

MISSING



EBONEE SPEARS

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

OUTside Looking IN

OUR VOICE



DR. JULIANNE MALVEAUX

"BACK TO NORMAL?, WHAT'S NORMAL?"

BY DR. JULIANNE MALVEAUX PAGE 4

BLACK HISTORY MONTH REMEMBERANCE A TIME TO REFLECT, REMEMBER & CELEBRATE



JENNIFER R. FARMER

Farmer targets Black women's issues

BY BEVERLY SMALLS CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Jennifer R. Farmer, social justice publicist, lecturer, organizational trainer, and writer has spent nearly a decade working for and with a variety of leaders.

From theologian, Dr. William Barber, to rapper, Killer Mike, the Black Church PAC, to United Methodist Women and others, Farmer's topical interests connect success strategies with the eradication of double standards.

Released for 2021 Black History Month her new gender specific book, "First And Only: A Black Woman's Guide To Thriving At Work And In Life" contains best practices suggestions.

Taylor also addresses the uniqueness syndromes of being the first college graduate or business owner in a family or specific locale.

She also acknowledges the loneliness and stressors of being in scenarios as the first on a

Please see FARMER/ Page 2

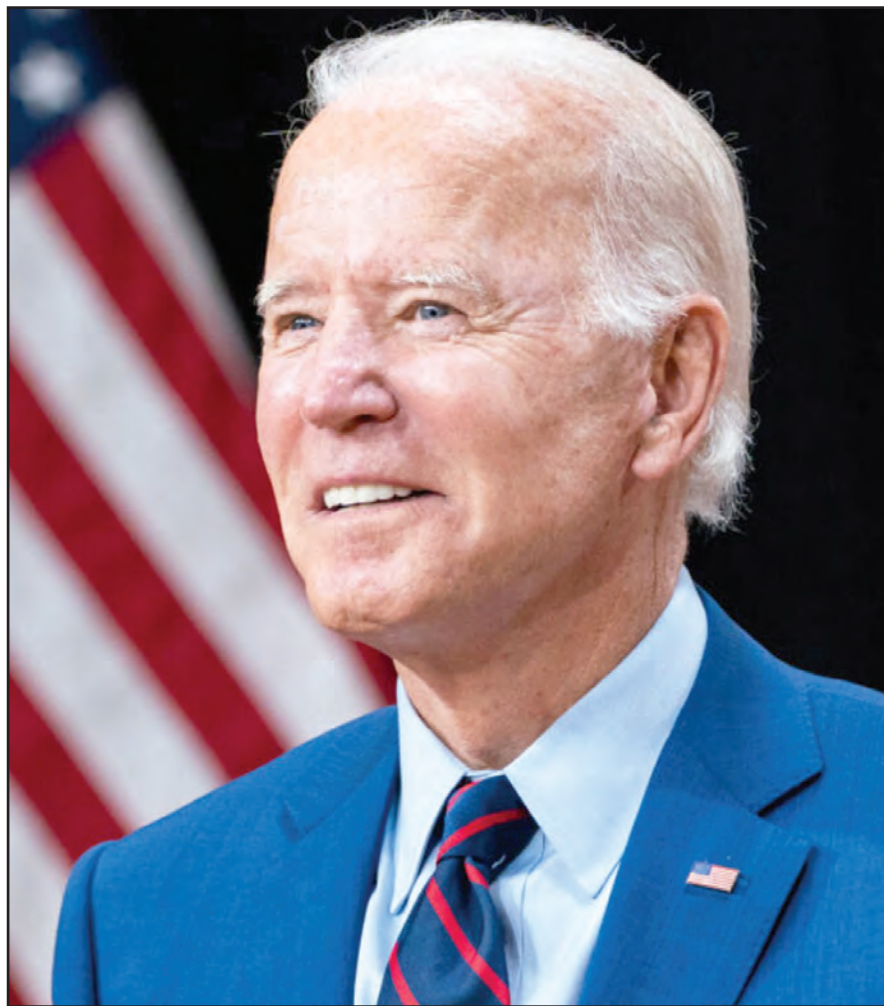
THE WILMINGTON JOURNAL

News from the African American perspective without fear or favor

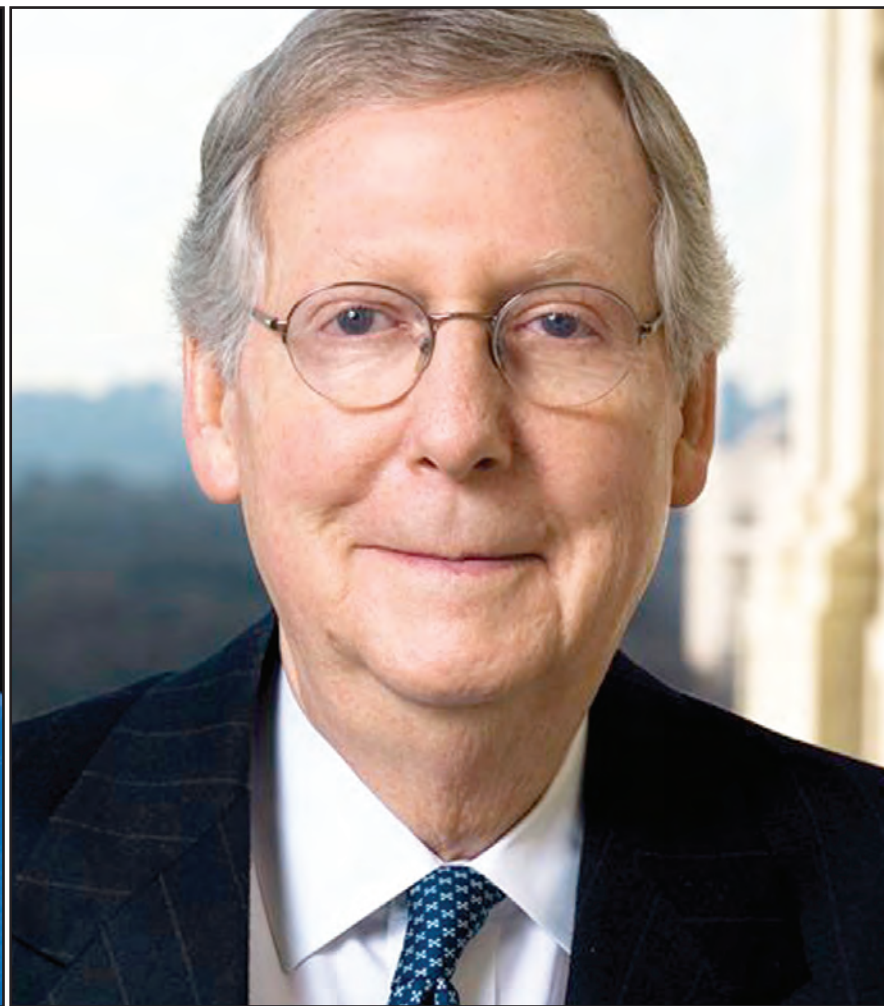
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PRESIDENT JOE BIDEN



