

Coming UP
in THE
COMMUNITY



You're Invited to a Film Screening in Wilmington! Pardons of Innocence: The Wilmington Ten

Democracy North Carolina invites you to join us for the screening of Cash Michaels' "Pardons of Innocence: The Wilmington Ten." In an excellent use of interviews, graphics, and historical film footage, the documentary goes back to the 1898 Wilmington Massacre and forward to the incarceration of Rev. Ben Chavis and others in the Wilmington 10 on bogus charges - and to their eventual full pardon of innocence by Gov. Bev Perdue.

Stay after the screening for a panel conversation with Cash Michaels, the Director and Producer of the film, and others.

Civics of Justice Film Screening

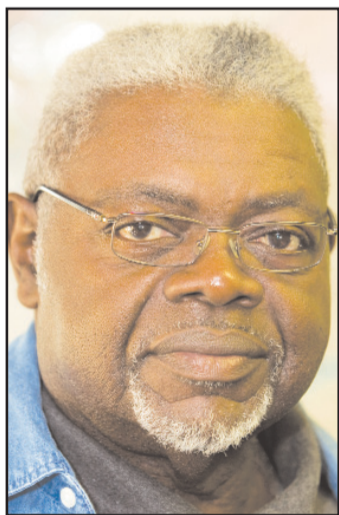
•WHAT:
Pardons of Innocence: The Wilmington Ten

•WHEN:
Monday, August 24th at 6pm

•WHERE:
Jengo's Playhouse, 815 Princess St, Wilmington, NC

For more information about the screening, please contact Nancy Shakir at nancys Shakir@democracy-nc.org.

BRUNSWICK COUNTY UPDATE



BERNEST HEWETT

ARE BONDS FAIR IN BRUNSWICK COUNTY?

BY BERNEST HEWETT
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Last week, I wrote an article on the Brunswick County young man who had a six million dollar bond placed on him here in Brunswick County, and boy did I open a can of worms! I must say that most people agreed with me and said that they thought this to be an unusually high bond and also that his friend who could not afford it made her choice and did what she thought to be right. After I got so many calls, I received in which the caller

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THE WILMINGTON JOURNAL

News from the African American perspective without fear or favor

VOLUME 89/No. 33

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FIFTY CENTS

Voting rights threatened, as Voting Rights Act turns 50

BY JAZELLE HUNT
NNPA WASHINGTON
CORRESPONDENT

WASHINGTON (NNPA) - As the nation marks the 50th anniversary of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, civil rights groups and leaders, union representatives, elected officials, and citizens gathered at the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. to address the threats to voting rights today.

"We stand here today with two missions: To celebrate the signing of the 1965 Voting Rights Act, and to recommit ourselves to making sure that the victory won 50 years ago will not be wiped away by a Supreme Court that has shown us supreme

disrespect by gutting a key section of the Voting Rights Act," said Charles Steele, Jr., president and CEO of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), which co-sponsored the rally. "The illegitimate reason for this action is that it's all about politics...where people figure if they can suppress 10 to 15 percent of the Black vote, they can steal an election."

Section 4 gave the voting law teeth; it provided an objective measure for discriminatory practices, and flagged the states that had discriminated against Black voters. Section 5 mandated that these

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VOTING RIGHTS/Page 2



NNPA PHOTO BY ANN RAGLAND
SCLC President Charles Steele, Jr. says voting advocates will not turn back.

KING SPEECH RELEASED



CASH MICHAELS PHOTO

Last week, *The Wilmington Journal* and *The Carolinian* were the first to report that a portion of the 1962 speech by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in Rocky Mount, where he first uttered his most famous refrain "I Have a Dream" eight months prior to his iconic August 28, 1963 speech during the March on Washington, would be released. On Tuesday, that indeed happened at NCSU, where researcher Prof. W. Jason Miller (standing) let the press hear the 1962 address. Miller was joined by NC NAACP Pres. Rev. William Barber, and three Rocky Mount citizens who heard the 1962 speech - Ms. Helen Gay, Mr. Herbert Tillman and Dr. Tolokum Omokunde. Dr Miller, filmmaker Rebecca Cerese and *The Carolinian* and *The Wilmington Journal's* Cash Michaels are co-producing a documentary titled "Origin of the Dream" which incorporates Dr. King's 1962 speech in examining the intellectual relationship between King and American poet Langston Hughes.



NNPA PHOTO
MEGYN KELLY OF FOX NEWS

GOP: How not to pursue women's vote

BY GEORGE E. CURRY
NNPA EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

WASHINGTON (NNPA) - This is the kind of stuff that you can't make up. During the first debate with front-runners for the Republican nomination to become president, Megyn Kelly, one of the moderators for Fox News, pressed Donald Trump on some clearly sexist comments he had made in the past.

However, it was later revealed that Kelly has a long history of "out-of-touch comments about minorities." Reacting to Trump's demeaning comments about

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WOMEN/Page 2

'Ferguson is everywhere' show goes on despite officer involved shooting

BY CHRIS KING
OF THE ST. LOUIS AMERICAN

(NNPA) "That's why we walk through Ferguson with our hands up." The crowd exploded as rap star Common recited the lyric from his most recent hit "Glory."

Fists had pumped and heads had nodded for five hours by the time the headliner closed the "Ferguson is Everywhere" rap concert with Academy Award winning song from the soundtrack for the film "Selma."

Few, if any, of those among capacity crowd that sweltered among the body heat within the Fubar Sunday night knew at the time that they would be returning to Ferguson in response to another

officer-involved shooting.

Just outside the doors of the venue it was a different story. Protesters and organizers paced the sidewalk along Locust in Midtown on the verge of becoming undone. They scrolled their respective social media timelines sharing the sketchy information about the shooting while trying desperately to touch base with those on the ground. People coming out for fresh air either got wind of the energy and asked questions, or checked their phones and all but fell apart.

"No, no, no!" a woman screamed. She would have to be carried off by other protesters who came to

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FERGUSON
Page 2



PHOTO BY LAWRENCE BRYANT/ST. LOUIS AMERICAN
Common closes the 'Ferguson is Everywhere' concert Sunday night at The Fubar. The show was part of the United We Fight weekend of commemorative activities that took place for the one-year anniversary of the tragic shooting death of Michael Brown Jr.



SHAW UNIVERSITY SUSPENDS BAND DIRECTOR

Charles Brown allegedly spoke his mind when he said that it was "criminal" that his band members were allowed to report to school "under false pretenses" without being told that funding for their tuition discounts was being redistributed. Last Friday, Shaw University responded to Brown, the school's band director, by suspending him with pay until a complete investigation into his alleged remarks are conducted. The school says Brown was suspended for "behavior alleged to be in consistent with the

University's policies and principles. Band members who lost the discounts will not have to pay more in tuition, school officials say.

ESTIMATED 600 PEOPLE RALLY FOR THE CONFEDERATE FLAG IN HILLSBOROUGH

Police say no more than 600 people rallied in downtown Hillsborough last Saturday to protest the imminent removal by the town board of the Confederate flag sign from the Orange County Historical Museum. Attendees at the rally, which organizers insist attracted upwards of 1500 people, insist that the battle flag is a symbol of Southern heritage, not white supremacist hate. Counter protesters maintained that if flag supporters were honest about what the

Confederate flag means, they wouldn't have let the Ku Klux Klan and others claim it as a symbol of their hate movement.

LAWMAKERS MISS BUDGET DEADLINE; EXTEND AGAIN TO AUG. 31ST

[RALEIGH] In June, state lawmakers decided that since they would obviously miss their July 1st deadline to pass a new state budget, they would extend that deadline 45 days to Aug. 14. But continued haggling over budget details between the state House and Senate have forced legislators to miss that deadline, and now look towards Aug. 31st to get their business done. The House Appropriations Committee voted Tuesday to establish the new deadline, hoping that their

colleagues on the Senate side would concur. Thus far, the Senate indicates not only that it wants the second deadline sooner, but that their proposed \$21.5 billion budget be the cap on any spending. The House wants \$22.5 billion. Meanwhile the state's school systems are preparing to open not knowing whether teaching assistants, who are rumored to be cut from the Senate budget, should still be on the payroll.

