



SPORTS

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COMMUNITY FOCUS

'Funky' community hub opens in downtown Durham

The Triangle Tribune

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Ever had cataract surgery? Thank Patricia Era Bath

CHICAGO DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE

Patrica Era Bath, M.D., (Nov. 4, 1942 to May 30, 2019) is best known for her invention called Laserphaco Probe, a device and technique for cataract surgery. She also was the first female member of the Jules Stein Eye Institute.

Bath was the first black female doctor to receive a patent for a medical purpose. A holder of five patents, she also founded the nonprofit American Institute for the Prevention of Blindness in Washington, D.C. She received her medical

degree from Howard University College of Medicine in Washington, D.C., interned at Harlem Hospital from 1968-69, and completed a fellowship in ophthalmology at Columbia University from 1969-70. Bath was the first African American to complete an ophthalmology residency with New York University's School of Medicine in 1973. Two years later, the UCLA School of Medicine appointed her the first female faculty member in its department of ophthalmology. Believing that "eyesight is a basic human

right," Bath co-founded the American Institute for the Prevention of Blindness in 1977, an organization whose mission is to protect, preserve and restore the gift of sight.

Interning in New York City in the 1960s sparked a revelation for Bath, noticing that rates of blindness and visual impairment were much higher at the Harlem Hospital's eye clinic, which served many Black patients, than at the eye clinic at Columbia University, which mostly served whites. That observation spurred her to conduct a study that found

twice the rate of blindness among African Americans compared with whites. Throughout the rest of her career, Bath explored inequities in vision care. She created the discipline of community ophthalmology, which approaches vision care from the perspectives of community medicine and public health.

In the early 1980s, Bath studied laser technology and saw its potential for eye surgery. In 1986, she invented the Laserphaco



Patrica Era Bath, M.D. in her office.

Please see **EVER/2A**



FILE PHOTO

The late St. Augustine's President Prezell Robinson celebrates with daughter JesSanne Johnson.

Faith, family and fellowship surrounds Prezell Robinson

SAU President Emeritus Prezell Robinson celebrates 105 years

By Alex Bass
Special To The Tribune

(The Tribune is republishing this August 2025 article in honor of Prezell Robinson, who passed on Monday. Funeral service is July 11, 11 a.m., at St. Ambrose Episcopal Church.)

RALEIGH - For Prezell Russell Robinson, every opportunity for faith-filled, familial fellowship is

a good time.

Food catalyzes conversations for the St. Augustine's University president emeritus, who celebrated his 105th birthday on Aug. 25. Daughter JesSanne Robinson Johnson and her family brought the patriarch's culinary favorites - shrimp, trout and German chocolate cake - for dinner at the same home where Robinson and his late wife, Lulu, and JesSanne moved in the

1970s after SAU eliminated its presidential residence to make space for a library.

"His lineage is going to be there forever, hopefully," Johnson said. "We will be able to appreciate all of the wonderful things he left on campus." The library was dedicated in 1984 in honor of alumnus Robinson - the college's president from

Please see **FAITH/2A**



KYLIE MARSH

A packed house got the three-day Summit on Saving Lives off to a bang.

Durham hosts inaugural summit to reduce youth gun violence

By Kylie Marsh
Kylie.marsh@triangletribune.com

DURHAM - The city of Durham and Durham County joined to host the first "Summit on Saving Lives" June 24.

The three-day event gathered over 30 community leaders to establish a set of strategies to reduce gun violence and save lives in the Bull City. The plan must be put into action within 60 days.

Although Wednesday's sessions were open to the public, the workshop took place in the middle of the work week, beginning at 9 a.m. The final two days were for working group members only.

June 25's agenda included sessions on place- and problem-based policing, environmental crime prevention, policing and prosecuting gun violence, managing anti-violence initiatives, funding anti-violence initiatives, procedural fairness and a review of previous efforts. The summit was facilitated by Thomas Abt, founder and director of the Center for the Study and Practice of Violence Reduction at the University of Maryland. The center is funded by donations and corporate partner contributions but provides its services free of charge.

According to research by Lisa Barao and Reygan Cunningham from the Crime and Justice Policy Lab at the University of Pennsylvania, the analysis of homicides and nonfatal shootings in Durham showed 197 homicides and 102 nonfatal shootings. Barao said this is about double the national average at 12.7 per 100,000 people.

In 2025, 90% of Durham's homicides involved guns. While youth gun violence is a major concern of residents, juvenile crime data is confidential.

A crude analysis of the cities in which the Violence Reduction Center has hosted its summits - St. Louis, Missouri; Boston; Memphis and Knoxville, Tennessee - show significant reductions in either homicide rates or nonfatal shootings.

"This is a crude indication that the VRC is helping

Please see **SUMMIT/2A**

Independence Day has lost its relevance for many Black Americans

By Kylie Marsh
Kylie.marsh@triangletribune.com

In 1852, Frederick Douglass questioned the significance of so-called "Independence Day" for Black people, a sentiment that rings true for Black Americans today, perhaps more so in recent years.

Qualin Golden has lived in

many cities around the country. He moved to Durham last fall. He just turned 32 and comes from a military family: his grandfather, both of his parents and his sister have all served. Golden is different, though.

"You're not really a person, you're more of like a number. Most people just say you're just

a number or a cog in the machine type of deal," he told The Tribune. When he was a kid, the Fourth of July simply meant a day to have a barbecue with family, maybe watch fireworks.

"I wasn't really told anything, I just knew it was a day when

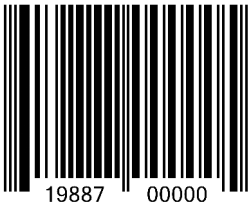
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Ever had cataract surgery? Thank Patricia Bath

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probe, a device and method for cataract treatments. When she patented the instrument in 1988, she became the first African American female doctor to receive a patent for a medical invention.
By 1983 she was chair of the ophthalmology residency training program at Drew-UCLA, the first woman in the United States to hold such a position. In

1993, Bath retired from UCLA Medical Center and was appointed to the honorary medical staff. After that, she advocated for telemedicine to provide medical services to remote areas.
Bath was also recognized for her philanthropic work in the field of ophthalmology by President Barack Obama. In 2009, she was put on his commission for digital accessibility to blind

children.
Her greatest passion, however, continued to be fighting blindness until her death. Her “personal best moment” occurred on a humanitarian mission to North Africa, when she restored the sight of a woman who had been blind for 30 years by implanting a keratoprosthesis. “The ability to restore sight is the ultimate reward,” she said.

