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COMMUNITY FOCUS

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Chapter named  
chapter of the year**

# The Triangle Tribune

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HAPPY FOURTH OF JULY!

## Entrepreneurship offers support, hope amid uncertain economy

By Alex Bass  
*alex.bass@triangletribune.com*

RALEIGH - Melody Council, while aware of the economy's adverse impact on people, still embraces a call to generosity. "We must give in order to get," said Council, owner of Christian Styles Studios, a multifaceted boutique that fosters event-based charity and collaboration, and more.

Council organized a Black-owned Vendor Market Expo last month at the Doubletree by Hilton on

Highwoods Boulevard. Approximately 40 vendors - including beauty care, culinary delights, stationery and printed products, t-shirts and more - participated.

Council said the June-teenth-inspired expo was scheduled intentionally to avoid competition with other holiday events, and to remind others that the spirit of freedom must transcend time and space. Freedom begins with meeting people where they are relative to basic needs.

The expo included a spades tournament, for which the entry fee was a donation of personal care items. "There's something about loving people in a genuine way that pays you back many times," said Harold Council, owner of Council by Design Solutions, and pastor of Eagles Christian Center International Church.

Harold and Melody Council collaborated on how they and another event participant might share genealogy. A business- and

service-minded spirit through hard work and discipline, Harold Council said, are binding ties across generations that offer Black families a roadmap for the future. "They (ancestors) all were entrepreneurs, in some way or another. We've got that in our blood," he said. "When we give them that, along with their intelligence when it comes to social media and computers, then we'll have some kids who can really carry on our generation,

Please see **ECONOMY/2A**



India Daymon and daughter, Azaria at the expo.



FILE

Will St. Augustine's University have a fall semester?

## St. Aug's fiscal year ends, awaits arbitration ruling

By Alex Bass  
*alex.bass@triangletribune.com*

RALEIGH - St. Augustine's University ended the fiscal year in a position identical to the start of the fall 2024 semester.

This time, however, there is more. Rather than a July 2024 Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges appeal leading to the reinstatement of its membership, the university, having since lost its accreditation and having an appeal denied, now is in a landmark SACSCOC arbitration process.

SAU's arbitration hearing was June 26. Interim president Marcus Burgess did not respond to a Tribune's text message. Steven Williams, a founder of Falcons Unite (a SAU alumni group), said he received a message from Burgess confirming the June 26 meeting and that a decision would take approximately two

weeks.

SAU's accreditation has been fledgling for the last two years. A March 2025 SACSCOC denial of an appeal required SAU to pursue arbitration to preserve its SACSCOC membership. SAU remains accredited on "probation for good cause" until all due processes, including potential litigation beyond arbitration, are completed.

Last August, a faculty member who spoke on the condition of anonymity, said people keep quiet because of a prevailing commitment to the institution's written mission and not embarrassing the school.

"If I had a dollar for every time I've heard that from an alumnus, or a person who is working for the school, then I would be a rich man," SaveSAU Chairman Ben Johnson said.

Last fall's faculty/staff boycott due to unpaid wages led to professional development days

being canceled. Unpaid wages still are unresolved, with pending litigation.

One year after SAU's National Alumni Association selected Williams to serve on the Board of Trustees, he has not been seated, though there has been board turnover. A change.org petition calling for Williams to be seated was initiated on June 29.

"This delay undermines not only the democratic process, but also the vital connection between alumni and the University's leadership," the petition states. "At a time when Saint Augustine's University faces critical decisions about its future, the alumni deserve transparent, inclusive representation on the Board of Trustees."

Johnson said his last correspondence with the administration was approximately two to

Please see **SAU/2A**



COURTESY

## Trump Budget: U.S. Senate passes largest cut to food assistance

By Lauren Burke  
*BLACKPRESSUSA*

After a record number of consecutive votes over two consecutive nights, the Republican controlled U.S. Senate passed President Trump's budget bill that includes the largest cut to food assistance in history. The bill also threatens health care coverage for over 15 million Americans.

"This is a reversal of so much progress we've had. Under Biden-Harris, we reduced childhood poverty in half; this rolls that back," said Jotaka Eaddy, the founder of Win With Black Women.

"This bill takes health care away from 16 million Americans," State of the People founder Angela Rye said.

The two were on a marathon State of the People broadcast that featured Black religious, political and community leaders. The Senate passed Trump's budget bill with the assistance of a tie-breaking vote from Vice President J.D. Vance. The legislation now goes to the U.S. House.

Trump is focused on undoing the work of President Joe Biden. The legislation passed by the Senate repeals the Inflation Reduction Act and cuts the Children's Health Insurance Program that provides low-cost health coverage to children in families with incomes too high to qualify for Medicaid but who cannot afford private insurance.

Trump is also focused on giving a tax cut to the wealthiest Americans in the country. "Republicans jammed through a partisan megabit that slashes Medicaid, nutrition assistance and other critical programs," wrote Sen. Mark Warner, D-Va., after the vote.

"Republicans have jammed through a cruel and callous bill that will rip health care and food assistance away from millions of Americans. All so Donald Trump can give massive tax breaks to his billionaire donors. It's a gutting betrayal of working-class Americans," stated Sen. Angela Alsobrooks, D-Md., after the bill passed.

The legislation extends the 2017 tax cuts that disproportionately benefit the rich, it overhauls who is eligible for Medicaid and food stamps, adds paperwork that is likely to reduce program eligibility, and phases out green energy tax credits. The bill also adds \$4.5 trillion to the debt, according to most estimates.

Three Republican senators voted against the bills: Lisa Murkowski, R-Ark.; Rand Paul, R-Ky.; and Thom Tillis, R-N.C.

"My hope is that the House is gonna look at this and recognize that we're not there yet," Murkowski said. Though there are members in the Republican House Freedom Caucus who don't agree with aspects of the legislation, it is likely to pass.

## Tillis announcement gives N.C. Legislative Black Caucus opportunity

By Alex Bass  
*alex.bass@triangletribune.com*

RALEIGH - Thom Tillis, R-N.C., was "tired of fighting" Trump, said Yvonne Lewis Holley, on why the U.S. senator announced his retirement last week.

"He would work across the aisle, a little bit. If he were in charge, then it would be his agenda," said Holley, a Democrat who was a N.C. representative when Tillis served as speaker of the N.C. House.

Tillis, while not in charge in Washington, D.C., set his own agenda by how he announced his intentions. "He essentially did it so he could speak his mind on this final bill," said N.C. Rep. Zack Hawkins, D-31.

Tillis' method, Hawkins continued, set an example for magnifying legislation details so voters can connect policies with personal interests. Tillis said North Carolina was poised to lose \$30 billion in funding under the Trump-endorsed

spending bill.

"It's 600,000 people without health insurance, just like that," Hawkins said. "It's people who just got accustomed to being able to do preventative care, which has been denied to them for far too long."

North Carolina Republican Party communications director, Matt Mercer, did not return phone calls seeking a response.

