



SPORTS

Raleigh Police Dept. kicked off Raleigh Hoop Night.



COMMUNITY FOCUS

North Carolina Fatherhood Conference honors local fathers.

The Triangle Tribune

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« 52 WEEKS OF BLACK BRILLIANCE »

Daniel Hale Williams: first open heart surgery

STAFF REPORTS

Daniel Hale Williams founded the first Black-owned hospital in America, and performed the world's first successful heart surgery in 1893.

Williams was born in 1858 in Hollidaysburg, Pennsylvania, the fifth of seven children.

Young Daniel started as a shoemaker but quickly knew he wanted more education.

He completed secondary school in Wisconsin. At age 20, Williams became an apprentice to a former sur-

geon general for Wisconsin. Williams studied medicine at Chicago Medical College.

After his internship, he went into private practice in an integrated neighborhood on Chicago's south side.

He soon began teaching anatomy at Chicago Medical College and served as surgeon to the City Railway Company. In 1889, the governor of Illinois appointed him to the state's board of health.

Determined that Chicago should have a hospital where both Black and white doctors could study and

where Black nurses could receive training, Williams rallied for a hospital open to all races.

After months of hard work, he opened Provident Hospital and Training School for Nurses on May 4, 1891, the country's first interracial hospital and nursing school.

One hot summer night in 1893, a young Chicagoan named James Cornish was stabbed in the chest and rushed to Provident.

When Cornish started to go into shock, Williams suspected a deeper wound near the heart.

He asked six doctors (four white, two Black) to observe while he operated.

With the heart beating and transfusion impossible, Williams rinsed the wound with salt solution, held the edges of the palpitating wound with forceps and sewed them together.

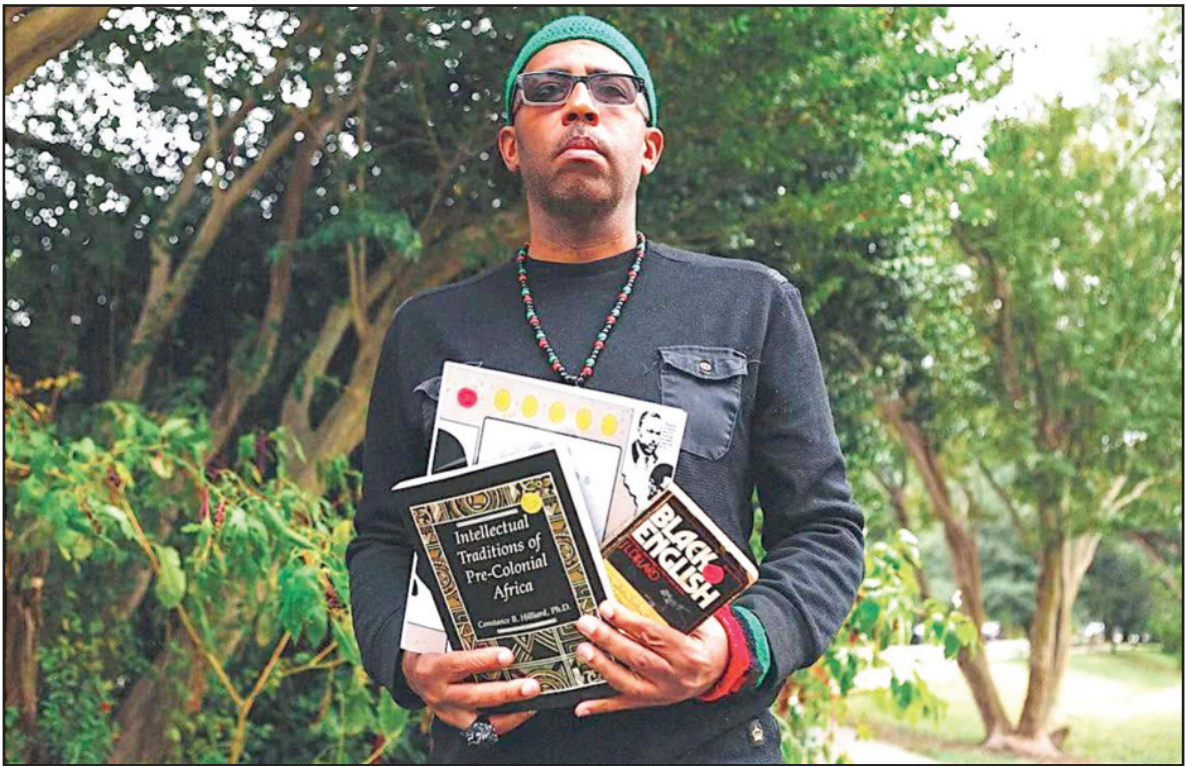
Just 51 days after his apparently lethal wound, Cornish walked out of the hospital.

He lived for over 20 years after the surgery.

The landmark operation was hailed in the press.

In 1894, Williams became

Please see **HALE/2A**



FACEBOOK

The late Minister Paul Scott wanted to put a book into every child's hand.

Remembering Paul Scott, Durham's 'Minister of Truth'

By Kylie Marsh

Kylie.marsh@triangletribune.com

DURHAM - Minister Paul Scott will be remembered for his steadfast community activism.

Family, friends and community celebrated the life of the "minister of truth" at the Bull City Kappa Community Center during Juneteenth weekend. Scott was born in Fayetteville on March 7, 1967, and recently died from health complications.

Pan-Afrikan flags, wristbands and Black, red and green cupcakes were distributed in the name of his organization, the

Black Hoodie Brigade. As a member BHB in Durham's historically-Black West End and Braggstown communities, which Scott called "Braggtown Liberation Block," he regularly distributed free books on Black culture, history and politics to youth.

Scott's daughter, Nia Hicks, told The Tribune about his genuine care for the community.

"He truly cared about everyone he came in contact with, even if they weren't a part of his activism or in his community," Hicks said.

Whenever she had a question, Scott handed her a book. "And he would follow up with me and ask, 'did you read it yet?'" she said. "I'd have thousands of other questions to ask him, and he'd tell me, 'that's OK, that's my expectation.'"

After Hicks had her children, Noah and John, she said Scott's motivation grew.

