



SPORTS

Shaw linebacker named to All-CIAA preseason team



COMMUNITY FOCUS

Southeast Raleigh student completes aviation program

The Triangle Tribune

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SAU administrators meet virtually with alumni after hearing

By Alex Bass

alex.bass@triangletribune.com

RALEIGH - Saint Augustine's University administrators held a virtual forum with alumni Monday evening following the announcement of the university's loss of its accreditation arbitration process and removal from membership among the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges.

The forum - joined by over 200 people - included SAU Interim President Mar-

cus Burgess, Board of Trustees chairman Brian Boulware, interim provost and vice president of academic affairs Verjanis Peoples, and vice president of finance and administration Mark Yates, among others.

"They need money for this lawsuit," said SaveSAU Coalition chairman Ben Johnson, as his explanation for the meeting's bottom line. Litigation is SAU's lone remaining option for long-term SACSCOC reinstatement.

Burgess, who did not respond to a Tribune text message Monday, issued a July 14 letter to SACSCOC President Belle Wheelan and indicated SAU's intent to pursue litigation. The university will remain accredited on probation for good cause through the litigation.

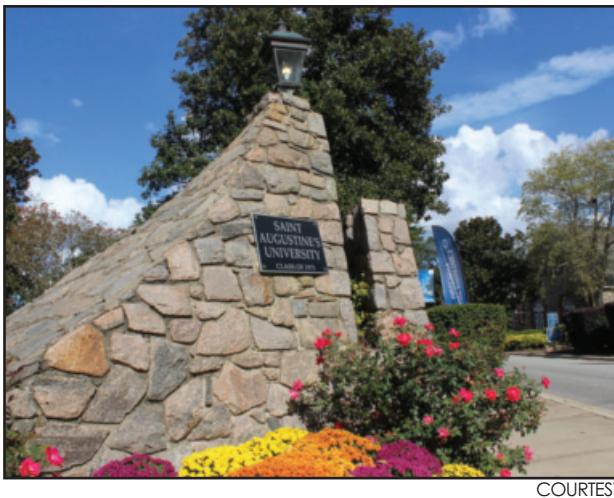
"They can get funds from the federal government, and all of those things," SACSCOC public relations and data specialist Janea Johnson said of privileges due SACSCOC-accredited

institutions.

"SAU is not closing - our doors remain open, and classes will continue," Burgess said in a July 14 press release. "Fall 2025 classes will commence virtually as scheduled for both new and returning students." A fall calendar is not posted in the website's "Academic Calendar" section.

"This legal action will effectively extend SAU's accredited status during the transition period, ensuring that current and future

Please see **SAU/2A**



COURTESY



Raleigh city councilors listen to speakers at ONE Wake's community meeting.



COURTESY

The Taybron family from left in back is Pierre Taybron and Lewanda Bailey-Taybron, and their four children: Maddison 10, and Christina 13, middle row, and Isabelle 6 and Gabrielle 9, front row.

Wake County residents make their voices heard on affordable housing

By Alex Bass

alex.bass@triangletribune.com

RALEIGH - The Reverend Je'monde Taylor, rector of Saint Ambrose Episcopal Church, was encouraged by a 2016 conversation in his office. That conversation about affordable housing aligned with Taylor's seminary formation in New York, home of the Nehemiah Program - a housing model to which \$2 billion of equity fostering prosperity across generations has been attrib-

uted.

"The inspiration is through relationships - talking to people, forming relationships with public officials and corporations," said Taylor, a member of the ONE Wake strategy team. "The 'how' is in the relationships and through talking. That is what you see today."

More than 900 people representing nearly 50 church congregations affiliated with ONE Wake filled Watts Chapel Missionary Baptist Church on July

12. Those in overflow areas put the attendance past 1,000. They gathered to listen to the Raleigh City Council's updates, assessments, and predictions for future affordable housing opportunities.

Legal constraints about open meetings precluded councilors from having a quorum (five or more elected members) in one sitting. Thus, Mayor Janet Cowell, and council members Corey

Please see **HOUSING/2A**

Durham parents named 2025 parents of the year

By Larry Moffitt

SPECIAL TO THE TRIBUNE

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Pierre Taybron and Lewanda Bailey-Taybron of Durham were named National Parents of the Year 2024 by a selection committee of nonprofits, including the Universal Peace Federation USA that conducts the annual search. Parents' Day, designated by law as the fourth Sunday in July, will be celebrated July 27.

Pierre and Lewanda Taybron are parents for their children and the children of others, as well as parental figures for their Durham community. They are the parents of four children, the oldest of whom was diagnosed with a chronic brain tumor two years ago. For 10 years they were the primary guardians and educators of two great-nephews, raising them until they were able to return to their home.

In addition to family, they set an example of service by their presence in the community. They contribute their time and involve their daughter in activities like the Book Harvest Foundation which distributes books to the underserved community. They serve dinners to Families Moving Forward on a regular basis and cook full-plated meals and distribute food baskets for the Thanksgiving holiday.

Active with their daughters in Girl Scout Troop 1192, they find engagement in numerous service projects and are ever-present as chaperones for school field trips and off-campus activities. As volunteers in their children's schools, they facilitate Career Day and Teacher and Administration Appreciation Week annually. That is in addition to serving as classwork volunteer parents, helping find school supplies and snacks for the kids.

They were instrumental in reestablishing the Durham

Please see **PARENTS/2A**

Black Chamber of Raleigh aims to bridge gap for entrepreneurs

By Freda Freeman

CORRESPONDENT

Dionne Selby was impressed with the Black business chambers she saw in Durham, Greensboro and Charlotte, so she started one in Raleigh. The Black Chamber of Raleigh was founded in April to help African American entrepreneurs feel supported in hopes of helping them expand and grow their businesses, said Selby, owner and founder.

"I did not feel nor see that type

of presence here in Raleigh. I also was at one point a member of the Raleigh Chamber, and the same thing, not really seeing any of the presence within the Black community, so that's what inspired me to start it. I knew there was a need for a chamber specifically for the Black community," she said.

The Triangle region, which includes Raleigh, Durham and Chapel Hill, is 12th in the United States for the percentage of Black-owned businesses, ac-

cording to the Charlotte Observer. The Black Chamber of Raleigh's purpose is to help connect, spotlight, and promote Black businesses throughout the city but specifically in Southeast Raleigh.

The Black Chamber of Raleigh is run by Selby, general manager Lori Jones and event manager Erica Hill who came together to help bridge the gap they saw. "We saw brilliant Black entrepreneurs doing powerful work, but

Please see **CHAMBER/2A**

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SAU administrators meet virtually with alumni

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graduates receive their degrees from an institution that is accredited," the release stated.

Transitioning to another accrediting entity - like Bennett College in Greensboro moved from SACSCOC to the Transnational Association of Christian Colleges and Schools - could be an option.

Bennett's transition to full TRACS membership in April 2023 took four years following the school's February 2019 SACSCOC membership revocation and subsequent litigation. Bennett exceeded a \$5 mil-

lion fundraising goal in February 2019. SAU has no such known donations on the immediate horizon.

