



SPORTS

Nine HBCU coaches have been fired, so far.



COMMUNITY FOCUS

Fraternity member John Lucas.

The Triangle Tribune

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RALT's Cottages of Idlewild near construction

By Mia Khatib
CORRESPONDENT

RALEIGH - Several years ago, Raleigh Area Land Trust envisioned having 100 properties online in five years. Its current projects will put it at about 30 homes by 2026, but executive director Kevin Campbell said they still feel like they can get there.

"It will take a lot of work and a lot of partnerships to get there, but that vision is still possible," he told The Tribune. "That would be just a really quick start for a land trust and, once we can celebrate that in 2027, it'll be quite a milestone for

Raleigh and Wake County." Eighteen of the upcoming units will sit in Southeast Raleigh's historic Idlewild neighborhood. The cottage court arrangement will be a first for the city, and will include 14 for-sale units to households at 60% of the area median income and below, and four rentals for people earning between 30% to 80% of the AMI.

Construction is set for early next year, and Campbell said 15 people have already been waitlisted for RALT properties. Eligible individuals can apply online and are required to fulfill certain homebuyer information and education

sessions to be approved. RALT also plans to bring four units to Cary and at least two others separate from Idlewild to Raleigh in 2025 that will be offered to families on their waitlist before the Cottages.

"In Idlewild, a lot of people from the community have already been displaced by what's happening real estate wise," Campbell said. "There are all the fair housing laws [and anti-discrimination laws] that we, of course, comply with... and, at the same time, we are able to give preference to people that have some connections to the neighborhood."

The \$8 million Cottages of Idlewild project has really been a community effort: the city of Raleigh owns the parcel of land, RALT is developing the homes, and donors like St. Michael's Episcopal Church have played a hand, too.

The church recently donated \$300,000 to the project, which the Reverend Gregory Jones said is particularly compelling because the land trust model ensures homes remain affordable in perpetuity. He believes it's a sustainable solution to a systemic problem.



COURTESY

St. Michael's Episcopal Church Pastor Gregory Jones and RALT Executive Director Kevin Campbell.

Please see **RALT/2A**



COURTESY

Allison Riggs has survived several recounts.

Riggs declared N.C. Supreme Court winner after recount

Partial hand-to-eye recounts forthcoming

By Alex Bass
alex.bass@triangletribune.com

RALEIGH - More than 60 years after a supreme civil rights event, North Carolina and Mississippi have a supreme connection with civil rights implications.

The still unresolved N.C. Supreme Court Seat 6 race between incumbent Democrat

Allison Riggs and Republican Jefferson Griffin continues to take turns amid multiple recounts, including counties' forthcoming and random hand-to-eye recount samplings. On Tuesday, Riggs, who claimed victory previously, was reconfirmed the winner by 734 votes after a machine recount. The margin, however, gives Griffin the right to request a partial

hand-to-eye recount, which he did.

"Two complete counts of ballots have confirmed Justice Riggs' victory in the race for N.C. Supreme Court Associate Justice, Seat 6. The recount confirms how well our elections are run in this state," said Embry Owen, Riggs' campaign manager. "Judge Jefferson Griffin

Please see **RIGGS/2A**

HB 10 certainties and uncertainties settling in for school systems

By Alex Bass
alex.bass@triangletribune.com

RALEIGH - The weather outside was getting chillier Tuesday. The day provided a perfect storm for the Wake County Public School System - already strategizing on how to navigate adverse effects of the pre-Thanksgiving N.C. General Assembly's override of Governor Roy Cooper's veto of House Bill 10.

If knowing the new law will divert more than \$400 million from public education to state-supported private school vouchers was not enough, then consider the following.

Tuesday's school day concluded early for seven WCPSS schools due to heating issues. These closures were the latest among a series of HVAC-related dismissals this semester.

The evening's board meeting included discussion of a pro-

jected \$3 million budget deficit for what is left of the 2024-25 academic year. At the same meeting, a scheduled school day on Jan. 3, 2025, was changed to a teacher's work day.

WCPSS Superintendent Robert Taylor has been sharing the same message all semester, which resonated, again, relative to Tuesday's happenings.

"When we have to use local tax

Please see **HB10/2A**



COURTESY

Black America doesn't have to shop at Walmart

By Liz Courquet-Lesaulnier
WORD IN BLACK

Let's be clear: Walmart needs Black America a heck of a lot more than Black America needs Walmart.

Wielding roughly \$1.8 trillion in spending power this year, Black folks' economic clout is undeniable. We get to choose where we spend our hard-earned cash during the holiday shopping season and beyond.

But Walmart — one of many companies that made lofty promises about fighting systemic racism after George Floyd's murder — just pulled the plug on its diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives.

Now, three weeks after Donald Trump's election, they claim they want to be "a Walmart for everyone." And the anti-woke bros on the right are trading high-fives, claiming they forced the retail giant to abandon its DEI initiatives.

Yes, DEI, the root of all so-called reverse racism in America. Because for some folks in this nation, DEI is code for anything that gives the appearance of supporting Black people, communities or businesses.

It's not that Black people thought the post-George-Floyd-murder racial reckoning would last forever. Our ancestors lived through Reconstruction, so we know better.

But back on June 12, 2020, just days after Floyd's murder, Walmart's CEO Doug McMillon emoted in a blog post about how the company's goal was "to help replace the structures of systemic racism, and build in their place frameworks of equity and justice that solidify our commitment to the belief that, without question, Black Lives Matter."

McMillon pledged to examine every aspect of Walmart to ensure the company was prejudice-free. He waxed poetic about a conversation he had with a Black female employee about racial microaggressions. He pledged \$100 million to a Center for Racial Equity that would "address the root causes of gaps in outcomes experienced by Black and African American people in education, health, finance and criminal justice systems," according to Walmart's website.

Walmart, he vowed, was on a "journey in support of racial justice and equity."

One thousand, six hundred twenty-eight days later, that journey is over.

The Center for Racial Equity? Closing. Racial equity training for employees? Not today, Satan. Using the phrase "DEI" in corporate communications? Axed.

Walmart now says it wants to foster "a sense of belonging." Apparently, as journalist Judd Legum quipped on Bluesky, "Walmart has solved racism."

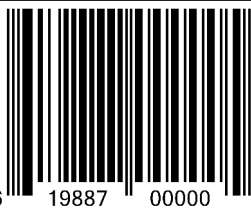
Right-wing anti-DEI activists like Robby Starbuck are popping champagne, claiming they pressured the com-

Please see **WALMART/2A**

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RALT’s Cottages of Idlewild near construction

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“It reflects our core values as a faith community – building not just homes but futures,” he wrote. “Supporting the Idlewild project is our way of living out our faith and demonstrating what’s possible when the community comes together to tackle big challenges.”