"He made it known, like, 'I want Durham to be a safe place for my grandkids to grow up. I don't want to have to hear or see anything happen to them, so

Please see **REMEMBERING/2A**



COURTESY

Trump further guts U.S. Department of Education

By Jonaki Mehta

NPR

Two of the U.S. Department of Education's biggest responsibilities will shift to other federal agencies: safeguarding student civil rights and administering programs for students with disabilities.

The Trump administration said Tuesday it will move much of the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. OSERS manages programs that support students with disabilities, offering guidance and oversight to ensure states follow the landmark Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, a law that guarantees disabled students access to an equitable public education.

The administration announced it would also move much of the Education Department's Office for Civil Rights to the U.S. Department of Justice. OCR's staff of civil rights lawyers are tasked with protecting students in K-12 schools and universities from discrimination based on disability, gender, race and national origin. OCR has been in tumult for months, targeted repeatedly by the Trump administration for staff cuts, then reversals of those cuts.

The moves to HHS and DOJ would further dismantle an agency that President Donald Trump has vowed to close, and it would leave the Education Department with a shrinking number of responsibilities.

In a press release, Education Secretary Linda McMahon said of shifting special education programs: "Through our partnership with HHS, we will align federal services with the goal of strengthening academic outcomes and supporting individuals with disabilities so that they can achieve greater independence, key life skills, and meaningful employment."

And of moving civil rights enforcement, McMahon said the partnership between OCR and the Justice Department would "ensure stronger, more coordinated civil rights enforcement and robust protections for student privacy."

The Trump administration announced the moves as "partnerships" between the Education Department, HHS and the Justice Department, though, in a call with reporters, senior department officials who briefed reporters on the condition of anonymity were vague on how these new arrangements would affect current staff. With some previous interagency agreements, Education Department staff have simply been moved, along with their responsibilities, from one physical office to another.

Please see **TRUMP/2A**

Wake County school board raises meal prices, discusses AI policy

By Liz Schlemmer

WUNC

The Wake County school board has voted to raise school meal prices by 25 cents a meal at every grade level. That would raise the cost of a full-price lunch from \$3.75 to \$4 at elementary schools and from \$4 to \$4.25 at middle and high schools.

Apex High School assistant principal Jeannette Hill spoke against the price increase at the board meeting. She said that

school meal participation promotes student achievement and attendance, and decreases student discipline incidents.

"I encourage you to value the power of school meals. I understand that budgets are tight, and that employee food and delivery costs have risen, but another cost increase is going to price even more families out of school meal participation," Hill said.

Hill, who is affiliated with School Meals for All North Carolina, suggested the district

create a task force to look for ways to cut costs on school meals. She volunteered to be part of it.

"All the points that the speaker raised, I agree with emphatically," school board member Lynn Edmonds said. "None of us are happy or want to do this to families, and it is very concerning that we're in this position."

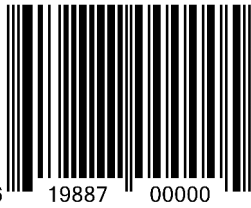
District staff said the meal price increase is necessary to cover rising costs to provide

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Trump further guts U.S. Department of Education

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According to the text of the agreements, which were obtained by NPR, HHS would do much of the work of administering formula grant programs related to IDEA while the Education Department would continue to provide management and leadership, likely because the law requires that these responsibilities still be overseen by the Education Department. While the administration claimed the move would better serve some of the nation's most vulnerable children, disability rights advocates sounded the alarm.
"My stomach drops for children and parents of infants, toddlers, children and young adults with disabilities," a former OSERS staffer told NPR. "The move would separate out oversight of the implementation of IDEA and it would decimate civil rights protections that have been in place for more than 50 years."
The former employee said without federal oversight ensuring the rights of students with disabilities, schools' legal responsibility to disabled students could go unchecked. "If nobody's looking, they could buy football jerseys rather than pay for a one-on-one aide for a child with autism."

Wake County school board raises meal prices

Continued from page 1A
meals. The district has raised the hourly wages for school nutrition staff by more than 50% in the last six years. Food prices have risen, too. "A chicken sandwich, or the chicken itself, has almost doubled in price," said Tiffany Lawrence, WCPSS senior director of child nutrition services.
Board members expressed concerns about the effects on families, especially those whose incomes are just above the threshold to qualify for reduced price lunch. "I think I struggle saying yes to making families do that, but I think it's very important for our children to have quality food," said board member Cheryl Caulfield, adding that she'd like a task force to also consider creative solutions to improve the quality of school meals.

School committee to draft AI policy
The school board is continuing to craft a new policy on the use of artificial intelligence. The board's policy committee met last week to work on it, while a related bill requiring policies like it in public schools continues to move



through the state legislature.
The latest draft the Wake schools committee reviewed included provisions that outline academic misuse of AI. Students would be held to the district's existing policies against bullying and plagiarism.
The latest policy draft also specifies that teachers should not use AI detection tools to try to catch cheating, because they can be unreliable and can have a bias against English learners.
Some board members said they'd like to see more specific language prohibiting non-consensual intimate images. That's when AI is used to generate sexual images of a real person without their consent, which is illegal under state law.
"When fake images are generated of a student, I think that that needs to be taken very seriously, and I think it should be addressed specifically," board member Jennifer Job said.

Remembering Paul Scott: 'Minister of Truth'

Continued from page 1A
what can I do now to change that climate?" she said.
Scott's wife, Tracy, said the same. "He definitely loved Durham," she said. "And he would stand up for his city. He always said that when his time was done, that the next generation would need to take the work over and keep that activism going. That's what he hoped for."
For his birthday this year, Scott posted on Facebook a list of ways folks could do just that.
"Join some Revolutionary movement in Durham to crush the existing system and create a better one for our children or start one yourself," he wrote. "Instead of having our youth look up to people just because they went to prison, teach them about real political prisoners like Assata Shakur, Mutulu Shakur, George Jackson, Angela Davis, Huey P. Newton, chairman Fred Hampton, Geronimo Pratt."
One way Scott's nephew, Ronald Clinton Jr., described him was "militant," but only in arming the

