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# The Triangle Tribune

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VOLUME 28 NO. 24

Week of June 14-20, 2026

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« 52 WEEKS OF BLACK BRILLIANCE »

## Jan Ernst Matzeliger and the Shoe-Lasting Machine

NATIONAL INVENTORS  
HALL OF FAME

Jan Matzeliger invented the automatic shoe-lasting machine, mechanizing the complex process of joining a shoe sole to its upper and revolutionizing the shoe industry.

Matzeliger was born in 1852 in what is now Paramaribo, Surinam, to a Dutch father and a Surinamese mother who had been enslaved. At age 19, Matzeliger began working as a sailor on a merchant ship. In 1873, he settled in Philadelphia, and by 1877

he had moved to Lynn, Massachusetts, to become an apprentice in a shoe factory.

At the time, shoes were usually made by hand. The process required custom molds of a customer's feet using lasts made of wood or stone to ensure a proper fit. While the cutting and stitching of leather involved some mechanization, shaping and attaching the outside of the shoe to the sole was done entirely by hand, making for a tedious and time-consuming process.

Matzeliger was deter-

mined to speed up the process of manufacturing shoes. Observing the hand lasters at the factory, he resolved to mechanize the one remaining manual bottoming process. With reference books and a secondhand set of drafting instruments, Matzeliger worked diligently on his own time after long days at the factory.

He built his first model out of wooden cigar boxes, elastic and wire. Because of the complex movements required to stretch shoe leather around a last, and the importance of the last-

ing process to the final look of a shoe, earlier attempts to mechanize the process had failed. However, after two years of perseverance, Matzeliger's prototype was complete. His device was so complex, patent examiners had to see it in operation to understand it.

Having earned a patent for his device in 1883, Matzeliger continued improving upon his invention until it could produce 700 pairs of shoes per day. This was a dramatic increase over the 50 pairs a skilled laster could make by hand each day. As a result, shoe prices

dropped by nearly half, making quality shoes affordable to more people for the first time.

By 1889, Matzeliger's shoe-lasting machine was overwhelmingly in demand. The Consolidated Lasting Machine Co. was formed to manufacture the machines, and Matzeliger was given a large amount of the organization's stock. However, that same year, he died of tuberculosis just one month before his 37th birthday. The United Shoe Machinery Co. obtained his patent and company stock. A Black heritage postage



Jan Ernst Matzeliger

stamp was issued in his honor in 1991.



FILE

## Exploring the evolution of fatherhood in the new era

By Freda Freeman  
CORRESPONDENT

Fathers throughout the state will gather June 20 at the 13th annual North Carolina Fatherhood Conference for a day of replenishment, uplift, encouragement and solidarity.

"It's an opportunity for men to come together to pour into one another, a place where men can galvanize, express, share, have dialogue, and be educated on various topics, from menopause to wellness to parenting to what it means to be a man," said Vanessa Hickmon, executive director of the Family Resource Center South Atlantic in Raleigh. The theme is "The Evolution of

Fatherhood." The conference, which is free, will explore how the role of fathers continues to grow, adapt and impact families and communities across generations, Hickman said.

"We have many men who in the past were told to suck it up, man up. Our fathers and grandfathers were not allowed to talk that talk or even cry. When you think of men then and men now, we now have generations of fathers who are open to therapy, more open to sharing their ups and downs, highs and lows. Men have evolved, and working through their emotions and feelings is acceptable," she said.

The conference gathers fathers, families, mentors, advo-

cates, educators, service providers and community leaders. Hickmon estimates about 10,000 people have attended over the past 12 years.

The day will include informational workshops and panel discussions about fathers' physical, mental and financial health, and a panel of women will talk to dads about raising daughters. Fathers will be recognized for the role they play in their families and communities at an awards luncheon.

Hickmon said the goal is to encourage fathers "to be there, to be present. Modern fathers are not just the breadwinners, leav-

Please see **FATHERHOOD/2A**

« THE INVISIBLE EXPERT »

## What if your knowledge could generate income beyond your paycheck?

By Marlon Smith  
SPECIAL TO THE TRIBUNE

What if the knowledge you already possess could create opportunities, influence lives and generate income far beyond your current paycheck?

For many people, that possibility feels unrealistic. Yet it is happening every day.

Across the country, ordinary individuals are building businesses around their expertise. They are writing books, speaking at conferences, coaching clients, creating online programs, and leveraging technology to reach audiences around the world.

The reason is simple. We are living in an economy that increasingly rewards expertise.

Artificial intelligence is transforming industries. Companies are restructuring. Traditional career paths are becoming less predictable. At the same time, demand for trusted experts, coaches, educators, trainers, speakers and thought leaders continues to grow. Those who know how to package and communicate their knowledge are gaining a tremendous advantage.

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The opportunity is enormous. Yet many talented professionals never benefit from it because they remain what I call "Invisible Experts."

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On June 27, in Charlotte, attendees will learn how to:

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- Use artificial intelligence to work smarter
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The truth is someone else is already building a platform around knowledge similar to yours. The difference is they are taking action. Will you?

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It is about positioning yourself, so your gifts create greater impact. Registration is filling quickly, and seating is limited. Reserve your seat today at: [www.TheSpeakerAuthorBlueprint.com](http://www.TheSpeakerAuthorBlueprint.com).

Your next opportunity may be waiting for you in the room.

Marlon Smith is an international keynote speaker and best-selling author whose presentations have inspired audiences in 45 states and 19 countries. As founder of the Speaker Author Blueprint Summit, he is on a mission to help people transform their knowledge, experiences, and stories into greater influence, income and legacy.



Smith

## Livable Raleigh gives city poor grade in affordable housing

By Kylie Marsh  
Kylie.marsh@triangletribune.com

RALEIGH - The city of Raleigh doesn't earn above a C in affordable housing, according to community leaders.

