

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



"OUR ENDORSEMENTS" PAGE 4

BRUNSWICK COUNTY



BERNEST HEWETT

OUR LIVES DEPEND UPON VOTING

BY BERNEST HEWETT CONTRIBUTING WRITER

I remember the story of the struggle through which people of color, especially Blacks, had to come just to live safe and somewhat comfortable lives. I remember hearing my grandfather talk about raising a family of eleven children from share cropping on a farm. He would work all season until harvest time and then his profit for the year after settling his debt for food charged at the store or money borrowed from the landowner. If our people couldn't count, the owner would take part of that, and if they could count and keep records they were threatened and told that they were not needed another year. They were labeled a troublemaker. I remember that my grandfather and others talked about their trying to vote or going to places where elections were being held and

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THE WILMINGTON JOURNAL

News from the African American perspective without fear or favor

VOLUME 93/No. 9

FEBRUARY 27, 2020 - MARCH 4, 2020

\$1.00

Top Black Republican consultant blasts GOP for false Erica Smith ads

BY CASH MICHAELS OF THE WILMINGTON JOURNAL

One of the top Black Republican political consultants in Washington, D. C. has blasted his party and Republican Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell specifically, for "playing the race card" in sponsoring campaign ads promoting Democratic senatorial candidate, Erica Smith, in the upcoming March 3, 2020, North Carolina primary.

"Once again Republicans have

Please see GOP/Page 2



N.C. SENATOR ERICA SMITH



RAYNARD JACKSON



U.S. SENATOR THOM TILLIS

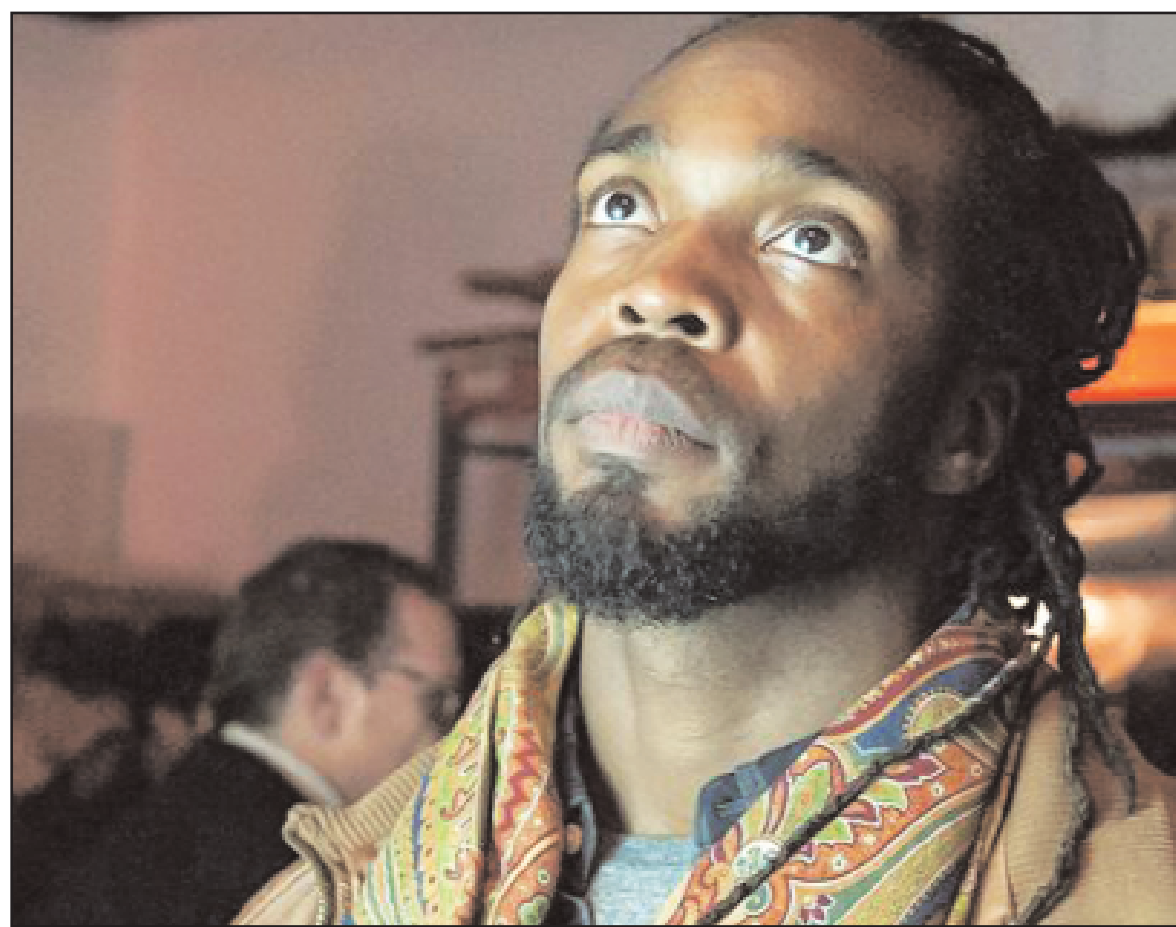


PHOTO FROM DUKE UNIVERSITY WEBSITE DURHAM-BORN ARTIST AND DUKE VISITING INSTRUCTOR STEPHEN HAYES

Cameron Art Museum offers US Colored Troops Sculpture

BY BEVERLY SMALLS CONTRIBUTING WRITER

If you, family, members of your church, institution of religion, unions, civic, fraternity and sorority groups have been

concerned about the number of local statues and monuments that honor defeated Civil War participants, Cameron Art Museum has a project for you.

The museum has commissioned Stephen

Please see HAYES/Page 3

Early voting statistics as of Monday

BY CASH MICHAELS OF THE WILMINGTON JOURNAL

With One Stop Early Voting - Same Day Registration in North Carolina, ending this Saturday, February 29, and March 3, Super Tuesday being primary day across North Carolina, all eyes are on the Black vote and any indication that it will be a deciding factor for Democrats.

Across North Carolina, 21.50% (1,492, 940) of all registered voters are Black; 51.87% (3, 601,229) are female.

In North Carolina, 36.37% of registered voters are Democrats; 29.91% are Republican; 33.06% are unaffiliated, according to NCSBE.

As of Monday, February 24 of this week, only 3.94% (273,393) of North Carolina's 6,942,736 registered voters cast absentee ballots.

267,113 of those were One Stop Early Voting ballots, according to the NC State Board of Elections (NCSBE).

123,678 of all absentee voters in North Carolina (which includes early voters), were Democrats, while just 76,147 were Republican, and 73,139 were unaffiliated.

Blacks have cast, thus far, 19.99% of the early votes cast; females have cast 52.24%.

For people of color, gentrification is more a curse than a blessing

BY STACY M. BROWN, NNPA NEWSWIRE SENIOR CORRESPONDENT @StacyBrownMedia

From a dowdy provincial city in the 1980s, Philadelphia has become a world-class urban center through gentrification - primarily through landmark architecture that now sets the city center and University City, apart.

"Over 50, and retirees, are moving back from the suburbs where they raised their children into Center City and the Italian Market where I have lived since 1980," stated Dr. Margaret J.

King, the director of The Center for Cultural Studies & Analysis in Philadelphia.

"Of course, gentrification brings money into the city, while it also drives up home prices - some houses have multiplied their asking prices 15 times over 40 years," King noted.

"Housing is being restored and renovated, making more of the city habitable and in fact desirable. Now the suburbs have flipped into a working-class magnet as well as a market for Millennials who can't afford center-city prices

Please see CURSE/Page 3



(PHOTO: ISTOCKPHOTO / NNPA) Philadelphia, - March 6, 2018: Community members, activists and students protest the then proposed \$130 million, 30,000-seat stadium on Temple University's campus in North Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

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

being turned away, if possible, or, at the very least, being asked all kinds of questions that had nothing to do with the election process. However, we began to come to the election polls, overcoming the suppression of the Black vote and determination of Whites to take away the power of the Black vote. Our vote has been bought, abused, stolen and even miscounted! Yet some of us still have enough pride in us to vote! Let's let this pride spread over all of us! Let's vote in great numbers! we have been sold a handful of wooden nickels! They don't spend! We must vote! Our very lives depend upon it! Bernest Hewett is President Emeritus of the Brunswick County Branch of the NAACP.



GOP

Continued from Page 1

proven that, when the radical liberal Democrats call us a party of racists, there is some merit to the charge," an outraged Raynard Jackson wrote in his weekly column last week. "...they saw more value and votes with White Southern Democrats, Dixiecrats, than with the Black community." Jackson, the president /CEO of Raynard Jackson & Associates, was blasting recent reports that the Faith and Power PAC [political action committee], a PAC that has been confirmed to be connected to The Senate Leadership Fund, which is a super PAC controlled by Sen. McConnell, reportedly spent \$2.4 million to purchase political advertising promoting State Senator Erica Smith in her primary race against frontrunner Cal Cunningham in next week's Democratic senatorial primary.

The winner of that primary goes on to face Republican incumbent, Sen. Thom Tillis, in the Nov. 3, 2020, general election.

The scheme, apparently, was either to push Smith to win the primary, thus setting up what Republicans perceive to be a weak candidate for Tillis to face, or to force Cunningham to spend money against Smith, thus depleting his campaign war chest against Tillis.

The ads also sought to label both Smith and Cunningham as early supporters of national front-running Democratic Socialist, presidential candidate, Sen. Bernie Sanders. Neither has endorsed Sanders.

Raynard Jackson apparently was displeased that McConnell's super PAC would set up a "throw away" PAC to spend \$2.4 million to set up a "radical liberal" Black female Democrat to fail, instead of spending that amount with his company "...to cultivate relationships in the Black community."

"...In their minds, its easier and more cost effective to inject race into an election and further divide a state and country, versus taking their conservative message directly to the Black community and asking them to support their candidate." Jackson wrote.

"Do you know how much good I could have done with this money to help our Republican candidate in North Carolina?"

"Blacks account for over 21% of the population in North Carolina and the party, and Tillis has little to no meaningful relationship with the Black community," Raynard Jackson continued. "If Tillis loses his race, more than likely, Trump will lose the state also, thus making it almost impossible for Trump to be re-elected as President. So, in many ways, Trump and Tillis are tied at the hip."