St. Michael’s was also the first congregation to make a major donation to King’s Ridge, a 100-unit affordable housing complex for people transitioning out of homelessness.

“Similarly, the Idlewild Cottages project speaks to our passion for preserving the history and character of Raleigh’s historically Black neighborhoods while also expanding the spectrum of affordable housing to include homeownership,” Jones added. “By supporting efforts like these, we hope to encourage other congregations and organizations to join in addressing the urgent need for affordable housing in our city.”

The Tom & Pat Gipson Family Foundation is another RALT partner that

has offered the nonprofit a one-to-one match for up to \$125,000 raised by Dec. 15. Campbell told The Tribune they are less than \$18,000 away from that goal, as of Nov. 22.

“It is just being immediately put to work getting families into homes,” he said. “It’s exciting for us, and I think it would be for donors to know that their funds can make such an immediate difference.”

Mia Khatib is a freelance journalist covering affordable housing for The Tribune.

Riggs declared N.C. Supreme Court winner

Continued from page 1A

needs to immediately concede; losing candidates must respect the will of voters and not needlessly waste state resources.”

This race evokes comparisons to the still unresolved Mississippi Supreme Court District 1 race in which Republican Jenifer Branning leads Democratic incumbent Jim Kitchens by a similarly small margin. That district includes Hinds County, home to the capital city of Jackson, where civil rights leader Medgar Evers was slain outside his home on June 12, 1963 - approximately two years before the U.S. Voting Rights Act of 1965 was passed.

Griffin has contested the voting eligibility of approximately 60,000 voters in this election. The N.C. GOP, on behalf of Griffin, has contacted voters by U.S. mail whose voting eligibility is being questioned. “The people of North Carolina deserve to see these protests resolved in a timely manner. Any delays at the N.C. State Board of Elections would under-

mine voter confidence and transparency,” NCGOP Communications Director Matt Mercer said.

Steve Rawson, Durham County Democratic Party chairman, discussed the Democrats’ cooperation with recount processes in 2020 when Cheri Beasley fell short to Paul Newby by 400 votes for a N.C. Supreme Court seat. “We support that process again for clarity, fairness and transparency,” Rawson said. “There’s also a time to say the result is clear. We’ve reached that time. It’s time for Judge Griffin to concede with grace as Justice Beasley did four years ago.”

The N.C. State Board of Elections has posted on its website contact information for the Griffin and Riggs campaigns for anyone who received a mailing from the N.C. GOP as required by state election law.

Patrick Gannon, on behalf of the NCSBE, and Mercer confirmed the election law requirement that any candidate filing such a voter eligibility protest

must notify potentially impacted voters. The NCSBE did not offer a response to Mercer’s comments about transparency.

Partial hand-to-eye recounts, random samplings of 3% of votes cast in a county, will begin in each county on Dec. 4. Some counties will recount on Dec. 5. Both Wake and Durham counties will hold the recounts at their Board of Elections offices beginning at 10 a.m. Wake County has projected one or two days for its result, while Durham has not made a projection. Recount proceedings are open to the public.

“The county boards of elections have worked and continue to work tirelessly throughout this election and the post-election period, including the recount process,” said Karen Brinson Bell, executive director of the State Board of Elections. “We cannot thank them enough for continuing to ensure voters’ voices are heard and that the results are accurate in the closest contests.”

House Bill 10 settling in for school systems

Continued from page 1A

dollars to support those initiatives, it decreases our ability to focus on the physical plant,” Taylor said of what must be funded per the State Constitution.

HB 10 will stymie one of the state’s most affluent school systems with an ongoing, robust facilities plan beyond continuously resurfacing maintenance. With \$400 million-plus available for private school vouchers, “Why wouldn’t you provide additional support needed for public schools?” WCPSS Board Chair Chris Heagarty asked.

This year’s projected \$3 million budget deficit includes needing to account for increasing food services expenses. These costs, like public school student populations, will fluctuate with full-fledged voucher programs.

Students arriving in public schools after a school year’s 20th day garner no additional per pupil funding or teacher personnel support for the affected schools.

In September, WCPSS Board Vice Chair Monika Johnson-Hostler, elected to the N.C. House of Representatives in November, reminded stakeholders that more than 20% of private school voucher funding ultimately will benefit schools in two counties: Wake and Mecklenburg. As for students in many rural counties underserved by private schools, voucher funding will enable them “to go where?” Johnson-Hostler retorted.

The implications for more than \$400 million



COURTESY

WCPSS Superintendent Robert Taylor.

being cut will extend to athletics and fine arts - statistically proven contributors to enhancing students’ academic achievements. As the N.C. High School Athletic Association Board of Directors meets in Chapel Hill during December’s first week, reducing education-based athletics and fine arts opportunities are not even in conversations for WCPSS and/or Durham Public Schools. Still, underwriting these programs might have a different look. DPS’s high school and middle school athletics programs receive approximately \$10,000 in startup fund-

ing, a nominal fee for all involved expenses, each academic year. “That may have to be supplemented by the districts and the counties,” DPS Athletics Director David Hackney said.

DPS is using a school bus transportation schedule by which students have bus-sing for four days per week from Dec. 2-20.

WCPSS not running buses on Jan. 3 will have a quantifiable, fiscal bottom line impact. Beyond finances and student achievement, Heagarty said of vouchers, “we don’t know the total impact it will have on our school district enrollment.”

Black America doesn’t have to shop at Walmart

Continued from page 1A

pany into ditching its “woke” policies. Starbuck, a former music video director, regularly posts lines like “It’s a fact that DEI is antiwhite,” and “DEI IS racism and deserves to die,” on X.

In a lengthy post on the social media platform, Starbuck insinuated that his conversations with Walmart — the nation’s biggest, most influential retailer — led to this rollback, a move that will “send shockwaves throughout corporate America.”

Walmart touts itself as Black America’s biggest private employer and has long been a retail giant in the Black community. A 2023 analysis by Collage Group identified Walmart as our favorite brand, due to the company’s investments “in Black enrichment, and taking a stance on social matters.”

But here’s the other side of the coin: research revealed that Walmart stores in Black and Latino neighborhoods consistently get worse reviews for service quality. Walmart’s been hit with multiple discrimination lawsuits.

Remember that \$17.5 million class-action lawsuit? Yeah, the 2009 one where Walmart settled claims that it discriminated against Black people trying to get truck driving jobs? That was a thing.