Faith, family, fellowship and good food

Continued from page 1A
1967-95. Robinson, a World War II (Army) veteran, and a sociologist and educator per his Ivy League Ph.D. degree from Cornell University, extends his life-long learning now through more listening from the comfort of his living room chair with headphones connecting him with news and music resources. His teaching is timeless, through the treasure trove of handwritten notes - to himself and the institution's sons and daughters.
“I know how I felt receiving a handwritten note as a student from the college president,” said Everett Ward, who has Robinson's message from when he was elected freshman class president in 1977. Ward became the first African American executive director of the North Carolina Democratic Party before returning to SAU as its president from 2014-19. He extended traditions of note writing, eating in the cafeteria with students, and including students in scholarly discussions.
“That was a Prezell Robinson model of leadership,” Ward said. “Your personal success is never

enough. If your community is not successful, then you as a leader have failed.”
Robinson's autobiography, “A Man's Reach Should Exceed His Grasp,” reinforces this precept through the exaltation of his wife. “I am so proud of Lulu, and her accomplishments, the love and care she gave to our family, and the support and encouragement she gave to me in the pursuit of my dreams. All that I have accomplished, we did together. To this, I will be forever grateful,” Robinson wrote.
St. Aug's alumnus and legendary track coach George Williams echoed Ward in affirming Lulu Robinson's prowess as an educator at the college. “I followed the same playbook,” Williams said of Robinson, who participated in track & field as an undergraduate. “I was just in a different arena. God didn't make winners and losers. He made choosers. I watched the choices that he made.”
Robinson's far-reaching humanitarian endeavors took him all over the world, including to the United Nations. In a faculty/staff meeting, Robin-

son told the story of how he introduced himself at the UN, and acknowledged - in his authentic, home-grown South Carolina drawl - his St. Augustine's affiliation and that many of them might not be familiar with the institution.
Williams recounted what Robinson said he was asked to do. “When you get back, tell coach Williams we said ‘Hi,’” said Williams, who almost fainted at that moment.
“He represented us with the utmost dignity and pride,” Williams continued. “He is the kind of guy, intentionally a gentleman, who was focused on getting the job done. He was always himself. He is still part of my family.”
For Johnson, a 1988 St. Aug's graduate, the Aug. 25 family meal was timeless. Her interwoven “home and school” family grew whenever Robinson brought his wife and daughter to dine with students in the campus' cafeteria after a Sunday service in St. Augustine's Chapel.
“The whole family loved that, because he was a people person,” Johnson said. “(He said) Do not forget the people who helped you get here.”

Durham hosts inaugural summit to reduce violence

Continued from page 1A
these cities,” Abt said. “Of course, at the end of the day, it's the folks in Boston, Knoxville and St. Louis that are driving the work - just like you will the work, but our hope is that maybe the VRC makes you a little bit better at what you do.”
Abt clarified that the summit is not intended to be an overall public safety plan. It does not cover topics like intimate partner violence, bullying or traffic safety.
“It's focused on the form of violence that is costing the most lives in the city this year,” he said. “We're also not going to be addressing, at least directly, the broader picture: the root causes, the structural factors. Those two are incredibly important, but those are long-term issues which the city is moving to address in other ways, in other areas, every day.”
When asked for a rationale of why these root causes were not addressed, Abt said you have to pick and choose your battles. “If you promise to do everything, you're most likely gonna end up doing nothing,” he said. “We have to be realistic about where we can start.”
Abt acknowledged the impact of racial segregation leading to social dysfunction and violence, “but that pathway is also working in reverse,” he said. “High rates of violence are traumatizing communities, intensifying racial segregation, intensifying concentrated poverty, and ultimately, reinforcing social stigma and separation.”
The city hosted over 15 public listening sessions between January and May in the months leading up to the summit. Roshanna Humphrey, director of Durham County's Justice Services Department, presented the common threads from the sessions: the need for trust and fairness in the city's justice structures, credible messengers in the window before violence occurs, safer conditions like lighting and sanitation, healing and mental healthcare after harm, and the need for income.
“People need to feel like they can trust the individuals that they are working with. That is critical to this,” Humphrey said about procedural fair-

ness in regard to the criminal justice system. “They want to feel that ownership. They want to feel a part of it.”
Tanya Kelley is a resident of Cornwallis Apartments, one of Durham's public housing complexes. Trauma teams need to be sent more than once, and their efforts need to be more widespread, she said. Delays in police response only add to the community trauma, and it starts young.
“Most times, it takes them so long to pick up a dead body. The children done watched it for so long outside. There's gotta be some kind of decency,” she said. “It doesn't affect just that person that got shot or their household, it affects the whole community...one shooting can lead to 10retaliation shootings.”
Kelley also said the city doesn't clean up the blood after a shooting, so the residents are left to do it.
While the summit focuses on the most highly-impacted individuals, one figure from Barao and Cunningham's analysis stands out from the rest: on average, individuals who were known perpetrators of homicide in the city had an average of 12 prior arrests for personal disputes like property or “women,” as Barao said. This begs the question whether enforcement actually deters these individuals.
“They were known to the criminal justice system before they committed a homicide,” Barao said.
Despite 21% of gun-related incidents being motivated by known gang conflict, at least 52% of victims and suspects were known to be affiliated with gangs.
The hot spots for these shootings were McDougald Terrace, Cornwallis Apartments and East Durham.
“Adult African American males are most disproportionately impacted in Durham. At the same time, this is why I go back to using this as a foundation for problem analysis. It is not every Black male in Durham,” Cunningham said. “We're talking about folks who are known to the criminal justice system, convicted of felonies, at least 15 prior contacts; we want to narrow it down.”
A recording of the public summit is available on the city's YouTube page.



FILE PHOTO

Juneteenth has replaced July 4th for many African Americans in significance.

