



### AN ACTOR EVOLVES

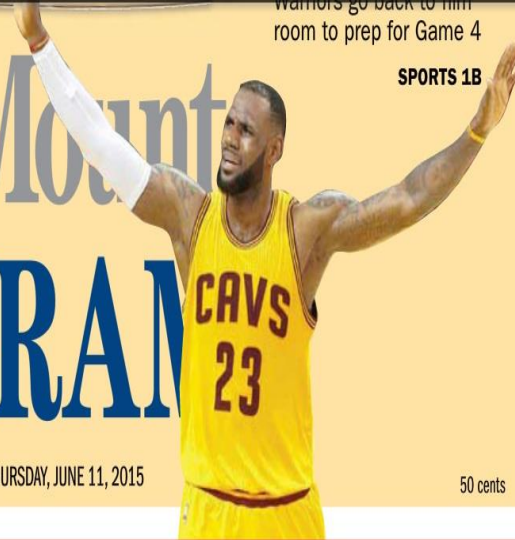
Pratt grows into lead in 'Jurassic' franchise

MARQUEE 8A

# Rocky Mount TELEGRAM

ROCKY MOUNT, NORTH CAROLINA ■ THURSDAY, JUNE 11, 2015

SPORTS 1B



Warriors go back to film room to prep for Game 4

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## Alumni club offers scholarships

BY AMELIA HARPER  
Staff Writer

Most seniors leave high school and rarely look back; but, one Nash Central High School alumnus thinks looking back offers other students a way forward.

Kevin Jones, founder of the Bulldog Alumni Club, graduated from Nash Central in 2006. However, after graduating from college and eventually getting a job with

the U.S. Department of Transportation, he thought about the students at Nash Central who were just facing the cost of college.

"I got my college loan statement and thought how nice it would be to owe \$1,000 less," Jones said. "I was talking about this with some of my alumni friends, and we decided that we would like to make this happen for others."

Last year, Jones founded

the Bulldog Alumni Club with the support of some of his Nash Central alumni friends. In the first year of the organization, they were able to help three Nash Central High School students.

This year, Jones and his friends had bigger goals in mind. Through the use of group funding, the Bulldog Alumni Club received 177 donations from individuals and a couple of corporate sponsors, raising just under \$6,500

in the process.

Jones said that 100 percent of the donations go directly to help students with college costs. This year, the organization was able to help seven seniors who received between \$800-\$1,000 each.

In addition to helping more students, the scholarship committee decided this year to expand the program.

"We felt that we could pull

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The 2015 Bulldog Alumni Club scholarship winners are, from left, Susannah Sykes, Jessica Martinez, Zakiyah Henry, Angel Brake, Aaron Spivey, Kristina Britt and La'Shay Miller.

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## SCHOLARSHIPS

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together the greater Nash-Rocky Mount community and impact schools outside the walls of Nash Central as well," Jones said. "We want Rocky Mount to be the best Rocky Mount it can be, so we decided to expand this vision to all of Nash-Rocky Mount."

This year, only three of the seven scholarship winners come from Nash Central High School, but their career interests vary greatly. Aaron Spivey plans to major in business management in college while Zakiyah Henry plans to major in pre-med with an eye toward the field of oncology. Jessica Martinez, on the other hand, plans to major in political science and eventually go into law.

Northern Nash High School senior Susannah Sykes plans to study political science while Kristina Britt of Southern Nash High School is looking for a career in marine science. Rocky Mount High School senior La'Shay Miller plans

to study biology in college and eventually become a pediatric dentist. Angel Brake, a graduate of both Nash-Rocky Mount Public School Early College High School and Nash Community College, plans to study education and eventually return to the Rocky Mount area to teach.

Jones said the students can apply for the scholarship through their schools, but the process takes some work. Students must submit an essay, a letter of recommendation from a faculty member and proof of acceptance into a college with their scholarship application.

However, Jones said, the scholarship is not based

on academic performance alone.

"The BAC board reviews the applications, looks at all aspects of the students and their needs and makes the decision," Jones said. He also said the scholarship money is deposited at each student's high school to be distributed when the recipients begin attending classes.

Next year, Jones hopes even more people will contribute to the scholarship fund so more students can be helped.

If you wish to contribute or learn more about the Bulldog Alumni Club, you can reach Kevin Jones at 252-907-3886 or by email at bulldog.alum.252@gmail.com.

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