

**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**

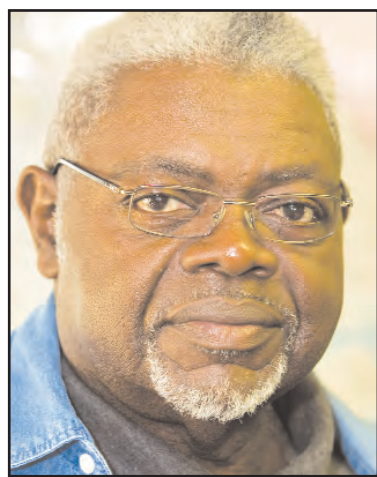


**MARC MORIAL**

**GUEST EDITORIAL**

**"Juneteenth is an opportunity to confront the Nation's 'Hard History'"**  
BY  
**MARC MORIAL**  
PAGE 4

**BRUNSWICK COUNTY**



**BERNEST HEWETT**

**KNOW OUR HISTORY**

BY **BERNEST HEWETT**  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Let's keep Juneteenth in our minds and in the minds of our children so that they will know from where they have come. We must know our history, and Juneteenth is a significant part of Black folks' history in America. It is celebrated on June 19 of each year and commemorates the end of slavery in the United States. If we know our history, we can be reaching always upward to prove that, if anyone else can

Please see  
**BRUNSWICK/**Page 2

# THE WILMINGTON JOURNAL

*News from the African American perspective without fear or favor*

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**IAN CAMPBELL**

## "Racist" Latta Plantation event denounced in Charlotte

BY **CASH MICHAELS**  
OF THE WILMINGTON JOURNAL

An inexplicable "racist" event at the Historic Latta Plantation near Charlotte has been canceled for this Saturday, June 19, "Juneteenth," because it commemorated defeated Confederate "White refugees," instead of the emancipation of Black slaves of African descent across the country.

"Kingdom Coming" was supposed to be a \$25.00 per person event this Saturday at 7 p. m., but was cancelled after strong backlash to its promoted purpose.

"Mecklenburg County has zero tolerance for programs that do not embrace equity and diversity," stated the County in a statement last week about the Huntersville event. "Parks and Recreation was not aware of the planned event at Latta Nature Preserve until it appeared on social media. We immediately reached out to the organizers, and the event was canceled. As a result of this incident, Mecklenburg County is looking at its contract with the facility vendor regarding future programming."

Even the Queen City's Black mayor, Vi Lyles, turns thumbs down on the event.

"We should not support any business or organization that does not respect equality, history, and the truth of the African-American people's journey to freedom," Mayor Lyles said on Twitter Friday. "Despite intent, words matter and the Historic Latta Plantation should know better." "Juneteenth," Lyles continued, "should be celebrated and honored in the most humble way possible, with laser focus on the perspective of the inhumane treatment of an enslaved people."

According to its website, the nonprofit Historic Latta Plantation "...is a circa 1800 liv-

ing history museum and farm located near Charlotte, N. C. Throughout the year, Historic Latta Plantation offers educational and school programs, featuring animals, workshops, camps, and re-enactments."

"The plantation house, along with a carriage barn, cabins, and outbuildings, gives visitors a glimpse into 19th Century life in the Carolina back country."

Present day, the Historic Latta Plantation serves as a site for weddings, corporate meetings, etc. A look through the page of its website show a predominance of storytelling through a White perspective regarding the Revolutionary and Civil Wars.

In the online promo for "Kingdom Coming," it stated, "You will hear stories from the 'massa' himself, who is now living in the woods. Federal troops (Yankees) have him on the run and his former bondsmen have occupied his home and are now living high on the hog. Hear how they feel about being freedmen. The overseer is now out of a job. What will he do now that he has no one to oversee from 'can't see to can't see?' White refugees have been displaced and have a story to tell as well. Confederate soldiers who will be heading home express their feelings about the downfall of the Confederacy."

Critics have slammed the promo for referring to former slaves as "former bondsmen" and White slave-owners as "White refugees."

And yet, on its Facebook page, some Whites are the ones critical of the Latta Plantation's programming.

"This place is disgusting and promotes hatred and racism. Pure evil, posted a woman named Valerie."

"Horrific experience and horrific programming," posted Kaitlin, while Leo wrote, "That Latta white washes history is an understate-

ment. As a Charlotte native, this place has always had issues with interpretation, but the recent unapologetic, overt racism is over the top."

The "new" site manager for the Historic Latta Plantation, Ian Campbell, issued a statement about the now cancelled "Kingdom Coming" event on the plantation's website. Identifying himself as "...an American man of African descent ...," Campbell, writes, "The program, "Kingdom Coming", was created by myself, with the help of others. I, Ian Campbell, Site Manager of Historic Latta Plantation take full responsibility for its content entirely! To the masses on social media and politicians, no apology will be given for bringing a unique program to educate the public about former slaves becoming FREE!" Campbell continued, "The Confederacy will never be glorified, white supremacy will never be glorified, plantation owners, white refugees or overseers will never be glorified. What will be commemorated is the story of our people who overcame being snatched from their loved ones in Mother Africa and taken to a new and strange land. To work from can see to can't see from birth to death. The fact that they survived and we are here and continue to thrive and prosper will be glorified."

"To tell the story of these freedmen would be pointless if the stories of others were not included," the site manager continued. "Many of you may not like this but, their lives were intertwined, the stories of massa, the Confederate soldiers, the overseer, the displaced white families. How would we know how the enslaved became free or what their lives were like before freedom came? It didn't happen with the stroke of a pen. Federal troops came across many of these plantations to enforce federal laws and many of the owners fled."

*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*



CELEBRATING FATHER

Father's Day 2021: Responsibilities of Black parents have increased in the face of racism

The NAACP steps in to help parents teach their sons and daughters

BY VIRGIL PARKER

(TriceEdneyWire.com) - Police officers and racism have forced Black fathers to have an added responsibility to their parenting. Black fathers must have a conversation with their children about how to survive when encountering a racist civilian or police officer.

Infamous incidents such as George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery and Philando Castile are just a few examples in which their deaths resulted from a deadly encounter with racism. Former officer Derek Chauvin was convicted on all three charges against him in the killing of George Floyd. However, police officers who conduct similar controversial actions do not always get the appropriate justice.

Even then, on this Father's Day, June 20, Black parents across America find themselves with a new challenge to try to teach their children how to avoid such encounters in the first place if at all possible. In that regard, on this Father's Day, Black fathers are having to double down on teaching their kids how to stay alive in a racist atmosphere; especially since their killers may not always receive justice. The lessons being taught are universal.

Quincy Williams, a Black father of a 23-year-old son from Laurel Hills, Calif., told his son that interactions with law enforcement are "not the time to prove that you are right." Williams has told his son to "remain calm and make no quick movements so you can get home. We will handle the situation as needed."

Dr. Eric Bell, a Black father in Northern Virginia, tells his 17-year-old son that "though we live in a society rich with opportunity only limited by ones



BLACK FATHERS RESPONSIBILITIES HAVE INCREASED WHEN IT COMES TO TEACHING THEIR CHILDREN HOW TO SURVIVE.

imagination, there are segments that aim to promote discourse and destruction through the advancement of division in people." Dr. Bell also tells his son to "continue to seek out the good in people, educate the uninformed, and never allow yourself to be silenced through any form of oppression from anyone!"

Dr. Bell's son has had to use this advice when dealing with racism from his peers in school and in other social settings. Dana Lintz, a Black father who raised both of his sons in Silver Spring, Maryland, tells them to "comply, comply, comply, when encountering the police." Lintz tells his sons to "keep your hands on the

steering wheel or on the dashboard at all times. Do not argue. If you feel you aren't treated right, memorize the name and badge number. You can fight legally, but you must first survive the encounter." Lintz's two sons are 25 and 20 years old.

Ben-James Brown, a Black Father from Los Angeles has talked to his 16 year old son about racism. Brown said, "in dealing with racism it's important to understand where it stems from individually. Typically, when we are able to identify that we are able to break down walls and barriers that allow us to meet on neutral grounds." Brown's son encountered racism at the early age of 7 years old. One of his son's peers called him the 'n word'. Brown says that his son was super embarrassed

over the incident.