Livable Raleigh invited panelists for a community conversation on housing June 4 at the Tarboro Road Community Center. There, residents put their heads together to discuss solutions to the affordable housing crisis. Panelists were Carmen Cauthen, Octavia

Rainey, Wake County Housing Authority Chair Yolanda Taylor, Wanda Hunter and Raleigh Planning Commission member Tolupe Omokaiye.

"The city is stuck doing pretty much the same thing year after year," Livable Raleigh member Bob Geary said. "And it's not getting us anywhere. We're falling farther and farther behind on our need for affordable housing at every income level."

Livable Raleigh is a grassroots volunteer group of residents that informs the public to en-

courage civic engagement. The group polls local voters on key issues like housing, transportation, campaign finance and civic engagement. According to their recent poll results, 70% of respondents think Raleigh is "not doing enough to provide affordable housing for residents at every income level."

Geary asked each panelist to give the city a grade for its affordable housing performance.

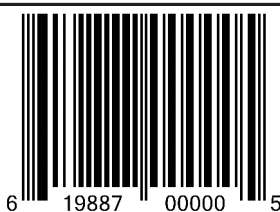
"I would get a spanking if I got

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# Livable Raleigh gives city poor grade in housing

Continued from page 1A

an F," Cauthen told the audience. "We can figure out other ways to spank the city, but a D-minus you can come up from."

Omokaiye gave the city a D because there are "minor things being done." Taylor also gave a D, as "there has been some investment," and the city "finally" has an Affordable Housing Plan, but "they haven't done enough." Rainey, who used to be vice chair of Raleigh's Affordable Housing Committee, gave the city a C-minus.

Hunter, who has lived most of her life in Southeast Raleigh, gave a D. "Even from childhood, I cannot tell you when housing affordability was under control," Hunter said.

According to Raleigh's Housing Plan, only 408 affordable units annually are expected to be built over the next four years, while simultaneously losing approximately 4,700 affordable units in the same amount of time. Livable Raleigh was one of many community groups that pushed the city to implement \$200 million for an affordable housing bond this year, but only half of

that will make it to the ballot in November: voters will decide on \$101.5 million.

"The system here in Raleigh was created to do what it's done," Cauthen said. Cauthen grew up upper-middle class but struggled financially until she started receiving Social Security checks. She almost lost her house.

Policies of restrictive deed covenants, redlining and urban renewal are all pieces of the same system meant to exclude and annex low-income and people of color into specific geographic areas, Cauthen said.

"We start to see from the laws that were put in place way before any of us were alive, this issue started," she said. "This segregation issue, this socioeconomic issue started back then. That is the system we are fighting in 2026."

While affordable housing is a buzzword now, Cauthen said we have to be specific about what we mean. "Affordable housing replaced the term 'public housing,'" she said. Public housing meant stigmatized things like poverty and racial segregation, but

"those people are human," she said. "We have to recognize that housing is a right."

Taylor also is an attorney with her own practice. She and her husband relocated to Wake Forest after living off Lake Boone Trail, which used to be somewhat affordable. She said Raleigh cannot ground its housing strategy in "trickle down housing." While developers can build anything and say they are adding to the overall housing availability, there is a lack of access for those making 30% area median income or less.

"We have decades of evidence that show that market forces alone do not adequately provide for low-wealth families," she said. As more people move to Raleigh, the Wake County Housing Authority doesn't have housing vouchers available to give to families.

"I'm not gonna lie, we have some really deep challenges that we are trying to get from underneath," Taylor said. "It was so overwhelming, the agency couldn't keep up."

(Read this entire article on our website.)

# Exploring the evolution of fatherhood in the new era

Continued from page 1A

ing all the mothering to the mother. We recognize dads play a vital role. We want to bring fathers to the forefront, to be more involved, engaged, fully co-parenting."

Michael Morgan, retired North Carolina Supreme Court associate justice, is the keynote speaker.

Morgan is the only person in state history to serve in four different judicial positions, and he was the first African American elected to the state Supreme Court without prior appointment.

Morgan said he will discuss the joys, challenges and responsibilities of fatherhood; while instilling in fathers and father figures the importance of their role in molding, guiding and directing young people to achieve the best they can be in the opportunities afforded them.

"It's important for fathers to realize that they have a treasured opportunity to make sure he represents the best that he can be in setting a tone for his child or children to strive to be as excellent as they can be regardless of whatever the circumstances might be financially or otherwise materially," he said.

"While the role of the father has changed in terms of some of society's acceptances, nonetheless, the father still has a fundamental role that has not changed. The father is still important; the father is still unique. There are so many roles now that fathers are allowed to be who they are as long as the family benefits."

The conference will be held at The Life Enrichment Center, 3805 Tarheel Club Road. Visit: ncfatherhood.com.



COURTESY

The federal work requirements for Medicaid passed in a party-line congressional vote.

## North Carolinians decry federal Medicaid work requirements

By Zamone Perez

PUBLIC NEWS SERVICE

North Carolina must adopt the federal government's new work requirement rules for Medicaid within six months, a move policy opponents say will add bureaucracy and hurt vulnerable communities.

Most adults, ages 19 to 64, will have to complete 80 hours of work, education, job training or community service to be eligible for benefits. The requirements are part of H.R. 1, President Donald Trump's budget bill that passed last year.

Maddie Twomey, Protect Our Care communications director, said many people are at risk of losing Medicaid benefits if they can't keep up with complex paperwork. She said states will have to take extra steps to ensure people can

receive benefits.

"When you think about people who maybe English isn't their first language, they might not have steady internet access, people working multiple jobs; it's very, very easy to fall through the cracks and lose their Medicaid coverage," Twomey said.

Officials with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services argue the work requirements will help Americans build skills and reduce poverty. The agency authorized \$200 million in grants to help states modernize their administrative systems as it sets up a framework for putting the policy in place.

Across North Carolina, over 3 million people are enrolled in Medicaid, representing nearly 30% of the population.

Twomey criticized the requirements as a way to

spend less on medical care for low-income people and give major tax breaks to the wealthy few. She urged North Carolinians to hold lawmakers who supported the requirements accountable in the November midterms.

