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The Triangle Tribune

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Raleigh Convention Center releases expansion designs



COURTESY

The Raleigh Convention and Performing Arts Complex recently unveiled the architectural renderings of the new Raleigh Convention Center expansion. "The design of this expansion is the result of a highly collaborative process," said Kerry Painter, executive director of the Complex. "We're grateful to all the residents of Raleigh who were engaged in the process, who care about this space that serves as a critical community touchpoint to all the visitors we welcome every year."



COURTESY OF DIGITALINC COLLECTIONS

Mollie Huston Lee in her office at the library on New Bern Avenue (1969).

Richard B. Harrison Community Library celebrates 90 years of culture

STAFF REPORTS

For 90 years, the Richard B. Harrison Community Library has been more than a place to borrow books; it's been a cornerstone of Southeast Raleigh. Generations have come through its doors to learn, connect and grow, continuing the legacy started by its visionary founder, Mollie Huston Lee.

To honor nine decades of impact, Wake County Public Libraries will host a special 90th anniversary celebration Nov. 9, 2 p.m., at the Tarboro Road

Community Center. The event will recognize the library's history and its enduring role as a cornerstone of the community.

"The Richard B. Harrison Community Library is a living legacy of culture, community and literary access for all," Wake County Commissioner Tara Waters said. "As we celebrate this remarkable milestone, I encourage everyone to join us in honoring this historic institution and the pioneering leadership of Mollie Huston Lee."

The Harrison Library first

opened its doors on Nov. 12, 1935, in a storefront on West Hargett Street, offering library services to Black residents for the first time in Wake County. Over the next 90 years, the library moved from Hargett Street to Blount Street, and finally to its current home on New Bern Avenue, expanding its services and collections along the way.

Under Lee's leadership, the library became a cultural landmark, attracting speakers like Zora Neale Hurston and Lang-

Please see **LIBRARY/2A**



The Trump administration to pay half of Nov. SNAP benefits

By Jacob Fischler and Shauneen Miranda

STATES NEWSROOM

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Department of Agriculture will pay about half of November benefits for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP, though benefits could take months to flow to recipients, the department said Monday in a brief to a federal court in Rhode Island.

A four-page report from the USDA answered U.S. District Chief Judge John J. McConnell Jr.'s order that President Donald Trump's administration pay at least a portion of benefits to the 42 million people who receive assistance through the program by the end of Wednesday, despite the government shutdown. The USDA action does not address what happens if the shutdown stretches beyond November.

Leading Democrats in Congress blasted the administration's decision to pay only part of the month's benefits, saying Trump was willfully denying food assistance to needy Americans. "Providing partial benefits is not enough, is not compliant with the law, and it's particularly cruel of Trump with the Thanksgiving season around the corner," said Senate Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer of New York.

McConnell laid out two options for the administration: pay for partial benefits by the end of Wednesday through a contingency fund which currently has about \$4.65 billion available or pay for a full month of benefits by tapping other reserve sources such as the child nutrition program by the end of Monday.

The USDA opted to use the contingency fund, giving the department until the end of Wednesday to pay out benefits. But a declaration from Patrick A. Penn, USDA's deputy undersecretary for food, nutrition and consumer services, said the administrative hurdles in calculating and delivering a half-month's portion of benefits could take "anywhere from a few weeks to up to several months."

McConnell's order acknowledged that calculating reduced benefits would take the government some time, which he explained was why he gave USDA until Wednesday if the department chose that path. But Penn said

Please see **SNAP/2A**

Jubilee Home opens house for formerly-incarcerated women

By Kylie Marsh

Kylie.marsh@triangletribune.com

DURHAM — Jubilee Home for women has opened to house four formerly incarcerated women in Durham.

After opening a men's home in 2020, executive director David Crispell said he received several calls for a women's home. "I received calls until a few weeks ago. Now we can answer that call," Crispell said at a ribbon-

cutting ceremony last Thursday.

Residents will receive wrap-around services like referrals to counseling for mental health and substance abuse, stable employment and housing, which is "culturally and gender-specific."

"The women that come through this door don't have to walk this journey alone," Crispell said. Peer support staff, people who have also experienced the transition from incar-

ceration to society, will be available to assist the residents.

The programming Jubilee Home offers is trauma-informed. It addresses eight different dimensions of wellness, including emotional, financial, physical, spiritual and social.

The home, which was recently constructed, is the joint project of multiple community non-profit partners, thanks to fund-

Please see **JUBILEE/2A**

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Richardson B. Harrison Library celebrates culture

Continued from page 1A
ston Hughes, and building one of the nation's earliest collections dedicated to Black literature, now known as the Mollie Huston Lee Collection.

The Lee Collection chronicles the African American experience locally and nationally, as well as international history of the African Diaspora. It is composed of both adult and juvenile nonfiction, fiction and journals. Housed in the library's Mollie Huston Lee Room, the collection may be accessed by appointment only.

Lee was the first Black graduate of Columbia University School of Library Science and was instrumental in the founding of the North Carolina Negro Library Association, a professional organization for Black librarians. She retired on Jan. 30, 1972, after serving as the librarian of the Harrison Community Library for 37 years.

CELEBRATION
* Nov. 10, drop in anytime. Explore a visual exhibit showcasing photographs and stories from the life of Lee and the library's evolution.

* Nov. 10, 2 p.m. Join staff for a themed Bingo and More program. Enjoy a fun-filled afternoon of history, community and friendly competition for ages 16 and older.

* Nov. 12, drop by anytime. Stop in to celebrate 90 years of excellence and community.

An expanded historical exhibit on Mollie Huston Lee and the library's legacy will be on display starting Nov. 10.



The Recidivism Reduction Educational Program Services' first expungement clinic attracted people from across Wake County.

Clinic helps North Carolinians clear criminal records for free

By Eric Tegethoff
PUBLIC NEWS SERVICE

People in North Carolina were able to get their criminal records cleared for free at an expungement clinic, and after the success of the first event, more clinics are planned for the state.

The organization, Recidivism Reduction Educational Program Services, hosted its first clinic in Raleigh last week, allowing people to clear their criminal records or charges against them which were dropped.