SAU has a \$30 million credit line, albeit with a 26% interest rate, with Gothic Ventures. The university approximated the forthcoming litigation's total cost to be \$1 million, with a \$350,000 attorney retainer fee. "Why do they need to ask alumni for money," Johnson said.

SAU, per SACSCOC policy, will be responsible for SACSCOC's legal fees. "These costs must be paid in full within 45 days following the institution's re-

ceipt of SACSCOC's invoice, unless other arrangements are approved by the Executive Council acting on behalf of the SACSCOC Board of Trustees," SACSCOC policy states. The same press release invited contributions to the Falcon Pride Initiative for said legal fees.

Johnson said Burgess indicated about 10 SAU students are on course to graduate in the upcoming fall and spring terms. These class sizes would represent roughly 40% of SAU's graduating classes last fall and spring.

Wake County residents speak out on housing

Continued from page 1A
Branch, Jonathan Lambert-Melton and Mitchell Silver participated in the first mini-session.

The quartet departed the sanctuary before Mayor Pro Tem Stormie Forte, and council members Megan Patton and Christina Jones participated in the second mini-session. Council member Jane Harrison was absent.

Taylor offered a frank assessment for proceeding. "We don't want to insult God by thinking too small," he said. "One elected official believed \$200 million was not enough, that it could be higher."

Voters approved a \$275 million parks and recreation bond in 2024. Taylor was referring to Jones, who said, "I want people over parks," when asked if she would support a \$200 million affordable housing bond being put on voters' ballots.

Lambert-Melton concurred, while all other council members, al-

though supportive of such a bond, did not commit to a specific figure.

"When we talk about transportation, and we talk about parks and rec, we know exactly what projects we're going to do," Branch said. "When it comes to a housing bond, we don't always have the exact project that we are going to input and do."

Jones praised Branch for cultivating District C affordable housing, among which is ongoing work for additional units in the College Park and Washington Terrace communities. Jones criticized how effective affordable housing development has been in her own District E.

"We have one project that has potential - 152 units out of the entire city," she said.

Jones added she and Patton have been looking into opportunities for the previous Wilder's Grove landfill, which will be eligible for development in 2029, but is uncertain how pos-

sible such development will be.

Raleigh's last affordable housing bond, valued at \$80 million, was passed in 2020. Cowell said she anticipates the next bond having a significantly higher value.

Taylor said Wake County's current affordable housing need is another 65,000 units. These details and more, Lambert-Melton said, will be among the Council's fall retreat agenda.

Since 2020, the city has purchased the former North Carolina Division of Motor Vehicles site on Tarboro Road. Support for optimizing affordable housing on that site was shared by councilors. There also is the Randaleigh land tract, co-owned by the city and Wake County. Some of its 300 acres must be used for environmental considerations, while other parts will bear additional Interstate 540 development.

BUSINESS BRIEFS



Stretch Zone has opened at Raleigh Seaboard Station.

NETWORKING

Durham Business & Professional Chain's Big Business Building Breakfast is July 24, 9 to 11 a.m., Nzinga Kitchen, 826 Fayetteville St., Suite 100. Tickets: www.eventbrite.com.

NETWORKING

The Chamber's next Business After Hours is July 24, 5 to 7 p.m., Overture Chapel Hill, 5910 Farington Road. Register: business.carolina

chamber.org.

SIP & SHOP

Summer Sip & Shop at Lafayette Village is July 30, 6-8 p.m., 8450 Honeycutt Road.

SUMMIT

Fourth Annual BLK BIZ SUMMIT is Aug. 1, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Weldon Mills Event Center, 300 E. Main St. Visit www.blkbizsummit.com.

BREAKFAST IS BACK

Missy Lane's Assembly Room is bringing back coffee and breakfast, M-F, 8 to 11 a.m., 310 E. Main St., Durham.

OPENINGS

* Stretch Zone has opened at Raleigh Seaboard Station, 111 Seaboard Avenue, Suite 116. Visit www.stretchzone.com.

Send business briefs to info@triangletribune.com.

Durham parents of four named 2025 national parents of the year

Continued from page 1A

Mission of the Church of God and Saints of Christ. They organize groups to visit senior communities to uplift their spirits, letting them know they haven't been forgotten. They have compiled resources for financial assistance with rent and utilities to those struggling.

Their daughter's health situation has led them to be active mentors for pediatric brain tumor families who have a child suffering from a high-grade glioma (cancer). The parents place the health of their family into the hand of God.

"In 2023, my daughter's oncologist said, 'Try to spend as much time as you can with her because time is not long,'" Lewanda Bailey-Taybron said. "I tell every parent I speak with to appreciate the photos you have and make many more because tomorrow is never promised."

Their two-income household has been reduced to one by their child's illness. "That has been very challenging," Lewanda said, "but to have the pediatric cancer community assist us along the has been a blessing."

Five other couples were also honored as national parents of the year in special categories:

* David and Kris Lindsey of Cottage Grove, Minnesota, for outstanding sacrifice

* Judge Tommy and Judy Webb of Overland Park, Kansas, for civic leadership

* Albert and Rashidah Cartwright of Neptune, New Jersey, for parental Empowerment

* Sunil and Raina Massey of Elmont, New York, for community service

* The Rev. Luis and Mrs. Garcia of Chula Vista, California, for faith.



Left to right: Erica Hill, event manager; Dionne Selby, owner and founder; and Lori Jones, general manager at last month's launch.

Black Chamber of Raleigh aims to bridge gap

Continued from page 1A

struggling in silos - without the funding, visibility or network that others had access to. Too many were launching with heart but lacking strategic support. Others had been in business for years but weren't growing at the pace they deserved," Jones said.

Selby said The Black Chamber's goal is to empower Black business owners with tools, resources, education and financial literacy. Having worked in banking for about 25 years, she has seen Black people miss out on resources because of a gap in financial literacy.

"Financial literacy is important because there is the gap in financial wealth, because there is that gap of not getting those resources and not getting the knowledge about what to do with our money. There is a huge gap between the white population and people of color. We are passionate about trying to decrease

that gap by increasing financial literacy," she said.

Jones said one of the reasons she joined The Black Chamber is because she can identify with the challenges Black entrepreneurs face.

"I joined because I believe deeply in the power of ownership, collaboration and community wealth. I've been the small business owner fighting to be seen. I've been the leader looking for like-minded visionaries. I wanted to bring my experience, my heart and my resources to help others push forward. My goal is to create an ecosystem where support isn't just lip service; it's lived, felt and resourced.

I hope to contribute strategy, structure, connection and real opportunities for growth," she said.