Jackson then rhetorically asks the central question many Democratic and progressive activists ask when it comes to Republican well documented attempts to undermine the Black vote.

"If they really believe in a conservative message that can cure the ills of liberalism that has been directed towards the Black community, when will they take their message to the marketplace of ideas within the Black community?" he asked.

Jackson then urges McConnell to "... not only apologize for injecting the worse of racial politics into this election; but [he] should make an affirmative commitment to work with Black operatives to engage with

the Black community in Senate races across the country and cease and desist from the racial politics that should be in our past."

He goes on to suggest that McConnell's action may have cost Tillis his senate seat in November because outraged Black voters will be sure to line up against Tillis.

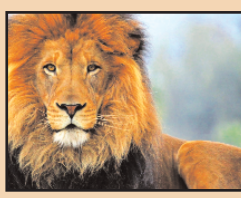
For his part, Tillis' campaign is not having anything to do with the McConnell super PAC plot.

Sen. Smith wants her supporters to understand that she is not working with Republicans to win the Democratic primary and has denounced the Faith and Power PAC campaign ads.

Advertisement for Don Betz, County Commissioner. Text: DON BETZ County Commissioner betzforchange.com

Advertisement for Our Food Lion. Text: 100% FRESH OR DOUBLE YOUR MONEY BACK. 100% FRESH for our CAROLINA NEIGHBORS. This is our home That's Our FOOD LION. Images of strawberries, avocados, and blueberries.

"If the lions do not write their own history, then the hunters will get all the credit." ----- AN AFRICAN PROVERB



STATE BRIEFS



STATE PREPARING FOR CORONAVIRUS OUTBREAK

[RALEIGH] U.S. public health officials insist it is not a matter of if the deadly coronavirus will hit the United States, but when.

Earlier this week, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC) warned Americans to prepare for "a significant disruption" to their daily lives as more and more infections become evident. With cases showing up in Italy, Iran, and South Korea - well outside China, the virus' place of known origin. Thus there are CDC health screenings at North Carolina major airports, and travelers are being

checked for where out of the country they have been to ensure that they are not bring the virus back.

BLUE ENDORSES PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE BLOOMBERG

[RALEIGH] A prominent black North Carolina Democrat has come out in support of Democratic presidential candidate Mike Bloomberg. State Senate

minority Leader Dan Blue, along with state House Minority Leader Rep. Darren Jackson, came out with a joint statement this week, saying that Bloomberg was the best choice for president because, as a former mayor of New York, he's dealt with difficult issues that are plaguing the nation now, before. The North Carolina primary is next Tuesday, March 3rd.

DURHAM COUNTY COMMISSIONERS WILL PROBE RACISM CHARGE BY BLACK COUNTY MANAGER

[DURHAM] The black Durham County manager alleges that a white Durham County commissioner has "an inherent bias" toward him and "people of color in general." Manager Wendell M. Davis made the charge against Commissioner Heidi Carter

in a Feb. 11th letter to the commission board. Davis alleges that Carter has used racist language in his presence. Commissioner Carter denied the allegation during a public meeting Monday. The board is now investigating.

COMPILED BY CASH MICHAELS

HAYES

Continued from Page 1

Hayes from Duke University of Art, Art History, and Visual Studies Department to create a United States Colored Troops Public Sculpture that will honor the services of the 35th, 36th, 37th Regiments.

According to John McDonnell, the museum's director of development, five regiments from NC and Ohio fought locally on February 20 and 21, 1865 to secure the sovereignty of the United States through a

victorious outcome in the Battle of Forks Road.

"Because of these brave soldiers, Wilmington, the Confederacy's last major seaport fell, and the Union won control of Wilmington's port facilities, the city's railroads, and the Cape Fear River, helping secure the Union's position and weaken the Confederacy," McDonnell said.

Cameron Art Museum physically stands on the grounds of the Battle of Forks Road. A new commemorative sculpture will honor the colored troops' valor and services, and pro-

vide opportunities for reflecting on local and regional black men.

Cameron Museum's research documents that many fighters were former slaves from southeastern NC. Escaped slaves were known to have gone to New Bern to enlist with the United States Colored Troops.

Though they faced possible death and terrible hostilities their bold services were thoroughly linked to personal circumstances and their people's want of freedom.

Stephen Hayes, the assigned sculptor, is a

Durham native who earned the MFA Degree from the Savannah College of Art and Design.

He is the Brock Family Visiting Instructor at Duke University.

"When I was a kid it was all about wowing my mom, which meant showing her what I could make, exploring, and not being afraid to fail," Hayes said during an interview at Duke.

"Grad School pushed me to learn how to talk about my artwork and how to give it meaning," the creative artist said.

Saturday, March 14, the

public can meet and greet the artist during a 4 p.m. Wilmington United States Colored Troops Public Sculpture Project Fund-raiser at Cameron Art Museum in a ticketed \$35 per person event.

Refreshments and musical tunes from Mangroove will complement Hayes' public introduction to regional citizens.

Attendees will receive information regarding the November sculpture installation celebration, and opportunities for permanently engraved texts for mortar at the sculpture site.

Museum officials state there are 1,503 public monuments in the US that celebrate the Confederacy. North Carolina has 140 on public grounds.

In this state, Hertford has the one memorial commemorating services of the United States Colored Troops.

Local United States Colored Troops Reenactor, James White will serve as a casting for the new sculpture.

For more information contact John McDonnell at 910-395-5999 ext. 1010 or john@cameronartmuseum.org.

CURSE

Continued from Page 1

yet," King stated.

Gentrification isn't just an issue in Philadelphia - not by a long shot.

According to a March 2019 study by the National Community Reinvestment Coalition (NCRC), more than 135,000 Black and Hispanics around the nation were displaced between 2000 and 2012.

Gentrification and displacement of long-time residents were most intense from 2000 to 2013 in the nation's biggest cities, and rare in most other places, according to the study.

During those years, gentrification was concentrated in larger cities with vibrant economies but also appeared in smaller cities where it often impacted areas with the most amenities near central business districts.

In Washington, D.C., 20,000 Black residents were displaced, and in Portland, Oregon, 13 percent of the Black community was displaced over the more than

decade period that was studied.

Seven cities accounted for nearly half of the gentrification nationally: New York City, Los Angeles, Washington, D.C., Philadelphia, Baltimore, San Diego, and Chicago.

Washington, D.C., was the most gentrified city by percentage of eligible neighborhoods that experienced gentrification; New York City was the most gentrified by sheer volume, study authors noted.

According to the Merriam-Webster Dictionary, gentrification is defined as the process of repairing and rebuilding homes and businesses in a deteriorating area, such as an urban neighborhood, accompanied by an influx of middle-class or affluent people and that often results in the displacement of earlier, usually poorer residents.

"Gentrification is rich people deciding they want a specific neighborhood as their own, and they get municipal backing, pay some money, and get all of the poor people out of there," stated Mark

Love, a New York realtor.

Neighborhoods were considered to be eligible to gentrify if, in 2000, they were in the lower 40 percent of home values and family incomes in that metropolitan area.

During the study, researchers found that most low- to moderate-income neighborhoods did not gentrify or revitalize.

Instead, they remained impoverished, untouched by investments and building booms that occurred in major cities, and vulnerable to future gentrification and displacement.

"When a neighborhood gentrifies, the cost of living increases, and it's harder for low-income families to find housing, and that's one of the biggest downsides," stated Melanie Musson, a writer for ExpertInsuranceReviews.com.

"In a city like Philadelphia, neighborhoods are part of your identity. If you grow up in a neighborhood, you often want to remain living there your whole life because it's who you are," Musson stated.

"Unfortunately, some-

times, after several generations living in the same zip code, the newest generation has to find housing elsewhere because it's too expensive to live where their home has always been," she said.

Bruce Mirken, the media relations director for the nonprofit public, policy, and advocacy organization, The Greenlining Institute, said he lives in San Francisco and works in Oakland - two cities that are ground zero for the gentrification crisis in California.

"We see the most obvious results among the very low-income, who increasingly cannot keep a roof over their heads, leading to a growing homeless population," Mirken stated.

"And homelessness in California has a distinct racial dynamic, tracing back through a long history of redlining and discrimination: Black Californians represent about six and a half percent of our state's population, but about 40 percent of its homeless," he noted.

In New York, where many residents are still growing accustomed to the decades-long gentrification of Harlem, the Bronx has forever been known as the city's most urban borough. That's quickly changing due to gentrification.

In November 2019, officials announced a \$950 million, 4.3 acre, multi-tower, and mixed-use development along the Mott Haven waterfront. More than 1,300 high-

end apartments are among the upgrades that are certain to price many long-time residents out of the area.

Mychal Johnson, a co-founding member of South Bronx Unite, told The Bronx Times that gentrification isn't good for economically oppressed communities of color.

"It seems like the community board, and Borough president isn't looking out for the community," Johnson stated.

For the NCRC study, Shekinah Mitchell, the Neighborhood Partnerships Manager for the Virginia Local Initiatives Support Corporation, noted that, as the former capital of the Confederacy, Richmond's history is steeped in racial oppression, inequality, and injustice.

Mitchell noted that, in 2016, Richmond had similar numbers of Black and White residents. From 2000 to 2016, the Black population decreased by seven percent, while the White population increased by 35 percent.

In 2000, Blacks were 57 percent of the population, and whites were 38 percent. In 2016, Blacks represented 47 percent and Whites were 46 percent of the population.

"This shift has come to the East End like a racialized wave crashing onto the shores of the neighborhood in currents of physical, cultural, and economic displacement. The Black com-

munity is drowning as we watch our land and culture swallowed up, block by block with no reprieve in sight," Mitchell wrote in the report.

"Gentrification in the East End of Richmond is manifesting as a process of re-segregation," she stated. "In Richmond, gentrification is colonization."

In Portland, Oregon, an essay that accompanied the NCRC study noted that city as the "Whitest city of its size in the United States."

The city's White population currently stands at 77.4 percent while Blacks make up just 5.7 percent.