Independence Day has lost meaning for Black people

Continued from page 1A
friends and family could spend the day together,” he said.
But as he got older, there had been a sort of “shift.” Conversations on social media that were critical of the holiday influenced him. “What it made me think was like, ‘should I actually celebrate the holiday?’” he said.
Olivia Brew is a rising high school senior in Apex and plans to go to the beach for the holiday weekend. She was spending her Monday evening at Southpoint Mall with a friend. She said the holiday seemed more exciting and patriotic as a child.
“With how the government and everything has kind of shifted away from beliefs that align with mine, it's been less about the patriotism of it all and more like the community behind it,” she told The Tribune. “This is the place where we all live, and we're all Americans in that way, so I'm not gonna not celebrate it, but I'm not gonna celebrate the political aspect of the state right now.”
Brew said she values individuality and allowing self-expression, but doesn't see the government allowing that type of freedom. “I feel like in a lot of ways, the government

has catered the way the world works to a vast majority instead of those individual minorities and the people that need it to be catered to them more,” she said. “There's still a lot of racism in our everyday lives, and it comes from a systemic standpoint where it's built into how we live our lives. It's simple things like, if a group of Black kids were to go out and be in a store like this, they're more likely to get kicked out for the same thing that another group wouldn't get kicked out for.”
Melodie Walker-Edmund, 54, and her husband Craig Edmund, 51, were in downtown Durham chaperoning their daughter and her friends Monday evening. Melodie is originally from Maryland, and Craig moved to the states from Antigua when he was 22.
Coming from the D.C.-Maryland-Virginia area, Walker-Edmund told The Tribune that, as a child, there was pride, patriotism and excitement for fireworks, but as she got older and learned more of the history and more about Juneteenth, her attitude has shifted as well.
“Fast-forward now, and it's very different,” she said. “Just from where we are as far as the United States goes and what's been done and what we're

doing to other cultures, the pride isn't there like it used to be before. I think it's more of the Fourth of July being for fireworks if the kids wanna watch it.”
Husband Craig agreed. “July Fourth doesn't really ring as anything special for me, and I appreciate the significance of Juneteenth more, because learning that as independence came, it still took a few years before that happened for everyone at that time.”
Jacian Jones is 24 and sees no reason to celebrate the holiday.
“Over time, I realized more and more what the holiday really was, and the fact that my people weren't even free at the time. It's like, what does that even have to do with me when my people were in bondage?”
Jones said it's OK to use the time off from work to gather with family and friends for a cookout. It is a weekend during the summer, after all.
“For the people who are still celebrating it, and you see everything that's going on in America to this day, it's like come on now. I need you to wake up,” he said. “You would think everybody would have a conscience and have the intellectual ability to see what's going on.”

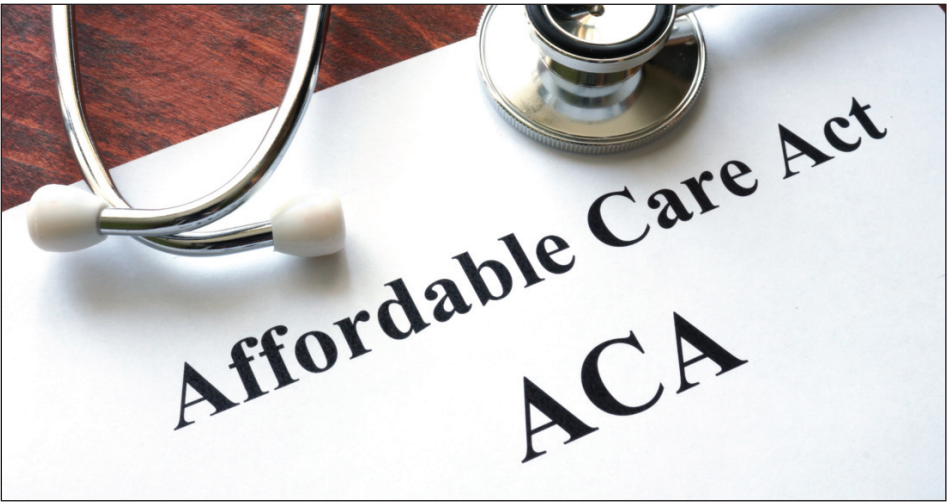
North Carolinians drop Obamacare in record numbers as cost soars

By Andrew Jones
KFF HEALTH NEWS
Year after year, Ross and Rebecca Tobiassen saw their healthcare costs rise, having relied on the Affordable Care Act for federally subsidized health insurance since its start in 2014. Year after year, the couple in western North Carolina kept their coverage, believing the peace of mind was worth the cost.
But in December, that changed. The Tobiassens decided to cancel their insurance when Rebecca saw the cost of their monthly premiums would jump from \$130 to more than \$550. “It makes no sense,” she said. “It's not worth it anymore.”
The couple own and are the only employees of a small auto shop just west of Appalachian State University. Rebecca worries about her husband, whose work as a mechanic can be dangerous. A spring once shot a metal ball joint into their garage wall like a gun. A heavy object crushed Ross' thumb. In 2020, Ross became mostly blind in one eye after repeatedly getting metal shards in it and developing an infection in his cornea.
The Tobiassens are among the Americans who canceled their ACA coverage after Congress allowed enhanced tax credits that helped pay for insurance plans to expire at the end

of 2025. The Tobiassens benefited from those tax credits — like millions of other enrollees expected to drop or be dropped from their coverage as the year progresses, unable to keep up with the higher costs.
Established by the Biden administration's American Rescue Plan Act during the COVID pandemic, the expanded subsidies reduced monthly premiums for many families and prompted a tidal wave of new sign-ups, doubling ACA enrollment to about 24 million.
The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services is expected to soon release complete data on how many people are no longer covered under the ACA, but an early analysis from KFF, citing Wakely Consulting Group research, showed enrollment could drop from over 22 million at the end of 2025 to as low as 16.5 million in 2026.
In North Carolina, individual ACA sign-ups for 2026 were down 22% compared with the year before, a greater drop than any other state, amounting to a decrease of more than 213,000 people, according to enrollment data. While the Tobiassens' two teenage daughters remain on Medicaid, Rebecca said the new prices showed that the federal government doesn't care about families like hers. “We've known that you don't care about

us,” she said, “but you're making it plain and simple now.”
The couple's insurance hadn't helped them cover all their medical needs. When the pain from Ross' eye infection worsened five years ago, Rebecca insisted he go to a specialist, who told them that fixing the eye through cornea replacement surgery would cost them up to \$30,000 and require Ross to take six months off. Ross chose a less expensive treatment to kill nerves in the eye instead.
The couple know they're taking a risk by not being insured. If something were to happen, they could face an enormous medical bill. Ross, 47, said the blindness in the one eye doesn't significantly affect his job. He works long hours, sometimes into the night to keep up with demand. “I try not to think about it too much,” he said. “I just work.”
Katie Alexander oversees volunteers for Pisgah Legal Services, a western North Carolina nonprofit that helps low-income people secure health insurance. Alexander has helped North Carolina and Tennessee residents try to get ACA marketplace plans since Obamacare's launch. She said she's never seen anything like this year.
Nearly 100 Pisgah clients, out of about 700 that Al-

Please see **NORTH/3A**



ADOBE STOCK

More than 200,000 people in North Carolina declined to enroll in the Affordable Care Act marketplace this year.