U. S. SENATOR MITCH MCCONNELL

It's time for action on a stimulus package

BY REV. JESSE JACKSON OF THE RAINBOW COALITION

NEWS ANALYSIS

(TriceEdneyWire.com) - In his first 10 days in office, President Joe Biden has launched an intense effort to address the "cascading crises" that America faces. In addition to issuing executive orders to reverse several of Trump's most poisonous acts - ending federal contracting with private prisons, reviving enforcement of discrimination laws, ending the Muslim ban, reentering the Paris Climate Accord, and much more - Biden has put forth a bold rescue plan to deal with the human and economic costs of the pandemic.

He has declared climate change an existential threat and a national security priority and has promised a renewed effort to address systemic racism and other forms of discrimination. The question now is whether he will continue to push forward against the resistance of Republicans in the House and Senate and the timidity of the establishment.

The first test is on the pandemic rescue plan. Biden's \$1.9 trillion plan is constructed to meet specific needs: a major public health drive to get Americans vaccinated and to ramp up testing and tracking and treatment; aid to Americans to counter the continuing economic distress caused by the pandemic with millions facing the end of federal support for

unemployment; and emergency assistance to states and cities now facing devastating service cuts to deal with deficits that have exploded as their economies shut down and their revenues collapsed. Republicans have denounced the Biden plan from the get-go.

Republican Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell has promised to filibuster against the plan, forcing it to pass with a super majority of 60 votes, or through budget reconciliation by a majority vote. Republicans warn against using reconciliation, saying that it would torpedo all efforts at bipartisan cooperation. Bipartisan cooperation? Are they totally without memory or shame?

These are the same Republican senators who used reconciliation to pass the Trump tax cuts that larded billions in tax breaks on the richest Americans. These are the same Republicans who went along with Trump's lies, refusing to recognize that Biden won the election for weeks, and then voted against even holding a trial for Trump in the Senate after he was impeached for instigating the rioters who broke into the Capitol. Now suddenly, they have the nerve to question Biden's commitment to working across the aisle. Ten Republicans - only three of whom voted to support a Senate trial on Trump's impeachment - have put forth what is billed as an alternative plan that would cost \$600 billion. It isn't designed to address what's needed; it's designed only to be less.

It contains no money for states and localities.

That would lead to massive layoffs of police, firefighters, teachers, transit workers and drastic cuts in services in the midst of the pandemic. Their plan would reduce the amount of support for Americans and reduce the number of Americans eligible for relief, despite the fact that Trump supported Biden's \$1,400 stimulus check figure and Democrats won the election campaigning on it. Their plan would lower federal unemployment benefits and limit their extension to June. With a million people a week still filing for unemployment, and the bill unlikely to be passed until March, this will put at risk the millions still unable to find work because of the shutdowns caused by the coronavirus.

Their plan would drastically reduce the funds available for reopening schools safely, and for sustaining public transport in the midst of the crisis. They offer no reason for these cuts other than complaining that the Biden plan is too expensive. Somehow for "moderate Republicans" it costs too much to aid working and poor people but never costs too much to lavish billions in tax benefits to fellow millionaires and billionaires. The country is in crisis. Millions of children go hungry. Tens of millions face eviction or the loss of their homes. A million a week are still filing for unemployment insurance. We are headed toward 500,000 deaths from the coronavirus, with new, more contagious variants now just beginning to spread. This is not a time for timidity or for posturing. It is a time for action.

Black lieutenant governor blasted for saying systemic racism doesn't exist

BY CASH MICHAELS OF THE WILMINGTON JOURNAL

Mark Robinson, North Carolina's new lieutenant governor, and the first African-American ever to be elected to the

post, says, "The system of government that we have in this nation is not systematically racist and to say or teach otherwise is being divisive, promoting left-wing ideology, and indoctrinating our students within public schools."

The Guilford County Black

Republican was responding to new K-12 social studies standards that were being discussed during a meeting of the State Board of Education last week. New School Supt. Catherine Truitt had

Please see ROBINSON/ Page 2



LT. GOV. MARK ROBINSON

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



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STATE BRIEFS

NC TO CEASE PRODUCING CONFEDERATE LICENSE PLATES
 [RALEIGH] Those seeking to get a NC license plate

featuring a Confederate battle flag in the future are out of luck. The NC Division of Motor Vehicles will no longer issue the specialty plates. In fact, they ceased issuing them as of Jan. 1st. Reportedly there have been complaints from the drivers who have been offended by the racist symbol. The plates were issued to Sons of Confederate Veterans organization.