"Take a group of people who have been systematically denied wealth-building opportunities for generations, add low, stagnating incomes, throw in a sub-prime mortgage disaster, spiraling housing costs and wholesale community displacement, and you have a recipe for a severe economic backslide," Cheryl Chandler-Roberts, executive director of Portland's African American Alliance for Homeownership, said in the report.

"There is no African American community in Portland at this point," Chandler-Roberts stated.

"It's a scattered community."

**NEXT: Urban development and public policy experts from Carnegie Mellon University weigh-in on gentrification.**

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**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.**

**The Wilmington Journal welcomes letters from its readers. All letters are subject to editing. We will not publish pseudonymous letters. All correspondence must include a home address and a daytime phone number. All correspondence must be signed, unless it is e-mailed. Letters may be sent to our Physical Address: 412 S. 7th Street, 28401 or our Mailing Address: P.O. Box 1020, 28402. We also accept letters via e-mail at wilmjourn@aol.com or via fax at (910) 343-1334.**

## OUR VOICE

### Our endorsements for March 3, 2020 Primary Day

On Tuesday, March 3rd, North Carolina will be one of fourteen Super Tuesday states holding primaries to determine party nominees for the November 3rd general elections.

Offices on the local, state and federal levels of government, from county commissioner, to governor, to president of the United States, will be on the ballot.

On Tuesday, when the polls open at 6:30 a.m., voters will NOT be required to show photo identification in order to legally cast their ballots.

Only registered voters in North Carolina will be allowed to vote on Tuesday, March 3rd.

#### ONE STOP - EARLY VOTING/SAME DAY REGISTRATION

For those voters who need to cast their ballots prior to Tuesday, March 3, you have until this Saturday, February 29, to early vote.

Today and Friday, polls open at 8:00 a. m. and close at 7:30 p. m. Saturday, polls open at 8:00 a. m. and close at 3 p.m. Again, NO photo ID is required.

#### OUR ENDORSEMENTS

We hope that all of our readers who are eligible to vote will do so in this crucial primary to chose nominees for the Nov. 3 general elections.

Here, for your consideration, are our recommendations for candidates who, upon careful inspection, deserve your support. They are all Democrats.

#### PRESIDENT - JOE BIDEN

There's been a lot of drama this primary season, and a lot of it has involved former Vice President Joe Biden. However, at the end of the day, Biden has the deep experience and leadership necessary to pull this nation out of the utter doldrums it's in.

#### U. S. SENATE - ERICA SMITH

It is a shame and disgrace that State Sen. Erica Smith's run for the U. S. Senate to unseat the Republican incumbent Sen. Thom Tillis has been mired by GOP's fake advertising. That aside, Sen. Smith has shown, during her time in the legislature, a commitment and dedication to the people of North Carolina, and the issues that confront them. Sen. Smith deserves your vote.

#### N. C. GOVERNOR - ROY COOPER

We may not always agree with him, but Gov. Roy Cooper has proven to be a steady, thoughtful leader, who, when required, fights for the people of North Carolina. Compared to his weak Republican predecessor, Gov. Cooper is a breath of fresh air.

#### LT. GOV. - YVONNE LEWIS HOLLEY

Former State employee, Yvonne Lewis Holley, isn't interested in just getting a new title. She's interested in using the new title to do the important work, like addressing the problem of food deserts in poor communities across the State. Her father was Black television pioneer, J. D. Lewis. Therefore, community service is in her blood. Holley deserves your vote. Honorable mention is given to Hoke County Commissioner Allen Thomas.

#### STATE AUDITOR - BETH WOOD

Incumbent State Auditor, Beth Wood, has been keeping a sharp eye on how efficiently North Carolina government is being run and has saved this State millions. Keeping her on the job would be a wise decision.

#### NC SUPT. OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION - KEITH SUTTON

Those who know Keith Sutton, a Wake County School Board member of many years, know him to be a man who fights hard for ALL children. Finding a better nominee for North Carolina's top educational spot is not possible. Keith Sutton should be your man!

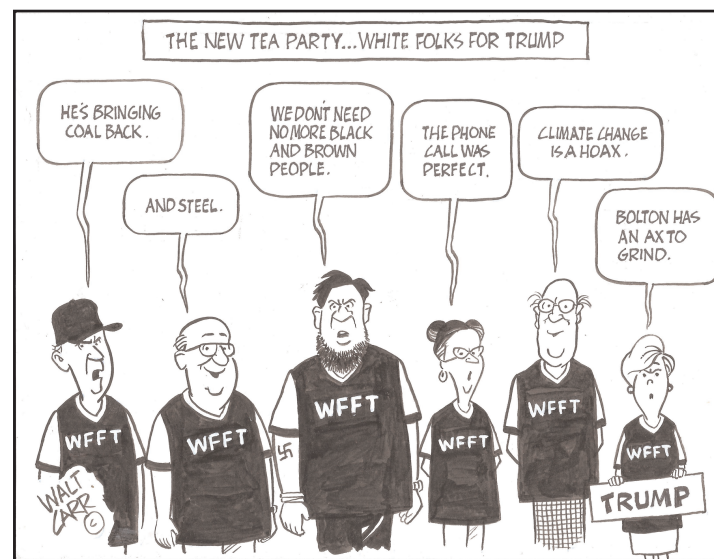
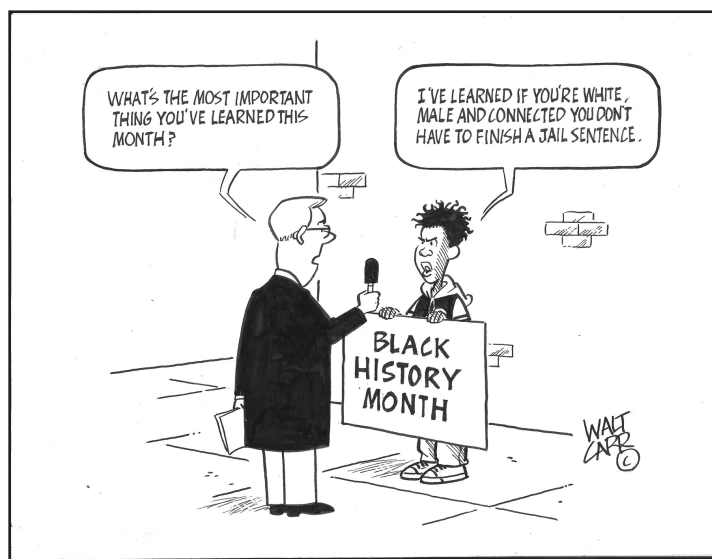
#### STATE TREASURER - RONNIE CHATTERJI

We'd never heard of Ronnie Chatterji before now, but once we looked into him, quite frankly, we were impressed. He was a senior economic advisor to President Barack Obama. He's currently an economist and professor of business and public policy at Duke University. He is a member of Gov. Roy Cooper's Entrepreneurial Council and N. C. First Commission. The son of two public school teachers, Ronnie was also once a teacher in Durham Public Schools. Oh...and his Twitter handle is #theNerdWeNeed. Ronnie is a breath of fresh air! He deserves your vote!

#### NEW HANOVER COUNTY COMMISSIONERS JONATHAN BARFIELD, JR., DON BETZ, LESLIE COHEN

If your neck is still loose from all the turning it back and forth you did after learning that our Board of County Commissioners is seriously considering selling our county hospital, we understand. We couldn't believe it either, and that's why we need three public servants to serve who know the people they serve, respect the people, and maintain the respect they've earned always doing so. Barfield, Betz and Cohen deserve your support on Election Day!

## Visual Voice



## YOUR VOICE

**THESE FOUR MILLIONAIRES GAVE A TAX CUT TO THE RICH, TRIED TO STOP OBMACARE AND HAVE PLANS TO CUT OUR SOCIAL SECURITY**

In North Carolina we can retire King TRUMP and his boot-licker U.S. Senator Thom Tillis in the 12 seconds it takes

to mark our ballot. South Carolina and Kentucky can do the same and rid us of, put me in coach, Lindsley Graham and "Moscow" Mitch McConnell (nick-name given by Joe Scarborough from MSNBC last year) also. We must keep the senates seats we have and flip at least five to gain control of the U.S. Senate.

If we keep the U.S. House and take the senate, we can impeach King TRUMP again, if he wins reelection, and this time find him GUILTY with our over 51 votes in the senate. What Republican U.S. Senator will you work overtime to flip in your state? Roll call. Please call out his or her name, state and share with your family

and friends. If all progressives register and vote in record numbers like we did for Obama in 2008, we will find joy on November 3, 2020. Psalm 30:5 "Weeping may endure for a night but joy cometh in the morning".

**James J. Hankins  
Wilmington, NC**

## MATTERS OF OPINION

### Normalcy

(Via TriceEdneyWire.com)

**N**ormalcy. Dictionary.com defines normalcy as: the quality or condition of being normal, as the general economic, political, and social conditions of a nation; normality. While overly broad, it's easy to believe that most citizens of this nation would accept this definition as accurate. Amazingly, the example given for word usage was: After months of living in a state of tension, all yearned for a return to normalcy.

Not so amazingly, I accept that our loss of normalcy shapes the state of our current national distress. What's worse - under #45 - there is little hope of relief from the state of flux we now endure. Confusion and uncertainty occupy more space in my future concerns than at any other time in my life. What is

certain is that I yearn for a time, as those just a few short years ago, where things weren't perfect, but where we weren't subject to the unlawful, perverse whims of a would-be tyrant and those who would support him blindly.

The majority of voters knew better. We voted, and not for him. We knew him to be racist, misogynistic, and lacking in values and character. He was self-described, and described by those closest to him, as a disruptor whose primary goal was to destroy the institutional fabric of the nation. Although not completely successful, in three years we have seen him take giant steps toward his singular rule as we hope, pray and act to prevent his stated goals.

Rather than working for the benefit of the entire nation, he first, with the support of a Senate and House of Representatives corrupted by the goal of perpetual power, began to pass laws which had no effect other than to enrich the wealthy. When his laws and Executive Orders didn't directly enrich the already rich, they were motivated by a racist and infantile effort to

erase the legacy of President Obama.

