



SPORTS

Howard's swimming and diving team defies racial stereotypes.



COMMUNITY FOCUS

Durham's Exotique celebrates 20th anniversary.

The Triangle Tribune

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« 52 WEEKS OF BLACK BRILLIANCE »

First Black American to build a billion-dollar company

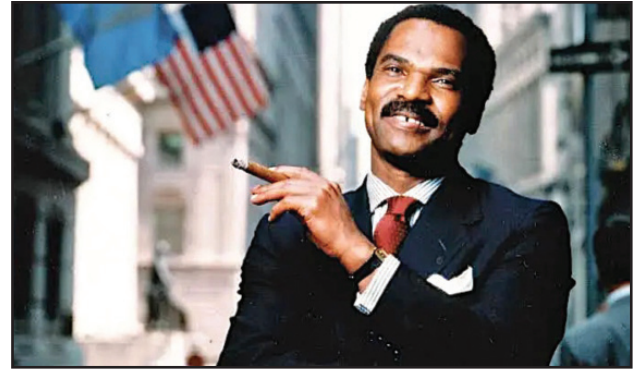
STAFF REPORTS

Reginald Francis Lewis was born on Dec. 7, 1942, in Baltimore, Maryland. His entrepreneurial skills began at age 9 when he increased his newspaper delivery route from 10 neighbors to 100 customers and later sold it for a profit. He graduated from Virginia State University in 1965 with a degree in political science. That summer he participated in a program at Harvard created by the

Rockefeller Foundation that introduced African Americans to the study of law. He made such an impression that Harvard invited him to attend school that fall. He completed his Juris Doctor in 1968. Lewis worked at a top New York City law firm for two years before branching out to start his own firm. Fifteen years later, he switched careers and created TLC Group, a private equity firm. In 1987, Lewis sent Wall Street into a frenzy with

the purchase of Beatrice International Foods for \$985 million and renaming it TLC Beatrice International Holdings, a snack food, beverage and grocery store conglomerate that was the largest Black-owned and managed business in the United States. When TLC Beatrice reported revenue of \$1.8 billion in 1987, it became the first Black-owned company to have more than \$1 billion in annual sales. At its peak in 1996, TLC Beatrice had sales of \$2.2 billion and

was No. 512 on Fortune magazine's list of 1,000 largest companies. In 2005, the Reginald F. Lewis Museum of Maryland African American History & Culture opened in Baltimore with the support of a \$5 million grant from his foundation. It is the East Coast's largest African American museum, occupying an 82,000 square-foot facility. Lewis was on his way to becoming the nation's first Black billionaire when he died of brain cancer at the young age of 50 in 1993.



He was the richest African American in U.S. history at the time of his death with a \$500 million net worth. He wrote several books, but his most famous is "Why should white guys have all the fun?"



Harvey Beech, James Lassiter, J. Kenneth Lee, Floyd McKissick and James Robert Walker enrolled in the UNC School of Law in 1951, following a court order that said the Law School must admit Black students.

UNC still battleground for African American students

By Kylie Marsh

CHAPEL HILL - African American students did not win the legal right to attend the University of North Carolina School of Law until 1951. While some may regard the landmark McKissick vs. Carmichael case as far behind us, current events reveal we have not progressed much as a society since then. The "Desegregating Carolina: McKissick vs. Carmichael" program at the Chapel Hill Public Library featured a retelling of the efforts to integrate the law

school, spoken word poetry, and a panel discussion of Black civil rights law professors from UNC and North Carolina Central University. Donna Nixon, UNC clinical professor of law and electronic resources librarian, presented the events of McKissick vs. Carmichael, which evaluated the current landscape for Black people in the United States. While North Carolina had four law schools between 1940 and 1951, only three were accredited by the American Bar Association: Carolina Law, Wake Forest University School of Law and Duke University School of

Law. The state created the North Carolina College School of Law (now North Carolina Central University) in 1939 specifically for Black legal education. However, it was severely under-resourced compared to the white law schools. In 1949, Harold T. Epps and Robert D. Glass filed Epps v. Carmichael in federal court after rejection letters from UNC's chancellor cited the applicants' race as grounds for denial of admission. A powerful team of African American attorneys, including

Please see UNC/2A

North Carolina's oldest mosque honored with historical marker

By Kylie Marsh

DURHAM - Last weekend, North Carolina's first mosque was honored with a state historical marker. Since 1956, the Ar-Razzaq Islamic Center has served as a hub of education, worship and outreach for Muslims statewide. Members of the masjid gathered for the ceremony on Chapel Hill Street. The work of getting the marker installed began two years ago with the help of Aisha

Abdul-Ali, who was described as a "pioneer" by mosque members. "I said there must be something that we leave behind," Abdul-Ali told The Tribune. "We have to change the direction that we as African American people approach our position in society, and the way to do that is to get the recognition that this society allows for people in organization to move up and become the leaders in the broader society." The historical marker is

viewed by Abdul-Ali and other members as getting the recognition and respect of broader society. "This is what we want our young people to see: the legacy, and to participate and feel good about who they are. We as African American people, we are always working in this society to move up, and to bring our skills and our knowledge to the table, because it's essential," she said. "We made this country. This seems to many people a very

Please see NC's/2A



Supporters gather at Burton Park to protest Durham's family deportation.

Durham family's deportation sparks outcry

By Kylie Marsh

Kylie.marsh@triangletribune.com

DURHAM - A somber crowd of community activists, elected officials and news crews gathered April 9 at Burton Park in Durham. They were holding a press conference organized by Siembra NC, a nonprofit which organizes Latino workers and tenants to advocate for protections of the immigrant community. On April 6, a family of Honduran asylum-seekers who had been living in Durham for the past four years were deported. Siembra NC argues the family were not given due process. Two women stood holding large school portraits of the children - Genesis, 11, and Denis, 6 - who were deported with their parents while attending an administrative appointment with U.S. immigration officials in Charlotte. "They have always shown up to their appointments on time for four years," said the children's Aunt Lillian, who accompanied the family to their appointment on Monday. "This family, who respectfully followed the laws of seeking asylum, has now been sent back into the same life-threatening circumstances that led them to seek safety and a new life in the U.S.," Siembra Defense Manager Andreina Malki said. "These inhumane and unconstitutional actions by ICE are ripping our communities apart."