Kerwin Pittman, founder and executive director of the group, said more than 330 people showed up to the event and 169 had their records expunged. He said it is important because criminal records can hinder people from accessing employment, housing and social benefits.

"We wanted to clear up those charges off people's records for those who were eligible statutorily," Pittman said. "But, most importantly, we wanted to give people a new lease on life and a second chance at life without these different collateral consequences hanging around."

Pittman said additional reentry resources were available at the clinic as well to help people access housing, second-chance employment opportunities and drug harm reduction supplies such as fentanyl strips. He added more clinics will be scheduled for next year.

"Particularly, and more intentionally, in rural places in North Carolina," he said. "Because we know the rural areas in North Carolina, they don't get a chance like this to take a bite of this apple of clearing their record from these collateral consequences because a lot of people don't host expungement clinics in those areas."

Pittman said expungement can be an expensive process, particularly the attorneys' fees, and people were happy to have the service.

"And they were very, very thankful because they got their record expunged for free when normally it would cost them potentially thousands of dollars to do this," he said.



An inside look at Jubilee Home for women.

Jubilee Home opens for formerly incarcerated

Continued from page 1A
ing from the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services. It includes a fully functional kitchen, washer and dryer, and four beds with one shared two-person room.

Crispell said the executive board had to get creative to figure out a lending process, and worked with the Durham County ABC Board to put a downpayment on the home.

"It's really taken this entire village to create this space," he said.

Kelly Crosbie, director of the division of mental health, developmental disabilities and substance use services at the NCDHHS, said the state allocated \$99 million for programs like Jubilee Home in 2023.

Crosbie discussed participating in reentry simulations, educational programs where people can learn about the specific barriers faced by community members trying to reenter society after incarceration. Crosbie has participated in three justice simulations so far, but they don't get any easier, she said.

"I wanted to go back to 'jail' every week," she said. "I was exhausted. It's just a small taste of putting yourself in someone else's shoes."

Jubilee Home peer navigators will help residents obtain a form of identification, enroll in higher education or pursue vocational training, and assist with getting disability income.

Residents can stay in the home for at least a year, Crispell said.

"The biggest barrier that we've found in a year is folks having enough money saved up to be able to pay a first and last month's rent," he said. "If someone's working towards that, we're not gonna put them out before they're there."



One Fair Wage launches SNAP emergency fund for service workers

STAFF REPORTS

NEW YORK — As the federal shutdown drags into its second month, millions of Americans are facing an escalating food crisis.

Even after two federal court rulings ordered the Trump administration to fund Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits, the administration announced it will only cover 50% of November's payments, leaving 42 million Americans — including millions of working people — still at risk of going hungry. The result is widespread food insecurity and uncertainty about how families will put food on the table.

In response, One Fair Wage is launching the Service Workers SNAP Emergency Fund to provide immediate relief to the workers hit hardest: restaurant and service workers, the very people who feed us but too often cannot afford to feed themselves.

This moment reveals a deeper failure: half of the people who receive food stamps already work but are paid wages so low they still need assistance to survive. In 2023, 41% of adults receiving SNAP were employed, and nearly 60% of households with children had at least one working adult. According to One Fair Wage research, service workers rely on SNAP at twice the rate of other workers, a reflection of poverty wages across the industry.

"The people who feed us can't afford to feed themselves," said Saru Jayaraman, One Fair Wage president. "This isn't just a story about food assistance. It's a story about poverty wages. ... The solution isn't half benefits or emergency patches, it's living wages. Blue states have both the opportunity and the responsibility to lead by passing laws that ensure no one who works for a living ever has to depend on food stamps to eat."

The Service Workers SNAP Emergency Fund will provide direct cash assistance to restaurant and service workers.

Who can apply: Restaurant and service workers who rely on SNAP and have experienced food insecurity due to benefit reductions.

How to apply: Visit <https://ofwemergencyfund.org/> to submit a brief online form. One Fair Wage organizers will follow up to verify eligibility and distribute relief.

Support includes:
* Direct cash assistance for groceries and basic needs

* Access to food resource partners and local relief efforts

* Tools and information to organize for higher wages

HOW TO HELP
* Donate now: Visit <https://ofwemergencyfund.org/> to make a tax-deductible contribution. Donations go directly to affected workers.

* Spread the word: Share this initiative to help reach more workers in need.

* Volunteer: Join One Fair Wage's outreach and relief efforts.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, One Fair Wage raised and distributed \$25 million in emergency aid to workers who suddenly lost income. The SNAP Emergency Fund is the next step in that mission — a short-term fix for a crisis that should never have happened.

"This shutdown has exposed what's been true all along," Jayaraman added. "Food insecurity isn't caused by a lack of work. It's caused by a lack of living wages. Until we raise the wage floor in this country, millions of working people will remain just one political fight away from hunger."

For more information or to apply for relief, visit: [www.ofwemergencyfund.org](https://ofwemergencyfund.org)

SNAP recipients to receive partial November benefits

Continued from page 1A
Monday that was not nearly enough time, in part due to some states' outdated systems for processing benefits.

The federal government would provide states with updated tables for benefits at the partial funding level by Monday, he said. States will then need to send updated files to the vendors that process benefits and add them to beneficiaries' debit-like EBT cards to be spent on groceries.

Monday marked the 34th day of the federal government shutdown, which began Oct. 1 when Congress failed to appropriate money for federal programs or pass a stopgap spending bill.

The U.S. Senate was expected to hold another procedural vote to move forward the House-passed GOP stopgap bill that would fund the government at fiscal 2025 levels until Nov. 21.

Democrats have voted against that measure in a bid to force negotiations on expiring tax credits for people who buy health insurance on the Affordable Care Act marketplace.

On Tuesday, the funding lapse tied for the longest shutdown in history, which took place between 2018 and 2019.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

CHAMBER
Black Chamber Raleigh's next professional networking event is Nov. 11, 6-8 p.m., Self-Help Credit Union, 1405 Promise Beacon Circle. Register at www.eventbrite.com.

