



MISSING



EBONEE SPEARS

Wilmington Police are continuing their search for 30 year old Ebonee Spears of Wilmington. The local Crimestoppers organization has joined with the Wilmington Police Department in offering a reward of up to \$5,000 for information on Ebonee's whereabouts. If you know where Spears may be, call Wilmington Police at (910) 343-3600 or use Text-a-Tip.

OUTside Looking IN

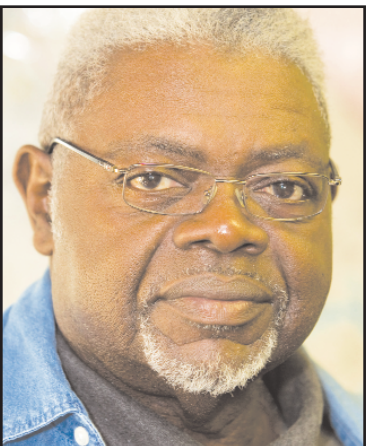
OUR VOICE



DR. JULIANNE MALVEAUX

GUEST EDITORIAL "Will you join the crusade for Bennett College Women?" BY DR. JULIANNE MALVEAUX PAGE 4

BRUNSWICK COUNTY



BERNEST HEWETT

PROPAGANDA

BY BERNEST HEWETT CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Brunswick County, Columbus County, Pender County, Robeson County, I now call out "propaganda," a word for which the United States in the early 1900's would try one in court, and, if he or she were found guilty, he or she would go to jail. It was serious business to mislead people by way of half truths, lies, a deliberate act or action. Now we find that, when proven facts begin to come to light by people of color and people of faith about the way to freedom being hindered and

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THE WILMINGTON JOURNAL

News from the African American perspective without fear or favor

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FIFTY CENTS

Report confirms that Feds did nothing about 2016 Bladen absentee ballot allegations

BY CASH MICHAELS OF THE WILMINGTON JOURNAL

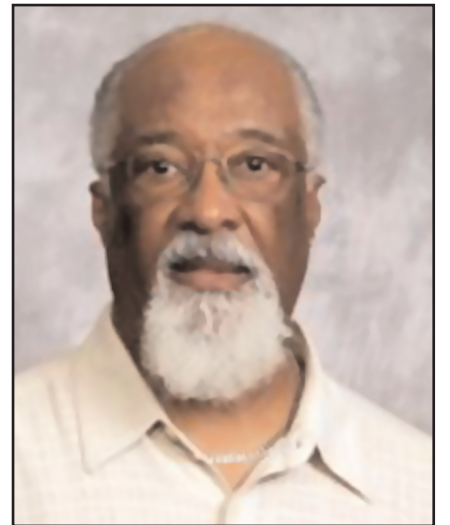
As first reported by the Black Press earlier this month, after the NC Board of Elections investigated allegations of absentee ballot harvesting in Bladen County against Leslie McCrae Dowless after the November 2016 election, and factually determined that they had merit, the BOE referred its findings to the U. S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern



DOWLESS

District. But nothing happened. On Dec. 19, the State Board of Elections and Ethics Enforcement released a January 23, 2018 report titled, "Exhibit 2.2.2.1," confirming what the Black Press first and exclusively reported on December 13, that Dowless had been implicated in paying people to collect absentee ballots from voters, which is illegal in North Carolina. "Because the 2016 General Election was a Federal Election and because of the seriousness of the alleged conduct associated with possible manipulation, or attempts to manipulate election results in Bladen County and elsewhere, these matters merit referral for prosecu-

torial review and possible criminal prosecution," the report stated. "Additionally, in as much as there are possible federal violations of law, a decision was made by the State Board of Elections on December 3, 2016, to refer these matters to the United States Attorney's Office for review." It was veteran Durham attorney, Attorney Irving Joyner, who was representing the Bladen Improvement Association Political Action Committee (BIA) then, who shared that revelation with this newspaper several weeks ago after national media identified Dowless,



ATTY. IRV JOYNER

Please see FEDS/Page 2



FILE PHOTO

THE REV. BENJAMIN CHAVIS GIVES A CLENCHED FIST SALUTE ON DECEMBER 14, 1979, AFTER BEING PAROLED BY THEN-NORTH CAROLINA GOVERNOR JIM HUNT.

CBC challenges Trump, social media groups on Russian attempts to suppress Black vote

BY CASH MICHAELS OF THE WILMINGTON JOURNAL

In light of a recent report for the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, which revealed Russian attempts to suppress the Black vote in 2016, the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC), and the Congressional Black Caucus Diversity Task Force, co-chaired by representatives G.K. Butterfield (D-NC-1) and Barbara Lee (D-CA-13), called on President Donald Trump "...to take the security of our elections seriously and work with the Secretary of Homeland Security and the FBI to stop foreign election meddling efforts."

Considered the latest and most detailed account, thus far, of exactly how extensive Russian trolls were, not only in disrupting the 2016 U.S. Presidential election, but skewing it in favor of Republican Donald Trump over Democrat Hillary Clinton, the report titled, "The Tactics and Tropes of the Internet Research Agency (IRA)," documents how popular social media platforms were used to urge African-American voters to stay home on Election Day.

Reviewing thousands of ads and posts on platforms like Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, and others, the research done by Computational Propaganda Project at Oxford University and social media specialist Graphika showed how, among traditional Democratic Party support groups, African-Americans were 4Clinton," among others.

The St. Petersburg Russia-based IRA began targeting Americans in 2014 before Trump officially announced for the Presidency, initially drumming up primarily White conservative Republicans to prepare for the 2016 elections. When Trump became the GOP nominee, researchers say, IRA

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Applying racial bias during jury selection is an American tradition

BY STACY M. BROWN, NNPA NEWSWIRE CORRESPONDENT @STACYBROWNMEDIA

"One of the most pernicious forms of racial discrimination and injustice in the United States criminal justice system is the racially-motivated use of prosecutorial peremptory challenges during the jury selection process," said Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr., the president and CEO of the National Newspaper Publishers Association.

"Black Americans and other people of color are systematically removed from juries by prosecutors because of their race and skin color. I define this prosecutorial behavior as judicial preemptory racism," Chavis said.

And, as one of the legendary Wilmington 10, Chavis has unique insight.

In 1972, Chavis, who is an icon in the civil rights movement, and nine others were falsely accused and convicted of arson in Wilmington, North Carolina, after a white-owned grocery store was set ablaze during race riots that followed a police officer's fatal shooting of a black teenager.

Three of the state's main witnesses later changed their testimony and, in 1980 - eight years after their sentencing - Chavis and the others were freed when the 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Virginia threw out their convictions. In overturning the convictions, the Court noted that perjury and prosecutorial miscon-

duct were factors in the original verdicts.

Rev. Dr. William Barber, President of the North Carolina Chapter of the NAACP, and the founder of the Moral Mondays Movement, told reporters that notes taken by former Pender County prosecutor Jay Stroud showed that he lied to a judge to get a mistrial so he could pick another jury in the Wilmington case - he then used a race-based strategy during jury selection.

While the Wilmington 10 defendants were eventually exonerated, their case is just the exception and not the rule when it comes to addressing outcomes resulting from commonly practiced (and currently legal) race-based strategies associated with the use of peremptory challenges to strike jurors.

"For an individual defendant or anyone going to trial, who is on their particular jury and who is their particular judge is more important than who is on the Supreme Court," said Nora V. Demleitner, a Roy L. Steinheimer Jr. Professor of Law at Washington and Lee University School of Law in Virginia.

Demleitner's colleague and law professor, Ronald Wright, recently wrote an opinion column headlined: "Yes, Jury Selection is as Racist as You Think, Now We Have Proof."

"Sadly, this research finding confirms what we feared. The 'jury of one's peers' isn't real," Demleitner

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AT PRESS TIME

The Wilmington Journal is still partially operating from a remote area. Our building has much damage and some of our equipment is still inoperable. Please continue to bear with us as we work to return to normalcy. The Staff and Management of The Wilmington Journal



THE WILMINGTON JOURNAL

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BRUNSWICK Continued from Page 1

actions being taken to stop the advances being made with truth and justice for all people, then the word propaganda becomes a little more accepted as long as it suits the powers that are in control. It is called a difference of opinion. Look at your election where what's supposed to be against the law is now being called a slight mistake and we should move on without all the attention or that Gen-X is not much of a problem, but politics has made it a problem. Propaganda was a crime in the early 1900's, but now it's just a difference of opinion. It might be working! Think!

Bernest Hewett is President Emeritus of the Brunswick County Branch of the NAACP.

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FEDS

Continued from Page 1

a well known Bladen County political operative and convicted felon, as the 'person of interest' at the center of the alleged 2018 election fraud controversy involving Republican Mark Harris and Democrat Dan McCready in the Ninth Congressional District race.

Harris won that midterm election by a scant 905 votes over McCready, mostly by absentee ballots. However, the State Board of Elections refused to certify the race, noting that, once again, some of the same curious patterns involving absentee ballots

from Bladen County in 2016 were evident. Multiple investigations are underway involving the State BOE, the Wake County District Attorney's Office, the State Bureau of Investigation, and even, reportedly, the FBI.

As first reported by the Black Press Dec. 20, the BIA-PAC had been accused by Dowless in 2016 of manipulating mail-in absentee ballots. He was the District Soil and Water Conservation supervisor who was opposed by a write-in Democratic candidate named Franklin Graham. Graham's name appeared on several straight Democratic tickets submitted on absentee ballots by voters with which the BIA-PAC worked, and Dowless

didn't like it.

He complained to the State BOE, and the McCrory Re-election Campaign and NC Republican Party followed suit, alleging that the Democratic Party-backed BIA-PAC was committing election fraud.

However, Dowless had problems of his own, as several complaints were filed against him by voters who alleged that he "...was paying certain individuals to solicit absentee request forms and to collect absentee ballots from Bladen County voters. In doing so...." the NCBOE report continued, "...workers employed by Dowless were required to hand carry the ballots to Dowless in order to be paid."