TWO ALLEGED NORTH CAROLINA CAPITOL RIOTERS NEVER VOTED IN NOVEMBER
 [WASHINGTON, D.C.] Two North Carolina alleged U.S. Capitol rioters who face federal charges for the Jan. 6th insurrection to overturn Pres. Biden's election reportedly did not vote in last November's election, published reports say. Stephen Maury Baker of

Garner and Christopher Raphael Spencer of Pilot Mountain are the only North Carolinians facing serious charges from the riot.

WHITE SUPREMACIST GROUP TAKES OVER CUMBERLAND COUNTY CHURCH
 [LINDEN] A white supremacist pagan group has taken over a former church building in

Cumberland County that closed in 2015. The name of the group is the Asatru Folk Assembly, which honor gods named by their Norse and Germanic ancestors, and believe in the preservation of ethnic European folk. The Southern Poverty Law Center says the group believes in white genocide conspiracy theories.
COMPILED BY CASH MICHAELS

REPORT:

Former Chief Justice Beasley to run for 2022 U.S. Senate seat

BY CASH MICHAELS OF THE WILMINGTON JOURNAL

If a report this week in the conservative Carolina Journal is to be believed, former N. C. Chief Justice Cheri Beasley, a Democrat, is preparing to announce a 2022 run for the U. S. Senate from North Carolina, hoping to take the soon to be vacated seat of outgoing Republican Senator Richard Burr.

According to the Carolina Journal, an online publication of the conservative Raleigh-based John Locke Foundation, Beasley, who is currently a partner at McGuirewood Law Firm in Raleigh, has hired a new campaign consultant in

preparation for her upcoming announcement.

Currently there are two other candidates running in the Democratic primary, state Sen. Jeff Jackson (D - Mecklenburg), and former state Senator Erica Smith (D-Bertie).

This would be Smith's second run for a U.S. Senate seat. She lost to Cal Cunningham in the Democratic primary to unseat Republican incumbent Senator Thom Tillis in 2020.

In the Republican U. S. Senate primary, former Sixth District Congressman Mark Walker has announced, while former N. C. Gov. Pat McCrory is expected to any day now.

Lara Trump, daughter-in-law, of former President Donald Trump, is also rumored to throw her hat into the ring. She has been heavily rumored to run against incumbent Florida Senator Marco Rubio in 2022. A native of Wilmington, Trump would have to move back to North Carolina to establish her residency requirements, if she runs for Burr's seat.

According to the Carolina Journal article, Beasley is seen as the most formidable Democratic candidate possible for 2022. She's seen as a good campaigner and has statewide electoral experience, having just lost one of the tightest elections in North Carolina history



FORMER CHIEF JUSTICE CHERI BEASLEY

when she missed election for the chief justice's seat by just 400 votes in November 2020.

Being a Black female candidate, Beasley is also seen as popular with the base of the Democratic Party, espe-

cially since Black women lead all groups in Democratic voter turnout.

Her candidacy will draw lots of attention statewide and nationwide, especially since, if Beasley were to be elected, she would be the third Black woman elected to the U.S. Senate. Carol Moseley Braun was the first; Vice President Kamala Harris was the second.

According to the Carolina Journal story, the expected 2022 contest would be between Democrat Cheri Beasley and Republican Pat McCrory.

At press time, there was no confirmation of Beasley's rumored candidacy.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH
 A TIME TO REFLECT, REMEMBER & CELEBRATE

1898 insurrection early scholars

BY BEVERLY SMALLS CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Dr. Helen Edmunds' 1947 Ohio State University dissertation, "The Negro and Fusion Politics in North Carolina," and Tennessee State University Professor H. Leon Prather's 1976 fellowship for the eventual book, "We Have Taken a City: Wilmington Racial Massacre and Coup of 1898," provide original research narratives, hundreds of footnotes and bibliographical resources about the Wilmington insurrection.

Both African-American scholars, now deceased, had long-term careers at HBCUs, Historically Black Colleges

and Universities.

Edmonds served in numerous academic and administrative capacities at North Carolina College, renamed North Carolina Central University, NCCU.

Dr. Prather had an illustrious tenured position at Tennessee State University.

In recent decades both originalist scholars are sometimes referred to as secondary sources for writers that refer to themselves as primary sources for Wilmington's 1898 Coup.

In 1947, Edmonds began discussing the, "rebellion" or "race riot," as a government insurrection.

The current online NCPedia describes the

writer's acclaimed, "The Negro and Fusion Politics in North Carolina, 1894-1901.

"At the time her work was dismissed as inaccurate and dramatized. Over the past twenty years historians have continued to uncover a more accurate narrative of the coup.

The term, "more accurate narrative," is not supported by statements or facts in recent works that are not based on the same footnotes, bibliographies, primary and secondary sources unearthed and published in Edmonds' works, and later in Prather's publications.

Prior to, "We Have Taken a City," Dr. Prather wrote, "Resurgent Politics and Educational Progressionism in the New South: North Carolina, 1890-1913."

The Tennessee State University historian said, "The Democrats' interpreta-



DR. HELEN EDMONDS

tion of the Wilmington race riot persisted until the publication of Helen G. Edmonds,' "The Negro and Fusion Politics..."

"While she gives only a few pages to the actual riot, it is the essential starting point for any study of the event,"

he said in 1984.

Prather is also the first known researcher to have interviewed Milo Manly, the son of Alexander Manly, the newspaper editor who published the 1898 article about miscegenation, white females' relations with black males.

