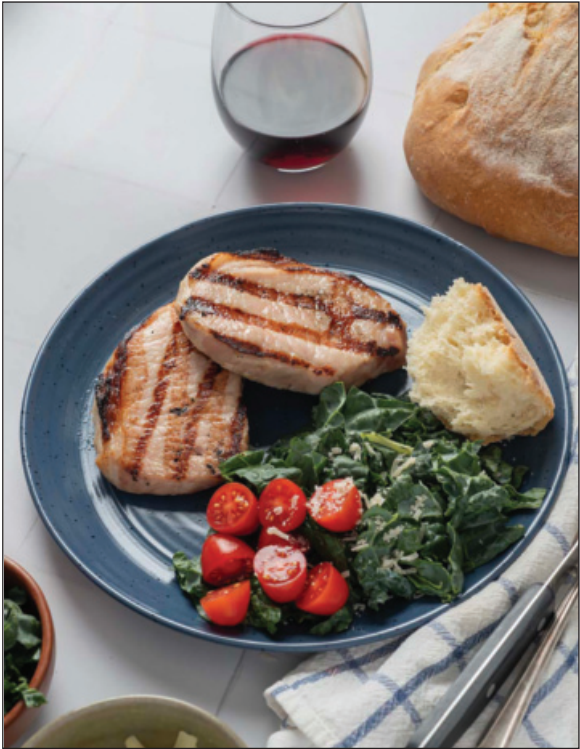




SHUTTERSTOCK

Boneless pork chops can make grilling interesting without becoming too complicated.

Grilling, chilling with pork chops

FEATURE IMPACT

If you're planning on firing up the grill for an upcoming gathering, you might be trying to brainstorm options beyond the traditional burgers and dogs.

Luckily, there are recipes that let you keep things interesting without becoming too complicated.

Super moist boneless pork chops might just make you the favorite grill master in the neighborhood. Salt, sugar and aromatic ingredients like juniper berries and bay leaves give the meat a rich, complex flavor, and the combination of brining and grilling helps you achieve a tender but juicy finished product.

Since the recipe features Coleman Boneless Pork Chops, which deliver exceptional flavor from pork raised with no antibiotics ever and no added hormones, it's easy to elevate your cookout with high-quality protein that you can feel good about serving to family and friends.

Please see **GRILLING** | 3B

« BLACK BRILLIANCE »

Crispus Attucks: First hero of the Revolutionary War

FRAMINGHAMMA.GOV

Crispus Attucks, believed to have been born around 1723 in Framingham, Massachusetts, was the son of a Wampanoag woman and an African American man.

Enslaved by Deacon William Brown, he was known as Michael Johnson, a name reflecting his mixed ancestry. Attucks later escaped from slavery, possibly adopting a new name to sever ties with his past. However, when he became widely recognized as the "large stout man" from the Boston docks, some still referred to him by his former enslaved name.

A skilled sailor and whaler, Attucks spent much of his life at sea and working along the Atlantic seaboard. His experiences made him acutely aware of both economic struggles and the aggressive policing of colonists by British troops. These tensions culminated in the Boston Massacre on March 5, 1770, when British soldiers fired into a crowd protesting British rule. Attucks was the first to be shot and killed, making him one of the first martyrs of the American Revolution. It remains unclear whether he was a free man at the time or still considered a fugitive from slavery.

Though historical records do not fully document

Please see **CRISPUS** | 2B

« RIDES »

Toyota hits on the RAV4's makeover without hurting sport SUV's market appeal

By Winfred Cross

FOR THE CHARLOTTE POST

Toyota was faced with a problem when redesigning the RAV4.

This mid-sized sport 'ute was the best-selling car in the U.S. last year, but it was due for a makeover. The company had to make sure the updates were what buyers wanted without hurting the car's massive appeal.

I think they got it right. The latest RAV4 is far better than the old one in most aspects.

Toyota did take a huge gamble. Gone is the gasoline engine. All RAV4s are powered by a 2.5-liter hybrid engine. In some models it makes 226

horsepower which is adequate. In other's it becomes a plug-in hybrid that can go 49 miles in EV mode. The horsepower also jumps to 324, which makes the car far more engaging.

I got a chance to review the Woodland model with the plug-in feature. I found the acceleration to be impressive while delivering exceptional fuel economy. More on that later.

The Woodland is market toward the outdoor minded buyer. Woodland branded roof rails, 8.5 inches of ground clearance, all terrain tires, all-wheel drive, better approach and departure angles, more muscular grille and Wood-

land all-weather floor mats distinguish the Woodland from other models.

Like all RAV4s there is a fully updated interior. Materials are softer where they should be and everything has been brought into this century. The dash is digital and isn't currently shared with other Toyota products. It shows a variety of info that can be changed at the drive's whim. The touch screen has been upgraded to a 10.5-inch display that is better integrated into the dash. It's brighter, has better graphics and has a superior 360-degree backup camera with graphics to help park. A 12-inch screen is available on



TOYOTA

The 2026 Toyota RAV4 has been redesigned without removing the appeal that made it the top-selling sport SUV.

some models.

Toyota has gotten rid of the physical buttons for

the climate control system.

There is a dedicated page in the screen menu. It's

easy enough to find but it makes changing on the fly

Please see **TOYOTA** | 3B



SHUTTERSTOCK

Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder is often misdiagnosed as other social disorders in children of color, according to Duke University School of Medicine professor Dr. Breanna Dede.

ADHD underdiagnosis impact on Black people

Misconceptions persist on hyperactivity in communities of color

By Cameron Williams

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Hyperactivity is often underdiagnosed in the Black community.

Historically, white children have the highest percentage of diagnosis and treatment for attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, commonly referred to as ADHD. Children of color often are diagnosed with other social disorders rather than ADHD.

