



SPORTS

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COMMUNITY FOCUS

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The Triangle Tribune

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VOLUME 27 NO. 44

Week of Nov. 2 - Nov 8, 2025

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What would homecoming be without a Coronation Ball! North Carolina Central went all out for its Royal Met Gala Coronation.



COURTESY OF NCCU



GETTY IMAGES

Renters living in subpar housing conditions can withhold rent until repairs are made.

Durham City Council unanimously passes protections for renters

By Kylie Marsh

Kylie.marsh@triangletribune.com

Landlords could face misdemeanor charges for collecting rent on subpar housing according to a new city ordinance adopted Tuesday evening at the Durham City Council chambers. Triangle Tenants Union, a local of the North Carolina Tenant Union, claimed the ordinance a major victory after campaigning for months to protect renters in the Triangle. 2023 data from the Durham Neighborhood Compass reported that 45% of dwellings in Durham were renter occupied. More than 20 speakers shared

their experiences with unsafe and undignified housing conditions. Residents said that pursuing legal recourse against landlords is expensive and time consuming, which is why the ordinance is beneficial. Resident Maya (last name withheld) discussed the "misfortune" of living in the Duke Manor apartment complex, detailing how she and her neighbors have endured six water outages since March and dealt with questionable water quality. "It has been six months, and I have yet to receive a comprehensive solution to a basic problem," she said. "Instead of fighting an uphill battle in a

legal court against my landlord, I should be able to get Durham Code Enforcement, a third neutral party, to determine if my water is potable." Jan Hasbrook, chair of the government affairs committee for the Durham Regional Association of Realtors, spoke in opposition to the ordinance. "I'm concerned about this ordinance's ability to have been tracked in the courts system, although Pittsboro and Charlotte have got it on their books, it hasn't been tested. Our own city attorney says don't pass it," he said. However, a city memo says

Please see **RENTERS/2A**

Durham project reveals connection between segregated housing and housing crisis

By Kylie Marsh

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DURHAM - Durham has beautiful neighborhoods with valuable and historic homes, but their deeds show an uglier side of history. Last month, an opening reception for the community-led project, "Hacking into History: Discovering Racial Covenants in Durham Property Deeds," was held at Perfect Lovers on North Roxboro Street. The project analyzed racially-

restricted covenants in Durham property deeds with the goal of confronting a racist past and creating a pathway to a more just future. "Hacking into History" is a collaboration between non-profit DataWorks NC, UNC Chapel Hill School of Information and Library Science and the Durham County Register of Deeds. A racial covenant is a form of code that restricts properties from being owned or occupied by specific ethnic groups. Often,

the language used therein was outdated and derogatory. "Hacking into History" found deeds restricting properties from being occupied by "Negroes or anyone of Negro descent." Tia Hall, of Yinsome Group, LLC, participated in facilitating workshops where residents read property deeds in Durham. "A lot of this information is jarring, it's sort of, 'I just want it gone,'" Hall said. "What we want

Please see **PROJECT/2A**

Top stocking stuffer this holiday season – affordable health insurance

By John McCann
SPECIAL TO THE TRIBUNE

It's the most wonderful time of the year. Well, almost. Autumn leaves will fall first, rolling out a brownish-orange carpet for Thanksgiving and, before that, Halloween. Just how happy those holidays will be is the thing. The National Retail Federation should have some insight during a Nov. 6 media call announcing its retail sales forecast for the 2025 winter holiday season. Next to back-to-college shopping, the winter holidays are when we spend the most money, according to the NRF.



Giddings



McQueen

We, the people, had the holiday spirit in early NRF forecasting. During the last winter holiday season, the average U.S. consumer spent \$874.67. That's expected to increase to \$901.99. Which is surprising after our elected officials in Congress shut down the federal government by failing to agree on a budget that would keep funds flowing to cover or offset costs for necessary stuff — like health insurance. Here, listen to Karida Giddings: "How do you decide between filling prescriptions or having food on the table, between going to the doctor or presents under the tree?" She's the access to health care program coordinator for North Carolina Black Alliance. Two of Giddings' visionary initiatives positioned her to take North Carolina's pulse this year. Rooted in Wellness Day is an annual statewide health and wellness outreach. Leaders in several cities declared Sept. 20, 2025, Rooted in Wellness Day. And her OUR State of Health tour took her to several of the state's rural communities, where she delivered wellness information with an ear to the ground. "We've had the opportunity to hear directly from Black North Carolinians about what wellness really means when the cost of living keeps rising and health care affordability feels increasingly out of reach," Giddings said. "Our communities are carrying the weight of policy decisions they didn't make — decisions that will soon force them to choose between their health, their household and their holiday traditions."

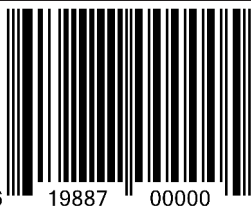
On Nov. 1, the health care premiums of 22 million Americans will double. Next year, according to the Congressional Budget Office, 4.2 million people won't have health insurance because they'll be priced out of the Affordable Care Act marketplace on account of rich people who got tax breaks while those in the middle and working classes or lower lost the subsidies that made their lifesaving colonoscopies affordable. Republicans did that. Americans are watching. "Retail sales dipped in September as consumers hit the pause button after two solid months of back-to-school spending," NRF President and CEO Matthew Shay said. "Amid continued economic uncertainty, consumers opted to preserve spending power in preparation for the important holiday season. While month-over-month spending data has fluctuated, as consumers have reacted to changing circumstances, year-over-year gains show robust growth and signal momentum as we head into the holidays." Feels different in rural America. "As premium tax credit enhancements expire and insurance premiums climb, many will wonder whether they can afford to stay insured at all. Medicaid expansion offered long-awaited relief, but that progress is now at risk of being undermined by policies that raise costs elsewhere," Gid-

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© 2025 The Triangle Tribune

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www.triangletribune.com



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Durham City Council passes renters’ protection

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the city attorney’s office stated the city did have the jurisdiction to pass the ordinance.