"Dowless allegedly

instructed his workers to "push" votes for certain candidates while meeting with voters," the report added.

Later in the NCBOE report, Dowless is alleged to have coached his workers on what to say to NCBOE investigators if contacted.

Meanwhile, Dowless' complaint against the BIA-PAC was probed, and the NCBOE officially determined that, while some procedures were broken, there was no criminal or fraudulent intent, and none of the voters involved had any complaints against the BIA-PAC.

The BOE officially dismissed it.

However, the report continues that an attorney for then Governor Pat McCrory, who

was bitterly contesting his loss to Democratic challenger Roy Cooper, was actually behind the Dowless complaint against the BIA-PAC, alleging "...a massive scheme to run an absentee ballot mill involving hundreds of ballots, perpetrated by, and through the BIA-PAC." The McCrory campaign attorney wanted those ballots disqualified.

That case was referred to the US Attorney's Office as well, but with the NCBOE note that it determined that no laws were broken. Laws were broken by Dowless in 2016, however, but until this day, there has been no action by federal authorities who knew about his activities going back at least two years ago.

CBC

Continued from Page 1

began focusing its attention toward pushing his campaign and chipping away at Hillary Clinton by trying to demoralize the traditional Democratic Party base, most prominently African-Americans.

"The scale of their operation was unprecedented," the report states. "They reached 126 million people on Facebook, at least 20 million users on Instagram, 1.4 million users on Twitter, and uploaded over 1,000 videos to YouTube. As Department of Justice indictments have recently revealed, this

manipulation of American political discourse had a budget that exceeded \$25 million USD and continued well into 2018."

According to the report:

\*\*The most prolific IRA efforts on Facebook and Instagram specifically targeted Black American communities and appear to have been focused on developing

Black audiences and recruiting Black Americans as assets.

\*\*The IRA created an expansive cross-platform media mirage, targeting the Black community, which shared and cross promoted authentic Black media to create an immersive influence ecosystem.

\*\*The IRA exploited the

trust of their Page audiences to develop human assets, at least some of whom were not aware of the role they played. This tactic was substantially more pronounced on Black-targeted accounts.

The Congressional Black Caucus and its Diversity Task Force says it wants to hear from Facebook CEO

Mark Zuckerberg and other social media company CEO's about what steps they are taking to make sure that their platforms are not "weaponized" against Americans again.

"We cannot allow the deceit and misinformation that characterized the 2016 elections to be repeated in the future," the CBC said.



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**STATE BRIEFS**



**COMPILED BY CASH MICHAELS**  
**FEMA DOLLARS TRICKLE IN AS NC HURRICANE RELIEF CONTINUES**

**BY ANTIONETTE KERR OF NCNS**

LUMBERTON, N.C. - At year's end, relief efforts after Hurricane Florence are still underway by churches and

civic groups, in a county full of memories of Hurricane Matthew two years ago. Robeson County was granted more than \$11 million from FEMA to demolish, reconstruct and elevate homes damaged by Matthew. Some were still waiting for those funds to trickle in when Florence hit this September. Jennifer Strickland is among them. The mother of three said FEMA promised to repair the missing portion of her roof more than a month ago - but things are worse for others.

"They're still people that's, of course, not in a home. Some people that are back at home, they don't have food, they're sleeping on the floor, they still need clothes," Strickland said. "Just a lot of people lost a great deal, so it's awful." The county is dealing with damage to nearly 7,000 homes and buildings. Gov. Roy Cooper is pushing for more resources, including working with the state's congressional delegation to request almost \$9 billion in federal funds to help rebuild houses, farms, businesses,

roads and more. Florence, which hit many of the same areas as Matthew, dropped about 40 inches of rain in just three days on towns like Lumberton, where more than 35 percent of residents live below the federal poverty line. Ron Barnes, pastor of Greater Hope International Church, said in the past few months, his church has received more than 10,000 requests for food, clothing and emergency shelter assistance. "We have numbers of people that have lost everything

twice in a 24-month period, and they have literally been devastated by this situation," Barnes said. "And the need here now is absolutely overwhelming." Barnes said the church fundraising campaign has received national attention. The Southern Movement Assembly and Alternate ROOTS are two of the non-profit groups extending resources to Robeson County and other impoverished communities. Michelle Ramos, executive director of Alternate ROOTS, said it's important to continue the

effort in places she called "forgotten." "Social media lends to the process of folks kind of flying in and giving for a brief moment, or paying attention for a brief moment - and then the next moment, they're on to the next thing that's breaking on social media," Ramos said. "This region, in general, is a region where there is a lot of economic distress." More than \$1 billion in aid has already been approved for North Carolinians, in a combination of FEMA flood insurance payments, grants and small loans.

# NC NAACP challenges voter ID law in federal lawsuit

RALEIGH, N.C. - The NCNAACP State Conference and six branches of the NCNAACP, representing voters from across the State, today filed suit in the U.S. District Court of the Middle District of North Carolina under the Voting Rights Act and the Fourteenth and Fifteenth Amendments of the U.S. Constitution, challenging the North Carolina General Assembly's passage of a new discriminatory photo ID law.

"This is a brazen effort by a lame duck, usurper legislature to once again legislate voter suppression," said Irv Joyner, Legal Redress Chair of the NCNAACP and counsel for the plaintiffs. "This law is designed to suppress the votes of people of color. The federal courts have seen through this legislature's attempts to do this before and we are confident that they will see through this current attempt as well." "Photo voter ID is never justified," said Rev. T. Anthony Spearman, President of the NCNAACP. "It is always discriminatory and immoral and has been the long-sought-after voter suppression goal of this extremist legislature. We are called upon once again to defend the sacred right to vote, and we will not back down." "Armed with the same information that led to the discriminatory bill struck down by the courts in 2016, the lame duck General Assembly did it

again," said Kirkland & Ellis's Dan Donovan, co-counsel for the Plaintiffs. "Since the last voting bill was struck down, the legislature still has not identified any problem with the voting process that needed to be solved or that justifies the burden this photo ID requirement imposes on voting." The NCNAACP requests the Court for immediate relief, asking the Court to declare that the law violates federal

law and enjoin it from taking effect. The NCNAACP and local branches are represented here by the nonprofit racial justice organization, Forward Justice, Attorney Irving Joyner, and pro bono law firm counsel of Kirkland and Ellis, LLP. Together this legal team served as counsel in NCNAACP v. McCrory on behalf of the NCNAACP and individual plaintiffs in the federal challenge that invalidated

the last iteration of Photo Voter ID and voting rights restrictions passed in 2013 as H.B. 589, in which the Fourth Circuit struck down as unconstitutional five racially discriminatory provisions of the 2013 "monster voter suppression law" (HB 589), after determining that the challenged provisions "target[ed] African Americans with almost surgical precision," and "impose[d] cures for problems that did not exist.

"In 2013, the potential biases of juries were writ large for some of us as we saw interviews with Juror B37 in the aftermath of George Zimmerman's trial for killing the black teen, Trayvon Martin, a trial that was discussed prominently in the media," said Dr. Riché Richardson, a Public Voices and Mellon Diversity Fellow and associate professor of Africana Studies and Research Center at Cornell University. "Her references to him as 'Georgie,' along with her claims that she believed that his 'heart was in the right place,' were a sobering and shocking indicator of how much the politics of race can shadow juries," Richardson said. "Justice is often presumed to be blind, but many people know better. In this area, it will be increasingly important to do better."

**RACIAL BIAS**

Continued from Page 1

told NNPA Newswire. "Racism, couched in neutral language, renders it impossible," she said. The only cure for replacing the veiled racism associated with "colorblind" [juror selection] practices is to remove the blinders, said Dr. Lorenzo Morris, a professor of Political Science at Howard University.

"The assertion that there is no substantial differential racial impact in jury selection, however well intended, has been largely discredited by research and diminished by detached observation," said Dr. Lorenzo Morris, a professor of Political Science at Howard University. "Still," he said, "the probable remedies are not easy to implement." "Removing the blinders effectively means becoming somewhat color-conscious in

the evaluation of jury selection practices," Morris said. "Preemptive removal of jurors based on latent or disguised racial bias leaves telling trace elements in its impact that can be measured." "One can look for the creation of judicial standards in the courtroom that would compel a second look at juror eliminations that substantially distort the demographic composition of the remaining jurors, making their composition much less like any typical group of their peers in the larger community," Morris continued. "Once prosecutors have eliminated black jury prospects, fearing for example that they might be too sympathetic to the accused, there is no likely return to balanced perspectives by choosing from the remaining, and disproportionately white, prospects," Morris said.

It's no wonder that the accused suffer greatly, as is obvious from their loss of not just their educations and careers, but they often become isolated from friends and sometimes family as well, said Cynthia P Garrett, the co-President of Families Advocating for Campus Equality - or FACE, a group that fights for those wrongly accused of rape and sexual assault on college campuses. "In the campus context we have seen over a thousand accused students mostly devastated, despondent and some suicidal. The majority admit to having considered suicide and a few have been successful," Garrett said. "I found it both interesting, eye opening, and very sad that regarding her son's false accusation, a black mother told me 'It's just more of the same for us.' "I also was alarmed that the black caucus in Congress

refused to get involved with the railroading of black and other minority students on campus, because they are aligned with the women's movement. These issues are not mutually exclusive," she said. "What I see happening in the U.S today is the abandonment of men and men's issues in general, and black men and minorities in particular. "Other countries like the UK and Australia have developed men's initiatives because they see how men and boys are falling behind at all levels of education. Meanwhile, the U.S has done absolutely nothing to resolve what is becoming a national crisis." The trials of the Wilmington 10, Bill Cosby and even George Zimmerman, are but a few examples that are leading many legal experts to question the use of racial peremptory challenges.