His newspaper office was torched and many successful blacks were banished from Wilmington for life.

The insurrection removed prominent blacks from elected office in their predominantly black city.

President William McKinley and his Cabinet debated the coup and, "decided not to prosecute any of the armed insurrectionists," Prather wrote.

Dr. Prather came to Wilmington and spoke about his research topics in the New Hanover County Museum.

FARMER
Continued from Page 1

board of trustees, the first as chairperson, or the first black female CEO for a company or major corporation.

Real loneliness stress can be compounded while maneuvering tricky navigations around race, gender, newness, and the not wanted anyway issues, she said.

Environments for "the only black woman," or circumstances as the first to speak up and question mistreatment require effective strategies.

Farmer's training sessions have been commended by many.

"As a leadership whisperer, she has the keen ability to guide individuals and organizations to transformational change by cultivating an environment that allows everyone to see what is, reimagine what could be, and build on the wholly possible," said Nina Turner, former Ohio State Senator.

As a twenty-seven year old alumna of the University of Rochester P. Jennifer Farmer has been seated on the school's Board of Trustees Diversity Advisory Council.

Featured in past *Washington Post*, and *USA Today* stories, Taylor has also appeared on *The View*, and *Real Time With Bill Maher*.

She said her works with The Advancement Project's link to the late Breonna Taylor Case, and The Justice Roundtable organizations have been especially rewarding.

"First And Only: A Black Woman's Guide," is published by and available through Broadleaf Books.

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ROBINSON
Continued from Page 1

brought the proposed standards to the board for its approval. Even though Truitt made slight modifications to some of the terms used, the point of the new proposal was not to whitewash American and North Carolina history but to expose some of the bitter truths on slavery, racial discrimination, and even the 1898 Wilmington Race Massacre.

However, Robinson, who is automatically a member of the SBOE, maintained during board discussion that the "standards would inaccurately teach that the United States is a racist nation."

"In fact, it is not racist at all."

Other Republican SBOE members stood with Robinson, saying that the new standards were "anti-American, anti-capitalism and anti-democracy."

Several Democratic lawmakers have taken Lt. Gov. Robinson to task for his remarks, but the Rev. Dr. T. Anthony Spearman, president of the NC NAACP, was the most explicit in blasting the Black Republican for his opposition to the proposed social studies standards.

"His acidic language generates nothing but putrid hatred as evidenced by his claim that the current standards 'have been crafted by those on the radical left with an explicit agenda of being divisive, promoting left wing ideology and indoctrinating our students within public schools' while his radical right wing ideol-

ogy distorts the truth," said Rev. Spearman in a statement.

"Then, to say there is NO systemic racism in America demonstrates just how deeply insidious the problem of race actually is, definitely prompting the question, Does Mr. Robinson understand himself, or better yet, how does Mr. Robinson understand himself and the forces that conspire against him?"

Rev. Dr. Spearman continued, "My hope is that the Almighty would pour the sweet waters of serenity on Mr. Robinson's head as I would love to see him succeed as the first African American elected to this office."

The new SBOE K-12 social studies standards are scheduled to be voted on this week.

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

-----AN AFRICAN PROVERB


— *celebrating* —

BLACK HISTORY MONTH TOGETHER

At Food Lion we embrace and support diversity every day. Throughout the year, we honor the accomplishments of the African American community and the monumental achievements they've made that benefit our neighbors and families today. Join us in celebrating and learning about African American culture, literature, inventions, movements of love and equality, medical and scientific advancements and so much more.

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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

GUEST EDITORIAL

Back to normal? What's normal?

(Via TriceEdneyWire.com)

I got my first COVID vaccination last week. No big deal, an achy arm, but otherwise, just like a flu shot. The young lady who administered the shot smiled and said, "after you get your second shot, you can get back to normal." I wanted to ask her what was normal, but the man in line behind me seemed impatient, so I smiled and made my way out of the store.

I thought about it all the way home, though. What's normal? I don't think crowding thirty or forty young people into a classroom is normal. I don't believe that food lines snaking for blocks is normal. I don't think that high Black unemployment rates are normal. I don't think the wealth gap is normal.

I don't think that more than 400,000 people dead is normal. The inability to formally mourn our departed loved ones isn't normal. Crazy white people storming the Capitol surely isn't normal. And conspiracy theorist Marjorie Taylor Green is so far away from normal that she is on the insanity spectrum.

In the ten months since the pandemic hit, we have seen changes in our communications, our employment, our economy, and more.

Many of us, reasonably, yearn for the "normal" days when we could sit at a restaurant and have a meal, go to a play or a concert, invite a bunch of folks over to gather. But we should ask ourselves what was normal about our normal. In other words, were we so comfortable in our world that we didn't look outside our world? We can't miss the food lines now, but there were food lines, too, a year ago. We are focused on disparities now, but those disparities aren't new. Does back to normal mean accepting the inequities and absurdities of life as it was?

Somebody tweeted that "Rona was a disruption, and she is an opportunity." I embrace that sentiment (though I had to do a double-take at "Rona" and pray that nobody chooses to name their child after this virus). This virus is an opportunity for us to scrutinize what we consider normal and how we need to change it.

Let's start with education and the achievement gap. Students who come from low-income families don't have the same academic support that others do. They often don't have the technology to do virtual learning or the support to work through their assignments. Too often, their parents are essential workers—nurses, bus drivers, grocery store workers. Do we ever take a look at the people who serve us and notice that they are disproportionately Black and Brown? When we see them do we wonder about their facts of life, about their challenges, or do we know the status quo as "normal"?

