



# Panorama

Positive News for a Positive Community

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## News in Brief



### World

#### TV station for deaf people launched in Uganda

The estimated number of people with some degree of hearing loss in Africa expected to increase from 136 million to 332 million by 2050. A television station in Uganda is taking steps to help them by creating content specifically designed for and presented by deaf people. African journalist Eroku Simon, who is deaf himself, founded Signs TV Uganda to ensure that people like him have access to full TV programming. This is the country's first TV channel dedicated serving the hearing-impaired.



### Nation

#### Survey shows racial

**"sentencing gap" growing**  
According to a new report by the Council on Criminal Justice, the gap between Black and white Americans serving time in state prison for long prison sentences is growing. Between 2005 and 2019, the share of Black Americans newly sentenced to state prison for more than 10 years grew from about 13% in 2005 to 19% in 2019. By comparison, during that same period, white Americans taken to state prison for long sentences grew from about 12% to 15%. The report analyzed data from 29 states.



#### State and Local South Carolina's Black culture highlighted in new Green Book

A new Green Book, which highlights African American history and landmarks across South Carolina, has been published by Hub City Press. The name of the book and travel-planning tool pays homage to the original Green Book, which was first printed and published from 1936 until the mid-1960s. It was designed to provide an African American travel guide to safe and welcoming locations and establishments.



### Sports

#### Former USC star wins big contract extension

Former University of South Carolina star wide receiver Deebo Samuel signed a three-year deal with the San Francisco 49ers worth \$71.55 million, with a maximum value of \$73.5 million, including \$58.167 million fully guaranteed. Samuels was a second-round pick by the San Francisco 49ers in the 2019 NFL draft. Since being drafted, Samuels became the first NFL player in history to amass over 1,500 receiving yards and over 500 rushing yards in a single season.



Stephanie Pfeiffer, BlueCross BlueShield of South Carolina Human Resources Director, Talent Acquisition; Claffin University President Dr. Dwaun J. Warmack; Benedict College President and CEO Dr. Roslyn Clark Artis; David Cote, BlueCross BlueShield of South Carolina Vice President of Human Resources.

## Benedict College and Claffin University launch BlueCross BlueScholars program

BlueCross® BlueShield® of South Carolina is partnering with Benedict College and Claffin University to give more students an opportunity to pursue an education while getting a head start on their career paths.

The BlueCross BlueScholars program will select four students from each institution to receive a full four-year scholarship that covers tuition, room and board.

"We are committed to supporting students of our state's historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs)," said BlueCross President and CEO Mike Mizur.

"Early during the pandemic, BlueCross made a significant investment in several South Carolina HBCUs, and we aim for our support to extend beyond students' academic careers. The BlueScholars program creates a pathway for students to hold leadership roles within our company after graduation. We are committed to support their educational pursuits and their place as future leaders in our workforce."

The eight students selected for the inaugural BlueScholars program will participate in career development workshops and will be able to engage with BlueCross BlueShield of South Carolina representatives during panel discussions and summer internships. These events are designed to prepare the students for employment opportunities at BlueCross.

"Benedict College is pleased to partner with BlueCross on the development of the BlueScholars program, which provides much needed financial support for our scholars. Additionally, and perhaps equally important,

BlueScholars will receive ongoing professional development and highly coveted summer internship placements with BlueCross, one of our state's premier employers. These students will have the opportunity to work in a dynamic environment and gain valuable professional experiences that will place them on a path toward a meaningful and rewarding career," said Benedict President and CEO Dr. Roslyn Clark Artis.

Students selected as BlueScholars will have summer internship opportunities at BlueCross beginning the second year of the program.

"We are immensely grateful to be a part of the BlueScholars program," said Claffin University President Dr. Dwaun J. Warmack. "Claffin has produced exceptional leaders in every industry and profession. This program is also an investment in our current scholars who are continuing our proud legacy of exemplary leadership, academic achievement and compassionate community engagement. We applaud BlueCross for expanding access to career opportunities for HBCU students."

Headquartered in Columbia and operating in South Carolina for 75 years, BlueCross BlueShield of South Carolina is an independent licensee of the Blue Cross Blue Shield Association. The only South Carolina-owned and -operated health insurance carrier, BlueCross BlueShield of South Carolina comprises more than 20 companies involved in health insurance services, U.S. Department of Defense

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## Entire NC police force resigns after SC woman named city manager

The entire Kenly, North Carolina police force resigned after a former Richland County woman was named as its city manager.

