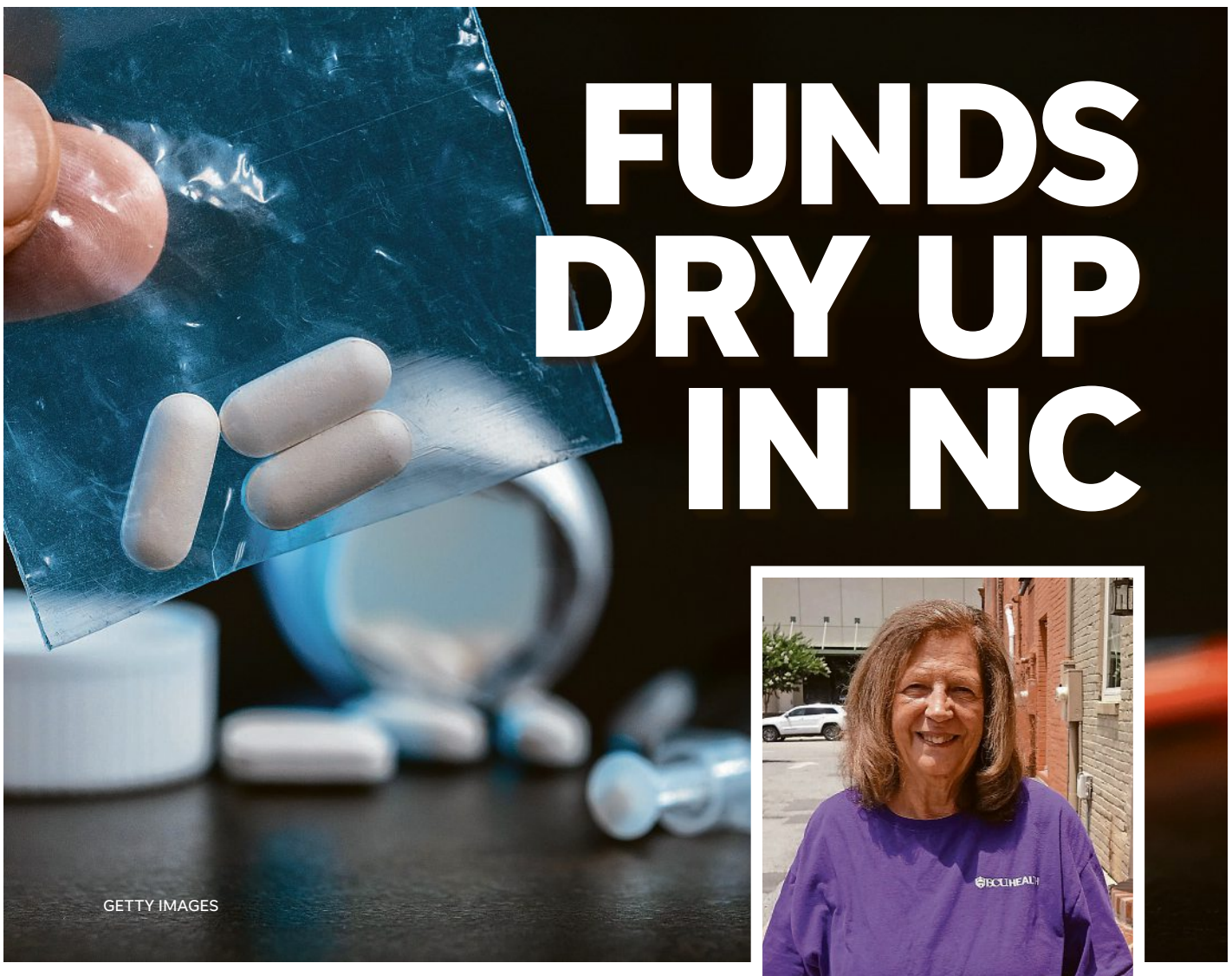


Column: Rivers is a four-letter-word hire

SPORTS, 1B

Times News WEEKEND
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FEDERAL BUDGET CUTS HURT EFFORTS TO STOP OVERDOSES FROM TAINTED STREET DRUGS

Taylor Sisk KFF Health News

GREENVILLE — When the federal funding ran dry, Diannee Carden Glenn's options were few. ● Carden Glenn is the director of ekiM for Change, a volunteer-run public health organization that works to prevent overdoses in Greenville and surrounding rural communities. For much of the past decade, she relied on funding from the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration to buy drug test strips, used to check for contaminants in the street-drug supply.