Black community with knowledge of their history and culture. "He was brilliant," Clinton Jr. told The Tribune. "His spirit and legacy will always live on."
Scott was passionate about hip-hop music and using art to revolutionize and radicalize. "He was a hell of a DJ," Clinton Jr. said. "He was always rapping, and we'd talk about conscious rap."
Upon news of his passing, hundreds of Facebook posts lauded his exemplary dedication to knowledge as a means to build community power.
"I first got connected with Minister Paul Scott as a Hip Hop journalist. We would build on the culture and his passion for what it meant to Black folk and its impact across the world," wrote Raleigh community activist Dasan Ahanu. "He appreciated young artists and had a way of offering insights and information and not judgement."
A woman whom Scott affectionately named "Spitfire," remembered him for his calm demeanor. The two met through work to get an energy drink called

"Cocaine" removed from shelves in primarily Black areas.
"He was passionate but calm," Spitfire said. "If he was really angry, he would voice it with words and find a book that had to do with it. It was more about the knowledge that he gave me to help me learn how to navigate these certain systems."
Organizer Efiotu Jagun said Scott kept every child to whom he distributed books in mind and checked up on them. Scott even gave Jagun a book because of a testimony she shared during public comment at Durham City Council.
"It was refreshing to have someone care about younger people," she said. "He would ask them what they thought about the book or what book their siblings were reading."
For many in Durham and beyond, Scott's death is not the loss of a leader and activist, but a passing of the torch.
"It wasn't about him," Hicks said. "It was always from the heart and about the community."

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ADOBESTOCK

Your home is an investment. Create generational wealth.

Q&A with local home lending manager Roy Kelly

JPMORGAN CHASE

For most Americans, owning a home has long been considered a cornerstone to building and preserving generational wealth.

A home purchase often symbolizes more than just securing a place to live – homeownership can help anchor families, support long-term financial stability and fuel local economic growth.

If you currently own a home or if homeownership is one of your financial goals, it's important to understand how your home can be a foundational pillar in helping you build and maintain generational wealth.

A home can be an asset that appreciates over time as you build equity which can serve as a financial resource for you and your family for decades to come.

Roy Kelly, who leads a team of Chase Home Lending Advisors in North Carolina, shares more about the connection between homeownership and building generational wealth, and how you can make sure your home becomes, or remains, your most important financial asset.

Q: How does a home create generational wealth?

A: There are several perks to homeownership, many of which contribute to building wealth. Owning your home may be cheaper than renting in the long term if you have a mortgage with competitive rates; however, it's important to keep in mind other home expenses, like insurance and taxes, when considering costs. Plus, since you own the home, that means you can build and tap into your equity for future expenses or profit when your home is sold.

Another way to think of homeownership as it relates to your financial picture is that it can influence your overall net worth. When you make monthly payments, you're slowly owning more of your home, and it can become an asset. On the other hand, if you rent, your monthly housing costs are just an expense for a place to live, and you don't own any of it when you leave. Put simply, owning a home may help you grow your money over time.

Q: Explain home equity and how building equity works.

A: The technical definition of home equity is the difference between the fair market value of your home and how much you still owe on your mortgage. Essentially, think of it as the part of your home's value that you truly own. It's made up of the amount you've already paid off, plus any increase in your home's value. So, if you're home's value goes up, so does your equity and vice versa. Equity grows as you pay down your mortgage and, as I mentioned earlier, the market value of your home increases.

Q: How can this be beneficial financially?

A: There are a few ways. You can borrow against your home equity by

taking out a loan, using your property as collateral to secure the loan. There are a variety of ways you can do this such as through a home equity loan, home equity line of credit (HELOC) or a cash-out refinance. You may use these funds to cover other expenses, like high-interest credit card debt, make home improvements, invest in another home or in an emergency. Home equity loans also tend to have more favorable terms than credit cards or other personal loans, potentially saving you money in the long run.

Q: What if you sell your home?

A: The more equity you have, the more you can profit from selling your home if you do so in the future. For example, if you've paid off your entire mortgage before you sell, you may get to keep all potential profits. If you haven't paid off your mortgage, any profits will pay off what you owe and you'll keep the remaining funds-- the more home equity you have, the greater your profit could be.

Q: What other benefits come from owning your home?

A: Homeownership offers the potential opportunity for tax deductions. The interest you pay on your mortgage, insurance premiums, property taxes and even improvements to your energy efficiency may provide an opportunity for tax deductions. You can consult with your tax advisor if you're looking to understand how buying a home may impact your taxes.

There s no place like home

Homeownership has long been a powerful tool for building generational wealth in communities across the U.S. and can help you secure a solid financial future for yourself and your family. Your home is more than just the place where you rest your head—it can be your greatest financial asset.

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Daniel Hale Williams: first open heart surgery

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chief surgeon of Freedmen's Hospital in Washington, D.C., the most prestigious medical post available to African Americans then.

There, he made improvements that reduced the hospital's mortality rate.

In 1895, he helped to organize the National Medical Association for Black professionals, who were barred from the American Medical Association.