Dr. Breanna Dede with Duke University School of Medicine said ADHD is often missed in minority communities.

"It is actually pretty prevalent, but it is often missed or underdiagnosed, and so it can sometimes look like this is happening less often in Black communities," she said. "But when we actually look at the data, it's not happening less

often. We're just often missing it, and there's a lot of reasons for that. One of the reasons is misdiagnosis, and so Black kids with ADHD are sometimes more likely to be diagnosed with other things like conduct disorder or oppositional defiant disorder because the disruptive behaviors are perceived more severely in communities of color."

According to University of Buffalo researchers Noha Shalaby, Sourav Sengupta and Jamal Williams, Black children show a significantly lower formal diagnosis rate for ADHD than white children. However, recent broader studies suggest symptoms may be misattributed or diagnosed differently.

"I think systemic racism and like just the history of psychology not

always being founded in a culturally competent way contributes," Dede said, "and so I think that really leads to a lot of our assessment tools not being tailored to Black populations, so a lot of our assessment tools for ADHD were normed on white samples, and we've done a lot of work to adapt them, and they have since been proven to be valid and able to detect in Black samples, Hispanic samples, Asian samples as well. But there's still an implicit bias in some of these tests, and we have to think about the people filling them out."

There is a misconception that ADHD is overdiagnosed. Dede tends to believe now they are more attentive to it, that is why diagnosis rates among all races

Please see **ADHD** | 2B

Prepare landscape for change of seasons

By Melinda Myers

FOR THE CHARLOTTE POST

As summer comes to an end, it's time to prepare landscapes for fall and winter.

Proper fall care helps increase plants' winter survival, supports pollinators, and promotes the overall health, longevity, and beauty of a landscape.

Continue watering as needed. This is especially important for new plantings, evergreens and moisture-loving plants; but don't overlook established trees. Drought stress makes plants, even established ones, more susceptible to life threatening insects and disease.

Remove weeds in gardens and mixed borders. Cooler temperatures and a shorter to-do list make it easier to squeeze in more time for this task. Eliminating weeds now means fewer weeds to pull next year.

Don't pack away the mower just yet. Keep cutting the lawn as long as it keeps growing. Mow over fall leaves and leave them and grass clippings on the lawn. The short clippings



MELINDA MYERS

Beneficial shredded leaf mulch added to a fall perennial garden.

and quarter-size leaf pieces add nutrients and organic matter to the soil. Just make a second pass with the mower, if needed, to cut the leaves down in size.

Put some of the fall leaves to work in gardens as a mulch. They insulate

plant roots from temperature extremes, help suppress weeds, conserve moisture, and improve the soil as they decompose. Leaves also provide insulation and winter protection for a variety of beneficial insects, toads and frogs.

Start a compost pile by mixing fall leaves with other landscape trimmings. Don't add invasive plants, aggressive weeds or those gone to seed. Leave insect and disease infested or chemically treated plant

Please see **PREPARE** | 2B

ADHD underdiagnosis impact on Black people

Continued from page 1B

has increased over the last decade. “I think before we were honestly missing a lot,” she said, “so I think it was underdiagnosed before, and there’s a little bit of a correction to the mean. I do think the ADHD diagnosis is very widespread, depending on how you’re looking at it.”

As a psychologist, Dede doesn’t prescribe medication but does offer what she looks for on a case-by-case basis when a child may need it.

“What we know about ADHD treatment is one of the most efficacious combos is a combination of behavioral change done through therapeutic intervention and medication,” she said. “What I think about is there’s no evidence saying that we should start with one versus the other, or if you were to do both, you’re being too hasty.”

“What I think about when a kid comes into my office and I’m thinking about an ADHD diagnosis, I’m thinking about if I want you to make these behavioral changes, do you have the bandwidth and cognitive capacity to do those, or are your ADHD symptoms interfering with you even being able to pick up on some of these ther-

apeutic things.”

Among the biggest misconceptions about ADHD are presumed laziness, it occurs in hyperactive boys only and it just isn’t real. Dede said education goes a long way in understanding its prevalence and eliminating fallacies.

“I think education on ADHD is a huge piece, especially in minority communities,” she said. “Historically, minorities are less likely to seek services at all, and they sometimes are waiting until there’s high levels of severity. So, because of distrust in the system that is founded in a lot of distrustful behaviors that have gone on throughout the medical history, I think a big piece of psychoeducation – especially in underrepresented communities – being able to go into places, community centers, schools, talking to parents and families, and normalizing this.

“I think sometimes that’s really helpful for parents to understand this isn’t just your kid making this up. We can look at the brain of a child with ADHD and without ADHD and see some significant differences. There’s a biological basis to this of why these things are difficult. It’s not just an effort situation.”

Prepare your landscape for the inevitable change of seasons

Continued from page 1B

debris out of the pile.

Don’t add fat, meat and other animal products that can attract rodents. Moisten and occasionally turn the pile to speed up the process. Soon it will be a wonderful soil conditioner to put back into the landscape.

Leave healthy perennials stand for winter. Many provide motion, form and texture to the winter garden. This subtle winter beauty may not be as colorful as your summer garden, but it adds interest to what may be an otherwise drab winter landscape.

The standing perennials also support songbirds and beneficial insects. Seed heads of many perennials attract seed-eating songbirds, adding color and motion throughout the winter. They also provide winter homes and shelter for beneficial insects that pollinate plants, help manage insect pests and more.

Remove diseased plant debris and those infested with plant-damaging insects. Removing these from the garden reduces the source of future infestations which means healthier plants with less pest management required. Local municipalities can provide guidance on disposing of pest infested plant debris.

