

# Charting a college's EVOLUTION

Over the past 30 years, change has been pretty much a constant at the school under the oaks

REGION, B1



## STATE

The General Assembly passed a law this summer that opponents of Common Core hope will derail its use in North Carolina's public schools. But the law doesn't mean the academic standards are automatically eliminated. B2

## NATION

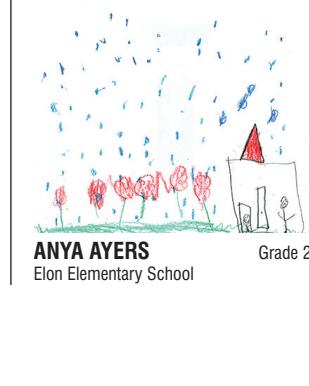
In California, a faith-based initiative aims to help the area's down-and-out by providing them with one of humanity's basic essentials: clean clothes. A2

A Russian invasion of Alaska? In the early years of the Cold War, the U.S. government considered it a real possibility — and took major steps to counter it. A5

Weather: Storm in spots

Details/Page A11

93  
71



# Times-News

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>> HOMICIDE

## Police investigating fatal shooting

One dead, one in serious condition following Sunday morning incident

By Anna Johnson  
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A shooting at a Burlington motel early Sunday morning killed one Burlington man and injured another.

Burlington police officers were clear-

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ing an album-release party at the Quality Inn, located at 2444 Maple Ave., shortly after 2:30 a.m. Sunday when shots rang out on the second floor of the motel. Multiple witnesses said a verbal altercation on the second floor preceded the shooting.

"Officers were already on their way around the same time as shots were heard by the citizens," said Burlington Police Lt. Brian Long.

Raphael Devante Currie, 24, of Denise Drive, and David Israel Williams, 24, of Wil-

liamson Avenue, were both shot multiple times and were transported to Alamance Regional Medical Center.

"EMS and fire personnel were performing life-saving measures as they left with (Williams)," Long said. "He had very serious injuries from the start."

Williams was pronounced dead at ARMC.

Currie was flown to a local area hospital with life-threatening injuries and underwent surgery, Long said.

"Not knowing the cause of the situation or what caused the argument or shooting, we don't know enough yet," he said. "We

are not the proper folks to say where he is currently being treated. That may change, but we are still in the middle of the investigation."

Several hundred people were at the motel for O-Dot Holiday's "Jetblack" album listening party, the second one at the motel in August.

"The party was shut down," said Quality Inn employee Katie Brook, who was present during the party. "Everything was good with the party. It was afterward that things started happening."

See **FATAL SHOOTING** / Page A2

## this LADY is a GRAMPS

2012 DIVAS Pageant winner is back raising funds for Alzheimer's cure

Randy Perkins doesn't mind dressing up as a woman. In fact, he likes it when it comes to raising money for The Alzheimer's Association.

Perkins, 65, first participated in the 2012 Alamance County DIVAS Pageant to raise funds that went toward research to find a cure for Alzheimer's. Alamance County is part of The Alzheimer's Association's Western Carolina Chapter.

Before his first DIVAS event, Perkins said, he didn't really know what to expect when he was asked to participate in the womanless beauty pageant. Debbie Porch, one of the event's

organizers, had asked Perkins whether he would be interested in doing so two years ago.

Perkins said he was basically told that he would just have to put on women's clothing and walk across a stage. He later realized it was a little more complex than he thought it would be. Perkins had to wear three different outfits, learn to dance, answer personal questions and sing a duet with another contestant.

Perkins proved to be a hit during the pageant's first year, winning the contest. He participated in the womanless beauty pageant as a contestant again in 2013 and decided to serve as the pageant's committee chairman organizing the event again this year.

Perkins has personal reasons for participating. His mother-in-law, Juanita

**REAL PEOPLE**  
with  
Chris  
Lavender

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Sam Roberts / Times-News

Randy Perkins, 65, got involved in the Alamance County DIVAS Pageant in 2012 as a way to raise money for Alzheimer's research. Perkins won the "womanless beauty pageant" that year, and this year has taken on the role of organizing committee chairman for the event.

Wright, suffered from Alzheimer's before her death at 82 five years ago.

"She was an absolute wonderful person," Perkins said.

This year's Alamance County DIVAS Pageant Dolled Up to Cure Alzheimer's is scheduled for 7 p.m. Friday at the Par-

amount Theater at 128 E. Front St., Burlington. Perkins said this year's goal is to raise \$20,000 for The Alzheimer's Association. Last year, the pageant raised \$10,000 for the cause.

See **REAL PEOPLE** / Page A2

>> EDUCATION

## Injunction leaves students in limbo

Much-debated program distributes funds for private school tuition

By Isaac Groves  
Times-News  
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With the state's voucher program back in the hands of the courts, 15 Alamance County students no longer have the help with tuition they were counting on.

An injunction last week against distributing the vouchers, or opportunity scholarships as they are called, stopped any money from going to schools the week that most schools opened. Now

the issue is before the state Supreme Court.

"The injunction prohibits us from administering the program," said Elizabeth McDuffie, director for grants, training and outreach at the N.C. Education Assistance Authority, the state agency that administers the scholarships.

Statewide, nearly 1,900 students had accepted the scholarships, McDuffie said.

While they are not getting the money, at least some local schools are working with parents until the courts make their decision.

"The day after the decision was made to suspend the voucher program, I had

See **IN LIMBO** / Page A2

>> RACE AND VIOLENCE

## Ferguson's flashpoint sparks national outrage

Brown's death became rallying cry in protests against police excess

By Brian Melley

The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — They were killed in Wisconsin, New York and California. Some were shot on the street. One was killed in a Wal-Mart. Another died after being placed in a chokehold. All died at the hands of police

and all have been united by one thing: the killing of Michael Brown.

Details may differ, circumstances of their deaths may remain unknown, but the outrage that erupted after the Aug. 9 fatal shooting of the unarmed, black 18-year-old by a white officer in Ferguson, Mo., has become a rallying cry in protests over police killings across the nation.

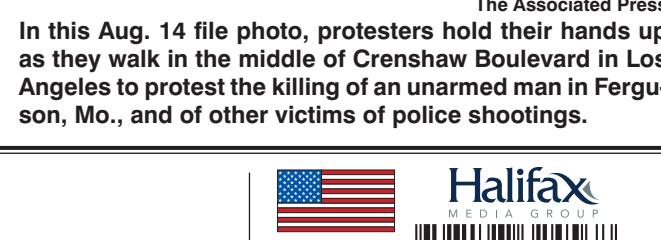
While there's been nothing approaching the violence seen in the St. Louis suburb, demonstrations fueled by a sense of injustice and buoyed with the help of social media have rolled across cities, regardless

of whether the shootings took place last week or last month.

The spark, said Garrett Duncan, an associate professor of education and African-American studies at Washington University in St. Louis, was how Ferguson police bungled the aftermath of Brown's killing, leading to rioting and looting in the face of a heavily armed police force and, later, the National Guard.

"When you leave an 18-year-old boy's body in the street for four hours in a Missouri summer, that's going to

See **NATIONAL OUTRAGE** / Page A2



The Associated Press

In this Aug. 14 file photo, protesters hold their hands up as they walk in the middle of Crenshaw Boulevard in Los Angeles to protest the killing of an unarmed man in Ferguson, Mo., and of other victims of police shootings.