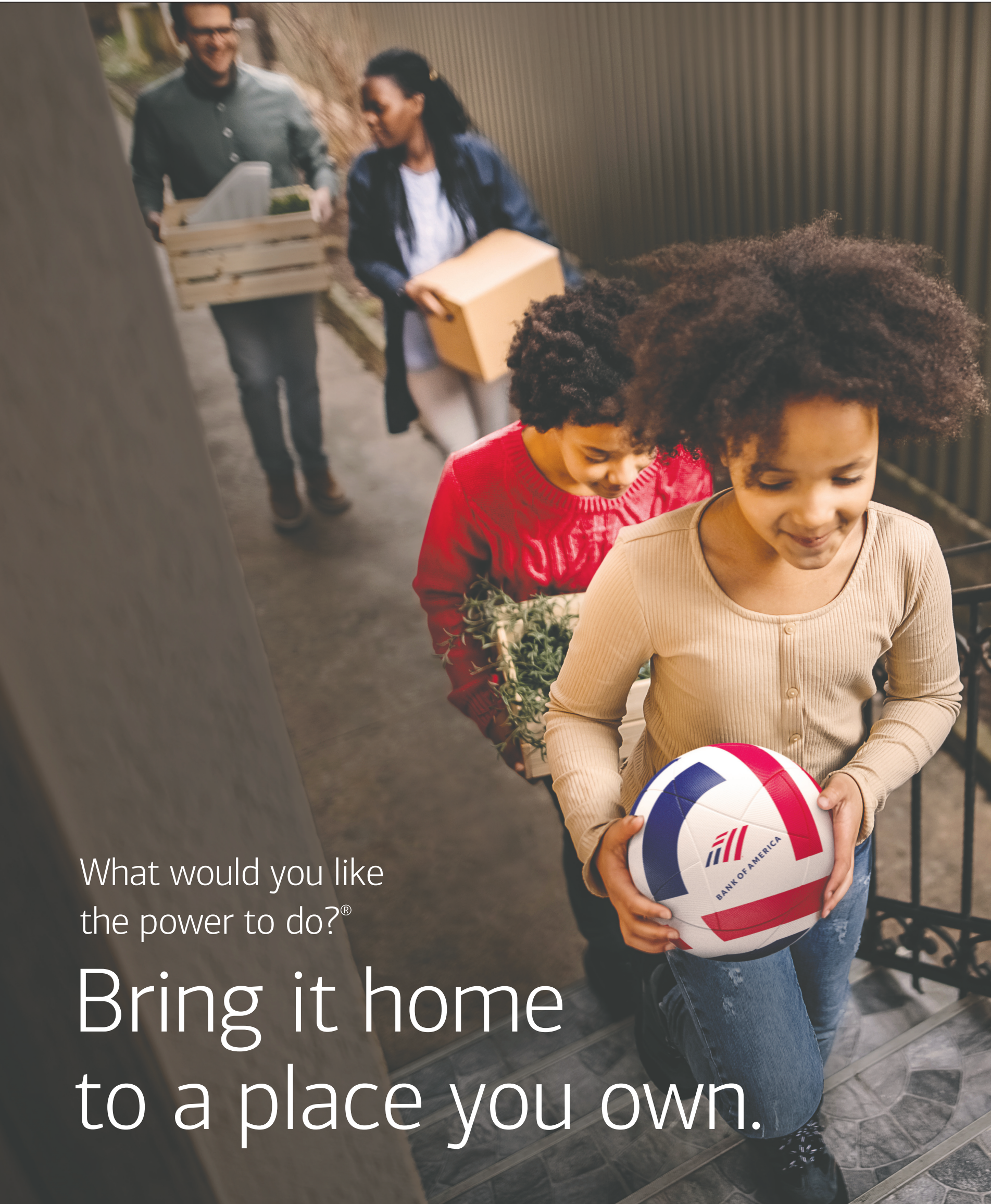
Williams returned to Chicago and continued as a surgeon.

In 1913, he became the first African American to

be inducted into the American College of Surgeons.

Williams died in 1931. The Daniel Hale Williams Medical Reading Club in Washington, D.C., commemorates his achievements.

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Trump changes pregnancy-prevention program to promote childbearing

By Sofia Resnick
STATELINE

A federal poverty-fighting program focused on reducing unintended pregnancies is about to undergo a major overhaul. Reproductive health clinics use Title X federal grant money to provide birth control, cancer screenings and testing, and treatment for sexually transmitted infections to people with little or no health insurance. Title X money cannot be used for abortions. The Guttmacher Institute estimates that Title X, which was signed into law by Republican President Richard Nixon in 1970, has prevented almost 20 million unintended pregnancies and 9 million abortions. It has also helped reduce child poverty, according to the group, which supports abortion rights. But President Donald Trump has taken aim at the program, which has long been a target for abortion opponents. Since regaining the White House, Trump has temporarily blocked and then restored grants to certain reproductive health clinics and proposed a U.S. Department of Health and Human Services budget with no funding for the program. The department's recently issued funding guidelines for Title X grants represent a significant mission shift. Instead of expanding access to contraception, the focus of Title X will be "to strengthen family formation and assist clients in achieving healthy pregnancies," according to the new guidance. That will

align the program with the administration's efforts to increase the U.S. birth rate. The new rules say Title X will prioritize educating Americans about natural methods to avoid pregnancy and overcome infertility, and will promote "body literacy education" and "informed, preventive, and restorative approaches to reproductive health." Some conservative groups tout an obscure alternative treatment for infertility called "restorative reproductive medicine," which is based on the idea that the underlying causes of infertility can be treated through lifestyle changes and improving a person's overall health. The guidance directs Title X clinics to promote "fertility-awareness-based methods," such as period-tracking apps, which the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists says can be helpful for getting pregnant but less effective at preventing pregnancy. It also calls on clinics to offer counseling on male fertility issues and to address environmental causes of infertility, including pornography use. And it includes a prohibition on DEI efforts and warns grantees that federal money cannot be used to "facilitate or incentivize illegal immigration." Anti-abortion groups support the changes, but many health policy researchers say they will disproportionately harm low-income and minority women, who are more reliant on Title X services and are more likely to have unintended pregnancies. Corinne Rocca, an epidemiology professor at the University of California, San Francisco, said the way

to do that would be to spend more on childcare subsidies and other social programs to help new parents. "Policies that help people and families feel supported to meet their childbearing preferences ... would actually help people who are open to the prospect of childbearing to do so," Rocca said. In line with Project 2025's recommendations, HHS says Title X grantees will no longer be required to counsel or refer for abortions, and tells applicants that relationship counseling should encourage marriage as a precursor to having children. As a Black woman and researcher focused on Black maternal health at Ibis Reproductive Health, Terri-Ann Thompson is better informed than most on the ways having children can be disproportionately more dangerous and less affordable for women who look like her. But she says what she wasn't expecting to uncover — during research for a study she co-authored in the journal Frontiers in Public Health this spring — is how much the fear of negative medical and criminal justice outcomes makes many Black women in Georgia and North Carolina scared of pregnancy. "I was very surprised to see that folks were actually thinking about the context within which a Black child is born and raised well before they even contemplated starting a family," Thompson said. "We had a lot of, just, stories of folks saying, 'Why would I want to bring a child into this context; how does one prepare Black women to bring a child into this context?'"