Wait for several hard frosts when cutting perennials back in the fall. This allows the plant to maximize energy produced and store it in the roots for healthy growth next spring. Make the cut two to three inches above the ground to avoid damaging the crown of the plant.

Protect plants and gardens susceptible

to animal damage. A cylinder of hardware cloth at least four feet high sunk several inches into the ground can reduce the risk of rabbit, deer and vole damage. A five-foot-tall fence around small gardens, 8 feet by 13 feet or smaller, with a secure gate can reduce the risk of most critter damage.

If fencing isn’t a practical option, consider using repellent. Applying repellent before animals begin feeding provides the greatest success. Look for rain- and snow-resistant repellent, allowing gardeners to reapply less often.

Once fall landscape chores are complete, take time to clean, repair, sharpen and store tools for the winter and winterize the lawn mower. Move granular landscape care products to a dry place and liquids to a frost-free location. Store them in a secure location away from pets and children.

Take advantage of the often-cooler fall days to prepare gardens for winter. Time spent now can help reduce winter damage and save time as the next garden season begins.

Melinda Myers has written more than 20 gardening books, including the “Midwest Gardener’s Handbook, 2nd Edition” and “Small Space Gardening.” She hosts The Great Courses “How to Grow Anything” streaming courses and the nationally syndicated Melinda’s Garden Moment TV & radio program.

Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for Birds & Blooms magazine. Her website is www.MelindaMyers.com.



CRISPUS ATTUCKS MUSEUM

Crispus Attucks, the son of Native American and African American parents, was the first person killed in the American Revolution.

Crispus Attucks: First hero of the American Revolutionary War

Continued from page 1B

his role in the protest, Attucks’ death became a powerful symbol of resistance against British oppression. In the 19th century, abolitionists embraced his legacy, hailing him as a hero in the fight for freedom. His sacrifice has been widely recognized in American history, and he remains an enduring figure in the struggle for liberty and justice.

Attucks was buried at the Granary Bu-

rying Ground in Boston, and a monument honoring him and the other victims of the Boston Massacre stands on Boston Common. His image appeared on the 1998 U.S. one-dollar coin—though no verified portrait of him exists.

Framingham honors its connection to Attucks through historical recognition, acknowledging his roots in the town and his lasting impact on the nation’s history.

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Don’t let scammers crash back-to-school season

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Today’s students and young adults are true digital natives, having grown up online, learning to navigate digital spaces as a normal part of daily life.

As they transition to college, they turn to digital platforms and social media for everything from apartment hunting and job searches to shopping, banking and talking with friends.

That familiarity, however, can create a false sense of security, making younger adults just as much of a target for fraud and scams as older individuals. According to the FBI’s Internet Crime Report, Americans ages 20–29 reported more than \$500 million to internet-crime losses in 2025.

As scammers become more sophisticated, including using AI, students need to be more vigilant than ever about fraud and scams. Understanding the most common ones can help you and your children avoid becoming victims.

Common scams targeting students (and the families supporting them)

Online shopping and marketplace scams

Whether your student is furnishing a dorm, moving into an apartment or buying textbooks—or you’re helping them pay for essentials—online deals and secondhand marketplaces can help you save money while also creating more opportunities for scammers.

Buy from official and trusted retailers whenever possible, double check website URLs for misspellings or other red flags, and make sure the site uses https://. Be wary of deals that seem too good to be true as well. Avoid clicking links in unsolicited emails or text messages, including fake “missed delivery” notifications that often lead to fraudulent websites or malware.

Before making a purchase, read seller reviews and ratings. If you’re buying locally, meet in a safe public place and inspect the item before paying.

Job scams

As students return to school this fall, some may be looking for part-time jobs or internships. Scammers target students with fake jobs offering high salaries, flexible schedules or jobs you can do from a residence hall, apartment or home.

If your child receives a job offer by text, email, or direct message – be cautious, especially if they never applied to work at that company. Encourage them to use well-known job boards and then apply directly through the company’s official website.

Also, if an employer asks them to pay upfront for training, equipment, background checks or application fees, it may be a sign of a scam. Legitimate companies will never charge you to get a job. They also won’t send you money and

then ask you to return a portion of it.

Rental and housing scams

Scammers know student housing is in high demand. They’ll often post fake apartment listings or copy legitimate ones to trick potential renters (or their families) into sending money for a deposit.

Rental prices that seem unusually low should raise a red flag. Use a reverse image search to see if photos of the property appear on a different website or in a different location. Research unfamiliar property managers or housing websites before sending money, and avoid paying deposits through wire transfers, gift cards or peer-to-peer payment apps.

Double check the address, read online reviews of the property management company and schedule a tour of the house or apartment before signing a lease or sending a deposit. That way, you’ll know the listing and location is real.

The influence of AI

Thanks to artificial intelligence, scammers can now create cloned voices and deepfake videos, along with fraudulent emails, text messages and even websites and apps that look real. These AI tools let scammers impersonate family members, employers, banks, law enforcement, delivery companies and trusted brands to get you to send money or share personal information. They may even target parents directly – claiming your child is in trouble and needs money immediately.

How to protect yourself (and your children)

No matter what type of scam you encounter, a few simple habits can go a long way toward reducing your risk:

- Limit the personal information you and your children share online and make social media profiles private whenever possible. This can help reduce the information scammers can use to target you, guess your security questions or attempt to access your financial accounts.

- When you’re making a payment, use more protected methods, such as credit and debit cards, which generally offer stronger consumer protection than wire transfers, gift cards or peer-to-peer payment apps. Treat peer-to-peer payments, such as Zelle, like cash — once the money is sent, it’s often difficult to recover.