"I think there is an accountability measure here, where we need to make sure we know who is fighting for our healthcare and who is working to rip it away to benefit billionaires and big corporations," she said.

Certain people are exempt from the rules, including pregnant or postpartum women, people with disabilities, the medically frail, Indigenous enrollees and caregivers of children younger than age 14.

Federal Medicaid work requirements must be implemented by Jan. 1, 2027.



KYLIE MARSH

Supporters break ground at the Alma Street Commons site.

## NC's first Living Building Challenge housing development breaks ground

By Kylie Marsh

Kylie.marsh@triangletribune.com

DURHAM - What is now two empty lots in East Durham will soon become six affordable units.

Temperatures in Durham on June 5 reached over 90 degrees on the day of the Alma Street Commons groundbreaking, a development by Durham Community Land Trustees. Its homes will not only be affordable; they are being built with entirely sustainable materials, keeping rising energy costs low and maintaining a net-zero carbon footprint.

Affordable housing development isn't easy, DCLT Executive Director Sherry Taylor said. The homes will include solar panels, be ADA compliant on the first floors and be prepped for EV charging.

"When you build sustainably, it's not cheaper," she said. "It's hot out here today. If you can't run your air conditioning, that's a health issue. Here in North Carolina, we're slated to have at least 90 days over 90 degrees. As developers, we need to build for that."

Part of the affordability is due to its physical structure: manufactured by Module, the modular homes are pre-built, transported to the land and set on the foundation by a

crane. Module, based in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, designs with environmental sustainability as a key goal, offering all Zero-Energy Ready Homes. These homes follow standards set by the Department of Energy to produce the same amount of energy it consumes.

Alma Street Commons is North Carolina's first Living Building Challenge-certified development, following DCLT's tradition of making history for the state in affordable housing. The Living Building Challenge, developed by the International Living Futures Institute, prioritizes seven aspects of development: health and happiness, water, energy, equity, beauty, place and materials.

"The Living Building Challenge calls for action to restore the relationship between people and nature as our world becomes increasingly urbanized, and we grow increasingly disconnected from the world in which we evolved," the program's webpage says. "There's more coming," Taylor said. "We know that this is going to be an issue for a long time. As affordable housing developers, we need to be designing properly, we need to be designing better."

The development stands on a protected area of the watershed, which drains toward Falls Lake, the crucial source of potable water for Orange, Wake and Durham counties.

Durham County Commissioner Wendy Jacobs and Durham City Council member Matt Kopac are members of the county's Environmental Affairs Board. They both applauded the steadfast work in developing affordable housing in a changing Durham while construction costs rise.

"If we do not have clean air to breathe, clean water to drink, healthy soil to grow our food and healthy homes to live in, we cannot thrive or survive," Jacobs said. "I am a huge fan of the land trust model. For me, it is the ultimate model that really works."

The second piece of affordability is in the land trust itself. Durham Community Land Trustees owns the land on which the homes sit, so the amount families pay for their homes is significantly cheaper.

The development still needs financing, although Wells Fargo, Durham County and the city of Durham have gotten the project this far.

## Expungement offers hope, but access remains limited

By De'Zaria Lucas

SPECIAL TO THE TRIBUNE

When Jeffrey Davis was released from jail in 2000, he thought he could start fresh. Instead, he quickly realized that his past would follow him, blocking opportunities and delaying the restoration of his rights.

Now, 45, Davis has created his own path as the owner of Xtreme Detailing and president of the nonprofit organization Never too late.

Still, he said his record continues to limit his access to resources and opportunities.

"The challenges I faced is I've never been able to obtain any type of job that is going to pay well enough to keep up with the cost of living," Davis said. "As a felon, you're kind of stuck in the blue-collar world."

Davis is one of many formerly incarcerated individuals who continue to face barriers long after their release, highlighting the challenges of trying to rebuild life without the second chance many expect.

Davis said his nonprofit is focused on helping people who feel like their

life is over. "And that's why we named it Never too late, because we want people to know it's never too late to change your life."

Emily Mistr, project director for the Second Chance Legal Aid of North Carolina, said the program provides expungement services for low-income individuals. It has been around for more than a decade. The Second Chance Act was a bipartisan bill passed by the General Assembly and signed into law in 2020 by then-Governor Roy Cooper.

For Davis, navigating the process was difficult. The former North Carolina resident now lives in Virginia. "They want you to be a North Carolina resident for at least one year to even challenge the case and get your record expunged," he said. "I think it took me over about two years."

Expunction can be a long process in North Carolina, according to the North Carolina Justice Center. Some people may have to wait years before becoming eligible, and nearly 2 million North Carolina citizens have criminal records that limits them from seeking employment and housing. However, recent law

changes reduced the waiting period for some cases, potentially helping 30,000 people qualify sooner.

Mistr said the program still faces ongoing challenges. She said limitations mainly stem from a lack of time and resources, which can make it extremely difficult to meet the growing demand for expungement services.

Some of Virginia's expungement laws are different than in North Carolina.

Davis said he thinks Virginia has some rules that are not in "black and white."

Virginia has a little more workarounds versus in North Carolina, which won't grant gun rights back to people who have committed a violent felony, Davis said. As of October, Virginia changed its expungement laws. Citizens may qualify for automatic sealing of criminal records if they have not been convicted of a crime in the last three years, according to the Ginsburg and Yang Law Firm website.

Mistr said her program provides expunction services each year. "We closed expunction files for over 800 clients" (in 2025), she said.

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## LEGAL NOTICES



### LEGAL NOTICE

#### TRIANGLE WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT SCHEDULED AND EMERGENCY REPAIRS RFP No. 26-035R

The County of Durham will receive sealed proposals for qualified Contractor(s) to establish a contract to provide the Triangle Wastewater Treatment Plant with scheduled and emergency repairs and service of equipment on **July 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.