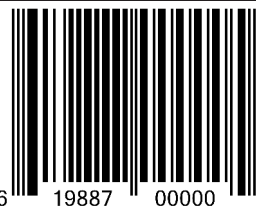
Educating voters to realize the bill's impact beyond health care,

Please see **TILLIS/2A**

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# Entrepreneurship offers support amid economy

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and carry on our family name in a great way.”

Harold Council’s t-shirts highlight cultural traditions like Juneteenth, the HBCU experience and television staples such as “Sanford & Son.”

He admitted that rising materials costs - even 50 cents per t-shirt - sometimes must be passed on to consumers, but also offers meaningful opportunities for entrepreneurs to improvise. Such a skill is one he hopes to pass on to his own daughter - among many vendors’ children who visited and/or helped at the expo.

India Daymon, owner of Indii Prints, is an artist who uses her African American-inspired original works to create stationery.

She was joined by her second-grade daughter, Azaria. Daymon said the economy has been helpful

for her to take her niche products from what was a hobby and expand it into a business.

“It could be because they don’t find stuff like this when they go out,” she said. “You get to see something that represents you, how you feel or be inspired by a design that you picked.”

Daymon hopes to partner with schools and churches by donating boxes of goods for the new school year. She is extending her own learning by expanding her online presence, while associate Azaria - ever ready with a “thank you” and a smile for visitors - accents in-person customer care.

Another family connection brought Paula Thomas, owner of Aunt MaREE’s Sweet Boutique, to baking and creating desserts as her aunt did. Her entrepreneurial improvisa-

tions include purchasing in bulk and looking for sales while holding fast to one detail. “I still make sure that I use premium ingredients and packaging,” she said.

Thomas, whose display included a high volume of pink (her aunt’s favorite), connected the significance of red as a Juneteenth color to her business outcomes. “A lot of my sales come from strawberry flavor, as well - strawberry and red velvet,” she said. “It just worked out, somehow.”

Melody Council, preparing for future initiatives for accessing food and back-to-school supplies, agrees that things will work out, so long as people embrace opportunities to respond to human needs.

“We are going to remain positive at all times, no matter what is going on in the world,” she said.



# A trio of new state laws took effect July 1

By Christine Zhu  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Several new laws took effect on July 1 in North Carolina after approval by state lawmakers and the governor. These include a ban on certain vaping products, changes to automotive insurance policies, and transportation commerce tax.

Here’s a look at a few and what they mean for North Carolinians.

**VAPE BAN**  
Then-Gov. Roy Cooper signed a bill regulating the access of “alternative nicotine products” for youth during the North Carolina General Assembly’s previous session. The regulation’s wording specifically targets products that aren’t approved by the Food and Drug Administration, describing alternative nicotine products as ones containing nicotine but not tobacco, and are intended for human consumption.

The law technically went into effect on May 1, but includes a 60-day grace period. This offers retailers time to adjust after the Department of Revenue publishes the name of approved vape products on its Vapor Certification Directory. It is unlawful for stores to sell products that don’t appear on the list.

There is, however, a loophole. Companies can apply for premarket approval and sell their items prior to receiving a decision from the FDA.

**AUTOMOBILE INSURANCE POLICIES**  
North Carolina drivers could see increased insurance premiums due to policy changes taking effect on Tuesday. Now, insurance policies are required to cover minimum liability limits of \$30,000 per person and \$60,000 per accident for bodily injury, as well as \$25,000 per accident for property damage, according to the North Carolina Department of Insurance.

A new law will require an increase in minimum limits of \$50,000 per person and \$100,000 per accident. The minimum limits for property damage will go up to \$50,000.

There will also be an inexperienced operator surcharge for drivers with less than eight years of experience, a raise from the current standard of less than three years of experience. This will only apply to drivers who are first licensed on or after July 1. The surcharges for years four through eight will be less than surcharges for years one through three, and the new surcharges

will gradually lower as the years of driving experience increase.

**TRANSPORTATION COMMERCE TAX**  
North Carolina residents can expect higher bills on ride share services and taxis. A new law implements transportation commerce tax, which is placed on the gross receipts from for-hire ground transport service, according to the North Carolina Department of Revenue. This includes the trip fare, booking fees, surcharges, fuel charges, cleaning fees and wait time fees.

The tax is due as long as the passenger boards the vehicle, regardless of if the service is completed. Exclusive ride services — one where an individual or group requests a ride to a destination without being matched with other passengers by the transportation network company, which would result in a single fare paid by the party — would charge a 1.5% tax rate while there’s a 1% tax rate for shared ride services.

For shared ride services, the transportation network company would connect a passenger with another passenger along the planned route. Each separate rider or party would pay a separate fare.

# Tillis announcement gives Democrats opportunity

Continued from page 1A

including affordable housing access, is paramount. The Democratic National Committee introduced its “Organizing Summer” campaign June 30.

“Our job this summer is to make sure working families know exactly who is responsible for taking food off their table and ripping away their health care,” DNC Chairman Ken Martin said.

Hawkins said national education initiatives can

galvanize state and municipal endeavors vital for aligning legislative voices in Raleigh and Washington, D.C., to advocate for North Carolina’s interests.

He referred to the state’s recent history when a legislative supermajority was in place. “Guess what?” Hawkins asked. “There are people in the General Assembly who are aligned with Trump who are also going to try to carry out, stateside, what is in this bill.”

The 2025 bill has a mul-

tiplied impact upon North Carolina. Trump has advocated deemphasizing the Federal Emergency Management Agency, which the president cannot eliminate unilaterally.

“He, at least, believed in the system,” Holley said of Tillis, who has benefited from western North Carolina support. “They got hit by the hurricane. It already is hurting his communities. You are elected from a district, but you can do nothing by yourself.”

# Greensboro man released after serving 27 years

STAFF REPORTS

It was a hug 27 years in the making for a man and his mother.

Benjamin Cole, 47, embraced Charlene Diaz as he left the courtroom Wednesday, ending nearly 30 years behind bars for a murder he always maintained he did not commit.

“Not really being able to really hug my child for over 20 years, I cannot express the pain that I feel as a mother knowing that he’s not deserving of that,” Diaz told the Greensboro News and Record before the release.

Cole was convicted of the 1998 murder of Calvin Jenkins, who was shot in his Greensboro apartment during a robbery. Cole always maintained his innocence, saying he was in Ohio at the time of the murder.

Duke Law’s Wrongful Conviction’s Clinic took on the case in 2021. Jamie Lau, supervising attorney and clinical professor of law, says when his team first reviewed the case, they determined the defense had not had access to the Greensboro Police Department’s investigation file. When discovery was received, the file contained records supporting Cole’s alibi that he was in Ohio.

“Investigators from the Greensboro Police Department knew all along that evidence in its file contradicted testimony at Mr. Cole’s trial and supported his alibi, yet this evidence was concealed for more than two decades while Mr. Cole was left to die in prison as a result of his life sentence,” Lau said. “He did not receive a fair trial, and the suppression of this evidence was clearly an effort to bolster an already weak case.”