Genesis and Denis were students at Burton Elementary School, just down the block from Burton Park. Residents of McDougald Terrace, which is directly adjacent to the park, were alarmed to see the large crowd of people in the neighborhood. Before the press conference officially began, Victoria Peterson, a longtime McDougald resident and community advocate, addressed the crowd. "We've got to address the illegal problem in this community and across this city," she began. "Sanctuary cities have hurt the Black community." Siembra organizers attempted to speak over Peterson, reiterating that her comments were not a part of the press conference. "The African American community - we are being devastated by the illegal people that are in this community," Peterson continued. "I'm not speaking about the legal. I'm speaking about the illegal folks that have not shown that they are U.S. citizens. When you allow so many illegal people to come here and not be U.S. citizens and get housing, get food stamps, you are devastating the African American community." Attendees attempted to drown out Peterson by singing "This Little Light of Mine," a famous gospel song

Please see DURHAM/2A

Index News 1A Classifieds 4A Life/Religion 5A Sports 6A Focus 8A

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



UNC still battleground for African American students

Continued from page 1A

the NAACP Legal Team, Thurgood Marshall, Conrad Pearson and others, argued that segregated higher education violated the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment of the United States Constitution. The case moved at a snail's pace. Epps graduated from North Carolina College School of Law before the case was settled, and Glass was dismissed on the grounds that he was not a North Carolina resident.

Despite North Carolina College School of Law receiving upgrades at the order of the state, which gained the school an ABA accreditation in 1950, it did not make up for segregation. Floyd McKissick, J. Kenneth Lee, Solomon Revis, James Lassiter and Harvey Beech became plaintiffs that year.

A judge on the United States District Court for the Middle District of N.C. dismissed the case; his opinion was that the upgrades to NCC made the schools "substantially equal," and no white person was likely to hire an African American lawyer, so the plaintiffs were better off with their network from NCC.

In 1951, the Court of Appeals of the Fourth Circuit unanimously overturned the decision, citing that making Black students at-

tend a segregated law school simply because they were unlikely to have white clients was not an appropriate response.

Still, Black students faced difficulty gaining admission. In 1955, John Brandon, and brothers' Leroy and Ralph Frasier received rejection letters from Carolina Law stating there was a Black college they could attend. Another lawsuit had to be filed, rejected on appeal and then reinstated before the first African American students enrolled at UNC Law.

In 2024, the UNC Board of Governors voted to repeal its diversity, equity and inclusion policy, replacing it with "Equality Within the University of North Carolina." Last year, the Upendo Lounge, a space dedicated to Black students, was revoked from the Black Student Movement.

Samuel Scarborough, who is a descendant of enslaved people by the university, is a third-year student at UNC and the youngest member of the Durham Community Safety and Wellness Task Force.

He said the UNC Board of Governors is appointed by the General Assembly, which, in turn, appoints the boards of trustees at all publicly-funded institutions in the state.

"When you look at our board of governors now, I ask you to see how many Black faces you see up there. I ask you to see how many faces of color you see up there. I ask you to see how many women you see up there, and I ask you to see what politics are represented on that board and how that matches onto the state of North Carolina," he said.

"When I was first getting in, it was 7.8% of the student population being Black. The most recent class is just over 5%. Black North Carolinians are at least 20% of the state. That doesn't sound like balanced representation," he said.

Former N.C. State Senator Floyd McKissick Jr. said there will never be an election when civil rights are not at a risk of being revoked.

"We've got to do it...we have to be active and engaged, because if we don't get active and engaged, there's so much to lose," he said. "We have to think about that path that we're on...We have to say to ourselves, 'how do we continue this battle? How do we continue this fight? How do we strategize? How do we organize and how do we carry on and pass that proverbial baton to the next generation?'"

Durham's family deportation sparks outcry

Continued from page 1A

that gained significance during the Civil Rights Movement. Peterson's disruption was also livestreamed on Facebook by a community member to hundreds of viewers who recognized Peterson, ridiculing the non-Black singers for being "off-beat."

McDougald Terrace community president Ashley Canady, whose daughter was friends with one of the deported children, said she does not condone what was said but was shocked to see a press conference in the area.

"I'm upset because a few of them had my contact information," she told The Tribune. "Communication is key, and our community has been used as a stage that has caused so much harm."

Canady said she received many calls from residents in a panic while she was at work. "They depend on me to communicate with them and for me to not know breaks a lot of trust," she said. Canady now fears that ICE will target the community.

Shortly after Peterson demanded that Durham County Commissioner Nida Allam "prove her U.S. citizenship," the press conference was moved to Foster Street.

Brandon Ruffin, an organizer with the United Southern Service Workers, tried to negotiate with Peterson but to no avail. Ruffin addressed the events that had occurred, calling it "unacceptable, disruptive and divisive."

"When you hurt one of us, you hurt all

of us. This is about justice," he said. "... Yes, I agree with her; Black people in this country have been targeted by a deeply flawed and unjust system. That is real and undeniable, but that should never be an excuse to turn against our brown brothers and sisters. If anything, it should push us to stand with them even stronger, because we know what it means to be targeted."

McDougald resident Corintha Rainey witnessed the gathering at Burton Park. "The residents should have known just in case they wanted to join the fight," she told The Tribune. "It's not fair that things go on in our communities without our acknowledgment."

Rainey said if Black residents gathered with no warning in a high-income, white neighborhood, the police would be called.

Elected officials, including Durham Mayor Pro Tempore Javiera Caballero and Senator Sophia Chitlik pledged to accompany families to their immigration appointments.

"We will be witnesses, and to the extent possible, we will document what is happening," Chitlik said. "We will help provide rapid response assistance. For everyone watching this, I want you to know that your elected officials stand with you, and that we will do everything we can to get justice and transparency for everyone who lives in our community."



The "pioneers" and elders from the mosque pose with the marker.

NC's oldest mosque honored with marker

Continued from page 1A

small gesture, but the impact - both economically, socially and culturally - is going to be phenomenal."

"Getting a highway historical marker is not an easy task," said Leslie Leonard of the N.C. Department of Natural and Cultural Resources. "Getting a marker approved is saying this subject, this historical moment, is important to the entire state of North Carolina."

The Ar-Razzaq Islamic Center was established as Muhammad's Mosque #34 under the Nation of Islam by Kenneth Marley Muhammad, Dr. Rhonda Muhammad's father.

"This was the time of the Civil Rights Movement; you had Islam coming to the South. My father was asked to come here and bring Islam to this area,"

Muhammad said.

The family relocated from Baltimore, Maryland.