Carlisle, a father to two sons who are 34 and 7 years old, tells his sons "bear in mind this officer will not see you as a regular person but as a treat or a person beneath him as such reasoning with them or expecting fairness should not be done." Carlisle also told his oldest son, "as for racism, understand its definition and know everyone can be prejudiced but not everyone can be racist. Racist referendums and doctrines have greater consequences and knowing the persons responsible for this narrative allows you...better knowledge in response and dealing with these acts."

Carlisle tells his youngest son that "If he has any encounters with police when not with me ask that they contact his father because he's a child."

Keith Moody, a Black father, gave advice to his son about how to deal with the police. Moody says, "the primary thing is that I've expressed to him is that his goal is to make it home and do not worry about what ticket you are getting, what you are being charged with, or what is being said to you. I've told him that we would deal with that later." Moody also said, "if they ask you for your license and registration. Ask for their permission to get the requested item before reaching to get anything that is in your wallet or glove compartment." Moody's son is 20 years old and lives in Leesburg, VA.

Black parents' responsibilities have increased when it comes to teaching their children how to survive. But they have help. Here is a guide from the NAACP on ways that sons and daughters can survive when stopped by police:

Ten Rules of Survival if Stopped by the Police:

- 1. Be polite and respectful when stopped by the police. Keep your mouth closed.
2. Remember that your goal is to get home safely. If you feel that your rights have been violated, you and your parents have the right to file a formal complaint with your local police jurisdiction.
3. Don't, under any circumstance, get into an argument with the police.
4. Always remember that anything you say or do can be used against you in court.
5. Keep your hands in plain sight and make sure the police can see your hands at all times.
6. Avoid physical contact with the police. No sudden movements, and keep hands out of your pockets.
7. Do not run, even if you are afraid of the police.
8. Even if you believe that you are innocent, do not resist arrest.
9. Don't make any statements about the incident until you are able to meet with a lawyer or public defender.
10. Stay calm and remain in control. Watch your words, body language and emotions.

These 10 steps and other information are available at https://www.pbs.org/black-culture/connect-talk-back/10\_rules\_of\_survival\_if\_stopped\_by\_the\_police/.



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All news must be submitted two weeks in advance by Fridays at 5 p.m.

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BRUNSWICK
Continued from Page 1

do it, we can do it also. Our freedom is being challenged, and there are those who work to erase it altogether! There is a movement underway which seeks to return people of color to the bondage of slavery to serve as lower class citizens! There are those who would like to see us with no rights at all. We must keep our eyes on the prize and our hearts fixed on the goal of achieving every human and civil right enjoyed by anyone else in this land!

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

Today's Black News is Tomorrow's Black History!

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

STATE BRIEFS



**WHITE HOUSE SENDS AIDES TO RALEIGH TO BOOST VACCINATION RATE**

[RALEIGH] In an effort to help boost COVID-19 vaccination numbers by the

Fourth of July, the White House sent top aides to Raleigh this week to push for a 70% percent goal. President Biden is aiming for at least 70% of adults to have received at least one shot by that time. At present pace, North Carolina will have 57 percent of its adult population inoculated by then. Experts say it will take five more months for N.C. to reach Biden's goal.

**NC ABOUT TO GET POST-PANDEMIC REVENUE WINDFALL**

[RALEIGH] Hard to believe, but North Carolina will be far from broke as the COVID-19 pandemic continues to subside. In fact, economists say, expect an additional \$6.5 billion revenue windfall over the next two years for state government from revenue collections. That means Gov. Cooper

and Republican legislative leaders will have important decisions to make about state employee raises, tax cuts and other spending and saving priorities.

**CARY MAKES JUNETEENTH A PAID HOLIDAY**

[CARY] Two years ago, the town of Cary commemorated Juneteenth with a celebration, but this year it

will be a paid holiday for town employees. The Town Council officially added Juneteenth to its list of paid holidays last month. As many African-Americans know, Juneteenth commemorates that day in 1865 when enslaved black people were finally told that the Civil War was over. Abraham Lincoln had signed the Emancipation Procla-

mation two and a half years earlier. Cary joins Raleigh, Durham, Carrboro, Greensboro, Hillsborough and Chapel Hill in making Juneteenth a paid holiday. The state does not recognize it yet.

COMPILED BY CASH MICHAELS

# What will happen next in the Nikole Hannah-Jones vs. UNC denied tenure drama?

BY CASH MICHAELS OF THE WILMINGTON JOURNAL

It's been two weeks now since the UNC at Chapel Hill Trustee Board was given the ultimatum by attorneys for award-winning *New York Times* journalist, Nikole Hannah-Jones, either to give her tenure with their offer of employment at the UNC Hussman School of Journalism and Media or face a massive discrimination lawsuit.

However, thus far, nothing has happened. The board has not met formally to consider the ultimatum, and, as of press time Monday, no lawsuit on Hannah-Jones' behalf has been filed.

Is there an unforeseen stalemate underway, or are attorneys for Hannah-Jones just cooling their heels while they gather as much legal firepower by way of emails, statistics, and research necessary to prove beyond doubt that the reason Hannah-Jones, who was hired to be the new Knight Chair in Race and Investigative Journalism, did not receive tenure as part of her employment package was because of political pressure wielded by right-wing conservatives on

the UNC-Chapel Hill Trustee Board because of her prior controversial, yet much-heralded work on the *NY Times 1619 Project*, the 2019 long-form expose that documented how the cruel institution of American slavery signaled the true birth of the United States.

Many Republicans and conservatives, including former Pres. Donald Trump and N. C. Lt. Gov. Mark Robinson, have denounced *the 1619 Project*, claiming that it unfairly and inaccurately portrays U. S. history as being undergirded by racism, instead of unbridled patriotism and honor.

Laws here in North Carolina and across the country either have been introduced or ratified, prohibiting the teaching of any American or North Carolina history employing *the 1619 Project*.

The controversy involving Hannah-Jones and UNC-Chapel Hill is seen as a major embarrassment for the UNC System's flagship school. There are reports that, of the many professors and associate professors teaching at the university, African-American professors hold the fewest number of tenured positions.

There are also reports



NIKOLE HANNAH-JONES

that, at least, one heralded Black chemistry professor from the University of

Maryland in recent weeks turned down an offer to teach at UNC-Chapel Hill

because of the Hannah-Jones controversy. Meanwhile, there are other

reports citing sources stating that Black professors already at UNC-Chapel Hill are eager to leave and teach elsewhere, feeling that the right-leaning board is too politicized to be trusted.

Hannah-Jones' five-year term at UNC Hussman School is scheduled to begin officially on July 1. The trustee board is expected to turn over with new members in July.

Whether attorneys for Hannah-Jones, who are reportedly speaking with UNC attorneys currently, are willing to wait until next month either to give the board the chance to resolve the issue or go forward with their lawsuit remains to be seen.

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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.

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## OUR VOICE

### GUEST EDITORIAL TO BE EQUAL

#### Juneteenth is an opportunity to confront the Nation's "Hard History"

(TriceEdneyWire.com)

"Slavery is hard history. It is hard to comprehend the inhumanity that defined it. It is hard to discuss the violence that sustained it. It is hard to teach the ideology of white supremacy that justified it. And it is hard to learn about those who abided it. We the people have a deep-seated aversion to hard history because we are uncomfortable with the implications it raises about the past as well as the present ... We enjoy thinking about Thomas Jefferson proclaiming, 'All men are created equal.' But we are deeply troubled by the prospect of the enslaved woman Sally Hemings, who bore him six children, declaring, 'Me too.'" — **Hasan Kwame Jeffries**

When I was a senior at the University of Pennsylvania, I accompanied my parents on a trip to the West African Nation of Senegal. As part of our journey, we took a ferry to Gorée, a tiny island about a mile from Dakar's main harbor.

The haunting images of the slave trade we encountered there left a lifetime impression.