Lau’s team in the Duke Law clinic, working with attorney Robyn Sanders and



COLIN HUTH

Benjamin Cole embraces his mother, Charlene Diaz, following his release.

the firm Troutman, Pepper, Locke, filed a post-conviction motion to vacate Cole’s conviction. Among the claims raised was that one of the state’s original witnesses, who was in the apartment at the time of the shooting and initially identified Cole as a suspect from more than 1,000 potential-suspect photos, changed her claim after hearing Cole speak. Lau says Cole has a Jamaican accent, and the witness said the suspect did not speak with such an accent. “One of the more blatant violations of Mr. Cole’s rights at trial was the prosecutor concealing that the state’s primary witness told him that Mr. Cole could not have been one of the assailants because of his accent,” Lau said. “The witness shared this with the prosecutor after her testimony, so he told her not to worry about it and sent her on her way. Had the jury known that the witness almost immediately disavowed her identification of Mr. Cole, he would have never spent nearly 27 years in prison for a crime he did not commit.”

Lau says there was no physical evidence in the case and, other than these two witnesses, no other ev-

idence was offered against Cole to establish his guilt. After the evidentiary hearing, prosecutors offered Cole the chance to enter an Alford plea, which allows a defendant to accept punishment while maintaining his innocence. Cole accepted the time-served agreement and entered the plea in front of Judge Susan Bray in Greensboro, saying, “I’m innocent, and I just want to be home.”

“Cole’s decision is understandable, and we are overjoyed that he will not have to spend another day away from his family,” said James E. Coleman, clinic director and John S. Bradway Distinguished Professor of the Practice of Law at Duke. “Prison is a difficult place, and it is hard to say no to an agreement that guarantees your freedom. Mr. Cole achieved his freedom, but the state denied him justice.”

“We, of course, believe he should have been fully exonerated, but today is a day to celebrate Cole’s freedom and rejoice in the fact that he is back home where he belongs,” Lau said.

The Wrongful Convictions Clinic has helped secure more than a dozen prison releases since its founding in 2008.

# NC House, Senate pass bills to ban DEI

By Ahmed Jallow

NC NEWSLINE

North Carolina lawmakers voted last week to approve three Republican-backed bills that would restrict diversity, equity and inclusion programs in public schools, universities and state government.

The Republican-led state Senate passed both education measures earlier this year. They now head to Democratic Gov. Josh Stein.

Senate Bill 227 targets K-12 education, while Senate Bill 558 focuses on public colleges and universities. The bills would prohibit what sponsors describe as “divisive concepts” from being taught in the classroom.

These measures are part of Republican-led efforts to dismantle diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives across the public sector — in government, higher education and K-12 education.

Several Democratic representatives denounced the legislation targeting K-12 schools and universities

as harmful in the House floor debate. “It is un-American to be anti-diversity, equity and inclusion,” said Rep. Amos L. Quick III, D-Guilford.

Opponents also contend the bills will chill academic freedom and honest discussions about historical oppression and that the prohibitions are vaguely worded. “What this bill does is chill teachers. They will be reluctant... to teach about the Trail of Tears or Japanese internment camps... some of these things that are crucial to North Carolina history,” Rep. Marcia Morey, D-Durham, said.

Separately, the North Carolina Senate passed House Bill 171, which would ban state agencies from promoting, supporting, funding, implementing or maintaining workplace DEI, including in hirings, dedicated staff positions and offering or requiring DEI training.

State workers who violate the measure could be subject to removal, a fine of up to \$5,000 and potential

civil litigation. And the state auditor’s office, currently held by Republican Dave Boliek, would conduct “periodic” audits of agencies to assure compliance.

Sen. Danny Britt, R-Hoke, described the bill as ensuring “everyone should be treated equally across the board.” An amendment adopted on the Senate floor added provisions that would require internal grievance processes before civil actions can be filed.

Another amendment would require that only a prevailing party could receive attorney fees. The bill had originally seemed to indicate that complainants who challenged alleged DEI activities unsuccessfully could receive them. Britt stated he believes this change “would eliminate, or at least greatly reduce, the number of unfounded DEI claims.”

Sen. Val Applewhite of Cumberland County said the bill is not about protecting merit. “It’s about protecting privilege. It’s about fear.”

# St. Aug’s fiscal year ends, arbitration ruling next

Continued from page 1A

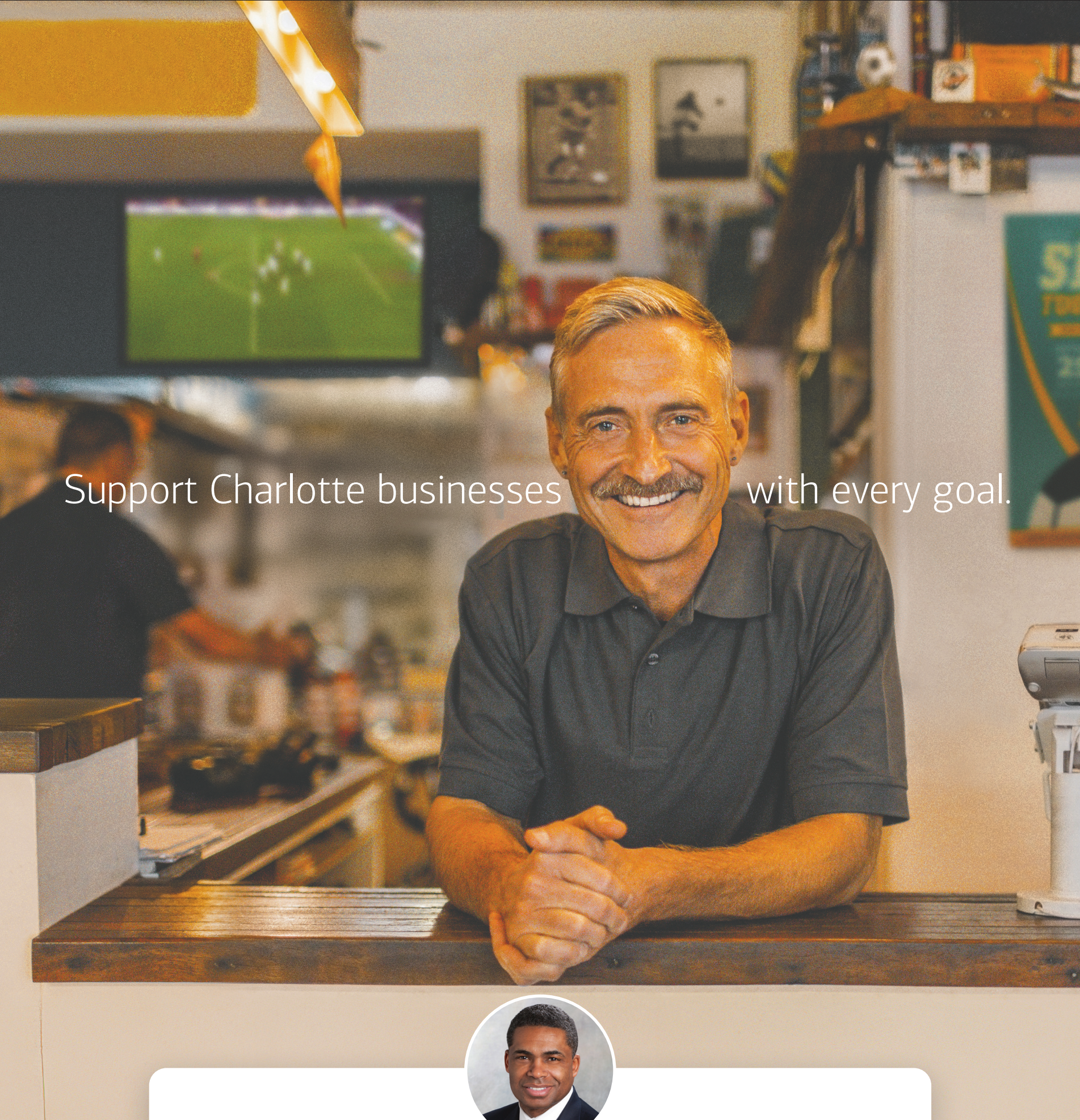
three weeks before the arbitration hearing.