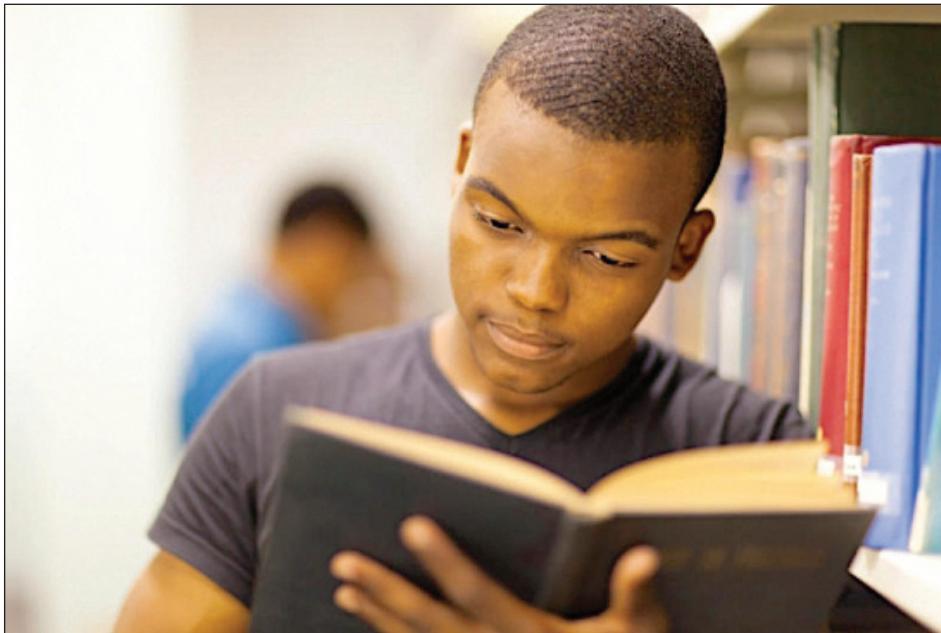
Hill said The Chamber is focusing on gaining insight into community needs and bringing those needs together with services and products provided by local

Black businesses. It is putting together a directory of Black businesses that residents can have readily on hand and plans to hold networking mixers, business roundtables, workshops, webinars, and ribbon cutting events to celebrate when new businesses open. A holiday gala is planned for December.

"I hope the community sees us as a resource and a building partner for their businesses with the networking events, training, financial literacy planning and programs we have. I'm hoping the community sees us as a vital resource to help them and their business," Hill said.

Brand ambassadors are needed to help spread the word about The Black Chamber, which is independent from the Raleigh Chamber of Commerce. For information: blackchamberraleigh.com or blackchamberofraleighinc@gmail.com.

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North Carolina joins lawsuit over \$165M in frozen K-12 funds

By Liz Schlemmer
WUNC

North Carolina Attorney General Jeff Jackson announced Monday he is joining 22 other state attorneys general and two governors in a lawsuit against the U.S. Department of Education.

On July 1, the Department of Education notified states that they won't be receiving certain K-12 federal funds that are typically disbursed each July. That effectively froze \$165 million in funding for North Carolina public schools. "The Department of Education does not have the authority to withhold those funds, certainly not the night before they were set to arrive," Jackson said at the press conference. "We are taking them to court, and I am confident that we are going to prevail, because I think the legal argument here is very straightforward."

The brief memo the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction received on June 30 said the funds would not be released "until further re-

view" to ensure "taxpayer resources are spent in accordance with the President's priorities."

The funding is used to support teacher professional development; before and after school programs; services for English language learners; and programs for migrant students. Congress appropriated the total funds for each of these Title programs in March at the same funding level as last year, but did not provide line item appropriations for these specific sub-programs. President Donald Trump had also singled out these sub-programs for possible funding cuts in his proposed budget.

Jackson said the complaint is asking for a preliminary injunction. "We're asking the court to treat this as an emergency," Jackson said. "We are hopeful that we get an outcome before the school year begins. We need this to be resolved within a matter of weeks, not months."

Meanwhile, schools are getting ready to open in August, without about 10 percent of their federal

funding. "These funds serve, directly and indirectly, hundreds of thousands of our students, including some of the most vulnerable," State Superintendent Maurice "Mo" Green said.

Green added that filing a lawsuit against the U.S. government is not an action to take without considerable deliberation. "The impact to North Carolina's public schools cannot be overstated," Green said. "Now hundreds of public school employees' positions are at risk, and thousands of students are faced with the reality that they may not be able to access the very funds they need to succeed."

Green says he's hearing from schools that this is especially tough since they've already been hiring for the fall. "What I'm also hearing is, 'Mo do we get to keep the staff that we've hired?'" Green said.

Green said schools may have a few months of stop gap funding leftover from last year to hold them over, but the amount of available funding varies by district.



Black Americans still face retirement gaps despite higher incomes

By Stacy M. Brown
BLACK PRESS USA

A report from the Employee Benefit Research Institute shows that Black Americans continue to face serious challenges in saving for retirement, even as their incomes grow.

The 2025 Retirement Confidence Survey, which included a special oversample of Black workers and retirees, found that the wealth gap remains wide at every income level.

Among households earning \$75,000 or more, only 33% of Black Americans reported having \$250,000 or more in savings and investments, compared with 63% of non-Black Americans.

Retirement remains a significant barrier. Sixty-three percent of higher-income Black households said debt is a problem, while just 45% of non-Black households at the same income level said the same.

Nearly half of upper-income Black respondents said debt affects their ability to save or live comfortably in retirement.

ably in retirement.

While many Black Americans expressed confidence managing day-to-day budgets, fewer felt prepared to invest or plan for the long term.

The study showed that 77% of Black Americans with higher incomes were less likely to have personally saved for retirement, compared with 87% of non-Black Americans.

Retirement experiences also differed sharply. Forty-four percent of Black retirees said they retired earlier than planned because of a health problem or disability, compared with 32% of non-Black retirees.

After leaving their main jobs, Black retirees were more likely to work for pay to make ends meet, and more often said their retirement lifestyle was worse than expected.

There are some modifications in the financial system that could help improve their prospects, such as increased assistance in balancing competing financial priorities like debt reduction, supporting family and building long-term savings.

Many landlords exploit tenants' distaste for moving to raise rent

STAFF REPORTS

StorageUnits.com has released new survey findings showing that many landlords are leveraging tenants' reluctance to move to justify rent increases.

The July 2025 survey of 1,000 renters and 300 landlords highlights the pressure renters face when deciding whether to stay or move.

Eighty-seven percent of renters say the hassle of moving influences their decision to accept a rent increase. Nearly all renters (91%) describe moving as stressful. The most common stressors include finding a new place (64%), the cost (64%), packing (62%) and the physical toll (58%). Half of renters fear ending up in a worse living situation, and 41% say leaving a familiar space creates emotional stress.

"Moving is stressful because it disrupts nearly every part of daily life," says Reagan Phillips, home organization and storage expert at StorageUnits.com. "There's the financial burden of hiring movers, paying deposits and covering unexpected costs, and logically, it's overwhelming to pack, organize and coordinate timelines. On top of that, many people feel anxious about leaving a familiar space and fear ending up in a situation where they're less comfortable. Moving creates a physical, emotional and financial strain all at once."

Most renters are willing to accept higher rent at renewal. Forty percent say they would accept a 1%



STOCK

4% increase, 20% would accept 5% to 9%, 8% are willing to accept 10% to 14%, and 3% say they would tolerate an even higher increase. About 24% say they would move rather than accept any increase, and 4% are moving regardless.