Is it normal for teacher's unions and mayors to be so far apart? If we want students back in their classrooms, why can't we vaccinate every teacher and school worker? But the conflict between teachers and elected officials, especially in Chicago, calls for a national conversation with educators, students, and parents. We've heard from everyone but students in this conversation. What are they thinking and feeling? Is any of this normal?

We never saw mask-wearing as standard, and even now, with more than 400,000 dead, some fools refuse to wear them. But here's the real deal—vaccine or not, I'll likely be wearing double masks until the end of the year, and so should you. People who have had the vaccine have still tested positive. They still need to wear masks and wash their hands frequently. But too many have made mask wearing a political statement. Our non-mask-wearing former president contracted COVID and got priority treatment and had access to the drug Regeneron, which is not available to the general public. And he still won't wear a mask, emboldening his sycophants.

I really don't know what is normal anymore, but I am sure that if 2019 was normal, we must embrace the abnormal. Or, we need to define the new normal as safe, fair, and equitable. As my anonymous tweeter said, "Rona" is an opportunity for us to check ourselves and maybe get it right.

Dr. Julianne Malveaux is an economist and author. She can be reached at julianne@malveaux.com.

THE
BLACK PRESS:
USE It or
LOSE It!

VISUAL VOICE



MATTERS OF OPINION

"There's a lot left to be done"

(Via TriceEdneyWire.com)

February is Black History Month – and Black people just made a whole lot of history.

Joe Biden is our president and Donald Trump is not because Black organizers and voters decided that they would not be denied their right as American citizens to be heard at the ballot box.

Kamala Harris is our history-making vice president, a Black and Southeast Asian woman and the daughter of immigrants, thanks to the millions of Black people who encouraged family, friends, and neighbors to vote.

Rev. Raphael Warnock and Jon Ossoff are senators because Black people and their allies in Georgia turned out in November, and again in January, to signal a new day in the heart of the Old South.

All this makes me grateful that Black History Month comes in February. It encourages us to think about those who made these historic moments possible.

I'm thinking about the freedom fighters and voting rights activists – and the courageous ordinary people whose names don't show up in history books, but who showed up to fight against injustice. They often faced violence and brutality that was fueled by the racist

power structure's desire to maintain power at all costs.

Does that sound familiar? Just a few weeks ago, we saw our democracy challenged by that same kind of poison. We watched a president incite his supporters to violence by denying the legitimacy of Black people's votes. The rage among Trump's followers was stoked by endless repetitions of the lie that so-called real Americans had reelected him in a landslide, and that the election was stolen from them by corrupt big-city machines—read Black officials and voters—and their communist allies.

Black History Month is a good time to remember that Martin Luther King Jr. and the movement he led were also smeared as communists out to destroy America.

And you don't have to be a historian to have noticed the Confederate flags and the lynching noose brought to the Capitol on January 6 by the mob that claimed they were taking back the election and the country.

In 2013, conservatives on the U.S. Supreme Court gut-

ted the Voting Rights Act, which has long been considered the crown jewel of the civil rights movement.

Immediately, state legislators, especially in the old Confederate states, took advantage of the federal government's forced retreat from justice. They passed all kinds of new restrictions on voting. People in the civil rights and voting rights movements did not give up in despair after that devastating setback. They knew that every bit of progress is met with resistance. And the greater the progress, the greater the backlash.

Right-wing politicians are already responding to Black voters' turnout and the victories they made possible by preparing new plans to restrict voting. Some Pennsylvania Republicans who were supporters of voting by mail just a couple years ago are now trying to end it. We must defeat these efforts.

As we welcome the Biden-Harris administration and encourage them to govern boldly to advance equality, justice, and opportunity, I think back to 2009, when Barack Obama made history as our first Black president. That year, I participated in a Story Corps conversation with my mother and grandmother about their own histo-

ries of civil rights activism. My grandmother—who is still with us today at age 104—sent me off with a message that is just as true today: "There's a lot left to be done."

There are many ways to think about the stubborn resistance to the full inclusion of Black people in this country. Right now, I want to focus on this: The civil rights movement's victories were especially amazing given the intensity of the opposition. Our recent election wins are even more impressive when you consider that they were won in the face of powerful political forces working to make it harder for people to vote.

Our optimism and hope are grounded in our history of overcoming.

Ben Jealous serves as president of People For the American Way and People For the American Way Foundation. Jealous has decades of experience as a leader, coalition builder, campaigner for social justice and seasoned nonprofit executive. In 2008, he was chosen as the youngest-ever president and CEO of the NAACP. He is a graduate of Columbia University and Oxford, where he was a Rhodes Scholar, and he has taught at Princeton and the University of Pennsylvania.



Ben Jealous

TO BE EQUAL

National Urban League and NFL working together to inspire change and transform lives

(Via TriceEdneyWire.com)

"Confronting recent systemic racism with tangible and productive steps is absolutely essential. We will not relent in our work. We will redouble our efforts to be catalysts for the urgent and sustainable change that our society and communities so desperately need. I'm so proud of everyone across our league and others who have taken a stand using their voices and platforms to continue to shine the spotlight on things that must change. By listening and working and understanding with our players, we built the foundation for tangible change through our Inspire Change initiative." —NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell

A Philadelphia woman whose careful journey to homeownership was almost derailed by the COVID-19 pandemic. A Chicago man emerging from 18 years in prison with almost no hope of finding employment.

These are just two Americans whose lives were transformed as a result of a unique partnership between the National Urban League and the National Football League.

The partnership is part Inspire Change, the NFL's

social justice initiative, which is investing \$250 million over the next ten years in projects and organizations like the National Urban League to combat systemic racism and support the battle against injustices faced by African Americans.