"We came to this area, and it was totally different experiences than I had," she said. "To see 'for whites only,' and to see those signs, it was a total surprise. At the time, we identified with the movement because we're African Americans, we're Black."

Ar-Razzaq was the centerpiece of Durham's growing Muslim community. Its current location on West Chapel Hill Street was opened in the 1970s and gained national prominence and visits from Malcolm X and Muhammad Ali.

"Our religion helped us understand what we could do to alleviate the suffering that Black people had," Muhammad said.

The North Carolina His-

torical Highway Marker Program, created in 1935, was established in collaboration with the N.C. Department of Transportation and Department of Natural and Cultural Resources.

"The markers are designed to spark interest, to encourage deeper exploration, and to tie an observer, however briefly, to the past. Unlike monuments, markers do not seek to glorify or celebrate people and events," reads the program's explanation on the DNR website. "Instead, they aim to highlight objective facts of our state's past. Markers make note of all parts of North Carolina history - the good and the bad, the reprehensible along with the laudable, the tragic and the heroic, all in an effort to educate North Carolinians about our shared history."



Durham area where the housing will be built.

Construction begins on Durham Tech affordable housing community

By Nancy Wykle

SPECIAL TO THE TRIBUNE

DURHAM - Work has begun at 902 S. Briggs Avenue on the construction of a 124-unit affordable housing community created through a unique partnership formed by Durham Tech, Mosaic Development Group and Banc of America Community Development Corporation.

"We know that finding affordable housing is a critical issue not just for many of our students but for the greater community," Durham Tech President J.B. Buxton said. "Lack of affordable housing can be an obstacle for families struggling to make ends meet and for people who want to get an education to pursue careers where they can increase their earnings. Part of the college's mission is to remove obstacles that impede people in our community from pursuing education, upward mobility and careers."

The idea to create affordable housing emerged after a 2019 survey of Durham

Tech students found that more than 50% had experienced housing insecurity in the prior year.

In 2022, the college announced plans to develop 124 units of affordable housing on land it owns at 902 S. Briggs Avenue, in partnership with Mosaic and Banc of America Community Development Company.

"When half the student body is facing housing insecurity, that's not a statistic; it's a clear call to action," said Bill Bolstad, executive director of Mosaic Development Group, the project's lead developer. "This project is what it looks like when the right partners come together to solve real-world problems. By combining Durham Tech's vision with our development expertise, we're delivering high-quality housing that creates stability and expands opportunity for students and families alike."

The development will serve eligible Durham Tech students and their families, as well as members of the

broader Durham community.

"This project reflects our commitment to the communities we serve and the importance of working alongside strong partners to meet real needs," said Banc of America Community Development Banking Senior Vice President, Eileen Pope. "By collaborating with Durham Tech and Mosaic, we're helping directly address the critical shortage of affordable housing."

According to the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development, the 2025 area median income for a family of four in Durham was \$115,600. Households with incomes of up to 70% of the area median income are eligible to apply, and at least 27 apartments, or 22% of the total, will be reserved for households with incomes less than 30% of the area median income.

An interest list will open early next year, with the first tenants expected to move in during fall 2027.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

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

NETWORKING
Durham County Community Health Worker networking event is April 30-May 1, Durham Tech,

1637 E. Lawson St. Register: tinyurl.com/dcochwevent.

OPENINGS:
* Crooked Hammock Brewery opens April 20, 4501 Edwards Mills Road, Raleigh.

* Capital One Café at The Streets at Southpoint

opened April 21. The café is part bank, part café all in one place at 6910 Fayetteville Road, Suite 154, Durham

* Launch Raleigh will open April 25, 9 a.m., 2910 E. Millbrook Road.

Send business briefs to info@triangletribune.com.



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BIDS

INVITATION FOR BIDS TOWN OF CARRBORO 2026 STREET RESURFACING PROJECT: 30-540010-2026

Sealed Bids will be received by the Town of Carrboro – Purchasing Office, 301 West Main Street, Carrboro, North Carolina 27510, until 2:00 p.m., on Monday May 18, 2025. All responsive bids will be publicly opened and read at that time, provided all requirements of G.S. 143-132 have been met.

The 2026 Street Resurfacing Project consists of milling and paving, pavement marking installation, curb ramp replacement, and installation of new concrete sidewalk. The foregoing description shall not be construed as a complete description of all work required.

The complete examination and understanding of the project manual are necessary to properly submit a proposal. A physical copy of the project manual can be found at the following location:

Carrboro Public Works,
100 N Greensboro St
Carrboro, NC 27510

Contact Mike Johnson by telephone (919) 918-7424 or e-mail mjohnson@carrboronc.gov during normal office hours.

Contract documents are available on-line at the Town's website:
<https://www.townofcarrboro.org/bids.aspx>

Please submit questions or inquiries at least seven (7) calendar days before the Bid Due Date. Questions or inquiries past this deadline may not be addressed by the Town prior to the Bid Due Date. It is the responsibility of the plan holders to completely understand and acknowledge addenda postings.

The Town of Carrboro reserves the right to reject any and all bids.

For publication Sunday April 19, 2026

LEGAL NOTICES



LEGAL NOTICE

HVAC Replacement at The Durham County General

Service Annex Building on Seaton Road RFP No. 26-039

The County of Durham will receive sealed proposals for qualified Contractor(s) to establish a contract to provide service for the removal of old HVAC equipment and install with new HVAC equipment at The Durham County General Services Annex Building on Seaton Road 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 will be held promptly at 8:00 A.M. Eastern Time, on April 21, 2026, located at: The Durham County General Service Annex Building, 1409 Seaton Road, Durham, NC 27713.

An electronic copy of this Request for Proposal (RFP) can be obtained from Durham County's eBid System located under Bid Opportunities <https://www.dconnc.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.

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LEGAL NOTICES



LEGAL NOTICE

Request for Letters of Interest and Statements of Qualifications for Whispering Pines Stream Restoration and Bioretention Project Construction Management

RFQ No. 26-038

The County of Durham requests Letters of Interest and Statements of Qualifications for the Whispering Pines Stream Restoration and Bioretention Project Construction Management to be received 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**, in accordance with applicable provisions of North Carolina General Statutes and Durham County Ordinances and policies. No submissions will be accepted after the official time and date.