"Soon, we came upon a large stone structure," My mother, Sybil Haydel Morial, wrote in her memoir, *Witness to Change*. "The remains of what appeared to be shackles were embedded in the floor. For nearly three centuries, men, women and children were brought forcibly to this island and sold to European and American slave traders. The tour guide explained that the slaves were corralled and held until the next slave ship arrives. On the far side of the building, was a large opening onto the Atlantic. The slaves were taken along a short gangplank into the hold of the ship. The guide called it 'the Door of No Return,' as those African people would never see their homeland again."

As the nation prepares to observe Juneteenth, the celebration of the emancipation of those who had been enslaved in the United States, we are engaged in a bitter battle over the teaching of history, particularly the acknowledgment of white supremacy's role in shaping our laws and institutions.

My great-great-grandparents, Victor Theophile Haydel and Marie Celeste Becnel, were born on the Whitney Plantation, 50 miles east of New Orleans. Victor's mother, Anna, arrived on the plantation sometime between 1820 and 1853. She was "purchased to be the 'pet' of her infertile owner," journalist Daja Henry wrote in the *New Orleans Tribune*. "After she got too big to play with, she was tossed among the other enslaved; and like many other enslaved women, she was raped by white men. In Anna's case, it was the plantation owner's brother, Antoine Haydel."

Marie Celeste's mother, Francoise, also had been raped by a member of the owner's family, Florestan Becnel.

When the last Haydel family member to own the plantation died in 1860, Anna and Victor were listed as part of an inventory of her estate. Victor was valued at 800 piastres — the Cajun word for dollars — and Anna at 100 piastres.

As Juneteenth approaches, I am reminded of the words of Dr. Ibrahima Seck, a Senegalese historian who traced the Haydel family's history: "The best way to honor the memories of Anna, Victor and Celeste, is to let the world know the hardship they went through and the injustice of being considered chattel for many years with a price imposed on each of them. In doing so, much respect would also be paid to those who sacrificed their lives in the defense of freedom and civil rights in this country and beyond."

Unfortunately, stories like Anna's are rarely taught in American schools. Slavery is treated "like a dot on a timeline," according to Maureen Costello, director of the Southern Poverty Law Center's Teaching Tolerance program. An investigation by the SPLC, *Teaching Hard History*, revealed an alarming ignorance among high school seniors. Only 8 percent could identify slavery as the central cause of the Civil War. Two-thirds didn't know that it took a constitutional amendment to formally end slavery. Fewer than one in four could correctly identify how provisions in the Constitution gave advantages to slaveholders.

This is no way to honor the memories of Anna, Victor and Celeste, or the millions who were kidnapped, enslaved, brutalized and oppressed. We cannot build a stable home on a broken foundation.

As the SPLC study's authors concluded, "Teaching about slavery is hard. It requires often-difficult conversations about race and a deep understanding of American history. Learning about slavery is essential if we are ever to come to grips with the racial differences that continue to divide our nation."

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



Marc Morial

## VISUAL VOICE



## MATTERS OF OPINION

### Lives are depending on it!

(TriceEdneyWire.com)

The postponed and rescheduled 2020 Olympic Games are only a few weeks away. If the Japanese and International Olympic Committees can manage a COVID-safe environment, I welcome them. I consider this event to be one of the purest forms of athletic competition. Participants train and compete fairly in a test of physical prowess.

If you will, imagine yourself as a participant in the finals of the 100-meter dash. When you arrive at the starting area, you find the starting block in your lane 18 meters behind those of your competitors. The race begins with little to no hope of you overcoming the disadvantage imposed upon you. In real life, that is the type of disadvantage imposed upon the average American woman. PayScale, a compensation research organization, asserts that, in 2021, the average American woman earns 82 cents for every dollar earned by the average American male, 18 cents less!

To raise awareness of this disparity, Equal Pay Day is observed. It is the day to which the average woman must work in a new year to

achieve earning parity with the average male's earnings for the past year. In 2021, Equal Pay Day was March 24th. This date is calculated without regard to experience or job type.

The Gender Pay Gap has long been the subject of contention and debate. Few will debate its existence, but there is significant disagreement as to the cause. Some will argue that the career choices of women and the stereotypical obligations of "womanhood" (homemaker, wife, and motherhood) reduce their "time on the clock" and, therefore, their resulting income. Others contend that, historically and contemporarily, the work and performance of women has been undervalued, and, among other reasons, employers have routinely practiced the payment of lower wages in women-dominated career fields. I support the latter position.

Despite the Equal Pay Act of 1963, throughout their careers women continue to earn less than men do, and this disparity occurs as early as one year out of college. Christianne M. Corbett, a senior researcher at the American Association of University Women co-authored a study entitled "Graduating to a Pay Gap." For college graduates, her research demonstrated that, after factoring variables such as college major, occupation, and number of hours worked, women's pay was 82 percent of their male counterparts' pay one year after graduation. In this study, on average, men earned nearly \$8,000 more than women did one year after graduating.

Unfortunately, these "averages" do not reflect the pay disparities that are inherent when factoring racial and ethnic differences. According to PayScale, women of color fall victim to an even greater Gender Pay Gap than that of the average. One does not have to be an Einstein to understand the impact of this pay disparity on single-mothers and double-income families.

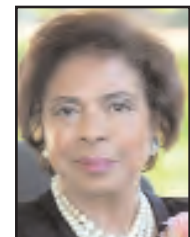
If circumstances were not bad enough, COVID-19 has

had a disparate, negative impact on women. Almost daily, we learn from the media that the greatest impact of this pandemic has been on women and it's not difficult to understand that those starting farther back in the race suffer the most.

A review of the facts of this systemic discrimination are instructional, but information alone cannot effect change. As with any other form of discrimination, change can only occur with major impetus initiated by the discriminator or those with the power to direct necessary change. In this case, employers must assess and monitor their policies and practices to assure compliance with genuine anti-discrimination goals. In the absence of enlightenment by employers, legislators must be open to the review and modernization of existing laws and policies. Both must work to increase transparency in compensation practices for the identification and remedy of disparities.

Lives depend on it!

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



Dr. E. Faye Williams

### Black Churches have moral authority to defend the Black vote

(TriceEdneyWire.com)

During the civil rights movement's struggle against discrimination and voter suppression in Jim Crow America, the Black Church was a source of refuge and resolve. Today, a new wave of voter suppression laws is targeting Black voters, and new generations of Black clergy are bringing their moral authority to a campaign to defend the Black vote.

We need these prophetic voices. The new Jim Crow doesn't look exactly like the old Jim Crow, but it is grounded in the same assault on the dignity, humanity, and citizenship rights of Black Americans. We need our communities' truth-tellers to speak out. Because the new Jim Crow is grounded in layers of lies.

The Big Lie told by former President Donald Trump and his supporters is that he won the 2020 election, but had his victory stolen by corrupt election officials and Black and brown people casting fraudulent votes.

The existence of widespread voter fraud is itself a lie. It has been debunked over and over again. But Republicans in dozens of states are using that lie to justify new restrictive voting rules. They claim to be protecting "election integrity" but they are really trying to make it harder for some

Black and brown people to cast a ballot and have it counted.

Right-wing lawmakers feel free to impose discriminatory voting rules thanks to another lie—this one told by John Roberts, the Chief Justice of the United States. He justified the decision of a conservative majority of the Court in 2013 to abolish a key enforcement mechanism of the Voting Rights Act by saying in effect that racial discrimination in voting was a thing of the past.

States from across the old Confederacy proved him wrong, by acting to impose new restrictions on registration and voting. Some went into effect just hours after the Supreme Court gave them the green light.

That was bad enough. But the right wing's voter suppression machinery really kicked into high gear after the 2020 election. Republican lawmakers saw that Black voter turnout helped President Joe Biden win key battleground states. And they vowed not to let that happen again.

Republican lawmakers' strategy for holding onto power is not to reach out to

Black voters, but to shut them out. But we won't be shut out. We will push Congress to pass the For the People Act and the John Lewis Voting Rights Act, two laws that are needed to overturn the new Jim Crow laws and prevent future restrictions on voting.

The late Rep. John Lewis told us in his farewell message last year that if we don't use our right to vote, it can be taken from us. This year we are seeing new efforts to take the vote from us because we voted.