North Carolinians drop Obamacare as costs soars

Continued from page 2A
Alexander's team worked with during open enrollment, decided to drop insurance this year, and many others chose cheaper ACA plans with less coverage, Alexander said.

Alexander said the people who have dropped

their coverage include Lyft and Uber drivers. They're trying to start their own businesses. They are artists and people who can work only part-time, because they're chronically ill. Some are unable to get insurance through their employers, or they make too much to be on Medi-

caid. "Even for folks who don't have chronic illnesses," Alexander said, "there's just this nagging at the back of your mind, kind of constantly, of: 'Don't get hurt. Don't get sick. Because you can't afford that.'"



Wake Tech partners with WCPSS to launch apprenticeship academy

By Molly Steur
EDUCATIONNC
Wake Technical Community College and Wake County Public Schools have partnered to launch a youth apprenticeship program: the WakeWorks Youth Apprenticeship Academy.
According to a Wake Tech press release, the program is supported by a \$4 million award from Bloomberg Philanthropies. Free for all participants, the academy will connect students with careers in infrastructure-related fields across nine U.S. cities, including Raleigh.
The program is a part of Bloomberg Philanthropies' \$90 million initiative to expand pathways for high school students to enter Registered Apprenticeships and pursue high-wage, family-sustaining careers in skilled trades.
"We are deeply grateful to Bloomberg Philanthropies for this historic investment, which will help us expand life-changing opportunities for students while strengthening the workforce pipeline for our community," Wake Tech President Scott Ralls said in the release. "Through this partnership with Wake County Public Schools, we are creating a powerful new model that allows stu-

dents to begin building meaningful careers while still in high school."
Through the academy, high school juniors and seniors will be able to gain hands-on experience in skilled trade work along with college credit.
Juniors will start in the academy as pre-apprentices, where they will take tuition-free Wake Tech courses, earn a stipend and explore career opportunities. Then, as seniors, they will progress to a Registered Youth Apprenticeship, where they will continue with their Wake Tech coursework and begin earning their own wages with a local employer. Finally, students may choose to continue their registered apprenticeship, complete their degree at Wake Tech or enter the workforce.
"By bringing schools, unions, and employers together as partners, we can offer students free training and credentials that lead directly to rewarding careers," said Michael Bloomberg, founder of Bloomberg LP and Bloomberg Philanthropies, and three-term mayor of New York City. "Jobs in the skilled trades helped build America's middle class, and now they can help a new generation enter and strengthen it."

The program is designed to help students enter high-wage, high-demand jobs such as automotive technicians, construction workers, electricians, HVAC technicians, plumbers and welders.
Demand for skilled trades like these have been on the rise, and the academy program is designed to meet that need.
"Millions of good-paying jobs are going unfilled, and too many students never get a chance to learn the skills necessary to get them. This new initiative will help change that," Bloomberg said.
According to the press release, the money will go to fund all aspects of the program: student stipends, books, tools, wraparound support and even employer wage stipends.
"Our partnership with Wake Tech enables young scholars to grow into adults ready to thrive and strengthen the community," WCPSS Superintendent Robert Taylor said. "The Youth Apprenticeship Academy will create a pathway to success for students from all backgrounds."
The first cohort will start in January with 60 students, the release says, and the program will serve a projected 250 students over the next three years.



COURTESY

Black students are viewed as having behavioral issues rather than mental health issues.

School counselor shortages harming students and teachers

By Sage Abrams
CORRESPONDENT

As counselor shortages continue across North Carolina schools, some teachers say students are increasingly struggling to access consistent emotional and academic support.
The ability for middle- and high school-aged youth to access mental health support is important for healthy development, with a lack of support resulting in a possibility of higher rates of anxiety, depression, poor sleep and lower life satisfaction.
A major cause of this problem is North Carolina schools are both understaffed and underfunded. According to The Education Law Center, the state received an "F" for funding level, spending about \$5,600 less per student than the national average. This lack of funding can have far reaching effects on schools.
The North Carolina Association of Educators says North Carolina has priori-

tized the interests of corporations and billionaires over working-class residents.
"North Carolina's failing grades reflect years of deliberate neglect," NCAE President Tamika Walker Kelly said. "Lawmakers have refused to fully fund our public schools, denied educators meaningful raises, and the Supreme Court has allowed Leandro to languish. Our children cannot afford this continued failure of leadership."
An educator at Centennial Campus Middle School said the lack of adequate personnel is resulting in teachers and other staff having to fill those gaps.
"Teachers often become the first line of emotional and academic assistance even though we already carry full instructional responsibilities. Limited staffing means schools often have to prioritize crisis situations, leaving less time for preventative support and relationship-building."
The North Carolina Department of Health and

Human Services released a report that 32% of Durham County students reported persistent feelings of sadness or hopelessness in 2024, the latest year for statistics.
Psychologist Dr. Wade Green said a student's mental state can directly affect academic performance.
"With depression, someone cannot even show up to class for anxiety. It goes back to being overwhelmed and thinking too much, which impacts test scores and lowers your grade," he said. These challenges can make it more difficult for students to attend class regularly, stay engaged and perform well academically.
The Education Opportunity Project reported in 2024 that learning rates vary by race, with Black and Hispanic students showing lower learning rates than white and Asian students. Green said Black students are more likely to be viewed as a problem and assumed to have behavioral issues rather than mental health concerns.

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A red mailbox with a white envelope slot, set against a blurred background of a house and street. The mailbox is open, and a white envelope is visible inside. The background shows a house with a porch and a street with a car.


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Project TURN brings Duke Divinity students and incarcerated learners together to study theology as equals, challenging traditional ideas about prison ministry and creating opportunities for mutual transformation. Credit: Getty Images

Duke School of Divinity brings seminary students and incarcerated classmates together

By Rev. Dorothy S. Boulware
WORD IN BLACK

One of Jesus' central lessons, and arguably his most powerful, is encapsulated in a deceptively simple statement: "I was in prison, and you visited me."

For generations, Christian leaders have interpreted that passage from Matthew 25 as an obvious call to look after the least of us, including the incarcerated. At Duke Divinity School, however, a 15-year-old program sharpens the lesson: It brings together divinity students from an elite private university and people serving time in prison.

What began as a prison ministry initiative in 2011 has evolved into one of the most distinctive theological education programs in the nation.