"In 2013, the potential biases of juries were writ large for some of us as we saw interviews with Juror B37 in the aftermath of George Zimmerman's trial for killing the black teen, Trayvon Martin, a trial that was discussed prominently in the media," said Dr. Riché Richardson, a Public Voices and Mellon Diversity Fellow and associate professor of Africana Studies and Research Center at Cornell University. "Her references to him as 'Georgie,' along with her claims that she believed that his 'heart was in the right place,' were a sobering and shocking indicator of how much the politics of race can shadow juries," Richardson said. "Justice is often presumed to be blind, but many people know better. In this area, it will be increasingly important to do better."

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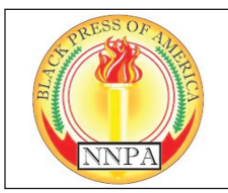
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**"If the lions do not write their own history, then the hunters will get all the credit."**  
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THE WILMINGTON JOURNAL

The Wilmington Journal was founded on the principle of the Black Press Credo. The Black Press believes that America can best lead the world away from racial and national antagonism when it accords to every person, regardless of race, color or creed, full human and legal rights. Hating no person in the firm belief that all are hurt as long as anyone is held back.

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## OUR VOICE

### Will you join the crusade for Bennett College Women?

(Via TriceEdneyWire.com)

**B**ennett College for Women is an oasis where we educate and celebrate women, and develop them into twenty-first-century leaders and global thinkers. That was my elevator speech in the five years, from 2007 through 2012, when I led the college. It is still an oasis, a safe space for Black women and others who embrace our mission.



Dr. Julianne Malveaux

It still educates and celebrates women. But now, in 2018-2019, my college has challenges. The accrediting body, the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, has said that Bennett College is fiscally unstable. If we can't raise a minimum of \$5 million by February 1, 2019, just a few weeks from now, the school will lose its accreditation!

How has it come to this? Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) have had a tough row to hoe for a plethora of reasons. At Bennett, enrollment has dropped from the historic high I managed of 750 in 2009 to something under 500. Thanks to the efforts of the current president, Dr. Phyllis Worthy Dawkins, enrollment rose by 15 percent and by 26% with new students this year. That's good, but we've got to be great. What's great? Student enrollment of 800 or more. Great is, an endowment that is robust and unique academic programs. What's great is the preservation of an amazing Black women's history, a history that is too often swallowed.

History belongs to she who holds the pen. That was my mantra at Bennett. We need to tell Black women's stories, and this is a place that reflects them. For every woman who embraces #MeToo, there must be another who embraces the swallowed aspects of Black women's history. We don't often hear, for example, of the fantastic legacy of Dr. Willa Player, the first woman President of Bennett College, and the first African-American woman to become president of a four-year fully accredited Liberal Arts College. Dr. Player was an amazing grace, a woman who was both a civil rights leader and an excellent educator.

She had the audacity to invite Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. to the Annie Merner Pfeiffer Chapel when no one else in Greensboro would have him. She supported the Bennett students who took part in the Woolworth's sit-ins (a chapter of history not much elevated as the A&T Greensboro Four were the more prominent leaders). Make no mistake. Bennett women were jailed. Bennett women stood up. And Dr. Player stood with them.

Bennett College has a unique history, and it is a history that must be preserved. It will only be maintained if folks who love women, women's history, and the elevation of Black women's voices come together to find five million dollars in just a few weeks. I am writing this column to appeal to those who will help. Here's how:

- You can make a contribution to the College. Check out our website, [www.bennett.edu/donate](http://www.bennett.edu/donate).

- You can tell your friends to contribute. Let's take this column and make it viral. Take it to your church, to your sorority or fraternity, to your club, to your friends. Black folks have more than \$1.3 trillion in annual income. Bennett College needs less than four-tenths of one percent of that. Come on, Y'all. We can do this. If just 5000 of the high net worth black woman gave a grand, we could do this! I'm asking my sisters to join the crusade for Bennett.

- You can help us find an angel to help, not only with the \$5 million that must be raised but also with a long-term contribution. If you have an angel that you'd like me, President Worthy Dawkins, or President Emerita Dr. Johnnetta Betsch Cole to talk with, please reach out to me at [drj@julianmalveaux.com](mailto:drj@julianmalveaux.com). At this time, we only need unrestricted dollars by February 1, 2019. Please help.

Year after year we hear stories of HBCUs that are facing financial challenges. Why is this one different and special, and what will Bennett do to ensure that it does not re-encounter some of these challenges?

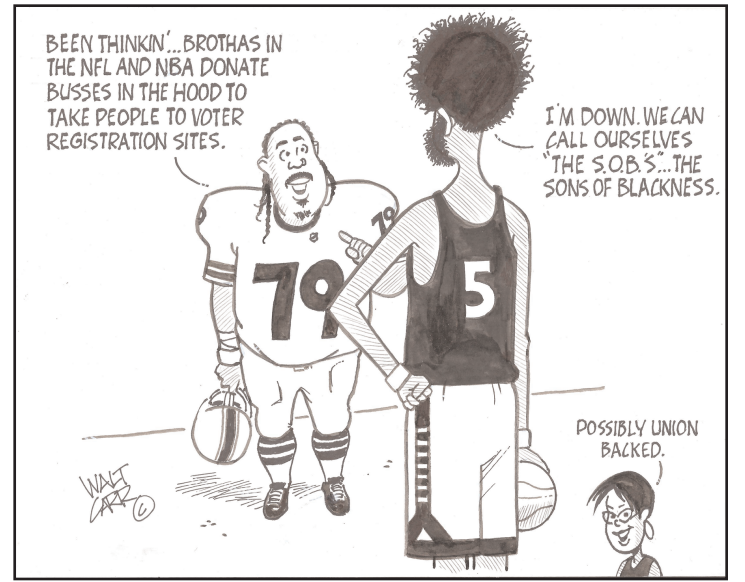
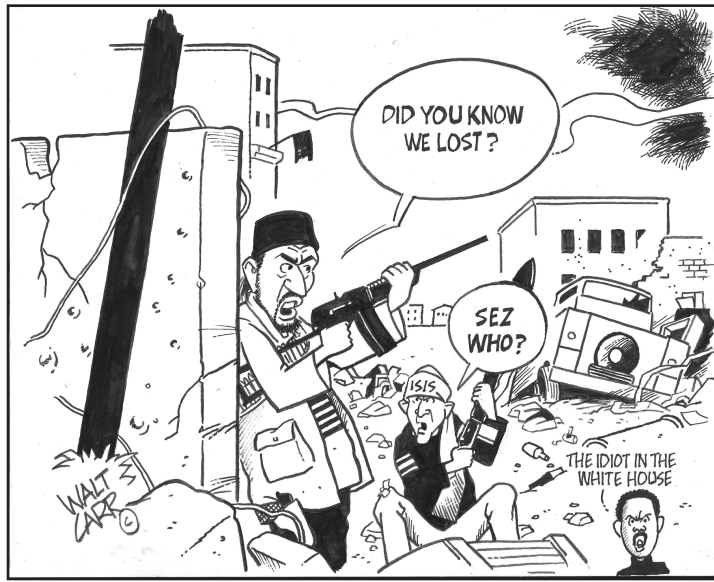
Bennett College is prepared to engage in a strategic planning initiative to move us from surviving to thriving. We are prepared to engage in 21st-century technology to make our campus work. We need resources to move to the next step, and we are ready to raise those funds with just a little help. Are you in?

Bennett College President Dr. Phyllis Worthy Dawkins has been bold, firm, and strategic, as she has faced these challenges. She says, "We look forward to working with partners who understand that their investment supports the education of deserving young women whose potential is only limited by the opportunities we give them. Our challenge is great. Our time is short. Our resolve is mighty."

I #StandwithBennett at [www.bennett.edu/donate](http://www.bennett.edu/donate) Will you? Please send your dollars and your ideas. Please help us water the oasis!

Julianne Malveaux is an author and economist. Her latest book "Are We Better Off? Race, Obama and Public Policy" is available via [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com) for booking, wholesale inquiries or for more info visit [www.julianmalveaux.com](http://www.julianmalveaux.com).

## Visual Voice



## MATTERS OF OPINION

### My 2018 top ten stories

(Via TriceEdneyWire.com)

**A**t the end of each year, people begin writing New Year's resolutions that as they write them, they pretty much know they will not be keeping them! Yet, it's a popular ritual. I know because I write the resolutions, too, with every intention of keeping them, but somehow, as the year goes by, I fall behind on keeping them.

Dr. E. Faye Williams

Another ritual, we in our country tend to go through is "Top 10 Stories of the Year." We don't always agree to what those stories are. I've already read several lists of top stories for 2018. To make my point, I'll use the Associated Press' list of the top 10. On that list, not necessarily in order of importance, are: (1) Murder of Jamal Khashoggi, (2) Climate change, (3) California wildfires, (4) Kavanaugh hearings,

(5) U.S. Immigration, (6) U.S. Midterm elections, (7) Mass shootings, (8) #MeToo movement, (9) Trump-Russia probe and (10) Parkland school shooting.

I agree all of the above are important stories; however, if you happen to be Black in America, you might say that all of those things concern you, and many were handled badly by the person who currently occupies the White House.

Just in case the AP's list was in order of importance, we'd probably organize them in a different order, and have several more to add that would come pretty high on the list. We would certainly place the following as top stories of the year—some good, some bad, but worthy of our attention:

(1) Voter suppression considering how votes were counted for Stacey Abrams in Georgia for Governor, Andrew Gillum in Florida for Governor, Mike Espy for Senate in Mississippi. I'm also concerned about Beta O'Rourke's campaign in Texas;

(2) All of the women who won offices at all levels for the first time;

(3) Colin Kaepernick's continuing campaign for justice;

(4) Michelle Obama's book "Becoming" and its phenomenal sales—being named the bestselling hardcover book of the year, selling over 2 million copies in the first 15 days;

(5) Democrats taking back the U.S. House of Representatives so they can block some of the craziness on the other side of the aisle;

(6) Parkland School Shooting and the aftermath of the attention the students brought to gun control;

(7) Proof that the current administration in charge of governing in Washington has lost all credibility and nothing can save them;

(8) Without completing it, the Mueller Investigation has shown us that #45 has nowhere to run. nowhere to hide. He doesn't know when to hold them, when to fold them, when to throw down and when to walk away, but now is a good time;

(9) President Barack Obama's continuing to be a class act by bringing joy to so

many—such as his recent visit to District of Columbia Children's National Medical Center while bearing gifts;

(10) The absolute unending, never before seen craziness, lying, dangerous, stupid, criminal behavior we continue to witness from the occupant in the White House—the one who promised to "clean up the swamp."