The NFL's support allows for the expansion of counseling services to assist homeowners and renters find and maintain affordable, accessible,

able housing, and our urban reentry efforts that help the thousands leaving the criminal justice system find employment and successfully re-establish themselves in society.

The National Urban League's Comprehensive Housing Counseling provides a range of services that makes housing options more accessible and sustainable for African American and other minority renters, homeowners, and the homeless.

Stephanie Edgecombe, a senior citizen and frontline worker, enrolled in the Philadelphia Urban League's pre-purchase

counseling program in June of 2019. Her hope was to become a homeowner within a year. With the help of her housing counselor, she was able to address several credit issues, increase her savings and properly manage her household budget.

The path seemed cleared until the pandemic hit.

The Philadelphia Urban League was able to connect her with programs offering financial assistance for first-time homebuyers, including the City of Philadelphia's Philly First Home Grant, as well as a \$5,000 NFL-backed grant toward her down payment. She was able to close on her new home at the end of September.

For many Americans, re-entering the workforce after a period of incarceration can be challenging. This hits communities of color, who are disproportionately represented in the prison system, particularly hard. The National Urban League, which has served formerly incarcerated adults for more than 50 years, created the Urban Reentry Jobs Program to address this inequity.

For Sedgwick Johnson, life after being incarcerated for 18 years was like entering a new world. Getting back on his feet meant finding work and stabil-

ity.

The Chicago Urban League was committed to helping him get a fresh start. A Workforce Development team member enrolled Sedgwick in the NFL Social Justice Initiative project that provides soft skills coaching, digital and financial literacy, vocational training, supportive services, and job search assistance.

Now certified in forklift safety and operation certification, he was able to secure a stable, full-time job with Amazon.

Since the launch of this partnership last fall, the NFL has funded five Urban League affiliates to help families impacted by COVID-19 get back on their feet. The partnership has already created 10 new homeowners with the help of down payment assistance, and we look forward to changing many more lives.

The NFL and the NUL are committed to empowering communities struggling to overcome the economic challenge of the COVID-19 crisis, and the history of systemic disenfranchisement to individuals who need and deserve opportunities to move toward equality.

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

VOICE YOUR OPINION!

WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR TODAY

GET THAT DEED AND FLIP THOSE KEYS!

The affordability crisis

The statistics couldn't be clearer: the entire United States faces a widespread housing crisis from big cities to small towns. This is true whether it's in reference to the current inventory desert for homes for sale or about the lack of affordable homes for rent.

Half of all renters pay more than 30 percent of their income on housing. HUD says over 12 million Americans spend more than half their earnings on a

place to live, and over last 5 years, the combination of rising prices for single-family homes has cut home affordability by 20 percent. This country needs new affordable homes for purchase, and fast, and it's estimated the U.S. requires 4.6 million



Brenda Dixon

additional affordable rental units by 2030. That rate of construction remains more towards the upper end of the market for purchase and rentals. Hopefully public and private stakeholders can work together to find some affordable solutions.

The City of Wilmington does have a couple programs that helps when funding is available. They have a purchase loan at zero interest, and a

attractive investor loan that gives money to purchase and rehab properties for the commitment of keeping the rent affordable for a number of years. I will tell you oh what a difference a few years make. In 2018, I wrote: "Some are reporting that new housing construction starts fell some last quarter of 2018 and multifamily dropped as well. Post free trade adjustments, higher mortgage rates, and lumber prices have dropped". Currently in 2021,

the New single-family construction and multifamily is booming. The mortgage rates are low, and the Lumber prices has risen and rising. The only thing still the same is not enough affordability housing for sale or for rent. The good news is that there are still a few committed foot soldiers that will continue looking for affordable solutions. The key is preparing more families financially to take advantage of these solutions once they

come about. Stay encouraged because with a plan, your family can still own so just keep hope alive and prepare for it.

Until next week, share this article with 3 people and reach out for your free personalized action plan to OWN in the next 18 mos. or less.

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UNCW publicly launches \$100 million campaign

Theme focuses on why UNCW is "Like No Other"

(February 2, 2021) - The University of North Carolina Wilmington has raised \$86 million to date as part of a multi-year fundraising campaign to support students, faculty, programs and facilities, the university announced today. Like No Other: The Campaign for UNCW seeks to enrich and expand upon what makes the university one of a kind.

"This is the most ambitious fundraising campaign in the university's history, with a goal of building upon the many characteristics that make UNCW unique," said Chancellor Jose V. Sartarelli. "We have been overjoyed at the response from our alumni and donors in helping us pursue a goal that will enable

UNCW to continue offering programs and experiences that truly set it apart - like no other."

The university began counting gifts toward the campaign's goal of \$100 million on July 1, 2015, under Chancellor Sartarelli's leadership. Leading campaign gifts to date include: a \$10 million gift commitment from alumnus David Congdon '78, and his wife, Helen, to establish the David S. Congdon School of Supply Chain, Business Analytics and Information Systems, supporting these programs within the Cameron School of Business; and a \$5 million gift from Quality Chemical Laboratories and founder Dr. Yousry Sayed, along with his

wife, Linda, to support the development of new programs related to pharmaceutical sciences and chemistry.

Engaging more alumni in the life of the university through philanthropy is another goal of Like No Other: The Campaign for UNCW. Every gift, no matter its size or the area it supports, counts toward the campaign's participation goal of 50,000 alumni gifts while helping to transform the lives of students and faculty. Investments during this campaign will also help UNCW produce local, statewide and global solutions, driving progress in areas like health care; education; sustainability; and diversity, equity and inclusion.