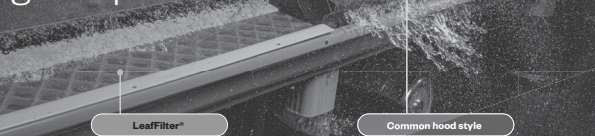
An electronic copy of this Request for Qualification (RFQ) can be obtained from Durham County's eBid System located under Bid Opportunities at <https://dconnc.gov/Finance/Purchasing/Bid-Opportunities>. Proposers can download a copy of the solicitation and all addenda without registering in the system.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

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

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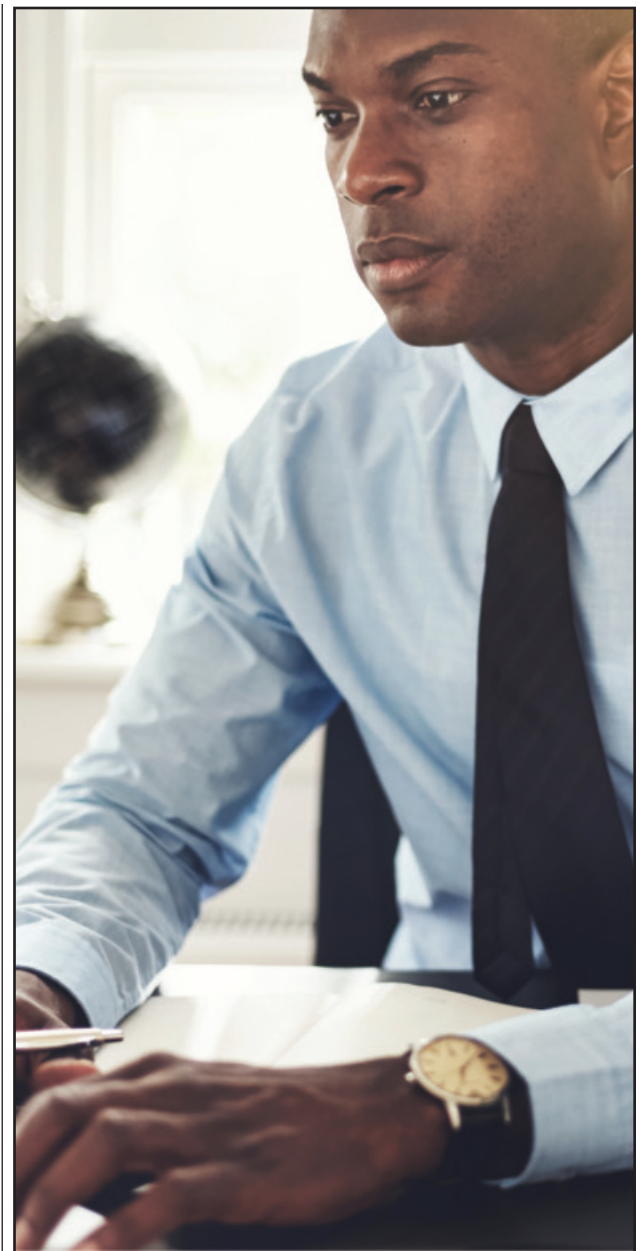
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FILE PHOTO

Gen Z is pulling away from church buildings but not their faith.

Gen Z is changing the faith and future of the church

By K'mari Greene
SPECIAL TO THE TRIBUNE

DURHAM - On junior psychology student Fantasy Stokes' fourth day at N.C. Central University, she walked into a Bible study class she never planned to attend.

She did not grow up deeply involved in church but always prayed before eating and that God existed. However, a personal relationship with him was not part of her daily life. While in that room full of students who looked like her, she closed her eyes during a guided reflection and felt a shift.

"I just did it initially because everybody else closed their eyes," Stokes said. "But in that moment, the Lord told me that he was waiting for me all this time and how He was just so happy that I could finally see Him."

That was only the beginning of her faith story. Now, she serves as president of NCCU's Summit College ministry and leads a women's Bible study called Daughters of the Kingdom. Stokes' story reflect a broader problem emerging in America: Gen Z is reshaping how they experience faith beyond tra-

ditional religious practices.

The Shift (Not a Collapse)

Between 2007-14, the number of Americans identifying as Christian dropped drastically, although recent research suggests that decline has slowed. According to the Pew Research Center's 2025 Religious Landscape Study, nearly 62% of U.S. adults identify as Christian, down from 78% in 2007 but stable in recent years. The proportion of religiously unaffiliated Americans, typically referred to as "nones," has grown to roughly 29%.

This data complicates the assumption that Gen Z is driving religion into extinction. Instead, it suggests a generational transformation.

Frederick L. Ware, professor of theology at Howard University School of Divinity, describes this as evolutionary rather than catastrophic. "I would say religion doesn't appear, it takes on a new form," he said. "And then you have competing conceptions of religious faith and the conception of Christianity that's prevalent in the United States today. People have to come to grips with it and say, 'Is this what I want the faith to be?'"

Faith Without the Institution

Charles Green, a junior mass communications and broadcast media student, identifies himself as Christian and Catholic, which is another dimension of this shift. He does not attend church every Sunday like Stokes, but he still prays, occasionally reads scripture and identifies with his faith's traditions.

Green said attending church feels less essential than personal engagement and admits to struggling with focus during sermons and feeling disconnected from traditional church spaces.

"I struggle with just being in church and really listening to what the pastor is saying," he said. "I zone out very easily, so it's hard for me to focus and it's just not the space where I can really feel anything."

Yet his distance from institutional practice does not mean distance from belief. He said hardships like depression or heavy life transitions have drawn him closer to prayer, but he draws a fine line when it comes to mixing Jesus with astrology.

Read the rest of this article on our website.

The way Americans buy and own smartphones is changing

STATEPOINT

What Americans want in their smartphone is changing rapidly, new research reveals. The latest mobile survey from Allstate Protection Plans illustrates a mobile market no longer defined by annual upgrades but instead by durability, value and sustainability.

There was a time when smartphone manufacturers could count on blockbuster sales with each flagship release, but the era of annual upgrades is fading. With performance, storage and battery life now hitting plateaus, consumers are no longer chasing the latest device, and are now seeing smartphones as long-term personal assets:

- * 27% upgrade every two years (likely at the end of carrier contracts)
- * 23% now stretch devices to three to four years
- * 21% delay upgrading until their phone breaks
- * 22% upgrade within 12 months
- * 3% replace a device within six months

As budgets tighten, consumers are redefining what "premium" means. Practicality now matters more than hype, with people choosing phones for core performance, not experimental features.