Many have grown so weary of the on-going litany of breaches of presidential protocols, practices and traditions that they have given up their protests of his conduct for the safer tact of "praying for divine relief." Many more, I believe, have failed to correctly anticipate how the pieces of his strategic jigsaw puzzle fit together.

Our government of three co-equal branches has been coopted by an Executive Branch which has manipulated the judiciary with the lifetime appointments of scores of unqualified judges and enlisted the assistance of a cooperative Senate to maintain the gridlock of legislative inaction. Within the Executive Branch, he has established a revolving door of cabinet and staff that make his judgments and whims the only constants in administration policy.

Most alarmingly, his recent forays into the judicial process - military and civilian - are disturbing to the core. His act of reversing the judgment of a military court released a war criminal with the additional

effect of eroding confidence in the military chain-of-command and the standards of conduct servicemembers are bound to uphold.

The recent pardons/commutation of sentences for 11 Federally convicted criminals are within his constitutional authority, but were they purposed to uphold justice? To the contrary, I believe they were issued with the desire to condition the public to accept any action he might choose to take. His actions are those of a monarch, not a president. But he's already told us of his intention to remain in office - like a king.

It's not normal to be able to "boil a frog." The key to boiling the frog is to turn the heat up gradually so it won't notice.

Even when our "normal" is disrupted by perverse mismanagement, we have the capacity to access and reject the disruption. We have the capacity and the responsibility.

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

## The pernicious power of patriarchy

(Via TriceEdneyWire.com)

**O**ur nation, these United States, is founded on the principles of racism and patriarchy. They are reflected in our very constitution, where enslaved persons were counted as a fraction of a person, and only men of property were allowed the right to vote. The filthy inequality at the foundation of this nation has now bubbled up and boiled over, now polluting every aspect of our lives.

Patriarchy places men at the center of life, and women at the periphery. It suggests that women do not matter. It allows for the subjugation of women when they attempt to enter public spaces that have previously been earmarked as "male" spaces. Thus, there were no restrooms for women legislators in the US House or Senate, even as women entered those spaces. They were only created when women demanded them. Of course, restrooms are just a minor manifestation of the hegemonic patriarchy that rules our nation.

A great picture of our nation's racist patriarchy was the visual of doughy and dissipated white men interrogating the amazingly composed Anita Hill as she reviewed her experiences

with now-Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas. Though Hill was persuasive, she was attacked in the vilest of terms, accused of nonsense like "erotomania," and even recently harassed by Thomas' unhinged spouse who was still seeking apology after two decades. Note to Thomas, take the phone from your wife when her meds are not working. In any case,



**Dr. Julianne Malveaux**

Thomas is on the Supreme Court because white men chose to disregard the word of a Black woman, a decision that then-Senator Joe Biden says he now regrets. Thomas was confirmed by the narrowest margin in history 52-48.

Here we go again. By the time this is published the matter of 45's Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh is resolved, but the issue of pernicious patriarchy will not be. Regarding Kavanaugh, he has been accused by Dr. Christine Blasey Ford of sexual assault more than 35 years ago, when both were teens. She disclosed her accusations in a letter that

California Senator Dianne Feinstein received in July, but did not share with the FBI until later, mainly because Ford asked for confidentiality. Ford has requested that the FBI investigate her assertions, and the Senate judiciary committee is still fast-tracking the Kavanaugh vote. The outcome, while necessary, is not the bottom line. The issue is the way that racist patriarchy makes some offensive and illegal behavior acceptable.

Privileged white male culture allows and encourages excessive drinking and obnoxious behavior toward women. It is excused because "boys will be boys." But what boy s? Black boys, even accused of "reckless eyeballing", are fair game for lynching! White boys on rampages are excused for assault, rape, and attempted rape. Can I call the name of Recy Taylor, the young Black woman who was walking home from church and raped by a gaggle of white men who thought her body their right? Can I remind us of the Texas gubernatorial candidate, Clayton Williams, who said that if rape was inevitable, a woman should "lay back and enjoy it"? Ann Richards beat him, but that wasn't quite the point. The point was that some man thought that rape

was inevitable enough to "enjoy."

Privileged white male culture allows a man who should not have been elected President to denigrate women regularly. We are "fat" "dogs" and "liars." He bragged about grabbing women's genitals, and our society is so poached in pernicious patriarchy that 52 percent of all women still voted for him. They thought he was joking because, for too many women, patriarchy has so seeped into our consciousness that the abuse of women is a joke.

If we women were honest, we would say that we have all cosigned patriarchy in the interest of keeping it moving. We have deflected the sexist comments that come our way, even as we cringe from them. We smile at men that we abhor because they may have decision making power in their hands. We dress up or dress down depending on the occasion and the way we have to play the game. We know the system is slanted against us, we know we still have to play, and we decide when we choose to blow the whistle, a whistle we could blow every single day. #MeToo is the tip

**MALVEAUX**

*Continued on page 5*

**MALVEAUX**

*Continued from page 4*

of the iceberg because it fails to deal with race systematically, but also because it manages the evident and personal, not the institutional.

In addition to being #MeToo women, we are mothers, sis-

ters, daughters, and wives (hello Julie Chen Moonves), so some of us want to justify patriarchy for "our" men. Our son, husband, cousin, brother "didn't mean it" and could not be that bad. Wake up call - if they violated a woman, they were that bad. If they raped a Black woman and you turned

away from the accusation, you are wrong, you are horribly and complicity wrong.

Tearing down the walls of pernicious patriarchy means attacking the very foundation of our nation. When we attack patriarchy, we also attack the racism that is also part of our foundation. Many have lined

up to

*Julianne Malveaux is an economist, author, media contributor and educator. Her latest project MALVEAUX! On UDCTV is available on youtube.com. For booking, wholesale inquiries or for more info visit www.julianne-malveaux.com.*

**CRAZY FAITH MINISTRIES**  
**The US Supreme Court's legacy of supporting injustice**

With all of the political confusion and chaos swirling around, a belief in the commitment of the United States Supreme Court to always be on the side of justice would be of comfort. Such confidence, however, would be ill-placed.

Historically, in spite of what aggrieved groups would consider justice in their cases, the nation's high court has fallen short. The decisions rendered have been more the function of the cultural beliefs of the judges than of consideration what "equal justice under the law" actually means. Unjust laws have been supported by the US Supreme Court.

The verbiage of some of the US Supreme Court Justices in rendering their decisions has been heartbreaking. In the case of *Buck v Bell*, the high court supported the right of agencies to engage in forced sterilization of those whom they considered to be inferior, mentally or physically. Buck, who had been sterilized after giving birth to one child, was considered to be an "imbecile" for reasons that made sense to eugenics proponents. Her child

had been taken away from her, and she decided to fight for justice. She challenged the laws that had made her sterilization legal all the way up to the US Supreme Court, but lost. Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes, still considered to be one of this country's greatest legal minds, wrote the reasoning behind the Court's decision, ultimately writing his and the Court's belief that "three generations of imbeciles are enough." The court ruled against her 8-1.

When Southern Democrats repealed large portions of the 13th, 14th, and 15th amendments to the Constitution, the so-called "Reconstruction Amendments" that were passed to establish citizenship of African Americans, to finally make slavery illegal, and to give African Americans the right to vote and equal protection under the law, the Supreme Court far too often supported them. The Court, say some scholars, worked to protect the power of whites in power. There are dozens of examples, but an underlying belief, says historian Eric Foner in *The Second Founding* was that "nonwhite populations were unfit for participation in democracy." The amendments notwithstanding, the Court very often upheld the tenets of white supremacy.

Of course, we all know about the words of US Chief Justice Roger Taney, who ruled in the *Dred Scott* decision that there were "no rights of a black man that a white man was bound to respect." And in *Plessy v Ferguson*, it was the US Supreme Court that ruled that the state of Louisiana had not violated the 14th Amendment by establishing and enforcing a policy of racial segregation in its railway system.

With the history of the nation's highest court being proponents and supporters of injustice as regards the rights of black and brown people, women, and others who are not wealthy, white males, this present day is cause of concern. Though judges and justices are supposed to be impartial, historically, their rulings have shown that they are not. If one is "poor and innocent," as Equal Justice Initiative Executive Director Bryan Stevenson says, he or she has less chance of obtaining justice in the courts than if he or she is "rich and guilty."

All this matters because we are seeing a violation of "the rule of law" coming from the federal government. Cases headed to the nation's highest court include those dealing with immigration, the Second Amendment, student debt, Louisiana's abortion law, and the president's taxes. (<https://thehill.com/regulation/court-battles/475847-the-7-big-supreme-court-cases-to-watch-in-2020>) There is little to no comfort that under this administration, which includes the Justice Department under the direction of Bill Barr, justice for "the least of these" will be done. The demand by the president that people be loyal to him and not to the Constitution or to the country presents a slew of problems, the biggest of which is that the Court, which is now dominated by Conservative judges, seems to be likewise wedded to the president and not to the needs and concerns of ordinary people.

The fact that the Court has a history of being not so just to the underserved in this nation makes today's reality a little less daunting; the dissipation of "justice" for "the least of these" has never been a high priority, but with the goings on of this administration and the blatant disregard for the rule of law coupled with the demand of loyalty to a man whose only interests are his own, the plight of this nation's most ignored citizens will only deepen.

If it is true that the greatness of a nation is judged by the way it treats its underserved, this country cannot be considered great, but rather, must be considered to be just as corrupt as the nations it has historically disparaged for injustice and human rights violations.

*Rev. Dr. Susan K Smith is nearing completion of a book, "On the Shores of America: Two Nations, Two Gods" and in November, her book, "Rest for the Justice-Seeking Soul" will be released by Whitaker House Publishers. To inquire about booking her, contact cassady2euca@icloud.com.*



**Rev. Susan K. Smith**

**TOO BE EQUAL**  
**National Urban League and BET Networks launch #ReclaimYourVote**

(Via TriceEdneyWire.com)

*"Voter suppression isn't guns and hoses and bully clubs and Bull Connor. It's administrative burdens that interfere with your right to vote. In the south they try to stop you from getting on the rolls ... and to stay on the rolls ... and have your ballot be counted. We need our democracy to work, we need poverty to end, we need disenfranchisement to be a thing of the past, because when people are suppressed or oppressed it rages. It may be silent for some time but eventually it will come out."*  
-Stacey Abrams

have turned Rep. Maxine Waters' iconic catchphrase, into rallying cry.