Ryan Holiday, chair of the Triangle Apartments Association, also opposed passing the ordinance. “We want to be able to participate in the conversation,” he said. Alluding to the high school students who helped craft the policy, Holiday said it’s important to look through different perspectives, and “the important thing of having a policy debate is brains, so don’t bury a no-brainer,” he said, responding to earlier remarks from residents that the ordinance is “a no-brainer.”

Opposition testified that code enforcement violations already exist statewide. “North Carolina law requires a court determination before rent can be withheld,” Holiday said, stating concerns regarding confusion and an inadequate due-process procedure. He was then booed by the crowd.

Council member Nate Baker supported the ordinance, citing state legislators standing in the way

of providing protections for renters.

“Poll after poll shows that working class people want great affordable housing; want social housing; want protections against landlords who want to provide poor quality housing and retaliate against residents that organize,” he said.

Council member Javiera Caballero expressed concern over the specific mention of the Durham Housing Authority in the draft ordinance. The DHA is a nonprofit organization that provides public housing by receiving rent in federal subsidies called housing choice vouchers.

“I understand folks’ frustrations with DHA. That is real and legitimate. We have had to, quite frankly, bail them out several times with public money,” Caballero said. “But they are still a landlord that is incredibly important, and we are in a very active partnership with them in many communities.”

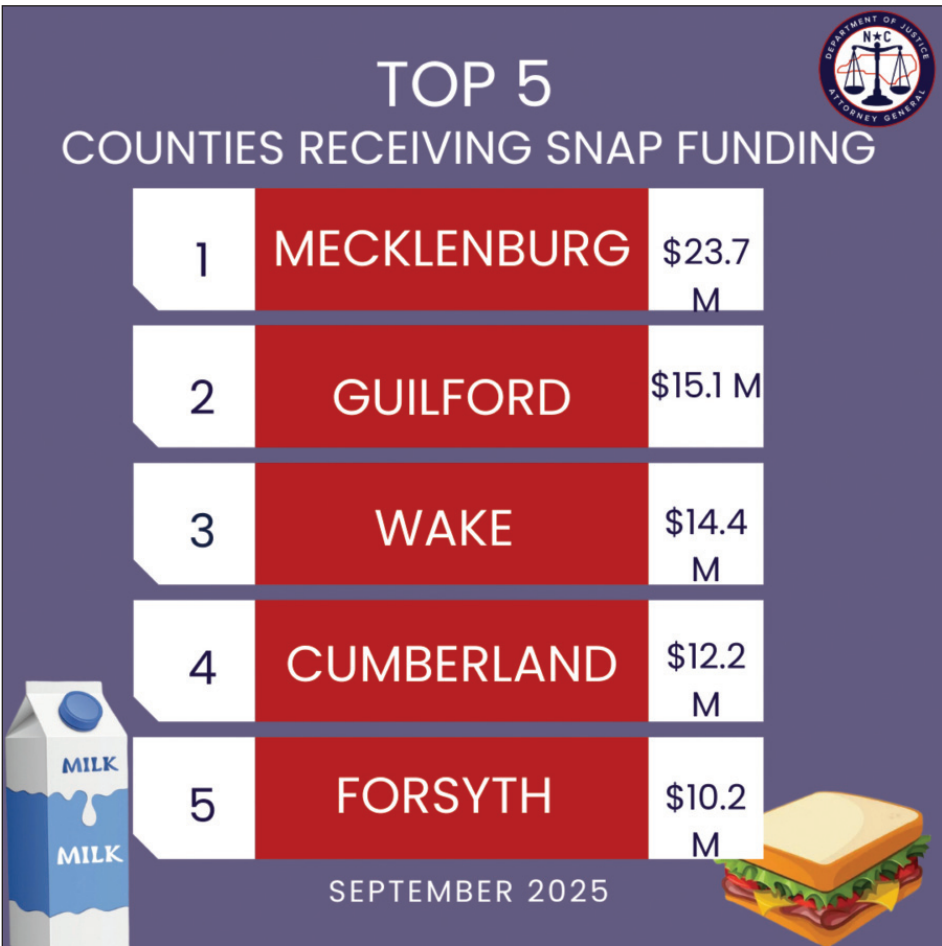
Caballero explained that the federal government has “abandoned the federal housing program,” and housing authorities have not received federal

funding. “A lot of those units just go offline. As code enforcement comes in, it’s determined that they can’t be fixed, the maintenance is too big, the money is there, and those units just go offline.”

Ward 1 council member DeDreanna Freeman said the ordinance gives renters less of a burden to make repairs to subpar dwellings.

“It is incredibly difficult to listen to folks be chastised about respect,” she said. “If we have an opportunity to shift the balance of power to make sure that the tenant has the power to be, essentially in a safe home, I think that’s something we should definitely try to do.”

Conditions punishable by the ordinance include rotten or damaged structural supports, unsafe wiring and roofs, no potable water supply, no operating heating equipment in cold months, inoperable sanitary facilities, severe pest infestations, and more. The policy’s language was first crafted by the Riverside High School Affordable Housing Club over the past year.



Gregory Jones and other volunteers pack bags of oranges at the Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina.

NC AG Jeff Jackson sues USDA for withholding food assistance

STAFF REPORTS

RALEIGH – Attorney General Jeff Jackson is suing the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Office of Management and Budget for refusing to fund the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program during the government shutdown and withholding food assistance for 1.4 million North Carolinians, including nearly 600,000 children, more than 40,000 of whom are under 18 months old.

This would be the first time ever that SNAP benefits have been delayed, even though USDA has at least \$6 billion in contingency funds from Congress to use in emergencies like this.

“Nearly 600,000 children in our state could be without food in a few days because USDA is playing an illegal game of shutdown politics,” Jackson said. “They have emergency money to help feed children during this shutdown, and they’re refusing to spend it. I warned them last week that I would take them to court if they tried to hurt our kids, and today that’s what we’re doing.”

On Sept. 30, the USDA assured states that contingency funds could be used to continue funding the SNAP program. But, on Oct. 24, it reversed course and sent a memo to the states

ordering them to suspend all November SNAP payments and any later payments. It claims that this is because of the government shutdown. Yet, since the shutdown began, the same agency has used its authority to give out billions for other programs and move around funds to help fund nutritional benefits for infants and pregnant women. SNAP monthly payments are about \$175 per North Carolinian to help cover the most basic food and nutrition needs.

