



Panorama

Positive News for a Positive Community

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News in Brief



World

Canadians protest treatment of black girl
Toronto and Black community members with big, beautiful Black hair demonstrated outside of the Toronto District School Board's Headquarters on Friday, December 4 to protest the treatment of a 13-year-old Black girl who was disciplined by her principal for wearing her natural hair at Amesbury Middle School. This demonstrators opposed the the shaming of this young black girl and highlight other instances of anti-Black racism within the Toronto District School Board.



Nation

Closing arguments made in trial of cop accused of raping 13 Black women
Lawyers began presenting closing arguments on Monday in the case of a former Oklahoma City police officer accused of raping or sexually victimizing thirteen Black women. Daniel Holtzclaw is charged with 36 counts of rape, sexual battery and other charges that carry a possible sentence of life in prison. During the trial, each of the thirteen women testified that Holtzclaw preyed on them during traffic stops or in other instances while wearing his uniform and badge.



State and Local

Lawsuit accuses Conway restaurant of slavery
A federal lawsuit has been filed on behalf of Christopher Smith, a mentally-handicapped African-American man, against J&J Cafeteria of Conway. The lawsuit alleges that Smith was mentally and physically abused for many years as an employee and tenant of the restaurant. The lawsuit lists fourteen causes of action, including slavery, assault & battery, false imprisonment, violations of the Fair Labor and Wages Act, and discrimination.



Sports

SCSU's Hargrave named MEAC Player of the Year
Regime McCombs of Benedict College was named the Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference Newcomer of the Week. McCombs, a 5-5 guard from Greenville, S.C., helped Benedict to a 3-0 record last week. McCombs averaged 19.7 points, 4.7 rebounds and 3.7 steals for the 25th-ranked Lady Tigers. She connected on 13 3-pointers in the three wins. McCombs also had a season high eight steals in a victory over Fort Valley State.

Booker T. Washington High School alumni prepare for Centennial Celebration

Celebrating an era when the school on "the Hill," was the center of cultural life for Columbia's African American community, alumni and friends of the former Booker T. Washington High School are preparing to commemorate its Centennial in 2016.

Year-long events are being organized by the Booker T. Washington High School Foundation, an alumni group established when the school closed in 1974 to perpetuate the historical significance, educational traditions and cultural heritage of the school. Event

Chair, Doris Glymph Green ('59) said events will be held at the school's renovated auditorium on the University of South Carolina campus, the Booker T. Washington-Monteith Cultural Center in North Columbia, and other locations.

Founded in 1916, Booker T. Washington High School "was a special place that was interested in the whole child – the academic, physical and social parts of every student," recalled one of its most notable graduates, Fannie Phelps Adams, who attended BTW from first through 11th grades

and returned to continue the legacy as a teacher and guidance counselor.

In 1924, the school transitioned to a standard high school. For many years, BTW was the largest public high school for black students in South Carolina, and one of the few schools in the state accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools.

The controversial decision to close the school in 1974 came after offers from the University of South

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Phi Beta Sigma honors member for Outstanding Leadership and Service

Brother Silas DeWalt received the First Presidential Award of Honor for Outstanding Leadership and Service to Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. at the third Bi-Annual Women of Excellence Awards Recognition Program.

Brother DeWalt services included: Beta Mu Chapter, Benedict College; Beta Chi Sigma Chapter, Columbia; National Pan-Hellenic Council at Columbia; founder of the Omicron Lambda Sigma Chapter, Newberry, SC; service to South Carolina Phi Beta Sigma; Southeastern Region Phi Beta Sigma; and more.

The Honorable James T. Floyd, Sr. 25th International President of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc.; Brother Dr. Robert L. Scott, Life Member and Member of Beta Chi Sigma Chapter, Columbia; chapter members from Newberry Alumni Chapter; collegiate brothers from Zeta Gamma Chapter, Voorhees College; and brothers from Nu Omicron Sigma Chapter, Cayce/West Columbia were present for the presentation.



Brother Silas DeWalt with the brothers of Phi Beta Sigma.



Women of Excellence honorees (bottom row, L to R) Bernice Scott, Cynthia Hardy, Carolyn Brailsford, Claire Porter. (Top row, L to R) Anita Brewer, VonGretchen Nelson, Dr. Janeen Witty and Oveta Glover.

Richland County names Youth Oratorical Award winners

On Sunday, December 6, 2015, five (5) finalists competed for the master orator award hosted by Richland County Councilwoman Julie-Ann Dixon in partnership with the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. The ceremony took place at the Columbia Country Club located in Blythewood, SC.

The five finalists were selected from among the program's participants who are students at more than 25 schools across Richland County. Over the past six months, the contestants worked with professional orators to develop their public speaking skills. In addition to professional oratorical training, the students received training from other community stakeholders in the following areas:

- Academic Professionalism
- Transformational Leadership
- Conflict Resolution
- Soft Skills Training
- Community Service

The five (5) finalists eloquently delivered an original piece they wrote for more than 200 audience members. The first orator, John Tataw of E. L. Wright

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Oratorical Finalist: (L to R) Trinita Belton, John Tataw, Otiana Thompson, Nacala Zene, and Vance Belton



Oratorical Finalist with mentors and Councilwoman Dixon: (L to R) Mrs. Christina Sanders, Trinita Belton, John Tataw, Otiana Thompson, Nacala Zene, Vance Belton, Mrs. Janette Salmon, Councilwoman Julie-Ann Dixon and Walter McDaniels



Keith Gilliard, aka KG the Artist, has released a single entitled the "HBCU Anthem." Sales of the single will benefit the South Carolina State University Alumni Fund.

Stay Focused Music Group Company started by SC State Band Alumni releases song to raise money for SC State University

During the holidays, there are many companies that are focused on giving back. That is especially true for Stay Focused Music Group, an independent record label founded and operated by SC State alumni.

The record label has partnered with SCSU students Mr. Keith Gilliard "KG the Artist" and Mr. Larell Mackey "Infinite Desires" to release a song that extols the value of HBCUs in general, and South Carolina State University in particular.

"I wrote 'HBCU'

to remind people that Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU's) are valuable and relevant to the education of people that look and think like me," said KG the Artist.

KG the Artist is a 27-year-old mass communications/broadcasting major from Eutawville, said that he was inspired to by the recent difficulties that his university has experienced.

"Throughout my sophomore year I began to notice the financial grief that my school was enduring," said KG. "Not only did it affect faculty and staff (budget cuts/ lays offs), it

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100 Black Men of Greater Columbia inducts new members

The 100 Black Men of Greater Columbia inducted six new members at its annual "Evening of Elegance" gala, held last Friday at the Columbia Marriott Hotel.

The new members are (from left to right): Joe Solomon, Timothy Dye, Dr. Craig Witherspoon, Frank McClary, Daniel Johnson and John Thomas.

The mission of the 100 Black Men of Greater Columbia is to improve the quality of life for citizens within the community, with a special emphasis on our youth – especially in the areas of mentoring, education, economic development, and health & wellness.

For additional information on sponsorships or to support the 100 Black Men's mentoring and scholarship programs, please call (803) 753-4711.

Columbia Hospital School of Nursing Alumnae Association name 2015 Alumna of the Year

Mrs. Carrie Gudger Norton, RN, has been selected as the 2015 Alumna of the Year by Columbia Hospital School of Nursing Alumnae Association (CHSNA).

Mrs. Norton is recognized for outstanding service and commitment to the organization and community. She has devoted the majority of her life caring for the sick for over 48 years at the same hospital, our alma mater, Palmetto Health Richland- formally known



Carrie Gudger Norton, RN CHSNA Alumna of the Year

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