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

Proposers can download a copy of the solicitation and all addenda without registering in the system. However, in order to **automatically** receive email notifications of solicitations and addenda issued by the Purchasing Division, Proposers **MUST** register in the eBid system.

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



### LEGAL NOTICE

#### DURHAM COUNTY EMERGENCY AND SCHEDULED COLLECTION AND DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM REPAIRS RFP No. 26-036R

The County of Durham will receive sealed proposals for qualified Contractor(s) to establish a contract to provide emergency response services and scheduled repairs to the County's collection and distribution systems on **July 9, 2026, at 2:00 P.M Eastern Time**, in the Durham County Purchasing Division of Finance, 201 East Main Street, 7th Floor, Room 703, Durham, North Carolina 27701. **No proposals will be accepted after the official time and date.**

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

Proposers can download a copy of the solicitation and all addenda without registering in the system. However, in order to **automatically** receive email notifications of solicitations and addenda issued by the Purchasing Division, Proposers **MUST** register in the eBid system.

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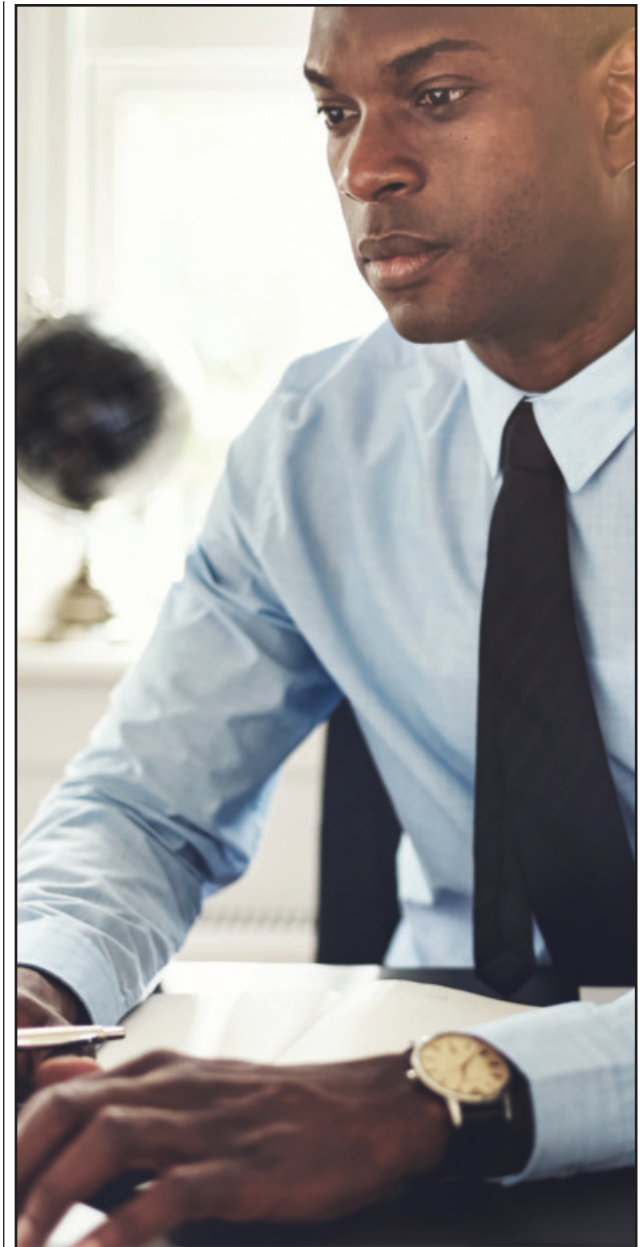




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## At Hampton, Black clergy weigh faith, AI and change

By Rev. Dorothy S. Boulware  
WORD IN BLACK

As Black churches grapple with declining participation, the rise of artificial intelligence, and continuing debates over leadership and inclusion, one of the nation's most influential gatherings of Black clergy is betting that the future of ministry will require both tradition and change.

The 2026 Hampton University Ministers Conference brought together thousands of pastors, theologians, and lay persons for conversations and workshops. The topics ranged from preaching and social justice to technology's role and the development of the next generation of Black church leadership.

The conference has long served as a theological and cultural hub for African American preaching and church leadership. The emphasis on younger clergy, women, and artificial intelligence arrives at a pivotal moment for the Black church.

Surveys by the Barna Group and the Pew Research Center have found that young people are turning away from the traditional church, while pastors are increasingly experimenting with AI-powered tools to handle sermon preparation and administrative tasks. At the same time, women now make up a growing share of seminary students and



COURTESY

The Black church must stay relevant in communities.

ministry leaders, even as debates continue over their roles in many denominations.

The Rev. Robin M. Ware, who led a workshop on hospitality and church growth, said congregations must pay more attention to how visitors experience ministry. "We are living in a time where expectations around service, connection and experience have dramatically shifted, and the church is not exempt," Ware said. "People remember how you make them feel."

The conference's emphasis on younger clergy reflects growing concern about who will lead Black congregations in the coming decades. While the church remains one of the nation's most influential institutions, Black pastors and denominational leaders increasingly acknowledge that younger adults engage with faith differently than previous generations.

That reality is reflected in Hampton's "Nu Voices" platform, which was

created to elevate emerging preachers and ministry innovators. By giving younger leaders a national stage at Hampton, conference organizers are signaling that preserving the Black church's future will require investing in faith leaders who will shape its next chapter.

The conference also arrives as churches wrestle with artificial intelligence. Across the country, clergy are experimenting with AI tools for sermon research, social media outreach, administrative tasks and congregational communications. But a new survey shows a growing number of people feel more comfortable consulting a chatbot than a live minister.

For many pastors, the conversation is not if technology belongs in ministry but how it should be used. As churches adapt to rapidly changing communication habits, Hampton's focus on innovation reflects a broader effort to ensure that technology serves ministry.

### AROUND THE TRIANGLE

#### RALEIGH MARKET

Black Farmers' Market is June 14, 1-4 p.m., Montague Plaza, 2718 Rock Quarry Road.