We can't let politicians turn us around. At People For the American Way, we are investing more resources in our Defend the Black Vote project. We are sounding the alarm about disenfranchisement. And we are building our capacity to reach, educate, and mobilize even more Black voters than we did in 2020 through digital media, paid advertising, and an ambitious peer-to-peer texting program.

And we will continue to be inspired by the vision and leadership of Black clergy like the Rev. Timothy McDonald, who launched the African American Ministers Leadership Council and its Souls to the Polls movement more than 20 years ago. When Georgia Republicans tried to shut down Souls to the Polls by banning early voting on Sundays, Rev. McDonald called them out as

"the Klan in three-piece suits."

Rev. McDonald's righteous truth-telling shamed Georgia Republicans into dropping that part of their voter suppression plan. But the rest of it became law—including the infamous ban on groups providing water to people forced to wait in long voting lines. Voting rights activists have gone to court to challenge the Georgia law and others like it. Organizers will do everything possible to help Black voters overcome any new obstacles that have been put between them and the ballot box.

And the Black church will once again give voice to the aspirations of our people, drawing on a long tradition of prophetic witness against injustice combined with strategic organizing on behalf of freedom and equality.

"We endured slavery, Jim Crow and lynching by being creative and strategic," Rev. McDonald told CNN. "We're going to use their own tools and throw them back at them. We have to beat them at their own game."

Preach!

Ben Jealous is currently president of People For the American Way in Washington, D.C. and is the former national president & CEO of the NAACP. He is also a visiting scholar at the Annenberg School for Communication at the University of Pennsylvania.



Ben Jealous

## Angry Old White Civil Rights Lawyer Not Tired Yet Questions for Don McGahn

Former White House Counsel Don McGahn Needs To Tell Congress How he Limited the FBI Investigating Leads developed the July 1, 1982 Beer Party.

Brett Kavanaugh (17 1/2) scribbled in the July 1, 1982 diary he kept and swore was an accurate reflection of his actions that summer: "Go to Timmy's, for skis w/ Judge, Tom, Pj, Bernie, Squ." Rachel Mitchell, the female prosecutor hired by Republicans to grill a another accomplished female witness, forgot for a minute who was paying her fees. Ms. Mitchell grilled Kavanaugh about his July 1 entry: Rachel Mitchell: "Skis" What does that refer to? Kavanaugh: Short for 'brewskies'...beer: Mitchell: 'Squi?' Kavanaugh: It's a nickname. Mitchell: To what does this refer? To whom?



Al McSurely

forced to delay the hearing, and do a limited FBI investigation, while trying to claw back 51 votes. The Nomination was in deep trouble.

Dr. Ford's Memory of the Brewski Party.

Christine Blasey was 15 1/2 and had just completed the 10th grade at Holton Arms, a private girl's school in Bethesda, Maryland, near the D.C. line. She was invited to a party by older boys at one of their homes. When she arrived at the party, there was a group of older boys downstairs drinking beer. She had one beer and she went up the short stairwell. Kavanaugh followed her; Mark Judge(18) followed him. Kavanaugh grabbed her, pushed her down on the bed and began taking off her clothes. She screamed and Kavanaugh clapped his hand on her mouth to stop her screaming. Kavanaugh tried to force himself on her. Mark Judge, who she knew, clumsily jumped on Kavanaugh. As the two boys-men wrestled, Christine who was terrified, locked herself in the adjoining bathroom. After all she could hear was the loud music downstairs, she slipped down the short stairwell, out the front door, and got home somehow.

Christine saw Mark Judge working at a Safeway grocery that summer. He acted strangely toward her when she greeted him, as if he did not know her. Like a high percentage of victims of known-assailant assaults, she told no one about the attempted rape because she was so ashamed of her own actions. Thanks to the prosecutor the Republicans hired, 22 million national jury members

and anyone who watches the videos of the short cross examination of Kavanaugh, knows the names of Kavanaugh's Brewski Buds that he swore were at the party. If you read the complete record of this ugly episode of Supreme Court justices, you will see that both Brett Kavanaugh and Mark Judge were compulsive beer drinkers for many years after July 1, 1982.

Recently, Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse (Dem-RI) wrote to U.S. Attorney General Merrick Garland with several questions that were left hanging, after Sen. Graham's diversion explosion. Here is a digest of the Whitehouse letter:

Dear Attorney General Garland: [I wish to raise a concern about] "what appears to have been a politically-constrained and perhaps fake FBI investigation into alleged misconduct by now-Supreme Court Justice Brett Kavanaugh, rather than what [FBI] Director Wray promised: a background investigation 'consistent with [the FBI's] long-standing policies, practices, and procedures." As you will recall, Dr. Christine Blasey Ford testified to the Senate Judiciary Committee on September 27, 2018 about an alleged sexual assault incident that took place while Dr. Ford and Justice Kavanaugh were in high school. Her shards of recollection were consistent with the nature of recollections of victims of traumatic experiences of sexual assault. Dr. Ford subjected herself to personal danger, public scorn, and professional cross-examination to testify before us, and presented credible and compelling testimony.

Dr. Ford's testimony obviously justified further investigation to seek corroborating or inconsistent evidence. The nominee disputed her testimony, so there were questions of fact to resolve. Furthermore, other allegations were brought against Judge Kavanaugh, requiring their own investigation.

Former White House Counsel Donald F. McGahn II was directly involved in obstructing the FBI investigation Mr. Whitehouse referred to AG Garland.

According to the NYTimes of October 5, 2018, McGahn told then President Trump, "that even though the White House was facing a storm of condemnation for limiting the

FBI background check into sexual misconduct allegations against Judge Brett Kavanaugh, a wide-ranging inquiry like some Democrats were demanding would be potentially disastrous for Kavanaugh's confirmation. McGahn, according to the Times, said a 'wide-ranging inquiry would also go far beyond the FBI's usual "supplemental background investigation" which is, by definition, narrow in scope. The NYTimes emphasized the "FBI did not interview the two people at the center - Judge Kavanaugh and his main accuser, Christine Blasey Ford."

Dr. Ford studied at UNC-Chapel Hill and was awarded her BA to begin her highly successful career as a research Psychologist and Professor in California. She regained her strength, like millions of women who have been raped by someone they knew, after suffering years of guilt and shame.

Chair Jerry Nadler of the House Judiciary Committee "vowed" to open a new investigation the handling of the sexual misconduct allegations of a Supreme Court Justice. Please call NC Congressional Representatives particularly Alma Adams and Deborah Ross, who is on Nadler's Committee. Remind Chair Nadler of his promise and to ask Mr. McGahn, under oath, the details of his actions in regard to the FBI "investigation." Chair Nadler is at 202-225-5635; press 3.

Att. McSurely worked in the Civil Rights Movement from 1960 to 1968, when his family's home was dynamited in Eastern Kentucky. Margaret Herring and he were charged with overthrowing the Government of Kentucky by building moral fusion alliances with Appalachian coal miners and Black voters. He became a lawyer after 15 years of apprenticeship to Bill Kunstler, Arthur Kinoy, and Morton Stavis while they fought off charges of sedition and contempt. He earned his law degree from NCCU Law School and has been suing racist institutions ever since. He has worked closely with his friend, Bishop William J. Barber II. Five years ago, he married O'Linda Watkins, President of Moore County NAACP Branch.

## CRAZY FAITH MINISTRIES America's "Rule of Law" claim seems shot full of holes

Before the former president was elected to office, I believed the hype about this country being one that abided by the "rule of law." I believed that no person was above the law and that if one did wrong, our "justice system" would call them out and make them pay.

Now, I am trying to figure out why I believed that. Political corruption has always existed but it seemed that there was always a line that America's politicians would not cross. Because Richard Nixon had been stopped in his corrupt feet and resigned from office, I believed that the former president would eventually be stopped.

But he was not. And every time he or one of his cabinet members or friends defied the "rule of law" and refused to honor subpoenas, it became more and more clear that it is primarily the peons in this country who are genuinely threatened by "the law." As the former president continued to ignore the law - and the principles of democracy - "the law" seemed hopelessly impotent.