Signaling a clear shift, the factors that matter most today are battery life, price, storage, camera quality, screen size and brand reputation.

Despite the hype, only



17% of Americans say AI features are a big influence on their buying decisions. However, that number is expected to grow as AI becomes more integrated into daily life.

Despite 52% of respondents saying the environmental impact of smartphones is "extremely or very important," refurbished device adoption has stagnated, revealing a growing trust gap. In fact, only 18% have purchased refurbished phones. When asked why they are less likely to choose a refurbished device, 52% worry about quality, 51% worry about defects, and 40% worry about data privacy.

Consumers care deeply about the environmental impact of their tech, but only 20% recycle old phones. The average household contains 1.8 unused smartphones — a sign of "sustainability inertia," in part because 26% are not confident they know how to recycle a phone. This disconnect reveals an opportunity for clearer recycling guidance and trade-in

programs that make "doing the right thing" easier.

As subscription models reshape everything from entertainment to transportation, smartphone ownership is also becoming optional. Like leasing a car, 29% of Americans say they would be likely to lease a smartphone when they next upgrade or replace their device. This mindset is driven by lower upfront cost, more frequent upgrades, greater flexibility and the ability to include protection, insurance or repair services as part of their lease.

"With tighter budgets and diminishing emphasis on chasing the latest tech innovations, consumers are taking a more thoughtful approach to smartphone ownership," said Karl Wiley, global president and CEO of Allstate Protection Plans. "This is why we're seeing growing interest in leasing and Device-as-a-Service models, which integrate repair, recycling, and end-of-life management directly into the ownership experience."

AROUND THE TRIANGLE

RALEIGH PLANTS

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

MARKET

The Peoples Farmer's Market debuts April 19, 1-5 p.m., SE Raleigh YMCA, 1436 Rock Quarry Road.

FUNDRAISER

Annual Concert for a Cause benefiting StepUp Ministry is April 24, 7 p.m., White Memorial Presbyterian Church on Oberlin Road. Public is invited.

EARTH DAY

Raleigh Earth Day is April 24, 5-10 p.m., Harvey Hill, 693 Palmer Drive.

BRUNCH

Dialogue with Dad Brunch is April 25, noon to 3 p.m., Ambiance Event Center, 4801 Leigh St. R S V P : www.eventbrite.com.

PARTY

Block party is April 25, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., 8321 Six Forks Road. Open to the public.

CARY BLUES

The Big Blues Show is April 24, 7:30 p.m., Cary Arts Center, 101 Dry Ave. Tickets: 919-462-2051.

DURHAM MARKET

Black Farmers' Market is back April 19, 1-4 p.m., Durham Tech, 1637 E. Lawson St.

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 Toppogolf Way. Register: hopenorthcarolina.networkforgood.com.

ADDRESS

Durham Mayor Leonardo Williams' State of the City Address is April 21, 6 p.m., DPAC, 123 William V Bill Bell Way. Register: www.eventbrite.com.

BREAKFAST

Boys & Girls Clubs of Durham and Orange Counties Great Futures Breakfast is April 23, 7:30 a.m., BGCDOC Durham Club, 1010 MLK Jr. Parkway, Suite 300. Register: bgcdoc.org.

ROUNDTABLE

The next Community Luncheon Roundtable is April 23, noon, Elizabeth Street United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall, 1209 N. Elizabeth St. Open to the public.

GIVEAWAY

OTC Medicine Giveaway & Community Event is April 24, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., The River Church, 4425 Ben Franklin Boulevard.

GROUND BREAKING

Southeast Raleigh Promise's groundbreaking on affordable rental homes is

April 24, 10 a.m. to noon, 1131 Gregg St. RSVP: serpromise.org/groundbreaking-rsvp/. Deadline: April 22.

MARDI GRAS

Bull City Sigmars' "The Mardi Gras" Ties and Tiaras is April 25, 5-7:30 p.m., Durham Armory, 212 Foster St. Visit: dprplay-more.org.

GARDENING

The next Hattie Meadows Gardening School Class is April 25, 10 a.m. to noon, Stanford L. Warren Library, 1201 Fayetteville St. Call 919-560-7290.

SHRED-A-THON

Shred-A-Thon and Medication Take Back is April 25, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Senior PharmAssist, 406 Rigsbee Avenue.

CHAPEL HILL CELEBRATION

Earth Day Celebration is April 22, 5:30-7:30 p.m., Blackwood Farm Park, 4215 NC Hwy 86.

CONCERT

Triangle Youth Jazz Ensemble will open for Wynton Marsalis & Jazz April 24, 8 p.m., Lincoln Center at Memorial Hall on UNC's campus. Visit: www.triangleyouthmusic.org.

DINNER

Mildred Council Community Dinner is April 26, 1 p.m., McDougale School Cafeterium, 900 Old Fayetteville Road. Tickets: orangecountync.gov.



			
LINDA JOHNSON HOST	PAMELA KELLY CEO/FOUNDER WE PREPARE US	BONITTA BEST MANAGING EDITOR TRIANGLE TRIBUNE	KYLIE MARSH REPORTER TRIANGLE TRIBUNE

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THURSDAY, 16
APRIL 2026

At 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM (EST)



Zoom Meeting ID: 841 1621 1988
Passcode: 0416

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REGISTRATION

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WSSU raises its athletic dept. profile

Winston-Salem State is having some season.

First, the women's basketball team ended its season nationally ranked with a regular season title and a CIAA championship, plus an NCAA Tournament run to the Sweet 16 under a first-year coach.

Then, the Rams recruited Virginia Union men's basketball coach Jay Butler away from his alma mater. Butler had coached the Panthers for 11 seasons with a 372-239 career record.

Oh yeah, did I mention coach Tierra Terry also left VUU for WSSU, which is her alma mater by the way. When is the last time two HBCU head coaches left for the same school?



BONITTA BEST

Then, the Rams won their second straight CIAA flag football championship. Now,

whether you're a fan of the sport or not, plenty of people are. It's one of the fastest growing high school sports for girls.

Then, WSSU was in a neck-and-neck battle with Fayetteville State for the CIAA golf crown before the Broncos pulled away in the final round.

And let's not forget new football coach and alumnus Tory Woodbury's debut season is just a few months away. Rams fans are frothing at the mouth.

The success of any athletic department, especially at HBCUs, is to have an invested and supportive chancellor or president. And if her first name happens to be "Bonita" Brown (one T or two Ts don't matter), well, then she's a genius.