#### YOUTH CAMP

Youth Basketball Skills Camp: Father's Day Edition is June 15, Wakefield Middle School, 2300 Wakefield Pines Drive. Visit: [www.incfotprints.org](http://www.incfotprints.org).

#### FATHERHOOD

N.C. Fatherhood Conference is June 17, 18 & 20 at various locations in Raleigh. Visit [www.ncfatherhood.com](http://www.ncfatherhood.com) for more information.

#### WALKATHON

500 Fathers Fatherhood

Walk-A-Thon is June 20, 8 a.m., Southeast Raleigh High. Register to walk: [www.500fathers.com](http://www.500fathers.com).

#### MAMMOGRAM

Sister to Sister Alliance's Spring Fling and Fitness for Breast Health Awareness is June 20, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., 1436 Rock Quarry Road. Register: [www.invision-diagnostics.com](http://www.invision-diagnostics.com).

#### DURHAM TEEN ZONE

My Durham Teen Zone Summer Program, a drop-in summer program for ages 13-17, runs June 22 to Aug. 14, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., at two locations. Call 919-354-2730 for more information.

#### HABITAT

Habitat for Humanity of Durham's annual breakfast is June 17, 7:30-9:30 a.m., Durham Hilton, 3800 Hillsborough Road. Tickets: [habitathumanitydurham.etterworld.org](http://habitathumanitydurham.etterworld.org).

#### NETWORKING

Greater Durham Black Chamber is hosting R.O.O.T. business networking event June 18, 6-8 p.m., ReCity, 112 Broadway St. Register: [www.eventbrite.com](http://www.eventbrite.com).

#### MISC.

**BLOOD**  
The American Red Cross is issuing an urgent call for blood and platelet donors. Register at: [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org).

## Crabtree Mall to add social gaming company in 2027

SUBMITTED TO THE TRIBUNE

RALEIGH - Crabtree Mall is expanding its lineup of entertainment offerings with the addition of Level99, a real-world gaming concept that blends interactive, social challenges and mini-games with elevated food and beverage offerings under one roof. Crabtree will be home to the concept's first venue in North Carolina, in 2027.

Designed as a sprawling playground for adults, Level99 will feature more than 50 life-sized mini-games, including collaborative physical and mental Challenge Rooms and competitive Player-vs-Player Duels built for groups of two to six players to solve, race and compete. Players will discover

challenges such as axe dodging, puzzle solving, and an interactive art scavenger hunt featuring works by local artists. Players can move between games, track performance on leaderboards, and replay challenges to improve scores and climb the ranks. Guests will also enjoy scratch-made dining, hand-crafted cocktails, and craft beer among the venue's 200-seat dining area, full 24-seat bar and two private event spaces built for large groups.

Level99 will span 40,000 square feet in the former Belk's Men's space as part of the ongoing redevelopment of Crabtree. The venue will feature entrances from both inside the mall and the exterior.



Level99 will be an entertainment venue for adults.

"Crabtree is exactly the kind of vibrant, high-traffic destination where Level99 can thrive," founder and CEO Matt DuPlessie said. "Crabtree's redevelopment makes this an ideal moment to bring our real-world play and scratch-made dining to the Triangle."

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# No such thing as an off-season in sports

*"Just when I thought I was out...they pull me back in." - Al Pacino, aka Michael Corleone, "The Godfather, Part III."*

I'm not in the mob and certainly haven't killed anybody (that you can find), but I feel some of what Corleone meant on a different level.

It's June. Summer doesn't officially start until June 21, on Father's Day. The 2025-26 HBCU sports season officially ended last month.

It's ME time. Yes, there's still a newspaper to publish because the news doesn't stop, but HBCU sports used to. There was such a thing as an off-season. We could get away from it all and get our life back, if only for a little while.



BONITTA BEST

I figured I had at least until the July Fourth weekend before things heated up.

Then an email came from the MEAC announcing the details of its Football Media Day next month. The CIAA, SIAC and SWAC sent out their releases weeks ago, too early to get serious about football.

But the MEAC is the dinner bell.

The conference even changed its menu with a new meal called "The Pivot." This national sports podcast is hosted by former NFL stars Ryan Clark, Channing Crowder and Fred Taylor, so expect a whole new listening audience.

The media day returns to M&T Bank Stadium, home of the Baltimore Ravens, for the second straight year. The event was moved from its normal hotel venue in downtown Norfolk, Virginia, to accommodate the frenzy surrounding the hirings of ex-NFL superstars Michael Vick and DeSean Jackson.

It's Year 2, but the euphoria hasn't diminished, at least on Jackson's side after Delaware State came within one win of going to the Cricket Celebration Bowl.

"MEAC Football Media Day provides an opportunity to celebrate the student-athletes, coaches, and institutions that continue to shape the game of football while preparing young people for success in life," said Troy Vincent Sr., executive vice president of NFL Football Operations. "As we look ahead to another season, we celebrate the power of football to bring people together, create opportunity and inspire the next generation."

Yeah, T-H-A-T Troy Vincent, the NFL All-Pro cornerback that I watched every Sunday.

MEAC football is on "Cloud Nine," as The Temptations sang back in the day. The conference opened the season with a win against its rival SWAC (and it is a rivalry) in the MEAC-SWAC Challenge and ended the season on the same high note after South Carolina State defeated Prairie View A&M in overtime in the Celebration Bowl.

Add that to this season's storylines.

Can anybody stop the Chennis Berry machine?

Was Delaware State's success a fluke under Jackson?

How quickly will fans turn on Vick if Norfolk State goes 1-11 again?

Will Howard alumnus Ted White's inaugural season go the route of Jackson, Vick or somewhere in between?

Will Morgan State coach Damon Wilson finally get that breakthrough and turn the Bears into winners like he did at Bowie State?