VETERANS
On Nov. 11, Sheetz is giving all veterans and active military personnel a free meal and a car wash for stores that have car wash stations.

BREAKFAST
Durham Black Chamber of Commerce is hosting The Black Business Breakfast Nov. 19, 9-11 a.m., Durham Hilton, 3800 Hillsborough Road. Register: bcubed.eventbrite.com.

OPENINGS:
* Super Mattress Shop is the newest tenant at Montague Plaza on Rock Quarry Road in Raleigh. It will be the first mattress store in Southeast Raleigh. Visit: supermattressshop.com.

Send business briefs to info@triangletribune.com.

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LEGAL NOTICES



LEGAL NOTICE

Hazardous Device Unit (Bomb Trailer)

IFB NO. 26-016

Pursuant to North Carolina General Statutes 143-129, the County of Durham will accept sealed bids for the purchase of a **Hazardous Device Unit (Bomb Trailer) for Durham County** in the Durham County Purchasing Division, 201 East Main Street, 7th Floor Conference Room, Durham, North Carolina 27701, **until 2:00 P.M. Eastern Time, on November 20, 2025**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read.

Only sealed bids will be accepted. No bids will be accepted after the official time and date.

An electronic copy of this Invitation for Bids (IFB) can be obtained from Durham County's eBid System located under Bid Opportunities at <https://dconc.gov/Finance/Purchasing/Bid-Opportunities>. Bidders can download a copy of the solicitation and all addenda without registering in the system. However, in order to **automatically receive** email notifications of solicitations and addenda issued by the Purchasing Division, Proposers **MUST** register in the eBid system.

Questions concerning administrative matters should be directed to Rishanda Fowler, Procurement Specialist, at rfowler@dconc.gov.

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



LEGAL NOTICE

Health Care Services for the Durham County Detention Center and Youth Home

RFP No. 26-017

The County of Durham will receive sealed proposals for qualified Contractor(s) to establish a contract to provide a comprehensive health care services program at full capacity and in a cost effective manner to persons in the custody of the Durham County Sheriff at the Detention Facility and the Durham County Youth Home on **DECEMBER 9, 2025, at 2:00 P.M. Eastern Time**, in the Durham County Purchasing Division of Finance, 201 East Main Street, 7th Floor, Room 703, Durham, North Carolina 27701. **No proposals will be accepted after the official time and date.**

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

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



LEGAL NOTICE

Property Appraisal Services

RFP No. 26-018

The County of Durham will receive sealed proposals for qualified Contractor(s) to establish a contract to provide a property appraisal on all insured properties and obtain uniform and reliable replacement cost appraisals for buildings and structures by December 4, 2025, at 2:00 P.M. Eastern Time, in the Durham County Purchasing Division of Finance, 201 East Main Street, 7th Floor, Room 703, Durham, North Carolina 27701. **No proposals will be accepted after the official time and date.**

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

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

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

MISCELLANEOUS

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Faith communities get deep dive on developing affordable housing

By Kylie Marsh
Kylie.marsh@triangletribune.com

DURHAM – Faith communities with extra land may be able to help relieve the housing squeeze in the Triangle.

Last week, faith leaders wanting to learn how they can help communities struggling with housing affordability got a crash course on all the requirements to getting more affordable housing built in the area.

Thankam Rangala, a pastor at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Hope Valley, was an eager participant. “We are very interested in affordable housing and how we as a faith community can help,” she said. Westminster Presbyterian was part of the Church and Community Placemaking Lab, an initiative at Duke Divinity School’s former Ormond Center. “We know what the problem is, and we are seeing what solutions are out there to make life better,” Rangala continued.

Duke Community Affairs hosted the information session at Duke Memorial United Methodist Church in Brightleaf Square. Representatives from Durham City Planning and DHIC spoke to curious faith leaders about the legal and financial steps needed to open affordable units.

More faith communities are joining an increasing trend of developing affordable housing, including with Community Land Trusts. In September, North Carolina Republican Congressman Chuck Edwards co-sponsored the Faith in Housing Act with California Democrat Scott Peters. The Act will reduce the burden of adhering to zoning laws that can hin-

der development.

Scott Whiteman, senior planning manager, said there are three phases of the review process for development: legislative, quasi-judicial and administrative. One key takeaway is that development takes a long time.

“This stuff does not happen quickly,” Whiteman said. Using an example of Bryan Place, a 16-unit affordable development on North Duke Street, Whiteman said the process was initiated in 2021, but construction began earlier this year.

Kayla Rosenberg Strampe is the director of enterprise strategy and development for DHIC, a nonprofit affordable housing developer in nine counties across the state. She said there is a stigma around the term “affordable housing.”

“There is a lot of pushback at rezoning meetings,” she said. Many people may not want to be in a community with those they assume would live in units labeled affordable. “But they are people that are already in the community,” Rosenberg Strampe said.

In Durham, approximately 77% of people making 60% or less of the area median income cannot find a unit. Rosenberg Strampe said, “fair market rent,” another term that refers to unregulated housing prices on the for-profit market, is around \$1,800 for a two-bedroom, or equivalent to a single person making about \$36 an hour.

“They’re firefighters, teachers, child care providers,” she said.

“Area median income” is another common term. It’s a metric determined by the United States Department

of Housing and Urban Development that uses percentages of incomes from census tract data.

As of July, HUD determined that a single person making 30% AMI in Durham-Chapel Hill is at or below an annual income of \$24,300. An individual in Raleigh-Cary at 30% AMI makes equivalent or below \$27,900.

The Low-Income Housing Tax Credit is a financial tool provided by the IRS, which provides subsidies to developers in exchange for meeting certain criteria with their units. These subsidies are then distributed through the North Carolina Housing Finance Agency. To qualify for the LIHTC, developments must cap rents at levels determined by HUD.

Rosenberg Strampe said the LIHTC is the “primary means to developing affordable housing. This is an investment for a lot of folks,” she said.

DHIC recently has received more inquiries from faith-based institutions like Milner Memorial Presbyterian Church on New Bern Avenue in Raleigh. DHIC redeveloped the donated 4.6 acres from the church to build Milner Commons, a 150-unit facility for seniors at 100% affordability.

