule that control of school funding lies not with the courts but with the Republican-led legislature, which Gov. Josh Stein said is responsible for the state's 49th rank in per-pupil spending.

"The Supreme Court simply ignored its own established precedent, enabling the General Assembly to continue to deprive another generation of North Carolina students of the education promised by our Constitution," Stein said in a statement.

House Democratic Leader Robert Reives, D-Chatham, also condemned the ruling as partisan. "For three decades, Republican and Democratic judges recognized and attempted to enforce the right to a sound basic education. Today, four Republican justices nullified that constitutional right. The children of our state deserve better," he said.

The North Carolina Association of Educators called the ruling a "moral failure." President Tamika Walker Kelly said thousands of students continue to attend overcrowded class-

rooms in deteriorating buildings and announced a May 1 protest in Raleigh.

Conservative groups welcomed the ruling as a restoration of legislative authority over budgets. Donald Bryson, CEO of the John Locke Foundation, said judges should not dictate the state budget.

"Budgets must be written by elected representatives who are accountable to the people, not by litigants who lost at the ballot box and went fishing for a judicial bailout," he said. Judges and justices in North Carolina are also elected.

Senate Leader Phil Berger, R-Rockingham, praised the decision, saying it reaffirms the legislature's authority. "For decades, liberal education special interests have improperly tried to hijack North Carolina's constitutional funding process in order to impose their policy preferences via judicial fiat," he said. "Today's decision confirms that the proper pathway for policymaking is the legislative process."

The Leandro case dates back to 1994, when five low-wealth, rural counties sued the state over inadequate school funding. In 1997, the North Carolina Supreme Court ruled that the state was violating students' constitutional right to a sound, basic education, a decision that has been upheld multiple times since.

In subsequent years, lower courts and state officials wrestled with how to meet that standard.

A 2002 trial judge ordered the state to provide enough funding for well-prepared principals and teachers, adequate school

resources and pre-kindergarten for at-risk students. The Supreme Court affirmed much of that ruling in 2004, though it said pre-kindergarten could not be mandated because state law does not require school until age 7.

State legislators have for decades resisted the spending increases court decisions have called for. Democrats controlled the legislature until 2011 but did not provide the funding needed to solve the problem. In 2018, the state and plaintiffs agreed to hire outside consultants WestEd and the Learning Policy Institute to evaluate how North Carolina could improve education. Their findings formed the basis of the Leandro Plan, a multi-year roadmap for investment in teachers, early childhood education and other resources.

The plan, estimated to cost \$5.6 billion, was never fully adopted by the legislature, even after it was scaled back by a subsequent judge to \$678 million.

In 2022, the court ordered state officials to release the funds anyway, prompting legal challenges from Republican legislative leaders who argued that the court has no constitutional authority to control the state budget.

WakeEd Partnership President Keith Poston called the ruling "disappointing but not surprising."

He said the court focused on procedure rather than addressing whether the state is meeting its education obligations.

"What hasn't changed is what students and teachers need," he said.

Democratic states sue Trump over mail-in ballot order

By Jonathan Shorman
STATES NEWSROOM

President Donald Trump's executive order restricting mail ballots faced a fresh challenge last week, as a coalition of Democratic states filed a lawsuit seeking to block an order that experts say is an extraordinary attempt by the president to assert authority over elections.

More than 20 states — led by California, Massachusetts, Nevada and Washington — and the District of Columbia sued in federal court in Massachusetts.

They argue the order violates the Constitution, which gives states the responsibility to run elections and allows Congress, not the president unilaterally, the power to override state regulations.

"Though the President may wish he had unlimited power to restrict voting rights, the Constitution gives states — not the White House — the authority to oversee elections," Massachusetts Attorney General Andrea Joy Campbell, a Democrat, said in a statement.

The lawsuit is only the latest in a growing number of legal challenges to the order since Trump signed it.

The Democratic National Committee, top Democrats in Congress and other Democratic groups have sued, along with the American Civil Liberties Union, League of Women Voters, the League of United Latin American Citizens and other voting rights groups.

The Trump administration has said the order is necessary to ensure the security of elections and crack down on noncitizen voting, which studies have found is extremely rare.

Trump acknowledged the order would likely face litigation when he signed it



but called it "foolproof."

"The President will do everything in his power to defend the safety and security of American elections and to ensure that only American citizens are voting in them," White House spokesperson Abigail Jackson said in a statement.

The order requires the Department of Homeland Security, with help from the Social Security Administration, to compile a list of voting-age U.S. citizens living in each state and then provide that information to state officials at least 60 days before each federal election.

The order does not tell states how to use the data, but it instructs the U.S. attorney general to prioritize investigations into state and local officials who issue federal ballots to ineligible voters.

The list of citizens will be drawn from naturalization and Social Security records, according to the order.

It will also include data from SAVE, a powerful computer program maintained by Homeland Security that verifies citizenship by checking names against information in federal databases.

The order also directs the postmaster general to require every outbound mail ballot be in an envelope that includes a tracking

barcode.

At least 90 days before a federal election, states must notify the U.S. Postal Service whether they intend to allow ballots to be sent through the mail. States would then have to submit to USPS a list of voters planning to vote by mail at least 60 days before the election.

"The expression 'a solution in search of a problem' came to mind, but this is sort of a quasi-solution in search of a hallucination," said Pamela Smith, president and CEO of Verified Voting, an organization that promotes the responsible use of technology in elections.

Under the order, the Justice Department and other federal agencies would be directed to withhold federal funds from states and localities that don't comply with federal laws.

It doesn't specify what federal funds would potentially be targeted or whether states could lose election-related dollars.

"The president's illegal executive order creates a shadow voter eligibility list within the federal government, and it threatens to coerce states into disenfranchising voters missing from those lists," Nevada Attorney General Aaron Ford said at a news conference in Las Vegas.