CHARLOTTE OFFICER "BROKE POLICY" IN FATAL FERRELL SHOOTING DEATH

[CHARLOTTE] A Charlotte-Mecklenburg police captain testified that white former Charlotte police officer Randall Kerrick violated department policy when he repeatedly shot a stranded, injured black

motorist to death in Sept. 2013. Capt. Mike Campagna testified this week that Kerrick should have holstered his weapon upon seeing a frantic Jonathan Ferrell, who had just wrecked his car and had been knocking on doors in the middle of the night for help. The police captain said by holstering his weapon, since Ferrell was unarmed, Kerrick would then be able to physically control Ferrell until he calmed down. Kerrick is charged with using excessive force in killing Ferrell.

CIVIL RIGHTS GROUP ASKS FEDS TO PROBE NC SOLITARY CONFINEMENT

[RALEIGH] In the aftermath of the death of an inmate who was kept in solitary confinement in a state prison after suf-

fering dehydration, several civil rights groups have written to the US Dept. of Justice Civil Rights Division, asking that it investigate North Carolina's solitary confinement practices. On Monday, the NC Prisoner Legal Services, the American Civil Liberties Union's National Prison Project, the ACLU of North Carolina, the UNC Center for Civil Rights, N C Stop Torture Now and the UNC School of Law Human Rights Policy Seminar sent the missive, claiming that North Carolina's prison system "failed to adopt consequential reforms despite its recognition that the system is in crisis." Reportedly, approximately 14 percent of the state prison system's more than 38,000 inmates are held in solitary confinement.

COMPILED BY CASH MICHAELS

STATE BRIEFS

Belmar says county detectives shot man on fringes of protest after he opened fire first

BY CHRIS KING OF THE ST. LOUIS AMERICAN

(NNPA) - A young man is in "critical, unstable" condition in a St. Louis hospital after going down in gunfire from four St. Louis County plainclothes detectives after he opened fire on them first after 11:10 p.m. on Sunday, August 9, St. Louis County Police Chief Jon Belmar said at a press conference early Monday morning.

Belmar said the man had not been identified, but approximated his age at 20. In images captured by Ferguson protester Tony Rice after the shooting when the man was down, he appeared to be African-American.

Belmar said a 9mm semi-automatic that had been reported stolen in Cape Girardeau was recovered from the scene. Belmar said the plainclothes detectives were not wearing body cameras. The department has 75 body cameras for 850 officers, he said.

Belmar said the detectives ranged in experience from 6 to 12 years, but declined to answer any questions about them. He said they had been placed on administrative leave pending an internal investigation.

Belmar said the man was shot behind the building at 9200 West Florissant Ave. during a foot chase where the man continued to fire at the detectives, who exited the vehicle after the man fired on them first, Belmar said.

Belmar said the man had been involved in a previous exchange of gun fire between two groups on West Florissant Avenue during a protest to commemorate one year since the Ferguson Police killing of unarmed teen Michael Brown Jr. This exchange of gunfire was heard live on television broadcasts and social media posts.

Belmar said the man had been monitored previously by the plainclothes detectives because he appeared to be armed. Belmar said the man was followed in an unmarked SUV when he ran away from

that gunfight. Belmar said the man then opened fire on the unmarked SUV after detectives activated its emergency lights.

Belmar distanced the shootings from the protests. When asked if detectives were monitoring this man and his associates because they were protesters, Belmar said, "It's not difficult to monitor protesters, they aren't hiding anything. These were criminals, not protesters. Protestors are people out talking about ways to effect positive change."

"Too many people worked too hard for this to happen," Belmar said. "I meet with these groups weekly."

Belmar worked hard at community engagement leading up to the one year anniversary of Brown's death and the resulting protests. His command of police response to Ferguson protests last August was harshly criticized by the Department of Justice for escalating tensions by militant tactics, such as deploying snipers on Tactical vehicles during peaceful daylight protests.

Going into the anniversary weekend, Belmar told The American that Ferguson Interim Police Chief Andre Anderson would command police response to protests in Ferguson and Belmar would support Anderson as needed. Belmar said he would deploy Tactical units and larger, militaristic vehicles only if needed.

Mostly peaceful protests on Friday and Saturday were marred by an unrelated civilian shooting on Saturday. The protests on Sunday were edgier and more militant, and police had donned riot gear before the shootings. As Belmar was addressing the media early Monday morning, the scene at the protest had deteriorated, with police deploying tear gas and reportedly firing less lethal rounds at protesters.

Earlier Sunday evening, St.

Louis Post-Dispatch reporter Paul Hampel was assaulted and robbed in an unrelated incident while covering the

protest. Belmar said the man who was shot by detectives was with a group of other armed indi-

viduals who are dangerous, and he asked the public to come forward with any images or information about them.

"There is a small group of people out there," Belmar said, "who do not want peace to prevail."

FOOD LION
August 12 - August 18, 2015

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POWER 1220AM WENC
Whiteville, North Carolina

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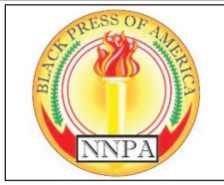
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THE WILMINGTON JOURNAL

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

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

Black lives should matter to Black killers, too

I applaud the Black Lives Matter Movement for renewing attention on police violence against Blacks, an issue that is old as the republic - for Black lives do matter. And Black lives should always matter - even when the killers are not hyper-aggressive cops, White supremacists or other emblems of oppression.



Lekan Oguntoyin

In 2011, the most recent year for which data was available, more than 6,000 Blacks were murdered, according to the FBI, most often by other Blacks. The U.S. Bureau of Justice Statistics estimates that more than 90 percent of Blacks are killed by Blacks. Around the world, hundreds of thousands of Blacks die at the hands of other Blacks as a result of warfare, ethnic and religious conflict and police and military brutality.

In fact, many crimes committed by cops against Blacks pale in comparison to Black-on-Black crimes.

Tuesday night in St. Louis, for example, two males were killed in separate shootings and eight others were shot and wounded in six shootings.

A few weeks ago in a Detroit neighborhood, patrolling police officers spotted two men in a car. One of them appeared to have a gun. When the cops tried to pull them over, they sped off and a chase ensued. The driver of the fleeing car nosed his car onto the sidewalk and ran over a 6-year-old child, killing him instantly. He didn't stop. He ran over another child, a 3-year-old who died within a few hours, before he was apprehended.

A few years ago, Al-Jazeera posted footage online of military personnel in Nigeria, the world's largest Black country, murdering young men on a busy street of a large northern Nigerian city. The men were suspected of being affiliated with the terrorist group, Boko Haram. The soldiers had conducted a house-to-house search in a neighborhood believed to be sympathetic to the group. They pulled young men who fit particular profiles out of their homes, laid them on the sidewalk in full view of passing motorists and shot them dead in broad daylight.

The conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo has resulted in the deaths of more people than any other conflict since World War II. To date, more than 5 million people have been killed. The conflict also has drawn in several neighboring countries. Some analysts have called the Congo crisis the closest thing to a world war in more than 70 years.

In Nigeria, large numbers of people are abducted each year and used as human sacrifices. Children are particularly vulnerable to these predators.

In parts of Tanzania, kidnappers frequently target albinos for ritual sacrifices. The belief is that the gods give you greater rewards if you present them with an albino.

On at least two occasions in the last five years, large numbers of Blacks in South Africa have viciously attacked expatriate Blacks from other African countries, killing scores and burning down their homes and businesses. Black South Africans see the Black expats as an economic threat.