The Reverend Renee Vaughan is in her second term on the city’s Homeless Services Advisory Committee as vice-chair.

“This was a great opportunity to get information for those of us who are interested in making sure vulnerable populations are housed,” she said. Her church, Bethel Christian Center in North Durham, is developing an ADU to their chapel. “There are multiple opportunities,” she said.

AROUND THE TRIANGLE

RALEIGH FOOD DRIVE

Expressions in Rhythm Studio is hosting a community food drive throughout November. Donations can be dropped off at 3509 Maitland Drive, M-F, 5-9 p.m. Items will be distributed to needy families Dec. 1. Visit www.eirstudio.com.

MARKET

The next Black Farmers’ Market is Nov. 9, 1-4 p.m., SE Raleigh YMCA, 1436 Rock Quarry Road. Only two markets left.

HOMECOMING

South Central Church of Christ’s 38th annual homecoming is Nov. 7-9, 2010 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.

THANKSGIVING

TJ Warren Foundation’s Thanksgiving Community Food Giveaway is Nov. 15, noon to 4 p.m., Teen Center, 721 N. Raleigh Boulevard. Contact: Charles Mitchell, 984-303-1608.

SHOWER

Community Baby Shower is Nov. 15, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., SE Raleigh YMCA, 1436 Rock Quarry Road. Register: forms.office.com.

BREAKFAST

The Flood Group’s annual membership breakfast is Nov. 15, 9:30-11 a.m., Chavis Community Center, 505 MLK Jr. Boulevard.

COAT DRIVE

StepUp Ministry is holding a winter coat drive through Nov. 24 for all sizes. Drop off at 1701 Oberlin Road. Email: djameson@stepupministry.org.

DURHAM VETERANS

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

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.

POETRY

Jambalaya Soul Slam Giving Thanks Poetry Slam is Nov. 15, 8 p.m., Hayti Heritage Center, 804 Old Fayetteville St. Tickets: jambalayasoulslam-nov2025.eventbrite.com.

AUCTION

Empowered Parents in Community’s annual silent auction is Nov. 15, 7-9 p.m., Provident 1898, 411 W. Chapel Hill St. Email: info@epic-nc.org.

HOMEOWNERSHIP

Habitat for Humanity of Durham’s homeownership information session is Nov. 18, 5:30-7:30 p.m., Southwest Regional Library, 3605 Shannon Road. Reg-

ister: www.durhamcounty-library.libcal.com.

CHAPEL HILL LECTURE

Pulitzer Prize winner Salamishah Tillet will deliver the Stone Memorial Lecture Nov. 11, 6:30 p.m., Stone Center, 150 South Road. Register: <https://apps2-research.unc.edu/events/>.

VETERANS

Orange County’s Veterans Day Ceremony is Nov. 11, 11 a.m., Orange Co. Veterans Memorial, 2501 Homestead Road.

FUNDRAISER

A pickleball fundraising tournament is Nov. 15, 10 a.m., Ephesus Park Courts, 1501 Ephesus Church Road. Register: <https://app.pickleballlden.com>.

SUMMIT

HOPE NC’s 2025 Inclusive Housing Summit is Nov. 17, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., The Friday Conference. Register: www.hopenorthcarolina.org.

An advertisement for the Charlotte Post Foundation. It features a photo of a young girl reading a book. Below the photo, the text reads: "the charlotte post FOUNDATION", "Giving Tuesday is on Dec 2.", "This year, invest in the future of Black Charlotte.", and "DONATE TODAY! http://bit.ly/47gKlnz".

Broadway stars take the stage in ‘The Little Mermaid’

STAFF REPORTS

RALEIGH — Theatre Raleigh continues its 2025 season with “Once on This Island,” the Tony Award-winning Caribbean adaptation of the popular fairy tale “The Little Mermaid.”

Told with Caribbean rhythms and instruments, the musical tells the story of a girl rescued from a disastrous storm by four gods, and begins this breathtaking story of Black joy and sorrow, the aftermath of colonization and isolation and the triumph of love against all forces. The musical was written by Lynn Ahrens and Stephen Flaherty and debuted on Broadway in 1990; its 2017 production won a Tony Award for Best Revival.

Theatre Raleigh is a professional nonprofit theater company recognized for its high-caliber musicals, dramas and concert series featuring Broadway stars and exceptional local talent. “Once on This Island” is no different. Amaya

White will play Ti Moune, the peasant girl rescued from the storm by four gods: Asaka, Mother of the Earth; Agwé, god of Water; Erzulie, goddess of Love; and Papa Ge, demon of Death. White was a national tour cast member in “Six,” the hit Broadway musical about Henry VIII’s six wives.

Playing opposite White is Lucas Hinds Babcock, who plays Ti Moune’s love interest, Daniel. Babcock played the roles of Laurens and Phillip in the national tour of “Hamilton.”

Among the North Carolina-based cast members are:

* Gerard M. Williams, a Durham native, as Ti Moune’s adoptive father, Tonton Julian. Williams has been a national tour cast member in “Tina: The Tina Turner Musical,” “My Fair Lady” and “The Color Purple.”

* Tara Lashan Clinkscapes in the role of the goddess Asaka and whom Theatre Raleigh fans will remember

as Nurse Norma in “Waitress.” She also was a cast member in the off-Broadway production of “Cats: The Jellie Ball.”

* Asali Smith, a 12-year-old from Raleigh, as Little Ti Moune. She recently performed in Theatre Raleigh ACT’s production of “Jesus Christ Superstar.”

The remaining cast: Shayla Brielle G. as goddess Erzulie; Natasha Gore as Mama Euralie; Sai Graham as Armand; Anne-Sophie Hill as Andrea; Parris Lewis as Papa Ge; Okisha Renée Wells as Agwé; Clayton Mack III as Little Boy; and Jarreau Foster Rhyne as Little Girl. The swings will be Anaiya Adwaters and Kaleb Bell.