- Scammers can spoof phone numbers to make calls look like they’re coming from your bank, law enforcement or another trusted organization. Don’t automatically trust your caller ID – if you get a call demanding immediate action or claiming there’s a problem with your account, hang up and call back directly using a verified phone number. Banks will never call and ask you for account information, tell you to

transfer money to ‘protect’ it or pressure you to act immediately.

- Don’t click links or download attachments from unexpected emails or text messages and avoid accessing your financial accounts or making online purchases on public Wi-Fi, where savvy cybercriminals can gain access to your login credentials.

- Perhaps most importantly, slow down. Back-to-school season brings a flurry of financial decisions and scammers know students and families are looking for deals. They often create a false sense of urgency to try to pressure people into making quick decisions. Taking a few extra minutes to verify information can make the difference.

The bottom line

Whether your student is shopping for school supplies, searching for a job or signing a first lease, their status as a student can make them a prime target for scammers—and families can be targeted too.

Stay skeptical of unsolicited offers, verify before you pay or share personal information, and slow down when something feels rushed. Those simple habits can help protect your money, your identity and your family’s peace of mind throughout the school year from scams and fraud.

To help consumers stay ahead of common and emerging threats, Chase hosts more than 1,000 free fraud and scam prevention workshops each year in communities across the country.

For more financial health tips, visit chase.com/scamproof.

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Grilling and chilling with moist boneless pork chops

Continued from page 1B

Make it an extra memorable occasion with family-favorite sides like grilled asparagus, a light summer salad, diced potatoes and dinner rolls then round out your flavor-infused evening with an all-American tradition such as apple pie.

If your grilling plans get rain-checked, you can easily sear the pork chops in a skillet or bake them in the oven to take the party indoors.

Find more summer recipe ideas by visiting ColemanNatural.com.

Super Moist Boneless Pork Chops

Prep time: 7 hours

Cook time: 40 minutes

Servings: 4

1 quart water

1/2 cup brown sugar

1/2 cup kosher salt

1 bay leaf

12 juniper berries

6 cups ice

4 Coleman Boneless or Bone-In Pork

Chops (1 1/2 inches thick)

1 teaspoon black pepper, freshly ground

1 teaspoon sea salt

2 scallions, thinly sliced, for garnish

In large pot, heat water, brown sugar, kosher salt, bay leaf and juniper berries over high heat until sugar and salt are dissolved.

Remove from stove and add ice. Liquid should be cool to touch.

Add pork chops to liquid, cover and refrigerate 4-6 hours, or overnight.

Approximately 10-15 minutes before grilling, heat grill to medium heat, remove chops from brine and pat dry with paper towels. Season with freshly ground black pepper and sea salt.

Grill until desired doneness, or until internal temperature reaches at least 145 degrees for medium finish. Garnish with scallions. Serve with side dishes of choice.

Toyota gets redesign of RAV4 right without changing spirit

Continued from page 1B

a bit difficult.

The RAV4 will hold five adults comfortably but headroom may be a problem for tall folks in the rear. The front seats are comfortable, with the driver seat getting power adjustments. The driver has good view of the road and there is a suite of Toyota safety features that include blind-spot detection to help make lane changes drama-free.

The lift gate is power operated and can be adjusted to open fully or partially. Rear seats will fold for a healthy storage area with a wide-enough opening for loading. An AC outlet is also included.

Driving the new RAV4 is a good experience. Power is readily available when you press the accelerator. There is plenty of power to pass, change lanes and keep up with urban traffic. This is a hybrid with a con-

tinuously variable transmission so getting to top speed is a little loud, but not intrusive. I found it to be quieter than some hybrids in this class but not class-leading,

The RAV4's ride quality was pleasant for something marketed toward off-roading. Certain road services cause the four-wheel independent suspension to feel a bit jittery. I also thought I heard some squeaks and rattles, but the rear cover wasn't installed, and bumps made the cover rattle.

The RAV4's handling was also acceptable. It wasn't inspiring but it negotiated most road surfaces tied confidence.

My Woodland RAV4 came with a lot of standard equipment. It also came with a moon roof which was an option, but you couldn't get the premium JBL system at all. It's optional on other models.

Toyota should continue to sell the RAV4 in huge numbers, but it will be more difficult. There's a lot of good stuff in this category now and other manufacturers have been aiming to dethrone this sales champ. This revamp will at least make that fete more difficult.

Pros:

- All new design
- Refreshed interior is more inviting
- Plug-in hybrid option is way to go
- Quiet, comfortable ride most of the time
- Improved touch screen response
- Improved off-road capabilities
- All-wheel drive
- Plenty of power
- Excellent fuel economy
- More rugged looks

Cons:

- No gasoline-only option
- Should have made it bigger

Experience heartbeat of Puerto Rico in Caguas

BRANDPOINT

Are you planning to travel to Puerto Rico?

The island has many beautiful and historic places to visit, but if you want to experience the heartbeat of Puerto Rico through all your senses, plan a visit to Caguas.

As the "heart and center" of Puerto Rico, Caguas sits at the crossroads of the main highways on the eastern side of the Island, connecting the north, south and center of Puerto Rico with the east. Here, travelers of all walks of life can reconnect with joy, find a profound sense of belonging and engage with a culture that is as unique as its people.

Caguas is also known as "The Criollo City," a place that embodies the Puerto Rican identity. The word criollo describes the Puerto Rican people's mixed heritage that is rooted in the Taíno Indian, Spanish and African cultures.

Taste Caguas and savor the sazón

On the Island, "sazón" means more than just seasoning. It's the culinary essence of Puerto Rican culture, a legacy passed down through grandmothers' kitchens and elevated by modern chefs. Caguas offers gastronomes a rich and diverse food scene that showcases the bold taste and vibrant color of Puerto Rican cuisine.