###

Foundation supporting mental health launches in Raleigh

By John McCann
SPECIAL TO THE TRIBUNE

RALEIGH — There are casts for broken arms and legs. Crushed souls require a different kind of mending Black people don't tend to get.

According to the 2022 National Survey on Drug Use and Health by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration — it falls under the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services — Black adults were 18% less likely to have received mental health treatment in the past year than white adults.

"If you have heart trouble, if you have a broken arm, people will tell you to go get help," so folks shouldn't be embarrassed about getting treatment for their brains, because it's just another body part, Oasis Health and Wellness Centers International CEO Bettie Murchison explained during the launch of the Dr. Gwen Keith Newsome Foundation for Mental Wellness.

The March 28 kickoff at Christian Faith Baptist Church in Southeast Raleigh included a wellness fair and Raleigh Mayor Pro Tem Stormie Forte delivering a proclamation honoring the foundation's namesake. Speaker after speaker grabbed the mic to elevate Newsome as a mental health champion.

"You guys know Gwen. She was a magnet, and people were drawn to her," said Rodney Harris, Ph.D., a licensed psychotherapist with decades of experience in behavioral health and community mental health. "She had the kind of access that takes decades to build, and the kind of presence that commands the attention the moment she enters the space."

Newsome's cachet was one thing; her compassion,



Kara Newsome and one of her sons.

though, was next level, Harris said.

"This is the thing that separates the truly great from the merely accomplished: She always stopped for me. In rooms full of important people who had more credentials and more titles, she made it her business to find the students, to find the ones still becoming," Harris said.

"Every time our paths crossed, she would go out of her way to find me. Not a wave from across the room, not a polite nod. She would stop what she was doing, cross the floor and engage me fully, intentionally, like I was the most important person in the building. ..."

That's the aim of the Newsome Foundation, outfitting the community with mental health resources in ways that encourage all people to get the help they need without stigma.

These days, more and more of those people in need are youths, Murchison said.

"We don't think about that. We don't think about the youth who are cutting themselves, who are harming themselves, who are attempting suicide because they feel like they have no

other choice. Suicide is now the second-leading cause of death for children ages 10 to 14," Murchison said.

The Newsome Foundation, based in North Carolina, will serve individuals there and also in South Carolina, Georgia and Florida, Murchison said. Black youth in Wake, Durham and Johnston counties are struggling mightily with their mental health, she said.

"They are at the highest risk — 17% of Black high school students and 36% of Black middle school students experience serious thoughts of suicide," Murchison said. "Black youth are overrepresented in suicidal attempts and emergency room visits."

That underscores the need to have systems in place that help people value themselves, said Newsome's daughter Kara, remembering her mother's legacy.

"That's what she has left with me. That's what she has left with my brother. Just for us to take that time to always know that if we're not taking care of ourselves, nothing else is gonna happen," Kara Newsome said.



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BUSINESS BRIEFS



JOB FAIR
NC Works's Spring Job Fair is April 13, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Seymour Center, 2551 Homestead Road, Chapel Hill. Must be registered with NCworks.gov.

TOUR
The final Durham Listening Tour is April 14, 6 p.m., South Regional Library, 4505 S. Alston St.

NIGHT MARKET
Cary Night Market is April 17, 5-9 p.m., Downtown Cary Park, 327 S. Academy St.


DURHAM State of Downtown

Durham is April 22, 3:30 p.m., Durham Bulls Athletic Park, 409 Blackwell St.

BEST COMPANIES
Fortune media and Great Place To Work recently named Wegmans as the fifth-best company to work for in 2026.

OPENINGS:
* Float Spa Raleigh North's grand opening is April 17 at 6520-120 Falls of Neuse Road. Visit FloatSpaRaleigh.com.

Send business briefs to info@triangletribune.com.



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COURTESY

Triangle Performance Ensemble premieres 'The Third Day'

STAFF REPORTS

DURHAM - From the producers of Black Nativity Durham, Triangle Performance Ensemble will premiere Wendell Tabb's "The Third Day," a new stage drama written by Emmanuel Tabb, Daniella Ochman and Tiffany Agerston.

Inspired by the "Passion" narratives and the resurrection of Jesus Christ, "The Third Day" is a thought-provoking production that explores faith, family and transformation. The story follows two families brought together to stage their church's annual

Easter play.

What begins as a cherished tradition evolves into a profound journey of truth, leading to a search for faith, forgiveness and the resurrection of hope.

In addition to its spiritual and emotional depth, "The Third Day" also serves as a platform for advocacy, addressing the urgent and ongoing issue of gun violence impacting communities across the nation.

Through its storytelling, the production seeks to spark meaningful dialogue, raise awareness, and inspire collective responsibility toward healing and change.

The performance dates:

* April 17 at 7:30 p.m.

* April 18 at 3 and 7:30 p.m.

* April 19 at 3 p.m.

All performances will be held at the John H. Gattis - Wendell Tabb Theater at Hillside High School, 3727 Fayetteville Street.

Tickets are available now at www.thethirddayplay.com. A discounted ticket rate is available for groups of 10 or more people. For additional information, call (919) 213-1908.

The Third Day is produced by Wendell Tabb and Xavier Cason.



Is refinancing your home a smart move for you?

STATEPOINT

Refinancing a home can be a smart move if you time it well and understand the factors involved.

Refinancing means replacing your current mortgage with a new one, and doing so will result in a new rate, term and monthly payment. While refinancing does have some upfront costs, taking this step could improve your financial situation.

Some of the best times to consider refinancing:

* When mortgage rates are lower than the rate of your current mortgage. Even small differences in mortgage rates can have a big impact on your monthly payment and the total cost of your loan.

* When your financial situation has improved, and you can secure a loan with a shorter term to build equity in your home faster.

* When your adjustable-rate mortgage is adjusting upward, and you want to convert to a fixed-rate mortgage for the security of consistent payments.