This delay in benefits is going to be devastating for families and kids. Families who are already facing economic pressures because of the shutdown have been relying on food banks for support. Food banks are already straining to meet the demand after the USDA cut \$500 million nationwide in food deliveries in March.

Jackson’s lawsuit Tuesday alleges that the agency is violating the Administrative Procedure Act and the SNAP Act. He’s asking the court to require it to pay out SNAP benefits and cancel the USDA’s previous unlawful orders to the states. He is also filing a temporary restraining order later asking the court to immediately turn benefits back on.

“The federal government is denying access to food for more than 1.4 million North Carolinians, includ-

ing children, veterans and people with disabilities,” N.C. Governor Josh Stein said. “The USDA must take immediate action to keep families from going hungry as it is required to do by law, and I thank Attorney General Jackson for standing up to secure these critical resources.”

For those needing food assistance, contact the following resources:

* Find a food pantry near you through Feeding America.

* Call 2-1-1. This United Way service can help you find food assistance in your area.

* Contact your county’s department of social services.

* Use the Food Bank of Central and Eastern North Carolina’s food finder tool. North Carolinians may also consider donating to local food pantries and community organizations to help out their neighbors.

Jackson is filing this lawsuit alongside the attorneys general of Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, the District of Columbia, Hawaii, Illinois, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Oregon, Rhode Island, Vermont, Washington and Wisconsin. The governors of Kansas, Kentucky and Pennsylvania have also joined.

Top stocking stuffer: affordable health care

Continued from page 1A
dings said.

On the Fourth of July, the One Big Beautiful Bill Act was signed into law. One of the things it set in motion was some \$800 billion in Medicaid cuts over the next decade, with \$10 million people projected to lose coverage, according to the CBO.

“I go to the doctor regularly. I’m with Medicaid,” Anson County resident Chavis McQueen said. “Four dollars when I go to a visit. My co-pay is not very high, so my health is pretty good right now.”

Right. For now. “Medicaid is good,” McQueen continued. “Medicare is more for, like, the older [people]. I’m not there yet. But if we get rid of Medicaid, I might not make it there.”

Read the entire article on The Tribune’s website.

Durham project connects segregation vs. housing

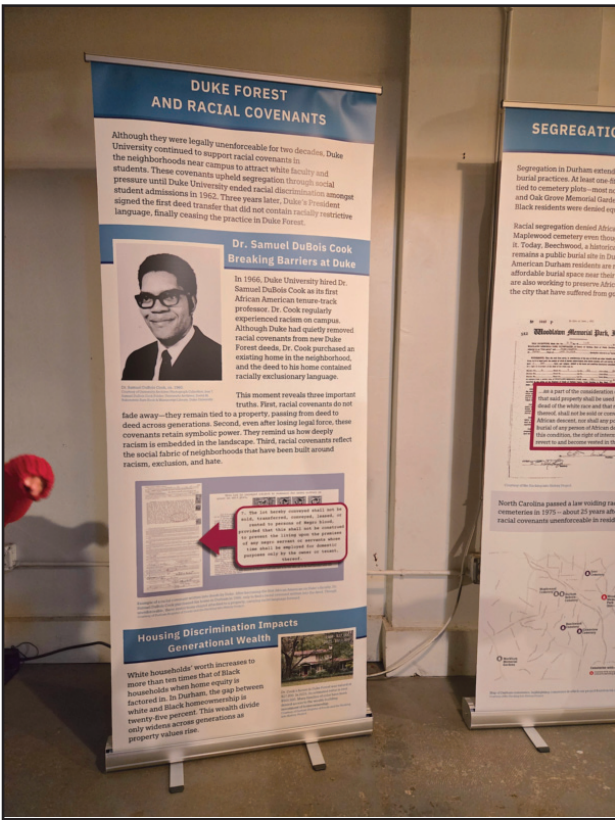
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to talk about is that erasure is not the answer. Because if we erase what happened, then we can’t fully tell the picture of why people live in the present arrangements that they have.”

One of the project’s goals is to provide context for the city’s current affordable housing crisis. Laura Thomasson, a resident of Northgate Park, moved to Durham 25 years ago from New Orleans.

“There are so many details we miss, and we don’t understand how these things are still happening,” Thomasson said. She said the gentrification in the area has been shocking, and it’s a personal interest of hers to educate herself on racism. “It’s important to be cognizant of these things.”

Visitors were encouraged to visit interactive stations where they were instructed to read real deeds to properties in Durham, identify the racial covenants within and write down their reactions in a notebook.

For example, a property deed for a subdivision called Lockeland specifies that “the premises shall not be owned or occupied negroes or persons of negro blood, provided that this shall not be construed to prevent the living upon the premises of any negro who is employed for do-



KYLIE MARSH

mestic purposes by the occupants of the dwelling on said land” in its third covenant.

Duke Park, Forest Hills and Hope Valley also had racial covenants in their property deeds. More deeds can be found online at: <https://www.zooniverse.org/projects/tim-maps/hacking-into-history/classify>.

“Hacking into History” is part of the Civic Switch-

board 2020 Field Project, which aims to make open access data accessible to the public by giving it a local focus.

The project is the recipient of multiple awards, including the National Association of Counties Achievement Award and the International Association of Government Officials Innovator Award.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

LUNCHEON
CBMC Triangle’s next luncheon is Nov. 4, noon to 1:15 p.m., NC State University Club, 4200 Hillsborough St. Register at events.cbmc.com.

SHOWCASE
Small Biz Showcase is Nov. 6, 5 to 8 p.m., 1050 Slater Road. Register: givetothepople.com.

FLEA MARKET
“BLK ON DA BLOK” flea market is Nov. 9, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., Wake County Shrine Club, Leadmine Road, Raleigh. Visit blkondablok.com.

WEGMANS’
The grocery chain’s Check Out Hunger scan campaign runs through Nov. 29. All proceeds go to each store’s local Feeding

America food bank.