After the May 3 commencement, Burgess shared the idea of a town hall meeting with SAU stakeholders. He did not respond to the Tribune’s inquiry about the status of this meeting.


There is no academic calendar link for the fall term on the SAU website. The Tribune visited the campus this week and saw one security officer who said the administration does not want anyone on campus.

A look inside the Boyer Building, where the administration is housed, revealed a dark lobby with an unemptied garbage receptacle adjacent to the sign marker for the Robinson Library.





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## LEGAL NOTICES



### LEGAL NOTICE

#### Residential & Commercial Tax Appraisal Services RFP No. 26-001

The County of Durham will receive sealed proposals for qualified Contractor(s) to establish a contract to provide **Residential & Commercial Tax Appraisal Services on July 17, 2025, at 2:00 P.M. Eastern Time**, in the Durham County Purchasing Division of Finance, 201 East Main Street, 7th Floor, Room 703, Durham, North Carolina 27701. **No proposals will be accepted after the official time and date.**

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

**Proposals are encouraged and welcome from historically underutilized businesses (HUBs).**

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



### LEGAL NOTICE

#### Administrator for Community-Led Mental Health Grants Program RFP 26-002

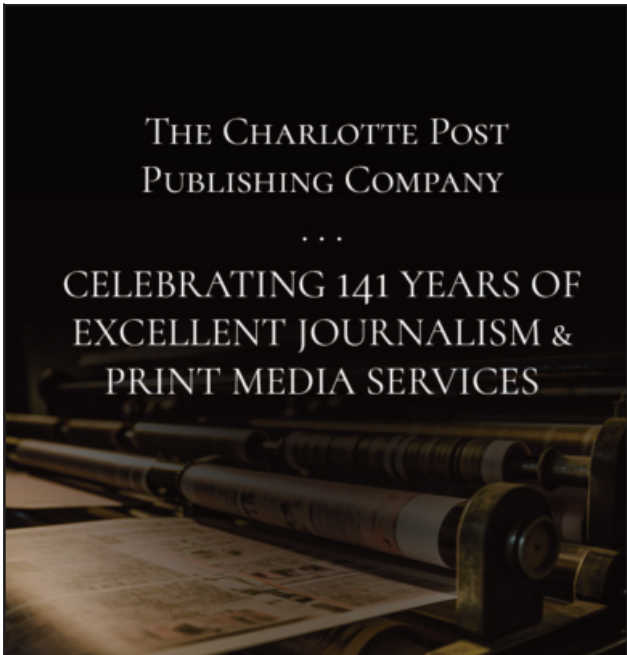
The County of Durham will receive sealed proposals for qualified Contractor(s) to establish a contract for an Administrator for A Community-Led Mental Health Grants Program on August 1, 2025, at 2:00 P.M. Eastern Time via **BIDSPROUREMENT@dconc.gov**. No proposals will be accepted after the official time and date.

A VIRTUAL ORIENTATION SESSION will be held via Microsoft TEAMS at 11:00 A.M. Eastern Time, on July 16, 2025. English/Spanish interpretation can be provided with 72 hours' notice. Meeting info:  
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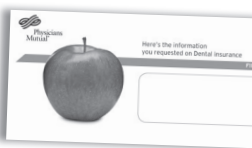
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A cemetery at the front of the church site.

## Rebuilding one of the nation's oldest Black churches in Virginia

By Ben Finley  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS  
WILLIAMSBURG, Va. - The rebuilding of one of the nation's oldest Black churches, whose congregants first gathered outdoors in secret before constructing a wooden meetinghouse in Virginia, started on Juneteenth with a ceremonial groundbreaking.

The First Baptist Church of Williamsburg officially established itself in 1776, although parishioners met before then in fields and under trees in defiance of laws that prevented African Americans from congregating.

Free and enslaved members erected the original church house around 1805, laying the foundation with recycled bricks. Reconstructing the 16-foot by 32-foot building will help demonstrate that "Black history is American history," First Baptist Pas-

tor Reginald F. Davis told The Associated Press before the Juneteenth groundbreaking.

"Oral history is one thing but to have an image to go along with the oral history makes a greater impact on the psyche of oppressed people," said Davis, who leads the current 215-member congregation in a 20th Century church that is less than a mile from the original site. "Black Americans have been part of this nation's history before and since the Declaration of Independence."

The original building was destroyed by a tornado in 1834. First Baptist's second structure, built in 1856, stood there for a century. But the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, a living history museum, bought the property in 1956 and turned the space into a parking lot.

Colonial Williamsburg had covered the costs of

building First Baptist's current church house. But for decades it failed to tell the church's pioneering history and the stories of other colonial Black Americans.

In recent years, the museum has placed a growing emphasis on telling a more complete story about the nation's founding. Colonial Williamsburg's rebuilding of the church is an opportunity to tell Black history and resurrect the stories of those who originally built it.

"Today is more than a groundbreaking. This is a homecoming," The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation Chief of Staff Dana Tomlin said. "In lifting up this space again, we're not just reconstructing a building. We're restoring a dignity to a community's voice, honoring a legacy that has long deserved recognition."

### AROUND THE TRIANGLE



Hike & Chill social gathering is July 12.

**WAKE FOREST HIKE & CHILL**  
Hike & Chill social gathering is July 12, 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., Forest Ridge Park, 2100 NC Hwy 98. Tickets: [www.eventbrite.com](http://www.eventbrite.com).