Tim Snyder, Fascist historian and the author of On Tyranny: Twenty Lessons from the Twentieth Century has explained how authoritarians sidestep 'the law' as they march themselves toward the acquisition of total power; and for the longest time, it seemed that we in America could and did look at authoritarian countries and see that happening. Law enforcement seemed more than eager and ready to support the overthrow of their own governments.

But that was not supposed to happen in America, because of our democracy, heralded as the premier democracy of all time, so "exceptional" that other countries studied it and imitated it. Many Americans carried that false sense of security, believing that the laws and the infrastructure of this country would forever save us from ever becoming a totalitarian state.

As a Black person, I of course realized that "the rule of law" did not and has not ever applied to Black people. Dehumanized because of the business of slavery, and criminalized after the Civil War during the Convict Leasing era so that there would be a "lawful" reason to arrest African Americans who had been freed from slavery and thus keep them enslaved so that they could continue to do the work of making America rich. Black people have forever yearned for "the rule of law" to "be there" for us. It has not. Neither do other marginalized groups enjoy the assurance that the "rule of law" will apply for them.

But watching the former administration basically snub his nose at "the rule of law," and lead his cronies to do the same has been disheartening. Big money is making sure that their choices for government leadership are protect from "the law." Congress seems woefully unable to make the rule of law work against these people who are guided and protected not by God but by big money.

Our laws have made it impossible to indict a sitting president for crimes committed that threaten the very survival of this country. Why is it that the law can and does allow a sitting president to plot against the country he was elected to serve? Why does the law allow a presidential candidate to refuse to reveal his tax returns as he/she barrels toward the highest office in the land? Why do our laws permit the tampering of legitimate ballots for a sham audit such as that being conducted in Arizona and being considered in other countries? Why are there no laws that absolutely prohibits any program on the air to spew obvious lies?

Why, in other words, doesn't the "rule of law" kick in at a time like this to protect the masses of people whose rights are being eroded right in front of our eyes?

Bryan Stevenson, the founder and executive director of the Equal Justice Initiative, has said, "in this country, it is better to be rich and guilty than poor and innocent?"

Watching these men in power ignore, disrespect and sidestep "the rule of law" and get away with it illustrates the truth of Stevenson's observation, and I am sure that as the "investigation" into the administration continues, more "shocking details" will be revealed, but will slip quietly into the night as perpetrators of crimes are bailed out by big money. In the end, there is not much authentic respect for the "rule of law."

America, it turns out, is no less corrupt than the governments it has always criticized. America is like the emperor who had no clothes. This country is walking naked through the streets of justice, mocking the belief in democracy and pushing toward a government where "the least of these" will be kept in - or in some cases, returned to- "their place." And ironically, the "rule of law," as defined by those with big money, will be the primary tool used to put them there.

© Copyright Susan K Smith. Please consider purchasing my latest book, *With Liberty and Justice for Some: The Bible, the Constitution, and Racism in America*.

## THE BLACK PRESS: USE It or LOSE It!



## Mobilizing to find missing Black children: Your help is needed!

NNPANewswire.com)

When the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) posted a photo of 14-year-old Isaac Gastelum on Twitter, the response was telling.

"This has been almost a month since he went missing," an individual with the Twitter handle @SdMerlins responded. "Do you guys need help with disseminating info?"

The answer is a resounding "Yes!"

Isaac, an African American with brown eyes and black hair, hails from Oliver Springs, Tennessee.

NCMEC's alert noted that the five-foot-tall and 150-pound Isaac "may still be in the local area, or he may travel to California or Michigan." He has been missing since May 12, 2021.

About one month after Isaac went missing, 15-year-old Aliyah Hardridge of Ottawa, Kansas, disappeared.

NCMEC describes Aliyah as 5-feet-7 inches tall and 195 pounds.

Aliyah has brown eyes and black hair and was last seen on June 13.

The National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) continues its series on the plight of missing African American girls and boys who have disappeared. Throughout the series, which began in 2019, a common theme emerged: Black children who go missing receive far less media coverage and police priority than White children.

Reportedly, there are 425,000 missing children in America, and 40 percent - or

156,000 - are Black.

Other than by their families, neighbors, and friends, most of these young people can be forgotten - even by law enforcement officials charged with solving the ever-growing body of cold cases.

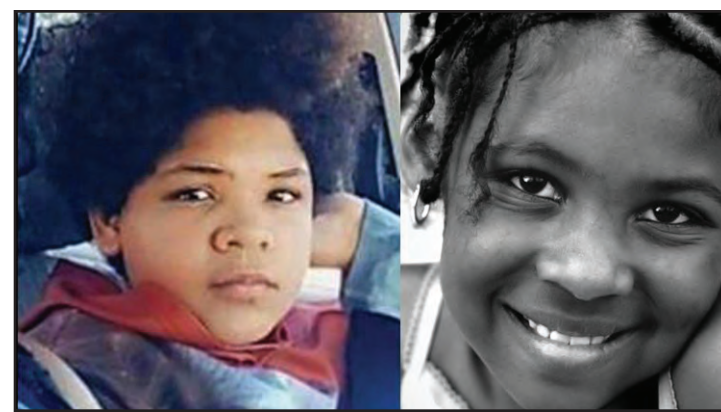
When it comes to missing African Americans, the media is often silent. A Google and Yahoo! Search yielded no news articles about Isaac or Aliyah.

The apathy is palpable, particularly on social media. "H o p e [Aliyah] is not a run-away," posted Twitter user @JR3154. "Maybe at a friends' house and mad at her parents."

In the same thread, user @Red\_Dark\_N\_Blue added: No Amber Alert in the hood ... I guess." Revealing similar apathy and perhaps some sarcasm, the user continued: "We don't snitch ... so we go missing?"

The work of NCMEC and organizations like the Black and Missing Foundation and the African American Juvenile Justice Project serve to keep a spotlight on the missing.

"Black, African American, and Afro Latinas are less likely seen as victims," Sherri Jefferson of the African American Juvenile Justice Project told NNPA Newswire earlier this year. Awareness is a significant component to getting a miss-



Authorities need your help locating 14-year-old Isaac Gastelum (left) from Oliver Springs, Tennessee and 15-year-old Aliyah Hardridge of Ottawa, Kansas.

ing person home safely, said B.J. Spamer, the executive director of the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System (NAMUS).

The organization counts as a nationwide information clearinghouse that offers free, secure, and easy-to-use technology to help expedite case associations and resolutions.

NAMUS also provides free forensic services, investigative support, victim services, and training and outreach.

In an earlier interview with NNPA Newswire, Spamer explained that the media highlights certain cases.

However, many others fail to get the same attention.

"The media plays a huge role in making sure that we raise awareness for all missing persons and also be able to raise awareness of the tools that families have available to them that they may not know are available," Spamer remarked.

"We have had families sit down at the keyboard to search the database and find

their loved one, essentially resolving their own case.

She continued: "It's an empowering thing to have families to be able to participate in the search using certain tools that we make publicly available. There are so many resources available today that didn't exist 20 or 30 years ago when their loved one may have gone missing.

"We would love to see those families come forward today and provide whatever information they still have on their loved one because we are routinely seeing identifications on cases that are 20, 30, or 40 years old. And so as long as there's a searching family member, it is never too late to file a report, get that case in NAMUS and potentially find a match and bring resolution to that family."

Anyone with information about Isaac Gastelum or Aliyah Hardridge should call 911 or 1-800-843-5678.

Stacy M. Brown, NNPA Newswire Senior National Correspondent.

## GET THAT DEED AND FLIP THOSE KEYS!

## Always more than one way

This past week I had the opportunity to learn more about the efforts of the Cape Fear Habitat for Humanity on creating homeownership in our area. This organization has been around

for some time now, and recently went into restructuring to give more choices to families. I learned that in the past if families wanted a Habitat home, they had to choose whatever

homesite was available at the time, and if didn't work it, they moved down to the bottom of the list. Whenever their name came back up, again they had no say in location, either yes or no.

The good news is that those stipulations have changed, and for the good.