Called Project TURN, the program has transformed incarcerated participants, broadened the vision of future pastors, and deepened the knowledge of divinity school professors. Participants say it transforms drab prison classrooms into sacred spaces where learning flows and redemption is more than a sermon topic.

"They're all fellow learners," Dean Edgardo Colón-Emeric said. "It's not that one group has all the wisdom. It's not that the professors do or that the

incarcerated people do. Everyone is learning together."

The program also reflects a longstanding tradition within the Black church and other faith communities that have historically understood ministry as presence, venturing to hospitals, nursing homes, shelters or correctional facilities.

According to its website, Project TURN brings together roughly 10 full-time seminary students and 10 incarcerated individuals to study theology, ethics and Christian history together inside correctional facilities. The program also offers courses on restorative justice and an opportunity to do prison ministry or work with a prison-oriented nonprofit.

Students meet regularly, participate in reflection circles, and build community through shared learning experiences. While assignments vary by course, the deeper curriculum is relational: participants learn empathy, humility, and the discipline of listening across vastly different life experiences.

Project TURN traces its roots to Bishop Ken Carter, a former member of the Duke faculty and a leader in the United Methodist Church. Emeric says Carter spent decades combining parish and prison ministry, and believed future pastors should be as familiar with the inside of a prison as the

corridors of a hospital or retirement community.

The program brings together Duke students pursuing theological degrees and incarcerated students pursuing a certificate in prison studies.

They sit together in the same classrooms, read the same materials, engage in communal discussions, and follow the same curriculum.

In a video testimonial about the program on Duke's website, Kimberly Brown, a former divinity student and one of Project TURN's first participants, described it as life changing. "It's a program that should be in every prison," said Brown, who now runs OnInmate.com. "It will bring about self-awareness and let you know who you really are inside. Nine times out of 10, if you participate fully, [the incarcerated students] will be friends for life."

Elia Zonia, another Project TURN participant who received her divinity degree in 2026, agreed. In an Instagram post, she wrote about how the conversations she had with different students remain relevant and brought insight to a group often overlooked.

"Hearing from my inside classmates brought into focus just how much we as a society miss when we refuse to listen to a large group of people," she wrote.

Raleigh designer brings 'luxury' to the Triangle

By Bonitta Best
editor@triangletribune.com

RALEIGH - David Vashon couldn't contain his emotions any longer.

Vashon was overwhelmed by the show of support and love from an overflow crowd at an invitation-only reception at the Inner Sanctum in Raleigh.

After several weeks of emails with tidbits and clues about Raleigh's first luxury fashion house, the House of DAVA was presented to the public on June 28.

"I watched the room, and I felt who was really listening, who picked up on what I was saying underneath what I was saying," Vashon said. "I have not stopped thinking about it since. What you witnessed is not finished. It is only the beginning, and I intend to keep building it sharper every time we show up."

The Raleigh native is a designer and U.S. Navy veteran. His family can trace their heritage back to the Revolutionary War, when his fourth-great-grandfather served as a captain in North Carolina's militia.

Vashon kept that streak alive by entering the Navy after graduating from high school in 2008.

Vashon learned from the best on his path to this moment, working with Louis Vuitton, Bond No. 9 Fragrance and Nordstrom. He's also used his love of design and dedication to country to combine the two for philanthropic projects. The Elite Edition is a veteran-founded organization that supports families of fallen and deceased service members. Dress for



BONITTA BEST

Models showcase some of the designs.



Raleigh native David Vashon debuts the House of DAVA.

Success, Saks Fifth Avenue and Rolls-Royce Motorcars Raleigh are local partners.

Vashon built the House of DAVA entirely within North Carolina, at a point in his career when departing for a larger market would have been the easier course.

"My family has been part of this state for generations, long before I ever picked up a needle or a pattern," Vashon said. "I graduated high school here, I entered the Navy from here, and I built this House here, when I could easily have left. I have carried what I learned inside some of the most storied names in luxury, and brought it home. Too often, the talent this state produces leaves because it does not believe a future exists here for a fashion ca-

reer. The House of DAVA stands as proof that it does and as a reason for that talent to remain."

The House will showcase three design levels: Supreme Luxury, where money is no object; High Luxury, the stuff runway models wear; and Standard Luxury, a ready-to wear collection with more versatility.

Vashon and staff introduced the debut collection, The First Chapter, in a room filled with luxurious designs worn by models and staff, and lined with sports cars designed for the rich and filthy rich.

Visit www.davaprive.com/ to learn more.

And view the House of David in all its glory on our video web page.

AROUND THE TRIANGLE



Women's Empowerment Brunch is July 11, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

KNIGHTDALE BRUNCH

Women's Empowerment Brunch is July 11, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. For location, email: tawanna22@gmail.com.

RALEIGH 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.

FESTIVAL

Raleigh's All-American Summer Festival is July 11,

11 a.m. to 7 p.m., Raleigh City Plaza, 421 Fayetteville St.

OFFICIATING

Raleigh Parks and Recreation is hosting a sports officiating workshop July 13, 6-7:30 p.m., Brier Creek Community Center, 10810 Globe Road. Call 919-996-3301.

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 SCHOLARSHIPS

Durham Housing Authority's 2026 READS Scholarship application for

DHA high school seniors runs July 6 to Aug. 7. Contact: ResidentServices@dha-nc.org.

UPDATE

Join Sen. Natalie Murdock and Rep. Zack Hawkins for a District Update July 8, 6 p.m., Zafa Temple #176, 2312 Alston Avenue.

CHAMBER

The Greater Durham Black Chamber is hosting a virtual Critical Conversations with Manny Opoku of SouthState Bank, July 17, noon to 1 p.m. Register: members.gdbcc.org.

CHAPEL HILL FOUNDERS DAY

HOPE NC's annual Founders Day is July 11, 6-8 p.m., Orange United Methodist Church, 1220 MLK Jr. Boulevard. Call 919-883-9290.



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BE IN THE ROOM. BE THE IMPACT.

CIAA football about to get more exciting

The CIAA Football Media Day isn't until July 15, but the conference already has upstaged the coaches and players.

The board of directors released a teaser at the 2026 Spring Meeting last month announcing an expanded football championship format to debut in the fall. Full details will be released at media day.

Football has undergone changes the past few years. The championship game began with the two division winners battling it out for bragging rights and a hopeful chance at an NCAA playoff bid.

The down side to that was the champion wasn't always the best team, so nobody went to the postseason.

Officials changed the format in 2024 and eliminated divisional seeding. Teams are ranked No. 1-11, with the top two teams advancing to the title game. And the icing on the cake is the winner earns an automatic playoff spot.