Among the newest programs that make UNCW "Like No Other" is the bachelor's degree in coastal engineering, the first of its kind in the nation. The program, within the College of Arts and Sciences, illustrates how UNCW is uniquely poised to leverage its location, scholarly expertise and facilities to inform discovery and change.

In a little more than 70 years, the University of North Carolina Wilmington has grown from a local college to an internationally recognized university. With the generous support of our alumni, donors and friends, UNCW is primed to build on its reputation of academic excellence, scholarly research and community

engagement.

"As alumni and longtime supporters, the members of our Foundation Board are deeply committed to advancing the students, faculty, programs and facilities that make UNCW like no other," said Chair Donis N. Smith '86, '94M. "We invite our fellow Seahawks and the community to join us in championing The Campaign for UNCW."

To learn more or to make a gift, visit uncw.edu/give.

The University of North Carolina Wilmington, the state's coastal university, is dedicated to learning through the integration of teaching and mentoring with research and service. Guided by our Strategic Plan, the university is committed to

nurturing a campus culture that reflects its values of diversity and globalization, ethics and integrity, and excellence and innovation. A public institution with an enrollment of nearly 18,000 students, the university is focused on supporting and enhancing the student-centered learning experience that has been a hallmark since its founding in 1947. As a doctoral university with high research activity, UNCW offers an array of programs at the baccalaureate and master's levels, and doctoral programs in marine biology, educational leadership, psychology and nursing practice. UNCW is one of the 17 institutions that make up the UNC System.

Community groups launch "Health Needs Survey"

Effort solidifies a commitment to identifying racial disparities and health inequities in the Cape Fear Region

Wilmington, NC., February 3, 2021 - The YWCA of the Lower Cape Fear, UNCW Latino Alliance, along with the New Hanover County NAACP as well as other partner organizations and community leaders, proudly announce the launch of a "Community Health Needs Survey" which will seek to identify inequities in

healthcare in our region. As organizations concerned with the disenfranchisement of racial and ethnic minorities, the anonymous, online survey aims to investigate both community and medical system-related barriers that prevent people in the Cape Fear Region from achieving their full health potential. It will also seek to explore

many of the social determinants of health as defined by the CDC, which have to do with conditions where we live, work, and play that affect our health risks and outcomes. More information on the social determinants of health: <https://www.cdc.gov/socialdeterminants/about.html>

On the importance of the

survey, Velva Jenkins as CEO of the YWCA of the Lower Cape Fear offered, "It aligns with our Stand Against Racism campaign - "Racism is a Public Health Crisis."

"Structural racism plays a large role in determining the conditions in which people are born, grow, work, live, and age. These are the factors that affect people's access to quality housing, education, food, transportation, political power and other social determinants of health. It is important to understand and address these inequities in our communities." In future months, the coalition will be sponsoring a Health Equity Town Hall as part of the YWCA's new "Talk on Health" series and a companion event will be held for the Latinx community in Spanish working in concert with the UNCW Latino Alliance.

Amanda Boomershine is a primary study investigator on this effort, which was reviewed by the UNCW IRB. She explained, "The pandemic is really helping everyone to see the incredible impact that lack of access to affordable and culturally-appropriate healthcare has on our community, especially our neighbors of color. Our hope is that this survey will allow everyone in the community to

share what has been a challenge or barrier for their family when trying to access healthcare, be it preventative care or treatment for an illness."

This grassroots effort was undertaken as community partners have witnessed the tremendous impact of health inequity and racial disparities in care in our area. Many pre-existing disparities have come into clearer focus, and even been worsened, due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. In fact, Pacific Islanders, Latinx, Black, and Indigenous Americans continue to have a COVID-19 death rate of double or more that of White and Asian Americans. This harsh reality has made it critical to collect this data to inform an evidence-based approach to achieving greater health equity. More information on COVID-19 deaths analyzed by race and ethnicity: <https://www.apmresearchlab.org/covid/deaths-by-race>

Independent North Carolina surveys, as well as national and local studies have identified gaps in access to quality healthcare that are most profoundly impacting poor and minority communities. The burdens and suffering from these gaps are disproportionately born by BIPOC who suffer worse health outcomes in critical

areas like maternal and infant mortality, and while facing conditions like heart disease, cancer, and HIV infection, to name a few. More information is available in the most recent NC Health Equity Report from 2018: https://schs.dph.ncdhs.gov/SCHS/pdf/MinorityHealthReport_Web_2018.pdf

The survey comes in the wake of the NAACP honoring the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Reflecting on his legacy, Deborah Dicks-Maxwell, NHC NAACP President offered, "Dr. King said, 'Of all of the forms of inequality, injustice in healthcare is the most shocking and inhumane.' It is the lived experience of far too many people of color in this country that they fall victim to inhumane and unjust healthcare. We hope this survey will inform policies that bring us closer to a just and equitable healthcare future in the Cape Fear Region."

The survey will be distributed throughout the six-county area primarily served by New Hanover Regional Medical Center (NHRMC). The media is asked to assist in inviting participation in this community-driven, grassroots effort. The survey is available at <https://tinyurl.com/HealthILM>.

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We may be in a pandemic, but we just got great news about our region's healthcare. Now that's a remarkable new day.



NovantHealth.org/NHRMC

NNPA President and CEO Dr. Ben Chavis named among 100 Most Influential Blacks Today

BY STACY M. BROWN
NNPA NEWSWIRE SENIOR
NATIONAL
CORRESPONDENT

for the NNPA, hosts a weekly national talk show on PBS and PBS World called "The Chavis Chronicles."

National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) President and CEO Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr., was named to the inaugural CORE Multimedia Group's 100 Most Influential Blacks Today.