Families now have the opportunity to choose from several available locations to purchase. If Habitat has land that is ready to build on, it's a site that families can choose when it's their turn to do so. I learned that they now have buildable lots in areas off



**Brenda Dixon**

Gordon Rd, Castle Hayne, Burgaw, Wallace, and Rose Hill. They also have 3, 4 & 5 bedroom floorplans for families to choose from. All of this is great, not to mention that they have a non-traditional procedure of determining if a family will get approved for

one of these homes.

It's not credit score-driven, and that in itself is different from a traditional mortgage approval. There are a few other non-traditional components that are really great in helping the families that need it most to gain homeownership. I was happy to learn details of this organization's great works in our area and that they are always looking to improve their efforts. That fact is what led one of their lead representatives to reach out to me for a meeting. In that meeting they wanted to understand better what it was I did with Get That Deed in helping families to own. They also wanted to see if there was an opportunity to work together to help more

families. Well, I'm pleased to announce that the outcome of the meeting was that a partnership was formed. This partnership will enable me to recognize when a Get That Deed family would be better served as a Habitat homeowner vs. getting a home with traditional financing. The fact that the housing inventory is still historically low, and being a seller's market, housing prices are no longer affordable to many. There is no way you could build a new home for the cost you could purchase it through Habitat. With Habitat, yes there is some sweat equity, but with Habitat, there are no bidding wars, and now also choices of building sites. I am very happy to be aligned with all

of this. Likewise, Habitat will also refer families to Get That Deed when they see that family will be better served with a traditional mortgage and home buying needs. It's ironic that we both have 18 months as a stable in our timeframes to help families. Habitat has an 18-month timeline from intake, approval, family sweat equity hours being met, to the time frame to build your new home.

At Get That Deed we have always had a rallying cry of "No matter the current finances, you can become a homeowner in 18 months or less. Truthfully, sadly that has become increasingly difficult for Get That Deed due to no homes for the families to buy once approved.

Having this new partnership will help us to help these families, and the families we have yet to meet. There is always more than one way to obtain a goal, and I'm very glad we found another way to work together to help our families.

To learn more about Cape Fear Habitat for Humanity, you can reach them at 910-762-4744 Ext:117.

Until next week, please share this article with at least 3 people, and tell them to reach out for a free game plan to become homeowner ready in the next 18 months or less.

*Brenda Dixon, Dixon Realty Since 1991, 30 yrs. F/T expertise. [www.getthatdeed.com](http://www.getthatdeed.com). GET THAT DEED! 910-262-4836.*



**Leroy Caldwell**

To My Husband on Father's Day. You are such a rare and wonderful man. everything you do, you do for me and your family. you are the heart and soul of our universe, you are the strength and glue that binds us together. your gentle ways, your generous spirit, your patience and understanding, the way you love me and your family, these are the qualities that make you such a wonderful husband, father and grandfather. these are the gifts you give to us. you are the gift! when you smile you light up my world. you are truly my strength, my heartbeat and i love you truly. Happy father's day to my kind and loving husband, your wife, Gloria.



**Annie Marie Brinkley  
For My Mother on Father's Day**

You hear a lot of stories about children growing up without a father, without this or that, you rarely hear about the Mothers who in spite of everything, raised their children to be strong, to believe in God, to be and do their best, to work hard to make their lives worthwhile.

Lady Bug, somehow you were able to do the job of two parents, (with the help of my Big Mama and my Aunties-Strong Black Women).

It wasn't an easy job, but because of you, I have wonderful childhood memories, I am strong, I believe in myself, and I have faith in God. We had good days and bad days, I learned about hard work and sacrifice, and I learned about love too. I never felt deprived of anything, because we had a home full of love, a safe and secure childhood. This is our story, mine and yours and I made it because of you. You showed me how to choose my own path, what a wonderful way to give a daughter wings, and no matter how high I soar, I know it's because you are the wind beneath my wings.

Happy Father's Day to an extraordinary Mother.

Forever loving you,  
Your grateful daughter,  
Gloria Brinkley-Caldwell

CELEBRATING  
OUR  
FATHER'S  
LOVE



**'Gone, But Not Forgotten.'**  
**Mr. Walter Lafayette Simmons, Sr.**  
1922-1979

'So fair, So Loving, Yet Called Away So Soon.'  
Happy Father's Day Eternally.

"Blessed is the Father who shares his Heart, Lives His Faith, Gives Time, And Loves his family." Author Unknown  
A thought that describes you Daddy and we can never forget the man and father you were to us as your children. As children, we were blessed to have had a Daddy like you as you were very caring and giving to us. You gave us your all. Your legacy will live on in our hearts and minds as you are missed so much and we think of you so often. As a family, we were blessed because of you. The bible states and I quote, "The righteous who walks in his integrity-blessed are his children after him (Proverbs 20:7 ESV).

You were a devoted father who never looked for praises and never one to boast. You went about your way in a quiet manner for those you loved the most, your wife, children and grandchildren. Your love and caring for us was love without an end. Your heart of love was a masterpiece of nature (A. Prevost) as you were the guiding light and your love showed us the way. You were our root and we were the branches from the tree of love. You were a hero to your sons and a love for your daughters.

Daddy, you gave us the greatest gift that we could have ever imagined as your children which were your love and inspiration and as a result, the dreams for the future became a reality. Your devotion to fatherhood was incalculable and infinite. As we look back on our lives with you, we think of the following thought; "What makes you a man is not the ability to make a child, it's the courage to raise one (President Barack Obama). You were a good father and we thank you.

"Eternal Love to You on Father's Day."

From Your Children, Thomas, Doris, Willie Jean, Maggie, Louis, Howard, and Grandchildren.  
In Memory of Walter L. Simmons, Jr. and Leander Cowan.



**Mr. Frank Weeks, Jr.**

If we could write a story  
It would be the greatest story ever told  
Of a kind and loving father  
Who had a heart of gold  
We could write a million pages  
But still be unable to say, just how  
Much we love and miss him  
Every single day  
We will remember all he taught us  
We hurt but we won't be sad  
Because he'll send us down the answers  
And he'll always be Dad  
We miss you  
Happy Father's Day

Love,  
Your wife, Mrs. Dorothy Weeks  
Daughter, Felicia Weeks  
Grandson, Isiah Weeks-Hall  
And the family

CELEBRATING  
OUR  
FATHER'S  
LOVE



Bob Marshall on  
**Opening Doors for Black Businesses**

Today, an estimated forty-one percent of Black-owned businesses have been affected by COVID-19 and as many as thirty-five percent of African American business owners have been unable to access credit to keep their doors open. Basically, this means Black-owned small businesses are closing their doors at twice the rate of the industry average, according to the National Bureau of Economic Research. And that is not acceptable.

As the National Small Business Development Leader at Wells Fargo, my team and I are focused on solving the unique problems that Black business owners face, so we can help shift the landscape to better equity and prosperity.

While there are many factors involved, Black businesses are often smaller in terms of number of employees, payroll and startup capital, and they may not have established banking relationships. This makes them much more susceptible to economic downturns and challenges. What we at Wells Fargo strive to provide is greater access to credit and innovations so these businesses can stay resilient and be prepared to stage a comeback in this pandemic.

One example of this is Wells Fargo's Open for Business Fund, a roughly \$420 million small business recovery effort. This includes grants to Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFIs) and organizations that provide technical training and longer-term resiliency programs to entrepreneurs. These organizations play a vital role in helping business owners, especially diverse and women

business owners, to access capital and resources to support their continued recovery.

The first phase of the Open for Business Fund allocated \$250 million to Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFI) to extend capital to small businesses, and the CDFIs can typically leverage this philanthropic capital at a rate of 3 to 1. That's a big impact.

In fact, eighty-four percent of funding is projected to reach racially and ethnically diverse small business owners. We estimate that the Open for Business Fund is already protecting more than 75,000 jobs and we hope to make an even more substantial impact with the funds remaining.

In addition, just prior to the beginning of the pandemic in March, Wells Fargo announced pledge to invest up to \$50 million in Black-owned Banks. Just this past February, it was also announced that this would include equity investments in six African-American minority deposit institutions (MDIs).