#ReclaimYourVote is a social change campaign committed to harnessing Black collective power and increasing Black participation in the 2020 Census and the 2020 Election.



**Marc Morial**

With its primary channel reaching more than 90 million households, BET Networks is the nation's leading provider of quality entertainment, music, news and public affairs television programming for the African American audience.

The biggest part of Russia's insidious operation to disrupt the 2016 Presidential election was aimed at dissuading Black Americans from voting, as our 2019 State of Black America® report revealed. This illegal foreign operation unfortunately aligned perfectly with a wave of racially-motivated voter suppression laws that have swept the nation over the last several years.

#Reclaim Your Vote is our response.

Fully half the states in the nation have enacted restrictive voter suppression laws, aimed at racial minorities, over the last 10 years. The 2013 Supreme Court decision in *Shelby v. Holder*, which gutted a key provision of the Voting Rights Act, opened the floodgate for racially-motivated voter suppression.

Texas, for example, passed a strict voter-ID law that allows voters to use a handgun license to vote, but not a student ID from a state university. According to the Brennan Center for Justice, more than 80 percent of handgun licenses issued to Texans in 2018 went to white Texans, while more than half of the students in the University of Texas system are racial or ethnic minorities.

Meanwhile, Russia's campaign to disrupt and influence our democracy continues. We must be vigilant against misinformation about the candidates and any efforts to mislead voters about the election. One of the most common tactics of hostile foreign actors is to abuse the trust in movements like #BlackLivesMatter to insinuate themselves into online communities to spread lies and dissuade Black people from voting.

The nationwide #ReclaimYourVote campaign will layout the most significant issues, break down otherwise confusing processes, and highlight specific ways where we can reclaim our collective power by harnessing the power of media, entertainment, and technology to drive civic engagement.

The next phases of #ReclaimYourVote will focus on rallying the community around the critical matters that directly affect them with issues-based content and comprehensive analysis.

*"Marc Morial is President/CEO of the National Urban League."*

**Big insurance must help end "Surprise Medical Billing"**

(Via NNPANewswire.org)

It is a serious financial problem that far too many African Americans - from impoverished individuals to working-class families - face these days in the bewilderingly complicated health-care market: Getting hit with an unexpected bill after a hospital stay or visit to the emergency room.

Known as "surprise medical billing," these unexpected costs arise when a patient goes to a hospital for emergency or non-emergency care, only to find out afterwards that one of the medical providers who administered care was not covered in the patient's insurance network.

This outrageous situation benefits one group and one group alone: powerful insurance executives, who have managed to get off the financial hook for such bills, even as insurers shrink insurance coverage networks to wring more and more profits out of the system.

But this predatory practice is overwhelming to a family already dealing with the emotional and financial burdens of a medical crisis, typically adding thousands of dollars in unexpected expenses that can wipe out savings accounts or otherwise strain tight household budgets.

So, what can be done to stop and end surprise medical billing?

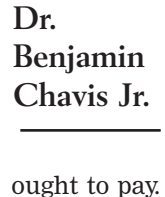
The good news is that both Republicans and Democrats in Congress agree that legislation is needed to protect patients against unexpected medical charges. But as with many complicated issues confronting Congress, lawmakers have been divided on the details of such legislation.

Part of the paralysis in Congress stems from confusion and disinformation, as insurance executives and their allies try to frame the debate to their advantage.

When Congress tried to address the issue last year,

for example, the insurance lobbying machine swung into action, attempting to place the blame for surprise bills on out-of-network medical providers who end up having to charge patients when insurers refuse to cover a medical bill.

Big insurance almost got its way in that legislative debate when a handful of lawmakers threw support behind a legislative proposal that would shield insurance companies from paying what they



**Dr. Benjamin Chavis Jr.**

ought to pay. The legislation, championed by Sen. Lamar Alexander (R-Tenn.), specifically called for setting benchmarked rates for out-of-network medical providers.

But far from solving the problem, this approach would make matters worse. It not only frees insurers from their responsibilities. It fails to compensate providers for the cost of the care that they actually provide. And that, in turn, means either patients will get stuck with the bill or medical providers will have to absorb big losses that ultimately jeopardize their ability to stay in business.

Fortunately, the proposed bill stalled after the medical community warned that the benchmarked rate favored by the insurance industry would allow insurers to exert a new troubling level of control over health-care prices and the larger health-care delivery system.

Now, as Congress begins to take up the issue once again, health insurance companies that evaded significant scrutiny last year seem to be drawing close scrutiny now, both inside and outside of Washington.

Speaking to a group of faith leaders and policymak-

ers in South Carolina, an important stop for the 2020 Democratic presidential primary, Reverend Al Sharpton criticized the surprise medical billing legislation backed by insurers and stressed the urgent need to deal with the continued lack of access to adequate health insurance coverage for minority communities.

"Washington is getting it wrong," he wrote in an opinion piece published after his South Carolina trip, adding that the bill introduced by "Sen. Lamar Alexander (R-Tenn.) to 'solve' the surprise billing problem would literally insulate insurance companies from covering these costs, at a time when profits for insurance companies have reached record highs."

In the U.S. House of Representatives, Ways and Means Committee Chairman Richard Neal (D-Ma.) predicted that health insurers would do little more than look out for their own interest if they were given the authority to set rates for out-of-network providers.

"My concern with giving too much weight to such a benchmark rate is that we already know insurers are looking for any way they can to pay the least amount possible," he said. "They will work to push those rates down, regardless of what it means for community providers like physicians, hospitals, and our constituents who they employ."

There were similar concerns in the U.S. Senate, where Senator Bill Cassidy (R-La.) warned that insurers began gaming the system in California once benchmarking rates became the law of the land in that state in 2016.

"Insurance companies cancel contracts and then they have the negotiating power and they establish" their own rate, he said, adding that such benchmarking of rates would likely put hospitals "out of business."

It's worth noting that law-

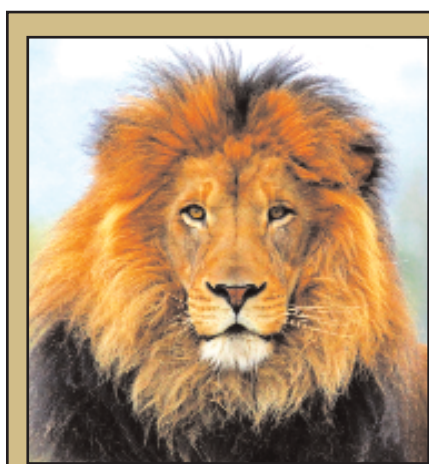
makers are raising such concerns despite the considerable backing the insurance-industry legislation has had from two powerful lawmakers: Senator Alexander, chairman of the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions; and Frank Pallone, the chairman of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, whose jurisdiction includes health care issues.

More than that, Senator Cassidy introduced legislation that would eliminate surprise medical billing by establishing an arbitration system between insurers and providers - rather than sticking the disputed medical charges to patients. And that legislation is gaining strong bipartisan support, as is a similar bill in the House that is being advanced by Representative Phil Roe (R-TN) and Representative Raul Ruiz (D-CA), both of whom are doctors.

Surprise medical billing is a problem we can no longer ignore, particularly at a time when roughly two-thirds of Americans say that they are concerned about their ability to pay for an unexpected medical expense for themselves or for a family member. And this practice it is especially hard on African Americans and other people of color in the U.S. who already face significant barriers to health care and who generally receive lower quality of care than the rest of the nation.

Congress has an opportunity to make things right by ending the practice of surprise medical billing. Black Americans and all others in America shouldn't be saddled with exorbitant bills that they had no reason to expect - and that impose an unjust financial burden.

*Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr. is President and CEO of the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) and can be reached at dr.bchavis@nnpa.org.*



**"If the lions do not write their own history, then the hunters will get all the credit."  
--AN AFRICAN PROVERB**

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## New Hanover County

The New Hanover NAACP monthly meeting is Thursday, February 27th, 7:00 pm at St. Stephen AME Church, 501 Red Cross Street, Wilmington. The meeting will include information on the Mind, Body & Soul Health Fair April 25 at the MLK Center on Eighth Street in Wilmington. Other important state and community issues will be on the agenda as well as upcoming New Hanover NAACP branch activities and events. Members and friends are encouraged to attend. For more information, call 910-508-9414 or email nhnaacp@gmail.com.

## Community Briefs

The New Hanover County Board of Education Family Communications Committee will host a Roundtable Discussion on Title IX. New Hanover County Schools Title IX Director, Jarelle Lewis will lead the conversation on the foundation of Title IX and how it impacts students, employees, and our community. The event will include a presentation, an opportunity for questions and answers and an optional small group discussion on Thursday, February 27th, 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. at Board of Education Center, 1805 S. 13th St. Wilmington NC 28401

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

Compiled By Wilmington Journal Staff

## CFCC Sustainability Technologies Program recognized for Exceptional Environmental Stewardship

Cape Fear Community College is pleased to announce that the CFCC Sustainability Technologies program was recently recognized with the Stewardship Champion Award from the Lower Cape Fear Stewardship Development Coalition.

The Stewardship Champion Award is given annually to professionals who have demonstrated exceptional commitment and vision to environmental practices, programs, issues, development, and design. Furthermore, the award recognizes the recipients as environmental stewardship "champions, trailblazers, and visionaries." The award was presented at the Lower Cape Fear Stewardship Development Coalition's Awards Luncheon held February 20, 2020, at the Coastline Conference and Event Center.

"I'm humbled and honored to be recognized by the Lower Cape Fear Stewardship Development Coalition," said CFCC Sustainability Technologies Program Director John Wojciechowski. "Not only is this a great achievement by our program, but it shows the great relationships we have with local private and public organizations."

"Cape Fear Community College's Sustainability Technologies program is so relevant in today's eco-con-

scious business climate," said CFCC President Jim Morton. "Our instructors are leaders in the field who work diligently to prepare our students for jobs that are in demand nationwide. We are honored to receive this important award that recognizes their efforts and the significance of this program in our community."