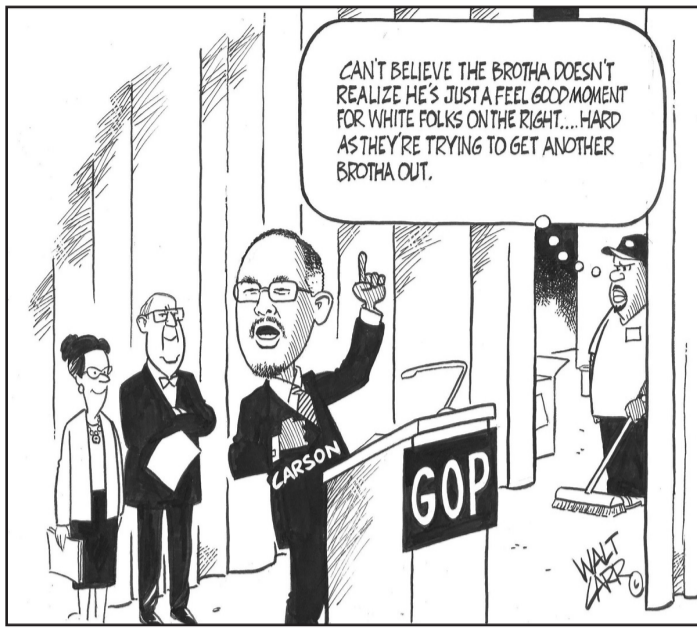
And the list goes on and on. For the record, I am sickened by stories of police brutality against Blacks, by the footage of the killings of Walter Scott and Samuel Dubose and by the gross insensitivity of the Ferguson police who left Michael Brown's lifeless body baking on asphalt for four hours.

But I am even more horrified by what Blacks do to each other in this country and around the world. Pushing the idea that Black lives matter has to involve more than slogans, hash tags and protest rallies. And it must be more complex than urging federal officials to investigate police misconduct.

We have to place a higher value on Black lives in our own communities, block by block, city by city, nation by nation. It's hard to persuade White authorities to respect our human rights and treat us with dignity when many of us don't do the same. Until we get just as fired up about Black-on-Black violence in North St. Louis, in Detroit, on Chicago's South Side, in South Central Los Angeles, in Lagos, in Kinshasa, in Kingston, in Port Au Prince and in the favelas of Rio de Janeiro as we do about cop killings, the phrase "Black Lives Matter" will remain no more than a pithy slogan.

And the killings of Blacks will continue unabated. Lekan Oguntoyinbo is an independent journalist. Email him at oguntoyinbo@gmail.com. Follow him on Twitter @oguntoyinbo.

Visual Voice



Matters of Opinion

BLACKONOMICS

You are the key to solutions

With as much meaningless and non-redeeming information being discussed on radio and TV among Black folks, I often wonder if we even want to hear solutions to our problems, much less do anything to help solve them. It seems we want to spend most of our time posing silly questions and discussing issues that lead to yet another problem. It is apparent, and

James Clingman

obvious in some circles, that many Black folks simply want mindless, no-reason-to-think, and no-reason-to-work topics of discussion in their public and personal discourse. These brothers and sisters should take a new look at the word, "solutions."

The most important letter in that word is the "u." It is amazing how many of our people love to talk about our problems and, not as often, the solutions to those problems and never raise a hand or spend a dollar to solve the problems about which they speak. All the rhetoric in the world will not solve our problems. We must be willing to work on the solutions.

There is a role for each one who wants to work on solu-

tions. However, too many of us sit back and say what needs to be done without coming to the realization that the "u" in solutions means "you." The word, "solutions" is speaking directly to you; it is asking what are "u" willing to do to effect positive change for Black people?

We often hear brothers and sisters say what "we need" to do, but many of them aren't doing one thing to help achieve what they say "we need" to do. If we would simply charge ourselves, as well as to others, to get to work, the "u" in solutions would take on a more personal aura. Standing on the sidelines and pointing out what Black folks need to do, without bringing your resources to the table, increases the load on those doing the work.

The 20/80 Rule says 20 percent of the people in a group do 80 percent of the work. We do not have the luxury to comply with that rule within our movements and organizations. Our issues require an "all hands on deck" approach. There is something each of us can do, but the first step is to look at the "u" in the solutions we propose.

I used to teach in my business planning class that ideas are a dime a dozen; everyone's idea is the best thing to come along but, unfortunately, those ideas go to the graveyard with the person because he or she never moves to the action required to bring the idea to fruition. Economic freedom

takes work and it takes sacrifice, as Bev Smith said on her show one evening as she interviewed a young rising star named Marcus Jackson from Philadelphia.

Jackson heads the State of Pennsylvania contingent of the One Million Conscious Black Voters and Contributors (OMCBV&C), and he spoke eloquently, coherently, and practically about the need for Black folks to consider their individual contribution to our quest for political and economic empowerment. Bev Smith was obviously taken by the young man as she offered her response by first agreeing with Jackson's contentions and then by telling her audience that his is the example they should emulate. She said, yes, it's hard work, it does require sacrifice even to the extent of not getting paid for your time, but if we are ever going to end up where we say we need to be in this nation, those sacrifices must be made on an individual basis on behalf of the collective. Right on, Bev Smith!

Marcus Jackson, 31 years of age, and others in his age group within the OMCBV&C, are leading the way to true empowerment, uncompromising in their political and economic positions, and willing to go that extra mile and spend that extra dollar toward that end. They proudly declare "I am one of the million!" and they under-

stand the work they must do and the sacrifices they must make for our people, just as 32-year-old David Walker, 36-year-old Malcolm X, 33-year-old Martin Luther King, and 30-year-old Marcus Garvey did, as he set out for the U.S. to meet with Booker T. Washington and take up the economic empowerment mantle.

The "u" in the solutions most of us speak about is the key to our advancement, to achieving our goals, and empowering ourselves. It all begins with "u." The OMCBV&C, with members in 31 states, is the key organizational movement that is doing the work necessary to move us beyond the problems and closer to impactful life-changing solutions. It's not yet at the 1 million mark, so there is still room for "u."

Go to www.iamoneofthemillion.com and read the information; if "u" find something "u" like, sign up and add your "u" to the solutions to our problems.

Jim Clingman, founder of the Greater Cincinnati African American Chamber of Commerce, is the nation's most prolific writer on economic empowerment for Black people. He can be reached through his website, blackonomics.com. He is the author of *Black Dollars Matter: Teach Your Dollars How to Make More Sense, which is available through his website; professionalpublishinghouse.com and Amazon Kindle eBooks.*

We must do more to close achievement gap

Thousands of pages have been written about the achievement gap - the fact that White kids score higher than either Black or Latino kids who sometimes sit right next to them in classrooms. And despite hundreds of millions of dollars spent to close the achievement gap, the National Assessment



Dr. Julianne Malveaux

of Educational Progress reported last year that the gap was unchanged in both reading and math between 2009 and 2013.

Why? African American students are as capable for learning as Caucasian students are, if they have the same quality of teachers, schools, and learning material. But many researchers have documented the differences in school quality between inner cities and elsewhere. Some researchers will explain the achievement gap by focusing on poverty, challenging family backgrounds, or other factors.

Anecdotal evidence suggests that often, teacher attitudes determine the ways some students are treated, and some of the ways that they learn. Often large classroom sizes and, yes, unruly students, contribute to teacher burnout for which there is little relief.

Multiple and complex factors go into explaining the achievement gap. But in the very shortest of runs, while we wait for public policy to shift and for legislators to put more money in our schools, some of us can help close the achievement gap. Too many of us seem too challenged to help our own kids, yet parental involvement is needed to keep close touch with teacher and administrators and to provide our children with challenging educational experiences.