'White Shadow'

C'mon, for those of us over 25, any white coach at a predominately Black school is going to be dubbed "The White Shadow" in honor of the 1978-81 TV show. That's just a fact.

Alabama State filled its men's basketball opening last week with Langston (Okla.) head coach Chris Wright. Langston, an HBCU, plays in the NAIA, the first college basketball association before the NCAA was born. Wright coached the Lions for four seasons and compiled a 121-21 record.

Before that, he was the head coach at Talladega for four seasons, another NAIA HBCU.

Alabama State is a major step up for Wright and his family. The Hornets' facilities are 100% better, and the SWAC is a premiere HBCU conference.

Wright also etched his name in the conference's history books. He is the first white men's basketball coach in SWAC history.

Someone posted a video of the family arriving for his press conference on Tuesday. The joy on their faces was priceless. They looked right at home.

Coaching Countdown

Virginia Union will announce its next men's basketball coach later this week. The consensus from media reports is alumnus AJ English will take the helm. English played under legendary coach Dave Robbins from 1986-90 and was the 1990 NCAA Division II national player of the year.

Jackson State removed the interim tag from Trey Johnson to make him the permanent men's coach.

That leaves Allen, Edward Waters, Kentucky State, Lane, Lincoln, (Pa.), Mississippi Valley State, N.C. Central and Shaw.

The biggest question mark of them all is the Shaw women's opening. Who is doing the recruiting since the entire staff was fired? Shaw's website page for the coaching roster says, "page not found."

Make it make sense.

The Triangle Tribune Sports

April 19-25, 2026 | 6A

Emerging Women in Sports Leadership Summit



DURHAM SPORTS COMMISSION

Over 200 attendees participated in last week's sold-out Emerging Women in Sports Leadership Summit at the Durham Convention Center, where they learned from industry professionals, exchanged leadership insights and built a powerful network.

Howard's NEC champion women's swimming and diving team makes history

By Cedric Mobley
THE DIG MAGAZINE

Inside the Black community, a commonly accepted narrative has gained credence over the decades: Black women don't swim.

The Howard University women's swimming and diving team makes a lie out of the stereotype, however, and proves that the water is not a domain that is off limits to any group. While defying many stereotypes, the team members are history makers, becoming the first HBCU women's swimming and diving team to win a championship in the Northeastern Conference, a league dominated by predominantly white institutions.

For 10 years, Howard has been the only HBCU with a Division I swimming and diving team. This year, a stellar roster of fierce

competitors decided their moment was at hand and joined Howard's men's swimming and diving team as 2026 champions.

Team members believe they won this season because of one simple reason: they were motivated to work harder than others. Their training regimen was in addition to their work as scholars and full-time students engaged in challenging academic coursework. Instead of viewing a championship win merely as a possibility, the team chose to see it as an inevitability, with each team member accepting responsibility for pushing each other towards that goal.

"I think it's deeply rooted in recognizing the disparity," said Nicholas Askew, Howard director of swimming and diving and tennis. "Our team rallies around being able to be role models, able to dispel myths, able to

Please see **HOWARD/7A**



SKYLA JEREMIAH

Members of Howard's women's swimming and diving team, left to right: co-captains Zilda Nwaeze, Chanice Posada, Skylar Debnam and Tiara Jackson, along with senior fly and freestyle swimmer Samyra Benoit.

COLLEGE CORNER

N.C. A&T former player dies in accident

Fayetteville State men are CIAA golf champions once again.

The Broncos pulled away in the final round to defeat Winston-Salem State, which is having a heck of an athletic season overall, to win its 28th conference championship. FSU was the runner-up the last two seasons.

WOMEN N.C. Central

The MEAC Tennis Championships will be played at Cary Tennis Park this weekend. The Eagles ended the regular season in second place behind South Carolina State and Norfolk State, who tied for first.

But No. 1 singles Alejandra Hidalgo Vega went undefeated in both singles and doubles in conference play to end a brilliant colle-

giate career. The championships will be streamed on ESPN+.

Shaw

Softball is on a two-game win streak and is at .500 in the conference (5-5) after sweeping Livingstone in a doubleheader. The team travels to Clafin this weekend.

Winston-Salem State

The Trojans defended their CIAA flag football title by beating Fayetteville State, 12-6. Quarterback Chakira Generette rushed for two touchdowns.

The Rams also snagged a recruit. Quarterback Myla Hoover of Gastonia signed a flag football scholarship. Times they are a-changing.

Please see **NCCU's/7A**

SPORTS SHORTS



Raleigh's Adult Basketball Registration is April 15-28.

RALEIGH

* Raleigh's Adult Basketball Registration is April 15-28. Register online or at 2401 Wade Avenue.

* NCSU Club Tennis Team is hosting Roll and Rally Wheelchair Tennis Mixer April 25, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., NCSU Carmichael Tennis Courts. Register: playtennis.usta.com.

CARY

* Cary has a new inclusive playground at Davis Drive Park, 1610 Davis Drive.

DURHAM

* Durham Senior Games & SilverArts runs April 21 to May 8 around Durham.

* DurhamCares' annual Bull City Madness 3v3 Tournament is April 25, Hillside Park, 1301 S. Roxboro St.

* Longball Durham is seeking photos from past players, particularly the first year of the league 17 years ago. Opening day is May 4, 6 p.m., Durham Athletic Park.

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

NCCU's Vega undefeated

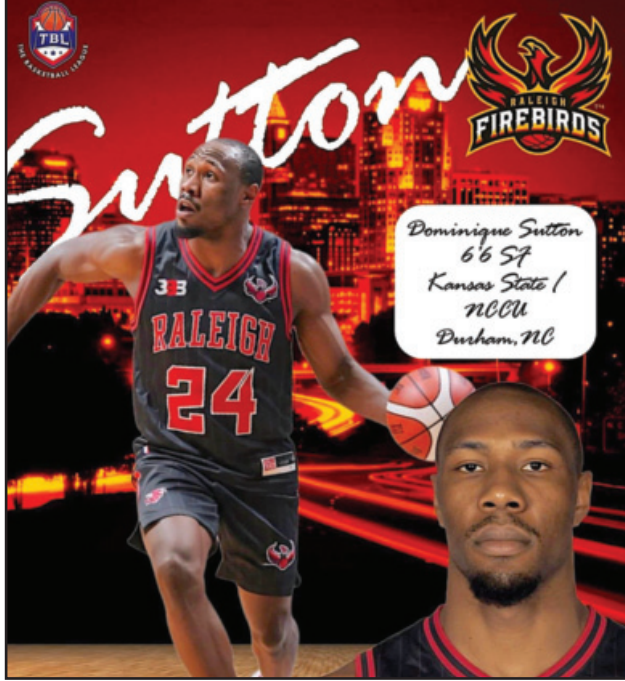
Continued from page 6A
Fisk
 Fisk University competed in its last Women's Collegiate Gymnastics National Championship. The university announced before the season that it was discontinuing the program due to rising costs. Three gymnasts won medals: Allie Berkley, second place, vault; Aliyah Reed-Hammon, third place, beam; and Ciniyah Rosby, fourth place, vault.