Now, word is the stakes will be raised higher with a play-off-style format.

Of course, the change comes down to more money for the conference, more exposure for the schools and – did I mention more money for the conference?

As I've written many times before, a new era has arrived for CIAA football. No, it's not a cash cow like the basketball tournament – that's the conference's fault – but it's no longer a dull, ugly stepsister either. Or the butt of jokes by opponents.

Other Agenda Items

The conference needs to up its sponsorship game after the board of directors extended Commissioner Jacqie McWilliams Parker's contract through 2031.

According to a report by HBCU Gameday, McWilliams Parker earns over \$300,000 a year and is sure to get a raise with the extension.

"This conference has a rich legacy built by generations of leaders, member institutions, student-athletes, coaches and administrators," she said. "Together, we have made tremendous progress in strengthening the CIAA's brand, enhancing the student-athlete experience, deepening sponsor and partner engagement, and elevating the overall fan experience."

Women's sports were also front and center at the meeting.

Women's flag football will officially become a varsity sport in the 2026-27 season. Women's soccer teams are encouraged to join other conferences as associate members since the CIAA doesn't sponsor the sport. Both Virginia State and Shaw are members of Conference Carolinas.

N.C. Central

Tickets are now on sale for the 2026 Alex M. Rivera Athletics Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony.

Six individuals and one football team will be installed Sept. 4, 6:30 p.m., at the Sheraton Imperial Hotel. So, how many rooms will it take just to hold the football players? Visit nccueaglepride.com to learn more.

The inductees, all of whom I've covered except two:

- * Football player Adrian Jones (1994-97)
- * Football coach Rod Broadway (2003-06)
- * Football player Mike Jones (2013-16)
- * Football player Chris McKinstry (1978-81)
- * Volleyball player Ariel Germain (2002-06)
- * Track and field standout Bethany White (2015-19)
- * Tennis player Gabriel Cuccalon (2015-19)
- * 2016 MEAC football championship team

The Triangle Tribune Sports

July 5-11, 2026 | 6A



COURTESY

Flag Football Elite will participate in the 2026 NFL FLAG National Championships.

Local youth flag football league to compete on national stage

SUBMITTED TO THE TRIBUNE

CHAPEL HILL – Flag Football Elite, a nonprofit youth flag football league co-founded by former professional athletes Cedric Peerman and Dr. Hagar Elgendi, has been invited to participate in the 2026 NFL

FLAG National Championships Presented by Toyota, one of the premiere national championship events in youth flag football. The league is the only one from the state represented at the championship event.

The Championships will showcase top youth flag

football teams from across the country, along with international teams representing 12 countries, for a national and global event of the sport's growth, talent and future. Select championship competition will be televised and streamed across ESPN and Disney+

platforms, giving athletes the opportunity to compete on a national stage and be part of one of the most visible youth flag football events in the country.

For Flag Football Elite, this invitation represents a

Please see **FLAG/7A**

COLLEGE CORNER

HBCU Olympics 2027 in the works

HBCU Olympics 2027 is in the works. The theme is "One Movement. One Mission. One Legacy."

The Olympics committee has hired Dani Wright as director of media relations and internships. Wright is the director of strategic communications for the HBCU Athletic Conference, and information director at Southern University at New Orleans.

The 15-member HBCU Athletic Conference, for those of you clueless, is an NAIA Division II conference with schools like Fisk, Stillman, Dillard, etc.

An HBCU Olympics, eh? This should be interesting.

WOMEN Hampton

The Peninsula Sports Club named senior sprinter Brianna Charles Hampton University athlete of the year. Track and field

graduate Emmani Shaw was honored with a community service award.

MEN

Norfolk State

Former Spartan Joe Bryant Jr. is making a name for himself overseas.

Bryant, who plays for Pardubice in the Czech Republic, was named Czech NBL player of the year, import player of the year and guard of the year. He also was named to the All-NBL First Team and All-Imports Team.

Pardubice came within one game of winning the league championship. Bryant led the team in scoring at 19.5 points per game, plus 4.4 rebounds, 3.7 assists and 1.8 steals.

"We are so proud of Joe," NSU coach Robert Jones said. "To be named player of the year in his



COURTESY

Former Spartan Joe Bryant Jr.

league five straight years is a tremendous accomplishment."

Bryant earned most valuable player honors in Greece's A2 Elite Basketball League in the 2024-25 season after averaging 20.1 points, 4 rebounds and 3.4

assists per game.

Howard

Bison forward Bryce Harris signed an undrafted free agent

Please see **OLYMPICS/7A**

HBCU FOOTBALL

Norfolk State launches women's flag football program

By Bonitta Best

editor@triangletribune.com

Tick. Tock. Tick. Tock. The countdown is on for the 2026 season.

BOXTOROW, hosted by Donal Ware, will hold its eighth annual BOXTOROW Countdown to Kickoff Show July 17, 6 p.m., at Pardrea's Sports Café on Tryon Road in Raleigh.

Many of the CIAA coaches, plus North Carolina Central coach Trei Oliver and North Carolina A&T State coach Shawn Gibbs will be in attendance. The event is open to the public and fans are encouraged to wear their sports gear.

N.C. Central

Former wide receiver Joaquin Davis signed a one-year contract with the Pittsburgh Steelers.

Shaw

Yazmyn Brown is the new coordinator of compliance. She will assist in the oversight of NCAA, CIAA and institutional compliance operations. Brown earned degrees from Trinity Baptist College, now called Trinity College of Florida, and Florida State.

It seems logical to put compliance under football news since that's where the trouble usually starts.

Norfolk State

Women's flag football is gaining steam.

The Spartans introduced Darryl Bullock as their new coach for the inaugural season.== Bullock will oversee recruiting and roster development.

"Today marks more than the beginning of a new program, it represents the start of a new era," Bullock said.



COURTESY

Norfolk State coach Darryl Bullock and his family.

"Women's flag football is experiencing unprecedented growth across the nation, from its inclusion in the 2028 Olympic Games to the MEAC's commitment to launching a conference

championship in 2027. We are witnessing history unfold before our eyes, and Norfolk State has chosen not only to participate in that history, but to help

Please see **NORFOLK/7A**

Flag Football Elite

Continued from page 6A
major milestone not only for the league but for the athletes and families it serves across Chatham County, Chapel Hill, Durham, the greater Triangle region and the state.