Some of us, retired and with adult children, could make a difference by giving a few hours a week to a child who needs supplementary education. I'm all for a shift in public policy. K-12 education has been neglected, from a policy perspective, by too many cities and states. Too often when there are budget cuts, education takes a big hit. Schools are closed, classrooms are overcrowded, and necessary classes in the sci-

ences, in civics or physical education, are eliminated. In most schools across the country, the arts (music, theater etc.) have been removed entirely.

Reading facility may be the foundation of the achievement gap. Some researchers say that African American children enter high school with a word gap as high as 30 million (which means they have heard 30 million fewer words than their Caucasian counterparts). Some allege that children are not the only ones to have a word gap - Valerie Strauss, writing in the Washington Post earlier this year, wrote that as many as a million "state licensed and nationally credentialed" early childhood educators are at risk for functional illiteracy. Many of these workers earn such low wages that the best educated and most qualified teachers are not interested in early child education. Thus, while President Obama has called for universal kindergarten, where are the teachers who will take kindergarten to the next level?

Until policy is changed and we put our money where our mouths are, closing the achievement gap is a short run parental and community challenge. I know some par-

ents who start reading to their child in the womb, who allow toddlers to turn pages and look at pictures (and words) to get them ready for reading, who talk to their children even when they know their offspring can't understand a word they are saying. Other parents may sing and occasionally sit toddlers at the dinner table, even though they know a child might holler or make a mess.

Children are headed to school this month and next, and many of them need parents, or involved community contributors, to help them get there without being burdened by the achievement gap. The gap that starts early - in preschool or kindergarten - grows over time. Caucasians graduate from high school at a rate of 86 percent, compared to 73 percent for Hispanics and 69 percent for African Americans. Yet, we say that a well-educated workforce is a key to our nation's future prosperity. We need to change the spending policy that supports the achievement gap, and until that happens, we need to reach out, a child at a time, to make a difference.

Julianne Malveaux is an author and economist. She can be reached via www.juliannealveaux.com.

VOICE YOUR OPINION!



Write a letter to the editor!

The Black Press: USE It or LOSE It!

Republicans itching for war with Iran

With each scare tactic employed by those who oppose the nuclear deal with Iran, I not only become more and more furious, but equally worried. As I have raised in prior columns, what is so dangerous about this moment is that the alternative to this pact, which is only slightly beneath the surface, is war against Iran.

A recent development, however, needs to be introduced into this discussion to encourage us all to think 'outside of the box.' As described in a recent article in the British publication The Guardian, the Iranians are now going beyond



Bill Fletcher

arguing in favor of this new agreement. They are suggesting the need for the big powers to cut back on their own nuclear weapons and the declaration of the Middle East as a nuclear free zone.

The proposal to declare the Middle East to be a nuclear free zone deserves exploring. There is only one nuclear power in the Middle East and that is Israel, a non-signatory to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and a country that quite secretly stockpiled nuclear weapons. The Iranians are posing a question that no one in the political elite of the USA seems to be willing to ask: Why is it that only one country can possess nuclear weapons in the Middle East?

Think about this for a moment, particularly when you hear scary messages about the Iranians. Iran has not invaded another country in about 1,000 years. It occupies no

one else's land. It has no nuclear weapons. And it is a signatory to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. To this it should be added, assuming that the treaty is fully adopted, any attempt by the Iranians to develop nuclear weapons would take years. To this I think that it is important to also add that were the Iranians to ever develop and deploy one single nuclear weapon, it is highly likely that they would be attacked before such weapons could become fully operational.

The Iranians have turned the tables on this discussion, however: They are saying that the agreement that was signed by the multi-national negotiating team (including the U.S.) did not actually go far enough. To ensure that there is no nuclear arms race in the Middle East, there needs to be the elimination of nuclear weapons from the region.

It is striking that the so-

called mainstream U.S. media has largely ignored the Iranian proposal. To my knowledge, no Republican candidate for the presidency has made mention of this or its implications. Instead, we are treated to completely ahistorical hysterics comparing the nuclear deal to Neville Chamberlain's agreement with the Nazis in Munich in 1938. Such analogies miss the point: Despite the fact that the Iranian regime is highly repressive against its internal critics, there is no Iranian threat to invade anyone, let alone to create anything comparable to the Thousand Year Reich.

My conclusion? Time to ratify the agreement and get onto the business of eliminating nuclear weapons.

Bill Fletcher, Jr. is the host of The Global African on Telesur-English. Follow him on Twitter, Facebook and at www.billfletcherjr.com.

CURRY'S COMMENTS

Republicans ignore anniversary of Voting Rights Act

The 50th anniversary of the signing of the Voting Rights Act fell on the same day that Fox News hosted two Republican presidential debates (Aug. 6). But the landmark legislation was never mentioned by the questioners nor the candidates. And we know why.

Under the headline, "What Media Need to Know About The Debating GOP Candidates' Disdain for Voting Rights," Media Matters, the watchdog group, pointed out: "...with the help of most of the Republican politicians currently running for president, voting rights have been steadily rolled back in recent years."

Media Matters provided this recap of efforts to weaken voting rights laws by the leading GOP presidential candidates:

Former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush - Under his administration, 12,000 eligible voters were wrongly purged from the voting rolls in Florida prior to the 2000 election. They were incorrectly identified as convicted felons and thus ineligible to vote. Though Black voters accounted for only 11 percent of the state electorate, they were 41 percent of those purged. In 2004, Bush also signed a bill into law that limited early voting hours to 14 days for early voting and restricted early voting to election offices, city halls and libraries.

U.S. Senator Marco Rubio (R-Fla.) - He supported a purge of voter rolls in 2012 that disproportionately targeted Democrats and people of color. Rubio also supported discriminatory voter ID laws, asking, "What's the big deal." The big deal, according to the Brennan Center for Justice at New York University, is that 11 percent of all eligible voters do not have government-issued ID, a disproportion of them Black and Latino.

Ohio Gov. John Kasich - Media Matters quoted a MSNBC report that stated, "The Ohio governor has quietly played a crucial role in the Republican effort to pare back voting rights ... Just since last year, he's signed laws that: reduce early voting and eliminate same-day voter registration; reduce the minimum number of voting machines that counties must have on hand; make it easier to purge voters from the rolls; make it more likely that provisional ballots will be rejected; and make it harder to obtain an absentee ballot. The early voting cuts are the subject of a lawsuit in federal court, alleging that they discriminate against African-Americans."

U.S. Senator Ted Cruz (R-Texas) - He attempted to add a voter ID amendment to an immigration reform bill and tried to amend a voter registration law to allow states to require proof of citizenship before being allowed to vote. Cruz strongly supported the 2013 Supreme Court decision in Shelby v. Holder that weakened a key provision of the Voting Rights Act.

Former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee - He is a strong proponent of voter ID laws. Quoting the Washington Post, the Media Matters noted, "The former Arkansas governor told the crowd at an Americans for Prosperity conference last month that sometimes he thinks the United States has less freedom than North Korea. "When I go to the airport, I have to get in the surrender position. People put hands all over me. And I have to provide photo ID in a couple of different forms and prove that I really am not going to terrorize the airplane. But if I want to go vote, I don't need a thing."

New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie - In 2013, he vetoed a bill allowing early voting at polling places. Earlier this year, he vowed to veto legislation that would have mandated automatic voter registration and allowed online registration and two weeks of early voting.

U.S. Senator Rand Paul (R-Kentucky) - "Paul said that he supports increased voting access, citing legislation he co-sponsored to restore voting rights to some convicted felons. But voter ID requirements are OK, he said, as long as Republicans don't talk about it too loudly," Media Matters stated.