AROUND THE TRIANGLE

- KNIGHTDALE RODEO**
Food Truck & Rodeo Extravaganza is July 3-4, Haven Farm, 8521 Buffaloe Road. Info: Dr. Abu at 919-375-6034.
- RALEIGH MARKET**
The next Black Farmers' Market is June 28, 1-4 p.m., Montague Plaza, 2718 Rock Quarry Road.
- CONCERT**
The Music Industry Center presents "A Gathering of Voices" musical event July 4, 7-8 p.m., Dix Park.
- FESTIVAL**
Freedom Foodie Festival is July 4, 11 a.m. to 10

- p.m., 5959 Triangle Town Boulevard.
- CHAMBER**
Black Chamber Raleigh is hosting a member-exclusive insurance workshop for entrepreneurs and business owners, July 7, 6:30 p.m., The Fresh Collective, 1425 Promise Beacon Circle, Suite 111. Visit: blackchamberraleigh.com.
- EDUCATION**
WakeEd Partnership launches its community supply drive for public school educators and students July 7. Visit: wakeed.org/supply-drive.
- MEALS**
Wake County has added four new locations where

- youth 18 and under can receive free meals: Peach Road Cultural Center, Raleigh Church of Christ, Redeeming Love Missionary Baptist and Sherrill's University of Cosmetology. Visit: wake.gov/summer-food.
- DURHAM FAIR**
Big Pop Up Family Resource Fair is June 30, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Durham Central Park, 501 Foster St.
- CHAPEL HILL MARKET**
Chapel Hill Farmers Market Tomato Day is July 4, 9 to 11 a.m., 201 Estes Drive.

Protecting our children means using every technology we have

By Dr. Monique Porter
SPECIAL TO THE TRIBUNE

I have dedicated my life to supporting and advocating for youth. I have worked to educate and mentor young people in our community, empowering them and reminding them that their lives have purpose. Every child I meet carries potential, and every child deserves protection. Nothing is more devastating than the moment a child goes missing. When an AMBER Alert is issued, time becomes the single most valuable resource we have. Too often, we discuss public safety in abstract terms, but for families in crisis, policy debates are not what matter. Every second counts, and every decision about how we use our limited time must be intentional and effective. To make the most of these limited resources, we must ensure that law enforcement agencies across the Triangle have every tool available to maximize the time they are given. Thankfully, there are tools that can save valuable hours. Tools like License Plate Recognition technology work in real time, giving law enforcement the ability to act proactively when children go missing rather than reactively. These cameras help identify vehicles connected to AMBER Alerts or known trafficking activity, allowing officers to move faster and follow leads more effectively, whether along major corridors or highways throughout the Triangle. When it comes to keeping our children safe, this is not about theory; it is about tangible outcomes. I



Porter

have seen how vulnerable young people can be, especially those who lack stability, support or opportunity. With our region's location along major trafficking corridors, these are the very children who are often targeted. We cannot afford to limit the tools that help us find them. It is true that tools like LPR must have clear guidelines for how and when they are used. There must be safeguards, and there must be public transparency. But there must also be trust between our communities and the officers sworn to protect us. The debate surrounding these tools is important,

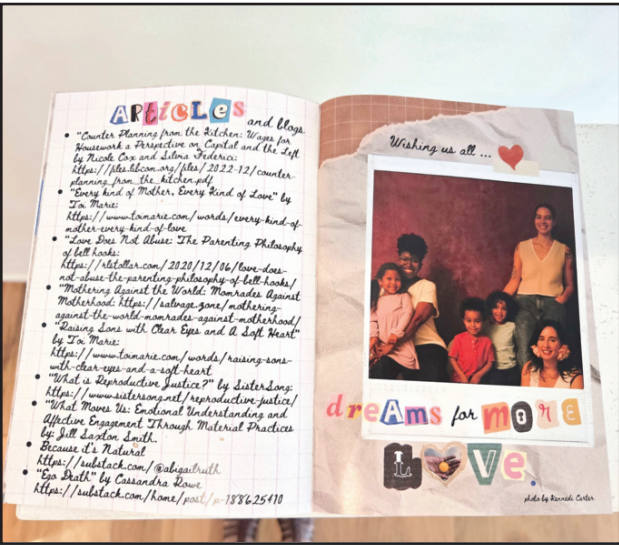
but we must remain honest about what is truly at stake. When a child is in danger, the question is not whether a tool is perfect, it is whether that tool can help bring that child home. The families of the Triangle deserve protection. They deserve to know that when something unthinkable happens, every available resource will be used to respond swiftly and effectively. This is not just about technology; it is about the safety of our community. When every second matters, we cannot afford to come up short.

« EXHIBIT »

‘How Does It Feel’ explores motherhood in its many forms

By Kylie Marsh
Kylie.marsh@triangletribune.com

DURHAM – "How Does It Feel" is a multidisciplinary art exhibition that opened last month. The show seeks to expand and explore our concept of "motherhood" as caregiving, but also the ways caregiving changes one emotionally, mentally and, of course, physically. The artists featured do not all define themselves as cisgender women. The exhibition is on view at the Yarrow House at the People's Solidarity Hub in Durham's Lakewood neighborhood. It's next open hours are on July 7. A closing reception is July 17 at 6 p.m. "How Does It Feel" was curated by Cassie Rowe and Charla Rios who are both mothers and members of Mothers 4 Ceasefire, a grassroots organization that hosts demonstrations and exhibitions in the name of ending the genocide in Palestine. In a special zine made to accompany the show, the two state: "We believe that mothering, as defined by Alexis Pauling Gumbs as a 'practice that has existed as long as people of different ages with different superpowers invested in each other's existence,' can support the future of our species." Viewers are invited to "feel how they mother themselves to heal," and given a call to action. "You are needed for all of your talents and gifts to shape and shift the current state of the world."



KYLIE MARSH

Viewers can interact with works like Abigail Ruth's "Care To Hold," which asks viewers "what they are willing to carry and for how long?" Viewers must take from a large pile of bricks and place them individually, creating a collective makeshift castle. Since opening night, the structure has grown, perhaps suggesting how every individual creates and imprints on every child as they grow. Under Natzieli Alvarez's "Devocion à Madre," sits a woven paper notebook on which the words "Prayers to Divine Mothering" is scrawled in both English and Spanish. Accompanying the notebook are markers and pens, including one perfectly sized for small hands. The work itself is a small altar topped with several melted multi-colored candles interspersed with dried rose petals. Charla Rios' "Unforeseen

Expectations // But who will hold me?" segments of red glass beads creep from the wrist opening of a red latex kitchen glove toward the fingers, turning into black beads. While the artist's description explains how Rios realized she always thought of her mother's life as defined by her own existence as her child, it suddenly changed once she embarked on her own caregiving journey. The black beads could represent the feelings of resentment from the inconvenience of obligatory caregiving, especially when confronted with the reality that motherhood is a binding contract. Beyond the photos and canvases on the walls, the show gathers and embodies some of the best parts of Durham: a chosen sanctuary for radical care outside of gender expectations but according to one's own moral compass.