* When you've built up significant equity in your home and could use the money from a cash-out re-

finance for home improvements or to improve your financial situation. With a cash-out refinance, you're refinancing your mortgage for more than you currently owe. In return, you're getting a portion of your equity back in cash.

Although refinancing could save you money in the long and short term, it isn't free. The total cost to refinance your mortgage will be determined by your lender, credit score and location. As a general rule, you can expect to spend 3% to 6% of your loan principal on a refinance.

A quick check to see if refinancing makes financial sense for you is to calculate how long it will take to recoup the costs of the refinance. To do this, take the total cost associated with the refinance and divide it by your monthly savings. Note that this model will not work for cash-out refinances or if you are refinancing to reduce the term of your loan.

You'll also want to consider when you plan to move, and whether you're going to significantly extend your loan term. For example, if you have 20 years left on your 30-year

fixed-rate mortgage and you refinance into a 30-year fixed-rate mortgage, you've essentially extended the term of your loan and will pay more interest over the life of the loan as a result.

You should work closely with a lender to discuss options that fit your goals. You can refinance through your existing lender or a new lender. What's most important is that the lender you choose is trustworthy and offers competitive rates and terms.

To determine how much it will cost you to refinance your mortgage, and how much money you can save by doing so, lean on free online resources.

Freddie Mac's tools and refinance calculators can help you estimate payments, compare options and ultimately evaluate whether refinancing aligns with your financial goals. Visit My Home by Freddie Mac at myhome.freddie-mac.com to access these resources.

When it comes to refinancing, timing is everything. Before taking this step, ensure it's the right move for you now.

AROUND THE TRIANGLE

RALEIGH 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.

BILTMORE

Biltmore Hills Park Master Plan Update is April 14, 4-6 p.m., Biltmore Hills Community Center.

SUMMIT

Hispanic Student Education Summit 2026 is April 17, 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., NCSU McKimmon Center, 1101 Gorman St. Register: www.thencshp.org.

HEALTH FAIR

Community Health Fair is

April 18, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., 1100 N. Raleigh Boulevard.

DAY PARTY

Coleman Classic Day Party is April 18, 2-6 p.m., Westwood Raleigh, 518 Jones St. Register: www.zeffy.com.

DEMOCRACY

"The State of Our Democracy: Road to the General Election 2026" workshop is April 18, 11 a.m., New Hope Collective, 1725 New Hope Road. Register: NCBlackAlliance.org.

PLANTS

Native Plant Sale and Recycling event is April 19, 1 p.m., West Raleigh Presbyterian Church, 25 Horne St.

DURHAM VIOLENCE

Youth Leaders Against Gun Violence symposium is April 17, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., NCCU's Hubbard-Totton Building Auditorium, 105 Eagle Campus Drive. Register: bit.ly/UnmutedYouthLeaders2026.

PERIOD TALK

"Period Talk: A Guide for Dads & Allies" is April 18, 2-2:45 p.m., North Regional Library, 221 Milton Road. Register: DurhamCountyLibrary.org.

DOCUMENTARY

"Celebrating Grant Street" documentary is April 18, 3 p.m., Hayti Heritage Center, 804 Old Fayetteville St. Register: www.eventbrite.com.

FESTIVAL

Earth Day Festival is April 19, noon to 5 p.m., Durham Central Park, 501 Foster St.

FUNDRAISER

Join HOPE NC at TOP-GOLF DURHAM to support affordable housing for people with disabilities April 19, 1-5 p.m., 4901 Topgolf Way. Register: hopenorthcarolina.networkforgood.com.

CHAPEL HILL VENDORS

Vendors for Chapel Hill-Carrboro Juneteenth Celebration have until April 15 to apply. Visit: www.chapelhillarts.org.

SHRED-A-THON

Shred your documents April 18, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Eubanks Park & Ride Lot, 1768 Eubanks Road.

MISC.

QUICK PASS
NC Quick Pass Transponders on the Go are now available at all Publix locations in North Carolina.

BOOK

Black Women on the Perils and Promises of Friendship with White Women
Edited by Patrice Gopo
University Press of Kentucky, \$24.95 HC

"We tell these parts of our stories in order to heal from hurt and honor the ways we have been healing."
— Patrice Gopo, from the introduction

Can Black women have thriving friendships with white women in a society steeped in the realities of racism? Can such friendships experience the presence of genuine mutuality?

"We Deserve to Heal: Black Women on the Perils and Promises of Friendship with White Women" features essays from 10 intergenerational Black women who consider these ques-

tions through themes such as identity, belonging, rupture and freedom.

This powerful and perceptive anthology speaks honestly of the beauty and the struggles, the welcome

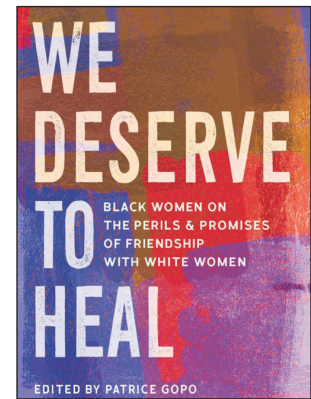
While patterns emerge, the stories revealed by each writer are vast and dynamic.

By centering Black women's voices, "We Deserve to Heal" actively cultivates authenticity, truth-telling, liberation and healing.

This collection offers validation for Black women and other women of color and also encourages greater compassion within any reader hoping to discover more.

Gopo has edited a book, rooted in relationships, that empowers those who take time with these words to challenge and expand their understanding of friendship.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:
Patricia Gopo is an award-winning essayist who lives in North Carolina.