In the Criollo City, you can visit two distinct gastronomic zones (Bairoa and the Traditional Urban Center), over 300 diverse restaurants and 33 curated gastronomic routes. Whether you're looking for an upscale dining experience or a popular food truck, there's something for everyone in Caguas.

Want a sweet treat? Head to Chocolate Montadero. This "Bean to Bar" chocolatier offers artisanal chocolate-making workshops where you can lose yourself in the rich aromas of 100% Puerto Rican cacao.

Caguas is also home to a burgeoning craft-beer scene. Drop by F.O.K. Brewing, a craft brewery where you can sample local brews in a lively beer garden.

If you're more of a wine person, no worries. Visit the Sangria Factory, where you can taste homemade sangria paired with delicious local snacks.

Puerto Rico is known as the Rum

Capital of the World, and one of the standout distilleries on the Island's rum route is Ron Boricua in the heart of Caguas.

At Ron Boricua, you can indulge in locally produced premium rum and immersive tasting experiences at the family-owned distillery.

There's no shortage of indoor and outdoor experiences you can discover in Caguas. From tropical hiking trails to stately museums, you can encounter the spirit of the Criollo City through its nature, history and arts.

Experience nature, history and arts of Caguas

There's no shortage of indoor and outdoor experiences you can discover in Caguas. From tropical hiking trails to stately museums, you can encounter the spirit of The Criollo City through its nature, history and arts.

Outdoor adventurers can lace up their hiking boots and explore the ecological trails and nature hikes and marvel at the tropical flora and fauna the Island has to offer. For those seeking a more sedate stroll, Caguas has many parks and gardens to explore.

If you can only visit one park, take a walk in the William Miranda Marín Botanical and Cultural Garden. This 60-acre park is more than just a garden - it's a living museum and testament to the nature, culture and history of Puerto Rico.

During your visit, take a stroll along one of the many walking trails, sign up for a guided tour, or sit by the small lake and take in a panoramic view of the botanical garden. You can also explore the interpretative exhibits like the African and Taino Ancestral Grove, Forest Heritage, Riverside Corridor and Tropical Wetlands and witness nature, culture and history come to life.

Caguas is also home to a variety of museums, including Caguas Art Museum and the Museum of Popular Arts. In addition to traditional art museums, The Criollo City is also home to many history museums, including the Island's only tobacco museum and the music museum of the Troubadour Luis Miranda.

For a little taste of everything, follow the Criollo Heart Trail. This free urban trail connects eight of Caguas' museums, historic sites, monuments and art galleries in the city's urban center.

Simple hacks to prep your mudroom for back-to-school

FEATURE IMPACT

When school is back in session, it means a lot of coming and going to and from your home - often in a rush. Smooth out those morning scrambles and save yourself some afternoon cleanups by turning your mudroom into a space that feels more organized and less chaotic.

Start with these mudroom organization and habit hacks to make your family's daily routines a little easier.

Beginning-of-year declutter

If the coat hooks are still sporting rain jackets the kids outgrew several seasons ago, that's your sign to plan a purge. Out with the old, in with the new: collect last year's coats, too-small shoes, the backpack with the broken zipper, worn-out accessories and that pile of junk mail then figure out what to keep, toss and donate.

'Get-out-the-door' essentials

"Have you seen my..." is a sentence you can only stand to hear (and say) so many times in one morning. Set up shelves or baskets for important items like keys, permission slips, library books, water bottles, lunchboxes, sports gear and anything else that needs to leave the house with the family. Repetition will build the habit, and even if things still get lost from time to time, this system gives everyone a first place to look.

Choose a shoe system

Whether you're a shoe rack kind of family or you've got DIY dreams of building an aesthetic wooden bench with shoe storage underneath, lock it in. Shoes are easy for kids to kick off when they get home, and if they aren't sure where to put them, they'll remain wherever they land or pile up by the



BRANDPOINT

A fresh, decluttered mudroom to kick off the school year with calm, not chaos.

door. Also consider putting down washable mats so grime doesn't accumulate on your rack or floor.

Give each child a drop zone

It's easier for kids to stay organized when they have their own dedicated spaces to hang up jackets, set down backpacks, put shoes and store everyday essentials. Provide each child with their own coat hooks, cubbies, bins or lockers. Build them at kid-friendly heights and make it fun by letting everyone decorate their own zone.

Have options for bad weather

With a little advanced planning, you can prevent your mudroom from living up to its name. Set up a rainy-day corner with an umbrella stand, boot tray, towel basket and hooks or racks to hang damp out-

erwear. Keep a laundry hamper in the mudroom, too, so wet clothes and dirty uniforms don't migrate through the house.

Label storage areas clearly

Nearly everyone's been there: you start a new organization system feeling efficient and optimistic, then over time, memories lapse and it descends back into anarchy. Labels may not stop this from happening every time, but at least they might make kids stop and consider whether their books should go in the basket labeled "Books" or on top of the shoe rack. That's one step closer to restoring order.

For more back-to-school tips and tricks, visit eLivingToday.com.



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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2026 PAGE 5B

« ON THE MARQUEE »



SHOREFIRE

Grammy Award-winning band Ranky Tanky brings its Gullah-inspired sounds to Middle C Jazz Club Sept. 12.

Grammy winner Ranky Tanky plays Middle C Jazz

By Herbert L. White
herb.l.white@thecharlottepost.com

The latest events, productions and exhibits in Charlotte and beyond:
Sept. 10

“Colorsturck!” Talk and book signing with art historian Richard Powell, Harvey B. Gantt Center of African-American Arts + Culture, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Free and open to all ages.
The art historian will be on hand for a conversation about his latest book, “Colorsturck! Painting, Pigment, Affect.” Powell is the John Spencer Bassett Distinguished Professor of Art & Art History at Duke University. Through live readings, compelling images, and video, Powell will explore the cultural and historical contexts that shape examination of color in Black American art. Following the presentation, there’ll be a meet and greet with Powell signing copies of his book.