Supporting diverse-owned businesses is more important than ever and it is critical that we and other lenders continue to identify more ways to sustainably create access to capital for the start-up, operation, and growth of these small businesses, especially in our underserved communities.

I'm proud to work with my colleagues at Wells Fargo as we help to close the gap in access to credit for Black-owned businesses. If you or someone you know needs tools and guidance to keep their small business door open, we're here to help.

Learn more at: [smallbusinessresources.wf.com](https://smallbusinessresources.wf.com)



**Meet Bob Marshall**

Bob Marshall is the National Business Development Executive with Wells Fargo Bank for the Small Business Development Group. He was recognized as one of the Washington Business Journal's Minority Business Leaders, the featured speaker on the inaugural Executive Speakers Series of the Thurgood Marshall College Fund, and was also highlighted in the Third Edition of "Who's Who in Black Charlotte" for his work, dedication, and commitment to the African American community.

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# Bring summer back: Get vaccinated.



**Find a vaccination appointment near you at [MySpot.nc.gov](https://MySpot.nc.gov) or call 888-675-4567.**

Let's get back to the people and places we love this summer. Getting your safe, effective and free COVID-19 vaccine will protect you and others. Millions of people have already taken it—and the only lasting side effect is getting everyone back together.



# JUNETEENTH

June 19, 1865

156 Years of Freedom

Organize, Educate, Mobilize

NCDEMOCRATS

## Incarcerated for bad checks and credit card fraud, Pamela Smith said her prison sentence should not have included rape

BY STACY M. BROWN  
NNPA NEWSWIRE SENIOR  
NATIONAL  
CORRESPONDENT

According to the nonprofit Human Rights Watch, more than 200,000 women are incarcerated in the United States, and at least 15 percent of them have suffered sexual assault behind bars.

These assaults occur primarily at the hands of male correctional officers who can perform strip searches at any time, watch as women shower and use the toilet.

Further, the number of assaults reported is likely much lower than actual because most inmates fear retaliation from guards and supervisors.

In raw and straightforward terms, male corrections officers have forced women inmates into degrading and dehumanizing sex acts.

They threaten the women with filing false reports to parole boards, planting con-



PAMELA SMITH

traband in their cells, and even prohibiting visits from children and family.

Pamela Smith is all-too-familiar with the heinous acts of authorities who know there is little to no chance they will ever see punishment.

For the past quarter of a century, Smith has sought justice.

The Tulsa, Oklahoma, native received a 20-year sentence in the early 1990s for check and credit card fraud.

While at the Tulsa Community Correctional Facility, Smith was considered a model prisoner and authorities approved her for a work-release program.

They assigned her to do housekeeping at a Drivers' License office for the Oklahoma Department of Public Safety in Tulsa.

Once there, Smith alleges that her supervisor immediately assaulted her.

During one assault, the supervisor used a glass saltshaker to penetrate her forcibly.

"I am a Black woman with a past," Smith wrote an email to the Black Press.

She said no one would listen to a Black woman's cry.

"They have been doing this to Black women since our ancestors were brought here," Smith demanded.

"The White man has always used and violated our bodies. The same thing is going on to this day in the prisons in Oklahoma, and I know all over the country."

Smith has filed and lost numerous civil suits, but she said her fight is about protecting other women behind bars.

A recent Department of Justice report about sexual violence in New Jersey's Edna Mahan Correctional Facility concluded that the risk of sexual harm was so high that it reached constitutional proportions and violated inmates' Eighth Amendment rights against cruel and unusual punishment.

As recounted in Ms. Magazine, "the DOJ report tells stories of women who were forced into indignities such as being forced to perform oral sex or having to serve as the lookout for their assailant as they were being raped."

The magazine also noted the DOJ's 2014 investigation at the Julia Tutwiler Prison for Women in Alabama.

"Reading both of the reports, the New Jersey and the Alabama prisons could be the same place: women being called 'bitches' and 'ho's,' coerced into performing oral sex on male guards.

"This level of sex and chaos might be labeled some oddly-situated bacchanalia if women's survival and freedom—women are threatened with parole-busting discipline reports if they don't comply with sexual demands—weren't in the balance."

In Missouri, no fewer than five federal lawsuits have been filed against the Chillicothe Correctional Center by incarcerated women; at least nine women have accused one therapist of sexual abuse, Ms. Magazine reported.

Eight suits are pending against Coffee Creek Correctional Facility and the Oregon Department of Corrections for one nurse

who allegedly abused, raped, or sodomized more than 15 women while he worked there.

A woman in Connecticut prison is suing the state for assaults by multiple male officers.

At least 12 officers have been accused of sexual misconduct at the Chittenden Regional Correctional Facility in Vermont. In Florida, too, women say sexual abuse is rampant in the Coleman Federal Detention Facility. It's also happening in California, Kansas, and Pennsylvania.

Incarcerated women are 30 times more likely to be raped than free women.

Women account for less than 10 percent of inmates, their reports account for three-quarters of assaults, and almost three-quarters of staff are men.

Despite continued setbacks in her 25-year journey for justice, Smith said she keeps fighting because she has truth, documentation, and evidence on her side.

She produced several reports, including from physicians and mental health professionals, that back her claims.

"[Oklahoma authorities] have to lie, cheat, obstruct justice, cover-up, abuse their power and conspire against me and my case to get away with all the corruption they have done against me," Smith told NNPA Newswire.

"I keep fighting to expose the state of Oklahoma, so they have to keep lying, destroying evidence, misinforming law enforcement and Oklahoma taxpayers—to hide their hands and keep from going to jail.

"They know once the truth comes out, many of them and their buddies are going to be locked up, and they don't want that. They don't want to answer to their wrongdoings. Accountability."

Neither correction officials nor government officials returned messages seeking comment.

"I begged for help," Smith pleaded.

She noted that she met with officials in the Tulsa County District Attorney and the FBI three times.

"I have called for a Congressional hearing on this case, for an FBI and DOJ investigation," Smith detailed.

"Letters have been submitted to several members of Congress, government officials in the Executive Branch, and to a Supreme Court Justice. I intend to pursue civil litigation still, and I hope that criminal charges will follow."

With her family and friends and other victims standing with her, Smith said her battle would continue until her rapist is brought to justice.

"The perpetrator and his buddies who shielded him are all still walking around, living their lives like my abuse never happened," Smith said.

"It's not just me, but the countless other women and even girls who have suffered at the hands of my rapist. Unfortunately, Oklahoma's whole system and government agencies have let down countless abused women and swept their cries under the rug. I have to keep fighting so that they can have a voice."



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## TELL SOMEBODY

"Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." Proverbs 22:6

"Honor thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee." Exodus 20:12

Fathers, your children may love and depend on mother, but they still need you. From the moment they are born, and throughout their lifetime, children need to have the security, love, and support of a father being there for them. The impact of a loving and caring father in the life of a child is far reaching. Fathers should be there when children are young and impressionable to help in the molding and shaping process of that child's conduct and character.

Father's love should be a reflection of God's love. God's love is sacrificial and unconditional. John 3:16. This type of love should be habitual

and consistent, not just at a time of emotional stirring. A father's unconditional love is vital to a child's sense of security. A godly father should strive to give his child these five things to ensure their happiness and wholeness.

1. Acceptance  
"But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name." John 1:12 Primarily and fundamentally, sons and daughters need to feel acceptance from their fathers. If you don't accept your son or daughter, you reject them. They may suffer in one way or another all their lives because of that basic lack of acceptance. Whether or not things work out between dad and mom, kids should not be denied a genuine expression of a father's love. When we are born of the Spirit of God, God the Father will not deny us. Our faith may not be strong, but Father God draws us with love and kindness. When we become "born again", we become a partaker

of his divine nature. His unconditional love is there for us, even before we know him. He accepts us into the family of God regardless of our past failures and mistakes. "God is no respecter of persons, but in every nation, he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness is accepted with him." Ephesians 1:6



Sylvia Hooper

2. Approval  
Fathers not only need to give children acceptance, they also need to give them approval. Children need to have the approbation of a father that confirms their identity. Without that, they may be drawn to other substitutes for acceptance, even if not favorable or positive examples. They may even suffer from identity crises that may never be resolved,

simply because they have never been confirmed by a father's approval.