The CFCC Sustainability Technologies program is designed to meet the needs and challenges of the new energy economy. The program provides a technology-based degree with an emphasis on the three areas of sustainability, building performance, and renewable energy. Graduates from the program go on to work in a wide range of industries or transfer to a four-year college or university. For more information about the Sustainability Technologies program at CFCC, visit [cfcc.edu/sustainability-technologies/](http://cfcc.edu/sustainability-technologies/).

Since 2005, the Lower Cape Fear Stewardship Development Coalition has annually recognized development projects that demonstrate outstanding environmental stewardship through the protection, conservation, improvement, and awareness of our natural resources. The Coalition is a 501(c)(3) non-profit, with a governing council consisting of county and state agencies, businesses, and administrative programs.

## GET THAT DEED AND FLIP THOSE KEYS!

## New construction, protect yourself

When you decide to go house hunting and visit these new home developments, use caution if going without an agent. Many consumers don't understand that the onsite agents in the model homes are looking out for the builder's interest only. By NC Real Estate Commission rules agents have to disclose to you that they are working on behalf of the builder. Most onsite agents disclose this, but many buyers still are totally unaware of what this really means. I have seen many buyers run across problems during construction and after completion of construction. Things like wrong flooring, shotty workmanship, missing upgraded options, stalls in construction timelines to name a few. All of these things are on the builder and the onsite agents, contractors are working for the builder so their alliance is sole with the builder. Who has an alliance with you?

Let me highlight the Top 3

that you should do and know if thinking about doing new construction. 1) GET YOUR OWN AGENT: It cost you ZERO to



Brenda Dixon

have your own agent. The builder will pay your Realtor a commission to help watch your back, look after your best interest and be in alliance with you. Be sure it's someone who has experience in new construction and isn't affiliated with the builder. It's important for you to have an agent to represent your best interests, from advising you on making choices that can affect your home's resale value, finding out what items may be negotiable, to what extra perks are available that is not publically advertised. Some developments have site registration policies that require your agent to accompany you on your 1st visit or at least put on the registration form the

name/contact info of your Realtor. This way it is known out the gate that you will be assisted with the process. Buyers having their own Realtors is a common practice so it will not prevent the onsite agent from answering any of your questions and providing you all info for the development. 2) CREATIVE NEGOTIATIONS: Builders don't like to drop their prices since future buyers in the development may expect similar discounts. Instead, you will be more successful in getting "on the back end" perks. Like extra upgrades and features in the home at no cost or builder paid closing cost assistance. The best perk for you will be determined with your Realtor so you can maximize the benefits. 3) GET EVERYTHING IN WRITING: Don't sign anything until everything has been negotiated, agreed upon and written into the contract. If you're considering purchasing a home that is not yet complete, it's very important to spell out how the home will

be finished, what will happen if construction is not completed on time and the deadlines for decisions that will occur through the process. Verbal agreements are worthless and not binding, so everything important must be put in writing and signed by all parties. There are many other things that you should be aware of so do your family a huge favor and get your own Realtor to avoid the pitfalls.

Until next time, share this article with at least 3 people and with Realtors you know that loves helping people. For anyone that desires homeownership, reach out for your Free personalized game plan to purchase 1st-home in the next 18 months or less no matter the current finances. For any Realtor that wants to know more about how to lock arms and let's bless the masses, just reach out.

Brenda Dixon, Dixon Realty Since 1991, 27 yrs. F/T expertise. [Brenda@getthatdeed.com](mailto:Brenda@getthatdeed.com).

## UNCW assistant professor Wilson Okello engages students with the art of spoken word

Wilmington, N.C. -- Fifteen years ago, Wilson Okello stepped up to a microphone for the first time. He immediately fell in love with the art of spoken word.

"I also fell in love with the connection, not only to the craft, but to the community that spoken word allows for," said Okello, an assistant professor of higher education in the Watson College of Education. "I have used it as a teaching tool and as a way to connect with people ever since."

Okello typically starts his class with either a poem or reflective meditation as a way to approach the material in a personal way, he said.

"I want to introduce my students to the possibility within the art to be able to tell a different story; to be able to share their own story," Wilson continued. "I want my students to think about, particularly as it relates to a course I teach on social justice, how we might be able to use this art, this craft, to speak to issues."

There is power in spoken word, said Okello, who grew up surrounded by oral tradition. "I think minoritized people, black people in particular, have always willed the word in ways that kept our history



WILSON OKELLO

and allowed us to move it across generations," he said. "I see it as a vehicle for being able to express ourselves."

Okello, the middle child of three siblings, grew up in an environment that supported education. His two siblings also pursued careers in higher education.

"My parents always pushed education. They saw it as an opportunity to fulfill dreams," Okello said. "We have so many cousins and so many people who we know

that look up to us, and so, particularly coming up from the area that we came from that was steeply impoverished, we know there are a lot of eyes on us. We think about creating pathways for them. Our pursuit of the careers that we are pursuing will hopefully build a bridge for them."

Okello was drawn to higher education because of its interdisciplinary nature. His teaching, research, and service explore African/Black,

literary, feminist and performance studies to press upon education, and simultaneously, enrich our communities, he said.

"I desire for the students with whom I engage to walk away with more than recorded information; instead, I want them to be able to do something with what they know," said Okello. "I hope they know that they can be curators and arbiters of the ideas, art and knowledge our world so desperately needs."

### FIGHTING FOR NEW HANOVER COUNTY FAMILIES

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### Update

Effective February 13, 2020,  
The Wilmington Journal's cost  
increased to \$1.00 per copy.  
Local subscriptions will be  
\$45.00 per year.  
Out-of-town subscriptions will be  
\$50.00 per year.

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These price changes are necessary  
because of the increase in mailing  
and production fees.

Thank you for your continued support.  
*The Staff and Management of  
The Wilmington Journal*



From the desk of  
**MIKE BLOOMBERG**

Dear Reader,

Thank you for taking the time to learn about The Greenwood Initiative.

As someone who has been very lucky in life, I often say my story would only have been possible in America – and that's true. But I also know that because of the artificial barriers of discrimination, my story likely would have turned out very differently if I had been Black, and that more Black Americans of my generation would have ended up with far more wealth, had they been white.

**Building Generational Wealth for Black Families is Critical.** That's why I launched The Greenwood Initiative in Tulsa last month. I visited the site of the Black Wall Street Massacre, where a white mob decimated the prosperous community of Greenwood. It is to the memory of the lost lives and promise of Greenwood that we've dedicated The Greenwood Initiative: a plan to address the systematic bias that has kept Black Americans from building wealth.

#### THE GREENWOOD PLAN WILL:

- Create 1 million new Black homeowners
- Double the number of new Black-owned businesses
- Invest \$70 billion in the country's 100 most disadvantaged neighborhoods

**Fixing the System for Black Families.** When I was mayor of New York, I was proud to take on the systematic inequality that held back too many New Yorkers. We increased education funding, built 650 new schools and raised Black graduation rates to record highs. We led an ambitious effort to reduce poverty and managed the largest amount of affordable housing in the nation. And as President, I will work even more aggressively to combat inequality nationwide.

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## Vanessa Bryant files wrongful death suit against helicopter company in death of Kobe and Gigi

BY BRIANNA NARGISO

(TriceEdneyWire.com) - On the same day that thousands gathered in the Los Angeles Staples Center to memorialize super star Koby Bryant and his daughter, GiGi, it was announced later that Vanessa Bryant, widow of Kobe Bryant, has filed a wrongful death suit against helicopter company, Island Express claiming the lives of her husband and daughter was the result of pilot negligence.

The lawsuit filed by Bryant's lawyers alleges that Island Express is responsible for the Jan. 26, 2020 plane crash into a Calabasas hillside that killed Kobe and Gianna.

The lawsuit states that the pilot, Ara Zobayan, was flying at an accelerated rate and under extremely foggy conditions when the helicopter

crashed and killed Kobe and Gianna Bryant along with seven others. The lawsuit also states that the defendant, Island Express Helicopters allowed the flight with "full knowledge" that the Sikorsky S-76B helicopter was flying in "unsafe weather conditions."

According to the Los Angeles Times, the complaint in Los Angeles County Superior Court against Fillmore-based Island Express Holding Corp. and Island Express Helicopters alleges that pilot Ara Zobayan, who also died in the crash in Calabasas, failed "to use ordinary care in piloting the subject aircraft" and was negligent.

Zobayan was also reprimanded in 2015 for reckless flying, ignoring visibility rules that prohibited flying, reported TMZ Sports.

Kobe Bryant, the complaint alleges, died "as a

direct result of the negligent conduct of Zobayan" for which "the company is vicariously liable in all respects," reported the Los Angeles Times.

Defendants in the lawsuit are listed as Island Express and the estate of Zobayan.

USA Today notes that although there is no dollar amount listed in the lawsuit, Bryant is suing for general, economic and punitive damages.

The news of the lawsuit comes after the memorial service of Kobe and Gianna at the Staples Center in Los Angeles celebrated the life of the father daughter duo that was cut short on Jan. 26, 2020. Both Kobe and Gianna were travelling in a helicopter from John Wayne Airport to Camarillo Airport for a basketball game before hitting a mountain at 1700 feet, killing all people onboard.



VANESSA BRYANT

## The Jackson Five – Five

Motown's celebrated icons started churning out hits in 1965

BY STACY M. BROWN  
NNPA NEWSWIRE SENIOR  
CORRESPONDENT

Fifty-five years ago, music changed forever.

In 1965, pop music's most celebrated and dynamic dynasty was born when five brothers from Gary, Indiana formed The Jackson 5.

With hits like "I'll Be There," "The Love You Save" and "I Want You Back," the brothers Jackson took the world by storm. Their trail-blazing act set the stage for music's single most influential artist — the King of Pop: Michael Jackson.

While the Jackson 5 never won a Grammy, Michael would eventually dominate all awards and shatter every record known to music.