Sept. 11
Exhibitions open at the Gantt Center, 6:30-9 p.m.

Open to all ages; free, but RSVP requested.
Three exhibits: “Repossessions,” “Sown Together: New Voices in Contemporary Textile Art,” and “Yashua Klos: Cornerstones” debut. The exhibitions explore history, identity, memory, resilience, and reclamation through a range of artistic practices, from archival reinterpretation and textile traditions to large-scale woodblock-print collage. Light bites and complimentary wine included with RSVP.

· Mozart’s Requiem: A 9/11 Memorial Concert, Knight Theater, 7:30 p.m.

On the 25th anniversary of 9/11, Charlotte Symphony, Opera Carolina, and Charlotte Master Chorale share a program of remembrance featuring Mozart’s Requiem and Ave verum corpus. Led by Opera Carolina Principal Con-

Please see **YOUNG THUG** | 6B

« APPRECIATION »

Genre-bending jazz artist Cassandra Wilson

By Maria Sherman
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK — Cassandra Wilson, the two-time Grammy Award-winning jazz singer, songwriter and producer has died. She was 70.

Dubbed America’s best singer by Time magazine in 2001, Wilson was best known for her genre-bending voice, which expanded the boundaries of traditional blues-based jazz and worked effortlessly across folk, pop, R&B, country and beyond. At the heart of all her work was her idiosyncratic contralto, a soulful sound distinctly tied to her roots.

As Jon Batiste put it in a eulogy, Wilson sounded like the South.

She died in her native Jackson, Mississippi, on Sept. 1, Hinds County Coroner Jeremiah Howard confirmed.

“It is with profound sadness that we announce the passing of Cassandra Wilson, the Grammy Award-winning and legendary jazz artist. Cassandra Wilson transitioned peacefully at home, surrounded by family, close friends, and her manager,” said a statement from her manager to jazz radio station WBGO.

From Jackson to the world

Born and raised in Jackson to musician Herman B. Fowlkes and teacher Mary Fowlkes, Wilson showed an early love of music listening to Motown, Miles Davis and Thelonious Monk. At 6, she started piano lessons. She played clarinet in marching bands. She performed at coffeehouses and in cover bands

Please see **CASSANDRA** | 6B



MARK J. FRANKLIN

The company of the North American Tour of Alicia Keys’ ‘Hell’s Kitchen’ Hell’s Kitchen will be on the Belk Theatre stage through Sept. 13.

Alicia Keys’ bio on stage with Charlotte production

Broadway musical ‘Hell’s Kitchen’ at Belk Theatre through Sept. 13

By Nikya Hightower
FOR THE CHARLOTTE POST

Alicia Keys’ life hits the stage at Blumenthal Arts.

The Broadway musical “Hell’s Kitchen” is coming to Belk Theatre, 130 N. Tryon St., through Sept. 13. Ticket prices start at \$47.02 and are available at blumenthalarts.org. The jukebox musical is inspired by Keys’ teenage years and features her biggest hits along with original music.

Set in the 1990s, the musical will take the audience through the life of 17-year-old Ali as she navigates life, family and her upbringing in New York City, with music as a driving force. Desmond Sean Ellington, who plays Ali’s dad, Davis, said the music is more than just a collection of Keys’ biggest songs.

“The songs are used to push the plot forward in a way that almost

makes it like an original piece and not so much like a jukebox,” he said.

Using songs from Keys’ albums as the soundtrack, the production takes her familiar music and gives it new meaning by using it in moments throughout Ali’s life.

“I get to perform as Davis’ ‘If I Ain’t Got You,’ one of my favorite songs, one of her biggest songs,” Ellington said. “In this show, the song is sung from Davis to Ali as a song that he wrote for her as almost like a lullaby when she was a kid when she was a baby. It’s sung from a father to his daughter, which is totally different.”

A central part of the musical is the relationship between Ali and her mother, giving audiences a look at the complicated dynamic between mother and daughter.

“Seeing a mother-daughter relationship played out on stage is really going to hit home because we don’t

see that a lot in theater,” Ellington said. “We see a single mom raising a daughter in New York in the ‘90s, living in a one-bedroom apartment.”

The story also focuses on community and the idea that it can take a village to raise a family. The people who support and surround Ali shape who she becomes, with touches throughout the production that give the audience a feel of a summer in New York City.

Ellington said the musical is sure to pull on heartstrings and that everyone can pull something from the show, whether it’s about family relationships or finding a sense of belonging.

“You’re going to get the whole entire gamut of emotion from laughter to tears,” he said. “We’ve had grown men wiping their eyes at the end of the show.”

« MOVIE REVIEW »

‘By Any Means’ is a propulsive action thriller

By Mark Kennedy
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Hollywood has given us some classic mismatched buddy cop movies, like Nick Nolte and Eddie Murphy in “48 Hrs.,” Jackie Chan and Chris Tucker in “Rush Hour” and perhaps the most iconic pair — Mel Gibson and Danny Glover in “Lethal Weapon.”

Now, make room for Yahya Abdul-Mateen II and Mark Wahlberg.

The latest duo stars in “By Any Means,” an opposites-attract movie with real historical heft, set against the racial and political violence of the American South in the late 1960s and told with blood-splashing power and blunt elegance, courtesy of director Elegance Bratton.

Here we get Abdul-Mateen as a by-the-book, Southern-born, wet-behind-the-ears, Black FBI agent teamed up with Wahlberg, a jaundiced New York Mafia hitman, two characters crossing the racial, North-South and polite barriers.