Landlords are aware of this reluctance. One in five (21%) say they charge existing tenants more than new ones. Nearly half (47%) say they do this because tenants are unlikely to move over a rent increase. In fact, 17% of renters say they have seen their former unit relisted at a lower rate after declining to renew. If that happened, 45% of renters say they would be very angry and 34% would be somewhat angry.

Negotiation is not guaranteed. Nearly 1 in 10 landlords surveyed, 28% say they typically raise rent by 5% to 9%, and 6% say they raise it by 10% or more. While 53% say they try to reward long-term tenants with smaller increases, others admit they use rent

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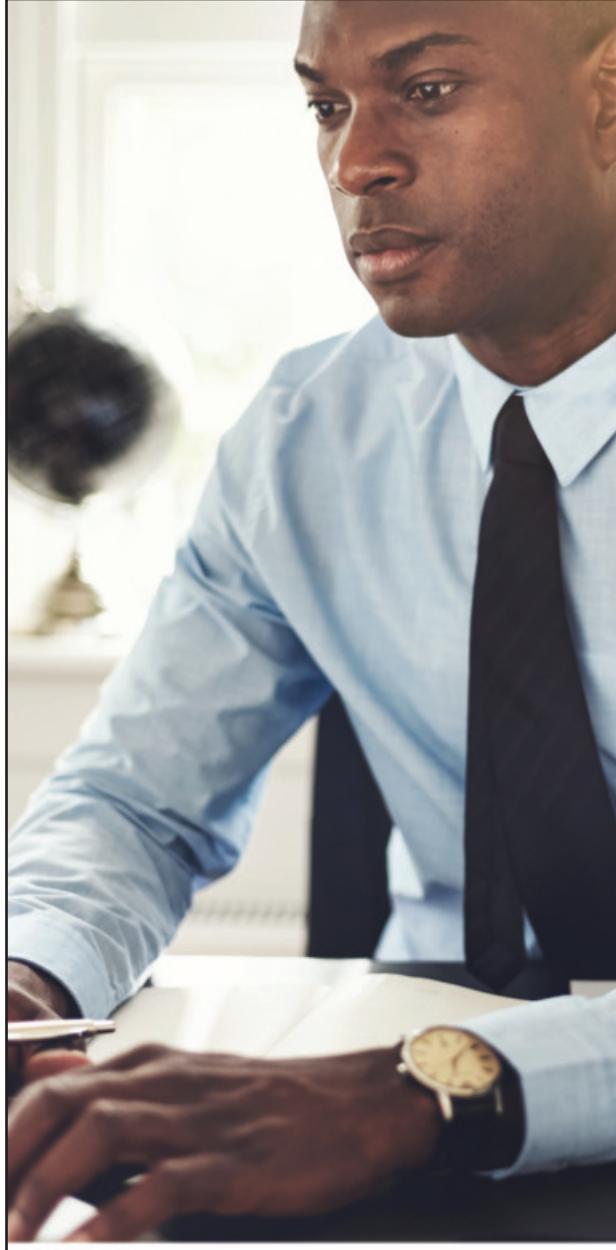
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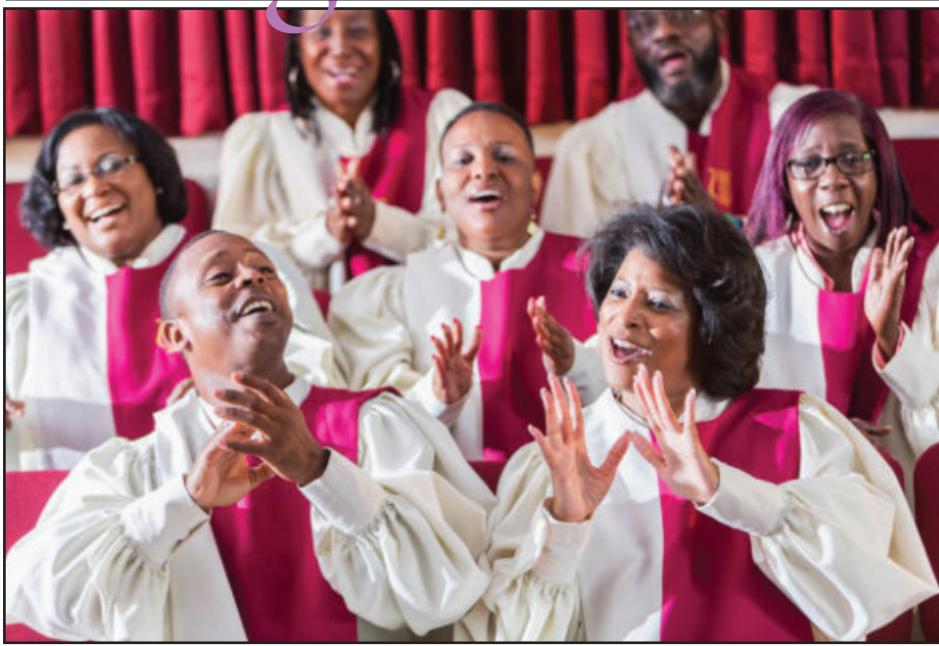


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COURTESY

Preserved by Purpose

Jesus is the main character of my life's story

By Shewanda Riley

THE DALLAS WEEKLY

"Who is the main character in your life's story? Is it you or is it Jesus?"

This question was posed to me by fellow author Michelle Stimpson as we drove three-and-a-half hours to Houston to speak at a writing workshop a few years ago. We both agreed that we wanted Jesus to be the main character in our life stories.

Days after our trip, I thought about the times in my life when I was the main character in my life's story instead of Jesus. To me, it was good enough that Jesus was a character in the story. Like minor characters in great fiction stories, he got a few good lines every now and again. What did this look like? I was busy with church work but didn't have a real relationship with God. I spent more time doing things for the church than working on developing an authentic, intimate relationship with God.

I found myself doing what so many other Christians do: settling for Jesus being in their life story but

not necessarily the main character. We want to remain the main character so we can write the story, be the center of attention and control what happens. However, if we let Jesus be the main character and God be the author of our story, we make the important choice to submit to the lordship of Jesus and submit to the sovereign hand of God. Hebrews 12:1-3 encourages us to let go of worries and burdens so that we can "run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith..."

When we let God write our life story, his hand guides and directs us in the path that he wants us to go. He may put a period and end something that we'd like to put a comma in and continue. Also, some life stories might require more revisions than others. We have to trust that even if something happens that we don't expect or like, "all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose," as it says in Romans

8:28. "If anyone should ever write my life story, for whatever reason there might be; you'll be there between each line of pain and glory; 'cause you're the best thing that ever happened to me."

These words from the 1974 classic soul hit by Gladys Knight and the Pips were turned into an equally popular gospel song by James Cleveland. The words of the gospel song remind us that when Jesus is the main character, he isn't impacted by what we do, but he influences everything we do because we have built a sincere, intimate relationship with God.

Our goal should be not just for anyone to write our life's story but for us to have the faith to allow God to write our story with Jesus at the center.

Shewanda Riley is the author of the Essence best-seller "Love Hangover: Moving from Pain to Purpose after a Relationship Ends" and "Writing to the Beat of God's Heart: Prayers for Writers."