Each day I wake up, I turn on the news to see what we're facing for the coming day. Even staff members don't know until they hear #45's plans on the news! From tweets, we learn that we are in for another crazy, unpredictable day.

There were many good things that happened in 2018, but they were overshadowed by the antics of #45 who dominated the news week after week, not in a good way, but what is believed to be criminal behavior: Many of us are left wondering when will this be over!

Dr. E. Faye Williams is National President of the National Congress of Black Women; host of "Wake Up and Stay Woke" on WPFW-FM 89.3 in Washington, DC.

## Unexpected for-profit college closures come before Christmas

(Via NNPA Newswire.com)

**I**n the midst of holiday festivities, many people wrap themselves up warmly. After all, winter time is supposed to be cold.

But this year, just a week before Christmas, there are people who were dealing with the aftermath of something far colder than the weather: college closures with no advance notice and a promise of more information at a date yet to be determined.

On the afternoon of December 17, Vatterott College told its students and staffy email to gather their belongings and leave the campuses no later than 4:00pm that day. The for-profit college had struggled for more than a year with financial stability as well as a more recent loss of accreditation.

"All Vatterott schools and locations will close completely and immediately effective today," advised students and staff alike.

With 15 campuses scattered across the states of Illinois, Missouri, Oklahoma and Tennessee, an estimated 2,300 students were given next to no helpful information. Answers to questions as to whether studies would be able to transfer to other institutions, how or when students could secure their own student

records, were deferred and referred to a web site "in the coming days".

For its 950 employees, Vatterott sent a similar letter. Staff would be paid through December 17 or the last day worked. Further, their health insurance ended with their employment. Any keys or passes held, were to be returned to the campus director that day – again by 4:00pm.

Today, the average student loan balance among baccalaureate graduates is \$34,000. But for those who attend for-profit colleges, the cost can be even higher.

Kaylin Reeves, a Vatterott student interviewed by St. Louis' Fox2News, publicly shared her reactions. "We are out \$38,000, we are out an education...Most of us took time out of our lives and sacrificed our time with our kids to be here, to better ourselves to pretty much be told, 'You're screwed'."

Monica Williams, another stranded Vatterott student remarked, "My time. I can't get that back. I worked hard for this you know? It's not fair."

"Another overcharging, underperforming for-profit college has closed its doors," noted Illinois Senator Dick Durbin. "It's the second major chain in just the last three weeks to abruptly close. And it won't be the last."

The 'other' for-profit institution Sen. Durbin referenced was Virginia College, another for-profit college that closed on December 5. With 75 campuses across the nation, the

Southeast was where the majority of Virginia College's campuses were located across the states of Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, Tennessee, Texas and Virginia. Students were enrolled in studies that included cosmetology, culinary arts, and medical or dental assistant programs.

Both Vatterott and Virginia College closures followed on the heels of their lost accreditation just a day earlier.

What bothers me the most about these latest for-profit closures is that they sound so similar to earlier college closures like Corinthian College, ITT Tech, and others. The students targeted – no, preyed upon – continue to be from low-income families, older adults returning to school to better provide for their families, veterans seeking to make a successful transition from military to civilian life.

And one more unifying trait between these institutions: People of color; usually Black or Latino, were disproportionately affected.

Low-income students eligible for the maximum federal student aid like a combination of a Pell Grant and a loan, and/or veterans with GI benefits, can lead to taxpayers funding nearly all of for-profit college tuition and other enrollment costs.

Across the country, few for-profit students seldom learn until it is too late that fewer than 30 percent of for-profit students graduate six years following their enrollment.

As long as I can remember, Black people were told and taught that education was the barrier to break through to earn entry into the middle class. Yet the continuing spate of for-profit college closures has led to a disturbing pattern of Blacks and Latinos winding up with no degree, no skills, and certainly no jobs that pay enough for their loans and accruing interest to be repaid.

The Obama Administration designed rules like the Borrower Defense to Repayment Rule as a financial remedy for students who were promised but failed to receive a college education with marketable skills and higher earnings. Others, like Gainful Employment were meant to rein in abusive schools before they could harm students. With Secretary Betsy DeVos heading the Department of Education, both rules have been undermined.

For these latest closures to take place just a week before Christmas, delivers a range of reactions that are polar opposites to the holiday season's joy and goodwill.

Instead of the seasonal refrain of 'Ho, ho, ho', these consumers – former employees and students alike are likely shaking their heads and repeating, 'No, no, no'.

Charlene Crowell is the Center for Responsible Lending's Deputy Communications Director. She can be reached at [Charlene.crowell@responsiblelending.org](mailto:Charlene.crowell@responsiblelending.org).

The Black Press: USE It or LOSE It!

## Attention — Are we now all clear about climate change?

(Via NNPA Newswire.com)

In the last two months we have had two devastating hurricanes along with two devastating reports regarding climate change. If anyone wants to further deny the reality of climate change they need to go into a corner along with those who continue to believe that the Earth is flat.

Let's start with the hurricanes. Florence and Michael have brought tremendous and near apocalyptic damage to the regions that they hit. Entire towns have been wiped out. Looking at pictures of the Florida panhandle in the aftermath of Hurricane Michael brought to mind pictures of areas that had been

devastated by carpet bombing.

The warnings, in connection with both hurricanes, were very ominous. The strength of the hurricanes before they hit, with Florence initially off the charts and with Michael the strongest on record to hit the panhandle, should have led even the dimmest light in the room to glow brightly. Something is definitely wrong. Scientists explained this in the immediate aftermath of Michael: yes, they said, there is a direct connection between climate change and the increased intensity and unpredictability of hurricanes. There, it's been stated.

There were also two reports. The first was from the Trump administration itself, and one, from what I can figure, they did not want the public to see. In essence the report indicated that the Administration expects the temperature of planet Earth to jump 6-7 degrees by the

22nd century. Ironically, they also conclude that nothing can be done, therefore, there is no point in increased regulations on the greenhouse gases that promote climate change! Did I hear that right?

The other report was from the United Nations warning us that nations are not keeping to their agreed targets from the Paris Climate Accords and, as a result, the planet is hurtling towards a point of no return, which could arrive within the next 10-15 years.

The conclusion that we should take from all of this is that the debate is finally over. There is clear and verifiable evidence of climate change underway and the direct relationship of human activity to this phenomenon. For those who raise the point that there has been climate change in the past and that this is natural, guess again. Yes, there has been climate change and it has taken place over hundreds of years. There is no

precedent for what we are currently experiencing. This is something new and it is dangerous. And it is something that may envelope humanity in our current lifetimes, not to mention the lifetimes of our children.

Is this the end of the world? Not if strong and direct methods are undertaken to change the way that we live, the way that we work, and the things that we produce. That means that capitalism, as we know it, has proven itself incapable of solving the planet's crisis. It is now up to us to construct an alternative.

Let's get busy and make this a central issue in all local, state and national elections. We must avoid disaster. I don't know about you but my daughter means too much to me to remain silent and inactive.

*Bill Fletcher, Jr. is the former president of TransAfrica Forum. Follow him on Twitter, Facebook and at www.billfletcherjr.com.*



Bill Fletcher

## CRAZY FAITH MINISTRIES Dealing with the "Butchery" of one's conscience

There is too much going on to allow any of us to feel comfortable or safe for more than a few minutes.

There is this ridiculous fight going on in the federal government over funding for a wall on the southern border of the United States. While the fight feels like nothing more or less than a political stunt, it is troubling on many levels, but one of those levels particularly troubling to me is there is no such passion for working to allocate billions of dollars to help Americans who are living in poverty or near poverty.

It is ironic that so many Christians tout the name of Jesus, claiming him and the religious he spawned, as their own. It is as though they have remade him in their image; that, or what we have all read and studied our whole lives is incorrect. They have made him - and therefore Christianity - into a well-to-do white male, the manger story of his birth notwithstanding. Jesus' family was homeless; he was born into poverty. He was a brown-skinned Palestinian Jew, which thus makes the anti-Semitism of so many Christians so difficult to understand. Were Jesus alive today, he and his family would be in danger of being attacked by angry white "Christian" men.

He was poor and was an advocate for the poor, leading and encouraging the poor to speak up for themselves to demand justice. He practiced free speech, so he believed in it which would have set him up for criticism today. He challenged the system - again something which would have drawn criticism today. I don't really know what "Conservative" means, but from my reading of the Christian Bible, it does not seem that he identified as the same. He was targeted by law enforcement, scorned because he challenged their authority. He was scorned by members of his own family, which means they probably didn't have peaceful family gatherings during the Jewish holy days.

He was accused of doing wrong, had what amounted to as a mock trial with a biased judge, was sentenced to death and executed - which means that the person whose birth we celebrate was a convicted felon, someone who would not have been eligible to enter the United States under the current immigration laws and policies.

The irony of the fact that, were he alive today, Jesus would most probably be rejected by the very ones who profess to be Christian is not lost to me. He would not be welcomed or respected by the Congress or by many evangelicals. Wrong religion. Wrong ethnicity. Wrong socio-economic class. And wrong political belief system. He might be called a socialist because of his work for the poor. He would be rejected by most of today's devout Christians, I am fairly certain.