The CORE 100 honorees, which include changemakers like Stacey Abrams, Attorney Ben Crump, NBA superstar LeBron James, and Oprah Winfrey, mark and remind the world of the beauty, boldness, and brilliance of Black Excellence at a time when the cultural, economic, and political landscape in the United States has grown increasingly more hostile towards Blackness.

"I am grateful for the recognition from the respected CORE Magazine," remarked Dr. Chavis, who in addition to his tireless work

representing the Black Press of America, and on behalf of The Chavis Chronicles on PBS TV, I accept with rededication the global struggle for freedom, justice, and equality," Chavis concluded.

The CORE 100 was unveiled in a series of communications that led to the full presentation in the CORE 100 Special Issue Magazine on Feb. 1, 2021.

The addition of the CORE 100 Most Influential Blacks Today to the CORE brand supports the vision of former professional baseball player, coach, and executive; and magazine founder, Bo Porter, to address the void of Black-owned, historical and culturally diverse publications.

"CORE Magazine blazes a trail with uplifting articles and a showcasing of unsung heroes often not found in



The CORE 100 was unveiled in a series of communications that led to the full presentation in the CORE 100 Special Issue Magazine on Feb. 1, 2021.

mainstream media outlets," the magazine noted in a news release.

CORE - Champion of Real

Excellence - debuted on Oct. 1, 2020.

Each quarterly issue contains distinct and recurring

feature stories like "Ball2Business," former athletes who successfully transitioned to the business sector;

and "ME2me, professionals providing inspiration by sharing their lessons learned to their "younger selves."

L'Oréal USA partners with NAACP to launch grant program for Black-owned small businesses

(Via NNPA Newswire)

L'Oréal USA today announced the creation of its Inclusive Beauty Fund, a new grant program presented in partnership with the NAACP, the largest and most pre-eminent civil rights organization in the nation. Through this inaugural round of funding, L'Oréal USA will award 30 one-time grants of \$10,000 each to Black-owned small businesses, Black entrepreneurs, and professional services in all sectors of the U.S. beauty industry.

As small businesses in America have been hit the hardest by the economic fallout of the pandemic and Black-owned businesses are shutting down twice as fast as others according to NBER, L'Oréal USA teamed up with the NAACP to identify the most promising Black-owned small businesses and entrepreneurs in the beauty industry that are most in need of invest-

ment.

"As the leading beauty company in the United States, we believe that we have a responsibility to invest in the small business owners and entrepreneurs who are the lifeblood of our dynamic beauty industry. We are proud to team up with the NAACP to advance our shared mission of creating a more inclusive and equitable world during this time of great economic vulnerability for so many. We hope the Inclusive Beauty Fund will introduce us to entrepreneurs in the beauty industry that we can build strong relationships with well into the future," said Angela Guy, Chief Diversity & Inclusion Officer, L'Oréal USA.

In addition to one-time funding, L'Oréal USA is committed to providing grantees with professional mentorship and business development support with the participation of top executives from its leading beauty brands and its profes-

sional beauty products distributor, SalonCentric. The Inclusive Beauty Fund is part of L'Oréal USA's larger commitment to support the NAACP's mission, which will include additional initiatives to be announced in the future.

The initiative is backed by L'Oréal USA's newly formed Diversity & Inclusion Advisory Board, who will work alongside the NAACP, L'Oréal USA, and SalonCentric leaders to review and select grant recipients. The Advisory Board, made up of up over 20 internal and external stakeholders, have come together to ideate as a collective on efforts to influence and reimagine social and inclusive strategies that support L'Oréal USA's Diversity and Inclusion mission to build the standard in making beauty inclusive.

"Black-owned small beauty businesses are the heartbeat of their neighborhoods, and

beauty business owners are navigating tremendous challenges stemming from the Covid-19 and recent events. The NAACP is proud to partner with L'Oréal USA to help support these entrepreneurs and ensure the longevity of the services and community their businesses provide," said Yumeka Rushing, Chief Strategy Officer, NAACP.

How to Apply Applications for the Inclusive Beauty Fund will be administered by the NAACP in partnership with Hello Alice, a platform for small business owners to identify the right path to start and grow their company. Applications for the financial grants opens today January 29, and proceeds through February 18, 2021. All submissions must be conducted through Hello Alice: [grants will be announced in April of 2021.](https://hialice.co/Loreal>HelloAlice-Grant. The candidates selected to receive the</p></div>
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Grants are available to new or existing beauty businesses of all kinds, including but not limited to salons, spas, barber shops, stylists, makeup artists, entrepreneurs, startup founders, haircare specialists, and beauty schools.

About L'Oréal USA

L'Oréal USA is the largest subsidiary of the L'Oréal Group, the world's leading beauty company. Through its management of over 35 iconic beauty brands, L'Oréal USA has generated more than \$7 billion in sales annually. Products are available across all distribution channels including hair salons, department stores, mass market, pharmacies, medi-spas, e-commerce and more. L'Oréal USA's commitment to growth is generated through sustainable innovation and driven by the company's L'Oréal for the Future ambition which

demonstrates sustainable development across the Group's value chain. The company is headquartered in New York City, employs more than 11,000 people, and operates administrative, research, manufacturing and distribution facilities across 16 states.

About NAACP

Founded in 1909 in response to the ongoing violence against Black people around the country, the NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People) is the largest and most pre-eminent civil rights organization in the nation. We have over 2,200 units and branches across the nation, along with well over 2M activists. Our mission is to secure the political, educational, social, and economic equality of rights in order to eliminate race-based discrimination and ensure the health and well-being of all persons.



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The Community Energy Center, a cooperative with the National Newspaper Publishers Association and National Association of Hispanic Publications Media, will provide information and perspectives on the integral role of the energy sector in daily life for American families in a wide range of communities.

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