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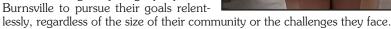
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Burnsville Native, Army Sergeant Major Tameka E. Horne, Returns to Inspire Hometown Youth

On Thursday, May 8 Sergeant Major (SGM) Tameka E. Horne, a distinguished 26-year veteran of the United States Army, returned to her hometown of Burnsville for a special visit to the Burnsville Recreation & Learning Center (BRLC). Her visit aimed to inspire local youth and give back to the community that shaped her early years.

SGM Horne, who grew up in Burnsville, shared her personal journey from small-town beginnings to becoming one of the Army's most accomplished senior enlisted leaders. She credited her parents, Rayvon and Margaret Horne, for instilling the values of hard work, discipline, and purpose that guided her military and personal success.

Speaking to attendees at BRLC, SGM Horne emphasized the importance of identifying one's "why" - the driving force behind commitment and achievement. She encouraged young people in Burnsville to pursue their goals relent-



In addition to her military career, SGM Horne is also focused on entrepreneurship as she prepares for life beyond active duty. Her service record includes numerous prestigious awards and decorations, including the Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal (4OLC), Joint Service Commendation Medal, and many others earned through multiple combat deployments.

SGM Horne will soon assume her next role as the Command Sergeant Major of the 58th Transportation Battalion at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri.

Her return to Burnsville stands as a powerful example of the lasting impact of mentorship, resilience, and community roots. The Burnsville Recreation and Learning Center was honored to host her and looks forward to continuing its mission of empowering future generations - just as SGM Horne continues to do on a national stage.



Turn Up the Heat for the Annual Fire Truck Festival at the N.C. Transportation Museum

The hottest event of the year returns to the N.C. Transportation Museum in Spencer this month as the museum hosts the annual Fire Truck Festival on June 14. This family favorite gathering of fire trucks and fire departments from around the region is the largest single-day event of the whole year at the N.C. Transportation Museum. Visitors to the museum in historic Spencer, North Carolina can enjoy the Fire Truck Festival from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The N.C. Transportation Museum is part of the Division of State Historic Sites within the N.C. Department of Natural and Cultural Resources.

The museum, located at what was once Southern Railway's Spencer Shops facility for maintaining steam locomotives, has a strong connection with firefighting. The Spencer Shops Fire Department was founded in the 1920s to combat any potential fires at the Southern Railway's shops. The department consisted of three-reel teams of 11 men each, operating 2,000 feet of two-and-a-half-inch fire hose. With many of the Southern Railway employees living in the adjacent towns, the Spencer Shops Fire Department's firefighters also responded to the calls of the nearby community, lending a hand to the local fire departments, who relied on volunteers and might not be available to fight fires at all hours of the day.

A large variety of antique and modern-day fire trucks will be on display for photo opportunities. Firefighters will be available to visit with families throughout the day.

This is one of our favorite events, largely because the fire departments are so welcoming and willing to talk with families about the important jobs they do," said Kelly Alexander, executive director of the N.C. Transportation Museum.

The Fire Truck Festival is sponsored by NC Soybean Producers Association, Atlantic Emergency Solutions, ServePro, and compleatKiDZ. "An event like this would not be possible without the generous support of our sponsors and partners," Alexander added. Joining the fun will be the N.C. Forestry Service, and the Charlotte Fire Department Safety Education Team. Other activities throughout the day will include discovery maps for kids, inflatable games, jaws of life demonstrations, fire safety house, water spraying, a kids firefighter costume contest, operating model train displays, and more.

Train rides will be going on throughout the day at 10 a.m., 11 a.m., 12 p.m., 1 p.m., 2 p.m., and 3 p.m. and can be combined with festival admission for \$19 for adults, \$17 for seniors/military, \$15 for children 3-12 years of age, and free for members and children under age 3. Festival admission without the train ride is half the cost of combination tickets. Access to regular museum exhibits is also included with every ticket. NC sales tax and ticketing fees are additional. Advanced purchase is highly recommended.

The festivities will conclude with the popular fire truck parade starting at 3:30 p.m.,

featuring Charlotte Motor Speedway's mascot Lugnut.

For more information about the festival, a complete schedule of events and activities, and to purchase tickets, go www.nctransportationmuseum.org/fire-truck-festival or call the N.C. Transportation Museum at 704-636-2889.

About N.C. Transportation Museum The N.C. Transportation Museum is located at 1 Samuel Spencer Dr., Spencer, N.C. The mailing address is 411 Salisbury Ave., Spencer, N.C. 28159. The physical address is 1 Samuel Spencer Dr., Spencer, NC 28159. It is open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday, noon to 5 p.m. on Sunday, and closed Monday. Regular admission is \$4 to \$6 based on age and prices are increased when a train ride is added. Admission and train ride prices may vary on special event days. For information about the site call (704) 636-2889. The N.C. Transportation Museum is part of the Division of State Historic Sites within the N.C. Department of Natural and Cultural Resources.

2025 Operation Fan Heat Relief Program

Grace Senior Center will be giving away free fans this summer through a grant from Progress Energy called Operation Fan Heat Relief (OFHR). The summer fan program is intended to provide a more comfortable living environment and reduce heat related illnesses to those citizens living without central air conditioning, window air conditioning, ceiling fans, or any type of fans that provide heat relief.

The Applicant Eligibility Criteria: 1) Must reside in Anson County; 2) Must be an adult 60 years of age or older or with a disability; 3) Must have a home situation where a threat to health and well-being exists

Funds Will Not Be Used For: 1) Direct cash assistance; 2) Payment of utility bills If you meet the requirements and need a fan please call Grace Senior Center at (704) 694-6616.

NCDMV Warns of Fraudulent Text Scams

The N. C. Division of Motor Vehicles (NCDMV) is alerting the public about a surge in fraudulent text message scams targeting residents. These scams falsely claim to request payment for fees, fines, or tolls and may appear to come from the NCDMV.

NCDMV does not and will never request payments via text message. Citizens are urged to report any suspicious texts as spam and delete them

immediately. Do not click on any links or provide personal information in response to these messages.

Protect yourself from scams:

- •Be cautious of unsolicited texts requesting payment or personal information.
- •Verify any NCDMV-related inquiries through official channels.
- •Report suspicious texts to your mobile carrier or the Federal Trade Commission at ftc.gov/complaint.

Learn more about how to identify phishing texts and scams at: ncdoj.gov/internet-safety/phishing.