NCAA gives players 5 years to play

By Eric Olsen
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Eager to lessen the chaos of the transfer portal era, the NCAA approved a new eligibility model for Division I athletes on Tuesday that will allow five seasons of competition over a five-year period that begins with their full-time enrollment or the academic year following their 19th birthday, whichever occurs first.

The Division I Cabinet approved the change from the longstanding tenet of college sports that gave athletes five years to complete four seasons of competition with their eligibility clock starting at the time of enrollment, regardless of age.

The move will all but eliminate waivers or redshirt years for extended eligibility except for religious missions, maternity leave or active-duty military service. No longer will extensions be considered for athletes who are injured.

The rules are set to take effect this fall. Division I includes more than 350 schools, some 200,000 athletes and, with football and basketball leading the way, is by far the most lucrative of the three in the NCAA.

The five-in-five language also is included in Senate legislation intended to address numerous concerns across college sports and comes after a wave of lawsuits from athletes seeking to extend their college careers and ability to earn money through revenue sharing and name, image and likeness deals. Still to be seen is whether the new rules will withstand legal scrutiny alongside the existing challenges.

Heisman Trophy runner-up and Vanderbilt quarterback Diego Pavia remains the lead plaintiff in a lawsuit challenging an NCAA rule counting seasons spent at junior colleges against players' Division I eligibility time. That case is slated for trial in February.

"I wouldn't say that the rule change itself will slow lawsuits down," said Sam Ehrlich, a Boise State assistant professor of legal studies in business and management who tracks litigation against the NCAA.

Ehrlich said athletes very well could continue to petition courts for extended eligibility based on antitrust arguments, but appellate courts recently have delivered wins for the NCAA by overturning preliminary injunctions in several cases.

The new eligibility model will affect all athletes who enroll in 2027-28. Currently enrolled athletes with eligibility after the 2025-26 academic year, and those who are incoming freshmen this fall, can apply the age-based model or continue under previous eligibility rules.

For schools with current athletes who may be eligible for hardship waivers or extensions of eligibility under current rules, the D-I Cabinet indicated the deadline to submit requests to the NCAA is July 31. After that date, waivers would no longer be available.

Attorney Mit Winter, who specializes in sports law, has called the five-year proposal and age limit "a very sensible rule" in offering a "more black and white" evaluation to player eligibility, particularly for schools navigating a complicated waiver process determined on a case-by-case basis.

But with athletes still not being considered employees or having collective bargaining available to establish agreed-upon standards, Winter said, legal challenges are likely.

"It might be a little easier to defend than the current rules we have," Winter said. "But when you just look at it from a broad point of view, it's still essentially limiting how long someone can work as a college athlete and be paid."

The Triangle Tribune Sports

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Raleigh Police Department Raleigh Hoop Nights

The Raleigh Police Department kicked off Raleigh Hoop Nights with an evening full of basketball, music, food and community connection. Raleigh teens came together to enjoy friendly competition, build relationships with officers, and have fun in a safe and positive environment. The event is part of the RPD's Summer Action Plan and reflects the department's commitment to creating opportunities for engagement and mentorship throughout the summer.



COURTESY OF RPD

COLLEGE CORNER

VUU's Jada Byers retires from football

The Ohio Valley Conference is returning to its original name and logo beginning in the fall.

The conference had merged with the Big South to form the Big South-OVC Football Association from 2023-24 and OVC-Big South Association for 2025.

Tennessee State is a member of the OVC. The Tigers were the first HBCU to join a predominantly white conference.

"The return to a unified OVC football identity represents more than a rebrand; it signifies a reset, a refocus and the start of an exciting new direction for our league," OVC Commissioner Matt Wilson said. "Over the last three seasons, our association has provided the competitive foundation we needed. Now, with eight programs in the association aligned under one brand, we have the clarity, momentum and share purpose to elevate what OVC football can be for years to come."

WOMEN

N.C. Central

Track stars Tia Lucas and

T'Sheylah Moore earned 2025-26 College Sports Communicators Academic All-District honors. Student-athletes must be at least a sophomore and maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.5 or higher, and finish among the top 50 performers in the region to qualify.

Lucas is a two-time conference champion in the high jump, and Moore moved up to 45th regionally in the 400-meter dash.

MEN

N.C. Central

Shot putter Julian Williams also earned All-District honors after finishing 34th in the Southeast Region rankings.

And in basketball, coach LeVelle Moton is keeping the transfer portal hopping. Claflin guard Cristian Sanon and Morgan State forward Christian Meeks (one without an "h" and one with an "h" in his name) are coming to Eagleland.

Shaw

The CIAA announced the athletes attending next month's



COURTESY

Left to right: Julian Williams, Tia Lucas and T'Sheylah Moore.

Football Media Day. Coach Lamar Manigo will bring Alexander Marsh and Keyshaun Powell to Durham on July 15.

The CIAA Live the Legacy Golf Tournament kicks off the event July 13 at Hillandale Golf Course.

Then, a youth football clinic is on the 14th at Hillside High from 6 to 7:30 p.m. for grades three through eight.

You know it's going to be hot

as hades. CC will see you at the breakfast.

Virginia Union

Record-setting running back Jada Byers is officially retiring from football. Byers made the announcement late last week on his Instagram page.

He played all four years at VUU, setting a program record

Please see **BYERS/7A**

HBCU esports league's official name and logo

25 HBCUs have committed to the February 2027 kickoff

SUBMITTED TO THE TRIBUNE

PlayVS and Urban One revealed the official name and logo of their national HBCU collegiate esports competition: Power4+ HBCU Esports League.

Building on their landmark February partnership announcement, the companies also shared that 25 institutions have signed up to compete in the inaugural season kicking off February 2027, including Bowie State, Clark Atlanta, N.C. State A&T and Howard University.

The three-year partnership establishes a dedicated, fee-free competitive gaming ecosystem within the PlayVS College League, designed to expand access, visibility and career path-

ways for HBCU students nationwide.