Just two years ago, an Oregon jury ordered Walmart to pay \$4.4 million to a Black man after a white Walmart employee racially profiled and harassed him in one of their stores.

A quick internet search nets plenty of other examples of people suing Walmart over shopping while Black experiences, Black employees suing for being repeatedly passed over for promotions, and Black employees suing because they were being called racial slurs in the workplace.

Let’s call Walmart’s abandoning DEI efforts what it is: a slap in the face to the Black folks who’ve kept its registers ringing for decades. A company that caves to racist attacks coded as “anti-woke” does not respect Black America.



JAMES PARKER

N.C. A&T State University College of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences

NCAT partnering to boost AI literacy among youth

By Brianna Atkinson

WUNC

N.C. A&T State University is one of 10 collaborators in a national Google Initiative to boost AI literacy among youth. The project will focus on K-12 students in the public HBCU’s 4-H program.

NCAT recently became the only public institution in the state to offer a degree in artificial intelligence. Along with teaching college students AI literacy, educators at the university are also working on doing the same with students under 18.

The public HBCU is part of a national Google Initiative to boost AI education. The \$25 million project includes 10 states across the U.S., all working to develop an AI curriculum for K-12 students.

Mark Light is the co-chair of the initiative and the 4-H STEM specialist at NCAT. He said the curriculum will change depending on the students’ age.

Elementary to middle school-aged students will learn about the building blocks of AI, such as how it’s created, where the data comes from and how it’s utilized. Light said one way they plan to teach this information to younger students is through the video game Minecraft.

“Minecraft is one of those things that they get excited about,” Light said. “And so, you do what I call stealth STEM. Where you sneak the STEM into an activity such as a robot, a video game, a drone, something that they find interesting. And then you teach the STEM perspectives, in this case artificial intelligence, by hiding it within a game.”

Since high school students likely have more experience with artificial intelligence, their arm of the curriculum will focus on how to use AI tools responsibly.

Light said there is a lot of fear about students using AI to cheat or shortcut assignments, similar to how the introduction of calculators in the classroom were once looked at as a negative.

“We thought no kids are

going to learn math anymore if we let the calculators into the classroom,” Light said. “Now, most of our high school students have to buy calculators to go to school. And so, if we look at it from that mindset, that AI is a tool and we can use it for positive or negative use, that’s one approach we’re trying to do with this AI education.”

The curriculum will also be shaped by three lenses: agriculture, equity and the foundation of AI. Light said the committee decided on these focus areas to address gaps in AI education and resources that are already available.

Another gap the initiative seeks to address is AI literacy among underserved populations. Light said there are several tech hubs

in North Carolina where neighboring school districts readily have access to AI resources and technology. But that’s not the same for rural parts of the state.

“We have some digital divide,” Light said. “By filling those gaps, then those students become prepared as well for the challenges and careers in their future, and they won’t be left behind.”

N.C. A&T’s 4-H program works in all 100 counties in North Carolina, as well as the Eastern Band of Cherokees.

Overall, North Carolina’s goal is to reach 15,000 youth across the state by the initiative’s end in May 2026. There’s also a goal to train 2,000 adults in AI education within that same time frame.

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Duke University urged to further contribute, partner with Durham

By Emily Chambliss
UNC MEDIA HUB

DURHAM – On a warm September evening in Durham, a crowd gathered under the shadow of the Gothic spires of Duke University's campus. Community organizers, educators and residents filled a small church hall, sharing a simmering frustration. Their voices echoed the same question: What could Durham do with \$50 million?

Fifty million dollars that the Duke Respect Durham initiative, a coalition calling on the university to give more money to the city it calls home, believes Duke owes the city each year. As the second-largest employer in North Carolina with a \$11.6 billion endowment and over \$4 billion in properties, Duke University owns 11% of the land in Durham County, the campaign said. The university has long been a symbol of Durham's economic resurgence. But for many Durham residents, Duke's financial contributions to the city have failed to keep pace with its massive profits — and its outsized impact on the local community.

"We want Duke to be a partner in Durham, but that means entering into a democratic relationship, where there are civic processes to speak back to Duke and hold Duke accountable for the ways they say they're spending their money," Kevin Georgas, local pastor and Duke Divinity School alum, said.

Duke University and Duke Health are 501(c)(3) tax-exempt nonprofits, and are not required to pay taxes on non-commercial properties. While Duke contributes to the local economy in many ways — through jobs, purchasing from local businesses and philanthropy — Duke Respect



COURTESY

Durham asserts that the lack of direct contributions to the city's budget leaves a gap that could otherwise be filled.

The campaign estimates Duke would owe the city \$50 million each year if taxed. In 2022, the university reported paying \$3.7 million in property taxes. Duke Respect Durham aims to push the university into a more democratic, collaborative relationship with the city, calling on it to make voluntary payments in lieu of taxes to contribute its fair share.

PILOTs are voluntary payments made by private, tax-exempt nonprofits as a substitute for paying property taxes. Yale, Johns Hopkins and Cornell universities are among several universities that have chosen to make annual PILOTs to their local communities. Duke, the campaign argues, should do the same.

"They are exempt from paying this large thing which every other resident in Durham, every business in Durham, needs to pay," Samantha Heller, Cornell alumna and Durham resident, said. "It's sort of like

an unfair system, especially considering that Duke has vast amounts of wealth."

In a Monday email to UNC Media Hub, Adam Klein, Duke associate vice president for economic development, said the university shares in the future of Durham and its challenges. Duke pays nearly \$2.5 billion in wages to more than 35,000 Durham residents. Klein said these residents make purchases and pay taxes that generate \$8.9 billion in sales for Durham County, on top of \$233 million spent with Durham-based businesses and \$10.1 million contributed to Durham-based nonprofits by the university in 2023.

"Duke's spending with Durham-based companies and investments in nonprofits is one of, if not the largest, of any private Durham entities. And we're not done," Klein wrote. "We are launching a new economic inclusion effort focused on deepening Duke's impact as an employer and purchaser of goods and services in Durham."

Duke Respect Durham criticizes the university for

contributing to the city "on their own terms." Residents engage in improving the community while also paying taxes.

"It's all on Duke's terms," Mark Gutay, a Durham native, said. "It's not about helping Durham directly. It's about helping Duke. And then maybe it's like a side effect. Some people in Durham get a benefit. A good example is they've really nicely manicured their campus and make it open to everybody. But since we don't have good public transit, only people within like five blocks can get there."

Durham residents have long struggled with poverty. Almost 13% of the city's population lives below the poverty line, above the national average. Disinvestment in education and health, such as teacher shortages and a lack of health care access, exacerbate economic and racial inequalities. The campaign calls this path unsustainable, and states it will continue as long as Duke maintains an "undemocratic" relationship with Durham.