With hits too numerous to recite and including "Off the Wall," "Thriller," "Billie Jean," "Bad," and "Man in the Mirror," Michael's solo

accomplishments remain unchallenged, for he was not only idolized by fans but considered a star among all other celebrities.

To put in perspective, the praise heaped upon Michael, think Beyoncé and add 100 times or more to that.

However, it should not be mistaken, whatever the Jackson 5 — who were later rebranded as The Jacksons — lacked in awards, they more than made up for it in record sales and concert receipts.

As far as talent, it wasn't all Michael.

On stage, Jackie, Jermaine, Tito, Marlon, and even Randy proved as talented as any pop star. That's far from hyperbole. Anyone who shared the stage with Michael that often — and more than held their own — had to possess similar talent.

The only thing better than

a Michael Jackson concert was a show featuring Michael AND his brothers.

"Nobody worked harder than Michael," family patriarch, the late Joseph Jackson, once told this reporter. "But nobody except my boys could run with him," Jackson stated.

Jermaine, perhaps the best-known group member not named Michael, also was ticketed for superstardom. It was no mistake that Jermaine was seen as the glue to hold the brothers together.

He also possessed a string of hits including, "Let's Get Serious," "Dynamite," and "When the Rain Begins to Fall."

Tito would go on to front a Blues band, while Jackie found success producing other artists.

The Jackson Five earned induction into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1997,



THE JACKSON FIVE

while Michael was inducted as a solo artist four years later.

Michael Jackson died in 2009, but his music continues to top the charts routinely.

Michael's legacy has eclipsed Elvis Presley, John

Lennon, and all other superstars. His estate continues to rake in hundreds of millions of dollars each year, and fans are as loyal as ever.

The Jacksons have since resumed touring, wowing a new generation of fans, and remains a top concert draw.

"There was always magic in Michael and something special in all of them," Motown Records founder Berry Gordy stated.

Stated Motown Legend Stevie Wonder: "There will never be another Michael nor another Jackson Five."



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Durham-born artist Stephen Hayes, Brock Family visiting instructor in Studio Arts at Duke University, has cast USCT descendants, USCT re-enactors, military veterans, and community members to be a part of this new work of art. This project will promote social change by illuminating this little-known narrative of the Civil War told by the built environment of the entire South.

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IN MEMORIAM:

Katherine Johnson, a pioneering NASA Mathematician featured in “Hidden Figures,” dies at 101

BY LAUREN VICTORIA BURKE  
NNPA NEWSWIRE CONTRIBUTOR

Katherine Johnson, the legendary NASA physicist and mathematician whose work played a key role in the early successes of the U.S. space program, passed away at 101 years old on the morning of February 24 in Newport News, Va. Johnson played a pivotal role in helping the U.S. land men on the moon during the space race in the 1960s and was portrayed by actress Taraji P. Henson in the 2017 film “Hidden Figures.” The book based on the film by the same name was written by Margot Lee Shetterly.

With little more than a pencil and a slide rule Johnson calculated the exact trajectories for Apollo 11 land on the moon in 1969. and, after Neil Johnson worked in a world where errors were fatal.

The lives of three brilliant African American women were featured in the book and subsequent film. They were Johnson, Dorothy Vaughan, who passed in 2008, and Mary Jackson who passed in 2005. Vaughan and Jackson were from Hampton, Va. and Johnson was from West Virginia. Johnson graduated from West Virginia State University and West Virginia University.

Johnson was awarded the

Congressional Gold Medal on November 8, 2019, after House Science Committee Chairwoman Chairwoman Eddie Bernice Johnson’s passed legislation to honor her.

Former NASA mathematician Katherine Johnson is seen after President Barack Obama presented her with the Presidential Medal of Freedom, Tuesday, Nov. 24, 2015, during a ceremony in the East Room of the White House in Washington. (Photo: NASA/Bill Ingalls, Wikimedia Commons)

Former NASA mathematician Katherine Johnson is seen after President Barack Obama presented her with the Presidential Medal of Freedom, Tuesday, Nov. 24, 2015, during a ceremony in the East Room of the White House in Washington. (Photo: NASA/Bill Ingalls, Wikimedia Commons)

“We’re saddened by the passing of celebrated #HiddenFigures mathematician Katherine Johnson. Today, we celebrate her 101 years of life and honor her legacy of excellence that broke down racial and social barriers,” tweeted NASA after news of Johnson’s passing.

In September 1960 mathematician Katherine Johnson published NASA’s first scientific paper to name a woman as author. Johnson’s trajectory calculations were vital to

the US space missions.

“There were no textbooks, so we had to write them,” Johnson said.

“It is with deep sadness that I learned of the passing of Katherine Johnson, a truly brilliant mathematician and pioneer. She broke down barriers as one of the few African-American women mathematicians working at the Flight Dynamics and Control Division at NASA Langley,” wrote Congressman Bobby Scott who represents Newport News, Va.

“Her work helped put the first Americans in space and send the Apollo 11 astronauts to the moon, thereby helping the United States win the Space Race. While I knew Katherine Johnson and her family personally for many years, like so many Americans I never fully appreciated the work that she, Dorothy Vaughn, Mary Jackson, Christine Darden and the many other African American women at NASA trailblazed for so many until their untold story was revealed in Hidden Figures. Mrs. Johnson was a true American hero, and we were so proud to have her call Hampton Roads home. I want to send my deepest condolences to her family and friends, and to everyone who was inspired by her remarkable life and work,” Rep. Scott added.



JOHNSON’S COMPUTATIONS HAVE INFLUENCED EVERY MAJOR SPACE PROGRAM FROM MERCURY THROUGH THE SHUTTLE PROGRAM. JOHNSON WAS HIRED AS A RESEARCH MATHEMATICIAN AT THE LANGLEY RESEARCH CENTER WITH THE NATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR AERONAUTICS (NACA), THE AGENCY THAT PRECEDED NASA, AFTER THEY OPENED HIRING TO AFRICAN-AMERICANS AND WOMEN.

“Toay we mourn the loss of an American hero and a pioneer for women and African Americans in STEM fields. Katherine Johnson played a pivotal role in the outcome of the space race during her 35-year career at NASA and its predecessor, NACA. Without her accomplishments and those of her fellow Hidden Figures, which went largely unrecognized until the last decade, the outcome of the Space Race may have been

quite different. Her achievements and impacts on our country are great, and her loss will be felt by many. I send my heartfelt condolences to her loved ones and colleagues,” NASA said in a statement.

“We’ve lost an icon and brilliant mathematician with the passing of Katherine Johnson. A barrier breaker and inspiration for women of color everywhere, Katherine’s legendary work

with NASA will forever leave a mark on our history. My heart goes out to her family and loved ones,” said Sen. Kamala Harris (D-CA).

Lauren Victoria Burke is an independent journalist for NNPA and the host of the podcast BURKEFILE. She is also a political strategist as Principal of Win Digital Media LLC. She may be contacted at LBurke007@gmail.com and on twitter at @LVBurke

FY 2021 White House budget proposal cuts \$66.6 billion from education

More than \$2 billion directed to short-Term career and technical training

BY CHARLENE CROWELL  
NNPA NEWSWIRE CONTRIBUTOR

For consumers, businesses, organizations and governments alike, annual budgets typically reflect not only line items but priorities as well. As A. Philip Randolph reminded us more than 50 years ago with the release of the “Freedom Budget,” such documents reflect the morals of our nation. Especially when they show how much we value the most vulnerable among us.

The recent White House fiscal year (FY) 2021 proposal would fund the Defense Department at \$636.4 billion dollars, a slight increase above that of FY 2020. At the same time, \$339.1 billion in budget cuts are proposed. These cuts would severely impact the nation’s social service safety network, comprised of a wide range of services and programs like food stamps, consumer financial protection, low-income energy assistance, enforcement of federal laws, transportation projects, environmental remediation and more.

And at a time when higher education is increasingly essential to the nation’s economic future, the White House proposal would eliminate \$56.6 billion, a 7.8% reduction from current levels.

“Eliminated programs include Federal Supplemental Education Opportunity Grants, which duplicates Pell Grants but are less targeted on those who need the most help,” states the Education budget summary.” Its summary also notes how the budget “protects students by eliminating

default for impoverished borrowers” and “closing loopholes currently allowing high-earning graduate degree holding borrowers to avoid repaying their student loans, leaving taxpayers holding the bag.”

To be clear — no one really chooses to default on a student loan. Defaults occur when loan payments exceed a borrower’s ability-to-repay, not a willful choice. A significant number of these defaults were incurred at high-cost for-profit colleges.

Research and analysis by the Center for Responsible Lending finds that although for-profit college enrollment represents 6% of all college students, these schools generate over 33% of all students who default on their loans. Further, CRL found that only 21% of all for-profit students in four-year programs graduate within six years.

Today there are over 44 million student loan borrowers whose growing reliance on loans corresponds with the still-rising cost of higher education. Except for the financially well-off, student loans are being used more, not less, and include consumers of varying income levels.

If these cuts take effect with Congress’ approval, the federal commitment to higher education will become yet another funding retreat begun nearly a decade ago at the state level.

“State funding for public colleges and universities has steadily declined, contributing to higher tuitions for most students,” says James Kvaal and Jessica Thompson, co-authors of a new policy brief by the University of New Hampshire’s Carsey School of Public Policy.



“The maximum Pell grant – the federal college scholarship that helps low-income students pay tuition and living expenses – today covers only 28% of college costs, the lowest share in over 40 years,” says James Kvaal and Jessica Thompson, co-authors of a new policy brief by the University of New Hampshire’s Carsey School of Public Policy.

“State funding is not only declining but it is also distributed inequitably.”

“The maximum Pell grant – the federal college scholarship that helps low-income students pay tuition and living expenses – today covers only 28% of college costs, the lowest share in over 40 years,” continued Kvaal and Thompson. “The current financial aid system is not only underfunded but is not designed to help students meet extra needs or absorb unexpected financial blows.”

Even so, the White House education budget proposal would carve out more than \$2 billion for Career and Technical Education (CTE) state grants and CTE National Programs. Eligible CTE recipients could be private businesses offering

short-term, training or apprenticeships. Under the proposal, Pell Grants could be also used for CTE training, siphoning off funds traditionally used at two and four-year institutions.