**RALEIGH SCHOLARSHIP**  
Triple P Baby Scholarship webinar is July 10, 11 a.m. to noon. Register: [wake.gov/BestBabywake](http://wake.gov/BestBabywake).

**BLOOD**  
A blood drive is July 10, noon to 5 p.m., Triangle Town Center (Center Court). Register: [redcross-blood.org](http://redcross-blood.org).

**OASIS**  
A spiritual gathering of women of all faiths is July 11, 6:30-8:30 a.m., Unity Church of Raleigh, 5124 Departure Drive.

**VIOLENCE**  
Empowering Steppers is hosting a session on domestic violence, teen dating, violence and depression July 12, 1-6 p.m., Bulla Youth Building, 301 W. Jones St. Visit: [empoweringsteppers@gmail.com](mailto:empoweringsteppers@gmail.com).

**FESTIVAL**  
Raleigh's Summer Beats Festival is July 12, 11 a.m. to 8 p.m., City Plaza, 400 Fayetteville St. Tickets:

**CONVERSATION**  
Raleigh's Community Engagement Department will co-host monthly "Coffee and Conversations" at A Place at the Table, 300 W. Hargett St., beginning July 12, 9-10 a.m.

**FUNDRAISER**  
J. Locke will perform an exclusive acoustic set to benefit Activate Good July 18, 8 p.m. to 12 a.m., Gatsby's bar, 6109 Maddry Oaks Court. Tickets: [www.activategood.org](http://www.activategood.org).

**DURHAM FESTIVAL**  
Nonprofit applications for cultural festival and event funding are being accepted by the city through Aug. 11. Visit [www.durhamnc.gov/5410](http://www.durhamnc.gov/5410).

**MARKET**  
The next Black Farmer's Market is July 6, 1-4 p.m., Durham Tech, 1637 E. Lawson St.

**FUN CARAVAN**  
Durham Parks & Recreation's Fun Caravan will visit five parks in July. The next is July 9, 9:30-11 a.m., Piney Wood Park. All children must be supervised.

**TOUR**  
W. Kamau Bell brings his new comedy tour to The Carolina Theatre July 12. Tickets: [www.wkamaubell.com](http://www.wkamaubell.com).

**EXHIBIT**  
"Unearthing Stories of Geer Cemetery: Using Archaeology to Reclaim, Restore, and Respect Sacred Space" opens July 18, 6 p.m., Museum of Durham History, 500 W. Main St.

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### RECIPE OF THE WEEK

## Tackle your family's hunger with a touch of heat

It's easy to get into a recipe rut when every day feels the same. Work, kids' activities, social events and bedtime routines make it tough to experiment in the kitchen. If your family's meals are growing boring, all you need is a touch of heat to bring new life to the menu.

Add a delicious blend of savory, sweet and a hint of spice to mealtime with Minute Hot Honey Chicken Seasoned Rice Cups, which are ready to serve fast for busy families. Packed with flavor, they complement main courses, snacks and sides without the hassle.

With just the right balance of heat and honey, they add delicious sizzle and mouthwatering flavor to recipes like Hot Honey Chicken Meatball Subs. Perfectly toasted hoagie rolls are packed with spicy, sweet chicken meatballs and smothered in melted provolone for a tough-to-top taste. Ready in 35 minutes, the subs offer a blend of convenience and gourmet flavor, making this meal an unbeatable choice at dinner time. Discover more ways to shake up mealtimes by visiting MinuteRice.com.

**Hot Honey Chicken Meatball Subs**  
Prep time: 5 minutes  
Cook time: 30 minutes  
Servings: 4

1 Minute Hot Honey Chicken Seasoned Rice Cup  
1 pound ground chicken  
1 teaspoon salt  
1 teaspoon cayenne



pepper (optional)  
¼-cup breadcrumbs  
4 hoagie rolls  
2 tablespoons butter  
4 slices provolone cheese  
garlic sauce, for garnish

Preheat oven to 375 F. Heat rice according to package directions.


In large bowl, mix rice; chicken; salt; cayenne, if desired; and breadcrumbs. Use cookie scoop or hand roll chicken mixture into balls. Place on aluminum foil-lined sheet tray, leaving small space between each ball. Bake 25 minutes, flipping meatballs halfway through. Slice hoagies in half, lengthwise. Remove some

bread from middle to make room for meatballs. Butter inside of each hoagie and place on sheet tray.

Once meatballs are cooked through, turn broiler on high and place buttered hoagies in oven. Cook 1 minute, or until butter is melted and hoagie has browned.

Remove hoagies from oven, place 3-4 meatballs inside (depending on size) and cover with slice of cheese. Broil on high 30 seconds to melt cheese. Drizzle garlic sauce on top.

**Tip:** Garlic sauce can be substituted with topping of choice.

RALEIGH CHAMBER | 

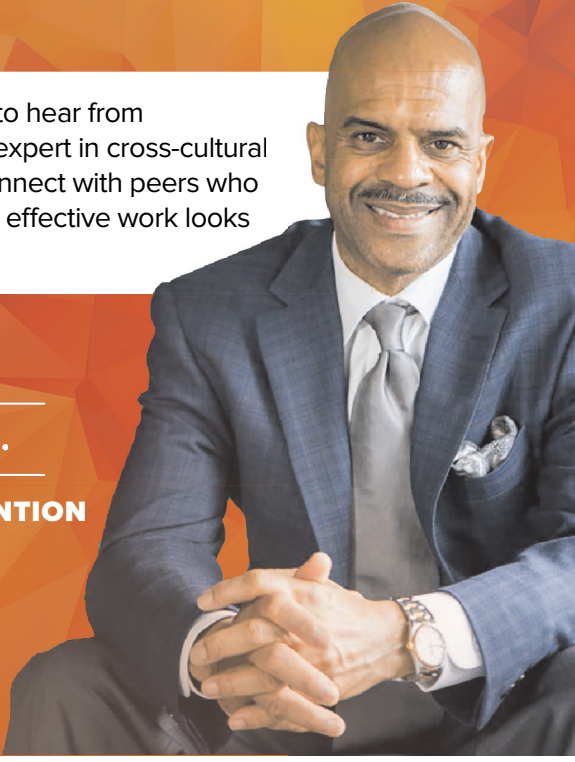
## PERSPECTIVES<sup>2025</sup>

Strategies for Workplace Success

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**8 A.M. – 3:45 P.M.**

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# HBCUs walking tightrope on DEI

By Cheyanne Mumphrey  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Like many of his predecessors, President Donald Trump has affirmed the importance of historically Black colleges and universities, hailing them as a pathway to careers and a better life for students in the U.S.

The schools have not faced cuts to federal grants of the kind that have rocked Ivy League schools Trump has blasted as hotbeds of “wokeness” and antisemitism, and the president has said HBCUs’ core federal funding is not at risk.

But that is not to say it’s a comfortable time for HBCUs’ leaders. As the Trump administration cracks down elsewhere on programs to support underrepresented students, the colleges have been expressing gratitude for the administration’s recognition while mostly keeping quiet on its sweeping attacks against diversity, equity and inclusion policies.