**NCDOT HOSTING A PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE
A PROPOSAL TO REPLACE THE BRIDGES ON
FORESTVILLE ROAD OVER HARRIS CREEK AND
OVER HODGES MILL CREEK IN RALEIGH**

STIP Project No. BP5.R089/BP5.R120

RALEIGH - The N.C. Department of Transportation is hosting a public meeting to discuss the proposal to replace the bridges on Forestville Road over Harris Creek and over Hodges Mill Creek. The purpose of this meeting is to provide interested citizens with information on the project and gather public input on the proposed design.

Project details and maps can be found on NCDOT's project input website at publicinput.com/forestvillerd-bridges. The information will be available at the meeting allowing for one-on-one discussions with NCDOT staff, but there will be no formal presentation.

The meeting will be held from **4 to 7 p.m. on April 21 at Wake Cross Baptist Church, 3328 Forestville Road, in Raleigh.**

People may also submit comments by phone at **984-205-6615** project code **1863**, email forestvillerd-bridges@publicinput.com, or mail at the address shown below by **May 5, 2026**.

By Mail: Lisa Bullard-Gilchrist, EI
NCDOT Highway Division 5 – Bridge Program Manager
2612 N. Duke Street
Durham, NC 27704

NCDOT will provide auxiliary aids and services under the Americans with Disabilities Act for disabled people who wish to participate in this meeting. Anyone requiring special services should contact Tony Gallagher, Environmental Analysis Unit, at 1598 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1598, 919-707-6069 or magallagher@ncdot.gov as early as possible so arrangements can be made.

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

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

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Howard guard Bryce Harris earns sports award

Howard Sports Information



Colleg Insider.com named Howard University graduate guard Bryce Harris its recipient for the 2026 Nolan Richardson award.

The prestigious award is presented annually to a Division I player who is the heart and soul of his team and a leader on and off the court.

"Given his impact on winning, Bryce Harris is without question the best player to ever suit up for Howard basketball," said Angela Lento, vice president of College Insider, Inc. and a member of the Nolan Richardson award voting panel.

"You cannot watch a Howard game and not come away thinking he is a difference maker. It is a short list of mid-major players that have been a part of three NCAA Tournaments in four years. Bryce Harris is a winner."

This season, Harris, who was named to the BOXTOW HBCU All-American First Team, became the second straight Bison (eighth overall) to win MEAC player of the year after leading the conference in scoring (17.4 ppg) and rebounding (6.7 rpg).

Nationally, he finished the regular season among the nation's leaders in free throw attempts (52nd) and free throws made (49th).

In 2021, Harris joined HU, where he played his entire five-year collegiate career, a rare feat in the current college basketball landscape.

Bison head coach Kenneth Blakeney considers Harris the most important recruit in program history, winning three MEAC titles, earning three NCAA Tournament bids and securing the program's first NCAA Tournament win.

Harris is the first Bison since the 1980s to be part of four winning seasons at The Mecca, tallying over 1,500 career points and 700 career rebounds.

Off the court, Harris has been an involved member of the Howard University community.

In his sophomore year, he joined Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc., has been a student tour guide and actively involved with the team.

The Nolan Richardson Award is named in honor of one of the true legends of the game, becoming the only coach to win NJCCA, NIT and NCAA national championships.

After winning a junior college national championship at Western Texas College, Richardson went on to lead Tulsa to the NIT Championship in his first season at the helm. In 1994, he led Arkansas to a NCAA National Championship. His famed "40 Minutes of Hell" produced over 500 career wins.

Richardson was inducted into the College Basketball Hall of Fame (2008) and Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame (2014).

Howard looks to build on this year's success for the upcoming 2026-27 campaign.

The Triangle Tribune Sports

April 12-18, 2026 | 6A



COURTESY

Al Montgomery, middle, with Second Ward standout running backs Jimmie Kirkpatrick, left, and Andrew Watson, right, in 1964.

Second Ward had one special football season in Charlotte

Courtesy of Carolinas Sports Hub

Second Ward played in only one North Carolina football playoff game in its history.

But the Tigers make the most of it as they completed an unbeaten season with a 4A state title in 1963.

Frequently in the shadow of crosstown rival West

Charlotte, Second Ward had one of the city's most outstanding players in record-setting running back Jimmie Lee Kirkpatrick in the mid 1960s.

While West Charlotte won the popular Queen City Classic by a 16-8-1 margin, quarterback Walter Funderburk and Kirkpatrick led the Tigers to 30-12 and 58-0 victories over West Char-

lotte in 1963 and 1964, respectively, in front of the largest crowds in the history of the rivalry held annually at Charlotte's 14,000-seat Memorial Stadium from 1947-68.

Each of those contests were played in front of crowds in excess of 10,000 as Funderburk passed for 187 yards and four touchdowns in the 1963 victory

played in front of the largest crowd in Queen City Classic history of 10,115. Kirkpatrick also rushed for 126 yards and three TDs, and caught two TD passes in '64 in front of 10,019 fans.

Kirkpatrick later became more famous in local history when he transferred to

Please see **SECOND/7A**

HBCU BASKETBALL

Virginia Union coach headed to WSSU

By Bonitta Best
editor@triangletribune.com

In a shocker for the ages, Virginia Union men's basketball coach Jay Butler appears headed to Winston-Salem State per media reports.

Butler coached the Panthers for eight seasons and elevated the team back to elite status. VUU made history this season by defeating West Liberty during the regular season, a first for any CIAA team against the Hill-toppers. The Panthers turned around and did it again in the Atlantic Region Tournament.

Butler will take over a Rams team that is 12-41 overall the last two seasons. WSSU hasn't been competitive since Cleo Hill Jr. left for Maryland Eastern Shore.

WOMEN Winston-Salem State

The National Sports Media Association has named coach Tierra Terry the Clarence "Big House" Gaines College Basketball Coach of the Year. Terry will be officially honored June 29 at the Grandover Resort & Spa in Greensboro.

Bethune-Cookman Demetria Frank will be named head coach on April 1.