To put it another way, taxpayer-funded on-the-job training – as short as 30 days or as long as six months – could soon enhance the profit margins of businesses. Historically, higher education leads to a credential – an associate, bachelor, or graduate course of study that upon completion leads to a higher competitive edge in the general marketplace.

“As States begin to think about their long-term career and technical education strategies,” said Education Secretary Betsy DeVos, “I would encourage them to con-

tinue to act boldly and break down the silos that exist between education and industry so that all students are prepared for the in-demand, high-paying jobs of today’s economy and tomorrow’s.”

What does seem to be bold is an administration that consistently and deliberately seeks new ways to benefit private enterprise at the public trough. These new funding streams are also accompanied by departmental deregulation that “streamline and reduce unnecessary costs with accreditation”, states the budget summary.

Sounds like in the name of ‘deregulation’, this administration is intent on eliminating more ‘checks and balances’ on the use of public monies.

“Instead of preventing

predatory institutions from wasting taxpayer dollars, Secretary DeVos is undermining the federal investment in higher education by shielding the interests of for-profit institutions and private corporations that prey on students of color, low-income borrowers, veterans, women, and older Americans,” said Ashley Harrington, CRL’s Federal Advocacy Director. “We urge Congress and the current Administration to stop protecting these predatory institutions at the expense of already vulnerable and marginalized groups.”

Charlene Crowell is the deputy director of communications with the Center for Responsible Lending. She can be reached at charlene.crowell@responsiblelending.org.

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# National Black Political Convention aims to set Black agenda

April 16-18 gathering expected to draw Democratic Presidential Candidates, National Policy Makers, Activists

BY BRIANNA NARGISO

(TriceEdneyWire.com)-As political observers continue to track America's high valued Black vote to see which Democratic Presidential candidate may win the lion's share this election year, the National Policy Alliance will host the National Black Political Convention at the Washington Plaza Hotel in Washington, D.C. April 16-18, 2020 to create a universal Black agenda.

"Voices sharing what we need to be focused on, planning and getting an agenda that is actually pertinent to our future." This is how convention planner Linda Haithcox Taylor describes the convention, expected to draw members of Congress, speakers and political activists from around the country.

Presidential candidates Mayor Pete Buttigieg, Sen. Elizabeth Warren, Mayor Michael Bloomberg and Vice Pres. Joe Biden have all confirmed their attendance. Confirmed speakers include Sen. Cory Booker; Sen. Kamala Harris, Congressman Anthony Brown, Congresswoman Maxine Waters, Doug Williams and more than 30 others. Pres.

Barack Obama has also been invited to speak about what Black people should be doing during this election period and throughout the next eight years.

The convention will serve as a political caucus for both Black voters, government officials and community organizers as Black leaders reconcile some of the most compelling issues and concerns that are heavily impacting the Black community. The status of healthcare, economic and environmental justice, affordable housing, education, criminal justice, Black veteran's affairs, energy, media relations and the role of the Black entertainment industry are among those crucial issues.

On April 16, two weeks before the Maryland primary, The National Black Political Convention will kick off its weekend of events with a presidential forum at Bowie State University in Baltimore. Bowie is significant because not only is it the oldest historically Black university in Maryland, but in 2017 the university also welcomed its first female president, Dr. Anita Breaux.

The goal is to spend the weekend creating a united

Black agenda to be sent to both the Democratic National Committee and the Republican National Committee. Issues will be discussed through a series of speaker-led sessions. Sessions can also expect to be diverse in generation, offering representation for both older and younger voters.

Conveners for the convention include National Blacks in Government, National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education, National Black Agenda, and the Futures Forum among others.

Attendants can register for the National Black Political Convention by going to the website of the National Policy Alliance: <https://npalinks.org/nbpc/>

The first National Black Political Convention in 1972 served as the first major gathering of Black voters and political thinkers in Gary, Indiana united to discuss the pressing social and economic issues of the time. These issues included minimum wage discrepancies, home rule for Washington, D.C, the elimination of capital punishment and more.

Thousands of African-American intellectuals, com-



**Congresswoman Maxine Waters is slated to speak.**



**Sen. Cory Booker on agenda to speak.**



**Sen. Kamala Harris also set to speak.**

munity organizers and voters were present alongside representatives from 46 states. Notable attendees were then presidential candidate Shirley Chisolm, volunteer sargeant at arms Muhammad Ali, Black Panther Party co-founder Bobby Seale, Mrs. Coretta Scott King, the Rev. Jesse Jackson Sr., Min. Louis Farrakan, civil rights icon Dick Gregory among others.

From this convention came several united principles pursued by Black civil rights organizations, religious leaders, local, state and national officials. Convention participants convened to discuss the creation of a Black agenda to

be given to political parties.

Echoing the legacy of the 1972 convention, 44 years later, in 2016 another convention was hosted, this time by the National Policy Alliance. Missioned as an organization that "brings together public officials, community leaders, aspiring public servants, and the citizens they serve," the National Policy Alliance organized what would be the second National Black Political Conference marking the end of Pres. Barack Obama's term as president. The agenda of issues included but was not limited to education, gun control, healthcare, voting rights and economic opportunities for

African-Americans.

Since the first convention in 1972, the number of Black members of Congress has more than tripled, significantly increasing Black representation in government. However, many challenges remain and can expect to be redressed and brainstormed for applicable solutions.

Taylor says the National Policy Alliance wants the room full of people dedicated to the Black agenda, ready to propose solutions and share experiences contributable to the cause of the convention. She concludes, "This is not and has never been a meeting about complaining, it's a meeting about solutions."

# Outgoing Mississippi governor says state faces "1,000 years of Darkness" if Black man elected

BY STACY M. BROWN  
NNPA NEWSWIRE SENIOR CORRESPONDENT

Fifty-two years after the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and 55 years after Jim Crow, Mississippi is burning again.

Phil Bryant, the now-former governor of Mississippi – a state that was one of the flash-points of the civil rights movement, and a haven for the Ku Klux Klan – has sparked understandable outrage after tweeting a racist claim that if the Magnolia State elects its first Black senator, there would be 1,000 years of darkness.

"I intend to work for @cindy-hydesmith as if the fate of America depended on her single election," Gov. Phil Bryant tweeted on January 2. "If Mike Espy and the liberal Democrats gain the Senate, we will take that first step into a thousand years of darkness."

Bryant, a Republican, left office on January 14 after serving two terms.

Espy lost to Hyde-Smith in Mississippi's special U.S. Senate runoff election in 2018. After announcing that he was running again this year, Espy said he could win by building a diverse coalition of voters.

With a victory, Espy would become Mississippi's first Black senator in more than 139 years.

"We're going after everybody – white, black, Democrat, persuadable moderates and those in the middle," Espy told the AP in November 2019.

"But I know where they are now. I'm not flying blind." During his first campaign against Hyde-Smith, a video surfaced showing her praising a supporter by saying she'd attend a "public hanging" if he

invited her.

Bryant rekindled those sentiments with his tweet, setting social media ablaze with anger.

Many pointed out the state's history of racism and recent and ongoing problems at Parchman Prison, a former plantation that housed hundreds of slaves and whose population includes more than 60 percent Blacks; the state's debtor's prison that punishes mostly African Americans; and a recent state Supreme Court decision to affirm a 12-year prison sentence for a Black man who turned over a cell phone to a corrections officer.

"Darkness follows Mississippi Gov Phil Bryant around," feminist Paula Cain wrote on Twitter. "Every time that old white man opens his racist, uneducated mouth — darkness flows out."

Sharon Raynor, a retired military officer, agreed with Cain. "The Mississippi governor is still living in the Jim Crow era," Raynor stated.

Alvon Phillips, a medical technician, said the comments are in line with what the state represents.

"Anyone can clearly see how racist and prejudiced this Mississippi governor is and what race of people he truly represents; the only race whose interest he cares to advance," Phillips stated. "Now, you can understand why Mississippi is last in everything. Last in education, wages, and development."

Journalist Joe Jurado analyzed Bryant's comments in a January 9 article for The Root.

"Mississippi has a very long and very violent history of racism: 600 black people were lynched between 1877 to 1950, the most of any state," Jurado recalled.

"Up until 2017, the state still

had predominately segregated schools. This makes it all the more surprising than the governor believes Mike Espy being elected to the Senate would open the doors of Guf and bring about the fourth impact," Jurado stated.

"We're talking about the same man who, after Hyde-Smith came under fire for her lynching comments, went on a podium and compared Black women getting abortions to genocide. Hyperbolic racism just seems to be this dude's go-to."

In a June 1964 profile, The New York Times called Mississippi "the most segregated state, and noted that, "Through most of the state's history, the White supremacists have been able to control government at the local and state levels."

A 2019 lawsuit filed by three Black residents challenged Mississippi's requirement that candidates running for statewide office must win both a majority of the popular vote and at least 62 of 122 state House of Representatives districts.

The law, which was put into place in 1890 when White politicians openly sought to suppress the Black vote, states that no candidate fulfills both requirements, the House then decides a statewide election, and representatives aren't required to vote along with their districts.

"This racist electoral scheme achieved, and continues to achieve, the framers' goals by tying the statewide election process to the power structure of the House," the plaintiffs stated in the lawsuit.

"So long as white Mississippians controlled the House, they would also control the elections of statewide officials."

In an op-ed about Mississippi for The Atlantic late last year, Jesmyn Ward, an author who teaches creative writing at Tulane University, said racism makes itself known very vocal and confrontational ways.

"But perhaps the most tragic manifestation of racist sentiment in Mississippi is silent. Built into the very bones of this place. My state starves its people and, in doing so, actively resists Dr. Martin Luther King's legacy," Ward stated.

"Our Republican lawmakers have made an effort to undercut programs that serve the poor; maybe because so many people of color in Mississippi live in poverty and depend on social programs for help."



Photo: U.S. Department of Agriculture / Wikimedia Commons  
Governor Phil Bryant poses a question to Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack who was the guest speaker at the National Governors Association Education, Early Childhood and Workforce Committee meeting in Washington, D.C., on Sunday, February 26, 2012. USDA Photo by Lance.Cheung.



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