“HBCUs, in general, I don’t believe are in a position to be adamantly and vociferously opposed to these attacks, but deep down we all know what’s going on,” said Deron Snyder, an alumnus of and professor at Howard University. “It’s just how much can you actually say without fear of retribution.”

An executive order signed by Trump in April recognizes HBCUs and pledges his administration’s support. It calls for an annual White House summit, private sector partnerships, and an advisory board with the Education Department, but it does not guarantee any new federal funding.

The order won praise from some Black universities, as well as organizations that work with HBCUs. Harry Williams, president of the Thurgood Marshall College Fund, said the order should serve as a call-to-action for corporations, foundations and lawmakers to redouble support for HBCUs and their students.

But the colleges’ leaders have said little on other administration actions that are out of line with the mission of HBCUs, which were founded to educate formerly enslaved people.

The administration’s campaign against DEI has encouraged restrictions on classroom discussions around racism and led to cuts in federal research grants. As it threatens to cut federal funding from schools, some colleges have shuttered diversity offices and ended other programs to support students of color.

For HBCUs, the moment is reminiscent of the era decades ago when Black colleges were compelled to argue that school segregation was wrong but also needed to maintain government support for their institutions, said Marybeth Gasman, a Rutgers University professor who has studied the history of HBCUs.

Black college leaders “don’t want HBCUs to be under the umbrella of DEI, but I don’t know any HBCU president who would agree with the way that Donald Trump is dismantling diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts,” she said.

The Trump administration has cut federal research grants for several universities, pressuring them to comply with his agenda. Since Harvard University refused the administration’s demands for changes to its policies and leadership, the government has slashed \$2.6 billion in funding, which the Ivy League school has described as retaliation.

In an interview in April, Trump told NewsNation that Black colleges and universities should not be concerned about losing their funding.

U.S. Rep. Terri Sewell of Alabama, vice chair of the House HBCU caucus, said there has long been bipartisan support for the colleges. But she said there will be new vigilance of their federal support considering the administration’s record on programs serving minorities.

# The Triangle Tribune Sports

July 6-12, 2025 | 6A

## NC Gatorade Players of the Year

The Gatorade player of the year is the top honor in high school sports, celebrating the nation’s best high school athletes for their success on the court, in the classroom and in the community. One high school athlete from North Carolina is chosen in baseball, boys and girls basketball, boys and girls cross country, football, boys and girls soccer, softball, boys and girls track, and volleyball.



**Dana Wilson**  
Sprinter  
Greensboro Day School  
Senior

Wilson has a 3.72 GPA. She has signed a written letter of athletic aid to compete at Tennessee this fall.



COURTESY OF DPS

**Le'Ezra Brown**  
Hurdles/Sprints  
Dudley High School  
Senior

Brown has a weighted 3.02 GPA. He has signed a written letter of athletic aid to compete at Georgia this fall.

### COLLEGE CORNER

## North Carolina A&T track and field earns four top CAA postseason awards

While the summer kicks in high gear for most of y’all, it’s winding down for CC. Once the football luncheons start, it’s time to work. Our fun is over.

Nah, actually, it’s just beginning.

#### WOMEN

*N.C. Central*

Don’t you just love taking something from your hated rival? North Carolina A&T short-stop/third baseman/pitcher Megan Ellis has transferred to Eagleland. Ellis’ hometown is just up the road in Creedmoor.

#### Shaw

The soccer team released its 2025 schedule as it tries for a three-peat. The ladies are the two-time USCAA Small College National champions. The season opens Sept. 4. Shaw plays

all its home games at Durham County Memorial Stadium.

“In our pursuit of our third consecutive small college national championship, we continue to raise the level of competition for our women’s team,” soccer coach Randy McClure said. “We have one of the most experienced rosters we’ve had in years, and I am looking forward to watching this group tackle this difficult schedule.”

#### N.C. A&T

Sorry, Eagles, but Union Baptist Church is hosting a free premiere party of the Aggies’ documentary “Our Blues Make Us Gold,” July 18 at 6 p.m. Register at <https://bit.ly/OBMUG-Durham>.

In track and field, junior high

Please see **NORTH/7A**



NCCU Deputy Athletic Director Maurice Williams coaches a softball player.

## Virginia Union to induct 8 individuals and 1 team in Hall

By Jim Junot  
VIRGINIA UNION SPORTS  
INFORMATION

Eight individuals and the 1992 NCAA Division II national championship team will be inducted into the Thomas “Tricky Tom” Harris Athletic Hall of Fame on Sept 19.

**The 2025 Hall of Fame class:**

\* Malcolm Barnwell was a standout wide receiver in the NFL, playing five seasons for the Washington Redskins, New Orleans Saints and Oakland/Los Angeles Raiders. His best professional season was in 1984, when he totaled 45 receptions for 851 yards and two touchdowns.

\* Carl Bland, a 1984 VUU graduate, played wide receiver in the NFL with the Detroit Lions and Green Bay

Packers, and won a Grey Cup with the CFL’s Calgary Stampeders in 1992. He is a pastor and school administrator in St. Louis.

\* Valerie Briggs dedicated over two decades as coach of the VUU cheerleaders, “The Rah Rahs.” A Richmond native and VSU alumna, Briggs has had a lifelong passion for spirit leadership and athletic support.

\* Ashlé Freeman remains Virginia Union’s all-time leading scorer in women’s basketball with 1,758 career points from 2011 to 2015. A two-time all-CIAA selection, Freeman also holds the school record for most steals in a single game (12).

\* Brian Gurley competed in both football and track & field (2009-12), earning All-

Please see **VUU/7A**

### SPORTS SHORTS



## Youth sports registration taking place at local centers

#### RALEIGH

\* The Raleigh Firebirds are hosting a weekly basketball camp at the Southeast Raleigh YMCA. Camp is every Wednesday, noon to 1 p.m.

\* City of Raleigh athletics department is holding registration for youth softball, baseball, flag football and cheerleading for ages 5-17 from July 1-14. Visit any local community center.

\* Urban Community League

basketball tournament is seeking girls and boys ages 10-15 for a tourney July 12, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Biltmore Hills Park. Email: [info@blackchamberraleigh.com](mailto:info@blackchamberraleigh.com).

\* The Raleigh Police Department Youth & Family Services’ free baseball camp is July 14-18 for girls and boys ages 10-13. Contact: [Louis.codrington@raleighnc.gov](mailto:Louis.codrington@raleighnc.gov).

Please see **FIREBIRDS/7A**





# North Carolina A&T track and field dominates CAA

**Continued from page 6A**

jumper Spirit Morgan (what a name!) was named the CAA field athlete of the year.

**MEN**  
*N.C. Central*  
The Strategic Communications Team wrote a cute story on deputy athletic director Maurice Williams coaching and providing stats in an April softball game. Read it for yourself on the Eagles website. Talk about multitasking.