Timeline:

* Summer 2026: An advisory committee of esports leaders from participating HBCUs will convene to finalize the league's structure and select eligible game titles.

* Fall 2026: A series of HBCU-focused invitational competitions will begin, offering early integration opportunities for founding brand partners.

* February 2027: The Power4+ HBCU Esports League inaugural season kicks off, culminating in an in-person national championship event.

"This first wave of participating schools is just the beginning," PlayVS Director

of Collegiate Charles O'Donnell said. "By partnering with Urban One, we are combining best-in-class competition with powerful storytelling and national reach. We're building a long-term pipeline that supports students from competition to careers in gaming, technology and beyond."

Power4+ HBCU Esports League aims to bridge the opportunity gap and foster the next generation of Black gamers, creators and tech professionals. The league provides a rare, turnkey ecosystem for forward-thinking brands to support diversity in tech while tapping into the immense economic power and loyalty of the Black gaming community.



"The rapid adoption we're seeing from HBCUs across the country affirms both the cultural relevance and the economic potential of esports within our community," Urban One AVP of Sales Alvord Reese said. "Black consumers continuously drive cultural and commercial trends, and gaming is no exception. By combining Urban One's

Please see **ESPORTS/7A**

Byers retires from football

Continued from page 6A

5,978 rushing yards and 71 rushing touchdowns. He was signed by the United Football League's Memphis Showboats in 2025 and later played in the CFL.

Jackson State

Well, well, lookie here!
ESPN analyst Kendrick Perkins will become the Tigers' general manager of men's basketball.

First, John Wall goes to Howard in a similar position and now this. You know the next question CC, and everybody else, wants to know is: How much are they getting paid?

And speaking of Jackson State, congrats to alumnus Dave Clark on being inducted into the 2026 College Baseball Hall of Fame. Joining Clark from HBCU country is Florida A&M alumnus Marquis Grisson. Visit blackcollegenines.com for more on the HOFers.

Savannah State

Alumnus Joseph Hampton has signed a contract with the Arena League's Nebraska Siege.

Hampton amassed 2,357 all-purpose yards and nine touchdowns during his four years. Last season he



HBCU Swingman Classic returns.



Jada Byers had a stellar career at Virginia Union.

rushed for 408 yards and six TDs, and caught 15 passes for 142 yards. He also averaged 23.8 yards on kickoffs.

Fifty Division I HBCU players will showcase their talents on a national stage and before pro scouts.

This is the fifth year of the classic, which will be broadcast on MLB Network, or you can buy tickets at mlb.tickets.com.

Baseball

The HBCU Swingman Classic presented by USA Baseball is July 10 in Philadelphia. The idea was created by Major League star Ken Griffey Jr.

Alabama State to host MJBL Classic

By Larry Barber

SPECIAL TO THE TRIBUNE

Richmond, Va. - Alabama State University will host the Metropolitan Junior Baseball League July 15-19 in Montgomery, Alabama.

The Southeast Region MJBL Classic/Black World Series will feature three male divisions: 12-Under, 15U and 19U in the first leg of this adventure.

Montgomery is the capital city of Alabama. The Black granite Civil Rights Memorial and adjacent exhibition center commemorate the Civil Rights Movement. Martin Luther King Jr. preached at the Dexter Avenue Baptist Church, a hub for the Montgomery Bus Boycott.

Close by is the domed 1850's Alabama State Capitol. East of downtown, the Montgomery Museum of



Fine Arts displays porcelain and American and African art.

The second leg of the Classic will be in Richmond, Virginia, hometown of the MJBL, from July 29 through Aug. 2. The event will offer four male divisions, ages 8 to 19; girls' softball for ages 14U and 18U and the World Series game.

Activities begin July 28 with the celebrated Bobby Bonds Memorial Symposium, which will be held virtually. The topic is "Father-Son Connection in Baseball."

Thanks to the support of Major League Baseball and the MLBPA Youth Development Foundation, the MJBL has been able to expand its projects.

HBCU esports league's official name and logo

Continued from page 6A

media reach with PlayVS's infrastructure, we are creating an unprecedented,

high-impact platform for partners and brands looking to authentically engage with this highly influential, tech-forward

audience."

V i s i t :
<http://pcl.gg/power4>.



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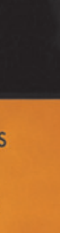
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NATIONAL MEN'S HEALTH MONTH ACTIVITY SHEET



Hi Everyone!

Sankofa 82 and I just returned from a Men's Health Conference held at the Mayo Clinic in Phoenix, Arizona. June is National Men's Health Month, so let's take a look at some of the issues that affect men.

JUNE IS MEN'S HEALTH MONTH



Men's Health Month is designed to encourage men to consider their physical and mental health as well as their social connectedness to others. The color for the month is blue. Men between the ages of 15-65 are less likely to seek preventative medical care services. They are also less likely to have a primary care physician (PCP). Men typically don't seek medical help until there is a need to do so. They should also stay current with all their required and recommended vaccinations. For a complete checklist of adult vaccinations see the Center for Disease Control and prevention (CDC) and the American Urology Association.

POP-UP FACTS

On average women live 6 years longer than men. Men represent 79% of all suicides committed in the United States.

CAUSES OF BLACK MEN'S DEATH

Black men have a higher rate of diseases and death across all racial groups. The primary reasons are poor health by racial discrimination, high rate of incarceration, unemployment, a lack of affordable health services, poor health education, insufficient medical and social services and access to health insurance. The 10 most common causes of death in Black men: heart disease (23.7%), cancer (20.2%), unintentional injuries (7.9%), homicide (5.0%), stroke (4.9%), diabetes (4.3%), chronic lower respiratory disease (3.2%), kidney (2.6), septicemia (1.8%), and hypertension (1.6%).

POP-UP FACTS

The leading causes of death among Black men are heart disease and cancer. Life expectancy for Black men is 71.8 and white men 76.3 (almost 5 years).

TELL THE TRUTH!

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

Men's life expectancy is three years longer than women. _____

You can get an adult vaccination checklist from the Center for Disease Control _____

Men should pay attention to their mental, physical, and social health. _____

Black men's life expectancy is 79.5 years. _____

Most males have heard the statement that they should not show their emotions. _____

POP-UP FACT

Men's Health is also recognized one week in November (called Movember).