EVENT:

* Dates: Nov. 12-23
* Venue: Theatre Raleigh Arts Center, 6638 Old Wake Forest Road
* Rating: Suitable for ages 10 and up

* Tickets: theatreraleigh.com

An advertisement for NCDOT virtual public meetings. It features the NCDOT logo and text: "NCDOT TO HOLD VIRTUAL PUBLIC MEETINGS FOR MULTIMODAL CONNECTED VEHICLE PILOT PROJECT IN WAKE COUNTY", "STIP PROJECT NO. HO-0001AA", "RALEIGH - The public is invited to a meeting with the N.C. Department of Transportation this month to discuss the pilot project that is exploring the safety benefits of multimodal connected vehicle technology near N.C. State University.", a QR code, and "For the project, crews updated road infrastructure, introduced a new mobile app for cyclists, pedestrians and drivers, and used smart transportation systems to evaluate these technologies. The pilot aims to improve safety, mobility and environmental sustainability by boosting bus use and cutting down on car idling with better traffic light timing.", "A virtual meeting will be held 6 -7:30 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 17, 2025. Interested residents can attend the meeting online or by phone to learn more about the pilot, ask questions and talk with NCDOT representatives. There will be a formal presentation beginning promptly at 6 p.m.", "Meeting registration and project details, including a map of the pilot area, can be found on the NCDOT project webpage at <https://publicinput.com/mmcvp-raleigh>.", "People may also submit comments by phone, email or mail by Dec. 12, 2025 by contacting NCDOT State Signal Equipment Engineer Keith Mims, PE at 919-814-4931; kmmims@ncdot.gov; or 1561 Mail Service Center in Raleigh.", "NCDOT will provide auxiliary aids and services under the Americans with Disabilities Act for disabled people who wish to participate in the virtual meeting. Anyone requiring special services should contact Jamille Robbins, Environmental Analysis Unit, at 1598 Mail Service Center in Raleigh; 919-707-6085; or jarobbins@ncdot.gov as early as possible so arrangements can be made.", and a footer with contact information for non-English speakers: "Persons who do not speak English, or have a limited ability to read, speak or understand English, may receive interpretive services upon request prior to the meeting by calling 1-800-481-6494." and "Aquellas personas que no hablan inglés, o tienen limitaciones para leer, hablar o entender inglés, podrían recibir servicios de interpretación si los solicitan antes de la reunión llamando al 1-800-481-6494."

Grant Hill is the perfect respite from work

Football. Basketball. Volleyball. Championship games. Playoff possibilities. The list is endless.

There comes a time when a woman needs to step back, take a break and do something special for herself.

That's exactly what I did on Oct. 30.

North Carolina Central men's basketball hosted its tip-off banquet at the Sheraton Imperial Hotel.

The event is a fundraiser for the program, and coach LeVelle Moton recruits some of the best people in sports to keynote the banquet.

Former Duke coach Mike Krzyzewski and North Carolina coach Roy Williams were previous speakers. But Moton's best recruiting job by far was snagging good friend Grant Hill.

The F-I-N-E

Grant Hill!
The first and only time I interviewed Hill was inside a University of Maryland locker room after Duke defeated the Terrapins. Duke haters today are nothing compared to the ACC fans of yesteryear.

I was a young freelance sports reporter with my own feelings about the Blue Devils, but they weren't paying my salary.

I dreaded going into that locker room to interview some snooty Dookies!

Hill had a monster game, so every reporter was at his locker. I figured he wouldn't have much time for a freelancer writing for a small Black publication.

But he did. He was - gasp! - nice. Humble. Accommodating. F-I-N-E! From Duke? That could only mean one thing: serial killer. There had to be something wrong somewhere.

I made it my personal mission to follow his career and wait for the nut to crack so I could tell my Duke friends, "I told you so."

Hill graduated Duke with honors, a couple of national championships and ACC Player of the Year Award, but no arrests. Dang!

The Detroit Pistons drafted him in 1994 with the third overall pick. He played through 19 injury-filled seasons but still made seven NBA All-Star Games, earned the 1994 Rookie of the Year Award and more, but no arrests, no scandals. Dang!

The closest Hill got to controversy was firing back at former Michigan and NBA player Jalen Rose for calling Duke's Black basketball players "Uncle Toms."

Hill married his sweetheart, Canadian singer-songwriter Tamia Washington-Hill, in 1999. They have two daughters. Wife beater? No. Womanizer? No.

Since his retirement in 2013, Hill has carved out an impressive executive and sports broadcasting career. He's a minority owner of the Atlanta Hawks, managing director of USA Basketball and an analyst for "NBA on NBC," among other things.

Now, he's an author. "Game: An Autobiography," flew off the tables at the banquet.

He's better looking at 53 than that young pup sitting in a Maryland locker room. His banquet speech was inspirational, at least what I can remember. My main objective was not to be caught drooling.

"I had wonderful experiences at NCCU," he said. "I took some classes. Got my hair cut at NCCU. Had my first Krispy Kreme donut. Ate in the cafeteria. Went to parties."

Hill also admitted that he developed a crush on one of the campus librarians, but she blew him off.

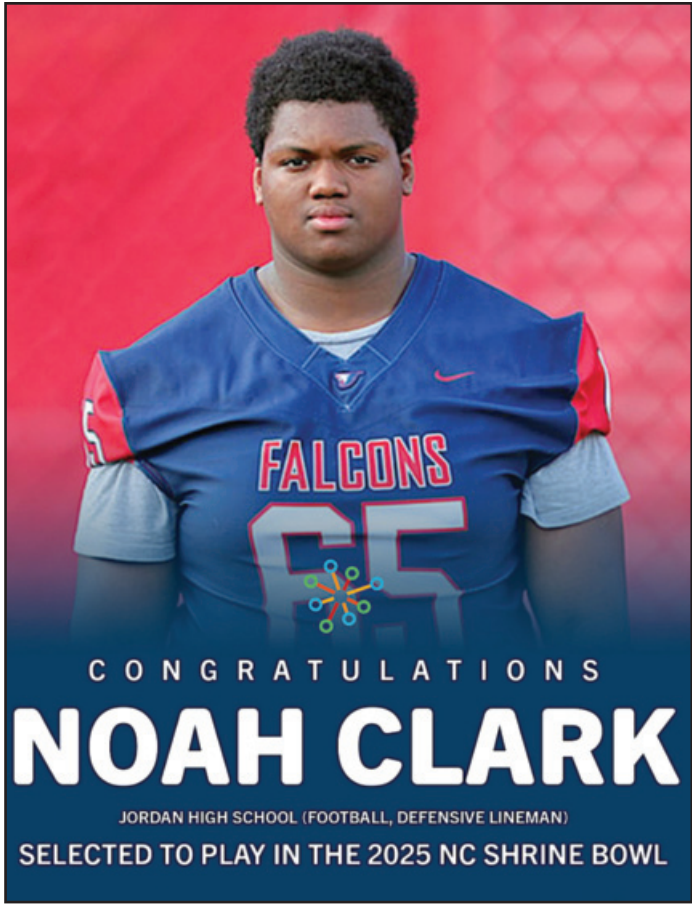
If she later told her friends what she did, I hope they told her to turn in her female card because something was definitely missing.