3. Affection  
Fathers need to give their children affection and devotion. They should feel their parents are more devoted to them than to things. Children suffer when they do not get the proper affection from the proper source. Fathers should make great effort to show kindness to their children. "Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies and kindness, humbleness of mind meekness, long-suffering." Colossians 3:12

4. Association  
Our children must have a sense of belonging. Four basic desires in man are. 1. To be 2. To beget 3. To belong 4. To possess. We all desire to belong to somebody or to something. Children want to belong to mom and dad...family. When they don't receive that sense of belonging, they may go through life struggling and trying to fit in, even where they may not belong; to

achieve a sense of "belonging". Too many children turn to the wrong elements in society to fill the void left by absentee parents.

5. Authority  
A wise father will give his children an understanding and respect for authority. A realization of true authority starts in the home. When father is provider, protector, teacher, mentor, kids realize the meaning of authority. Discipline and direction comes from one in authority. When children have no discipline in the home, they may be tempted to revert to rebellion and deny any form of authority in their lives, simply because they never understood authority.

Fathers, don't be overwhelmed by the responsibilities of fatherhood. Be an example to your son or daughter, and do whatever is necessary to assume your responsibility in rearing this child and loving him/her as God the Father has loved you. You can do all things through Christ that strength-

ens you. [Phil. 3:15] Young men, who become parents.....don't just be your baby's daddy, take the time and effort to be his father! There is a difference. Take an active part of their lives and validate them each and every chance you get! If you have already practiced the privilege of "father-hood", keep up the good work! Your labor is not in vain! Some excerpts from, Crises in the Family Prophecy Update 1991, Ed Cole. Tell Somebody ..... Happy Father's Day!

"Mrs. Sylvia B. Hooper is a native Wilmingtonian, married to Pastor Johnson A. Hooper. Pastor of Faith Outreach COGIC, Jacksonville, N.C. She has a heart for women's ministry, starting with young women and girls ages 12 - 18, and also branching out to women of all ages. Her life's mission includes the desire to rescue the perishing, comfort the dying, and save the lost all in the name of Jesus to the glory of God the Father.

## Gospel Quartet Father mentored star musician, Edwin Williams

BY BEVERLY SMALLS  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Edwin Williams became a star musician in American and European public and private venues.

Now movie producers are calling.

His Christian musician father, the late Melvin Williams whose roots link to Trinidad and South Carolina provided a model of artistic excellence in their Wilmington Orange St. home. During the 1950 and 60s local black male self-trained vocalists and guitarists serenaded church, radio and television audiences throughout the Cape Fear and Carolinas.

Mr. Melvin Williams was one who also influenced and mentored his own nine children.

The baby boy, Edwin, well known in the Robert Stange Community, Williston Junior and New Hanover High schools as, "Bruh Williams," has toured the globe as a guitarist and bass player.

He was recently contracted as a musician for Coming To America II.

That blockbuster 2021 film features Eddie Murphy, Arsenio Hall, James Earl Jones, Leslie Jones and other celebs.

As a preteen the younger

Williams observed quartet members, learned chords, rehearsed, and played with his father's groups.

The elder Williams, husband to "Miss Dora," was a longshoreman who also worked other jobs using his spare hours as a touring gospel musician.

The Volunteers, The Harem Jubilees, other quartets and singers were featured on radio and Wilmington's televised gospel Sunday morning show, "The Calvacade of Quartets."

As a teen Edwin became interested in jazz, rhythm and blues.

"My father wanted me to choose rhythm and blues or gospel," William's said.

The elder did not discourage or forbid the son's movement towards secular music.

The guitar, all types, the string bass and double bass became Edwin's choice instruments.

Recording sessions for movies came years after the Wilmington All Stars, WECT's Jim Burns Show, middle and high school prominence, and stage shows for Castle Street's Ebony Club.

School band instructors like Williston's late Adolph Green, and New Hanover High School's Mr. MacAdams



EDWIN WILLIAMS

highlight Williams' amateur jazzy days.

"I could play the fretless bass guitar and rhythm and blues when nobody else was doing that," Williams said.

He chuckled while describing his and wife Janice's pride and amusement that more than a background musician he had a personal star trailer on Coming To America II set.

Such professional music and acting venues came years after moves to Springfield and Boston, Massachusetts for Berklee College of Music studies.

Community contacts with college professors from Morehouse and Morris Brown, as well as other arts community professionals in Atlanta link to the early character building in the Melvin Williams household, he said.

"Becoming a musician can be very expensive if you listen to the wrong people."

Edwin noted a range of downfalls linked to connections with the wrong agent or promoter to drug addictions and incapacitations that end



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS  
EDWIN WILLIAMS

careers.

Clarity, sustained hard work, and timing propelled his professional career that included years of touring Europe.

Belgium, Morocco and France are a few of the thirty-six countries he has worked.

"It was fun at first," he said and explained that black musicians had chances to be more successful abroad in the 70s and 80s.

"World War II had previously brought much respect for musicians from America. You were more appreciated because you were black."

Williams got, "sick and tired of flying," and settled in Atlanta.

His interests are pronounced in a website, yesjazzmatters.org and the YouTube Jazz Matters ATL Podcast.

Early days of respect for local budding musicians include the late James "Bun" McCoy, Willie Vereen, Nat Murrill, Kenneth Boyd, the Impacts and other band members.

Musicians Frank Brown, Hugh Jones, James McClean, Bob McGhee, Kelly and Kenneth Smith are others Williams worked with decades ago in NC.



NCDOT TO HOLD PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING PROPOSAL TO AMEND  
THE GREEN SWAMP PRESERVE STATE DEDICATED NATURE PRESERVE TO  
ACCOMMODATE BRIDGE REPLACEMENT ON N.C. 211  
IN BRUNSWICK COUNTY

## STIP Project B-5624

Wilmington - The public is invited to a hearing with the N.C. Department of Transportation this month to discuss the proposed amendment of the Green Swamp Preserve State Dedicated Nature Preserve located in Brunswick County.

The proposed project, State Transportation Improvement Program Project No. B-5624, is needed to replace a structurally deficient bridge. This amendment of the Dedicated Nature Preserve is needed to facilitate the replacement of Bridge No. 57 over Driving Creek on N.C. 211 (Green Swamp Road). The amendment would provide 0.447 acre of Permanent Drainage Easement and 0.099 acre for a Temporary Construction Easement. Approximately 0.4569 total acre of right-of-way is needed for replacement of the bridge.

Project details, including maps of the proposal, can be found on the NCDOT project web page: ([www.publicinput.com/Green-Swamp-Preserve](http://www.publicinput.com/Green-Swamp-Preserve)).

The formal presentation will begin at 7 p.m. June 28, 2021. Interested people can attend as shown below:

- Monday, Jun 28, 2021 7:00 PM (EDT)  
From computer, tablet or smartphone  
<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/236010845>
- By Phone: United States: +1 (571) 317-3112 Access Code: 236-010-845  
- One-touch: tel:+15713173112,236010845#

People may also submit comments by phone (984-205-6615 project code 8026), email ([Green-Swamp-Preserve@publicinput.com](mailto:Green-Swamp-Preserve@publicinput.com)) or mail at the address shown below by July 28, 2021.

For more information, contact David Stutts, P.E., Project Engineer, NCDOT Structures Management Unit using the phone and email listed above.

NCDOT will provide auxiliary aids and services under the Americans with Disabilities Act for disabled people who wish to participate in this virtual hearing. Anyone requiring special services should contact Diane Wilson, Environmental Analysis Unit, at 1598 Mail Service Center in Raleigh; 919-707-6073; or [pdwilson1@ncdot.gov](mailto:pdwilson1@ncdot.gov) as early as possible so that arrangements can be made.

Those who do not speak English, or have a limited ability to read, speak or understand English, may receive interpretive services upon request prior by calling 1-800-481-6494.

Aquellas personas no hablan inglés, o tienen limitaciones para leer, hablar o entender inglés, podrían recibir servicios de interpretación si los solicitan llamando al 1-800-481-6494.

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