And what will North Carolina Central's offense look like without 2025 MEAC Offensive Player of the Year Walker Harris, who followed in the footsteps of 2022 and 2023 MEAC Offensive Player of the Year Davius Richard?

Yep, for a short while I was out on a mental vacation, but they got me. I've been pulled back in. Giddy Up!

# The Triangle Tribune Sports

June 14-20, 2026 | 6A

## Enloe Magnet School Winter/Spring Signing Day

Several Enloe Eagles are flying off to continue their academic and athletic careers. Not pictured: Blake Eldridge, Lynchburg College, lacrosse; Chloe Light, Connecticut, swimming; Grady Gospodarek, Davidson, swimming; and Nicols Sweet, Binghamton University, diving.



Basketball: Preston Williams, William Peace



Football: Robert Harp, Guilford College; Ryan Person, Ferrum College

COURTESY OF WCPSS

## Millbrook Wildcat Club



COURTESY

The Millbrook Wildcat Club gave six student-athletes a \$500 scholarship made possible through the sale of its seasonal sports programs: Mary Jane Deen, wrestling; Jayla de Leon-Jones, women's basketball; Chloe Foulke, women's tennis; Marcel Gray, men's basketball; Mackenzie Kurtz, cheer/stunt; and Ryan Savell, football/men's lacrosse.

### COLLEGE CORNER

## Shaw goes in-house for flag football coach

The CIAA announced its 2026-27 Management Council Leadership slate on Monday. It's a long list with some long titles, but it starts with Denisha L. Hendricks of Johnson C. Smith as president. The rest you can read on the CIAA's website.

Over in the SWAC, SWAC TV, the conference's free broadcast app, has joined Mercurius Media Capital as a strategic limited partner. It's a two-way street: the partnership gives SWAC TV access to a portfolio of consumer brands looking to build a relationship with its audience, while MMC joins a platform that's rapidly growing in live stream media.

### WOMEN Shaw

The big news coming out of Bearland last week was the hiring of Bacchus Grant as the inaugural head coach of the women's flag football program.

Grant is already on campus as the director of student success and retention, but he does have coaching, personal training and student development experience. The Raleigh native is a NCCU alumnus.

"His familiarity with our campus community and student body, combined with his passion for mentorship and development, made him a prime candidate for this position," in-

Please see SHAW/7A

## 4 Alabama State basketball players involved in sports betting scandal

NCAA.com

Sports betting integrity violations occurred in the Alabama State men's basketball program when former student-athletes engaged in game manipulation for sports betting reasons, according to an agreement released by a Division I Committee on Infractions panel earlier this month.

One former student-athlete agreed to his violations, but the others chose not to participate in the investigation or were unresponsive. All four are permanently ineligible. The individuals — Amarr Knox, Shawn Fulcher, Corey Hines and Tony Madlock Jr. — are no longer members of the team and are not competing in NCAA college sports.

In July 2025, Temple informed the NCAA enforcement staff that Hines, who had transferred to Temple, was contacted by the FBI and shown text messages concerning a sports integrity issue when he was at Alabama State. The NCAA enforcement staff interviewed Knox in October 2025 and January 2026, who said Fulcher put other teammates in a group chat in December 2024 with one of two known bettors, both of whom were later indicted Jan. 14 by the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania on wire fraud and bribery charges related to sports contests.

The bettor offered the student-athletes money for the team to Please see ALABAMA STATE/7A



Amarr Knox



Shawn Fulcher



Corey Hines



Tony Madlock Jr.

## Shaw goes in-house for flag football coach

Continued from page 6A

terim director of athletics Randy McClure said. "We are confident his leadership will help establish a strong foundation for our program both competitively and academically."

**Hampton**  
Basketball coach Tamisha Augustin has completed her coaching staff. Keyana Mattox is assistant coach and director of operations. She served in the same capacity at Bethune-Cookman. Erhen Joseph is video coordinator. Nate Reid is assistant coach and director of women's basketball performance. Brooke

Moore is assistant coach and recruiting coordinator. The Pirates finished 10-21, 4-14 CAA last season.

**MEN**  
**N.C. Central**  
Coach Trei Oliver is hosting several football camps this month:  
\* June 24 is a youth camp.  
\* June 26 and 27 are both prospect camps.  
Visit the Eagles' athletics website for more information.  
The golf team won the Northeast Conference Men's Golf Sportsmanship Award for exceptional conduct on the course during the season. The

Eagles are an associate member in the NEC in both women's and men's golf since the MEAC doesn't sponsor the sport.

And, in basketball, coach LeVelle Moton continues his recruiting spree.  
\* Brunswick Community College transfer guard Viktor Alao. Alao is a Fuquay-Varina native.  
\* Alabama State forward transfer Tyler Mason.

**LEGACY BOWL**  
The Allstate HBCU Legacy Bowl is moving from New Orleans to Atlanta in 2027.  
The bowl showcases the top HBCU players from the NCAA, NAIA and independents.

## 4 Alabama State players in sports betting scandal

Continued from page 6A  
throw its game against Southern Mississippi the next night. Knox's teammates, including Fulcher, Hines and Madlock, participated in a FaceTime call with the bettor the morning of the game in which Madlock said he was injured and not able to play that night. The group agreed on the call to throw the game.

Knox said he, Fulcher, Hines and Madlock received a total of \$2,000 from the second known bettor for throwing the game. Each student-athlete's violations of ethical conduct rules are Level I.

The enforcement staff interviewed Fulcher, who provided false or misleading information when he denied participating in a

call with the bettor and sharing information with individuals who were engaged in sports betting and personally betting on sports.

In January, Hines' attorney notified the NCAA enforcement staff that his client wanted to participate in an interview. However, Hines provided false or misleading information when he denied participating in a call and sharing information with individuals who were engaged in sports betting. After the interview, enforcement staff requested text records from Hines, who did not respond.

Failure to cooperate in an NCAA investigation, including knowingly providing false information during an interview, vio-

lates NCAA rules. Fulcher's and Hines' failure-to-cooperate violations are Level I.