BUSINESS BRIEFS



COURTESY

Mira Raleigh CHAMBER

The Chamber's next Business After Hours hosted by Innovate Carolina Junction is Dec. 11, 5-7 p.m., 137 E. Franklin St.

MARKETS:

- * Holiday Market at The Durham Hotel is Dec. 11, 6-9 p.m., 315 E. Chapel Hill St. Tickets at eventbrite.com.
- * North Hills Holiday Market is Dec. 14, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., Midtown Park at North Hills, 4203 Cardinal Grove Boulevard
- * Holistic Holiday Market is Dec. 14, noon to 5 p.m., Pure Soul, 4125 Durham Chapel Hill Boulevard

EXPO

Black Market Expo is Dec. 15, noon to 5 p.m., Doubletree by Hilton, 2805 Highlands Blvd.

OPENINGS:

- * Mira Raleigh, a luxury apartment community, recently celebrated its official opening. The 288-unit building is in the heart of downtown Raleigh, between Kindley Street and Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard.
- * High Rail, a rooftop bar and restaurant atop the Hyatt House Raleigh Downtown at Seaboard Station, has opened to the public.
- * The Bar at DBCo's ribbon cutting is Dec. 10, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Durham Bottling Company, 506 Ramseur St.

Send business briefs to info@triangletribune.com.



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LEGAL NOTICES



LEGAL NOTICE

Partial Roof Replacement at Durham County Southwest Library

RFP No. 25-019

The County of Durham will receive sealed proposals for qualified Contractor(s) to establish a contract to provide Partial Roof Replacement at Durham County Southwest Library on January 21, 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.

A SITE VISIT will be held at 10:00 A.M. Eastern Time, on December 19, 2024, meeting at Durham County Southwest Regional Library, 3605 Shannon Road, Durham, North Carolina 27701.

An electronic copy of this Request for Proposal (RFP) can be obtained from Durham County's eBid System located under Bid Opportunities <https://www.dconnc.gov/county-departments/departments-f-z/finance/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.

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

he 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.

Publication Date: December 8, 2024



LEGAL NOTICE

Fire Alarm Replacement-Multiple County Facilities

RFP No. 25-018

The County of Durham will receive sealed proposals for qualified Contractor(s) to establish a contract to provide fire alarm system replacements at the following locations- Community Shelter- 412 Liberty St., Fire and Rescue Station 82- 1724 South Miami Boulevard, Fire and Rescue Station 85- 4200 Farrington Rd., East Regional Library- 211 Lick Creek Lane, EMS Station 6- 226 Milton Rd., and North Regional Library- 221 Milton Rd. on January 7, 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.

A SITE VISIT will be held at 10:00 A.M. Eastern Time, on December 10, 2024. Location will be determined at a later date for the contractors desiring to visit the sites. An electronic copy of this Request for Proposal (RFP) can be obtained from Durham County's eBid System located under Bid Opportunities <https://www.dconnc.gov/county-departments/departments-f-z/finance/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.

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COURTESY

Over 100 actors, singers, dancers and musicians will perform.

Black Nativity Durham returns to Hillside

STAFF REPORTS

DURHAM - One of the top holiday traditions for the city of Durham, Black Nativity Durham is a soulful, gospel musical that celebrates the birth of Jesus Christ and exhibits the true reason for the Christmas season.

Black Nativity Durham is adapted from the musical Black Nativity, which was written by Langston Hughes and is an African American perspective of the Nativity story from the

Gospels.

Durham's Black Nativity features a cast of over 100 of some of the Triangle's most talented singers, dancers, actors and musicians from various churches, joining together on one stage to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ.

Black Nativity Durham is directed by Wendell Tabb and music directed by Xavier Cason in association with Triangle Performance Ensemble.

It will be performed Dec.

20-22 at the John H. Gattis-Wendell Tabb Theater, Hillside High School, 3727 Fayetteville St. The performance dates and times are Dec. 20 at 8 p.m.; Dec. 21 at 3 and 8 p.m.; and Dec. 22 at 3 p.m.

Tickets can be purchased online at <http://www.blacknativity-durham.com/>.

For more information and fundraising opportunities for groups, organizations and churches, call 919-906-0840.



7 uses for witch hazel that changes your life

BLACKDOCTOR.ORG

Witch hazel, a type of plant native to North America, is a member of the Hamamelidaceae plant family. Sometimes also called winter bloom, the leaves and bark from the plant are used to make a skin-healing astringent that's capable of naturally reducing acne, blisters, insect bites, poison ivy, inflammation and much more.

It goes back to being widely used for medicinal purposes by American Indians. Now, many more people swear by it too. Here are some of the favorite uses for this wonder product:

*** Fights adult and child acne:** As a natural home remedy for acne, applying witch hazel to acne-prone skin can help slow down inflammation, redness, oiliness and bleeding. As a natural cleanser, it's capable of reducing bacteria growth on the skin and speeds up the time needed to heal infections or scabs. Another benefit for sensitive skin is that it reduces the look of pores (although no product can actually shrink pores) and helps stop excess oil production, sweating, and the development of blackheads or whiteheads, which can contribute to embarrassing breakouts.

Instead of opening up a pimple and making the

problem worse, apply witch hazel directly to the skin wherever you notice a zit or breakout forming. It's even more effective when used in combination with other antibacterials like tea tree oil, coconut oil or apple cider vinegar.

*** Clears puffy eyes quickly:** Puffy eyes are another common skin problem that many people face. It can be caused by allergies, stress, overindulging in alcohol, sun exposure, cigarette smoking and many other factors. The next time you wake up and find yourself with puffy eyes, be sure to have some witch hazel around, and you'll have a quick fix for that problem.

*** Hair and scalp cleanser:** Want to grow longer, stronger, more beautiful hair? Use witch hazel on your hair to help reduce oil buildup, which leaves your hair shinier, healthier and more volumized. It's also great for removing hair odors, helping with an irritated scalp or speeding up healing from any bites or acne at the base of the neck when you're prone to sweating. Add several drops to your shampoo or make your own hair wash using coconut oil, argan oil, witch hazel and other cleansing essential oils like lemon or orange oil.

*** Underarm dark spot remover:** Witch hazel can also be used as a natural

deodorant that also doubles as a dark spot remover under your arms. To use it instead of your regular stick or aerosol deodorant, pour a generous amount onto a large cotton pad and dab liberally under arms, letting it dry before dressing. For those with thick underarm hair, using witch hazel in a spray bottle to thoroughly penetrate the hair.