Unable to crack the 1966 firebombing murder of Mississippi NAACP leader Vernon Dahmer Sr., the FBI turns to Wahlberg’s Gregory Scarpa, letting him loose off the books to solve the case. The Ku Klux Klan is everywhere, especially in law enforcement, and that means Scarpa’s got to crack some skulls, no warrant, no problem. “Nobody can know,” the pair are warned.

Bratton and scriptwriter Sascha Penn artfully straddle the various divides and historical animosities while delivering a propulsive, muscular and unvarnished action thriller, a sort of “Mississippi Burning” for a new generation. And, it must be noted, at a time when white Christian nationalism has once more reared its ugly head.

“By Any Means” is one of those “based on true events” movies that gives the filmmakers the chance to have their nonfiction cake and eat it fictionally, too. While it might seem historically fanciful that J. Edgar Hoover’s FBI ever called in a hitman to hunt the KKK, Scarpa was a real guy, an FBI informant enlisted amid intense pressure to solve the murders of three civil rights workers in Mississippi.

It’s his FBI buddy who never existed, a “composite,” as the press materials note.

So full credit to Abdul-Mateen, who has created a complex, charismatic character from thin air, taking his agent



ELI ADE | PARAMOUNT PICTURES

This image released by Paramount Pictures shows Yahya Abdul-Mateen II, left, and director Elegance Bratton on the set of “By Any Means.”

Wayne Strider on a slow-burn trip from all tucked-in, waiting-outside respectfully to car-chasing, gun-shooting revenge-fantasy hero.

Wahlberg, meanwhile, grips every external item we know of Scarpa and holds onto them for dear life: An ever-present toothpick in mouth, a prosthetic nose, a mop of ungainly hair, a white tank top, sunglasses even at night. Wahlberg has apparently rewatched “The Sopranos” a lot.

The movie is buoyed by an amazing supporting cast, like the terrific Nicole Beharie as Strider’s wife, LisaGay Hamilton as a key witness and Giancarlo Esposito as Dahmer. The pastel costumes and bulging, chrome cars are gorgeous. The soundtrack features Nina Simone, Ray Charles, Dinah Washington, Curtis Mayfield, and an anthemic title jam by Diane Warren, performed by the Isley Brothers and David Kushner.

It’s the interaction between the hitman and the FBI agent that’s at the heart of the movie, along with the lingering question of whether violence can ever be a corrective. The Mafia guy’s methods — smashing skulls, breaking bones with a baseball bat, putting guns into mouths — stun his partner. And while the violence gets a bit

excessive, it’s kind of thrilling to see gutless KKK members beaten to a bloody pulp over and over.

Scarpa is a fascinating alien in rural Mississippi, a slab of Italian American muscle who stands outside the racial divide. He’s just there to do a job, nothing more. But when asked what he’d do if he ever faced such racial animus, he replies: “I’d kill them all, every last one of them.”

Our FBI agent isn’t impressed. He despises his Mafia partner so much that, if forced to choose between him and the KKK, he knows which way he’d lean: “At least they believe in something.”

The tension between the two men boils over into a “48 Hrs.”- style, knock-down fistfight. At this point, the movie veers off the rails a bit, culminating in a very bloody conclusion. But that doesn’t dim the introduction of a very effective new movie cop pairing — Abdul-Mateen and Wahlberg.

“By Any Means,” a Paramount Pictures release in theaters starting Sept. 4, is rated R by the Motion Picture Association for “violence/bloody images and pervasive language.” Running time: 107 minutes. Three stars out of four.



COURTESY

Multi-platinum recording artist Young Thug is the headliner at New Generation Tour stop at Bojangles Coliseum Sept. 18. The show includes Unky, Biggs and Tezzus, Yumi and 1300saint.

Young Thug headlines New Generation Tour

Continued from page 5B

ductor Stefano Vignati.

Sept. 12

Two-time Grammy winning band *Ranky Tanky* at Middle C Jazz Club, 300 S. Brevard St. Show starts at 6 p.m.

The Charleston, South Carolina-based quintet, whose name means “get funky” in Gullah, honors the Gullah community and musical traditions passed down from enslaved West Africans in South Carolina’s Lowcountry and carried forward by generations of descendants. Tickets are \$62.15 for Baby Grand members, \$76.15 for general admission at middlecjazz.com.

Sept. 16

Interactive workshop with entrepreneur and “No One Is Self-Made” author *Key Hallmon*, VAPA Center, 700 N. Tryon St., 10-11:30 a.m. Sponsored by Levine Museum of the New South. Programming inspired by Hallmon’s principles for building a supportive community and creating sustainable ecosystems for success. A fireside chat with Hallmon is at 6 p.m. Register at museumofthenewsouth.org.

Sept. 18

New Generation Tour at Bojangles Coliseum.

Multi-platinum artist Young Thug makes his first headlining run since 2019. Special guest Nav. The tour will also showcase the label’s newest signees, Tezzus, Diamond*, 1300saint, Iyrus, Yume, Biggs, and Unky.

Tickets available at newgeneration-live.com.

· Jazz Funk Soul, Middle C Jazz, 6 p.m. The Grammy-Nominated group featuring Jeff Lorber, Everette Harp & Paul Jackson Jr. Tickets: \$70.15 for Baby Grand members, \$86.15 for general admission.

Sept. 19

Emmy award-winning journalist *Don Lemon* and comedian and radio host *D.L. Hughley* extend their DL + DL ‘Anything Goes’ tour to Ovens Auditorium at 7 p.m. Tickets range from \$55 to \$197 and are available at Ticketmaster.

Together, the pair delivers a comedy-meets-politics live experience where no topic is off limits.