OPENING:
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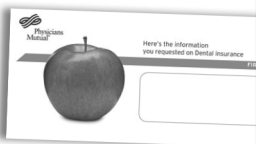
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The Rev. Marvin Sapp, center, celebrates with children and grandchildren.

Marvin Sapp celebrates the street naming of his late wife in Michigan

By Kymberlee Norsworthy
SPECIAL TO THE TRIBUNE

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. – Marvin Sapp returned to his hometown of Grand Rapids, Michigan, to celebrate a street naming in honor of his late wife, Dr. Malinda P. Sapp, as well as the 22nd anniversary of Lighthouse Full Life Center, the church that the Sapps founded.

To commemorate that occasion, Sapp was the guest preacher at Lighthouse and facilitated the installation of an inscribed cornerstone on the church building.

"It was an exhilarating weekend as we celebrated the remarkable legacy of my late wife, Dr. MaLinda P. Sapp, in her beloved hometown of Grand Rapids," he said. "MaLinda devoted herself tirelessly to our community, and I am most thrilled that my children witnessed their

mother's legacy being honored in such a profound way. My two grandchildren were present as well. While they may not remember the ceremony, their parents will be able to share with them the significance of their grandmother's life and contributions."

The Grand Rapids City Council voted to name a portion of Madison Avenue Dr. Malinda P. Sapp Way.

A statement from city officials said, "...her legacy of service, education and faith continues to inspire generations."

MaLinda Sapp served Grand Rapids with commitment, energy and grace. She was a professor of psychology at Grand Rapids Community College, founding principal of Grand Rapids Ellington for Arts and Technology, and administrative pastor of Lighthouse Full Life Center.

Community service was always at the center of

Lighthouse Full Life Center, which regularly provided outreach initiatives. Lighthouse remains a vibrant, community-focused church that is led by pastor RJ Marshall and his wife Kristan.

Dr. Sapp was also a co-chair of the Grand Rapids Symphony Celebration of Soul event.

As part of Celebration of Soul, the Dr. MaLinda P. Sapp Legacy Award was established to honor individuals and organizations for their on-going diversity efforts and accomplishments.

The award celebrates an organization or person's distinguished leadership and on-going commitment to advancing engagement, inclusion and diversity.

Dr. Sapp's commitment to service was second only to her commitment to her children: Marvin II, MiKaila and Madisson.

Can more skate-friendly spaces in Durham strengthen community?

By Kylie Marsh

Kylie.marsh@triangletribune.com

DURHAM – For months, skate enthusiasts have been meeting in the parking lot of the Durham Scrap Exchange, tools in hand, working to put together a much-needed do-it-yourself skate park.

The work is being organized by Triangle Skate Collective, a nonprofit that's still in its genesis. Organizers Laura Gonzalez, an inline skater; Case Cody, a quad skater; and Mike Johnston, a skateboarder; are passionate how skating can empower people and bring them closer together.

After Wheels, a popular amusement complex in East Durham closed in 2020, the city acquired the property. In June, the city passed a resolution to donate the ramps from Wheels to the Scrap Exchange in Durham's Lakewood neighborhood.

Johnston met Cody and Gonzalez in the parking lot of the Lakewood Shopping Center, where the three work on making more skate-friendly spaces in the city. "This is a really positive outlet for a lot of people, and Durham has a lot of great parks, and there's a lot of opportunities coming with more parks being built," Johnston said, but skating is not being considered.

For example, in 2022, Durham Parks and Recreation proposed Wheels be turned into an aquatics park with its Durham Splash N' Play plan. "For a



KYLIE MARSH

Triangle Skate Collective members work on ramp.

city that's growing and of this size, we do not have adequate places for people to roll around," Johnston said.

Right now, Durham doesn't have many spaces that are beginner-friendly for skaters. Durham's skate park at Central Park downtown was 15 years old and is quite small. Johnston, who volunteers with Durham Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee, said there is a massive benefit to providing more safe spaces for youth in a city like the Bull City.

In 2020, 668 juveniles aged 8 to 17 in Durham County received delinquent complaints. Of these, 148 were violent complaints, according to data from the North Carolina Department of Public Safety. The most recent data from 2023 shows that the number of juvenile recipients of delinquent complaints rose to 1,500, an increase of almost 200%. However, violent complaints were lower at 138.

"My angle has always been to reach people through skateboarding, and I've seen the power of that and the ability that that has to bring people together and give young kids and teenagers an outlet to spend energy in a positive way and also learn about yourself," Johnston said. "I think skateboarding is a great teacher."

In an age when loneliness is a public health crisis, there are significant impacts to youth mental health. Johnston said Triangle Skate Collective can provide a safe space for people of all ages to build a community and self-esteem. "I've met kids that come in for the first time, and they're really quiet. And then I see them a couple months later, and they have found community," he said.

Triangle Skate Collective posts updates about the community building days at the Lakewood Shopping Center on its Instagram page.



AROUND THE TRIANGLE

RALEIGH FUNDRAISER

Breakthrough T1D, formerly JDRF, hosts Triangle Walk Nov. 2, noon, Coastal Credit Union Music Park at Walnut Creek. Proceeds benefit people with type 1 diabetes. Visit: breakthrough1d.org.

MAMMOGRAMS

WakeMed Mobile Mammography event is Nov. 3-6, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., for uninsured women over 40. Call 919-350-1317.

CONFERENCE

Art of Breastfeeding Conference is Nov. 5-6, McKimmon Conference Center, 1101 Gorman St. Contact: Wake AHEC.

SUGARPLUMS

Annual Visions of Sugarplums Holiday Art & Gift Show is Nov. 6-8, Quail Hollow Swim Club, 800 Orleans Place. Visit www.VisionsofSugarPlumsRaleigh.com.

HEALTH

A men's health event is Nov. 6, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Barwell Road Park, 5857 Barwell Park Drive. Call 919-996-5994.

FUNDRAISERS

* Oyster Roast & BBQ is Nov. 7, 6-9 p.m., Maywood Hall & Garden, 622 Maywood Ave. Proceeds benefit BEGINNINGS for children who are deaf or

hard of hearing. Visit: raleigh@ncbegin.org.