And yet, modern-day Christians, people who believe in and practice racism and sexism and homophobia and xenophobia and more - brag about their religious affiliation. People who think nothing of ignoring the poor, or of murdering members of the gay community or the Jewish community or the African American community - brag about following one who advocated that we should build community with each other, not walls between us.

Is it possible to proclaim/profess of being a Christian and yet be so unaligned with what the Jesus of the Christian Bible taught? Does it represent a particularly heinous type of hypocrisy to claim a man who taught what many of us are unwilling to do?

In 1965, when the Voting Rights Act was making its way out of the womb of Congress, there was much resistance - by Christians as well as by other religious groups. Christians participated in much of the violence perpetrated against African Americans who wanted to register to vote and then ... vote; their hatred was leveled against white allies as well. At one point, as the violence reached a tragic peak in Selma, Alabama as would-be voters tried to cross the Edmund Pettus Bridge, then attorney-general Nicholas Katzenbach tried to get Dr. Martin Luther King to cancel a second planned march. Dr. King responded, "I would rather die on the highways of Alabama than to make a butchery of my own conscience."

With the blatant hypocrisy that exists between the practice of identity politics and Christianity, I wonder if there are many people who see the chasm between what Jesus taught and what they/we practice, and if so, if their consciences are bothered, "butchered," as Dr. King phrased it? Is anyone sitting in remorse and shame for treating people of different races, ethnicities, sexual orientations, genders, religions as objects and not as human beings worthy of being treated with dignity?

Somehow, I don't think there is much of that; the religion of the "new born king" has been bastardized by many - of all ethnicities. That being the case, what is our celebration of Christmas really about?

*Rev. Susan K Smith is available for lectures, workshops and preaching. Contact her at revsuekim@sbcglobal.net, or visit her page at www.crazyfaithministries.org.*



Rev. Susan K. Smith

## TO BE EQUAL

### First Step Act is the most important federal criminal justice reform in decades

(Via TriceEdneyWire.com)

*"For too long, sentencing in our country has been overly severe and has disproportionately targeted communities of color - especially Black men. Reforming some of the most draconian federal sentencing laws, including unfair mandatory minimum sentences under two- and three-strikes laws, will make our system more just ... However, to be clear, the FIRST STEP Act is very much just that - a First Step. It is a compromise of a compromise, and we ultimately need to make far greater reforms if we are to right the wrongs that exist in our criminal justice system."* - Senator Kamala Harris

democracy, and all people to have a right to justice and fairness, the National Urban League has been on the forefront of criminal justice reform for decades. Over the last year, we have worked closely with members of Congress to craft the bill and garner support.



Marc Morial

The Act would make the Fair Sentencing Act of 2010 - reducing the disparity between crack and powder cocaine sentences - retroactive. As many as 2,600 federal inmates, could see their sentences reduced.

It would ease mandatory minimum sentences under federal law, including the "three strikes" rule. It increases "good time credits" and "earned time credits" that inmates can earn. It applies retroactively, potentially qualifying 4,000 inmates for release the day the bill goes into effect. In addition to reducing overcrowding, the vocational and rehabilitative programs that earn inmates credit have been shown to reduce the

likelihood a participant will re-offend.

The bill also requires inmates to be housed within 500 miles of their families when possible, and prohibits the shackling of inmates while they are pregnant, giving birth or in postpartum recovery.

Perhaps the most striking aspect of the bill is the far-ranging support it has received across the political spectrum in this era of deep partisan polarization. It passed in the Senate by a vote of 7-12, while the House version passed earlier this year by a vote of 360-59.

Presidential advisory Jared Kushner, who took a leading role in the effort, said "For all those who are deserving of a second chance, this legislation will make a meaningful and measurable difference in their lives."

Conservative Senator Mike Lee of Utah wrote, "My time as a prosecutor also tells me that not every criminal is dangerous or incapable of living a productive life. My faith as a Christian teaches me that many people are capable of redemption. And my instincts as a conservative make me believe that the government can be reformed to work better."

## RAINBOW COALITION

### The Prince of Peace, born an 'at-risk baby,' summons our better angels

Buildings and churches surround the Church of the Nativity, revered as the site of Jesus Christ's birth, on Dec. 16 in Bethlehem. | AFP Photo / Thomas Coe

On this Tuesday, hundreds of millions of people will celebrate Christmas across the country and around the world. For many, the holiday is a joyous time: Families gather, music in the air, light-draped trees and lampposts; presents are exchanged; blessings are shared.

But Christmas can also be a hard time for the lonely, the poor and the imprisoned. Each year at this time, I use this column to recall the real meaning of Christmas.

Christmas is literally the mass for Christ, marking the birth of Jesus. He was born under occupation. Joseph and Mary were ordered to go far from home to register with authorities. The innkeeper told Joseph there was no room at the inn. Jesus was born in a stable, lying in a manger, an "at-risk baby." He was the son of a carpenter.

He was born at a time of great misery and turmoil. Prophets predicted that a new Messiah was coming - a King of Kings - one who would rout the occupiers and free the people. Many expected and hoped for a mighty warrior - like the superheroes of today's movies - who would mobilize an army to attack Rome's occupying legions. Fearing the prophecy, the Roman King Herod ordered the "massacre of the innocents," the slaughter of

all boys age two and under in Bethlehem and the nearby region.

Jesus confounded both Herod's fears and the peoples' hopes. He raised no army. He was a man of peace, not of war. He gathered disciples, not soldiers. He began his ministry by quoting



Rev. Jesse Jackson, Sr.

Isaiah 62:1: "The Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the poor."

We will be judged, he taught us, by how we treat "the least of these," by how we treat the stranger on the Jericho Road. He called us on to feed the hungry, to clothe the naked, to care for the sick, to offer aid to the refugee.

It's an extraordinary story. Jesus was a liberator, but by his words, not by his sword. He converted rather than conquered. He accumulated no worldly wealth. He threw the moneylenders from the temple. During his ministry, he owned no home, no land and had no regular paycheck. His time with us was too brief, and he was crucified for his ministry.

And yet, he succeeded beyond all expectation to transform the world. The Prince of Peace, he taught us that peace is not the absence of violence; it is the presence of justice and righteousness.

These days, the mass for Christ has become a holiday,

more secular than sacred. It is a time of sales and discounts, of shopping and Santa. In the midst of this, we should stop a moment and take stock of where we are. The record surely is mixed.

There is good news: Unemployment is down, poverty is down, incomes have slowly begun to rise. We continue to lock up more people than any nation in the world, but our generally dysfunctional Congress just passed a sensible reform that will reduce the number locked up for non-violent offenses or for inability to pay a fine.

Mostly, however, we are astray. The United States wastes lives and literally trillions in wars without end and without apparent purpose, yet when the president abruptly calls for withdrawing some of the troops, he gets criticized from all sides.

Inequality is at record extremes, yet Congress passed a tax cut that went overwhelmingly into the pockets of the already rich. Millions still struggle in this rich country with getting adequate food to eat, yet the administration is intent on cutting support for food stamps that allow the working poor to feed their families.

On our borders, the administration is tearing babies away from their mothers, and keeping so many locked up that we have no facilities to house them. Health care remains unaffordable for too many, yet a federal judge recently threatened the health care of millions by

declaring the Affordable Care Act unconstitutional.

Jesus was not a partisan, but his birth was immensely political, both in the expectations of the people and the fears of the occupiers. Instead of turning us on one another, he called us to our highest selves. We should not let the deeper meaning of Christmas be lost in the wrappings.

In Chicago, I will go - as I do every year - to visit prisoners. This year, however, many of the city's ministers are joining together to raise the funds to liberate those who are locked up simply because they cannot make bail. I urge ministers across the country to take this initiative to their towns, visit the local jails, find out how many non-violent offenders are in jail simply because they cannot make bail and work to liberate as many of them as possible.

That surely will express the real meaning of the Christmas story.

Jesus demonstrated the overwhelming power of faith, hope and charity, the importance of love. He showed that people of conscience can make a difference, even against the most powerful oppressor. He demonstrated the strength of summoning our better angels, rather than rousing our fears or feeding our divisions.

This Christmas, this surely is a message to remember: Merry Christmas, everybody.

*Rev. Jesse Jackson is the founder of Rainbow Coalition.*

## VOICE YOUR OPINION!!



WRITE A LETTER TO  
THE EDITOR, TODAY!

## New Hanover County

Burnett-Eaton Museum Foundation Kwanzaa Committee will present its Kwanzaa Market Festival from December 26th- January 1st. Pre-registration is required by December 15th. For more information contact Islah Speller at 910-795-8597.

Community Briefs

Policies for briefs, news, & photos on page 2.

Compiled By Wilmington Journal Staff

## The Price is Right is coming to the Wilson Center

WILMINGTON, NC – The Wilson Center is tremendously excited to announce that The Price is Right Live™ is coming to the Wilmington! The live stage show version of everyone's favorite daytime game show is coming to the Wilson Center on March 24, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.

The Price Is Right Live™ is the hit interactive stage show that gives eligible individuals the chance to "Come On Down" and play classic games from television's most popular game show. Contestants can win cash, appliances, vacations and possibly even a new car by playing favorites like Plinko™, Cliffhangers™, The Big Wheel™, and the fabulous Showcase!

Showing to near sold out audiences for more than ten years, The Price Is Right Live™ has given away over 12 million dollars in cash and prizes to lucky audience members all across North America.

The Price is Right™ is the longest running game show in television history and loved by generations of viewers. This on-stage

travelling version gives fans the chance to experience the same thrilling excitement of winning big, up close and in-person.

Tickets for the The Price Is Right Live™ can be purchased online at [capefearstage.com](http://capefearstage.com) and [wilsoncentertickets.com](http://wilsoncentertickets.com), and in-person or by phone at Ticket Central at the Wilson Center, 910-362-7999.