*** Eczema soother:** Witch hazel can help, thanks to its anti-inflammatory properties. It not only helps stop that incessant itching, but it improves symptoms like scaling, redness, burning and even scarring. Simply apply witch hazel onto affected areas of the skin twice a day.

*** Hemorrhoid healer:** Witch hazel acts as a hemorrhoids home remedy. You can apply witch hazel water to the skin to help lower pain and inflammation caused by uncomfortable hemorrhoids. It's useful for relieving itching, irritation, bleeding and burning from hemorrhoids as well.

*** Protects skin from air pollution:** Because of its pore-minimizing benefits, witch hazel may offer skin protection against pollutants in the air. By applying witch hazel at the start of the day, you can help prepare your face for the pollutants to which it will be exposed throughout the day.

AROUND THE TRIANGLE

KNIGHTDALE VENDOR FAIR

Knightdale Christmas Parade Vendor Fair is Dec. 14, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Re-wind Retrobar, 319 N. First Ave.

RALEIGH CELEBRATION

Celebrate all of the holidays Dec. 13, 5-7 p.m., Barwell Road Community center, 5857 Barwell Park Drive.

MARKET

Holiday Market is Dec. 14, 2-6 p.m., 3300 Woman's Club Drive.

SHAW UNIVERSITY

"This CHRISTmas" HBCU edition is Dec. 14, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., Spaulding Gymnasium, 118 E. South St. Toys, haircuts and more.

WALK

Winter Lantern Walk is Dec. 14, 4:30-6:30 p.m., Museum of Art, 2110 Blue Ridge Road.

DURHAM QUILT

Durham Homicide and Victims of Violent Death Memorial Quilt exhibit by artist Sidney Brodie is being shown through Dec. 30 at the Durham Co. Human Services Building, 414 E. Main St.

VILLAGE

The Holiday Village returns to Streets at Southpoint Dec. 8, noon to 3 p.m., Center Court.

OPEN HOUSE

Holiday open house is Dec. 8, 1-5 p.m., West Point on the Eno, 5105 N. Roxboro St.

TOYS & BOOKS

Durham Fire Department's annual Toys and Books for Rides is Dec. 8, noon to 4 p.m., Northgate Mall.

LIBRARY

Stanford L. Warren Branch Library will reopen Dec. 12 after a year of renovations, 1201 Fayetteville St.

PARADE

Durham Holiday Parade is Dec. 14, 10 a.m. to noon, Main Street downtown.

CONCERT

Yolanda Rabun - Songs of Holiday Cheer is Dec. 14, 8 p.m., Missy Lane's Assembly Room, 310 E. Main St., Suite 100. Tickets at www.etix.com.

Durham's DJ NABS announces new album in '25

By Kennedy McClaine

SPECIAL TO THE TRIBUNE

DURHAM - Global DJ legend, producer and Durham's 2024 Homegrown Hero, DJ NABS, under new moniker, NABS, is set to drop his next digital project, T3, on indie label Em City Recordings in early 2025.

Collaborating with activist/artist TheCause2K, the duo is leading the landscape of contemporary hip-hop with raw lyricism, intricate beats and original scratch compositions.

TheCause2K and NABS began building this music movement in 2021. Following the release of their first studio album, The Take Over 2, the DJ and emcee continue their mission of uplifting humanity and preserving the original intent of hip-hop. The T3 project returns rap to its original roots, pays tribute to the lost culture of hip-hop, and gives a "straight, no chaser" attitude towards addressing the current state of the world.

Joining the two veterans of hip-hop on this bold journey is songwriter/producer/artist Charles Louis Rosario, who is credited with producing, writing and recording vocals on several tracks throughout the project.

The lead single, "IJS," is an anthem that stands on its own. The track gives listeners an unapologetic perspective into the mistreatment of citizens by the government. "IJS" supplies listeners with content for engaging in conversation with their family, friends and colleagues about mobilizing



COURTESY

Durham's 2024 Homegrown Hero DJ NABS.

for social change.

The vision for T3 is to ignite a new wave of creativity among artists and return to the foundational principles that made hip-hop so impactful and influential. The album includes features by Atlanta's, Khujo Goodie of Crunk, Chyna Whyte and more. Returning for his second appearance in The Take Over series is emerging emcee Sir Baggumz, aka Bobby Baggumz, featured on the single "Dat 808."

How to keep kids' minds active during the holiday break and beyond

STATEPOINT

Even a short vacation from school can cause learning loss and leave kids feeling behind when they return to the classroom.

Fortunately, there are many ways to keep minds active during the holiday break, some of which will reinforce the concepts they are learning in school. Here are a few:

*** Vacation reading:** Whether you're traveling for the holidays or sticking close to home, curling up with a book is a great way to spend some of the inevitable down time. At the start of the break, hit up the library so everyone in the family will have plenty to read on subjects of interest to them. You might also consider giving at least one title to each gift recipient on your list this year to emphasize the idea that books can be treasured objects.

*** Online math tools:** Casio's suite of engaging education resources can help ensure students keep up their skills during the holidays. Those with the fx-9750GIII graphing calculator or other easy-to-use models with hundreds of functions will find plenty to challenge them when they check out Casio's expansive resource



library of activities, Python programs and more, all of which are available for free online. From calculating slopes and finding derivatives to evaluating inferences and predications based on data, the resource includes exercises for every area of mathematical focus, including calculus, geometry and statistics.

*** Historical day trip:** Take a day trip to a historic site to bring the past to life. Whether you visit a battlefield, the home of a notable figure or a historically preserved city center, your trip will provoke discussion and keep minds engaged. If taking a scheduled tour is not possible due to limited holiday hours, do a bit of research on the site beforehand to

give your family more context about what they will be seeing. This will make the trip more enjoyable and engaging.

*** Exercise:** Staying active is not just good for physical health, it's also good for the mind and soul. With no P.E. class on the schedule however, kids may be missing out on their daily dose of exercise. Be sure to go on a walk or bike ride each day or get out in the yard for fun. If the weather is frightful, stay home and do an exercise class on YouTube.

This holiday season, balancing educational and healthy activities with fun and relaxation can help ensure your students return to school focused, engaged and ready to start a brand new semester.

9 HBCU coaching jobs, and counting

Before this crazy HBCU coaching week started, I promised Virginia Union an apology.

After the NCAA Division II playoff seeds were released, I didn't give the Panthers a chance of winning a game. And on the road, too? Shoot, they couldn't win at home the previous two years as the higher seed.