AROUND THE TRIANGLE

KNIGHTDALE FOOD TRUCKS

NC Throwdown presents NIGHT CRAWL Food Truck Rodeo July 26, 5-10 p.m., Haven Farm, 8521 Buffalo Road.

RALEIGH CONSIGNMENT

Kids Exchange Consignment Sale is July 18-20, 9 a.m., NC State Fairgrounds, Gate 2.

CELEBRATION

Raleigh Union Station Bus Facility ribbon cutting and celebration is July 25, 10 a.m., 525 W. Hargett St.

FAIR

Back to School Resource Fair is July 26, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., 4204 Willow Oak Road.

FOUNDER'S DAY

Homewood Nursery & Garden Center's Founder's Day sale is July 26, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., 10809 Honeycutt Road.

LECTURE

Motivational speaker Jeremy Anderson will speak July 26, 7 p.m., Gethsemane SDA Church, 2525 Sanderford Road. Open to the public.

CARY EXHIBITION

Fine Arts League of Cary presents its 30th Annual

Juried Exhibition through Sept. 4. An awards reception is July 24, 4-8 p.m., Page-Walker Arts & History, 119 Ambassador Loop. Visit www.fineartsleaugeofcary.org.

DURHAM BEYONCE'

"Hive Hoedown: The Ultimate Beyoncé' Fan Experience" is July 20, 4 p.m., Motorco, 723 Rigsbee Ave. Tickets: motorcomusic.com.

VEGFEST

Vegfest Expo-Food Fest is July 20, noon to 4 p.m., Durham Armory, 212 Foster St. Tickets: www.eventeny.com.

POETRY

Poetry vs. Hip-Hop presents Poetry After Dark, hosted by Queen Sheba, July 20 at The Pickleback2, 711 Rigsbee Ave. Tickets: www.poetryshiphop.com.

MARKET

The next Black Farmers Market is July 20, 1-4 p.m., Durham Tech, 1637 Lawson St.

FUN CARAVAN

Durham Parks & Recreation's Fun Caravan will visit five parks in July. The next is Merrick-Moore Park, July 23, 9-11 a.m. All children must be supervised.

MEET-UP
NCCU alumni meet-up July 25, 9 p.m. to midnight, Wheels Durham, 715 N. Hoover Road.

CENTERFEST

CenterFest Arts Festival is seeking sponsorships for its 50th anniversary, Sept. 20-21, in downtown Durham. Contact: Laura Montgomery at lmontgomery@durhamarts-marts.org.

DONATIONS

Donations for community flood relief drive can be dropped off at 308 Crutchfield St., Suite D, M-F, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

CHAPEL HILL MEDICINE POP-UP

Orange County is hosting a Street Medicine Pop-Up for unsheltered residents July 22, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., University Baptist Church parking lot, 100 S. Columbia St.

REPAIR CAFÉ

Get it fixed at the Repair Café July 26, 1-4 p.m., Seymour Center, 2551 Homestead Road. Visit RepairCafeNC.org.

CHANTAL

A fund has been set up to assist Topical Storm Chantal victims. Donate at www.orangecountync.gov/ChantalFund.

Beware the Double Click!

Evaluate QR codes to protect against fraud

STATEPOINT

Ancient civilizations had hieroglyphic; we have QR codes: the patterned graphic boxes prompting you to access restaurant menus, pay for parking, find out information about a package and more.

Generally, quick response codes are safe, but they can be used to redirect you to malicious websites, so caution is important. Here's how it works.

- * You get prompted to use your device's camera.

- * You scan the code and a link pops up.

- * You click the link, exposing you to threat actors.

- * You're directed to apps, websites, locations using your maps and much more.



you never ordered, then require you to scan the QR code and click the link to see who sent you the gift.

- * Payment scams. Criminals cover a legitimate QR code with a sticker that has a fraudulent code that directs to a malicious site.

- This can happen at gas pumps, bank windows, parking lots, etc.

- * Crypto scams. Crypto

transactions are often made through QR codes associated with crypto accounts, making this an appealing target for fraudsters, especially since once crypto payments are made, it's unlikely those funds will be recovered.

To stay safe when using QR codes:

- * Check the URL: Once you scan and the link pops up, stop! Examine it for unusual domain names or shortened URLs before clicking.

- * Verify the source: Only scan QR codes from trusted sources, like official websites or apps.

- Codes from unfamiliar sources are more likely to be malicious.

- * Check for tampering: Look for signs of tampering like altered graphics,

design flaws or stickers placed atop original codes.

- * Be suspicious: Treat sites asking for a password or login information as a red flag.

- * Be wary of promotions: Be cautious of offers that seem too good to be true.

- * Use a secure connection: Look for a secure connection (<https://>) or padlock.

- * Confirm validity of request: Before acting, like making a payment or entering personal information, confirm a request to scan with the company. If you receive a QR code from someone you know, reach out to them through a known number or email to verify they sent it.

- * Protect your device: Use antivirus and antimalware software.

- * Report: If you identify a suspicious QR code or fall victim to a QR code scam, notify your bank and report it to law enforcement and the Federal Trade Commission.

Cyber criminals are always finding new ways to defraud their victims, and QR codes are no exception. With a little caution however, you can better protect yourself.

The Charlotte Post Foundation

Double Good Popcorn Fundraiser

Support Pop for a Purpose!

www.thepostfoundation.org



I'm excited to share that The Charlotte Post Foundation is

hosting a Double Good Popcorn Fundraiser

Thursday, July 17 - Monday, July 21 at 5PM(EST)

and we'd love your support!

This delicious, 100% online fundraiser helps us continue our mission to support youth education and afterschool program for Title 1 students in our community.

- 50% of every purchase goes directly to our Foundation.

- No hassle - everything ships directly to you.

There's 2 ways to support:

Purchase Popcorn - Treat yourself or send as a gift

To Order:

<https://s.dgpopup.com/sp014151>

DONATIONS

ZELLE: President@thepostfoundation.org

TEXT to donate (mobile phone) to 41444

MESSAGE: PB25

Your Name: Any Amount

To Learn More



Contact: President@thepostfoundation.org

The Charlotte Post Foundation 501(c)(3)

The Triangle Tribune
For more community stories,
visit us online:
triangletribune.com

CIAA media day felt like old times

Fayetteville State coach Richard Hayes and his players were about to take the podium at Wednesday's CIAA Media Day in Durham. Their archrival Winston-Salem State had just finished its interview segment.

The TV monitors, however, were still showing the Rams logo as the Broncos were about to embark. Hayes quickly pulled his players back and told them to wait until the logos had been changed.

"We're not Rams, we're Broncos," he said.

That's why they're called rivals, and none are as fierce as Fayetteville State vs. Winston-Salem State. With the CIAA down a rivalry matchup between St. Augustine's and Shaw after the Falcons were dropped from its membership, the league needs to keep the remaining ones percolating.

CIAA football is back where it should be - in Durham. Wednesday felt like old times.

The league is looking to keep the momentum going from a 2024 season that moved football up a notch on the respect-o-meter.