\*No Purchase Necessary to register for chance to be a contestant. Open to legal US residents, 18 years or older. Ticket purchase will not increase your chances of being selected to play. For complete rules & regulations, including eligibility requirements, visit or call the venue box office. To enter theater to watch show, a ticket purchase is required.

Those interested in becoming contestants on The Price Is Right Live™ should consult [www.capefearstage.com](http://www.capefearstage.com) for complete rules and registration information, which will be forthcoming.

## HOMETOWN NEWS FROM BRUNSWICK COUNTY

## The future is all around us daily

It appears to many seniors that we are living in changing times we have never seen before. But the indefinite period of times yet to be. That which will happen in time to come. The prospective or forseen condition of a person or thing. Take the best outlook on life and be successful.

Verniece Stanley

The future look can be of great value to the young adults in high school. Many senior citizens are interested in their future and to be successful in life. Learn how important it is to

think about your future. Look around you and find others making their way to a better way of living in the future. It is true that the young people will think of the past and the struggles we had to make in order to have food on the small wooden table to eat with the family in peace and love.

This year we will have strong winds and rains that will cause danger to the community. We must make the necessary preparation for times like these. We have so much to think about daily. Again it's very important how we think about the cold weather. Jobless people must survive because the outside possibilities are strong in many places and growing. Winter is here and it is warm inside and cold out-

side.

It's hard to believe that some counties votes were never counted. What are they going to do about the votes and how can it be corrected?

As senior citizens age there are things we can do to help make their senior years as healthy and fulfilling as possible. We would like to pass this information on. Smoking is not good for you. Researchers at the University of Pittsburgh state that it's not too late. Even after 40 or 50 years of smoking the body can still repair the damage. Studies show the benefits of quitting at any age and you don't have to wait years before you see those benefits. Many are noticed in the first year or even the first month

after quitting.

Verniece E. Stanley is a native of Brunswick County. She grew up on a farm but wanted more excitement in life. She graduated from high school in Brunswick County in 1948 and graduated from Fayetteville State Teachers' College in 1952. She taught school in Brunswick County for nine years. She moved to Baltimore, Maryland, married, and taught school for twenty-five more years. She received her master's degree from Morgan State College in Baltimore City. She retired and moved back to Bolivia, N. C. where she enjoys writing articles for The Wilmington Journal and is an active member of the NAACP Board.

### Burnett-Eaton Museum's 13th Annual Kwanzaa Celebration of family, community & culture "Harvesting the Seeds After the Storm"

BY ISLAH SPELLER  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

December 26th marks the beginning of a seven day African-American celebration; Matunda Ya Kwanzaa "First Fruits of the Harvest".

Studied and created by Dr. Maulana Karenga. An activist, author, and professor of African Studies. In 1966, Dr. Karenga established this cultural celebration to preserve African-American tradition, legacy and the best of who we are as

a people through 7 principles: Unity, Self-Determination, Collective Work, Cooperative Economics, Purpose, Creativity, and Faith.

The event will be held nightly 6pm-9pm, December 26th 2018-January 1st 2019 at St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Jackson Hall, 600 Grace Street, Wilmington, NC.

This year's theme is 'Harvesting the Seeds After the Storm'. Attendees are encouraged to bring non-perishable goods, new or gently used & clean winter wraps

for the community charity and Kwanzaa exchange tables. The ingathering will include the traditional Kwanzaa Ceremonial Libation and Candle-lighting of the Kinara.

The celebration will feature local artist musicians, African Dancing, Spoken word, Community Leaders from North Carolina as Guest Speakers, family fun, games, refreshments, face painting. The festival will also include a Kwanzaa Market in observance of the 4th principle Ujamma

(Cooperative Economics) to help create diversity for entrepreneurs & local businesses to provide and maintain their services.

The community fashion show; 'Design with Culture in Mind' will be on December 31st. So wear your Afrocentric, African or sentimental attire and come out for a week of celebrating ourselves as individuals, each other as families, our community and culture.

A special thank you to St. Marks Episcopal Church and Kwanzaa Committee.

### CFCC receives scholarship to support Wooden Boat Building program

Wilmington, NC –The Cape Fear Community College Foundation received a \$3,000 donation from the organizers of the Southport Wooden Boat Show on Friday, December 7th. The donation will support an annual scholarship fund for students in CFCC's Wooden Boat Building program. Chris Schnell, president and chairman of the 2018 Southport Wooden Boat Show; Lee



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

(L-R Representatives from the Southport Wooden Boat Show Lee Maxwell, vice chairman/marketing and sales); Becky Felton, board secretary/education committee chair; and Chris Schnell, president/chairman; present a check for scholarships to CFCC's John Olsen, program director, boat manufacture and service; Mark Bayne, program director, wooden boat building; and Veronica Godwin, executive director of the Foundation.

Maxwell, vice chairman/marketing and sales; and Becky Felton, board secretary and educational committee chair; presented a check for the donation to CFCC's Wooden Boat Building Program Director Mark Bayne, and Veronica Godwin, executive director of the CFCC Foundation.

The scholarship is funded from the proceeds of the group's annual boat show, now in its ninth year. Held each September at Southport's historic Old Yacht Basin, the event showcases a variety of traditional wooden boat constructions including kayaks, iconic fishing boats, rowboats and more.

Chris Schnell, president of the 2018 Southport Wooden Boat Show, said that CFCC's participation in the boat show is a cornerstone of the annual event. "The Southport Wooden Boat Show's purpose

and mission is to promote interest in and disseminate knowledge of the craft and art of wooden boat construction, to support efforts to preserve wooden boat construction and skills, and to celebrate the region's maritime and boatbuilding history. Nowhere in our area is this more readily seen than at CFCC's Wooden Boat Building program. This is one of a handful of such programs on the East Coast responsible for educating a new generation of young adults in our region in this craft. It is also demonstrated each year at our annual event as they build a wooden boat right before your eyes. Supporting this program and its students is central to our mission. We are honored to help preserve and promote this program," said Schnell.

"We're so fortunate to be able to participate in the

show each year," said Jim Morton, CFCC president. "It's a great opportunity for our students. And, the scholarship support students receive from the Southport Wooden Boat Show helps them to master this timeless craft, which is vital to our community. It's a wonderful partnership."

To date, the Southport Wooden Boat show has contributed \$12,000 to the CFCC Foundation to fund scholarships for boat-building students.

For more information about the Southport Wooden Boat Show, visit [www.southportwoodenboatshow.com](http://www.southportwoodenboatshow.com).

For more information about Cape Fear Community College (CFCC), the CFCC Foundation, or establishing a scholarship please contact the CFCC Foundation at (910) 362-7207 or visit [www.cfcc.edu/foundation](http://www.cfcc.edu/foundation).



# IMAGINE.

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THE WILMINGTON JOURNAL!!

**Dorothy E. White**

Dorothy E. White, age 82, of Navassa, passed away Wednesday, December 19, 2018. A celebration of Ms. White's life was held on Wednesday, December 26, 2018 at Davis Chapel Missionary Baptist Church. Burial followed in Mt. Calvary A.M.E. Church Cemetery.

She is survived by her daughter, Yvonne Canty; sons, Ricky Canty, Maurice Canty, Rueben Canty, Nathan Canty and Janaan McIntyre; special niece, Vanessa Brown; special nephew, Patrick Andrews; sisters, Gladys Mapson and Nellie Andrews; brother, Lewis Brown; numerous grandchildren and great grandchildren and a host of nieces, nephews, other family and friends. *Services entrusted to Davis Funeral Home, 901 S. 5th Ave, Wilmington, NC 28401. Please share memories and condolences with the family at www.davisfuneralhomenc.com*

**Kathryn B. Ennett**

Kathryn B. Ennett, age 100, of Wilmington, passed away Friday, December 21, 2018. Arrangements are incomplete and will be announced. *Services entrusted to Davis Funeral Home, 901 S. 5th Ave, Wilmington, NC 28401. Please share memories and condolences with the family at www.davisfuneralhomenc.com*

**Cecil R. Price**

Cecil R. Price, age 81, of Wilmington, passed away Saturday, December 22, 2018. A memorial service will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, December 29, 2018 at Federal Point Pentecostal Church. *Services entrusted to Davis Funeral Home, 901 S. 5th Ave, Wilmington, NC 28401. Please share memories and condolences with the family at www.davisfuneralhomenc.com*

**Falana Sketers**

Falana "Lana" S. Sketers, age 42, of Wilmington, passed away Saturday, December 22, 2018. Friends are cordially invited to a visitation with the family from 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. on Friday, December 28, 2018. A celebration of Ms. Sketers' life will be conducted at 11:00 a.m., Saturday, December 29, 2018, at Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church, 3701 Princess Place Dr., Wilmington, NC 28405. Interment will follow in Greenlawn Memorial Park. *Services entrusted to Davis Funeral Home, 901 S. 5th Ave, Wilmington, NC 28401. Please share memories and condolences with the family at www.davisfuneralhomenc.com*

**JoAnn Hanible**

On Saturday, December 15, 2018, the Lord looked down on Sister JoAnn Hanible and said you have suffered enough, "Well done, thy good and faithful servant, thou has been faithful

over a few things, come on up higher and I will make you ruler over many".

Ms. JoAnn Hanible, daughter of the late Marion Hanible and the step-daughter of Clarence Hammonds, was born June 4, 1955 in Wilmington, North Carolina. She was preceded in death by her sister Julia Hanible.

JoAnn attended New Hanover High School, graduating in the class of 1973. She had a very fun and outgoing personality, which sometimes led her to get into trouble with her longtime friends. She was a member of the cheerleading squad and ROTC. If you knew her, you knew she was the life of the party.

For many years, JoAnn placed her faith in Jesus Christ as her Savior, and was a member of Mt. Calvary Missionary Baptist Church. Due to her illness she was not able to attend regularly, but she kept "Church" in her heart. She will be truly missed.