"This is an incredible opportunity for our athletes to see what is possible," said Peerman, a former nine-year NFL veteran and Pro Bowler, and current UNC football team chaplain. "Our goal has always been to create meaningful opportunities for kids in this region — opportunities to compete, grow, be seen and represent their community with pride. To have our players invited to the national championship stage, and to represent North Carolina as the only team from the state, is a blessing and a reflection of the hard work of our athletes, coaches and families."

Founded last year, Flag Football Elite has quickly grown into one of the region's most active youth flag football programs, serving approximately 2,000 athletes across seasonal leagues, travel programming, skills development and community-based initiatives. As a nonprofit, the league remains deeply committed to access and opportunity, with more than 20% scholarship participation to help reduce financial barriers for families and ensure that cost is not the reason a child cannot play.

Beyond competition, Flag Football Elite is committed to developing the whole athlete. The league integrates mental toughness sessions, nutrition education, leadership development, and guest speakers from professional and elite athletic

backgrounds to help young athletes understand what is possible beyond their current environment. Through these experiences, athletes are encouraged to dream bigger, train with purpose, and see themselves as capable of competing at the highest levels.

"Our mission has never been just about football," said Elgendy, a former Division I athlete and Team Egypt swimmer. "It is about building confidence, creating safe spaces for children to compete, developing leaders, and opening doors for athletes who may not otherwise have access to these types of opportunities. As former athletes ourselves, we know how powerful sport can be in changing the trajectory of a young person's life."



COURTESY

Howard forward Bryce Harris.

HBCU Olympics 2027 coming to United States

Continued from page 6A
contract with the Oklahoma City Thunder just after the NBA Draft concluded last week. He will participate in the NBA Summer League from July 9-19 to showcase his skills for a chance at a spot within the Thunder's player development system.

Howard coach Kenneth Blakeney, whom Harris played under for five seasons, called Harris "the most important recruit in program history." The Bison have won three MEAC championships, ap-

peared in three NCAA Tournaments and won their first tourney game in program history during Harris' five seasons.

Virginia Union
Virginia Union head golf coach E. Lee Coble has been selected to serve on the NCAA Division II Golf Committee.

The appointment is not some ho-hum committee position. Committee members administer and oversee DII women's and men's golf championships, and oversee championship administration and gov-

ernance. In other words, make sure nobody is cheating.

Goodbye. Hello.
* Lees McRae College/N.C A&T forward Chase McDuffie to Benedict College
* Little Rock/Kilgore College G Jarahle Daniels, Bethune-Cookman
* Lincoln (Pa.) F Dray Pilson, Bluefield State
* Langstone F/C Autumn Simon, Delaware State
* Louisiana OG Karris Bilal, Texas Southern

Norfolk State launches women's flag football

Continued from page 6A
lead it."

Hampton
Armstrong Stadium, the oldest football venue in the CAA and the 13th oldest in FCS, is undergoing a \$3.2 million renovation this summer.

The football field's turf will be replaced after 10 years, it will be lined for soccer so the women can play home matches for the first time in years, and the

surrounding track lanes will be refurbished.

"This upgrade is a game-changer for our program," football coach Van Malone said. "Having a high-performance surface like this enhances player safety, supports the speed and physicality of our game and creates a championship-level environment for our student-athletes."

And, speaking of football, Jamestown transfer

defensive lineman Tyher Howard-Thomas is now a Pirate.

Goodbye. Hello.
* Keiser University OL Ta'Darius Williams to South Carolina State
* Bethune-Cookman K/P Juan Dominguez, S.C. State
* Mt. San Antonio (Calif.) College FB Curtiss Taylor, Virginia Union

The Triangle Tribune

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BLACK AMERICANS AND JULY 4TH
ACTIVITY SHEET

Hi Everyone!

Sankofa 82 and I traveled back in time to the signing of the Declaration of Independence, July 2, 1776, just to see how Blacks viewed and received that historic document. We also wanted to see how Blacks respond to it now. That document urged white Americans to unite to fight for their rights, gave them the reasons why they should fight and, it announced the formation of a new nation. This new nation was founded on the contradiction of having both free and enslaved people living in the same space.

JULY 4, 1776
CELEBRATION

After the signing of the Declaration of Independence, whites celebrated by having parades and other celebrations. This was not a reality for enslaved people and Free Men and Women of Color. While most white Americans celebrated and enjoyed the festivities of July 4th, some slaves celebrated July 4th by running away to gain their freedom or independence in the North, Canada, and Florida. Enslaved people also sought their freedom by serving in the military. They served in the Revolutionary War of 1775 where over 100,000 gained their freedom. Enslaved people served on the side that offered them freedom from slavery.

DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

The Declaration of Independence is the founding document of the United States. Signed on July 4, 1776, it told Americans that they are free from British rule.

The declaration included three major ideas:

- God made all men equal and gave them the rights of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.
- All men are created equal.
- The people have a civic duty to defend these rights for themselves and others.

THE 4TH OF JULY AND
FREDERICK DOUGLASS

On July 5, 1852, Frederick Douglass gave his famous speech entitled "What to the Slave is the Fourth of July?" Douglass was asked to deliver his speech to a group of people in Rochester, New York on July 4th but he opted out of that date and gave his speech on July 5th. Douglass's goal was to convince his audience of the hypocrisy of celebrating independence while denying freedom to slaves. Douglass stated, "I am not included within the pale of this glorious anniversary!... This Fourth [of] July is yours not mine."

THE 4TH OF JULY AND
JUNETEENTH

July 4th is about liberty, but it was an imperfect liberty, because slavery still legally existed in the United States. Juneteenth is a federal holiday that recognizes the end of slavery. Even though July 4, 1776 marked the nation's first Independence Day it wasn't until almost a century later, on June 19, 1865, when slaves in Galveston, Texas learned that slavery had ended. At the end of the Civil War, President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation effective January 1, 1863, which freed slaves in states or parts of states. Black Americans combined the words June and Nineteenth to make a new word Juneteenth. Juneteenth (June 19th) is now the day Black Americans celebrate freedom. Many Blacks do not celebrate July 4th with deep historical meaning because they know that many of their ancestors were still enslaved on July 4th.

TELL THE TRUTH!

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

_____ The Declaration of Independence freed enslaved Blacks.

_____ "Give me liberty or give me death" was spoken by Patrick Henry.

_____ Approximately 100,000 enslaved Blacks were freed after the Revolutionary War.

_____ Frederick Douglass wrote a famous speech entitled, "What to the Slave is the Fourth of July?"

_____ Juneteenth is celebrated annually on June 25th.

_____ July 4th is a federally celebrated holiday representing liberty.

ONE MINUTE
MADNESS!