Keep aging gracefully, Grant Hill. I wave the white flag.

The Triangle Tribune Sports

November 9-15, 2025 | 6A

GOING BOWLING!



COURTESY OF DPS

HBCU BASKETBALL

Can Shaw women, men end title drought?

By Bonitta Best
editor@triangletribune.com

The Division I season kicked off Monday night with its first upset. Arkansas-Pine Bluff women defeated Memphis for the second straight year. Howard women added another Tuesday night after knocking off Providence, 68-56.

Division II teams had a little longer wait. But the season is here.

Shaw (10-17, 6-10 CIAA)

The elephant in the room did not get mentioned at last month's CIAA Basketball Media Day.

Former coach Jacques Curtis' name was never mentioned during Shaw's question-and-answer session. What was reinforced was the enthusiasm and anticipation for a program with 11 CIAA Tournament titles and one NCAA Division II championship. (Curtis coached nine of the 11 championships and the DII title.)

Yet, Shaw hasn't won the tournament since 2014. It lost to Elizabeth City State in the 2023 championship game.

"We have five returnees who know how we do things," said interim head coach Lou Hamilton whose team was picked No.

8 overall. "They are coming in with a positive mindset and work ethic. We will build that with our newcomers."

All-conference senior forward D'Ayzha Atkinson said she's ready for a bigger role in leading Shaw this season.

"I want to have court awareness, a better basketball IQ and knowing what all of my teammates do and what they're best at to lead us to a successful season," she said.

Returning with Atkinson are seniors Mahogany Collins and Mikyah Finley, junior Indiya Spooner and sophomore Skylar Adams. Hamilton said he's happy with the roster.

"Every day we're preparing for being in the tournament," he said. "The hard part was done, getting the players here and the players that fir the pieces of the puzzle that's needed."

Shaw opens the season Nov. 12 at N.C. A&T.

MEN

Shaw (11-17, 6-10)

Heading into his fifth coaching season at Shaw (minus the canceled 2020-21 season), coach Bobby Collins knows fans are getting impatient. The Bears' last tournament title was

Please see **SHAW/7A**



COURTESY

Shaw senior forward D'Ayzha Atkinson.



Shaw redshirt senior Dreveon Scott.

COLLEGE CORNER

Shaw hires new softball coach with NCCU ties

WOMEN

N.C. Central

The basketball team was no match for nationally ranked North Carolina. On a positive note, the team is home for its next three games: Nov. 7 vs. UNC Wilmington, Nov. 13 vs. UNC Asheville and Nov. 18 vs. College of Charleston.

In tennis, the ladies won 14 matches at the two-day Pirate Hidden Dual Meet. They defeated Longwood and Christopher Newport.

In volleyball, outside hitter Kamren Harper earned MEAC volleyball player of the week in helping NCCU to a 2-0 record over Morgan State and conference leader Coppin State. Harper is the only Eagle to amass 1,000 kills and 500 digs in the Division I era. CC just loves that word "kills."

NCCU travels to Howard and Norfolk State this week-

end before the regular season finale Nov. 15 against South Carolina State for Senior Day.

Shaw

The Bears have a new softball coach, and she's a familiar face in the Triangle. Theresa Stephens previously head coached at North Carolina Central and Meredith College, and assistant coached at several North Carolina Division I institutions.

"I am truly honored to lead the Shaw University softball program," she said. "This is a tremendous opportunity to build something special for our student-athletes and the Shaw community. My goal is to create a culture of integrity, discipline and excellence that represents the

Please see **SHAW/7A**

HBCU FOOTBALL

Virginia Union solidifies return to the CIAA football championship

By Bonitta Best
editor@triangletribune.com

Virginia Union is headed to a third straight trip to the CIAA Football Championship for a chance at a three-peat.

The Panthers defeated Bluefield State in record-setting fashion to await its opponent Nov. 15 at Durham County Memorial Stadium. VUU closes out the season against archrival Virginia State in the annual Gold Bowl.

Johnson C. Smith needed a late fourth-quarter score to defeat Fayetteville State for the first time in Fayetteville since 2012. The Golden Bulls need a win against Livingstone to seal their ticket to Durham. The Blue Bears spoiled JCSU's trip last season with a 15-10 upset.

Over in the SIAC, Albany State will host the SIAC Football Championship on Nov. 15. Benedict

College, which lost to ASU in a blowout, needs a win at Savannah State for a championship rematch.

N.C. Central (6-3, 1-1 MEAC) vs. Norfolk State (1-8, 0-2)

Michael Vick & Co. coming to Durham has lost some of its luster with the Spartans at the bottom of the MEAC pile. The Eagles, however, are still in the hunt for the regular season title despite needing some outside help.

NCCU dominated Howard on offense and defense in a game that was never in question. "It was good to get a win on the road and rebound from a devastating loss last week," coach Trei Oliver said on the MEAC teleconference.

Oliver reverted back to his

Please see **VIRGINIA/7A**



Left to right: former Duke and NBA great Grant Hill, N.C. Central coach LeVelle Moton and Moton's daughter, Brooke, at the NCCU men's basketball tip-off banquet.