Dr. Ben Carson - New York magazine observed, "In [his book] One Vote, Carson offers an enthusiastic endorsement: 'I hope everyone (minorities included) across America will take responsibility for having proper identification documents, which are very easy to obtain as long as one does not wait until the last minute to acquire them.' He is also fine with 'fees' for these IDs - knowing full well, as all Republicans are fond of saying, that 'fee' is a euphemism for tax and in this case a poll tax."

Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker - He signed a discriminatory voter ID law that was later ruled unconstitutional. Walker also signed a bill capping early voting hours and ending weekend voting, a move that an expert said would affect "roughly 300,000 Wisconsin residents, most of whom are African American and Latinos." In addition, he signed bills that made it harder for college students to use their IDs as proof of residence when registering to vote, eliminated straight-ticket voting except for overseas and military voters, eliminated faxing or emailing absentee ballots except for those overseas or serving in the military and barred clerks from returning absentee ballots to voters so they could fix mistakes prior to an election.

George E. Curry, former editor-in-chief of Emerge magazine, is editor-in-chief of the National Newspaper Publishers Association News Service (NNPA) and BlackPressUSA.com. He is a keynote speaker, moderator, and media coach. Curry can be reached through his Web site, www.georgecurry.com. You can also follow him at www.twitter.com/currygeorgeand George E. Curry Fan Page on Facebook. See previous columns at <http://www.georgecurry.com/columns>.



George Curry

TO BE EQUAL

Sandra Bland's life mattered

"Many people see this situation escalating, and I think it shows the frustration that many minority communities feel when they feel that, you know, maybe it wouldn't have escalated in a different community. I hope that that can bring this situation to light as well, so that people understand the frustration that many minority members feel when they're stopped by the police."

United States Attorney General Loretta Lynch, July 2015



Marc Morial

turn into all of this? I don't even know." The details of her arrest and her untimely death have left her family, friends, and those concerned about the treatment of people of color in our nation's criminal justice system, wondering the same: how could a traffic stop could "turn into all of this?"

On Friday, July 10, Bland was pulled over by State Trooper Brian Encinia for the minor traffic violation. As seen on the officer's dashboard camera video, Encinia ordered Bland to step out of her car after she refused his order to put out her cigarette. The confrontation between the two continued to escalate as Encinia attempted to pull Bland out of her car and then threatened to use his Taser gun on her. The remainder of the confrontation, and her eventual arrest, is not caught on camera, but we can hear her screaming during the arrest that the trooper is about to break her wrist and that he has slammed her head into the ground. She was taken to the Waller County Jail on a charge of assaulting a public servant during a traffic stop.

Three days later, on Monday, July 13, Bland was discovered dead in her jail cell after allegedly hanging herself with a garbage bag. A medical examiner has ruled the death suicide by hanging, but her family and protestors are disputing the

autopsy results. Bland's relatives have ordered a private autopsy and Waller County District Attorney Elton Mathis has opened up a probe into Bland's death and has said that his office will treat her case like a murder investigation.

We don't yet know how Sandra Bland died in her jail cell, but the video of her arrest is cause enough for grave concern. And for those committed to reforming our nation's broken criminal justice system, it is an urgent call for action. As the litany of names of unarmed Black and Brown men and women brutalized and killed by law enforcement multiplies, so does the skepticism and distrust so many feel for a system that has proven time and again to be stacked against them and their communities at every level of justice.

Encinia's behavior at the traffic stop was incendiary, unjustified and beyond unprofessional. The Texas Department of Public Safety must not tolerate this disrespectful and provocative method of policing from Encinia - or any officer. Officers are supposed to be trained to de-escalate tense situations, not escalate them.

We cannot limit our concern and anger to motionless outrage. While we mourn the loss of countless victims of police

violence and injustice, we must be loud and engaged advocates for the sort of change that will save lives and rebuild that much-needed trust between law enforcement and all communities entrusted to their care and protection. Attorney General Loretta Lynch has expressed her hope that the tragic loss of Sandra Bland will galvanize more law enforcement departments to institute de-escalation training. This is the kind of training that could have saved Bland's life.

We reiterate our call - as we have in the wake of far too many incidents of police violence - for the comprehensive retraining of all police officers, the review and strengthening of police hiring standards and the widespread use of body and dashboard cameras. We will continue to hold law enforcement accountable when it fails to treat all citizens fairly and with dignity. We will work to bridge the widespread and dangerous distrust between law enforcement and too many communities of color. And we will dedicate ourselves to this mission for our nation's sake, for Bland and for the innumerable others taken by police violence that are no longer here to fight for us or with us.

Marc H. Morial, former mayor of New Orleans, is president and CEO of the National Urban League.

GOP's raging intra-party war

The August 6th Fox News-sponsored, two-tiered debate of the GOP presidential primary candidates has shown anew the Republican Party's continuing to explore different ways a political party can self-destruct.

Two developments of last week have underscored that the GOP's raging intra-party war and identity crisis is more serious than ever.

Donald Trump's remarkably bad performance at the so-called Top 10 debate in Cleveland has to worry the Party's professional operatives as much as his initial entry into the race did (especially since he explicitly refused, amid catcalls from the audience, to rule out mounting a third-party candidacy). From the beginning to the end of the two-hour session, Trump was horrible: flustered and defensive at the probing quality of the questions put to him, especially by Fox News talk show host Megyn Kelly; needlessly rude and insulting to a host of others present and not present; and clearly annoyed at having to share the spotlight at all with the other candidates.

Trump's failure was the more surprising because navigating the debate format of the crowded, 10-person field didn't actually require specific knowledge about this or that policy. It just required glibly using standard Republican sound bites to deliver a seemingly coherent response to the



Lee A. Daniels

questions.

What does it mean that Trump, for all his television experience, couldn't bob and weave his way through such a low-pressure question-and-answer reality show?

It means Trump shouldn't have been there at all.

He was there, however, because his great wealth shields him from having to seek the GOP's "permission" to run. And, ironically, because his indifference to Republican ideology has enabled him to more openly and harshly champion the Party's doctrine of tough-guy posturing, cruelty and exclusion the GOP base is addicted to.

In other words, Trump's candidacy personifies how the Republican Party's organizational integrity is being erased by both its wealthy class of supporters and those who make up its rank-and-file voters. Jon Stewart, the satirist and former host of "The Daily Show," got it exactly right in late July when he said, "People like Trump are supposed to buy the candidates - not be them."

But Trump has shown that billionaire outsiders like him can run for the presidency because the U.S. Supreme Court's egregious Citizens United ruling of 2010 struck down limitations on political spending. The GOP lobbied for that decision because they thought it would enable them to defeat President Obama in 2012 and, backed by the dollars of the business sector and wealthy individuals, forever destroy the Democratic Party's national political prospects.

What GOP leaders didn't understand was that, by erasing limits on political spend-

ing, Citizens United also destroyed political parties' organizational ability to significantly control how wealthy donors' money got spent. It produced an explosion of fundraising vehicles - super PACs - completely independent of the parties' control. And it the ability of the parties to keep an unwanted rich outsider from injecting himself or herself into the presidential sweepstakes.

So, who will be the next uber-wealthy outsider to push the GOP's professional politicians aside?

Or, perhaps the question should be: How long before the right-wing "Billionaires Boys and Girls Club" uses its enormous collective wealth and its individual and collective sponsorship of individual elected GOP officials to become the "new" Republican Party. (The GOP's ultra-conservative and heavily Whites-only political orientation makes this a Republican phenomenon.)

In that regard, last week's second important development was the invitation-only conference for the uber-wealthy the right-wing billionaire brothers Charles and David Koch staged at a luxurious California resort. Amid extraordinary secrecy, the Kochs invited just five of the announced GOP candidates to pitch the 450 attendees for support.

The conference is just one part of the Kochs' multi-faceted campaign involving a web of nonprofit political organizations they've created with the goal of putting a Republican in the White House in 2016 - an effort on which they're prepared to spend \$889 million.