But there they go, off to Valdosta State this weekend looking for their third straight road win! And senior running back Jada Byers is one of four finalists for the Harlon Hill Trophy, given to the top DII player in the nation.

So, VUU, I'm sorry for doubting you. One suggestion, however: You might want to play all of your playoff games on the road in the future.



BONITTA BEST

Honk if you've been fired

As of Dec. 4, nine HBCU football coaches have either been fired or reassigned. The SWAC is responsible for six of the nine. And, no, I'm not going to mention for the umpteenth time the two coaches responsible for all of this mayhem.

Elizabeth City State opened up the floodgates with the departure of Marcus Hilliard, followed by Lane College a day later.

Prairie View A&M sent Bubba McDowell packing, and Norfolk State reassigned Dawson Odums.

Alabama A&M coach Connell Maynor heard the gong on Tuesday. Maynor's claim to fame in seven seasons is winning the SWAC championship in the 2021 pandemic spring season.

But even then, AAMU earned little respect. Critics like sports broadcaster Jay Walker gave the title little credibility since the Bulldogs only played five regular season games, and declared defending champion Alcorn State as the true SWAC champion. They may have been on to something since Maynor produced just one winning season after 2021.

Delaware State lost two athletic administrators on Tuesday. Athletic director Alecia Shields-Gadson announced she was leaving "to pursue other opportunities." Following her out the door was football coach Lee Hull who won just two games in two seasons.

The Hornets' last MEAC title occurred in 2007. Supporters say the money is there, but the previous two coaches were not recruiters. And if you can recruit, well, bye!

Shaw's release of Adrian Jones after eight seasons was a bit of a surprise. I thought last year was going to be his walking papers after a second straight losing season.

The Bears looked promising against Albany State in September but reverted back to self-destruction against VUU, Winston-Salem State and Johnson C. Smith. Jones did snap his winless streak against Fayetteville State and defeated Livingstone to end the season 6-4 overall.

But Jones never won a division title. A campus source said it was just time for a change after a thorough review of his program.

Vincent Brown won two games in two seasons and zero CAA matchups. Heck, N.C. A&T couldn't win in the Big South (now Big South-OVC) conference, so why did folks think the tougher CAA was going to be any different?

Mississippi Valley State coach Kendrick Wade also was fired after two seasons. The Delta Devils went 2-21 under Wade, although they did upset Florida A&M this year to end the Rattlers' 23-game home winning streak. But nobody is going to win at MVSU. It is the Lincoln (Pa.) of the CIAA.

Athletic directors went crazy after Deion Sanders was hired by Jackson State, thinking any ex-NFLer can coach. The clock has struck midnight on that misguided philosophy.

Now maybe they'll actually look at a candidate's coaching experience instead of his game stats.

The Triangle Tribune Sports

December 8-14, 2024 | 6A

Champion Durham Classic



DURHAM SPORTS COMMISSION

The fourth annual Champion Durham Classic was held last month at Hillside High School. Participating teams included Jordan High School, Dudley High School, Atlantic Shores Christian School, Washington High School, Hillside High School and Cardinal Gibbons.

Girls MVP: Ashlyn Hudson, Southern
Boys MVP: Julian Lowe, Jordan

Girls All-Tournament Team

Janiah Terry, Dudley
Charlotte Fusco, Cardinal Gibbons
Kimora Haith, Dudley
Mckenzy Green, Hillside
Jakayla Palmer, Southern

Boys All-Tournament Team

Nick Farrow, Lee County
Justin Jones, Atlantic Shores
Jackson Keith, Southern
Bryce Hill, Jordan
Justin Morgan, Hillside

DPS Middle School Championship



DPS

The Shepard Panthers defeated the Neal Eagles, 14-0, last month to win the DPS Middle School Football Championship.

HBCU FOOTBALL

Virginia Union keeps making CIAA proud

By Bonitta Best
editor@triangletribune.com

And then there was one. Virginia Union's defense shut down Lenoir-Rhyne to help the Panthers advance to the NCAA Division II quarterfinals. VUU travels to No. 1-seed and undefeated Valdosta State this weekend.

N.C. Central

The Eagles may lose a top star. Graduate running back J'Mari Taylor has entered the transfer portal. Taylor rushed for over 1,100 yards and 15 touchdowns this season.

Teammate defensive end Darius "Juju" Williams added his name on Wednesday. Williams is looking to transfer to his fourth team

after stints at Middle Tennessee State and Indiana State before enrolling at NCCU.

Former head coach Jerry Mack has been hired to lead Kennesaw State. Mack, who coached at NCCU from 2014-17 and won three conference titles, had stints as a running backs coach at Tennessee and at the NFL's Jacksonville Jaguars after leaving the Eagles.

"I am grateful and honored to be entrusted as the leader and standard bearer of our team," Mack said in a statement. "I'm looking forward to helping our young men build on the success of our program, obtain degrees, win championships and develop into great citizens."

Please see VIRGINIA/7A

COLLEGE CORNER

Hampton women score major upset over Georgia

With most of fall sports done and basketball on a limited schedule for the holidays, CC is combining all the sports this week except for football, which is an animal all its own.

WOMEN

N.C. Central (0-10)

The Eagles return to the court Dec. 11 when Presbyterian comes to Durham. It's an early game at 11 a.m.

NCCU's tough nonconference schedule continues with a road trip to Tennessee Dec. 14.

Shaw

The weather may have been nice, but their opponents weren't hospitable. The Bears lost back-to-back games to Nova Southeastern and Palm Beach Atlantic last weekend in Florida. Shaw was held to 56 points by both teams.

The Bears host Virginia State Dec. 9 at 6 p.m., looking for revenge from the 82-49 thrashing VSU put on them Nov. 17. That loss didn't count in the conference standings, but Monday night's matchup will.

Shaw travels to nationally ranked Norfolk State Dec. 12 at 11 a.m.

In bowling, Brooke Smith was named CIAA Food Lion Bowler of the Month.

Hampton

What a win for the Pirates! Down 16 in the fourth quarter to Georgia, Hampton rallied to send the game into overtime and won it on a Tyra Kennedy jumper. Not only did it snap a four-game losing streak, but it's the first win over a Power Four opponent since 2019.

Please see HAMPTON/7A



Hampton guard Tyra Kennedy hit the winning shot against Georgia.

COURTESY



Hampton scores upset

Continued from page 6A

"Tyra heard my voice, she's been really good about that," first-year coach Tamisha Augustin said. "The band was yelling, it was loud, and my voice was getting drowned out. She head me saying let it fly. I told them, 'Make or miss, I am going to ride with you, but if you hear me, let it fly.'"