Shaw hires new softball coach with NCCU ties

Continued from page 6A
proud tradition of Shaw University.”
In soccer, Shaw closed out the regular season with a 2-0 win over Virginia State. The team competes in the Independents Championship this weekend in Petersburg, Virginia.
In volleyball, the regular season ends Nov. 10. Shaw traveled to Fayetteville State this week before heading to Charlotte Monday. The tournament begins Nov. 21. Only the top four teams compete.

MVSU
Mississippi Valley State announced a realignment of its athletics programs. The university eliminated

women's soccer and added women's flag football and club golf.
“This was a difficult but necessary decision, and we fully understand its impact on our student-athletes,” athletic director Alecia Shields-Gadson said. “This realignment reflects a strategic vision that allows us to reinvest in emerging sports and create more opportunities for students to compete and thrive.”

MEN
N.C. Central
There was no upset this time. The Eagles lost to Raleigh neighbor N.C. State, 114-66. Gage Lattimore and Khouri Carvey scored 20 points and 19 points,

respectively.
The team is at Virginia Nov. 7 and Appalachian State No. 9. Its first home game is next Wednesday against CIAA opponent Bluefield State. That won't be pretty. Then it's the men's turn to head to Chapel Hill Nov. 14.
In golf, Jamal Hutchison was named Northeast Conference men's co-golfer of the month for October. He set a NCCU scoring record through 54 holes.
And finally, CC didn't know who we were happier to see at the men's banquet last month: former SID Kyle Serba or keynote speaker Grant Hill. Both made our night in different ways.



N.C. Central sophomore wide receiver Chauncey Spikes.

Virginia Union is headed back to championship

Continued from page 6A
play-calling days against Howard after two defensive assistants had family emergencies. The unit held the Bison to 174 total yards, including 25 yards rushing.
Sophomore wide receiver Chauncey Spikes said the team is not taking Norfolk State lightly despite its record. The Spartans definitely won't be ignoring Spikes, who caught nine passes for a career-high 208 yards and three touchdowns against the Bison. He earned a “College Football Final” helmet sticker, the second Eagle this season to be honored.
“Nothing has changed in my preparation,” said Spikes who also was the HBCU national player of the week. “You guys are just seeing all the work we

all put in during the season. And prayers as well.”
The Spartans are on a seven-game losing streak. Vick reorganized his staff after a 31-14 loss to Wofford. The team has lost two more games since.
“Wins are not coming easy to us right now,” he said Monday. “We've got to finish this season strong.”
NCCU hosts South Carolina State next Friday at 5 p.m. for an ESPN2 broadcast.
Shaw (2-7, 2-5 CIAA) vs. Emory & Henry University (6-3, 5-3 SAC)
The Bears' conference season ended with a 43-13 loss at Livingstone. Since St. Augustine's is no longer in the conference, the Raleigh Classic has been replaced with a trip to Virginia.

Shaw will either finish in a tie for ninth place or sole possession of it depending on Bowie State's outcome.
CAA
N.C. A&T lost to Towson 62-9. The Aggies (2-7, 2-3 CAA) travel to Stony Brook this weekend before next Saturday's Senior Day.
Hampton has three more chances to win at least one conference game. The Pirates (2-7, 0-5) host Maine this weekend and William & Mary next Saturday before hitting the road to Rhode Island.
Player of the Week
Chauncey Spikes was unstoppable against Howard, amassing the fifth-highest, single-game receiving yardage in program history.

Can Shaw women, men end tourney drought?

Continued from page 6A
2011 under former coach Cleo Hill Jr.
Shaw is 50-56 under Collins and have never even gotten to the tournament semifinals. They lost their final eight games last season, including a first-round loss to Virginia Union.
The drought made Collins do some soul searching over the summer.
“Last year was the first year I felt a certain way at the end of the season,” he said. “I told my assistants that we have to recruit differently, prepare differently.”

The player Collins expects to lead that change is senior forward and Wilson native Avery Huggins.
“I'm trying to instill in him to be the best college player he can be,” Collins said. “The sky is the limit where he can take this basketball team.”
Huggins said one main goal as a leader is to get the others to buy in.
“Getting the other guys to trust what he (Collins) has for us and becoming a better reader,” he said. “I bring the energy and create havoc.”
The Bears are a veteran bunch with one graduate

student, three seniors, seven juniors and a sprinkle of sophomores and freshmen.
Among them are redshirt senior Dreveon Scott, junior Darius Abraham and graduate student Justin Harris.
Collins believes he has the right mix for a championship run.
“We're starving, we're past hungry,” he said. “I'm ready to fight, and we're ready to get after it.”
Shaw opens the season with its annual Shaw U Invitational Nov. 14-15.

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CELEBRATING VETERANS: SPOTLIGHT ON BLACK HEROES



Hi Everyone, I would like to start off with a simple, “Thank you for your service.” Veterans Day, is a time to recognize and acknowledge with respect and gratitude all of our men and women who served in the United States Armed Forces with a special thanks to our Black soldiers.

I also want to take this moment to say “Thank You!” to an exemplary general, Colin Powell, who died on October 18, 2021. Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin said that Powell's death left a hole in his heart. He also said, “The world lost one of the greatest leaders that we have ever witnessed. I lost a tremendous personal friend and mentor.”

FIRST BLACK BRIGADIER GENERAL: BENJAMIN O. DAVIS SR.

In 1940, Army general Benjamin O. Davis Sr. became the first Black brigadier general. Because racism was alive and well in the armed forces, he was only allowed to carry out certain responsibilities. His significance was in the fact that he was a part of a movement to move Black Americans further up the ranks in the U.S. Army War II. He carried out difficult assignments that were designed to increase the role of Black officers in segregated units. After fifty years of military service, Davis retired in a public ceremony with President Harry S. Truman presiding. In 1997, the U.S. Postal Service issued a 32-cent stamp honoring Davis. Thank you for your service!



MATCH THE BRANCH

Match the branch of armed services with its job description.