Kenly Police Chief Josh Gibson posted on social media on July 20 that he "put in my 2 weeks notice along with the whole police dept." Because the new manager has created an environment, I do not feel we can perform our duties and services to the community." The police chief did not specify what the "new city manager" did to create a hostile "environment." Five officers who served under Gibson, the assistant town manager and a key clerk also tendered their resignations.

Kenly's news city manager is Justine Jones, who started working as city manager on June 2. Previously, Jones worked for Richland County as the Assistant Director of the Office of Small Business Opportunities until she was fired on March 30, 2015. She sued the county, claiming she was fired for allegedly blowing the whistle about



Justine Jones is the former assistant director of the Richland County Office of Small Business Opportunities.

irregularities with the county's Transportation Penny Tax program.

Jones is African-American, and the police chief and his staff are white. Kenly is 36% Black, 20% Hispanic, and 36% non-Hispanic white.

The former police chief did not give a specific reason for his resignation, or the res-

ignation of his staff. He did say that he would reconsider his resignation if Jones was fired.

The town of 2,000 people will still have some law enforcement protection. The Johnston County Sheriff's office announced that it will step up patrols within the city limits.

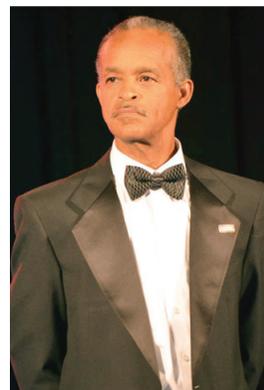
## Tony Thomas Family Karate to celebrate 25 years in business

### Business of the Week update

Tony Thomas and wife Brenda started Tony Thomas Family Karate in a small building on Shakespeare Road in the Spring of 1997. After several years of growth, the school was able to double in size when the adjoining office building became available. But as the school continued to grow, it became clear that the school needed its own building.

The couple purchased land off Fontaine Road and built a modern karate studio, which opened in April of 2007. According to Tony, the school is successful because of its focus on families.

"When we opened this school," said Tony, "we called it Tony Thomas FAMILY Karate, because my family was involved. And we wanted



Tony Thomas

your families to be involved. We didn't want a place where everybody just dropped their children off and left. It's okay once in a while, but we wanted families. We wanted a place where families could have

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Benedict College President Dr. Roslyn Clark-Artis (second from right) and officials unveil the new eSports Game Room.

## Benedict opens eSports Game Room on campus

Electronic sports, or eSports for short, is a form of competition using video games. College eSports in the United States began around 2009. In 2020, Benedict College partnered with Blaze Fire Games to launch an eSports Club on campus.

Benedict College has become a pioneer in the field of eSports. It was the first college in South Carolina to offer a degree in eSports administration. The eSports Administration major seeks to prepare students to work in the eSports professional, collegiate, public schools, and recreational arenas.

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Chi Eta Phi's Soror of the Year Chris Patterson (center), is pictured with Tara Smalls (left), and Chapter President Versie Wilson (right).

## Chi Eta Phi Sorority names Soror of the Year

Delta Eta Chapter of Chi Eta Phi Sorority, Incorporated® named Mrs. Chris Patterson, the 2022 Soror of the Year! On Thursday, May 12<sup>th</sup> members of the Scholarship & Awards and Programs & Projects Committees hosted a dinner to celebrate the honoree and Nurses Week 2022. Dr. Teresa C. Jennings was the guest speaker and captivated those in attendance with a brilliant Salute to Nurses.

The 2022 recipient of the Soror/Frater of the Year Award Chris Patterson, RN has been a member of Delta Eta Chapter of Chi Eta Phi, Sorority, Inc.® since 1987. Mrs. Patterson's 35 years of service includes serving the organization on the local, regional, and national levels. She has attended every Southeast Regional Conference since she became a member of the organization. Mrs. Patterson's unrelenting love and support of Chi Eta Phi, Sorority, Inc.®, our communities, and the profession of nursing makes her an exemplar of nursing excellence.

To partner with Delta Eta Chapter or learn more about this event and/or the organization visit the website deltaeta-chietaphi.com. The chairs of the Programs & Projects Committee and Scholarship & Awards Committee are Dr. Kim Gilmore and Dr. Tara Smalls. The President of Delta Eta Chapter is Mrs. Versie Wilson.