Delaware State

The MEAC champs will face No. 1-seed Penn State Dec. 6 in the NCAA Volleyball Tournament. You knew they were going to get the top team in the nation, right?

N.C. A&T

For mid-major volleyball teams that don't make the NCAA, the season doesn't have to end. The National Invitational Volleyball Championship is a 28-team field that runs Dec. 4-18.

Jackson State and N.C. A&T had their seasons extended. The Aggies take on St. John's Dec. 7 on University of Virginia's campus. The Tigers met SF Austin Dec. 5.

Also, A&T coach Hal Clifton earned the CAA Coach of the Year Award.

MEN

N.C. Central (3-6)

As expected, the Eagles had little trouble with Carolina University (91-36)

and Virginia-Lynchburg (131-51). The team travels to Gardner-Webb this weekend and a Tuesday contest at West Virginia. Both games on ESPN+.

Shaw

The Bears (5-4) rebounded from a tough two-point loss at Paine College to defeat Virginia State, 66-62, Tuesday night in nonconference action. Shaw overcame a nine-point halftime deficit. Trent McIntyre led four Bears in double figures with 16 points.

Shaw begins CIAA play this weekend when Elizabeth City State comes to Spaulding. Then it's a rematch with the Trojans at home Monday night.

Virginia Union moves on

Continued from page 6A

izens that our KSU family will be proud of."

MEAC

The MEAC released its postseason honors last week.

South Carolina State's Nick Taiste and Chennis Berry were named offensive lineman of the year and coach of the year, respectively. Morgan State's Jason Collins Jr. earned rookie of the year honors.

The MEAC offensive and defensive players of the year will be announced on ESPN+ Dec. 10 at noon during the National Football Foundation Annual Awards Press Conference.

SWAC

The SWAC Championship Game is this weekend with the winner advancing to next weekend's Cricket Celebration Bowl against South Carolina State. As the top seed, Jackson State will host Southern, which is coming off a thrilling Bayou Classic victory over rival Grambling State.

The conference announced its postseason honors:

- * Coach of the year: T.C. Taylor, Jackson State
- * Offensive player of the year: Irv Mulligan, JSU
- * Co-defensive player of the year: Kkelby Givens, Southern
- * Co-defensive player of the year: Andrew Jones, Grambling State
- * Newcomer of the year: Daniel Richardson, Florida A&M
- * Freshman of the year: Travis Terrell Jr., JSU

The Long Goodbye

Miles College ended an outstanding season at top-ranked Valdosta State, 33-17. The Golden Bears close out the season with an undefeated conference record, the most wins in a season (10-3), the most consecutive wins (10) and a first appearance in the Division II playoffs.

Tennessee State gave Montana all it could handle in a 41-27 first-round loss. The Tigers' season ends at 9-4 with a co-championship of the Big South-OVC Conference and Eddie George being named conference coach of the year.

Eddie Robinson

Three HBCU coaches were among the 15 finalists for the 2024 Eddie Robinson Award, presented to the top FCS foot-



Virginia Union keeps on truckin'.



Former N.C. Central coach Jerry Mack.

ball coach.

- * Chennis Berry, South Carolina State
- * Eddie George, Tennessee State
- * T.C. Taylor, Jackson State

Jerry Rice

Three HBCU players were among the 25 finalists for the Jerry Rice Award, given to the top freshman in FCS football.

- * Jason Collins Jr., Morgan State
- * Travis Terrell Jr., Jackson State
- * Sanders Ellis, Tennessee State

Buck Buchanan

Five HBCU players were among the 35 finalists for the Buck Buchanan Award for the best FCS defensive player.

- * Kkelby Givens, Southern
- * Elijah Williams, Morgan State
- * Andrew Jones, Grambling State
- * Kenny Gallop Jr., Howard
- * Jalen McClendon, Tennessee State

Walter Payton

Four HBCU players were among the 35 finalists for the Walter Payton Award presented to the FCS offensive player of the year.

- * Eric Phoenix, South Carolina State
- * Daniel Richardson, Florida A&M
- * Irv Mulligan, Jackson State
- * J'Mari Taylor, N.C. Central

LIBERIAN CONNECTION ACTIVITY SHEET

Hi Everyone!

I bring you greetings from my Liberian connection, Saqar Ahhah and DenTut Rayay. They live in Liberia and have helped me learn things I never knew about this beautiful nation and about the world of "Rappers".

LET'S GO AND CELEBRATE! GET YOUR VISAS READY!

Liberian President George Manneh Weah celebrated the founding of Liberia in 1822 by announcing a year-long BICENTENNIAL THAT BEGAN JANUARY 2022 AND RAN THROUGH DECEMBER 2022! The year 2022 was of high symbolic significance as it commemorated 200 years since the first group of freed African American slaves touched down on what came to be known as Providence Island, " said President Weah.

WHAT'S MY SIZE?

Liberia is slightly larger than which American state listed below?

Texas Connecticut Tennessee California

Their company is M.C.W.A.R. LLC, which stands for "Masters in the Community Check the World Association of Rappers". This is an online digital company presenting rappers sharing what they live to write about. As leaders in the official sport of "Battle Rap", they are reaching 2 million millennials around the world.

Internationally known as "Africa's Iron Lady", Ellen Johnson Sirleaf is the first female president of Liberia & Nobel Peace Laureate.

FACTS ABOUT LIBERIA

Place a T for true or an F for false next to the statements about Liberia.

- ___ Liberia was founded by freed African American slaves.
- ___ Liberia is bordered by Sierra Leone, Guinea, Ivory Coast and the Atlantic Ocean.
- ___ Liberia is Africa's youngest republic.
- ___ The Liberian flag looks more like the flag of France than the flag of the United States.
- ___ Most Liberians speak English.

WHAT IS RAPPING?

Rapping, which originated in the African American community, is a musical form of speaking audibly by using rhyme, rhythmic speech and "street" terms. It is performed or chanted in many different styles over a beat or accompanied by music. The main parts of rap include content, how it flows and how it is delivered. This type of music usually has a fast rhythm in which the words are spoken instead of sung.

A CALL TO RAPPERS!

Share a "positive message" rap song you have written by connecting with KEMETCOMIC.COM and get published in an upcoming activity sheet! Make sure you include your contact information (name, age, state, email).

OUR LIBERIAN CONNECTION

The West African country of Liberia, which means "land of the free", was founded in 1822 by freed African American slaves from the United States. Eighty-six African American immigrants established the first settlement in Christopolis. The city was later renamed Monrovia after President James Monroe.

