



FREE

Positive News for a Positive Community

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## News in Brief



## World

## Black woman chosen to be the new 007

British star Lashana Lynch will be given Bond's licence to kill in the 25th movie in the franchise, currently in production. Lynch plays a new character who takes over James Bond's secret agent number after he leaves MI6. Lynch recently co-starred in the Captain Marvel movie. Originally from Hammersmith, West London, she made her debut in the 2011 drama Fast Girls, has appeared in Silent Witness and Death In Paradise and was a cast member on the short-lived 2015 BBC show Crim.



## Nation

## Black homeownership rates hit all-time low

The black homeownership rate has fallen 8.6 percentage points since its peak in 2004, hitting an all-time low in the first quarter of this year. According to analysts, Black communities have struggled to recover financially since the housing crisis, which has kept homeownership out of reach. A decadeslong legacy of housing segregation has also made many would-be black buyers wary of returning to the market after losing their homes. In contrast, during this time the homeownership rate among Hispanics has continued to rise.



## State and Local

## Survey shows Black kids not doing well in SC

According to the 2019 edition of KIDS COUNT, released by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, South Carolina ranked 39 among the 50 United States for childhood well-being. And in South Carolina, African American children fared worse in nearly every category. About 245,000 children were considered living in poverty. Thirty-seven percent were Black, 38 percent were Hispanic and only about 12 percent were white. Nearly 22,000 children who live in extreme poverty are Black.



## Sports

## Coach Pough to headline Coaches for Charity event

South Carolina State Head Football Coach Buddy Pough will once again join the coaches from around the state in the name of charity. The 10th Annual South Carolina Coaches for Charity will be held on Tuesday, July 23rd at the Marriott in Greenville. The event is sponsored by the Fisher DeBerry Foundation, founded by former Air Force Head Coach Fisher DeBerry. The Foundation supports children of single-parent families.

## Area youth gain work experience through City of Columbia &amp; Columbia Urban League partnership

Sixty youth began their summer break at various sites in the City of Columbia as part of the Columbia Urban League's Science Technology Enrichment Program (STEP).

STEP exposes youth ages 14 to 19 to global technology and the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics skills necessary to obtain and maintain gainful employment in the emerging global workforce.

"In today's dynamic world, the fields of science, technology, engineering, and math are crucially important," Columbia Mayor Steve Benjamin said. "Teaching our young people about science, technology, engineering, and math education breeds a generation of innovators and critical thinkers."

"As Columbia continues to become a world-class city, rich with a competitive talent pool and ample opportunities, our support for science, technology, engineering, and math education must be at the frontline of our education discussions," Benjamin said. "Thank you to the Columbia Urban League for providing our young people with an amazing science, technology, engineering, and math summer program filled with invention, creativity, and problem-solving."

More than 100 students have signed up to work during the summer across 22 sites in the City of Columbia. Students will work a minimum of two weeks per session through August 2.

City Manager Teresa Wilson said City of Columbia departments look forward to working with the young

Alyssa Smith, 15, learns how to design structures at a park using Computer-Aided Design (CAD) software with park planner Todd Martin.



Warren Grandmason and Ta'shaun Jones worked as interns at the Carolina Panorama Newspaper as part of the Columbia Urban League's STEP program.

Columbia Urban League President and CEO James T. McLawhorn, Jr. said. "According to an article from the Washington Post, soft skills coupled with technology are what separates Google's top employees from the rest of the workforce."

Fifteen-year-old Irmo High School student, Alyssa Smith, said the STEP program is great for youth who are looking for their first job experience and encourages others to participate.

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This eight-member group, sponsored by the Gethsemane Missionary Baptist Association Women's Auxiliary, recently returned from Kenya.

## Gethsemane Mission Team returns from Kenya

An eight-member Mission Team, sponsored by the Gethsemane Missionary Baptist Association Woman's Auxiliary, returned recently from an 11-day trip to Kenya. While there the team facilitated Training conferences, offering eight different classes with the leadership and members of churches in Kajiado County (Maasai Tribe), Mwingi, Kitui and Nairobi. The theme was "Equipping and Uniting God's People with His Word". Around three hundred (300) participants who completed the classes received a certificate and a Bible, which were provided by the Mission Team.