In one minute or less, unscramble words that are related to Black Americans' freedom.

yorHcypis
carDietacin
neldnepecdine
esGvoaltn
krrFeeidc ssoDgula
eeJnthnuue

DRAW THE JUNETEENTH FLAG

Draw and color the official Juneteenth flag.

KEMET

BLACK AMERICANS AND JULY 4TH, 07/01/26, #260

WWW.JOEYOUNG.ORG

KEMET ACTIVITY SHEETS © 2026 BY JOE YOUNG



High school senior Ariana Hoskins shows off her homemade cake for the festivities, while fellow high schooler Pilar Hurtado takes care of the video duties.

‘Funky’ community hub celebrates opening

By Bonitta Best
editor@triangletribune.com

DURHAM – The Triangle’s only multigenerational hub celebrated its grand opening June 25 in downtown Durham.

echo NC is not your typical button-down coworking space. It’s funky. Energetic. Colorful. Call it “a YMCA for entrepreneurs.”

The celebration marked its new home in the Measurement Inc. building on Hunt Street. echo (small “e”) stands for Entrepreneurial Community Hub for Opportunities.

It bills itself as just that, a place for entrepreneurs, small business owners and solopreneurs of all ages to learn how to grow their business, build relationships – not just contacts –

and access support and capital as they grow.

“Entrepreneurs build entrepreneurs, and now echo can be the infrastructure,” CEO Anjanette Miller said. “Whether someone is launching their first idea, growing a small business, working as a solopreneur or rebuilding after getting stuck, they need more than a class or a single appointment. They need a place to find people, practical support, honest feedback and access to all forms of capital. This hub was built for that. It is a place to learn, connect, build, ask the messy questions and keep growing.”

What’s really special about the hub is it puts youth and adult entrepreneurs under the same roof. High schoolers Pilar Hurtado and Ariana Hoskins

joined echo in the eighth grade and now both run several businesses as seniors.

echo has served over 550 entrepreneurs since its launch in 2022, and reinvested over \$275,000 in grants, stipends, contracts, scholarships and more in just the last 18 months.

There are flexible meeting spaces.

Production studios, a self-serve café, desktop computers, a conference room and even two solo private workspaces for those needed quiet times.

Spaces can be booked per hour, and staff can be enlisted to help with setup or training.

Sponsorships are available for those wishing to support the hub. Visit echo-nc.org.



Artist Stacy Utley at Idlewild site tour.

Raleigh artist to create artwork for Cottages of Idlewild

STAFF REPORTS

RALEIGH – Artspace artist J. Stacy Utley has been selected to create a public artwork for the Cottages of Idlewild, an affordable housing development in the historically African American community of Idlewild. The artwork installation will be unveiled in January.

A Raleigh native, Utley graduated from Enloe High School and maintains family ties within the Idlewild community. This personal connection to the neighborhood, combined with the project’s focus on African American homeownership, intergenerational connection, and community legacy, made him a particularly compelling

choice for the commission.

“Public art has the power to celebrate community identity and create a sense of belonging,” Artspace President and CEO Carly Jones said. “We are excited to partner with J. Stacy Utley and the Idlewild community to create a work that reflects the history, resilience and future of this neighborhood.”

Cottages of Idlewild consists of 18 affordable units built on city-owned parcels in the Idlewild neighborhood. The development offers a range of affordable homeownership and rental opportunities for individuals and families earning between 30% and 80% of Area Median Income, providing an anchor of afford-

ability in a rapidly gentrifying community.

This project was made possible through a unique public-private partnership formed by the Raleigh Area Land Trust, Raleigh Raised Development, and Haven DesignBuild to maximize success and ensure that community interests are prioritized and protected beyond what any single organization could do alone.

Artspace serves as the public art administrator and project manager for the commission, overseeing artist selection, project coordination, community engagement support, and implementation of the public artwork. Visit <https://www.ralt.org/cottages-of-idlewild>.

HBCU NEWS



SHAW UNIVERSITY

The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges has approved Shaw to offer doctoral-level degrees, clearing the way for Shaw University Divinity School to launch a Doctor of Education in Artificial Intelligence and Moral Agency, the first program of its kind offered at a HBCU.

The milestone marks the first time in Shaw’s 160-year history that the institution has been approved to confer doctoral degrees and positions the Divinity School as a national leader at the intersection of theological ethics and emerging technology.

“This is a historic moment for Shaw University and for theological educa-

tion,” President Paulette R. Dillard said. “For 160 years, Shaw has prepared leaders to meet the moral challenges of their time. This doctoral program reflects who we have always been, a university unafraid to lead.”

The Ed.D. in Artificial Intelligence and Moral Agency is an interdisciplinary, practice-oriented doctorate designed to produce leaders proficient in AI literacy, AI use and applied theological ethics.

The program integrates moral reasoning, social justice, and applied ethics with the rapidly evolving landscape of artificial intelligence, preparing graduates to critically assess AI technologies and shape ethical norms that promote

human dignity and equity.

Shaw University Divinity School will welcome its first Ed.D. cohort of 12 students next spring, with applications for admission beginning this summer.

The program is designed for nontraditional adult learners, particularly bi-vocational and pastoral leaders with at least five years of leadership experience and an accredited graduate theological degree.

New cohorts will enroll each fall and spring thereafter.

Visit <https://www.shawu.edu/academics/schools-departments/school-of-divinity/> or contact Tonya Barnes at tonya.barnes@shawu.edu.

FRATERNITY NEWS

Wake County Omegas honor educators



Area educators representing Wake, Johnston and Lee counties were honored recently, hosted by the Noble Aspirations Foundation, in partnership with the Xi Mu Mu (Cary) Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Incorporated and the Alliance of Black School educators. The chapter honored three teachers and three principals representing the three county region.

The teachers who received the William (Bill) Curry Teacher of the Year Award were Virginia Williams, Johnston County; Jakiah Bulluck, Lee County and Katrese Credde, Wake County. The late Curry was an educator in Franklin and Wake counties for over 37 years.

The school administrators who received the Toussaint Avent Sr. Principal of the Year Award were Keith Faison, Wake County; James Beasley-Mungin, Lee County; and Sandra Morris, Johnston County. Avent Sr. was a school administrator before retiring with a distinguished career with the State of North Carolina.

The chapter also awarded a \$4,000 scholarship to an area student.

BOOK LOVERS UNITE!



Barnes & Noble officially opened its doors last weekend in Knightdale. From bestsellers and hidden gems to old-school vinyls, there’s something for everyone. Barnes & Noble is at 1012 Shoppes at Midway.