Liberia's first president was American born, Joseph Jenkins Roberts. He was an African-American merchant from Virginia who emigrated to Liberia in 1829, and opened a trading firm in Monrovia. He was elected as the first President of Liberia and was the first man of African descent to govern the country. Brought back by popular demand, he was later elected again as the seventh President of Liberia.

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LIBERIAN CONNECTION, 12/8/24, #180 WWW.JOEYOUNG.ORG KEMET ACTIVITY SHEETS © 2024 BY JOE YOUNG

FRATERNITY NEWS



COURTESY

John Lucas

Honoring John Lucas
John Lucas turned 104 years old on Nov. 7. Born in 1920 in Rocky Mount, he was initiated in the Delta Psi Chapter of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Dec. 14, 1937, at 17 years old. Mr. Lucas is the oldest living member of Omega Psi Phi by age of initiation and birth. Mr. Lucas was an educator for over 60 years as a teacher, and principal at Orange Street Elementary School and Mary Potter School in Oxford, and Hillside High School. He is a World War II veteran. From 1961-72, he served as the director of N.C. National Education Association. He fought for the integration of the whites-only North Carolina Education Association and the Black North Carolina Teachers Association, proposing what came to be known as the "Lucas Concept." Mr. Lucas was also elected to the first school

board of the newly merged Durham County school system, and was president of Shaw University.

Omegas of Cary, Raleigh chapters
A featured keynote address from Cedric Luckey, 44th Sixth District Representative, as well as a robust public forum to discuss the recent elections, highlighted the Achievement Week events led by the Xi Mu Mu Chapter (Cary), in partnership with the Iota Iota Chapter (Raleigh), of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity.
With the week's theme of "Omega Men Building a Better Society with Friendship as the Foundation," the chapters began the week worshipping at the Fountain of Raleigh Fellowship Church. On Monday, Xi Mu Mu brothers rolled up their sleeves for an annual Feeding the Community Day initiative in

Southern Wake County. Members joined forces with staff from Operation Nahyelle, a nonprofit organization serving underserved communities.
The Achievement Week banquet was held last month at Martin Street Baptist Church's Family Life Center.
The award nominees:
* High school essay contest winners: Gabrielle Coe, Xi Mu Mu nominee, and Joshua Monden, Iota Iota nominee
* Organization of the year: Clarence E. Lightner Y-Achievers Program
* Citizen of the year: District Court Judge Ashleigh Parker
* Superior Service award: Weston Wills
* Founders Lifetime Achievement award: Issac J. Fleming
* Omega man of the year: Otis M. Harvey

HBCU NEWS




COURTESY

N.C. CENTRAL
Kwame Molden, co-founder and president of Springbreak Watches, a designer watch brand known for affordable timepieces, will keynote NCCU's 144th commencement on Dec. 13.
SPGBK draws inspiration from its community and from Molden's own Fayetteville upbringing. Driven by his passion for education, Molden has led SPGBK to remarkable growth, landing major retail distribution in over 350 stores, including Nordstrom, Macy's, Belk and Nordstrom Rack.

In 2023, SPGBK was named one of Oprah's Favorite Things and has been featured by "Good Morning America," Oprah Daily, The New York Times, AfroTech and more.
Molden's commitment to giving back led him to donate more than \$35,000 worth of watches to teachers and staff nationwide, including at his alma mater, E.E. Smith High School, as part of SPGBK's Annual School Giving program.
Molden has led operational improvements for Fortune 100 companies in

finance and retail, designing technology solutions and managing projects in the Charlotte area. He earned his Bachelor of Science in information technology from N.C. A&T State University and an MBA in marketing from UNC Charlotte.
NCCU's commencement begins with the graduate and professional ceremony at 9 a.m., followed by the baccalaureate ceremony at 2 p.m. in McDougald-McLendon Arena. Both ceremonies will stream live on the university's website and YouTube channel.



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SCHOOL NEWS



WAKE COUNTY
Green Level High School was named to the 2024 ESPN Honor Roll, a distinction given to the top Special Olympics Unified Champion Schools programs in each participating state, SONC President/CEO Keith L. Fishburne says.
"We're thrilled to have received National Banner and ESPN Honor Roll recognition for our Unified efforts," assistant principal Darren Williams said. "Over the last few years, in particular, our students and staff have taken ownership of our commitment to inclusion and are consistently coming up with new ways to engage and advocate."

On Nov. 13, ESPN recognized 207 schools from across the country for meeting national standards of excellence in the areas of inclusion, advocacy and respect. Selected as the top school in the state of North Carolina, Green Level High School earned its place on this year's ESPN Honor Roll.
Green Level High School is among four Special Olympics North Carolina Unified Champion Schools to have received national banner recognition in 2024, an achievement earned by their efforts to provide inclusive sports and activities for students with and without intellectual disabilities.

"Perhaps the most exciting thing about Unified programs at Green Level is that we're just getting started. Our goals for this school year include increasing Unified Club membership, adding a second Unified Sport and an inclusive lunch initiative," Williams said.
The aim of Special Olympics Unified Champion Schools is to incorporate Special Olympics sports, leadership and related activities that empower youth to be the agents of change in their communities.
Thus, the focus shifts from the events to that of a whole school movement for inclusion.

North Carolinians among Black Achievers honorees

STAFF REPORTS

The Adinkra Alliance Institute recently announced its 2024 Adinkra Distinguished Black Achievers from North Carolina.
This recognition celebrates Black leaders whose outstanding contributions have made a lasting impact on their communities, inspiring progress and positive change.
Their tireless dedication and innovative efforts continue to uplift their communities and exemplify the spirit of resilience, innovation and excellence that defines the Black community.

The honorees are:

* Chelsea C. Williams, founder and CEO, Reimage Talent Co.

* Eugene Woods, chief executive officer, Advocate Health
* Ju-Don Marshall, president and CEO, WFAE
* Julian Donna, executive vice president and general manager, Spectrum Center under Hornets Sports & Entertainment
* L.T. McCrimmon, senior director and head of the Government Affairs practice, APCO Worldwide
* Malcomb Coley, central private leader and Charlotte managing partner, Ernst & Young LLP
* Rashad Johnson, Senior vice president, Atrium Health
* Ray Trapp, vice president of strategic engagement, the Research Triangle Foundation of

North Carolina
* Shaundra Daily, Cue Family Professor of the Practice
* Tony Coles, chairperson of the Board of Directors, Cerevel Therapeutics
"The honorees from North Carolina exemplify the highest standards of leadership and service. They inspire us all through their relentless commitment to bettering their communities and advancing the cause of Black excellence.
It is our great privilege to honor and celebrate their remarkable achievements," said Richard Seshie, Adinkra Alliance Institute president.

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