No. 1 singles Alejandra Hidalgo Vega went undefeated in conference play.

MEN

N.C. Central
 A familiar face is now a member of the Raleigh Firebirds professional basketball team. Dominique Sutton, who transferred to NCCU from Kansas State in 2011, was signed last week. Sutton doesn't look much older than when he left Eagleland.



CC will always remember that MEAC Tournament game when he made that great dunk at the basket, but the rotten official called him for charging and fouled him out of the game. NCCU never recovered!

The Firebirds play their home games at Chavis Park Community gymnasium. Sutton joins five other HBCU players on the roster: Shykeef Daniels, Elizabeth City State; Tyrrel Tate, Fayetteville State; DJ Thomas and Jeremiah Pope, Shaw; and Ahmad Abdullah, N.C. A&T. Oh yeah, former St. Augustine's standout Kenny Collins is the head coach.



Kelvin Broadhurst Jr. and his mother, Latoya Lyles.

And speaking of basketball, coach LeVelle Moton signed Duor Duor (yes, his real name), a 6-foot-9 forward from Atlanta. He averaged 12.5 points, 8.5 rebounds and 2 blocks per game, and was named Atlanta player of the year.

Shaw

The Bears close out their tennis season this Sunday against Averett University at Worthdale Park. Former football player Ulysses Hall is the new coordinator of high school relations for Duke football. Hall was on the staff at Georgia Southern. Kudos!

Fayetteville State

Former WSSU football head coach Kienus Boulware has been named associate head coach, defensive coordinator and linebackers coach at Fayetteville State. Boulware recently

coached at Allen University as DC and LB coach. When he has time to sleep is a mystery.

N.C. A&T
 Aggeland is in mourning. Former defensive lineman Kelvin Broadhurst Jr. died in a motorcycle acci-

dent last weekend. His mother told a local TV station that she was planning his 21st birthday party, now it's his funeral. Every parent's worst nightmare.

Howard's teams make history

Continued from page 6A
 shatter glass settings. When you can actually connect yourself with what is truly meaningful and truly impactful, like being able to show that Black people do swim and do it really well and can compete at the highest levels, despite the disadvantages we've had in our association with people of color and the water and water spaces, I think that's a rallying space for us, and I think that's been one of the greatest reasons for our success."

Zuilda Nwaeze is a senior psychology major who has been swimming since she was 5 years old. She made it clear that she was tired of training hard and coming up short. "I know that I came in very determined

for our team to win this championship," Nwaeze said. "So, along with the sisterhood, we had this big, big feeling that we were going to win this championship because there was no other option."

Throughout the season, the teammates leaned on each other for encouragement and support, even as they made sacrifices in pursuit of athletic excellence. Competing in a sport where Black women make up just a tiny portion of participants added energy to the team's commitment. The group support was invaluable for Skylar Debnam, a senior for whom excellence is a way of life. In addition to winning swimming awards, she is a Dean's List sports medicine major and received

recognition from Phi Beta Kappa's Gamma Chapter for having the highest grade point average of any freshman in the College of Arts and Sciences.

"There is a sisterhood amongst Black women," Debnam said. "I feel like we each had each other's backs, and we were picking each other up when we saw other people fall short. So, I feel like the sisterhood that we all cultivated was really important to the success of this team and allowed us to be NEC champions."

As they have gained notoriety this season, team members are aware they are history makers. That visibility has added to their motivation.

(Read the remaining article on our website.)

**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 maggallagher@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.

BLACK INVENTORS / INVENTIONS

Hi Everyone, Most people have heard about famous inventions like the light bulb, the cotton gin and the iPhone. But there are so many other inventions that make our daily lives easier. Among the creative innovators of these devices are Black American Inventors. Look who Sankofa and I discovered on this exciting journey...

POP-UP FACT
 Products by Black Inventors and Innovators!

Some creations are the traffic light, the ironing board, the three-light traffic signal, refrigerated trucks, automatic elevator doors, color monitors for desktop computers, the shape of the modern ironing board, the clothes wringer, blood banks, laser treatment for cataracts, home security systems, and the super-soaker children's toy.

WHO'S WHO: NOTABLE BLACK INVENTORS
 Read the paragraphs on the inventors below and write the letter that matches the inventor with their picture.

A. Marie van Brittan Brown (1922-1999)
 She created an early version of the modern home security system. Feeling unsafe due to her neighborhood's high crime rate, the full-time nurse rigged a motorized camera to record her home entryway and projected images onto a TV monitor, that included a two-way microphone in order to communicate with visitors without opening the door, as well as a panic button to notify police of any potential emergency in progress.

B. George Washington Carver (1864-1943)
 This Black American agricultural scientist and inventor showed farmers the benefits of crop rotation and fertilization, and urged them to switch to crops like peanuts and sweet potatoes to enhance the nutritional profile of their soils. He also invented new uses for them, including inks, various food products, cosmetics, paint, fabrics, paper, plastics, and more. The most well known is the invention of peanut butter. Carver discovered more than 300 uses for peanuts and hundreds more uses for soybeans, pecans and sweet potatoes.

C. Frederick McKinley Jones (1893-1961)
 Frederick McKinley Jones' career as an inventor included more than sixty patents. These include talking projectors for movies, automatic liquid-dispensing machines, and most famously, mobile refrigeration devices. He developed the automatic refrigeration equipment that allowed perishable food items to be shipped by truck, train, ship, or plane without going bad, and also enabled doctors to store blood and temperature-sensitive medicines on the battlefield during World War II. Jones was a co-founder of the company Thermo-King, which is still in business today.