And in football, season tickets are now on sale.

*Shaw*  
The men, who also play at Durham County Stadium, released their soccer schedule, beginning Sept. 6. They are seeking their first small college national championship.

"We have a young, athletic roster combined with several veteran players

that I know are excited to take on this challenge," said McClure who coaches both the women and men.

*N.C. A&T*  
The Aggies took both top track awards. Xavier Partee earned CAA field athlete of the year and teammate All-American Xzaviah Taylor took the track athlete of the year award.

Track and field coach Allen Johnson posted a double after being named the CAA men's outdoor track and field coach of the year. Johnson also won the conference indoor coach of the year award. The Aggies are back in full form in track and field.

"I am humbled, really," Johnson said. "It is a time of reflection. To realize where the program was when I got here in 2022. Looking back on the journey we undertook in 2023

and seeing what we have accomplished to date is humbling."

Aggies, enjoy him while you still can.

*Tennessee State*  
Men's basketball coach Brian "Penny" Collins resigned Monday to join an NBA team. Assistant coach Erik Buggs has been named interim.

*Found A Home (Football)*  
Will the transfer portal ever end?

\* Monroe University OL Jacob Jeudy, Florida A&M

\* Miles CB Cam Williams, Johnson C. Smith

*Signed and Sealed*  
\* N.C. A&T/Virginia Tech RB Bhayshul Tuten signed a four-year, \$5.3 million rookie contract with the Jacksonville Jaguars. He also received a \$1.1 million signing bonus.

# City of Raleigh accepting applications for sports

**Continued from page 6A**

\* Raleigh Tennis Association is seeking volunteers for its Tri-Level State Championship Sept. 18-21. Call 919-670-2806.

**DURHAM**

\* The Durham Police Athletic League is holding five summer camps for rising sixth, seventh and eighth graders in Durham. Pickup and drop-off are at the Boys & Girls Club on MLK Jr. Parkway. Contact: Ramon.Grillasca@durhamnc.gov.

Send your sports announcements to: [info@triangletribune.com](mailto:info@triangletribune.com). Photos welcome.



# Virginia Union inducts 8 individuals, 1 team in Hall

**Continued from page 6A**

American honors at the NCAA Indoor Championships. He was a CIAA champion in the 60-meter dash and a member of the all-CIAA 4x100 relay team. In 2012, he was named VUU male athlete of the year.

\* Major General Mitchell Kilgo played football for the Panthers from 1985 to 1988 and currently serves as deputy inspector general of the U.S. Army Inspector General Agency. He holds multiple advanced degrees and has served the nation with distinction since entering active duty in 1988.

\* Marvin and Janice Willingham, both VUU alumni, have been lifelong supporters of Panther athletics. Marvin played football under coach "Tricky Tom" Harris and was mentored by the legendary Henry Hucles. The Willinghams have demonstrated unwavering dedication to the university's athletic programs.

\* The 1992 men's basketball team, led by legendary coach Dave Robbins, captured both the NCAA Division II National Championship and the CIAA Championship, finishing the season with a 30-3 record.

This was the second of three national titles won under Robbins' leadership, and the team remains one of the most celebrated in Panther history.

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The Best in HBCU Sports

[triangletribune.com](https://triangletribune.com)

NATIONAL MINORITY MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS ACTIVITY SHEET

Hi Everyone!

Sankofa 82 and I just returned from a quick visit with Bebe Moore Campbell. She is one phenomenal woman. She told us all about her fight in the mental health arena and how she raised awareness in the Black, Indigenous and other People of Color communities (BIPOC). Let's look at what this young lady accomplished.

POP-UP FACT

20% of Americans experience mental illnesses yearly.

SO WHY THE COLOR GREEN?

Green represents new life, new growth, and new beginnings. So the color green is worn to raise public awareness, better the lives of children with emotional disorders and to show support to their families as well. In color psychology, it represents harmony, balance and a sense of security.

POPUP FACT

Suicide is the second leading cause of death for ages 10-14.

IN MEMORY OF BEBE MOORE CAMPBELL

Bebe Moore Campbell was a tireless warrior in the mental health arena in general and in the minority communities specifically. Bebe was co-founder of NAMI Urban Los Angeles (National Alliance on Mental Illness). She was honored in July 2008 by the U.S. House of Representatives, when they established the Bebe Moore Campbell National Minority Mental Health Awareness Month in July of 2008.

Three of the month's goals were:

- Improve access to mental health services and treatment.
- Increase public awareness of mental illness among minorities.
- Destigmatize mental illness (especially in the Black American community).

This recognition was given to Bebe after she died of brain cancer in 2006. Bebe identified factors which had discouraged African Americans from seeking help. Some of these factors are as follows: The idea that Blacks were mentally incapable of having these types of mental illnesses that whites had. Racial trauma and microaggression went hand in hand. Whites often treated Blacks poorly and as inferior. Poor treatment by institutions leads to institutionalized and structural racism. Other factors such as being poor, incarceration, unemployment and underemployment and lack of insurance were deterrents for Blacks to seek professional counseling. Remember green is the color for this month.

5 FIVE MOST COMMON MENTAL HEALTH DISORDERS

Anxiety Disorders – More than just worrying about occasional stressful events most of us experience in our lives, may last for months or years.

Mood Disorders – persistent sadness, anger and extreme happiness.

Psychotic Disorders – form of depression with psychosis that comes when people get very depressed, such as delusions (false beliefs) and/or hallucinations (hearing or seeing things that are not there).

Dementia Disorder – loss of ability to think, remember and reason.

Eating Disorders – involves extreme emotions, attitudes, and behaviors involving weight and food. Some include anorexia nervosa, binge eating and bulimia.

POPUP FACT

75% of minorities do not get medical attention for mental illnesses.

TRUTH TELL THE TRUTH!

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

Bebe Moore Campbell is a co-founder of NAMI Urban Los Angeles.

35% of Americans are diagnosed with some form of mental illness yearly.

75% of African Americans who have mental illnesses are treated by mental health professionals.

Suicide is the second leading cause of death in children ages 10-14.

Green is the color for National Mental Health Awareness Month.

ONE MINUTE MADNESS!

In one minute, unscramble words that are closely related to minority mental illnesses and/or disorders. The first letter of the name is in bold.

aaRlci umTaar

pssDeierno

yteAinx

agimSt

giaEtn

uiiSedc

MATCH ME!

Match the mental disorders description with the correct word.

Anxiety	Dementia	Mood	Psychotic
Inability to think, remember and reason			
Depressed, delusion, hallucinations			
Worrying that last for several weeks			
Anorexia nervosa, binge, bulimia			
Persistent sadness, anger, happiness			

MINORITY MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH JULY

For Suicide prevention call or text 988, or contact 988lifeline.org

ANSWER KEY

TELL THE TRUTH

ONE MINUTE MADNESS!

TRUTH TELL THE TRUTH!