ONE MINUTE MADNESS!

In one minute or less, unscramble words that are related to men's diseases. The first letter of the name is in **bold**.

teHra eeaDiss _____

iiHecdom _____

neMalt hteHla _____

rypHnonteesi _____

tysOebi _____

dcSuiie _____

MATCH ME!

Match the percent to the cause of death in Black men.

	23.7%	20.2%	5.0%
Homicide	4.9%	4.3%	1.6%
Diabetes			
Heart disease			
Hypertension			
Cancer			
Stroke			

ANSWER KEY

TELL THE TRUTH: T F T F T F

MATCH ME! 4.9% 4.3% 23.7% 1.6% 20.2% 4.9%

ONE MINUTE MADNESS! Heart Disease Homicide Mental Health Unintentional Injuries Chronic Lower Respiratory Disease Suicide

NATIONAL MEN'S HEALTH MONTH, 06/28/26, #259 WWW.JOEYOUNG.ORG KEMET ACTIVITY SHEETS © 2026 BY JOE YOUNG

Fatherhood Conference

The 2026 Fatherhood Conference in Raleigh brought together fathers, families, community leaders, educators, health professionals and advocates to celebrate the vital role of fathers in strengthening families and communities. The conference featured engaging keynote speakers, panel discussions, and workshops focused on responsible fatherhood, parenting skills, mental health, economic mobility, co-parenting and family engagement.



North Carolina State University assistant professor Terrance Ruth, with his son Miles, was named father of the year.



Conference vendors showcased materials uplifting fatherhood.

More North Carolinians now eligible for affordable mortgages

By Valerie Sciacca
N.C. Housing Finance Agency

RALEIGH - The North Carolina Housing Finance Agency is working to make home buying more attainable by increasing its income and sales price limits for its affordable mortgage products.

Eligible first-time and move-up homebuyers making up to \$158,000 may now benefit from the N.C. Home Advantage Mortgage with up to 3% down payment assistance.

Income limits also increased for the Agency's N.C. 1st Home Advantage Down Payment, which offers \$15,000 in down payment assistance for eligible first-time buyers and military veterans. The sales price limit for a home purchased under the N.C. Home Advantage Mortgage umbrella is now \$525,000.

"The N.C. Home Advantage Mortgage has helped thousands of North Carolinians buy homes each year," executive director Scott Farmer said. "Raising our income and sales price limits will open the door for more homebuyers across the state, even in a challenging market."

The mortgage program is available through a statewide network of participating lenders and can be used to purchase single-family homes, townhomes, condominiums, duplexes and new manufactured homes. To be eligible, buyers must:

- * Purchase a home in North Carolina.
- * Occupy and retain the home as a primary residence.
- * Have an income not exceeding \$158,000 (income limits for the N.C. 1st Home Advantage Down

Payment vary by county and family size).

- * Have credit scores of 640 or higher.
- * Be applying for an FHA, USDA, VA or conventional loan through a participating lender.
- * Meet the sales price limit of the loan type or program.
- * Be a legal resident of the United States.
- * Be a first-time buyer or military veteran if applying

for the 1st Home Advantage Down Payment.

The N.C. Housing Finance Agency helped 5,140 North Carolinians purchase affordable homes in 2025 and generated \$19.6 million in state and local tax revenue from investments in newly constructed affordable homes.

Visit www.NCHomeAdvantage.com to learn more and find a local participating lender.

Ligon Legacy Committee community update

By Carmen Cauthen
SPECIAL TO THE TRIBUNE

Many people have reached out asking what has been happening with the Ligon Legacy Committee, so I wanted to share a brief update.

The committee was created by Wake County Schools Superintendent Robert Taylor to provide historical context, cultural insight and community perspective as Ligon Magnet Middle School is reimagined.

The committee has met three times since April and includes alumni, elected officials, community members, parents, students, school staff, WCPSS staff and the design team.

The first two committee meetings were highly interactive.

Members discussed traffic patterns, student safety, neighborhood impacts, accessibility, and ways to ensure that Ligon's history and traditions are reflected in the new campus.

The design team used those comments and recommendations to revise the original concepts and,



FILE

Students at John W. Ligon Junior-Senior High School.

on May 19, presented an updated design direction to the Wake County Board of Education. The Board approved moving forward with the revised Scheme A, which is now being further developed by the design team.

The board's approval established the general location and organization of the campus. Discussions about how Ligon's history, traditions, memories, and artifacts will be represented in the new school, however, are continuing and will continue to be informed by community engagement.

Over the summer, work will continue to collect oral histories, identify and scan photographs and memorabilia, and connect with alumni, former students, staff, and community members whose stories can help preserve and interpret Ligon's legacy.

If you have photographs, documents, memorabilia or stories to share, or if you would like to be contacted, please send me a message on Facebook.

I look forward to sharing additional updates as this work continues.

SCHOOL NEWS

JOHNSTON COUNTY

The Junior Women's League of Smithfield awarded scholarships to five seniors at Johnston County high schools.

The league established the JWL Scholarship in 2019 to advance its mission of fostering women's leadership by empowering young women in our community to achieve their full academic potential. The Grants and Scholarship Committee is dedicated to recognizing outstanding young women in the Johnston County community who demonstrate a strong commitment to personal growth, supporting others and making a meaningful impact through academic excellence, leadership, and community involvement.

Class of 2026 scholarship awards:

- * \$1,000 scholarship - Madison Moore, Clayton High
- * \$1,000 scholarship - Peyton Luxford, Corinth Holders High
- * \$500 scholarship - Ava Pyrtle, Clayton High
- * \$250 scholarship - Lilian Mizner, Smithfield-



COURTESY

Symphony Murray of American Leadership Academy

Selma High

- * \$250 scholarship - Symphony Murray, American Leadership Academy

"The committee had its work cut out for us throughout the application process - from 30 applicants, 20 were selected for interviews. The young ladies interviewed were so poised, well spoken, received glowing recommen-

dations from teachers, advisors and community leaders, and are already having an incredible impact on Johnston County and beyond," said Sarah Edwards, JWL Grants & Scholarship Committee chair.

Visit: www.JWLSmithfield.com or email JWLSmithfield@gmail.com.

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