* Lung Cancer Initiative's annual Evening of Hope Celebration is Nov. 8, 5:30-9:30 p.m., Angus Barn, Glenwood Ave. Tickets: one.bidpal.net.

VETERANS

Veteran's Day Celebration is Nov. 8, 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Chavis Park, 505 MLK Jr. Boulevard.

MEETING

N.C. Institute of Medicine Annual Meeting is Nov. 13, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., McKimmon Conference & Training Center. Register: www.eventbrite.com.

DURHAM MARKET

The next Black Farmers' Market is Nov. 2, 1-4 p.m., Durham Tech, 1637 E. Lawson St.

VETERANS

Durham County Government buildings will illuminate green Nov. 4-11 as part of Operation Green Light for Veterans.

FAIR

Black Futures Forward College & Community Resource Fair is Nov. 6, 6-8 p.m., Emily K Center, 904 W. Chapel Hill St. Register: gameplanfuture@emilyk.org.

CONFERENCE

Griot & Grey Owl Black Southern Writers Confer-

ence is Nov. 7-9, in downtown Durham. Learn more at www.griotandgreyowl.org.

COMICS

NC Comicon 2025 is Nov. 8-9, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Durham Convention Center. Tickets: www.eventbrite.com.

POTTERY

Durham Pottery Tour is Nov. 8-9. Visit: durhampotterytour.com.

HOMEOWNERSHIP

Habitat for Humanity's next homeownership information session is Nov. 8, 10 a.m. to noon, Stanford Warren Library, 1201 Fayetteville St. Register: www.durhamcountylibrary.libcal.com.

CHAPEL HILL CONCERT

Jazz vocalist Nnenna Freelon will perform and discuss her new memoir Nov. 6, 6:30 p.m., Stone Center Auditorium, 150 South St. RSVP: stonecenter.unc.edu/.

HOUSING

A housing search to help those needing housing is Nov. 6, 11 a.m., Chapel Hill Public Library, Room A, 100 Library Drive. Contact: chjackson@orange-countync.gov.



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The Charlotte Post Foundation 501(c)(3)

JCSU in familiar football territory

By Herb White
THE CHARLOTTE POST

High-stakes football isn't novel at Johnson C. Smith.

The Golden Bulls are again in position to seize a spot in the CIAA title game by winning their final two games.

So here are the terms: beat Fayetteville State this weekend and Livingstone next Saturday to close out the season, neither of which they accomplished last year.

JCSU has lost eight straight to FSU, including the last three under coach Maurice Flowers.

"It's a hurdle for us," he said. ... "Our team knows, our players know, our coaches know, our (athletics director) knows. I believe the birds flying by know that we're 0-3 against Fayetteville State. We have our work cut out for us going to Fayetteville State, but we wouldn't have it any other way."

Smith did its part to force this weekend's winner-takes-all clash at Fayetteville State by crushing Winston-Salem State, 52-27.

The Golden Bulls (7-1, 4-1 CIAA) trail FSU (5-3, 5-0) and Virginia Union (7-1, 5-0) by a game for the championship round but are riding momentum with three 50-point outbursts in four games. That urgency has them in position to make another historic leap.

"We know what's at stake for us right now and in order to get to the postseason, you have to take care of business in front of us right now," said quarterback Kelvin Durham, who topped 300 yards passing (22-of-30, 351 yards, 3 TDs) for the first time as a Golden Bull.

"We take practice very seriously; we compete well against our defense. I commend those guys coming every day, even the scout team guys giving us a look and just competing, having fun in practice, and it shows on Saturdays."

JCSU, No. 19 in the national Division II coaches' and media polls, started hot against WSSU and kept it going to clinch their third straight seven-win campaign, the longest such streak since 1961-64, and equals their victory string against the Rams.

Their 25-point margin of victory was the Golden Bulls' largest since a 56-6 romp in 1975.

"Our young men have fun," Flowers said, "and I'm just proud of them that they can see their hard work paying off and we're looking forward to still being alive."

In addition to Durham's performance against WSSU, which included 74 yards rushing and two scores on six carries, JCSU's receivers had a big day.

Biggie Proctor and Brian Lane each caught nine passes for more than 100 yards and combined for three touchdowns between them. JCSU rolled up 526 yards on offense.

"It's just building connection later in season," said Proctor, who accounted for a team-high nine catches for 136 and two scores. "That's your strength, everybody's supposed to come together. It's the end, so you've got to just come closer with each other and we just try to not overthink about the future. Just be where you are. Just take it day by day, play by play, drive by drive."

Said Durham, below: "It definitely feels good, but what feels even better is we haven't played our best game on offense yet, so we're just looking forward to a better game coming in soon."



The Triangle Tribune Sports

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MOVIN' ON UP

After more than a decade of struggle, the Southeast Raleigh High School girl's tennis team finished with a strong 8-8 season. The Bulldogs were led by No. 1 freshman Zoe George who is also a member of the Ebony Racquet Club. George ended her season at 13-2 against some tough competition. Southeast Raleigh sent one singles entry and one doubles entry to the state playoffs and fell in the first round.

The team loses six seniors who all had strong showings throughout the season: Ke'Asiah Barr, Moriah Brown, Jasmine Williams, Janiya Williams, Kali Scott and Michelle Capula-Enseldo. Head coaches are Chequetta Hall and Gregory Watkins, with support by assistant coach Roberta Hadley. - **Submitted by Raleigh Tennis Association**



SUBMITTED BY RALEIGH TENNIS ASSOCIATION

HBCU BASKETBALL

NCCU women, men ready for title run

By Bonitta Best
editor@triangletribune.com

The Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference has a new women's pre-season favorite.

After the departure of Norfolk State head coach Larry Vickers to Auburn and the transfer of star player Kiara Wheeler, among others, Howard was picked to finish atop the standings. The Bison have been runners-up to the Spartans the past three seasons.

N.C. Central (9-21 overall, 6-8 MEAC)

It's late October and head coach Terrence Baxter still has a full roster of 15.