A. Army	B. Marine Corps	C. Navy	D. Air Force
E. Coast Guard	F. Space Force		

____ They are mainly land and air fighters.
____ This branch is mostly made up of warships.
____ This is the branch of a country's military which fights in the air.
____ This is the land-based branch of the Armed Forces.
____ This group focuses on war in space.
____ The purpose of this group is to protect the people, environment, industry and security of the United States on seas, lakes and rivers.

POP-UP QUESTION!

Who is the highest ranking commander-in-chief of the armed forces?



THE ONE MINUTE HERO

In one minute or less, circle all of the characteristics of a good soldier.

Kind	Mean	Greedy	Brave	Dishonest	Fair
Courageous	Disciplined	Weak	Respectful		
Untrustworthy	Loyal	Leader	Selfish	Liar	

SERVING WHILE BLACK

[6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion, The Buffalo Soldiers, Tuskegee Army, The Harlem Hellfighters, 761st Tank Battalion]

_____ were the first group of Black Americans to fly warplanes for the U.S. military. They served during World War II, proving that Black men could fly advanced aircraft in combat as well as white pilots.

_____ was a nickname given to African American soldiers by the Plains Indians. They served on the frontier, protecting settlers, mail, wagon trains and stagecoaches, battling cattle rustlers, thieves and the Native Americans.


_____ were the first African-American infantry unit to fight in World War I and who saw more combat than any other American unit.

The Women's Army Corps' all-Black _____ was a special U.S. Army unit and was recognized as the only all Black American female mail unit sent overseas during WWII.

The original “Black Panthers” was the nickname given to General Patton's _____. This was the first Black armored unit in the history of the U.S. Army to see combat.

THE REAL CATHAY WILLIAMS

Williams enlisted in the US Army under the alias William Cathay. She was the first Black woman to enlist, and the only documented woman to serve in the US Army posing as a man during the American Indian Wars. She was approached for an interview once the rumor was out that an African-American woman who had served in the Army had posed as a man. She became ill and applied for a disability pension but was denied because female soldiers did not earn pensions. It's assumed she died shortly after being denied a pension. We still say “Thank you for your service!”





DO YOU KNOW ANY BLACK VETERANS TODAY OR YESTERDAY YOU'D LIKE TO CELEBRATE? IF SO, EMAIL ME A PICTURE OF HIM OR HER, THEIR NAME AND ONE OR TWO SENTENCES ABOUT THEM. PLEASE INCLUDE YOUR FULL NAME, AGE AND YOUR ADDRESS SO THAT WE CAN SEND YOU A KEMET THANK YOU CARD AND ALSO FULLY ACKNOWLEDGE YOU WHEN WE POST YOUR CONTRIBUTION TO OUR ACTIVITY SHEET.

SEND TO: KEMET@KEMETCOMIC.COM

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CELEBRATING VETERANS: SPOTLIGHT ON BLACK HEROES, WEEK OF NOVEMBER 9, 2025, # 228 WWW.JOEYOUNG.ORG KEMET ACTIVITY SHEETS © 2025 BY JOE YOUNG

TOUR OF DUTY ANSWER KEY

POP-UP QUESTION! ANSWER KEY

SERVING WHILE BLACK ANSWER KEY

The Buffalo Soldiers
The Harlem Hellfighters
6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion
761st Tank Battalion

President of the United States, of counsel

S.M.A.S.H. Summit empowers Raleigh’s youth

By Kylie Marsh
kylie.marsh@triangletribune.com

RALEIGH – Triangle youth received hands-on experience in dancing, painting, DJing and public speaking, plus much more at last weekend’s S.M.A.S.H. Summit.

The “Supporting Mental health And STEAM with Hip hop Summit” is hosted by Empower All, Inc., a Raleigh-based nonprofit with the mission of engaging students of all backgrounds in Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math.

Partnered with Wake County Public School System, North Carolina State University, The National Alliance on Mental Health, and the city of Raleigh, Empower All joined students, families, mental health professionals and artists of multiple disciplines for a day of fun and empowerment.

“We wanted to create a space where participants could see themselves reflected, express creativity freely, and explore STEM through culturally relevant and emotionally grounding experiences,” Empower All Founder and CEO Valencia Hicks-Harris wrote in a statement to The Tribune.

C.J. Cooper and Cijournee Teasley are juniors at Southeast Raleigh High School. Their football coach invited them to the event and came because of the focus on mental health. “I’m really big on mental health, so I just decided to come and support,” Cooper said. “I know what it’s like to have such a negative mental health, so I just decided to come and



MATHIAS BISHOP

An artist at last weekend’s S.M.A.S.H. Summit in Raleigh.

see what it was about.” Teasley was there for the experience, because it was her first time at a conference like it. “I thought it’d be a good experience for us to go around and learn, especially us as athletes, we go through a lot,” she said.

Keynote speakers included entrepreneur, podcaster and coach Sheldon Gay; N.C. State School of Social Work assistant professor Terrance Ruth; CEO Bill Cummings; and Clinton Wilson, chief program officer for student services at Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools.

“Hip-hop is the heartbeat of culture—it’s storytelling, expression, resistance, and community all in one,” Hicks-Harris wrote to The Tribune. “It gives language to lived experiences that are often overlooked or misunderstood. As an educator, I’ve seen how the five elements of hip-hop mirror the very principles of education, problem-solving, and collaboration. By integrating hip-hop, we

build bridges: between generations, between classrooms and communities, and between what students learn and who they truly are.”

Attendees also got the opportunity to connect with local organizations and businesses like the North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences, Girls On The Run, Npower and MECO.

“Many systems talk about belonging, but students—especially Black and Brown youth—often don’t feel it. They may be physically present in the classroom, yet remain unseen. Too often, engagement is measured by compliance rather than curiosity, and inclusion is defined by proximity instead of power,” Hicks-Harris wrote.

“...My mission is to shift that dynamic—to create spaces where young people can lead, create, and be affirmed in their full identity, not as passengers in the system, but as drivers of their own learning and healing.”

Junior League of Raleigh Christmas Shopping Spree

On the last day of the Junior League of Raleigh shopping spree, hundreds of attendees visited the Raleigh Convention Center. They were treated to early holiday gift items that vendors brought in from across the United States and a few from overseas.



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