D. Garrett Morgan (1877-1963)
 He was a Black inventor with only an elementary school education. Garrett Morgan came up with several significant inventions, which included an improved sewing machine and the gas mask. One of Morgan's most influential inventions was the improved traffic light. Morgan's was one of the first three-light systems that was invented in the 1920s, resulting in the traffic lights we use today.

E. Patricia Bath (1942-2019)
 A true visionary, Patricia Bath became the first Black female doctor to receive a medical patent when she invented a laser cataract treatment device called a Laserphaco Probe in 1986. It was one of several firsts the ophthalmologist achieved. The co-founder of the American Institute for the Prevention of Blindness patented her invention in 1988. Now used around the world, Bath's device has improved sight for millions of people.

F. Madam CJ Walker (1867-1919)
 Sarah Breedlove Walker is the most well-known African American woman inventor. She revolutionized hair care by designing the first hot comb and inventing the idea of pomade. Before the hot comb, most African American women straightened their hair with clothing irons, resulting in scalp and facial burns and damaged hair. Walker invented an innovative line of Black hair care products in 1905 that led to her distinction as one of America's first self-made millionaires. Her cosmetics brand is still around today.

NAME THE INVENTOR!
 Put the name of the inventor on the line next to their invention.

Patricia Bath Garrett Morgan Marie van Brittan Brown Madam CJ Walker
 Frederick McKinley Jones George Washington Carver

1. Hot Comb/Hair Care Products _____
2. Laserphaco Probe _____
3. Home Security System _____
4. Traffic Light _____
5. Mobile Refrigeration Device _____
6. Crop Rotation/Fertilization/Peanut Butter _____

ONE MINUTE MADNESS!

In one minute or less, how many words can you make out of the word **INVENTIONS?**

Here's two words to get you started!

vent note _____

HAVE YOU EVER HEARD OF...

Lonnie Johnson – Super soaker	Jan Ernst Matzeliger – Shoe lasting machine
Lewis Latimer – Carbon filament for light bulb	James Forten – Ship sails handle
Benjamin Banneker – Striking wall clock and almanacs	
Elijah McCoy – Lubricating cup for trains	Billy Blanks – Tae Bo fitness program
Michael Croslin – Blood and pulse monitoring device	
Alexander Miles – Automatic elevator doors	Alfred L. Cralle – Ice cream scoop
Joseph R. Winters – Fire escape ladder	George Crum – Potato chips
George Alcorn – X-ray spectrometer	Charles Drew – Blood banks
Jack Johnson – Wrench	Thomas Stewart – Mop
Albert C. Richardson – Casket lowering device	

WHAT INVENTION OR INNOVATION WOULD YOU CREATE?

Tell why: _____

You can share with Kemet what your innovative contribution would be at: WWW.KEMETCOMIC.COM

BLACK INVENTORS/INVENTIONS, 04/19/26, #250 WWW.JOEYOUNG.ORG KEMET ACTIVITY SHEETS © 2026 BY JOE YOUNG

Exotique Celebrates 20 Years on Durham's Main Street

Durham's Exotique will celebrate its 20th anniversary on April 25 from noon to 6 p.m. with a community celebration at 319 W. Main St. Exotique is known for introducing art and fashion from all over the world while also providing an early platform for many local artists and craftmakers in the Triangle.

The anniversary will feature a free Exotique-themed photo booth provided by Dare Kumolu-Johnson, live portrait sketches by local artist Adair, music provided by local DJ Damola, a fashion parade organized by Sahara Gar of N.C. Central's Eagle Fashion Institute and a look back at 20 years of art, style and community.

"To be able to share our anniversary with the community is special. We are so grateful for the support throughout the many years," co-owner Yemi Olufolabi said.



Exotique: Boutique & Gallery is committed to fair trade practices and to fostering economic opportunities for women.



Co-owners Lola and Yemi Olufolabi.

Foster Grandparent Program Banquet



CITY OF RALEIGH

Judy Ellis, center, was named a 2026 Unsung Hero Award honoree at the city of Raleigh's annual Foster Grandparent Program Banquet at the McKimmon Center. Foster grandparents serve in elementary schools to support students and teachers.



COURTESY

UMD announces leadership transition after a decade of service

STAFF REPORTS

DURHAM — Urban Ministries of Durham Executive Director Sheldon Mitchell will step down effective May 1, concluding 10 years of dedicated leadership and service to the Durham community.

Mitchell's tenure has been marked by significant growth and impact, including expanded programming, strengthened community partnerships, and enhanced services for individuals experiencing homelessness and hardship. Under his leadership, Urban Ministries deepened its mission-driven work, helping provide meals, shelter and pathways to stability for thousands of neighbors in need.

"Serving this organization, and this community, has been one of the great-

est honors of my life," Mitchell said. "I am incredibly proud of what we have accomplished together and confident in the strong foundation we leave for the future."

The organization continues to deliver meaningful results through its programs, including initiatives in substance use education, the launch of a new day center, and expanded collaboration across the Durham community.

The board of directors has appointed UMD Finance Director Jonathan Gattis as interim executive director. Gattis brings deep organizational knowledge and steady leadership to guide UMD during this transition period.

"The Board is grateful for Sheldon's decade of visionary leadership and unwa-

vering commitment," chair Josephine K. Davis said. "We are confident in Jonathan's ability to lead the organization forward while we conduct a comprehensive search for the next executive director."

Urban Ministries will continue its critical role in addressing homelessness in Durham with focus, compassion and momentum. Mitchell expressed deep appreciation for the community that has supported UMD's work.

"Every success we've achieved has been made possible by our staff, volunteers, donors and partners," he said. "Thank you for your generosity, your trust, and your belief in a community where everyone has access to shelter, dignity and opportunity."

April 23-24, 2026
 Raleigh Marriott Crabtree
 4500 Marriott Dr. Raleigh, NC 27612



Join us for the 20th Annual NC Black Summit as we unleash OUR power and unite in purpose to work for the equity our communities deserve.

Under the theme "Unleashing OUR Power: United in Purpose", this years summit will unite elected leaders, public policy experts, community advocates and strategic partners from across North Carolina to explore solutions that promote equity, accountability and opportunity.

REGISTRATION

\$259

(+Eventbrite Fee)

Conference registration includes one ticket to the following events: Thursday Night Opening and Networking Receptions, Breakfast, Jeanne H. Lucas Luncheon, and the 20th Annual Summit Banquet.

REGISTER NOW



SCAN to register or visit:
NCBlackSummit.org