The injury bug has been an unwelcome visitor on the women's roster the past several seasons. Two years ago, the team barely had five starters

and finished a couple of games with just four players.

With graduate student Morgan Callahan returning, and earning preseason player of the year, hopes are high for a breakout season.

"I'm just excited that, at this point of the year, we still have 15 bodies, and that's the most exciting thing for us," Baxter said at the MEAC Media Day. "We're healthy and can play the style of ball we want to play that we haven't been able to do in the last two years."

Callahan, who graduated in May, could have entered the workforce. Instead, she's pursuing a dream.

"It (preseason honor) is just added motivation to go and get it (championship) and continue to lead my team in my role," said Callahan who averaged 12.5 points and 8.3 rebounds a



COURTESY OF NCCU

Morgan Callahan is NCCU's first preseason offensive player of the year in the Division I era. game. "This is one of the best years since I've been here."

NCCU rode the rollercoaster last season with inconsistent

play. Its brutal nonconference schedule (0-12 start) did more

Please see **NCCU/7A**

COLLEGE CORNER

Shaw, WSSU looking for new athletic directors

It's about to get crazy up in here.

Basketball season officially starts Nov. 2, and football is still kicking. CC needs a fresh supply of Kool-Aid.

WOMEN

N.C. Central

Volleyball hosts Morgan State and Coppin State Friday and Sunday as the regular season winds down. NCCU hits the road to Howard and Norfolk State next Friday and Sunday before closing out the season at home against South Carolina State Nov. 15.

Shaw

Gracious, the soccer team defeated Allen University 10-0. So, did Allen not have a goalkeeper? The Bears

host Bluefield State this weekend at Durham County Stadium. The regular season concludes Nov. 4 at Virginia State.

The Independent Championships runs Nov. 7-8 in Petersburg, Virginia.

In volleyball, the regular season is down to the final two weeks. Virginia State leads the Northern Division and Fayetteville State took sole possession of the Southern Division after defeating the Bears Monday in a five-set thriller.

Shaw is tied with Winton-Salem State for second place, although the Rams have the better overall conference record. Only the top four teams in each division advance to the CIAA Volley-

Please see **SHAW/7A**

HBCU FOOTBALL

HBCU Division II regular season ends in two weeks

By Bonitta Best
editor@triangletribune.com

The HBCU Division II season is down to two weeks.

Virginia Union and Fayetteville State are still tied atop the CIAA standings with 5-0 conference records.

The Broncos host Johnson C. Smith who is trying to sneak into that No. 2 spot for a date in the CIAA Championship Game.

The Golden Bulls will be seeking revenge after losing to FSU at home last season in a 27-0 shut-out.

Over in the SIAC, Albany State took sole possession of first place after a dominating 31-3 win at previously undefeated Benedict College.

The two could meet again in the SIAC Championship Game.

N.C. Central (5-3 overall, 0-1 MEAC) vs. Howard (4-4, 1-0)

"All sickness is not death."

Those were some of the last words spoken by coach Trei Oliver at his Monday press conference.

Oliver, of course, was referring to the Eagles' homecoming loss to Delaware State.

MEAC teams have won the regular season title with a loss, and both NCCU and the Bison are part of that club. Their 2022 and 2023 trips to the Celebration Bowl, respectively, were earned with a conference loss.

"We lost a football game. We are still a good football team," Oliver said on the MEAC teleconference. "I didn't throw any water coolers or curse at anybody."

The Bison needed overtime to

Please see **HBCU/7A**



Dionte Jackson

NCCU women, men ready for championship run

Continued from page 6A

harm than good in the MEAC. The Eagles were 0-6 against top tier teams Norfolk State, Howard and Coppin State. They lost in the MEAC Tournament first round to CSU.

Sophomore guard Shakira Foster said her freshman season was a learning experience “Coming from high school to Division I was a challenge,” she said. “As the season went on, I gained confidence. I’m just looking for a great season and being a better role model and leader for my teammates.”

Baxter said he’s also expecting big contributions from Aniya Finger, who sat out last season with an injury; top shooter Aysia Hinton; freshman point guard Aaliyah Grant; and Delaware State transfer Najah Lane.

“We have definitely changed the culture. We’ve got the alumni back involved, the kids are working hard, and I think this group here is going to

make that first step in making the change that we want to be as a basketball team,” he said.

NCCU opens the season Nov. 3 at North Carolina.

N.C. Central (14-19, 6-8)

LeVelle Moton finally waved the white flag.

Walk into an Eagles practice and chances are you won’t hear New Edition blasting through the speakers. Instead, it’s NBA YoungBoy and Pooh Shiesty.

Moton may compromise on the music, but he’s standing firm on other aspects of the basketball program.

“A lot of coaches, once they’ve had success early, they don’t want to adapt and I’m the opposite,” he said at MEAC Media Day. “Now, I’m not willing to negotiate the things that I stand firm on and believe – my core values and my principles. But I am more accepting of them playing their music now. My kids have helped me become a

better coach.”

The Eagles were picked to finish in a tie for fifth place with Delaware State – lower than Moton is accustomed to. They advanced to the tourney semifinals before losing to No. 2-seed South Carolina State.

Moton calls veteran Dionte Johnson “the most experienced point guard and player in the MEAC.”

Johnson said he’s ready to lead.

“I’m a leader on and off the floor. This year, coach and my teammates will lean on me heavily,” he said.

NCCU’s last tournament title was 2019. Does this team have the goods to get back to the podium?

“Everybody wants to compete, everybody wants to win,” redshirt senior Khouri Carvey said. “We have a tough schedule, but I want to get some wins.”

NCCU opens the season Nov. 3 at North Carolina State.

Shaw, WSSU looking for new athletic directors

Continued from page 6A

ball Tournament. Shaw hosts Claflin Nov. 3 at 6 p.m. before a rematch with the Broncos Nov. 6 in Fayetteville.

Winston-Salem State

Athletic director Etienne Thomas has resigned effective Dec. 31. Thomas will assist in the transition of the next person over the coming weeks. Deputy AD/CFO Eric Burns has been named interim.