Six teams finished with winning records and seven teams were either ranked or had players ranked in the top 20 in NCAA statistics.

Two-time defending champ Virginia Union was picked to finish first after a historic season that saw the Panthers advance to the Elite Eight.

Shockingly, VUU hasn't received a No. 1 preseason ranking in over 25 years.

"I don't know what this No. 1 thing is all about," said Parker who led the Panthers to two straight playoff road wins before losing at Valdosta State. "We had 17 starters returning last year, and we didn't get picked No. 1. We lost 17 guys in the portal this year and got picked No. 1."

The Panthers' top ranking was nothing compared to Johnson C. Smith being voted No. 2.

It's the highest preseason ranking in program history. It also means prognosticators think Virginia Union and JCSU will meet in the CIAA Championship Game.

After a record-setting 8-0 start, the Golden Bulls needed to win one of their last two games to advance to the championship. Instead, they lost to FSU and Livingstone. But the future is bright.

"Our goal was to build a culture that can compete for championships," coach Maurice Flowers said. "...We've been known to be a 'stat' game. You want to get up for a team you know you can beat. ...Now, folks say, 'we have to bring our A-game.'"

Adrian Jones is no longer a Bear, but it still was strange seeing him in Elizabeth City blue after nine years in maroon and white.

Jones touted the athletic and community support he's received since being named head coach in December.

"We are going to play an exciting brand of football and be a disciplined team," he said. "We are going to be nasty on defense."

Bluefield State coach Davon Morgan got the nasty treatment last season after tickling off coaches at media day. Rookies don't do that.

Not only did Morgan talk some trash at the podium, but he rubbed the championship trophy as if to say it was already theirs. Final record: 1-9.

Wednesday was a different story. No rubbing. And his parting shot?

"We love everybody. We wish everybody success. We hope everybody comes out injury free."

Lesson learned.

The Triangle Tribune Sports

July 20-26, 2025 | 6A

HBCU FOOTBALL



COURTESY

Linebacker Quewon Hilliard was the only Bear named to the All-CIAA preseason team.

3 HBCU media days down, 1 more to go on Tuesday

By Bonitta Best
editor@triangletribune.com

Tuesday is THE day as the MEAC football season kicks off with its football media day at M&T Bank Stadium in Baltimore, Maryland. Individual interviews begin at 9 a.m., with the luncheon

starting at noon on ESPN+. South Carolina State is the defending champion. Needless to say, it will be a zoo.

N.C. Central
Coach Trei Oliver has a busy week. Three days after the MEAC, the Bill Dooley Triangle Pigskin Preview is

July 25 at the Midtown Hilton in Raleigh. This is a location change from the Embassy Suites in Cary over the years.

Oliver joins ACC coaches from Duke, North Carolina and N.C. State, and East Carolina to preview the season. The Eagles released the

themes for their home schedule:

- * Aug. 30 - NCCU Student Kickoff
- * Sept. 13 - White Out
- * Oct. 15 - Homecoming
- * Nov. 8 - Culture over Scheme
- * Nov. 15 - Senior Day

Please see **MEDIA/7A**

COLLEGE CORNER

Norfolk State alumnus signs pro contract

The CIAA has named Matisse Lee as its new associate commissioner for external partnerships and special projects. Lee was senior associate athletic director for internal operations and student-athlete affairs at Claflin for 12 years.

WOMEN

St. Augustine's

It is official. The Falcons are no longer on the CIAA website. Who would have thought this day would ever come?

Shaw

President Paulette Dillard was elected chair of the CIAA Board of Directors. Dillard will serve a two-year term from July 1, 2025-27.

Lincoln (Pa.) President Brenda Allen was elected vice-chair.

"I look forward to working alongside our member institutions and partners to continue

strengthening the legacy of the CIAA and championing the success of our student-athletes - on the field, in the classroom and beyond," Dillard said.

Bowie State

Tubar Thompson is the new women's bowling coach. Thompson is quite familiar with the Bulldogs. As a previous assistant, he helped guide BSU to two CIAA conference championships. He also was an assistant at Morgan State.

Mississippi Valley State

Alecia Shields-Gadson has been named director of athletics. She knows her way around HBCUs with stints at Alcorn State, Delaware State and Coppin State. But MSVU will be her toughest challenge yet.

MEN

Tennessee State

The Tigers historic ice hockey



COURTESY

Spartan alumnus Tyrel Bladen

ambitions will have to wait another year. The university announced last week that it was delaying the launch until the 2026-27 season.

Although several recruits have either decommitted or turned professional, TSU received a \$250,000 grant from

the NHL and has support from the Nashville Predators professional hockey team.

"Working closely with the NHL and the Predators, we agree that an additional year will provide the program with the time and

Please see **NORFOLK/7A**

Practice highlights Ebony Racquet Club players' journeys

By Alex Bass

alex.bass@triangletribune.com

RALEIGH - For the Ebony Racquet Club's 18U junior team state tournament competitors, the Name, Image & Likeness landscape remains a laughing matter - seriously.

Michael Boykin knew he would not get paid for a friendly wager involving teammate Luca Castaneda, but both Boykin, a rising Enloe High School 11th grader, and Castaneda, a rising Millbrook High 10th grader, embrace the prevailing lessons - particularly after the team's perform-

ance in last weekend's state tournament in Winston-Salem.

While the Ebony Club's 14U beginner division team placed first, the 18U team, despite a 4-0 round robin play record, finished second. Another team, despite losing the head-to-head match to ERC, amassed 87 total games won versus ERC's 85.

"We just try to strive for them to go hard and be ready for when the time comes," ERC coach Dempsey Farmer said. That time came in practice at Biltmore

Please see **EBONY/7A**

Ravenscroft graduate wins Steph Curry's golf tournament

SUBMITTED TO THE TRIBUNE

Ravenscroft graduate Morgan Riley recently won the boy's division at the kickoff of Steph Curry's UNDERRATED Golf Tour in Colorado Springs, Colorado. The win secures Riley's place to compete in September's Curry Cup in New York City.

Curry founded UNDERRATED Golf to provide equity, access and opportunity to student-athletes from every community by balancing participation in the sport to reflect our society. So far, the tour has supported over 30 student-athletes in receiving college golf scholarships and helped one alumnus achieve his dream of becoming a profes-

sional golfer.

After competing on the UNDERRATED Golf Tour every year since its launch in 2022, Riley hit an impressive five under par in tough weather conditions to secure his first-ever win. "It's about time," Riley said after the win.

This victory caps off years of dedication. At just 7 years old, Riley already had a natural swing, a deep love for the game and a dream of holding the U.S. Open trophy in his hands. That dream now seems closer than ever, with Riley set to join Harvard University's Division 1 men's golf team this fall.

"Each year, the UNDERRATED

Please see **GOLF/7A**

3 HBCU media days down 1 more to go on Tuesday

Continued from page 6A

Shaw

The Bears were picked to finish eighth at Wednesday's CIAA Media Day. Linebacker Quewon Hilliard was the only Bear named to the All-CIAA pre-season team.