Charlotte
Head basketball coach Tomikia Reed has taken an indefinite leave of absence due to a medical-related issue. Reed is the former coach at Jackson State, a program she turned from a dud into championship caliber status. LaShonda Cousin, who coached under Reed at JSU, is



COURTESY

Virginia Union coach Jay Butler elevated the Panther program. the interim head coach.

**MEN
N.C. Central**
Basketball coach LeVelle Moton will be the guest speaker at a special workshop for male youth hosted by former NCCU

star player and current Enloe boys varsity coach Poobie Chapman.

Chapman has founded the Hold the Door Mentorship Program for ages 12 to 18. The in-

Please see **BUTLER/7A**

COLLEGE CORNER

NCAT athletic director stepping down

North Carolina A&T State Athletics Director Earl M. Hilton is stepping down after his contract expires on June 30. Hilton will remain in the job until a successor is hired.

Hilton was hired in 2011 and led the Aggies through four Black college football national championships, dozens of conference championships and two conference changes - from the MEAC to the Big South to the CAA.

"It has been my singular privilege to have worked with so many wonderful and talented student-athletes and the dedicated coaches and staff who support them," he said.

WOMEN N.C. Central

Melanne Sutton won two of the Eagles' six victories at the VertKlasse Meeting on High Point's campus. Sutton won the 100- and 200-meter dashes,

recording her best times in each event. Teammate Kaydence Daniels placed second in the 200m.

Kayla Johnson took first in the 800m, followed by teammate Laila Jackson in second, and Alitza Dennard won the 10,000m. The Eagles can walk down the road to Duke this weekend for the Duke Invitational.

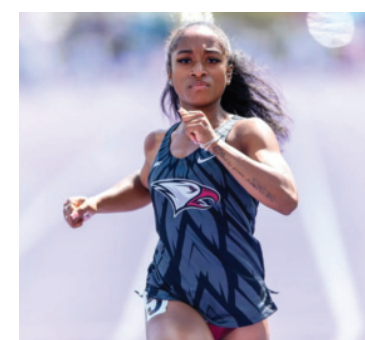
In golf, freshman Sanaa Carter tied for 26th place out of 71 participants at the North Carolina Challenge on UNC's campus. Teammate Aubree Clements wasn't far behind in 34th place. The team will compete in the NEC Championship next weekend in Ellicott City, Maryland.

In tennis, the ladies are on a five-match win streak, but the biggest victory of that five was a 5-2 win over defending champion South Carolina State. NCCU hadn't beaten SCSU since 2018. The team has two matches left

in the regular season: at Norfolk State this week and Shaw this weekend on Senior Day. The match against Hampton on April 15 was canceled.

Shaw
The tennis team had its five-match win streak broken by Mount Olive last weekend. All of the Bears' losses (6-5) are non-conference; they are still undefeated (6-0) in the CIAA. Shaw travels to NCCU this weekend before hosting rival Johnson C. Smith next Tuesday at Worthdale Park.

Lincoln (Pa.)
The CIAA selected freshman Lourraine De Luna for an internship with Team Jamaica Bickle during the 2026 Penn Relays. The soccer player and health science major was chosen from 34 applicants. De Luna will work



COURTESY

Melanne Sutton



COURTESY

Sanaa Carter

Please see **NCAT/7A**

Second Ward had special football season in Charlotte

Continued from page 6A

previously all-white Myers Park High in 1965, played collegiately at Purdue, and the legal battle that ensued when he was not selected to the 1965 Shrine Bowl.

Being omitted led to a public outcry and a lawsuit filed by civil rights attorney Julius Chambers (now the namesake of a Charlotte high school) that resulted in a judge ruling the 1965 Shrine Bowl would be played as scheduled but future Shrine Bowls would have integrated rosters.

Within days of the judge's ruling, the homes of Chambers and three other civil rights leaders were bombed in Charlotte. Police interviewed over 50 people, including Ku Klux Klan members, but the case remains unsolved.

In 1963, Kirkpatrick was a sophomore running back for a team that finished 8-0-1 after going 0-8-1 the year before under coach Al Montgomery, a

former Gastonia Highland and North Carolina Central star quarterback who was in the third year of his seven-year tenure.

After surviving a scare against a future star in another sport in the opener, a 14-all tie at defending state champion Winston-Salem Carver in the second game of the season was the only blemish on the Tigers' record.

In a 6-0 win in the opener, Funderburk's 39-year fourth-quarter TD pass to Kirkpatrick gave Second Ward a victory over visiting Asheville Stephens-Lee, which had a 58-yard touchdown run wiped away by a clipping penalty.

That negated touchdown was scored by Stephens-Lee quarterback Henry Logan, who was a year away from becoming the first African American athlete to play basketball at a previously all-white conference when he began his record-setting four-year career at Western Carolina that paved the way to a

professional career.

By season's end, Second Ward was humming along as it closed the season with five straight blowouts: 32-6 over Gastonia Highland, 82-14 over Reidsville Booker T. Washington, 30-12 over West Charlotte, 44-0 at Greensboro Dudley and 28-14 over Raleigh Ligon in the state championship game. Funderburk had two TD passes to record-setting receiver Leroy Thorne and Kirkpatrick had a TD run in the title game.

Second Ward was demolished after the 1968-69 school year, and the Mecklenburg Aquatic Center was built on the site.

West Charlotte was one of three former NCHSAC schools that joined and remained in the NCHSAA - Durham Hillsdale and Greensboro Dudley were the others - with West Charlotte going on to win 18 league titles, seven state championship appearances and one state title in the years since.

Virginia Union's Butler headed to Winston-Salem

Continued from page 6A

inaugural workshop is April 19, 2 to 4 p.m., at Top Greene African American Cultural Center, 401 MLK Jr. Boulevard.

Moton grabbed Shaw guard Isaiiah Buckley out of the portal. Buckley averaged 14.6 points and 2.3 rebounds a game.