An article in the Washington

Post last week noted that the Kochs and their allies "have built a quasi-political party outside the traditional infrastructure [of the GOP], one made up of nonprofit groups financed with secret donations free of campaign finance limits."

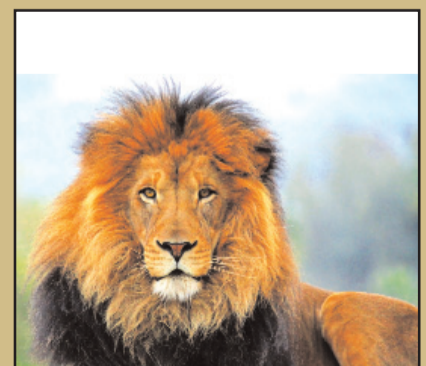
It went on to say the new entity is "both a valuable ally and a rival power center to the Republican National Committee" and that recent tensions over their separate data-mining efforts led the RNC's chief of staff to warn it was "very dangerous and wrong to allow a group of very strong, well-financed individuals who have no accountability to anyone to have control over who gets access to the data when, why and how."

The power struggle was subsequently papered over by a joint agreement to share data throughout the current election cycle. But isn't the tension between the traditional GOP bureaucracy and the new independent, "quasi-political party" of uber-wealthy conservatives evidence that there's another elephant taking up space in the Republican Party's tent?

Of those two elephants, which one is growing larger and stronger every day, and which is fading to ghost status right before our eyes?

Lee A. Daniels is a longtime journalist based in New York City. His essay, "Martin Luther King, Jr.: The Great Provocateur," appears in Africa's Peacemakers: Nobel Peace Laureates of African Descent (2014), published by Zed Books. His new collection of columns, Race Forward: Facing America's Racial Divide in 2014, is available at www.amazon.com.

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



--AN AFRICAN PROVERB

New Hanover County

Haso Ministries will sponsor Feed The Needy every 1st Saturday of each month at 5-Star Café, 604 Redcross Street at 11:00 a.m. For more information contact Ramona at 910-264-4530.



Girls Choir of Wilmington will hold Fall New Member Auditions on Thursday, August 27th for ages 9-12 from 5:00 p.m.- 6:00 p.m. and ages 12-18 from 6:00 p.m.- 7:00 p.m. at First Baptist Activities Center, 1939 Independence Blvd.

Community Briefs

Narconon reminds families that abuse of addictive pharmaceutical drugs is on the rise. Learn to recognize the signs of drug abuse and get your loved ones help if they are at risk. Call Narconon for a free brochure on the signs of addiction for all types of drugs. Narconon also offers free screenings and referrals. 800-431-1754 or Prescription-abuse.org. Narconon can help you take steps to overcome addiction in your family. Call today for free screenings or referrals. 800-431-1754

The Saint Augustine's University(College) Alumni meeting will be held on Saturday, August 15th at 2:00 p.m. at the Covil Farm Road Clubhouse at 7300 Covil Farm Road in Wilmington. All graduates, persons who attended and friends of St. Augustine's University are invited to attend. Call Angie at 910-620-7978 for more information.

The Local Organizing Committee (LOC) of the 20th Anniversary of the Million Man March-Justice or Else invites pastors, organizations and club leaders or representatives to the Leadership Information Brunch on Saturday, August 15th from 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. at St. Andrew AME Zion Church, 1201 South 9th St. Please RSVP or request more information at 910-228-7562 or 910-599-1491.

Brunswick County

Brunswick County Family Fair will be presented on Friday, August 21 from 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. at North Carolina Cooperative Extension, Building N, 25 Referendum Drive, Bolivia, NC and Saturday, August 22nd from 11:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. at St. Mary Missionary Baptist Church, 6401 Ocean Highway East, Winnabow, NC. Free School Supplies and other give-aways will be offered as well as drawings for Door Prizes. For more information, or if your organization would like to participate please call The Brunswick County Extension office 910-253-2610 and ask for Alicia Jenkins or Myra Burgess.

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

Compiled By Wilmington Journal Staff

New mobile app set to revolutionize NHCS communications

New Hanover County Schools is preparing to launch a new mobile app that will revolutionize the way the district communicates with the world. The new, free mobile app is a convenient, central place for families, students, staff and the community to stay informed about what is happening in schools and with the district. The app, produced by a company called The Education App, LLC, becomes fully active on August 24, 2015 - the first day of school for students on the traditional school calendar. To download your student's school's app, go to the Apple App Store or Google Play and type in the school name (once all schools have been uploaded).

"This will be one more way we can communicate with parents, students and all of our other stakeholders," said Superintendent Dr. Tim Markley. "For example, when we have to cancel or delay school for inclement weather, parents will receive a push notification on their smart phones. We will still use all of the other information tools we have, but we see this as a game changer in terms of communication."

Each of the 43 schools will have their own app with all of the information from the school's websites and more. Currently, Hoggard High School's app is the only one fully loaded. Parents, students and anyone with a mobile phone can find a wide variety of information including teacher sites, assignments, brochures, sports schedules, student forms and more. There is even a "DocuSign" feature that allows parents to view a

document over their phone, sign it and send it right back to the school with their signature. No more lost forms in the book bags! Parents having students at multiple schools can sign up to receive information for all of the schools their students attend.

"Smart phones and tablet devices are everywhere, and NHCS wants to enable our parents, staff, and students to connect with the district at their convenience," said Valita Quattlebaum, chief communications officer. "We know this new resource will help in terms of transparency and parent engagement."

"This is the first education app we have produced, making NHCS the first district in the nation to launch it," said Jonathan Weiss, CEO of The Education App.

There is no cost to NHCS for the mobile app. Sponsors work with The Education App company to purchase ad space starting at \$300 per month. Some 300 sponsors are expected to sign on before the end of 2015, according to the firm.

School and district level personnel will control the content of the app. The Technology Department, along with the Public Relations Department, will serve as the super administrators of the mobile app system overall. Training for all app administrators will take place over the next two weeks and will include complete video training on every component of the app.

The New Hanover Board of Education voted to approve the contract with The Education App for one year at their Special Meeting held in July.

HOMETOWN NEWS FROM BRUNSWICK COUNTY

Hate groups are all around us

To hate is to hold a strong dislike for something or someone. One may hold a strong dislike for a person or a group of people because of skin color. The blood of both Blacks and Whites is red. It is legal for same sex marriage, and it is legal for Whites and Blacks to marry one another. It may not be acceptable in the deep South, but a black man can marry a White woman. We can identify haters even in high places in society in the United States and other countries as well. Confederate signs placed



Verniece Stanley

on cars and trucks and displayed in other prominent locations are an indication that hate groups are still prevalent in our society. There are many places in North Carolina where you will see the Confederate flag displayed. The meaning will always remain the same. It is a symbol of hatred, and it is honored by hate groups. Being a Black person, I do not want haters near me even if it is in a shopping center.

Some hate groups usually meet late at night in the darkest hours. Do they think they can just kill Black leaders and nothing can be done about it? They should try to think more about the changes that will come. They cannot stop the strong power we are gaining. With the support of thou-

sands, we are forging ahead toward a better future each and every day for our Black people.

We are working together on grassroots programs to benefit children, families, neighborhoods, and communities. We are breaking down barriers for minorities in the highest courts and in Congress.

Tea Party Republicans have declared war on the middle class with their plans to slash nearly \$1 trillion from education, health care, and vital domestic programs that middle class families count on.

We must remember and heed the words of our esteemed Black human rights leader, W. E. B. Dubois: "Now is the accepted time, not tomorrow, not some more

convenient season. It is today that our best work can be done."

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

Ocean View Baptist holds annual youth camp



Students marched with a banner and posters during the opening ceremony.