But in April, the federal agency sent out a "Dear Colleague" letter announcing that organizations like hers could no longer use its money to buy test strips for fentanyl, xylazine, medetomidine, or other substances that heighten the risk of overdose, particularly when the user is unaware of what they're consuming.

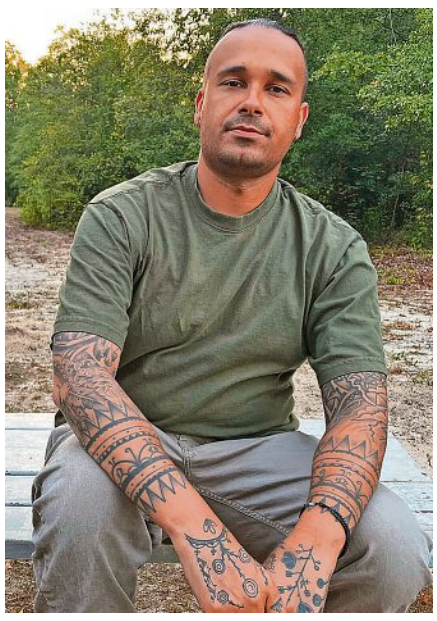
RESEARCH HAS INDICATED THAT PEOPLE WHO USE TEST STRIPS ARE MORE LIKELY TO ENGAGE WITH OTHER HARM REDUCTION SERVICES AND STRATEGIES, SUCH AS CARRYING NALOXONE AND NOT USING DRUGS ALONE.

Carden Glenn's options?

"Well, I'm 81 years old, and I get Social Security," she said, "so I use my Social Security. And I'm lucky to have a husband who can support me." She also has other retirement income; she allocates that to

See OVERDOSES, Page 2A

Diannee Carden Glenn is the director of ekiM for Change, a volunteer-run public health organization in eastern North Carolina. With federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration funding no longer available for street-drug test strips, she must now come up with the money on her own.
PHOTOS BY TAYLOR SISK/KFF HEALTH NEWS



Kaya Littleturtle is the program manager for the Good Mind Initiative, which provides services to Indigenous communities across North and South Carolina..

China puts AI at the heart of its classrooms

Tech transforms learning but sparks concerns, too

Laurie Chen and Xiuyuan Ning
REUTERS

BEIJING – At a top private school in Beijing, 13-year-old Peng Gaodi has used artificial intelligence to build more than 200 apps, including a homework-submission platform and a secondhand marketplace. He pitches ideas to real investors, idolizes Elon Musk and hopes to become a computer scientist.

Around him, classmates program humanoid robots to play soccer, attend coding workshops and train on flight simulators. Posters across the 30-acre boarding school campus encourage students to "create a virtual world in five minutes with AI vibe coding."

"In the past, if I couldn't solve a problem at home, I'd have to call my teacher, which increases their workload," Peng said. "But now I can just ask AI to help me learn better. It noticeably improved my learning efficiency."

Rare access granted to Reuters at the $39,000-a-year Beijing New Talent Academy offered a window into China's push to weave AI into education. The school, which serves more than 2,000 students, has built its own digital innovation curriculum covering AI, robotics and programming, and developed a classroom AI model incorporating features from popular Chinese systems.

The academy represents the sharp end of a broader transformation. With almost 200 million students enrolled in primary and secondary education, China is undertaking one of the world's largest AI-assisted learning experiments, with the technology increasingly integrated into teaching nationwide.

A weekslong Reuters examination, based on school visits, interviews with more than a dozen educators, parents and experts, and a review of more than 100 academic papers and government procurement records, paints one of the most detailed pictures yet of how AI is reshaping Chinese classrooms. It found a sweeping but uneven effort to build a generation of AI-savvy innovators, with little consensus on what AI literacy means, how it should be taught or measured.

China views the technology as central to its economic future and technological rivalry with the United States,

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Volume 132 | No. 274
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