Fayetteville State

Head basketball coach Devin Hoehn won the 2026 Jack Bennett Man of the Year Award presented by College Insider Inc.

Hoehn led the Broncos to the CIAA Tournament championship in his first season.

And speaking of the Broncos, forward Larry Howell was named the 2026 HBCU All-Star Game most valuable player with 23 points and six rebounds.

Norfolk State

The Spartans landed four-star combo guard Jordan Skyers. Skyers is the highest-rated recruit in NSU basketball program history.

Texas Southern

After days of speculation, men's coach Johnny Jones resigned Tuesday to accept a position on Will Wade's LSU staff.

Transfer Portal

- * Bethune-Cookman G Janessa Kelley
- * Mississippi Valley State G Michael James
- * Grambling State F Antonio Munoz
- * Morehouse F JerMontae Hill
- * N.C. A&T G Lewis Walker

Turnin' Pro

- * B-CU F Jakobi Heady signs with Johannesburg Giants of NBA Africa

Basketball Vacancies

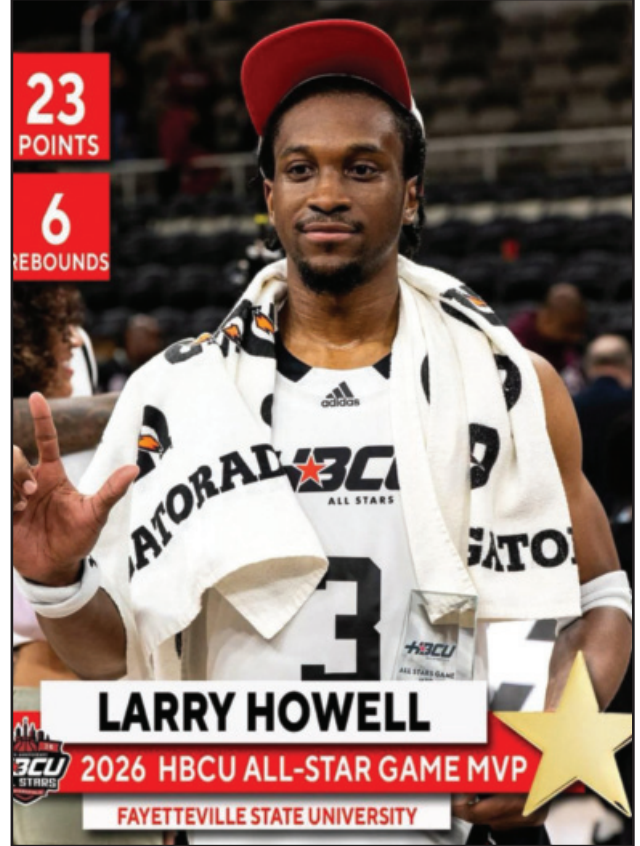
- Alabama State Allen (W)
- Delaware State (W) Edward Waters
- Kentucky State Jackson State
- Lane Lincoln (Pa.) W
- Mississippi Valle State N.C. Central (W)
- Shaw (M/W) Texas Southern
- Virginia Union



Charlotte coach Tomekia Reed



Earl M. Hinton



NCAT athletic director stepping down in June

Continued from page 6A

in event management and sports marketing.

"Team Jamaica Bickle has always been about service, mentorship and nation building, and we are delighted to provide Louraine with the opportunity to learn, contribute and grow as part of our team," founder Irwine Clare Sr. said. "We look forward to her energy, commitment and fresh perspective as we continue our mission of supporting our athletes, our ambassadors, and representing Jamaica and the Caribbean with pride."

MEN

N.C. Central

Football coach Trei Oliver has hired Thomas Stallworth II as the new strength and conditioning coach. Stallworth has certainly made the coaching

rounds, with stops at South Carolina State, Grambling State, Mississippi State, North Carolina State, Texas Tech, Fresno State and Western Kentucky.

In track, Aaron Alukunyang won the 5,000m at the VertKlasse, and Malcolm Forbes came in third in the triple jump.

In tennis, the men's season concludes with four matches either in Cary or on campus. North Carolina A&T and Norfolk State this week are at Cary Tennis Park, and Hampton and Shaw next Wednesday and Friday are in Durham.

In golf, Nico Tucker scored his best game of the season and tied for 19th out of 80 golfers at the Irish Creek Intercollegiate Tuesday.

Goodbye. Hello.

- * Wake Forest RB Drew

Pickett to Alabama A&M

* Penn State QB Bekkem Kritza, AAMU

* Livingstone OL Omoruyi Aliu-Otokiti, Texas El Paso

* Arkansas QB Tavion Faulk, Edward Waters

* Langston TE Logan Brown, Kentucky State

* Rice WR Semaj Pierre, Howard

Turnin' Pro

* Miles LS Giovanni Williams to San Antonio Toros of CFL

* Alcorn State WR Ismael Pierre to Fort Worth Braves of CFL

Transfer Portal

* Johnson C. Smith OL Jeremiah Jennings

The Best in HBCU Sports
triangletribune.com

BLACK-LED INDEPENDENT MOVIE THEATERS

Hi Everyone, As an artist, I love the world of entertainment, especially the movies! I just learned that silent movies or films were a big "to do" during the 1900's. Black Americans sought to tell their own life stories through films and even owning their own theaters. Let's explore some of the Black Independent Cinemas.

POP-UP FACT
Out of 5,798 movie theaters in the U.S., there are less than 15 black independent movie theaters.

TELL THE TRUTH!
Print the letter T on the line if the statement is True or F if the statement is False.

- Earvin "Magic" Johnson is in partnership with AMC which has his name on theaters in New York and Maryland.
- There are only 4,000 movie theaters nationwide.
- The first Afro-Latina movie theater in New York is in Brooklyn.
- There are approximately 150 Black Independently owned movie theaters in the U.S.