The team, led by Rev. Dr. Lillie Burgess (Ridgewood Missionary Baptist Church), consisted of Rev. Gayle Coker (Trinity Baptist Church), Bishop Bennie James (The Living Church in Jesus Christ), Rev. Ernest Jones (Tabernacle of Praise), Missionary Jessie Chandler (Gethsemane Woman's Auxiliary President and Zion Canaan Baptist Church), Missionary Hilliard Reeves (Zion Canaan Baptist Church), and Missionary Katrina Pitts

(Little Zion Baptist Church) and Missionary Carrie Fair (Bethel Missionary Baptist Church - Pineland, SC).

The team was also able to visit the Perry Jayne Center, a Girls' High School where the Woman's Auxiliary raised funds during its May Centennial Celebration to begin building the second floor of the dormitory at the school.

Another highlight of the trip was visiting the Kariobangi Youth Center, an elementary school, located in the second largest slum in Nairobi. This is the school where several of the Gethsemane churches have been supporting around 100 students since 2009.

The Young Woman's Auxiliary and the Woman's Auxiliary have been engaged in Kenya mission work and trips since 1993. What a blessing to be used by God in such a mighty way!

If you are interested in becoming a part of a future mission trip or want to be involved in Kenya missions, please mail your information to the Gethsemane Woman's Auxiliary, POB 30736, Columbia, SC 29230.



Tivona Taylor Vogt, owner of Need Nalia.

## Need Nalia

## Community Business of the Week

**By Nate Abraham Jr.**

## BUSINESS OF THE WEEK

It is often said that blessings can be found even in the greatest of tragedies. One person who has discovered a blessing in the midst of a tragedy is Tivona Taylor Vogt, owner of Need Nalia, a Greek paraphernalia store in Columbia.

Vogt was born in West Point, New York. The daughter of a U.S. Marine, she planned to join the military after she graduated from Battery Creek High School in Beaufort, SC in 1997. But her father had other ideas.

"I wanted to be a Marine, but with all the Bush stuff that was going on, my Dad was like, no way!" she recalled.

To appease her parents, she applied to the University of South Carolina.

"USC is literally the only school I applied to. I was praying I wouldn't get in because I didn't want to go to school. But I got in."

Vogt majored in Criminal Justice.

"Criminal justice just seemed to be the closest thing to the military that I could get without going into military," she says.

After earning her Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice in 2002, Vogt got a job working as a police officer in Beaufort, SC. A year and half later, she moved over the South Carolina Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services. She worked there for eight and half years before getting a job at the Department of Juvenile Justice. That was when her career path took an interesting turn.

"My sister was a teacher, and we're both Zetas," she said. "So she was like, I want to start a Greek business. So initially, she was just making

paddles and stuff like that for people. And I was like, that's pretty cool. We supported her in doing that."

Her sister, Takeya E. Taylor, launched her business in 2013. Things were going great – until her sister passed away a year later.

"When she passed away in 2014, we went into her house, and there was all this wood work, paint and all these materials," Vogt recalled. "So my parents asked, 'Why don't you try to do it?'"

Initially, the idea horrified her.

"I was like, that's gonna take me having to be around people and talk to people. I liked doing what I did, and I didn't want to do that."

But her parents were persistent.

"One day, my mom came to me and said, 'I think you should try it. Your sister was trying to start this business, and we think it might be something cool. Why wouldn't you do it?'"

Reluctantly, she gave in.

"I started making little different wood things and posting them on Facebook. And people were like, can you make me one?" she recalled.

As demand grew, she realized that her sister was on to something. Eventually, Vogt was working the equivalent of two full-time jobs.

"I was doing everything by hand," she recalled. "I had no idea about cutting machines."

Vogt purchased a wood carving machine. She also invested in more equipment, guided by her customers' requests.

"People started saying, 'Can you put that on a glass for me? I can you make a T-shirt?'

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## SC State football stars

SCSU Football Coach Buddy Pough greets Robert Reeves, who was inducted into the SC State Athletic Hall of Fame in 2008. The men participated in the annual SC State Football preview event, held last Saturday at the Tony Thomas Family Karate Building in Columbia.