Awards

Stats Perform FCS National Awards Banquet is relocating next year to the historic Woolworth Theatre in Nashville, Tennessee. The annual event in January presents the Jerry Rice Award, the Walter Payton Award, the Buck Buchanan Award, the Eddie Robinson Award and the Doris Robinson Scholar-Athlete of the Year Award.

And speaking of Stats, eight HBCU student-athletes made its FCS Preseason All-America Team. Southern senior defensive lineman Ckelby Givens, NCCU senior defensive

back Malcolm Reed and Jackson State kick returner Travis Terrell earned first team honors.

Morgan State LB Erick Hunter is on the second team. Florida A&M OL Ashton Grable, Howard DL Noah Miles, Jackson State DL Jeremiah Williams and Morgan State punt returner Malique Leatherbury made the third team.

SWAC

The conference announced its preseason selections on Monday. The top two awards are:

Offensive Player of the Year: Jacobian Morgan, Jackson State

Defensive Player of the Year: Ckelby Givens, Southern

Predicted Order of Finish

SWAC East
Jackson State
Florida A&M
Alabama State
Alabama A&M

Bethune-Cookman
Mississippi Valley State

SWAC West

Southern
Alcorn State
Prairie View A&M
Texas Southern
Grambling State
Arkansas-Pine Bluff

SIAC

Albany State redshirt junior quarterback Isaiah Knowles is the preseason offensive player of the year.

Benedict graduate linebacker Ty'Metrius Patterson is the defensive player of the year.

Predicted Order

Albany State
Clark Atlanta
Tuskegee
Miles
Fort Valley State
Savannah State
Benedict
Edward Waters



McKinley Battle



Michael Boykin



Luca Castaneda

Practice highlights club players' journeys

Continued from page 6A

Hills Park the Monday after the state tournament. The older players' examples are most impressionable upon the younger set.

The club's strengths include playing to each other's weaknesses in practice, both physical and mental. At the state tournament, Castaneda bet he could beat McKinley Battle, the 2023 N.C. High School Athletic Association 3A women's singles state champion. Battle, who lives in Rocky Mount, will attend Winston-Salem State University this fall.

"No one bet on me," Castaneda said after Battle defeated him, 6-2, 6-3, on

Monday. However, Cas-

taneda said he won in one way. He has studied Battle's backhand over the last two years. "She always got very low and brushed

through every single time," he said. "That is a big part of my game now - just the knee bend."

Castaneda heaped lavish

praise on Battle for her ability to reflect her sharp mental acumen in competition, which he considers worthy of emulation. "She just takes the smart ball and hits the strong angles with good pace," he said. "She knows exactly where to place the ball, no matter how I hit it."

Boykin dedicated com-

parable time to his forehand development by welcoming teammates playing to his weakness. "My forehand used to be a real tappy, dinky forehand. All the players that have strong forehands, they taught me a little something," he said. "Now it is stronger. You work with them on that one thing until we all are really good."

Added Battle: "Whatever one can't do, there's somebody else on the team who can do it. If one is down, then the other picks them right back up. If we both play towards each other's weaknesses, then eventually, we will



Morehouse shortstop Elijah Pinckney

NSU alumnus turns pro

Continued from page 6A
resources it needs to launch at full strength and with long-term financial success in mind," TSU Interim President Dwayne Tucker said.

Norfolk State

Spartan alumnus Tyrel Bladen has signed a pro contract with SK Slavia Praha in the Czech Republic. SK competes in the Na-

tional Basketball League, the top basketball association in the Republic.

Classic

Morehouse shortstop Elijah Pinckney made quite an impression at this month's HBCU Swingman Classic in Atlanta.

Pinckney was awarded the 2025 T-Mobile Impact Award, becoming the first Division II player to earn

the honor. He also was the first DII player to get an invite to the Classic. The senior holds a double major in business administration and journalism and maintains a 3.88 GPA.

Turnin' Pro

Bethune-Cookman guard/forward Kayla Clark has signed with CB Sevilla Femenino in Spain.

Ravenscroft graduate wins Curry's golf tournament

Continued from page 6A

Golf Tour continues to push the boundaries of what's possible for young golfers who may not have traditionally had access to the game," Curry said. "With the continued support of KPMG, we are creating lasting opportunities that extend well beyond the golf course. We're excited to bring the Curry Cup to the Liberty National Golf Club this fall. I've had the opportunity to play this special course and thank the Liberty National Foundation for its strong partnership. I can't wait to see what this next generation of players will accomplish."

For more information, visit www.stayunderrated.com, and connect on social media via Instagram, Twitter and Facebook.



COURTESY

KEMET DEFINING MOMENTS: BLACK HISTORY & CIVIL RIGHTS ACTIVITY SHEET

EMMETT TILL TRAGEDY

Black American teenager, Emmett Louis Till born on July 25, 1941 in Chicago, Illinois, at the age of 14, was lynched for allegedly whistling at a white woman. Someone said Till had flirted with and whistled at Mrs. Bryant, the grocery store owner. This interaction was a violation of an unwritten code of behavior between black men and white women. Not many days later, Emmett Till was abducted, beaten, tortured, shot and thrown into the Tallahatchie River. This tragic murder helped galvanize the growing civil rights movement in this country in the 1950s and beyond. Today, an Emmett Till Memorial commission has been established; 51 sites in the Mississippi Delta include memorials associated with Emmett Till. And, The Emmett Till Antilynching Act, an American law which makes lynching a federal hate crime, was signed into law on March 29, 2022, by President Joe Biden.

POPUP FACT

Jim Crow Laws were any state or local laws that enforced or legalized racial discrimination.

BROWN VS. THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

The Brown vs. Board of Education case was a landmark 1954 Supreme Court case in which the justices ruled that racial segregation of children in public schools was unconstitutional. This case was one of the cornerstones of the civil rights movement and helped establish the precedent that "separate-but-equal" education and other services were not equal at all. Even though several states defied the verdict, many states complied with the verdict.

OTHER BLACK MOMENTS

From this case, other historical events emerged: The Little Rock Nine took a stand, Rosa Parks kept her seat, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. led marches. The passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, was then followed by the Voting Rights Act of 1965 and the Fair Housing Act of 1968. In 1976, the Supreme Court issued another landmark decision in *Runyon vs. McCrary*; ruling that even private, nonsectarian schools that denied admission to students on the basis of race, violated federal civil rights laws.

U.S. CIVIL RIGHTS

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- RIGHT TO A PUBLIC EDUCATION
- RIGHT TO GOVERNMENT SERVICES
- RIGHT TO VOTE

ONE MINUTE MADNESS!

Unscramble the words from the Black History Moments. The first letter of each word is in bold.

liviC ghtiRs _____
ttmmeE illT _____
ndaLrkam seac _____
tionaducE _____
laEuo _____
Jstuiice _____

FILL IN THE BL_NK

Choose the correct word(s) below that completes each sentence.

discrimination 1941 landmark Joe Biden Rosa Parks

Emmett Louis Till was born July 25, _____. The Emmett Till Antilynching Act was signed by President _____. Brown vs. Board of Education was a _____ case in the civil rights movement. "Jim Crow" laws were any laws that legalized racial _____. TELL THE TRUTH!