BY WILLIAM FLYTHE CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The annual Youth Bible Day Camp was held at the Ocean View Missionary Baptist Center in Sunset Beach during the week of July 13-17. Approximately 60 students participated in various field trips and on-site activities. The Olympic-style opening ceremony began with students from eleven churches marching to the theme song, "The Jesus Connection". Once the assigned class had conducted the devotion, students went to their designated class.

Two classes (11-12 and 13-15

years old) spent most of Monday (11 AM - 3 PM) in Bolivia touring the courthouse and Jail as "special guests" of Judge Pauline Hankins and Sheriff John Ingram, respectively. All of the five classes participated in arts and craft activities from Monday through Thursday.

On Tuesday, two classes (5-6 and 7-8 years old) participated in African-theme activities (story-telling and dancing) at the Hickman's Crossroad Library and Veggie by the Sea demonstrations at the Center. Later, all classes built and painted wooden cars provided by Home Depot.



Teenage students visited the gym and swimming pool at BCC.

On Wednesday morning, the younger students (5-8 years old) toured the Lowe's Food "factory" at Ocean Isle Beach. They joined other students in the afternoon for presentations and demonstrations by the Brunswick County Sheriff Department. The teenagers spent the afternoon at the BCC gym and swimming pool.

On Thursday morning, three classes watched the laser light show and interacted with exhibits at Ingram's planetarium in Sunset Beach. The 9-10 year old class went to Planet Fun for Laser Tag and bowling. Transportation was provided

by vans from Cedar Grove, Friendship, Little Prong, and Pleasant Hill churches. All students watched a representative from the NC Aquarium (Fort Fisher) give an interactive demonstration on jelly fish.

On Friday, all classes gave talent presentations during the closing ceremony. The presentations included singing, storytelling, praise dancing, poetry, and lesson reviews. Certificates were presented to students, teachers, and staff. A video with camp highlights was shown at the end of the program.

Communities In Schools of Brunswick County celebrates 20 years with thrift shop gift certificate give away

SOUTHPORT, N.C. - Communities In Schools of Brunswick County (CIS) is celebrating its 20th Anniversary in 2015. During the month of August, CIS will highlight its thrift shops and celebrate 20 years serving Brunswick County, by giving back to students and the community. Along with a month-long "Back to School Supply Drive," each CIS thrift shop will be giving away two \$25 gift certificates for purchases at any of our thrift shops through October 31.

Gift Certificate Giveaway Entry & Eligibility

From August 1 through August 26, 2015, anyone who visits a CIS thrift shop in Boiling Spring Lakes, Southport, or Sunset Beach will be able to fill out an entry form for a \$25 thrift shop gift

certificate. Each entry must be filled out completely to be eligible and only one entry per customer. Two \$25 thrift shop gift certificates will be given away at each thrift shop on August 27.

Back to School Supply Drive: How to donate

The back to school supply list items needed include: back packs, spiral notebooks (college ruled), loose leaf paper (college ruled), #2 pencils and erasers, dry erase markers, blue or black ink pens, colored pencils, 3 inch - 3 ring binders, dividers for 3 inch binders, headphones or earbuds, and pencil pouches for binders.

CIS will have school supply donation boxes located at our thrift shops and main office collection points and a 1-800-Packrat storage trailer located

at the Southport thrift shop to bring your items. We want to get supplies to students as quickly as possible after school starts, so donations are needed as soon as possible.

Financial gifts may also be made during the drive, mailed to CIS of Brunswick County, P.O. Box 10087, Southport, NC 28461, or dropped off at the CIS main office in Southport.

CIS thrift shop locations: Boiling Spring Lakes, 3000 George II Highway, 910-845-3555; Southport, 1635 N. Howe Street, 910-457-7008; Sunset Beach, 1780-8 Chandlers Lane, 910-579-2300. The CIS main office is located at 8520 River Road in Southport, 910-457-3494.

"CIS is proud to be an active Brunswick County community organization for the last 20 years. We are thrilled with opportunities we have to make a difference in the lives of students, helping them to stay in school and achieve in life," said Todd Beane public relations and thrift shop operations manager. "Through the month of August we are giving back to the community

who has supported us as a way of thanking them for helping us provide services to students in Brunswick County."

For more information about CIS of Brunswick County, please contact the CIS office at: 910-457-3494 or visit: www.cisbrunswick.org.

About Communities In Schools of Brunswick County: Communities In Schools of Brunswick County is part of the national Communities In Schools network.

Communities In Schools operates programs in 17 schools in Brunswick County. Working closely with schools and partner organizations, Communities In Schools serves over 3,000 young people and their families each year.

Based directly inside schools throughout the country, Communities In Schools connects students and their families to basic and critical educational and community-based resources, tailored to each student's specific needs. Learn more about Communities In Schools of Brunswick County at www.cisbrunswick.org

Act 1 HATS AND ACCESSORIES FOR WOMEN & MEN. 419 S. College Rd. Unit 34 University Landing Wilmington, NC 28403. 910-791-0909. MEN'S: FEDORAS, GENUINE PANAMAS, HATS & CAPS, DRESS HATS, TIES & BOW TIE SETS, ACCESSORIES. LADIES: FEDORAS, SCARVES, FASHION JEWELRY, CHURCH HATS, HATS & CAPS, ACCESSORIES.

BANK OWNED PROPERTIES REAL ESTATE AUCTION. SALE #1: Saturday, August 22nd at 10:00 am on site. 986 Bella Coola Road, Lake Waccamaw, North Carolina. Tax Assessed Value: \$413,400.00. Appraised Value: \$335,000.00. Sold over a minimum bid of \$115,000.00. SALE #2: Saturday, August 22nd at 2:00 pm on site. 72 Blue Heron Drive, Harrells, North Carolina (Bay Tree Lake). Tax Assessed Value: \$139,920.00. Appraised Value: \$250,000.00. Sold over a minimum bid of \$75,000.00. William "Bill" J. Walker, III (540) 344-6160 www.walker-inc.com

Support OUR advertisers! They support YOUR community newspaper!

Mitchell Dean Todd

Mitchell Dean Todd died Thursday, July 30th at New Hanover Regional Medical Center. Memorial services were held on Saturday, August 8, 2015 at Willie L Shaw Jr Memorial Chapel.

Mitchell Dean Todd, known as "McDean", was born May 21, 1959, to the late John Todd and Sallie Tart Todd in Whiteville, North Carolina. He was educated in the New Hanover County School System. When able, he did factory work and landscaping.

Mitchell was preceded in death by his sister, Stella Diane Allen and nephew, William Riley, Jr. He leaves to cherish his memory: one daughter, Sally Monika Todd of Jacksonville, NC; one son, Mitchell Todd of Morehead City NC; sisters, Nancy King of Hartford, CT and Judy McKnight (Will) of Wilmington, NC; two brothers, John W. Todd (Margie) and Johnny L. Todd of Wilmington, NC; four grandchildren, Deon, Tameyah, Christian Todd and Nekia Osby; aunts, uncles, nephews, nieces and friends. *A Service of John H. Shaw Son's Funeral Home.*

Brenda (Lloyd) Hewett

Brenda (Lloyd) Hewett died Saturday, August 1, 2015 at Lower Cape Fear Hospice. Funeral services were held on Thursday, August 6, 2015 at Willie L Shaw Jr Memorial Chapel.

Brenda was born August 28, 1951 in Wilmington, NC. She was educated in the New Hanover County Public School System. Brenda was a happy and bubbly person. She also had a passion for cleaning and caring for people. To know Brenda was to love her.