ONE MINUTE MADNESS!

QR CODE

ANSWER KEY

TRUTH TELL THE TRUTH!

ONE MINUTE MADNESS!

NATIONAL MINORITY MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS, 07/06/25, #210

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KEMET ACTIVITY SHEETS © 2025 BY JOE YOUNG



HBCU NEWS



COURTESY

**2025 NCCU Alumni Chapter of the Year, left to right:** Paul Anderson, Marsha Rogers, Lindy Brown, Vivian Roberts, Kelli Davis, Brenda Lewis, Iris Bonapart, Delores Fogg, Mallory Lovett, Anthony Bonapart, LaVern Perscell, Stephanie Wilson Jones and Cassandra Lee.

**N.C. CENTRAL**  
The Raleigh-Wake Chapter of North Carolina Central University Alumni Association was named "Chapter of the Year" during the university's 2025 Alumni Awards Program last month.

The ceremony brought together alumni and supporters from across the state and several attendees representing chapters from across the country.

Anthony Bonapart accepted the prestigious

award on behalf of the chapter. Bonapart expressed gratitude and pride in the chapter's continued commitment to service, student support and Eagle pride.

Adding to the chapter's achievements, Kelli E. Davis, also of the Raleigh-Wake Chapter, was named "Alumnus of the Year" for her outstanding service and leadership within the NCCU alumni community. Her recognition further cemented the chapter's rep-

utation for excellence and engagement. This is the second consecutive year that a Raleigh-Wake member has won alumnus of the year. Bonapart earned the award last year.

The Raleigh-Wake Alumni Chapter continues to serve as a model of alumni involvement, mentorship and advocacy. Visit [www.nccuraleighwake.org](http://www.nccuraleighwake.org) to learn more about the chapter and how to get involved.



## How to borrow for college without the stress

STATEPOINT

A student loan can be a valuable tool to help you earn your degree and with the right plan, it doesn't have to be stressful.

"Smart borrowing starts with knowing the basics. The more you understand, the more confident you'll feel," says Dan Kennedy, chief marketing officer, College Ave. "Our research finds that while a majority of students are focused on money management, they could use a little more information about how borrowing works."

To help ensure your student loan helps pave the way for your future success, not a future headache, Kennedy recommends avoiding these common borrowing mistakes:

- \* **Skipping federal student loans:** Before taking out a private student loan, exhaust your other options first. Free money you don't have to pay back is always preferable to a loan, so investigate scholarships. You should also fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid to unlock federal student aid, including grants, scholarships and federal student loans. Getting your Federal Direct student loans from the government will often beat private loans in terms of interest rates and repayment options. Plus, if you

go into a qualifying field, the government may even grant you student loan forgiveness.

- \* **Borrowing too much:** Borrow only what you need to pay for schooling and basic living expenses. This will help eliminate the temptation to use the money on items that are not an investment in your future. You should also avoid borrowing more than you can comfortably repay based on your expected future income. A College Ave March 2025 student survey found that 67% of those who expected to have student loan debt post-graduation didn't know or were unsure of how much their monthly payments would be. Before taking out a loan, use CollegeAve.com's student loan calculator to get a sense of its overall cost and monthly loan payments.
- \* **Not shopping around:** If you do end up taking out a private student loan, it's important to pay attention to lenders' interest rates and repayment options. Unlike federal loans, which have fixed interest rates for all borrowers, private student loan interest rates vary from lender to lender. And because your repayment plan can impact your monthly payment and overall cost, it's key to choose one that fits your budget. Whatever loan you do go with, understand its

terms so there are no surprises down the line.

- \* **Not having a cosigner, if needed:** As a college student, you likely don't have an established credit history or sufficient income and may not get approved for a private loan on your own. Consider improving your chances of getting approved and securing a lower interest rate by adding a cosigner, like a parent, to your loan application.
- \* **Not having a repayment strategy:** The College Ave survey found that 76% of students say that they confidently pay their bills on time each month and 63% are working toward personal financial goals. Carry these healthy financial habits with you to the repayment stage of your loan. Having a plan for repayment can make a big difference down the road. Think about when you'll start making payments and how much you can afford each month. The more prepared you are, the less stressful it'll be when it's time to pay it back.

College is a big investment, and having a smart approach to paying for it is essential. After applying for financial aid and scholarships, and maximizing your income and savings, do some groundwork to ensure that if you must borrow, you are borrowing smart.



COURTESY

## New name for Emily K Center's open-access program

STAFF REPORTS

**DURHAM** - The Emily K Center has renamed its open-access high school program to Game Plan: Future.

Formerly known as Game Plan: College, the updated name marks the Center's mission to help students chart personalized paths and become agents of change in their communities.

For more than nine years, Game Plan: College has served as a vital resource for Durham students, providing guidance and support as they plan for life after high school.

The program has grown to reach over 1,500 students annually across 14 Durham Public high schools, host annual events centered on college

and career access, and assist hundreds of families in completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid.

While college access remains a central focus, the name change reflects a broader commitment to help all students explore and create a plan that fits their goals. "Many of the students we serve are exploring a wide range of postsecondary options — from trade schools and apprenticeships to military service and career pathways," said Christina Villagegas, director of postsecondary access. "Game Plan: Future reflects our commitment to walking alongside all students as they pursue their own unique goals."

The program's offerings

will remain unchanged, including one-on-one advising, in-school workshops and community-based events. While support for alternative pathways has always been part of the program, this new name better reflects the Center's inclusive, student-centered approach and demonstrates its responsiveness to the evolving landscape of higher education.

"We believe every student deserves the opportunity to explore their future with clarity and confidence," added executive director Valerie Anderson. "This name change is just one way we're evolving to meet the needs of the Durham community."

To learn more, visit [emilyk.org/programs/game-plan-future](http://emilyk.org/programs/game-plan-future).

## ASCEND Program Graduates



COURTESY OF DHA

**After temporarily relocating from their former homes, Durham Housing Authority residents are gearing up for a fresh start in their new redeveloped downtown neighborhood.**

**Through the ASCEND program, they gained skills in housing stability, financial literacy, community connection, personal growth and life transitions. They walk away not only with knowledge, but with confidence and a renewed sense of purpose.**

## MOVERS AND SHAKERS

**DURHAM NEXT**

Tara Kenchen has been named Durham Next's first executive director. Kenchen's main responsibilities will be to build community



Kenchen

and business relationships and inspire support on various initiatives. Kenchen led UF Strategies, a management consulting firm, before working at the North Carolina Community Development Initiative for 15 years, including as president and CEO. She begins the new position July 21.

**Are you or someone you know a Mover and a Shaker?** Drop us a line at Movers and Shakers, c/o The Triangle Tribune, 5007 Southpark Drive, Suite 200-G, Durham, NC 27713, or email us at [info@triangletribune.com](mailto:info@triangletribune.com). Photos welcome.

For more stories, visit  
[www.triangletribune.com](http://www.triangletribune.com).