Sept 25-26

“*Bugs Bunny at the Symphony*” brings Looney Tunes favorites to the big screen with original scores performed live by Charlotte Symphony. Showtimes are 7:30 p.m. on Sept. 25 and 3 p.m. Sept. 26.

Conducted by George Daugherty, the program features animated classics including “What’s Opera, Doc?” and “The Rabbit of Seville,” with the orchestra performing in sync with the action on screen.

Sept. 25-27

Festival in the Park Fine Arts & Crafts Festival and Traditional Arts & Crafts Festival, Freedom Park.

Since 1964, the juried arts festival has brought popular music, arts and crafts and family entertainment to visitors from around the South. Artist applications are online at festivalin-thepark.org.

Oct. 1

Mariachi El Bronx, 8 p.m., Carolina Theatre.

After a 10-year break, the eight-piece band is headlining a tour. Special guests Bedouin Soundclash and Max Diaz.

Tickets \$37-\$65 at ticketmaster.com

and thecarolina.com.

Oct. 2-3

“*Back to the Future in Concert*,” Charlotte Symphony, Belk Theater.

The 1985 classic *Back to the Future* comes to the big screen with the Charlotte Symphony performing Alan Silvestri’s original score live alongside the film.

Follow Marty McFly and Doc Brown’s time-traveling adventure while hearing the score performed live by the orchestra.

Oct. 2 program at 7:30 p.m.; Oct. 3 program at 3 p.m.

Oct. 8

Martin Lawrence, Ovens Auditorium. Due to demand, the comic adds Charlotte to the Y’all Still Know What It Is! Tour. Select dates on the tour will feature special guest appearances from comics Nate Jackson, Karlous Miller and Desi Banks. Loni Love and Benji Brown are set to appear at every stop. Tickets available via Ticketmaster.

Oct. 10

Daley, Neighborhood Theatre at 8 p.m.

The British singer, songwriter and creative artist has worked with Stevie Wonder, Damon Albarn, Marsha Ambrosius, Robert Glasper, Jill Scott, Pharrell Williams and Jessie J. He’s worked his way to Billboard chart success in the U.S. and critical acclaim from the Grammys, BET and Soul Train Awards.

Tickets: neighborhoodtheater.com.

Oct. 16-17

The Music of Tina Turner by Charlotte Symphony, Knight Theater.

The Charlotte Symphony celebrates music of Tina Turner featuring songs that defined her career, including “Proud Mary,” “What’s Love Got to Do with It,” “Disco Inferno,” and “Son of a Preacher Man.” Oct. 16 concert at 7:30 p.m., Oct. 17 at 7:30 p.m.

Nov. 12

Best-selling author *Walter Mosley* is among the literary heavyweights highlighting Verse & Vino, Charlotte Mecklenburg Library Foundation’s top fundraiser.

The showcase at Charlotte Convention Center’s Crown Ballroom includes authors Lucy Foley, R.F. Kuang and Isaac Fitzgerald. Library advocates and book lovers will gather to raise a glass to the joy of reading, the library system’s impact and the larger community. Proceeds fund library foundation initiatives.

Tickets are available at foundation.cmlibrary.org/verse-vino.

Nov. 14

Boney James, Knight Theater, 7:30 p.m.

The contemporary jazz artist is live in Charlotte for one night only. The concert includes an intimate show of with classic favorites and live music magic. Tickets: blumenthalarts.org.

Dec. 19

Jodeci closes its 35-city U.S. tour celebrating the 35th anniversary of the R&B group’s No. 1 debut album, *Forever My Lady* at Ovens Auditorium.

The group, which got its start in Charlotte in the late 1980s, has sold over 20 million albums sold, five No. 1 singles, three No. 1 albums, and including Soul Train Awards and Billboard Music awards.

Tickets: \$74.90-\$431.30 at ticketmaster.com.



EVAN AGOSTINI | INVISION

Singer Cassandra Wilson performs at the 48th annual Songwriters Hall of Fame Induction and Awards Gala at the New in New York on June 15, 2017.

Cassandra Wilson carried the South everywhere

Continued from page 5B

while studying at Millsaps College and Jackson State University.

In the early ‘80s, she mentored under jazz greats in New Orleans before moving to New York City and joining Steve Coleman’s M-Base Collective — eventually becoming its main vocalist.

Her instantly recognizable voice earned her four Grammy nominations and two wins for best jazz vocal album. Those were in 1997 for “New Moon Daughter” and 2009 for “Loverly.”

In 2015, it was Wilson who gave a special concert at the famed Apollo Theater to commemorate the 100th birthday of blues singer Billie Holiday, the legendary American jazz vocalist who died in New York City at age 44. That same year, Wilson released her last album, “Coming Forth by Day,” an homage to Holiday.

In 2022, Wilson was named a National Endowment for the Arts Jazz Master, one of the highest honors awarded to jazz musicians in the United States.

Tributes pour in

“She had an unmistakable vocal tone,

phrasing and her approach of weaving folkloric, R&B and diasporic music together with experimental and popular genres had a major impact on me,” Bastiste said in his tribute to Wilson on Instagram.

“Her Mississippi heritage was always present in everything no matter how expansive her artistry evolved,” he wrote in the caption of a clip showing them together on Brazilian TV in 2009. “She was one of the first people to take me on tour around the world, the great Cassandra Wilson.”

Jackson Mayor John Horhn said the city “has lost an extraordinary native daughter, and the world has lost a singular musical voice.”

“Cassandra Wilson carried the sound, spirit and history of Mississippi with her wherever her music reached,” said the mayor’s statement, shared with WJTV. “Her work had rare depth of character and a profound understanding of how music moves people, tells stories and connects generations.”

The Charlotte Post

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