MOVIE NIGHT

BLACK INDEPENDENT MOVIE THEATERS

Earvin "Magic" Johnson
Former NBA Los Angeles Lakers basketball player, Earvin "Magic" Johnson developed several movie theaters in the black community. His movie theaters provided jobs to fuel economic development in the community. Siring as an anchor, the theaters attracted other well-known chain stores. In Harlem, New York chain stores like Old Navy, Disney and HMV bought into the idea. In partnership with others, Johnson opened six movie theater locations across the nation. Due to an economic downturn and Covid, two of the six locations bearing his name survived and were eventually purchased by AMC. The two remaining profitable locations are AMC Magic Johnson Harlem 9, and AMC Magic Johnson 12 Capital Center in Largo, MD.

Anthony Fykes and Robert Wright
NextAct Cinemas is an independent niche boutique theater created by Anthony Fykes and Robert Wright and located in Pikesville, MD. Instead of going out to a restaurant for a meal and drinks before a movie, you could have your meals and drinks at this theater. After 6:00 pm, NextAct Cinemas is strictly an age 21 and over environment. Additionally, Fykes and Wright realized that the black community suffered from a lack of movie theaters, like grocery stores. They see this venture as a way of bringing the black community closer together through sharing and telling their own stories.

Emelyn Stuart
Ms. Stuart opened the first Afro-Latina Owned Independent Cinema in Brooklyn, New York. Stuart Cinema & Cafe is a 50-seat cafe that serves empanadas and alcohol-infused cupcakes. The empanadas are made by her mother. Ms. Stuart states that it cost \$30-40,000 to bring an Oscar Award winning movie to the screen, which is a very expensive proposition. Her overall goal is to have an affordable place for people to go to see these films.

Curtis Caesar John
Ms. John and his wife DeLana R.A. Damon started the Luminat Theater in the Bedford-Shyvesant area of New York in 2015. It was a pop-up nomadic microcinema that moved around to where its audience was located. By 2017, John and his wife moved to Columbia, SC and continued their idea of bringing the movies to the people. During the years of the pandemic, they changed from using indoors venues to drive-in movies to show films. The Luminat Theater is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that is dedicated to exposing its audience to independent black filmmakers and movies of the Black/African diaspora. Such films as "Judas and the Black Messiah" and "My Name is Paul" are shown in their pop-up venues.

Ali Davis and Surge Davis
This dynamic father and son duo now own and operate the Parkade Cinemas & Entertainment in Manchester, CT. The building, located at 416 Middle Turnpike West, has been in the same location for nearly 60 years. Prior owners of the building went out of business and closed its doors in 2001. In 2006, founder and entrepreneur, Ali Davis who was in the business of purchasing real estate and flipping houses for profit, saw a business opportunity and purchased the property. The purchase wasn't solely a business proposition, but Ali Davis also saw this as a way of providing affordable movies and job opportunities for his community. All releases from the major studios are shown. For Black History Month, the Parkade Cinema had special discount screenings for "Bob Marley: One Love" and "The Color Purple." If ever you are in the area, the Parkade Cinemas & Entertainment theater is the place to visit.

ONE MINUTE MADNESS!

In one minute or less, unscramble words that are closely related to the Black community theaters. The first letter of the name is in bold.

g**ia**Mc oJsohnn
n**P**kei tTheear
C**ai**enmkr
r**A**o-atilAn
i**E**emny aSrut
a**P**deark sCaeinrm

MATCH ME!
Match the item in Column 1 with Column 2.

A. Anthony Fykes B. Emelyn Stuart C. Earvin Johnson
D. Curtis Caesar John E. Ali Davis

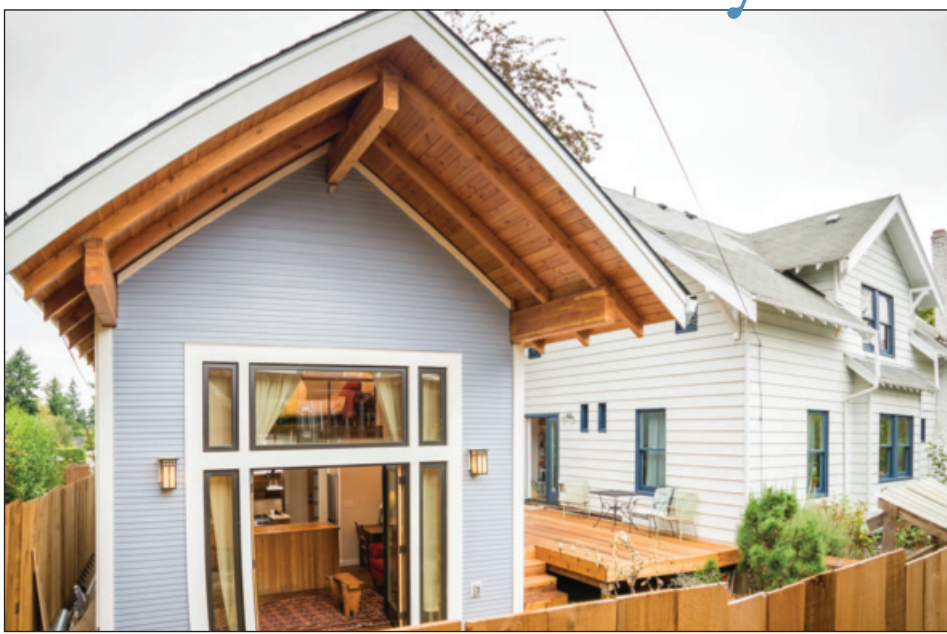
Column 1

- I believe in nomadic microcinemas.
- My mom's empanadas are simply the best in the theater business.
- Proud owners of NextAct Cinema in Pikesville, MD.
- People called it "Showtime" when I took to the court.
- I flip houses and purchase movie theaters.