She is survived by her children, Larry Lloyd, Willie Lloyd and Sherrod Lloyd; grandchildren, Sherrell Lloyd and Larry Lloyd, Jr.; sisters, Felbie Butler (Windell), Myra Burnett (Ronnie), Sabrina Staggers, Ginger Lee (David), Laura Denkins and Virginia McMillian; brother, Thomas Porter Denkins, Jr.; adopted mother, Helen McMillan; adopted sister, Doretha Boykins; a host of nieces,

nephews, other relatives and friends. *A Service of John H. Shaw Son's Funeral Home.*

Jerome Porter

Jerome Porter died Sunday, August 2nd at Lower Cape Fear Hospice. Funeral services were held on Thursday, August 6, 2015 at Warner Temple AMEZ. Burial followed in Pine Forest Cemetery.

Jerome was born November 10, 1949 in Mullins, South Carolina to Feola Fullard and James Wilson Porter, Sr. He attended New Hanover County Schools and graduated from Williston High School. Upon graduating from high school, he enlisted in the United States Navy on December 2, 1969.

He was preceded in death by his mother, father four brothers and two sisters. He leaves to cherish his memory and celebrate his life; one beautiful daughter, Feola L'Shannon Porter; two sons, K'Shain and K'Juan Jennings; siblings, Dora, Michael, Dennis, and Kenneth (Mary) Porter, and Regina Porter-Williams, all of Wilmington, NC, Leon Porter of Orangeburg, SC and Evelyn Murphy (David) of Florence, SC; a host of nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews, cousins and friends, including a special friend, Fannie. *A Service of John H. Shaw Son's Funeral Home.*

Robert Lee Grady

Robert Lee Grady died Monday, August 3, 2015 in Schenectady, NY. Funeral services were held on Monday, Aug. 10th at Shoulders Branch Missionary Baptist Church, Castle Hayne, NC.

Burial followed in the Shoulders Branch Cemetery. Robert Lee Grady, son of the late Charlie Grady and Gladys Grady was born September 9, 1950 in Wilmington, North Carolina. Robert, affectionately called "Grady" and "Shady", at a young age, moved to New York City and attended school; later working various jobs as a young man. He returned to Wilmington and years later, moved to Schenectady, New York;

where he continued to work various jobs until his death. Everyone that came in contact with Robert, always and still have pleasant things to say about him. Always comical, he could bring a smile on your darkest days, leaving a favorable impression. One of his greatest joys was eating and he was always available to pick up several plates, if offered. He was a sharp dresser and neat as a pin, he always kept is together. Robert loved his family unconditionally. He got a second chance of fatherhood through the fierce love that he had for his grandchildren. He will always be remembered for his love and attention he gave to his family and many friends. We will miss those daily telephone calls and text messages that bought a smile to our hearts and minds.

He leaves to cherish very fond memories: his loving mother, Gladys Grady of Wilmington, NC; his sons, Corey Washington (Yvette) of new York, Jamal Washington (Cecilia) of Cincinnati, OH; his grandchildren, Corey, Jr., Jeremiah and Joshua Washington of New York, Odalys Quiroz, Jayson and Aaliyah Washington of Cincinnati, OH; four great-grandchildren; his siblings, Joe Bullock (Jeanette) of Seattle, WA, Charlie Grady, Jr. (Heloise), Barbara G. Williams and Joyce Grady, all of Wilmington, NC, Betty and Janet Grady of Philadelphia, PA; a host of nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles, cousins, and his many friends. *A Service of John H. Shaw Son's Funeral Home.*

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Debt can help or hurt wealth building

BY CHARLENE CROWELL
NNPA COLUMNIST

(NNPA)- Money and credit are two items that affect nearly everyone. We earn, spend and sometimes save money. But it seems nearly inevitable that the need for credit arises and efforts to retire it become debt that can hang around longer than a bad penny.

For most Americans, debt is a complicated reality. Whether a consumer is retired, nearing the end of a career or beginning one, the likelihood of holding debt of some kind is fairly high. A new research report by Pew Trust finds that 80 percent of the nation has some form of debt and further that nearly 7 in 10 view debt as a necessity they would prefer not to have.

By comparing and contrasting how families of different generations, races and ethnicities hold debt, the new report suggests that as conditions vary, debt can help or hurt a consumer's ability to build wealth.

A mortgage loan, for example, is often a debt that becomes a building block to accumulating family wealth. As consumers pay down mortgage principal, home equity generally grows correspondingly. In these circumstances over the life of the loan, homeowners gain choices to keep the home and eventually retire its mortgage or move into a higher-value home with proceeds from its sale reducing the need to finance the purchase.

Not every homeowner, however, enjoys that same rosy financial prospect. Homeowners of color - largely Black and Hispanic - who experienced higher rates of foreclo-

sures and/or depreciated values because nearby foreclosures, mortgage debt can restrict their financial choices.

"[H]ome equity for Black homeowners has not increased at the same rate as it has for White homeowners, largely because home values in minority neighborhoods have been slow to recover since the housing crisis, and so have generated lower returns on mortgage debt," states the report.

Similarly, while incurring student loans is often viewed as an essential investment in a career and a middle-class lifestyle, racial disparities persist.

"Despite the higher-than-average rate of student loan debt among young Black Americans, it is not clear that this debt is fully building their human capital," the report explains. "Black Gen Xers and millennials who owe student debt in their own names are more likely than their white peers to be paying for a degree they did not complete (38 percent versus 26 percent)."

Even more startling, when Pew asked student loan borrowers whether they would do things differently if they had that chance, a majority of both Blacks (51 percent) and Hispanics (52 percent) responded they would find a different way to pay for school in order to owe less money. By contrast, only 32 percent of White respondents gave the same answer.

Before anyone concludes that buying a home or getting a college education is a poor financial decision - think again.

According to Sarah Wolff, a senior researcher with the Center for Responsible Lending (CRL), the Pew report portrays the complexities - not the inevitability of debt.

"The implications of debt for opportunities depend not just on the raw dollar amount of debt but also on the quality and appropriateness of the prod-

uct," noted Wolff. "Not all student loans are the same. This is true for all kinds of loans - including mortgages and credit cards," Wolff said. "The terms and conditions under which loans are made are very important and we should consider these factors when trying to answer broad questions like "is debt good or bad."

CRL's recent report on the cumulative impacts of predatory lending likens consumer credit to a hammer - which can be used to build a house or destroy it. Pew's research provides evidence that debt is actually both good and bad.

"It is the terms and conditions under which credit is extended that ultimately determine how the loan affects a borrower," concluded Woolff.

Other independent CRL findings help to explain why debt affects borrowers in different ways:

1. Across many financial products, low-income borrowers and borrowers of color are disproportionately affected by abusive loan terms and practices; and

2. Loans with problematic terms are repeatedly concentrated in neighborhoods of color.

Understanding these factors that affect our daily lives should also spur continued work to eliminate and rid the marketplace of products that are designed to trap borrowers in debt while enriching lenders.

On a personal level, perhaps we can do ourselves a financial favor by taking time to review the fine print of loan and credit agreements; and insisting on clear answers to our credit questions before another debt is incurred. Every consumer considering a financial obligation has a right to know.

Charlene Crowell is a communications manager with the Center for Responsible Lending. She can be reached at Charlene.crowell@responsiblelending.org.



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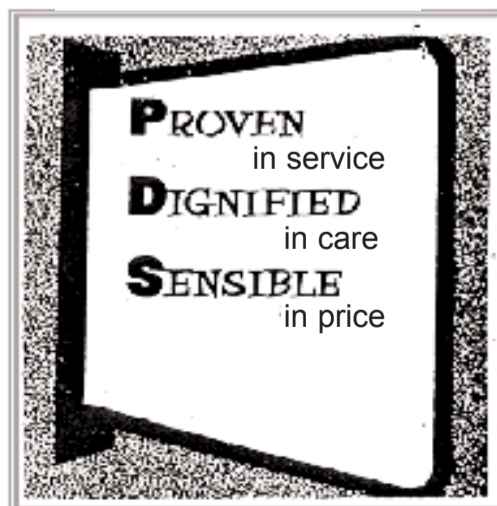
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