JoAnn leaves to cherish her memories: daughter: Atabaa Goodman (Vinnie), Wilmington, NC; grandchildren: Christopher Goodman and Caden Goodman, both of Wilmington, NC; significant other: Jimmie Stevens, Wilmington, NC; sister: Zoranella Wilson (Harry), Baltimore, MD; Brothers: Jesse Hanible (Alnita), Clarence Hanible (Stephanie) all of Wilmington; four special cousins: Jackie Webb, Laquana Brown, Dorothy Drakeford, Ruth Loftin; devoted friends: Diane Hayes, Janice Williams, Jackie Jones, Gloria Batts, Linda Hansley; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

A funeral service was held on Saturday, December 22, 2018, 2018 at Macedonia Fire Baptized Holiness Church. Burial was in Calvary Cemetery. *Arrangements by Adkins-Drain Funeral Service, Inc., 515 South Eighth Street, Wilmington, North Carolina 28401. Condolences may be shared at www.adkinsdrainfuneralservice.com.*

**Lucille Hawes Bouknight Moore**

Lucille Hawes Bouknight Moore entered into eternal rest on December 17, 2018. She was born on November 17, 1933 in Atkinson, North Carolina, the first of seven siblings. Her parents were the late Lilly Hawes McKeever and the late Judge Waters

Lucille attended schools in Pender County, North Carolina and received a degree in nursing in Brooklyn, NY. She worked as a Registered Nurse for over 40 years. Upon retirement, she moved back to Wilmington, North Carolina in 2003 to be close to her family. Before her health failed, Lucille attended Union Missionary Baptist Church, of Wilmington, North Carolina. She was married to Frank Mitchell, who preceded her in death in 2016.

Lucille leaves to cherish her memories: four sisters Jessie M. Grady of Castle Hayne, NC, Mary McDonald, Mattie R. Johnson, Marie McKeever all of Wilmington, NC, (one sister Louise Marshburn preceded her in death), and two brothers Lonnie McKeever and Roy McKeever both of Wilmington, NC; two special nieces, Marilyn L. Johnson of Wilmington, NC, Linda Williams of Macon, GA and a host of nieces, nephews, relatives and friends.

A Funeral Service was held on Sunday, December 23, 2018, 2018 at Adkins-Funeral Service. Burial was in Pine Forest Cemetery. *Arrangements by Adkins-Drain Funeral Service, Inc., 515 South Eighth Street, Wilmington, North Carolina 28401. Condolences may be shared at www.adkinsdrainfuneralservice.com.*

**Byron Funderburke**

Byron Alonzo Funderburke died December 14, 2018. Funeral services were held on Saturday, December 22, 2018 at St. Phillip AME Church.

Bryon was born on July 23, 1987 in Wilmington, NC to Bryan Funderburke and Sabrena Walker. While growing up in a Christian home and environment, Bryan accepted Christ as his personal Lord and Savior while attending St. Phillip AME Church. His gifts included being very athletic which were beyond those of an average child. He was a loving person who loved his family and greeted everyone with a smile.

Bryon leaves to cherish his memory: one son, Isaiah Dailey (Tiarra); two daughters, Samyah Funderburke Temoney (Shanta) and Zoey Higgins (Carrie), all of Wilmington, NC; his loving mother, Sabrena Walker (Frank); his father, Bryan Funderburke; brothers, Ramel Curry, Kowan Curry and Shaun Powell, all of Wilmington, NC; grandmothers, Deloris McGoogan and Glorious Leaven; grandfather, Grady G. Funderburke, Sr.; great-grandmother, LeCola Sharpless; a host of nieces, nephews, his crew, cousins other relatives and friends. A Service of John H Shaw's Son Funeral Home.

**Cathleen Greene**

Cathleen Greene died December 16, 2018 at NHRMC. A memorial service was held on Saturday, December 22, 2018 at the Willie L. Shaw Jr. Memorial Chapel.

Kathleen was born March 20, 1945 to the late Penney McKoy and Glen Green of Scotts Hill, NC. She attended New Hanover County Schools. Cathleen was married to Robert Day. She was preceded in death by her brother, Andrew Harris and aunts, Vera Bell Mumford and Willie Evans.

She leaves to cherish her memories: one son, Jefferey Green of the city; one daughter, Pamela Green of the city; brothers, Lewis Green (Ida) of

the city and Randolph Green of Atlanta, GA; grandchildren, Liera, Kyon, Kedaja, Kinia, Quillan and Dante; great-grandchildren, Khaliey, Khalil and Nyka; uncle, Curtis Green of the city; step brothers, James Williams, Oscar Williams and Lee Williams; step-sisters, Mary Ann McCrimmon (Eli), Nadine Frazier (Oliver) and Jacqueline Hayes, all of the city; special cousins, TeSona Mitchell, Janice Johnson and Linda Mitchell; a host of other relatives and friends, including, Glow, Robin and Harry Barnhill. *A Service of John H Shaw's Son Funeral Home.*

**Archie James Smoakes**

Archie James Smoakes died December 17, 2018. Funeral services were held on Sunday, December 23, 2018 at God's Royal Family Church of God. (Sunset Park area). Burial followed in Calvary Cemetery.

Archie was born October 18, 1953 in South Carolina to the late Archie James, Sr. and Emily Smoakes Herring. Archie was employed with New Hanover County Schools until he enlisted in the US Army in 1975. At the end of his Army career he returned to Wilmington and enlisted with the Army Reserves where he served for many years. He also worked at New Hanover Regional Medical Center until the mid 90's. Archie was a loving son, brother and uncle. He loved his family time, cookouts, and laughing with everyone, sharing his military stories letting everyone know he was still proud to be a military man.

He leaves to celebrate his life: sisters, Mary Ortiz (Jamie), Debora Dillard (Mike), Pamela Smoakes and Carolyn Smoakes and brothers, Jerome Smoakes

and David Smoakes ; all of Wilmington, NC; aunts Carol Richardson (Russell) of Charleston, SC, Maxine Turner of New York and Dot Scott; uncles, Leon Taylor (Joan) of Awendaw, SC and Vincent Taylor (Cynthia) of Huger, SC; special nephew, whom he raised, Donald Smoakes; special cousin, Roxanna Nixon; step-grandson, Jamal D. Mallet, Jr. who he loved with all his heart; a host of nieces, nephews, cousins and friends including his neighbor, Journee Temoney. *A Service of John H Shaw's Son Funeral Home.*

**Ellis Hooper**

Ellis Hooper died December 21, 2018 at New Hanover Regional Medical Center. Funeral services will be held at 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, December 27, 2018 at Hoopers Chapel Missionary Baptist Church. Burial will follow in Hooper Cemetery. *A Service of John H Shaw's Son Funeral Home.*

**Donell Williams**

Donell Williams died December 22, 2018 at New Hanover Regional Medical Center. Funeral services will be held 11:00 a.m. on Friday, December 28, 2018 at New Covenant Holiness Church. *A Service of John H Shaw's Son Funeral Home.*

**Judie Smith Robinson**

Judie Smith Robinson died December 23, 2018. Funeral services will be 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, December 29, 2018 at Bethel AME Church, Northwest. Visitation is 5-7 PM Friday at Bethel. Burial will fol-

low in the church cemetery. *A Service of John H Shaw's Son Funeral Home.*

**Linda Maxwell Grainger Green**

Linda Maxwell Grainger Green died December 23, 2018. Funeral services will be 11:00 a.m. Saturday, December 29, 2018 at Mt. Olive AME. Visitation is one hour prior to the service only. *A Service of John H Shaw's Son Funeral Home.*



**Willie Blanch Evans**

**The Empty Chair**

Stands for our loved ones that have gone before us. The sound of their footsteps; the laughter... Sometimes we still hear. We sense our loved ones are still with us and they are... In our hearts and in our minds.

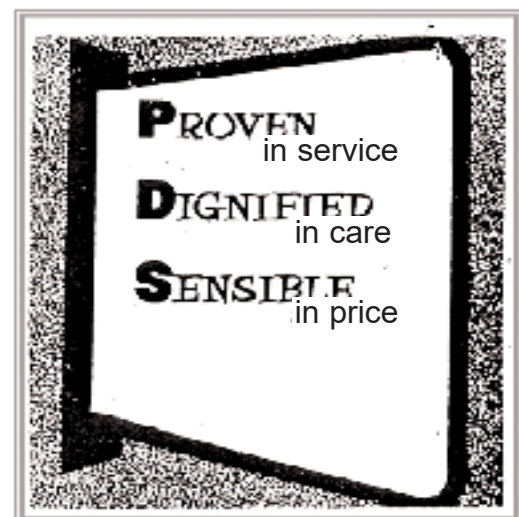
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In Memoriam



Connie Drain Green  
Funeral Director

## New Hanover County

**Faith Temple Church**, 1119 S. 4th St., WATCH NIGHT CELEBRATION will be held on Monday night, December 31st at 10:00 p.m. Join Faith Temple for Watch Night Service, featuring musical and dance groups, and special guest, Gospel Comedian and renowned evangelist Mother Spirit. This will be a time of rejoicing as we celebrate the "Victory at Midnight". The public is invited to attend.

Religious  
Briefs

**St. Mark's Episcopal Church**, 600 Grace St., will hold a free community Kwanzaa Fashion Show on Monday, December 31st. Volunteers are needed. For more information contact Beverly Faison at 757-218-2223.

Policies for briefs, news, & photos on page 2.

Compiled By Wilmington Journal Staff

THE WILMINGTON  
JOURNAL

## —SALUTES—

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## TELL SOMEBODY

*"And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."* Luke 2:13,14

Peace - Absence of war  
Freedom from quarrels and disagreements  
Inner Contentment

It is the will of God that there be peace on earth. "In the beginning, God created the heaven and the earth." Genesis 1:1 "The earth is the Lord's, and the fullness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein." Psalm 24:1 Jesus taught his disciples to pray in Matthew 6:9,10, "Thy kingdom come! Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven." There should be peace on earth, because there is peace in heaven.