Column 2

ANSWER KEY
TELL THE TRUTH
ONE MINUTE MADNESS
MATCH ME

BLACK-LED INDEPENDENT MOVIE THEATERS, 04/12/26, #249 WWW.JOEYOUNG.ORG KEMET ACTIVITY SHEETS © 2026 BY JOE YOUNG



ADU pilot program aimed at increasing Durham affordable housing options

STAFF REPORTS

DURHAM - The city of Durham is launching a new pilot program to increase affordable housing options.

Accessory Dwelling Units are popular options in many locations across the country where a smaller secondary unit is located on the same lot as the primary home. The new pilot program focuses on encouraging more of these smaller housing options in Durham.

The pilot will use \$1.75 million from the Forever Home, Durham program to fund loans to residents interested in building an ADU. The homeowner will be eligible for a loan of up to \$80,000 with a 2% fixed interest rate for 30 years.

In return, the homeowner is also committing to renting to tenants who make 80% of the Area Median Income or below for the

length of the loan. The full program manual and details on how to apply are located at www.durhamnc.gov.

Building more of these housing options will help increase the housing supply while also not displacing any current residents. This also allows current homeowners to generate rental income. The pilot funding is expected to provide loans for approximately 20 affordable ADUs citywide.

"We are excited to build on the momentum of the city's longstanding commitment to affordable housing by working with residents and our partner Coram Houses to bring more affordable housing options to our community," Housing & Neighborhood Services Director Sarah Viñas said. "This is an example of how Durham is partnering with community to develop in-

novative solutions to our housing challenges."

Homeowners can work directly with Coram Houses as the general contractor or use a licensed contractor who also meets the program requirements.

"At Coram, we begin with a simple question: What can we share? ADUs embody that vision by creating opportunities to share space, resources and community," Coram Houses CEO and Founder Topher Thomas said. "In partnership with the city of Durham, this pilot program will expand that vision - pairing care for one another with shared expertise and equitable access to capital. The result will be expanded opportunities for residents to build wealth and long-term affordable housing. It's a small but meaningful step toward a more equitable Durham."

HBCU NEWS

N.C. CENTRAL

NCCU has appointed Joseph Karl Grant as dean of the School of Law, effective July 1. He will report to Ontario S. Wooden, provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs.

Following a national search, Grant was selected at a pivotal time for legal education and student success.

He brings an extensive background in legal education, academic leadership and institutional advancement, with a strong record of supporting faculty, engaging stakeholders and driving strategic priorities that strengthen law schools and their impact.

Grant will lead the School of Law in advancing its academic mission, improving bar passage outcomes, strengthening external partnerships and increasing the school's visibility across North Carolina and beyond.

His direct engagement in work related to the development and implementation of the NextGen Bar Exam will bring valuable expertise to NCCU's efforts to support student success and enhance bar readiness.

"Joseph Grant is a thoughtful leader, respected legal scholar and experienced administrator whose background aligns well with the future of our School of Law," Wooden said. "He understands the



Joseph Karl Grant

evolving landscape of legal education, including the opportunities and challenges presented by the NextGen Bar Exam, and he brings the vision, partnership-building skills and commitment to student success that this moment requires."

Most recently, Grant was interim dean and holds the Josiah H. Blackmore II/Shirley M. Nault Chair in Legal Education at Capital University School of Law. In prior leadership roles, including associate dean of

administration and finance, he oversaw budget management, faculty development and promotion and tenure processes.

He also serves as a subject matter expert on the National Conference of Bar Examiners' NextGen Bar Business Associations Drafting Committee.

He earned a Bachelor of Arts in political science from Brown University and a Juris Doctor from Duke University School of Law.

Have a news tip?
 Email: info@triangletribune.com



Wake County makes reading more accessible

STAFF REPORTS

Wake County residents who qualify for accessible reading services can now have materials delivered directly to their homes, thanks to a new partnership between Wake County Public Libraries and the Library of North Carolina.

The Library of North Carolina - Accessible Books & Library Services is a convenient program for North Carolinians who are unable to read standard print due to low vision, blindness or a physical, perceptual or reading disability.

The service is completely free for users who receive titles by downloading them or having the materials mailed directly to and from their residence. The library is part of the N.C. Department of Natural and Cultural Resources.

"This partnership helps to ensure that a person's physical condition or location never limits opportunities for lifelong learning,"

said Safiyah Jackson, Wake County Board of Commissioners vice chair. "We aren't just delivering packages, we are delivering a gateway to the world."

There are more than 175,000 large print, braille and audiobook titles available along with over 100 braille and audio magazines.

Books and movies can be chosen by genre, author, title, series or subject. Reading preferences can be updated any time.

"This project opens doors for many qualified North Carolinians to thousands of books and other accessible materials," said Catherine Rubin, director of Accessible Books & Library Services. "We're delighted to collaborate with Wake County Public Libraries in providing access to our free services."

Wake County library staff have been trained to certify eligibility and guide patrons through the application process. Residents can

stop by any library to learn how to get started. Once an application has been approved, a reader adviser from Accessible Books & Library Services will reach out to set up the patron's account.

Materials can be selected in three ways: automatically picked based on preferences, selected by reader advisers or requested specifically. People can request books they want to read from any collection by phone, mail, chat, email or the online catalog.

The Library of North Carolina offers materials in audio, braille, large print and video with descriptive audio. Materials are sent at no cost (for delivery or return) via the U.S. Postal Service. Returning items is as simple as turning the mailing card over, sliding it back into the case and dropping it in the mail.

To learn more about this program, stop by any Wake County Public Libraries location.

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Who Should Attend

- Young Professionals
- Families and households
- Small Business Owners & Entrepreneurs
- Anyone ready to take control of their finances

EVENT DETAILS

LET'S TALK MONEY

Thursday, April 16, 2026
 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM (EST)




FREE WEBINAR



Zoom Meeting ID: 841 1621 1988
 Passcode: 0416

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