

News & Record

Future of the iconic NC Frying Pan Tower remains unknown.

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ACC Football: CJ Bailey gives NC State experience at quarterback.

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TODDLER DEATH QUESTIONS REMAIN



Er'mias Mitchell's parents pose for a photo with a memorial to their son at home in Salisbury on July 2.

One year after their son's death, his parents are challenging the medical examiner's ruling and seeking another investigation into what happened

NANCY McLAUGHLIN
Staff Reporter

Shardé Sherrill recalls feeling uneasy as she and her husband were escorted out of the waiting area by the receptionist at the surgical center to a smaller room, where, by the clock, their 2-year-old should have been nearing the end of a routine dental procedure.

Her maternal instincts kicked in despite the calm of the office around them on July 17, 2025.

"Something's not right," she told her husband, before doctors came into the consultation room at Greensboro's Valleygate Dental Surgery Center to say that Er'mias, there to have four cavities filled on his front teeth, had already been rushed to Moses Cone Hospital by ambulance after going into cardiac arrest.

Their toddler, who loved dinosaurs and cuddles, would die.

"We got to the hospital and got to him, and I kept yelling at him to get up," she said. "I was trying to have faith, but when I touched him, I knew he was already gone."

And, despite what the parents see as contradictions between what they say they were told at the surgery center and the autopsy report, they are



Shardé Sherrill wears a necklace with a likeness of her and her son Er'mias Mitchell.

frustrated that Greensboro police and the Guilford County District Attorney's Office decided not to pursue charges in their son's death.

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Lights, camera, funding

NC is betting bigger on film and TV production, with higher grant limits and new incentives

RICHARD CRAVER
Staff Reporter

Seldom has a full-circle moment felt as redemptive as what the signing of the 2025-27 state budget did for North Carolina's film production industry.

In 2014, the Republican legislative supermajority decided to end the state's modest film incentives as part of a larger plan to end most incentive funding in favor of lower corporate income taxes.

Fast-forward to the 2026 session, and Senate Bill 257 includes language that raised the maximum grant amount for a feature-length film from \$7 million to \$20 million, as well as a single season of an episodic TV show from \$15 million to \$20 million.

Those grant funding increases were listed in House Bill 1116, which was filed on April 29, but was not heard in committee.

The funding is retroactive to July 1.

What changed?

Legislators could no longer ignore that film and television productions in N.C. generated an estimated \$185.5 million in direct in-state spending during 2025.

It ranks fourth-highest among annual totals since the current version of the state Film and Entertainment Grant program went into effect in 2015.

There was also the sense that the limited grant offerings were hampering the film and production industry.

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A&T readies for milestone homecoming

The school is 100 days away from the 100th 'Greatest Homecoming on Earth'

NANCY McLAUGHLIN
Staff Reporter

Chancellor James R. Martin II assembled members of his A-team for all things "Greatest Homecoming on Earth" on Friday, including students, the committee co-chair, football coach Shawn Gibbs and alumni, for a "100 Days 'til GHOE" virtual news conference.

It included unveiling an official new logo and the promise of events throughout the calendar year.

The group acknowledged an effort to honor the Rev. Jesse Jackson, who played on the football team and was elected president of the student body, and others. An effort is underway to include alumni 100 years and older in the homecoming parade.

Please see HOMECOMING, Page A4

Workers keep leaving the U.S. labor force. Experts can't agree why.

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