“WSSU remains deeply committed to supporting our student-athletes, coaches and loyal Ram fans as we move forward,” Chancellor Bonita J. Brown said. “Work is currently underway for a refreshed strategic plan, as such, the timing of this decision allows us to realign athletics with evolving priorities in enrollment, fiscal responsibility and community



George Knox

engagement.” CC is glad we’re not the football coach right now.

MEN N.C. Central

The men’s basketball tip-off banquet was Oct. 30, past CC’s print deadline. If we go missing, don’t panic. We kidnapped Grant Hill and left the country!!!

Shaw Athletic director George Knox is gone. Been gone for a couple of weeks now. Folks sure can keep stuff quiet. CC was told Knox left on his own accord and is now “helping out” at Fayetteville State. There is one name that keeps popping up as his replacement. We’ll see if it pans out.

HBCU Division II season

Continued from page 6A

not join NCCU in a homecoming loss. Howard rallied from six points down in the final three minutes of regulation to send the game into OT before the winning run by Anthony Reagan Jr.

Coach Larry Scott said he expects the Eagles to be motivated after their loss.

“They are a very dangerous team and capable of breaking a game open,” he said. “It’s going to be a hard-fought four quarters, and maybe beyond, football game.”

NCCU hosts Norfolk State Nov. 8 at 2 p.m.

Shaw (2-6, 2-4) vs. Livingstone (4-4, 2-3)

The Bears’ five turnovers derailed any chance against first-place Fayetteville State in a 31-13 loss. Shaw travels to Livingstone for its conference final. Then it’s a trip to Emory & Henry University Nov. 8 to close out the season.

CAA Elijah Kennedy set a program record with a 96-yard punt return and an 85-yard kickoff return for touchdowns to lead N.C. A&T (2-6, 2-2) to a win over Campbell and snapping a four-game losing



Grambling quarterback C’zavian Teasett.

streak. The Aggies host Towson this weekend. The theme is “Heroes Day (Military/Educators/First Responders Appreciation).”

Nationally ranked Monmouth spoiled Hampton’s homecoming with a 28-10 victory. The Pirates (2-7, 0-5) haven’t won since defeating Norfolk State on Oct. 4. They host Maine this weekend.

Grambling State

Starting quarterback C’zavian Teasett is “responsive and in good spirits” after being carted off the field late in the fourth quarter at the Las Vegas HBCU Classic. Teasett is still hospitalized and being evaluated by medical personnel.

“C’zavian is a remark-

able young man whose strength and resolve reflect the heart of this institution. We are all rallying around him and praying for his full recovery,” Grambling State President Martin Lemelle Jr. said in a statement.

Player of the Game

Placekicker Josh McCormick came off the bench to kick a 44-yard field goal with 21 seconds left in Grambling’s upset of nationally ranked Jackson State.

Jerry Rice

Alabama A&M quarterback Eric Handley is the only HBCU player among the 22 nominees for the Stats Perform 2025 Jerry Rice Award, which honors the top FCS freshman in the country.

The Triangle Tribune

The Voice of the Black Community

AGOJIE WARRIORS ACTIVITY SHEET

Hi Everybody!

I am very proud of the Agojie blood of my mother, Queen Maela, that runs through my veins. My mother was an Agojie warrior. The Agojie warriors are considered the only documented frontline female soldiers in warfare history.

Check out my comic book **AGOJIE WARRIORS**. Visit WWW.KEMETCOMICS.COM to get your copy!

THE DAHOMEY KINGDOM

The kingdom of Dahomey was an empire in West Africa that existed between 1625-1894. In the 1700s, the Dahomey Kingdom became a major regional power when it conquered the coastal kingdoms that were major slave trading areas. Dahomey became a major center in the Atlantic Slave Trade until the British imposed a naval block to stop the trade. Dahomey was portrayed as a developed, sovereign state with a king, royalty, commoners and slaves. Each male official had a female counterpart at court who monitored his activities and advised the king. Their social environment enabled women to do whatever they were capable of doing—including going to war. An African-American historian and writer, John Henrik Clarke says “Africans of Dahomey had produced a way of life where men were secure enough to let women advance as far as their talents would take them.”

POP-UP TRIVIA

The last known Agojie Warrior, Nawi, died at age 100.

AGOJIE: DAHOMEAN FEMALE WARRIORS

The Agojie warrior women, also known as the Dahomey Amazons, were known for their ruthlessness and fearlessness on the battlefield. They were not allowed to have any kind of family life, such as a husband or children. They were married to the king in a vow of celibacy. They were trained to be strong, fast, ruthless and able to withstand great pain. They jumped walls covered with thorny acacia branches. Many became wealthy as single independent women. There were about 6,000 Agojie warriors, making up one-third of Dahomey’s military, who were huntresses, riflemen, reapers, archers and gunners. The Agojie warriors fought to the death - defeat was never an option.

THE MOVIE: THE WOMAN KING

The movie, “The Woman King” centers on three major real-life characters’ names (although their story character is fictional): General Nanisca played by Viola Davis - the only Black American to receive the Triple Crown of Acting - Nawi played by Thuso Mbedu and King Ghezo played by John Boyega. It opens in the year 1823, the year that they are finally freed from a stronger neighboring power. The movie acknowledges that Dahomey did participate in the slave trade at the time. Nanisca is determined to completely end the kingdom’s involvement with the slave trade—a concern she brings to the king who agrees - yet it did not actually happen in real life until a decade later.

KEMET, YOU NEVER READ ABOUT STRONG, UNCOMPROMISING BLACK AFRICAN WOMEN IN PRE-COLONIAL HISTORY!!

...IT SEEMS LIKE THEY DIDN'T EXIST!!

LILLIE, WHAT ABOUT THE DAHOMEY AMAZON WOMEN WARRIORS??

TELL THE TRUTH:

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

_____ “The Woman King” is a movie about the Agojie warrior women of Dahomey.

_____ Dahomey is now known as the country of Benin in West Africa.

_____ The last known Agojie Warrior, Nawi, died at age 100.

_____ General Nanisca, King Ghezo, and Nawi were made up historical figures.

_____ There were as many as 6,000 Agojie women in Dahomey’s military.

_____ The Woman King was based on a kingdom in South America.

ONE MINUTE MADNESS!