Jesus said in Matthew 24:6a, "And ye shall hear of wars and rumors of wars:" You may wonder, Lord when will there be peace on earth? Before we can completely end one war, another war has started. It seems that there is

war going on somewhere in the earth at all times! Nations are rising against nations, and kingdoms against kingdoms, but when the Lord says "peace," there shall be peace! Men say they are for peace, and all the while preparing for war, so how can we have peace on earth? There will come a day, according to the word of the Lord, when the wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together." And neither shall they learn war anymore. (Micah 4:3)



Sylvia Hooper

In I Cor. 7:15, we read, that God has called us to peace, even in our marriage relationships. Psalm 133:1 says, "Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity. (freedom from quarrels and dis-

agreements) No matter how much chaos is in the world, peace is always a possibility! How so, some may wonder?"

Peace is a legacy of Jesus Christ. "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid." St. John 14:27 "These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world." John 16:33 Inner peace comes from trusting in the Lord and abiding in his word.

Peace is a promise to the Believers in Christ who keep their minds stayed on him and who love him and his law. Psalm 29:11, "The Lord will give strength unto his people; the Lord will bless his people with peace." Psalm 119:165, "Great peace have they which love thy law: and nothing shall offend them." Isaiah 26:3, "Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee." Philippians 4:7, "And the peace of God,

which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."

Prayer: Lord, let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me. That is your will. In Jesus's Name .. Amen  
Tell Somebody !!!

"Mrs. Sylvia B. Hooper is a native Wilmingtonian, married to Pastor Johnson A. Hooper, First Lady of Faith Outreach COGIC, Jacksonville, N.C. She is a mother of three wonderful children and a proud grandmother! She is a Licensed Evangelist with COGIC, International. She is the President of P.W.E. Pastors Wives Empowerment Conference, an annual event held in honor of Pastors and ministers Wives. This support group's focus is to Encourage, Embrace and Empower Elect Ladies to be all they can be in Christ Jesus, while providing support to their husbands, who are Gospel preachers and pastors. Her heart's desire is to please the Lord, rescue the perishing, comfort the dying, and live a life that gives God glory!"

## NNPA's series on slavery among most read of 2018

BY STACY M. BROWN  
NNPA NEWSWIRE  
CORRESPONDENT

The shootings of unarmed African Americans by law enforcement officers continued as a hot topic throughout 2018.

As 2018 ends, justice, perpetually denied and hidden behind the "blue wall" of unaccountability, has finally come out of the shadows with the trial, conviction and imprisonment of Chicago Police Officer Jason Van Dyke. Van Dyke was convicted by a jury of his peers for the fatal shooting of 17-year-old Laquan McDonald, whom dashcam video showed was walking away when Van Dyke opened fire.

Upon his conviction, Van Dyke was immediately remanded into custody, saw a later bail request denied, and now faces a possible 20-year prison term upon sentencing, which is scheduled for Jan. 18, 2019.

Along with racially-charged shootings, alt-right protests and the emergence of white supremacists who've been vocal in their support of President Donald Trump and his anti-minority policies, there are reminders aplenty of what African Americans and other people of color have had to endure since the founding of the United States.

Three years ago, Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr., president and CEO of the National Newspaper Publishers Association, wrote an op-ed warning individuals of color that, "we have to be vigilant and concerned about any scheme to desensitize, trivialize or to downplay the actual genocidal realities of African slavery."

On Aug. 18, the United Nations held an observance that likely made Chavis, and others like him, proud. They remembered that on that date five hundred years prior, in 1518, Charles I, Spain's King, issued a charter authorizing the transportation of slaves from Africa to the Americas.

Up until then (from at least 1510), African slaves were generally transported to Spain or Portugal and then trans-shipped to the Caribbean. Charles's decision to create a more direct, more economically-viable Africa-to-America slave trade, fundamentally changed the nature and scale of this terrible human trafficking industry.

During the 350 years that followed Charles's decision, at least 10.7 million black Africans were transported across the hemispheres. An additional 1.8 million died on route. In August, the NNPA at Chavis' direction, began a series on the diabolical history and continued impact of the transatlantic slave trade.

To date, the NNPA has published eight parts of an ongoing series on the transatlantic slave trade - none was more controversial than Part Two,



To date, the NNPA has published eight parts of an ongoing series on the transatlantic slave trade - none was more controversial than Part Two, "The Catholic Church Played Major Role in Slavery."

"The Catholic Church Played Major Role in Slavery."

The trans-Atlantic slave trade was introduced by the coming of the Europeans who came with the Bible in the same manner that Arab raiders and traders from the Middle East and North Africa introduced Islam through the Trans-Saharan slave trade, according to AfricaW.com, a premiere informational website available throughout the continent.

"In fact, the Church was the backbone of the slave trade," the authors wrote. "In other words, most of the slave traders and slave ship captains were very 'good' Christians."

For example, Sir John Hawkins, the first slave-ship captain to bring African slaves to the Americas, was a religious man who insisted that his crew "serve God daily" and "love one another."

His ship, ironically called "The Good Ship Jesus," left the shores of his native England for Africa in October 1562. Some historians argue that if churches had used their power, the Atlantic slave trade might have never occurred.

By the same logic, others argue that the Catholic church and Catholic missionaries could have also helped to prevent the colonization and brutality of colonialism in Africa. However, according to a 2015 Global Black History report, the Catholic church did not oppose the institution of slavery until the practice had already become infamous in most parts of the world.

In most cases, the churches and church leaders did not condemn slavery until the 17th century.

The five major countries that dominated slavery and the slave trade in the New World were either Catholic, or still retained strong Catholic influences including: Spain, Portugal, France, and England, and the Netherlands.

"Persons who considered themselves to be Christian played a major role in upholding and justifying the enslavement of Africans," said Dr. Jonathan Chism, an assistant

professor of history at the University of Houston-Downtown.

"Many European 'Christian' slavers perceived the Africans they encountered as irreligious and uncivilized persons. They justified slavery by rationalizing that they were Christianizing and civilizing their African captors. They were driven by missionary motives and impulses," Chism said.

Many Anglo-Christians defended slavery using the Bible. For example, white Christian apologists for slavery argued that the curse of Ham, in Genesis 9:20-25, provided a biblical rationale for the enslavement of Blacks, Chism said.

In this passage, Noah cursed Canaan and his descendants arguing that Ham would be "the lowest of slaves among his brothers" because he saw the nakedness of his father.

However, a further understanding of the passage also reveals that, while some have attempted to justify their prejudice by claiming that God cursed the black race, no such curse is recorded in the Bible.

That oft-cited verse says nothing whatsoever about skin color.

Also, it should be noted that the Black race evidently descended from a brother of a Canaan named Cush. Canaan's descendants were evidently light-skinned - not black.

"Truly nothing in the biblical account identifies Ham, the descendant of Canaan, with Africans. Yet, Christian apologists determined that Africans were the descents of Ham," Chism said.

The reporting, viewed by tens of thousands, received numerous comments - some who claimed the Church was being picked on.

"This is certainly ill-informed. Someone needs to do more homework. Many Popes condemned slavery: Eugenius IV (in 1435 the Papal bull Sicut Dudum), Paul III (1537 bull Sublimus Dei), Gregory XIV (1590 bull Cum Sicuti), Urban VIII (1639 bull Commissum Nobis), Innocent XI (in 1676),

Benedict XIV (1741 bull Immensa Pastorum), Gregory XVI (1839 bull In Supremo), Leo XIII (in 1888 and 1890)," said reader Stephanie Jones.

Another reader, Deborah, commented: "Thank you Stephanie, you know, this makes me feel like it wasn't a coincidence that this author and this news media purposefully chose this time to bash the Church once again. Just to kick us while we are down."

However, reader Lisa Catranides defended the article, writing:

"Along with the practice of extraction of Africans from their homelands for enslavement on other continents, slavery of Africans IN Africa was brutally manifested under Christian Missionaries who imprisoned and enslaved thousands of Africans during the development of the rubber extraction industry.

"Christian missionary forces built numerous Stockades to hold and torment Africans forced to harvest rubber trees under direction of Dutch King Leopold with assistance of Christian Missionaries from Great Britain.

"An Irish missionary accompanying the British, named Rodger Casement, was knighted by the king of England for revealing the brutality of imposed slavery of rubber trade within Africa, leading to the cessation of Britain's involvement in the rubber trade partnership with the Dutch at that time."

Catranides continued: "The enslavement of people of color by the rubber trade also continued into South America, with Rodger Casement again exposing the crimes. "An excellent historic account of these atrocities is written by prize-winning author Mario Vargas Llosa in a novel entitled 'The Dream of the Celt.' It provides astonishing insights into this era, as lived by spirited Irishman Roger Casement, including excerpts from his personal journals ... No spoilers here... a must-read."

Parts of the series have tackled the responsibility of others.





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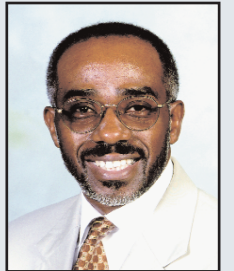
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OWEN METTS  
REALTY

- We specialize in the following services:
- Buying, selling, or investments real estate
  - Real estate consulting services
  - Loan modifications, foreclosure counseling
  - Credit and budget counseling
  - HUD Register Agent
  - Estate Planning

NEW LISTINGS NEEDED

DO YOU WANT TO SELL OR RENT YOUR PROPERTY?

WE MAY HAVE A BUYER OR RENTER WAITING FOR YOUR PROPERTY

DO YOU WANT TO PURCHASE PROPERTY?

Please call us first

TODAY FOR AN APPOINTMENT

321 North Front Street • Phone: 910-763-3777

Cell: 910-297-6997

Email: [ometts@yahoo.com](mailto:ometts@yahoo.com)

[www.owenmettsrealty.com](http://www.owenmettsrealty.com)

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