TRUE FALSE

Brown vs. Board of Education ruled that racial segregation was constitutional. Brown vs. Board of Education was a landmark case for the Civil Rights Movement. The Emmett Till Antilynching Act was signed into law by President Barack Obama. "Separate but equal" was ruled constitutional by the Supreme Court. What happened to Emmett Till was a tragic moment in history. Jim Crow laws made it illegal to racially discriminate.

ANSWER KEY

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SCHOOL NEWS



COURTESY

WAKE COUNTY

Amerie Anderson, a dedicated student in Southeast Raleigh Magnet High School's Aviation program, recently completed an all-expense-paid trip to the National Flight Academy in Pensacola, Florida.

The July 6-11 trip, during which Anderson embarked on a journey aboard the AMBITION CVT-11, a cutting-edge, immersive learning environment that

simulates the life of a Naval aviator.

Anderson honed her skills in aviation, air traffic control and aviation maintenance, all while surrounded by state-of-the-art flight simulation technology.

Her selection followed the successful completion of her NATA Safety 1st Training Program - Basic Apron Safety and Security Certification, showcasing

her dedication to both safety and excellence in the field of aviation.

Upon her return to Raleigh-Durham International Airport, she was presented with a certificate recognizing her NATA Safety 1st Training and received a small stipend for her participation in the Barrington Irving Technical Training Program funded by Burroughs Wellcome at SE Raleigh High.



7 things doctors wish families knew this back-to-school season

STATEPOINT

As you prepare children to return to the classroom this fall, the American Medical Association has seven tips to help your family have a healthy school year.

"As you purchase school supplies and prepare the students in your family for academic success, you can take concrete steps that prioritize physical and mental health, too," AMA President Bobby Mukkamala, M.D. said. "A healthy start can set the tone for a strong, successful year ahead."

* Ultra-processed foods are associated with health risks. Many busy families rely on ultra-processed foods due to their convenience. However, consuming these foods regularly increases the risk of health complications, including cardiovascular disease, certain cancers, obesity and type 2 diabetes. Read nutrition labels carefully with attention to sodium, saturated fat and added sugar.

* Eating disorders are misunderstood. This silent epidemic affects people of

all ages and backgrounds, striking at the core of their physical and mental well-being. Despite its widespread impact, the gravity of eating disorders often remains private, leaving many to battle the condition silently.

If you believe your child or teenager has an eating disorder, their physician can direct you to helpful resources.

* Ensure your vaccinations are up to date. Vaccinations help protect you and your family against severe disease and disability, and save millions of lives each year.

* Norovirus is very contagious but preventable. It seems everyone has experienced the sudden turn of the stomach, causing a mad rush to the bathroom due to vomiting, diarrhea or both. And, unfortunately, remaining near the bathroom may be the only plan for the next day or two. The most likely culprit is norovirus, and it can happen to anyone. When buying school supplies, stock up on cleaning supplies as well so you can keep frequently touched

surfaces sanitized.

* Too much screen time is bad for health. People are on their devices more than ever before. But too much screen time can have negative mental and physical health effects and increase feelings of loneliness. The start of a new school year is a good time to replace screen time with other activities.

* Eye health is essential. Don't take eye health for granted. Fall is a good time for an ophthalmologist checkup. If your tween or teen wears contacts, be sure that they wash their lenses and lens case and take their lenses off at night. Frequent computer breaks, wearing sunglasses and a healthy diet can also promote good eye health.

* Sleep is important for overall health. From school stress to illnesses, many factors can interfere with a good night's sleep. Instituting a consistent sleep routine for the entire family is a good start. For teens, eight to 10 hours of sleep is recommended, and children aged 6-12 should be getting nine to 12 hours of sleep.



High school graduates Caleb Burton and Cyvadra Parham accept their scholarship award with organizer Ramona Clayton, left.

MATHIAS BISHOP

Essie B. King Love in Action Community Service Award

STAFF REPORTS

DURHAM - In partnership with the National Black MBA Association-RDU Chapter's Leaders of Tomorrow Program, the Taiwo Foundation granted two \$500 awards to high school graduates Caleb Burton and Cyvadra Parham.

The Essie B. King Love In Action Community Service Award was established in 2023 by her daughter, Debra Taiwo, in partnership with the Winston-Salem Foundation, to provide scholarships to graduating high school seniors who attend high school in Forsyth County; reside in the Foundation's service area; and who demonstrate a commitment to community service. In April, the Taiwo Foundation extended the scholar-

ship's footprint to the Raleigh-Durham area through the Leaders of Tomorrow partnership, with an annual gift of \$1,000. The LOT program will administer the scholarship.

The scholarship may provide two \$500 or one \$1,000 nonrefundable award(s) for student(s) who will pursue full-time enrollment from an accredited vocational/technical school, community college or college/university in pursuit of a diploma, certificate or bachelor's degree. Scholarships will be applied to the cost of undergraduate tuition fees, room and board, and other college expenses.

Born Sept. 6, 1941, Essie Bailey King was a woman of strong faith who fluently spoke the language of love in her actions and deeds. Tall in stature, she had a

welcoming smile, contagious laugh, and an engulfing hug that made you feel safe and loved all at once.

King was a mother who shared weekly dinners with the neighborhood kids and holiday meals with total strangers. She transported the elderly to and from church on Sunday mornings, and accompanied her friends to cancer treatments, doctor appointments and hospital stays whenever called upon. She was purposeful in affirming and encouraging others through life's most difficult situations. A visitor never left her home without a parting gift, be it a to-go plate after a festive meal or a gift bag from her overstock of purchases from Sears or Avon. Everyone always received a token of her heart.



COURTESY

Budweiser Clydesdales coming to Durham!

STAFF REPORTS

To celebrate 15 years of partnership with Folds of Honor, a nonprofit organization that provides families of fallen or disabled U.S. service members and first responders with educational scholarships, Budweiser and the iconic Clydesdales are embarking on a cross-country tour, and they're coming to Durham.

The Budweiser Clydesdales will make multiple appearances while they're

in town, including appearing at the Durham Bulls game on July 25.

July 24, 5 p.m.:
Kotuku Surf Club
703 Rigsbee Ave

The full Clydesdale hitch will appear outside the Kotuku Surf Club.

July 25, 5 p.m.:
Durham Bulls Game
500 West Corporation St.

The iconic Budweiser

Clydesdales will make an appearance outside the stadium before the game.

A Folds of Honor scholarship check presentation during the Bulls game.

Over the last 15 years, founding partner Anheuser-Busch, its brands and wholesaler partners like Lakeshore Beverage have donated over \$33 million, which has funded over 6,600 scholarships for Folds of Honor recipients.

MOVERS AND SHAKERS

COUNTRY MUSIC

Singer-songwriter Rissi Palmer will receive the Academy of Country Music Lift Every Voice Award Aug. 20 at the Academy of Country Music honors. That award is in recognition of her work in championing underrepresented voices in country music. Palmer's 2007 hit, "Country Girl," made Billboard's Hot Country Songs chart, a first for a Black female artist in 19 years.



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. Photos welcome.



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