In one minute, unscramble words that are closely related to the Agojie Warriors. The first letter of the name is in bold.

goAiej _____

aiwN _____

ohDaeym _____

eavSi reTad _____

eeGnair nNaaisc _____

gniK zehGo _____

WHAT’S IN A JOB?

Match the warrior’s skill with the position they held.

Gunner	Rifewoman	Archer
I use a bow and arrows in my position	_____	_____
I specialize in using guns	_____	_____
I am skilled with using a rifle	_____	_____

ANSWER KEY

TELL THE TRUTH

True: _____

False: _____

ONE MINUTE MADNESS!

goAiej: Agojie

aiwN: Nawi

ohDaeym: Dahomey

eavSi: General Nanisca

eeGnair: King Ghezo

gniK: Gunner

zohG: Rifewoman

AGOJIE WARRIORS, WEEK OF NOVEMBER 2, 2025 #227 WWW.JOEYOUNG.ORG KEMET ACTIVITY SHEETS © 2025 BY JOE YOUNG



KYLIE MARSH

Members of Kids Voting Durham interview Durham City Council candidates DeDreana Freeman and Matt Kopac.

Durham students grill city council candidates at Kids Voting Forum

By Kylie Marsh

Kylie.marsh@triangletribune.com

DURHAM – Although kids can't vote until they turn 18, they still hold sharp political opinions.

Durham Public School students got face time with Durham City Council candidates at the Kids Voting Durham candidate forum last week to kick off early voting.

Kids Voting Durham, launched in 1999 as a local part of Kids Voting USA, is a program that seeks to engage children in politics from a young age. It is a nonpartisan voter education network that partners with not-for-profit organizations nationwide to create politically-active children and increase adult turnout.

Nearly 100 students of all ages collaborated to develop questions for candi-

dates about improving public transportation, prioritizing youth mental health, and creating stronger, healthier communities.

Candidates paired up and answered questions in round-robin style sessions.

Other questions included supporting LGBTQ youth, uplifting underserved communities and addressing bullying in schools. Students were as young as 7, while others were juniors and seniors in advanced civics courses. Most in attendance were girls.

Kids Voting Durham has run DPS student elections in each election cycle. Coordinator Carolyn Kreuger said the goal of the program is for "youth to know that they have a voice."

"Oftentimes, they hear that they're too young, or they think that no one's

gonna listen to them," Kreuger said. "This helps give them a sense of agency so that they believe they can make a difference."

Kreuger said the program helps get parents involved and increases parent turnout. "They really care about their community, and they want to be engaged and involved," she said.

Kreuger also said the youth election results do not always match the official results, which shows how much of an impact they can have on elections.

Kids Voting Durham works closely with the North Carolina Cooperative Extension, a program through North Carolina State University that originated with the aim of expanding access in higher education to rural communities.

FRATERNITY NEWS

The Omega C.H.A.M.P.S. mentoring program held its annual Rites of Passage Program Oct. 26 at the Omega Multipurpose Center. Four students were recognized as having finished the program and are now off to high school. Omega C.H.A.M.P.S. is a program sponsored through the Iota Iota Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity. The program has been in operation for 31 years.

Four young men – Michael Braswell, Steven Culer Jr., Taj Moore and Logan Thomas – received the Rites of Passage. Raleigh Chief of Police Rico Boyce, center, was the keynote speaker. He encouraged the young men to stay in school and to follow the Omega C.H.A.M.P.S. motto: "Stand Tall. Walk Proud. Shine Your Brightest."



COURTESY

SCHOOL NEWS

Last month, Southern School of Energy and Sustainability celebrated the launch of its pilot program with partners Novo Nordisk and Durham Public Schools that creates a BioWork pathway for dual-enrolled seniors at the school. Students will graduate with their high school degree and a BioWork certificate, setting them up for a successful career in the life sciences field.



Understanding hypertrophic cardiomyopathy

FAMILY FEATURES

Hypertrophic cardiomyopathy, also called HCM, is the leading cause of sudden cardiac death in young athletes, sometimes with no warning signs. It is characterized by the thickening and stiffening of the heart walls, which can impede the heart's ability to pump blood efficiently since the chambers cannot fill up.

In addition, HCM is the most common inherited heart disease, affecting 1 in 500 people in the U.S., according to the American Heart Association. Because HCM runs in families, first-degree relatives - including parents, siblings and children - should be screened if a family member has been diagnosed.

Consider this information to get a better understanding of this

life-altering genetic condition's symptoms and diagnosis, which can make a crucial difference in managing the disease effectively.

* Recognizing the signs and symptoms. The symptoms and severity of HCM can vary widely among individuals. While some people may experience no symptoms at all, common symptoms include fatigue, fainting, shortness of breath, dizziness, chest pain and irregular heartbeats, especially during physical activity. Research shows Black male athletes in high-intensity sports like football and basketball may be at higher risk.

* The importance of family history in diagnosis. Because HCM is a genetic condition, family history is a critical component in its diagnosis. If someone in

your family has been diagnosed with HCM, heart failure or cardiac arrest, children, siblings and parents should be screened. Genetic testing and echocardiograms are commonly used to catch HCM early. These tests assess the thickness of the heart muscle and observe blood flow, which can indicate the presence of the disease.

There are two main types of HCM - obstructive and nonobstructive - and treatment options vary depending on the type and severity of symptoms.

If HCM runs in your family, don't wait. Talk to your doctor about screening options and encourage your loved ones to do the same. Early detection can be lifesaving. To learn more about HCM, visit heart.org/HCMStudentAthlete.

MOVERS AND SHAKERS

INSURANCE

George Stevens, owner of George Stevens Insurance Agency, was presented with the Order of the Guardian Award, North Carolina Department of Insurance's highest honor. Stevens has been an insurance agent since 1962.



George and Gloria Stevens

NCEDA

Marvin J. Price, vice president of the Greensboro Chamber of Commerce, was awarded the Governor James E. Holshouser Professional Development Scholarship by the N.C. Economic Development Association Foundation.



Marvin J. Price

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.