Madlock, who exhausted eligibility, declined to participate in an interview with the enforcement staff.

Fulcher and Hines were indicted by the Eastern District of Pennsylvania on various fraud charges in January, including bribery in sports wagering contests, wire fraud and conspiracy to commit wire fraud for their involvement in the events surrounding the Southern Mississippi game.

Student-athletes who are found to have violated NCAA rules are ineligible and can be reinstated only with the assistance of an NCAA school.

The Best in HBCU Sports  
triangletribune.com

### FATHER'S DAY ACTIVITY SHEET

Hi Everyone!

Sankofa and I traveled back in time to spend some time with one really cool dude and special guy. Yep, that would be my Father. I bet your father is very awesome to you too! There's no doubt that our fathers should be recognized and celebrated, but just like Mother's Day, have you ever wondered how Father's Day got started?

**DID YOU KNOW?...**

There was a woman named Sonora Smart Dodd who was influential in the start of Father's Day. Her father raised six children by himself after the death of her mother. Just as Anna Jarvis pushed for Mother's Day celebrations, Sonora felt that her father deserved recognition for what he had done. So, the first time Father's Day was held was in June of 1910, but it wasn't until 1972 that it became an official holiday by President Nixon. Another inspiration for Father's Day was a memorial held in 1908 for a large group of men, many who were fathers, killed in a mining accident in Monongah, West Virginia in 1907.

**FATHER'S DAY TRADITIONS!**

Father's Day is a time for you to celebrate your dad for the contributions he has made in your life. Many people send or give cards or gifts to their fathers.

Name a gift you have given to your father: \_\_\_\_\_

Name something your father likes to do: \_\_\_\_\_

Circle the things that interest your father:  
Sports Clothing Electronics Gadgets  
Tools Cooking Grilling Cars Yardwork

Many Father's Day activities may also include going to church, having cookouts, giving greeting cards, phone calls, buying special gifts, watching or playing favorite sport, going fishing, playing golf or relaxing with family and friends.

Name one way you celebrate your father: \_\_\_\_\_

Many Fathers love sports. Circle what your dad would do:  
play a sport go to a game watch on TV

Many households send greeting cards on Father's Day. Circle what you would do:  
buy a card or make a card.

Most Fathers love a good meal to eat. Circle which one your dad would rather do:  
have a cookout or go out to eat

**A FATHER'S DAY POEM!**

Father's Day is a really good time to tell your father how you feel about him. Write a word or phrase next to each letter that describes your Father.

F \_\_\_\_\_  
A \_\_\_\_\_  
T \_\_\_\_\_  
H \_\_\_\_\_  
E \_\_\_\_\_  
R \_\_\_\_\_

**FILL IN THE BLANKS:**

My Father is \_\_\_\_\_

My Father's favorite color is \_\_\_\_\_

My Father's favorite food is \_\_\_\_\_

My Father likes to \_\_\_\_\_

My Father does not like to \_\_\_\_\_

My Father is special to me because \_\_\_\_\_

My Father's favorite sport is \_\_\_\_\_

My Father's favorite song is \_\_\_\_\_

My Father's favorite place to go is \_\_\_\_\_

**ONE MINUTE MADNESS!**

Unscramble the different ways we call our Fathers. Circle which one you call your Father.

dDa \_\_\_\_\_  
aaPp \_\_\_\_\_  
rFthae \_\_\_\_\_  
yddDa \_\_\_\_\_  
pPo \_\_\_\_\_  
derPa \_\_\_\_\_

**HAPPY Father's DAY**

**KEMET DAD**


**HAPPY FATHER'S DAY TO ALL OF OUR KINGS!**

FATHER'S DAY, 06/14/26, #257 WWW.JOEYOUNG.ORG KEMET ACTIVITY SHEETS © 2026 BY JOE YOUNG


# Morehouse Triangle Alumni Scholarships

The Morehouse Triangle Alumni Association announced the recipients of the 2026 Joseph Merrick Sansom '65 Distinguished Scholarship and the Morehouse Triangle Alumni Association Scholarship at its Second Annual Father's Day Scholarship Brunch. The Sansom scholarship is named in honor of Morehouse alumnus and devoted Shaw University supporter, the late Joseph M. Sansom. Congratulations to the scholarship recipients known as "The Talented Tenth."


*2nd Annual*  
**FATHER'S DAY SCHOLARSHIP**  
*Brunch*




**ETHAN ROBERTS**  
 INTENDED MAJOR: PSYCHOLOGY  
 2026 MOREHOUSE TRIANGLE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT



*2nd Annual*  
**FATHER'S DAY SCHOLARSHIP**  
*Brunch*

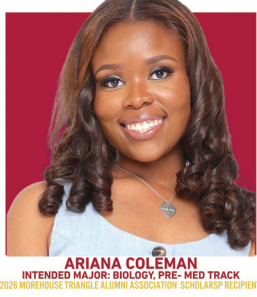


**TYE BUI '29**  
 MAJOR: BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION  
 2026 JOSEPH MERRICK SANSON '65 DISTINGUISHED SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT




COURTESY OF MOREHOUSE TRIANGLE


*2nd Annual*  
**FATHER'S DAY SCHOLARSHIP**  
*Brunch*




**ARIANA COLEMAN**  
 INTENDED MAJOR: BIOLOGY, PRE-MED TRACK  
 2026 MOREHOUSE TRIANGLE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT



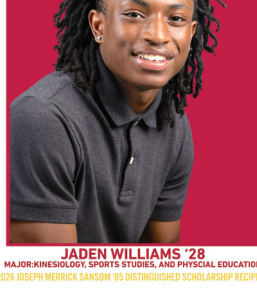
*2nd Annual*  
**FATHER'S DAY SCHOLARSHIP**  
*Brunch*




**CARL WASHINGTON III**  
 INTENDED MAJOR: BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION, FINANCE CONCENTRATION  
 2026 MOREHOUSE TRIANGLE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT



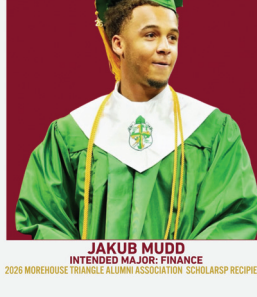
*2nd Annual*  
**FATHER'S DAY SCHOLARSHIP**  
*Brunch*




**JADEN WILLIAMS '28**  
 MAJOR: KINESIOLOGY, SPORTS STUDIES, AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION  
 2026 JOSEPH MERRICK SANSON '65 DISTINGUISHED SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT




*2nd Annual*  
**FATHER'S DAY SCHOLARSHIP**  
*Brunch*




**JAKUB MUDD**  
 INTENDED MAJOR: FINANCE  
 2026 MOREHOUSE TRIANGLE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT




*2nd Annual*  
**FATHER'S DAY SCHOLARSHIP**  
*Brunch*




**JALEN BUI**  
 INTENDED MAJOR: COMPUTER SCIENCE  
 2026 MOREHOUSE TRIANGLE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT




*2nd Annual*  
**FATHER'S DAY SCHOLARSHIP**  
*Brunch*




**GIANNI VEREEN**  
 INTENDED MAJOR: HEALTH SCIENCES  
 2026 MOREHOUSE TRIANGLE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT




*2nd Annual*  
**FATHER'S DAY SCHOLARSHIP**  
*Brunch*




**JUDAH CANNON**  
 INTENDED MAJOR: BIOLOGY, PRE-MED  
 2026 FATHER'S DAY SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT



*2nd Annual*  
**FATHER'S DAY SCHOLARSHIP**  
*Brunch*



**KYLE JACKSON**  
 INTENDED MAJOR: FLIGHT EDUCATION  
 2026 MOREHOUSE TRIANGLE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT



## TRIANGLE JUNETEENTH EVENTS

**GARNER**  
**JUNE 20**  
 \* 11 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. - Garner Juneteenth Celebration, Garner Performing Arts Center

**RALEIGH**  
**JUNE 19**  
 \* 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. - Juneteenth Black Owned Vendor Fair, Kerr Family YMCA, 2500 Wakefield Pines Drive  
 \* 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and 5-9 p.m. - Juneteenth: A Chavis Celebration, 505 MLK Jr. Boulevard  
 \* 12:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. - Juneteenth Black Business Expo 2026, Gethsemane SDA Church, 2525 Sanderford Road  
 \* 2 to 3:30 p.m. - Special Deputy Attorney General Torrey Dixon will discuss the legal journey of Juneteenth, City of Raleigh Museum, 220 Fayetteville St.

**JUNE 20**  
 \* 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Juneteenth: A Community Celebration, SE Raleigh YMCA, 1436 Rock Quarry Road  
 \* 2 to 6:30 p.m. - Capital City Juneteenth Celebration, Harvey Hill, 693 Palmer Drive.



FILE PHOTO

\* 2 to 10 p.m. - Juneteenth Grand Cookout, N.C. State Fairgrounds, 4285 Trinity Road.

**DURHAM**  
**JUNE 14**  
 \* 2 to 6 p.m. - Authors & Artist Expo: A Family-Friendly Juneteenth Celebration, Durham Central Park, 501 Foster St.

**JUNE 18-21**  
 \* Blue & White Weekend: Juneteenth Edition, 400 E. Woodcroft Parkway. Visit: [www.zeffy.com](http://www.zeffy.com). Type in Blue & White Weekend.

**JUNE 19**  
 \* 5 to 9 p.m., Juneteenth

at Hub RTP, Horseshoe at Hub RTP, 3151 Elion Drive.  
 \* 7 p.m. to 2 a.m. - DJ's Drive Juneteenth Cookout, 3219 Old Chapel Hill Road.

**JUNE 20**  
 \* Noon to 3 p.m. - Juneteenth Freedom & Legacy Festival, Lakewood Shopping Center, 2020 Chapel Hill Road

**CHAPEL HILL**  
**JUNE 19**  
 \* 4 to 8 p.m. - Chapel Hill-Carrboro Juneteenth Celebration, Hargraves Community Center, 216 N. Roberston St. Register on the Juneteenth Facebook page.





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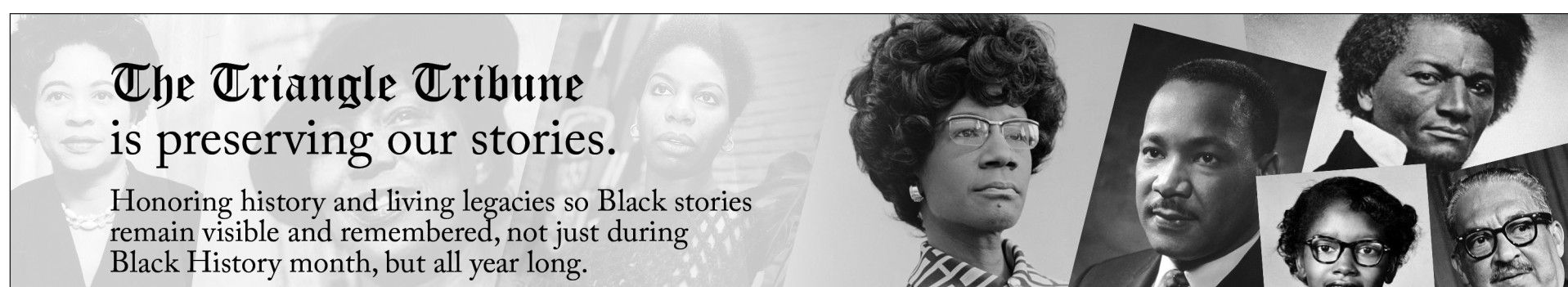
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The Triangle Tribune  
 is preserving our stories.

Honoring history and living legacies so Black stories remain visible and remembered, not just during Black History month, but all year long.